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Exploring the Causes of Child Abuse in Punjab: Reflections from the Narratives of Child Molesters

^aZeeshan-U-Zaman*, ^bTanvir Akhtar, ^cShahid Irfan^a Ph.D. Scholar of Forensic Psychology Department of Psychology Foundation University, Islamabad, Pakistan.^b Professor, Department of Psychology, Foundation University Islamabad, Pakistan.^c Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Foundation University Islamabad, Pakistan.*Corresponding Author Email ID: zeeshansoroya@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The current qualitative study sought to investigate the lived experiences of child molesters in the urban and rural areas of Punjab, Pakistan. The purpose of this study was to find out the basic differences and reasons behind child sexual abuse in urban and rural areas. The present study also contributes to some new insights into the problem. Purposive sampling was used to collect twelve cases from Gujrat and Jhelum. The semi-structured interviews were conducted in the selected areas (Jhelum and Gujrat). Respondents pointed out the role of their own experiences in child molestation. Some of them have reported that they had faced child abuse in childhood, and some of them point out that it has happened incidentally. According to the study, everyone has their own personal schema of sex experiences that led them to child molestation. There are huge socioeconomic and developmental differences among child molesters in urban and rural areas.

Keywords: Child Molesters; Lived Experiences; Comparative Study; Child Sexual Abuse.

BACKGROUND

Child abuse is a very serious problem faced by a lot of children around the world, and it draws the attention of all nations towards this problem. Children are usually abused by different people—their parents, strangers, members of their families, service providers, shopkeepers, teachers, and other children at school or in the community—by different people. Regardless of who are the abusers, causes and effects are all same as any other existing abuse. Child sexual abuse is a universally condemned, heinous offense against children. Every day, thousands of children are exposed to sexual violence in their native areas. There are different causes or factors behind child sexual abuse about which people have no information. It is critical for parents to understand these reasons in order to better protect their children in society. The consequences of sexual abuse are extremely severe, and they deeply affect the mental and physical state of victims for a long time. The outcomes of this abuse are very painful because it disrupts the victim's self-

esteem as well as his or her physical and mental health. Victims face a variety of mental and physical health issues throughout their lives, as well as some long-term physical health issues. It is essential to keep children safe through a collective effort of family, society, and government (Yadav & Shrivastava, 2021).

INTRODUCTION

Child abuse is a serious global issue. It is affecting children beyond any boundaries of caste, color, and creed; sect; ethnicity; and all socioeconomic classes (Rafique, 2020). Violence, neglect, and child abuse are of global prevalence. Child abuse is not affected only by area, ethnicity, country, religion, gender, class, and religion. It takes place across all socio-economic classes, and it is usually an unreported problem everywhere. Worldwide, 500 million to 1.5 million children almost suffer violence every year, and 73 to 150 million girls usually face abuse every year. There are more than 3 million reported cases of child abuse. More than 2,000 deaths and 18,000

permanent disabilities happen every year because of this sexual abuse. Where 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 7 boys are sexually molested in childhood. The number of children less than five years of age dying due to child abuse is far more than the number of children dying from accidents. Common types of child abuse include physical neglect (64.1%), physical abuse (16%), sexual abuse (8.8%), and emotional neglect (6.6%). Nearly 80% of abusers were parents (Mehnaz, 2018).

A person sexually abuses a child when he exposes the child to sexual acts, or materials or shows him sexual behaviors. This can take many different forms. Sex acts that are involved in penetration touch the child's breasts, different body parts, or genitals; make the child touch the perpetrator's breasts or genitals Voyeurism. When a perpetrator shows a child his naked body, he is either showing a child pornography or using a child in the production of pornography. Internet-based sexual abuse of children, such as making, showing, or spreading sexual images of children online, stalking, grooming, or doing sexually explicit things with children online (Ni & Hesketh, 2021)

The most common types of child abuse are defined by the researchers. Physical abuse includes punching body parts, shaking private body parts, throwing, poisoning, biting on the body, kicking, burning, or scalding, drowning, suffocating, sustained physical activity or sustained physical restraint, or otherwise causing intentional physical harm to a child (Biçakçı *et al.*, 2016). Emotional abuse is the emotional ill treatment of a child to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development from childhood into youth. It can involve conveying to children that they are worthless, unloved, inappropriate, or valued only if they meet the needs of another person; age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children; causing children frequently to feel frightened; or the exploitation or corruption of a child's innocence. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill-treatment of a child, though it may also occur alone (Kiger & Varpio, 2020).

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in different sexual activities, whether the child is aware or unaware of what is going to happen to him. Such activities can be in the form of physical contact, including penetration of sexual organs or non-penetrative acts like kissing, rubbing, and touching inside or outside of clothing. They can be non-contact activities, getting kids

involved in making sexual material or showing them pornographic material, getting kids to act in sexually inappropriate ways or do sexual things, or doing sexual things in front of them (Berliner, 2012).

Sexual exploitation refers to the transactional nature of some forms of abuse. It is a form of sexual abuse where children are sexually exploited for money, power, or status. It can involve violent, humiliating, and degrading sexual assaults. In some cases, young people are persuaded or forced into exchanging sexual activity for money, drugs, gifts, affection, or status. Consent cannot be given, even when a child believes they are voluntarily engaging in sexual activity with the person who is exploiting them. Child sexual exploitation doesn't always involve physical contact and can happen online. A significant number of children who are victims of sexual exploitation go missing (Children, 2020).

Definitions of Child Abuse

Yet there is no consensus on the definition of child abuse. There is a lot of ambiguity in its definition. Three terminologies are used interchangeably on different occasions. For some time, the term "violence" was limited to the use of physical force only, while a lot of people considered verbal and emotional abuse as forms of violence. Child sexual abuse is the involvement of children in sexual activity that they cannot fully comprehend, as they are developmentally immature and unprepared for this accident. The consent of the child has no moral or legal implications. In child sexual abuse, the exposure of children to sexual acts is inappropriate according to the child's age and his psychosocial development. This sexual abuse can occur with or without intention and physical contact (Mehnaz, 2018).

Possible Factors

There cannot be a single reason behind the child abuse. It can be taken place among those families where there is no chance for a risk factor to exist. It may happen in those families where the families usually remain under different pressures and have no support. When the researchers analyzed the causes during research, they have divided these reasons into different categories where the children are at high risk of abuse in family or society. It contains different social and economic causes of child abuse in families, the environment of families, the history of families, family profiles, parental profiles, parental roles, and child-related characteristics (Biçakçı *et al.*, 2016).

Child abuse can happen for a number of reasons. There is

no unique theoretical model that can explain this phenomenon. Various theoretical models and formulations can be found in the literature that attempt to explain the neglect and abuse of children. Blumenthal (2015) has summarized all the theoretical models in three different causal models of neglect. These are three models of parental deficit, an environmental deficit model, and an ecological-transactional model. The parental deficit model says that people (parents, guardians, etc.) are more responsible for a child's welfare than the community as a whole, and that bad parenting is the main cause of child abuse and neglect (Avddebegović & Brkić, 2020).

The socio-economic context always leads towards child abuse. Child abuse being a multifaceted issue and a great threat to a nation's growth is a matter of thoughtful concern for all societies. In almost all registered cases of child abuse, the sexual offender is either a known person, a stranger, a relative, or otherwise. It becomes very difficult to detect these sexual offenders, i.e., the sexual offenders and the causes of abuse may be well known either to the victim child or to their parents. Nobody talks about abuse in society because it's a sensitive topic that could hurt the reputation of the family, violate social norms, or make them look bad in front of other people. It is still extremely bad and continuing in many orthodox, traditional, and conventional families. The victim family do resolution on its own rather reporting to police. They believe and assert that child abuse cases are personal, rather than criminal. There are numerous factors that force a child to engage in child abuse, which is prohibited by law³, or to become a child in conflict with law⁴, and thus become a victim of abuse and bear the abuse in various forms (Dahiya, 2018).

The long history of applying the medical model to child abuse and other social problems has resulted in personal pathologies or personality traits in child offenders. First, he noted the "discovery of child maltreatment in Q962" in a medical journal. The new illness was labeled by him with the name "Battered Children Syndrome" and included physical symptoms identified first by some researchers who referred to all these traits as pathological, psychopathological, or individual deficits. Pathologies included in this category are psychological problems, drugs, alcohol, and drug dependence, dependency on different substances, mental disability, and emotional instability. The popularity of such factors continued to be seen in many other studies. 286 Journal

of Sociology and Social Work, March 2014. Sue and Chamberlin (2014) say that the solution for this group is to give the parents counseling or treatment and, in the worst cases, to take the child away.

Child abuse is prevalent in all societies across caste, color, creed, and sect. (Fayaz, 2019). Child sexual abuse is an alarming issue for all societies (Avais *et al.*, 2020). There are many reasons behind it, such as exploitation, poverty, poor health problems, homelessness, unemployment, and the age of parents, lack of confidence, and experience of sexual abuse in childhood. The children used as employees for different jobs are used by their owners as soft targets for the fulfillment of their sexual desires. (Bywaters *et al.*, 2016). Children from economically disadvantaged families with large family sizes are vulnerable to sexual abuse because their parents fail to provide care, love, and affection for their children. This is one of the major factors in child abuse (Yadav & Shrivastava, 2021).

Child abuse is a universal problem and pervades all cultures and different socioeconomic classes of society. The effect of child abuse can change the whole life of the victim. There is substantial literature from the developed countries about signs of child abuse, but there is a shortage of data from third-world countries like Pakistan. Health care professionals are usually best placed to detect abuse (Maul *et al.*, 2019). Half of the children in the world are exposed to violence every year. Child abuse is an unrevealed but alarming issue in this modern era. The frequency of such offenses is rapidly increasing. In many South Asian countries, like India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, child abuse, child exploitation, child prostitution, and child sexual abuse are common (Avais *et al.*, 2020).

Child sexual abuse is the least reported crime in Pakistan. Children are not allowed to talk about this problem in their families. It is almost considered a taboo in our society. The families of the abused person usually hesitate to report this crime to the police and take it as a sign of fear and shame because such families feel that they will be socially discriminated against and stigmatized for their whole lives in society. Asian societies focus on collective issues, and they do not consider individual issues. They always remain concerned about disclosure of problems, and they also try to protect their family from stigmas. After the case of Zainab in Qasoor, the media has reported different cases, and these cases have brought people on the road. Families of the victims were forced to

keep quiet about this offense. (Rahim *et al.*, 2021).

During the review of the causes of child abuse, economic stress and subcultural factors were found with reference to environmental factors. Young parents are often not ready for more stress and don't know how to parent or how their child is growing and changing. 11% of the parents belong to the young category, whose children are abused, but the parents over the age of twenty-six have the highest ratio of child abuse. The economic relationship, the parental effect, and violence all play a role in child abuse. All these can be results of child abuse in an environmental system. Social factors in child sexual abuse include the level of poverty, the level of the education system, poor laws, social inequality, and unemployment rates. Such factors always influence the child sexual abuse rate (Sue & Chamberlin, 2014).

There are many different mental health issues with child abusers. Few of these problems have similar symptoms, and few do not. You can particularly find them through expert-based efforts and opinions, but it is very difficult to find them with great effort. It includes depression, postpartum depression, seasonal affective disorder, anxiety disorder, sleep disorder, panic attacks, phobias, eating disorders, and paranoia, hearing different voices, obsessive-compulsive disorder, personality disorder, and borderline personality disorder (Mind, 2017).

Personal knowledge of the world and the environment is gained through direct interaction and experiences in everyday activities and events, rather than by incorporating the experiences of others into one's life. This can be referred to as the knowledge of face-to-face experience or through any other medium. Lived experience is a popular term nowadays in academic studies. The role of lived experiences is also important in child abuse. Lived experiences are involved in the understanding of different human experiences (McIntosh & Wright, 2019). Lived experiences are an ongoing process of human life that is known only to the individual who has had them. They can be derived from personal experiences and knowledge and from other people's experiences, and they can be driven by the phenomenology of events. Lived experiences always happen in different forms in a series (Dieumegard *et al.*, 2021).

The 2846 cases were reported in 2019 in different newspapers and police stations. These cases were reported from all over Pakistan. Reports say that the cases of child abuse were less as compared to 2018, but 8 children were abused daily. In 2846 reported cases, 54%

were girls and 46% were boys. (Ahmed *et al.*, 2020). 2960 cases of child sexual abuse were reported in the year 2020. These cases were reported from all over Pakistan. A slight increase was observed in the cases of child abuse as compared to the previous year. 8 children were abused per day, according to this report. Out of the above reported cases, 51% were girls and 49% were boys. (Cruel Number, 2021). 3852 cases were reported. Such cases were reported from across Pakistan, including Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan. Such cases were reported in the category of child sexual abuse, missing children, abduction cases, and child marriage cases. More than 10 children were abused per day in 2021, and the child abuse rate has increased to 30% in 2021 as compared to 2020 (Cruel Number, 2021).

RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

Children are sexually abused and used in every country, but it is hard to get an accurate estimate of how big the problem is. Much child sexual abuse and exploitation is unreported in Pakistan. People think that self-report surveys give more accurate estimates of how common child sexual abuse is in each population. The studies on children's sexual abuse and exploitation are more limited, but the studies and the problem are going to increase day by day. There are few studies on the prevalence of child sexual abuse and exploitation. Most estimates of the number of children who have been sexually abused are based on police station and court records, which are generally thought to be lower than the real number. Most of the time, child protection statistics don't say what kind of sexual abuse or exploitation happened when a child was charged with child sexual abuse.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESEARCH

The goal of this research is to find out how people in Pakistan think about sexual behavior and how sexual abuse happens. This study will add to what is still a small but growing body of research on sexual abuse. This study will also examine the pattern of psychopathy and particular nature of sexual abuse, including the vulnerability factors of offenders like psychological, sociological, and economic factors. The study will look at and focus on the different facts about criminals and the effects that psychopathy has on society.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The goal of this study is to look at the personality profiles

and sexual experiences of child molesters along with the socio demographic profiles as the causal factors of child abuse.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- To discover the socio demographic and economic traits of child molesters
- To explore the life experiences of the child molesters
- To compare the traits of child molesters on the basis of their rural-urban residence

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The method which was used to conduct this research was qualitative in nature. The case studies were taken from Jhelum and Gujrat jails, and these were child abuse offenders. The data was collected through the interviews. Current research was conducted using the following method.

The current study was designed to explore the lived experiences of child molesters in rural and urban areas of Pakistan. The exploratory research approach was used to conduct the current study because proper attention has not been given by the researchers on this issue in these areas. Qasoor and different areas had been highlighted after the highlighted cases, and rural and urban areas were not brought under the study (Mehnaz, 2018).

Procedure

Research was done in two sessions: the session for coming up with ideas and the session for gathering data.

Step 1 (rapport-building): Brainstorming sessions were conducted to get in-depth knowledge about the phenomena before stepping into the field for data collection. During brainstorming sessions, the research that was already out there was looked at, and information was gathered from people who have direct experience with child sexual abuse because they can shed light on important parts of the problem.

Data collection

Step II (Data Collection): The second step of the procedure was a data collection phase in which data was collected from male offenders who were accused of molestation. These interviews were conducted in jails. The data was collected through semi-structured interviews.

Sample: The purposive sampling technique was used for data collection in urban and rural areas. Twelve child

molesters were taken from Punjab. Six interviews were conducted in city areas of Punjab, and six interviews were conducted in rural areas of Punjab. All of the people who abused children were between the ages of 18 and 40, and they were all in jail after committing the crime.

Instrument

In-depth interviews: The semi-structured interview guide was used for data collection that was based on the related literature review. Research experts suggest using interviews as a tool to gather information about sensitive issues (Browne, 2017). Researchers collected the detailed data through interviews (Qu & Dumay, 2011).

Analysis approach: Thematic analysis was used for qualitative data analysis. All offenders who were in jail after committing the molestation and had their legal trial completed were included in the study (Kiger & Varpio, 2020).

ETHICAL CONSIDERATION

The ethical concerns relating to the study were the protection of privacy and the proper confidentiality of the data while collecting it from the participants. Respondents were told that the information they gave would only be used for research and that no one would ever find out who they were. The aim of this study was to find out the role of lived experiences among child molesters. The questions were asked about their basic life, childhood, leisure time, sexual interest, sexual orientation, sexual incidents, thoughts about child abuse, psychological factors, and reasons behind child abuse and molestation. Before each interview, the offenders were told what the study was about and asked to sign a form saying they agreed to be interviewed.

RESULTS

After using the technique of thematic analysis, the themes and sub-themes were generated and verified by experts. There were subcategories for childhood, environment, social interactions, education, sharing, sexual orientation, hobbies, sexual encounters with children, and child molestation. Later, themes generated from urban child molesters were compared with the themes generated from rural child molesters. There were some similar themes in rural and urban areas, such as part-time work, mobile games, prohibited sexual literature, playing with friends, relations with neighbors, an average socioeconomic environment, use of social media, bisexual

orientation, and coming towards the sexual abuse incident. The sexual offender adopted the method of child molestation due to fear and threat. The thoughts about

child abuse have no commonality. The details of the differences have been reported in Table 1 of the study.

Table 1. Demographic Sheet.

Variables	Category	Frequency	Percent
Age	20	2	16.7
	22	1	8.3
	23	3	25
	24	2	16.7
	25	2	16.7
	40	2	16.7
Education	BA	1	8.3
	Electrical Engineer	1	8.3
	Engineer	1	8.3
	FA	1	8.3
	Illiterate	2	16.7
	Literate	1	8.3
	MA	1	8.3
	Muktab	1	8.3
	Middle	1	8.3
	Primary	2	16.7
Income	3000	1	8.3
	4000	1	8.3
	5000	4	33.3
	7000	1	8.3
	40000	1	8.3
	50000	3	25
	70000	1	8.3
Profession	Business	3	25
	Job	2	16.7
	Labor	6	50
	Unemployed	1	8.3
Marital Status	Valid Married	4	33.3
	Single	8	66.7
Locality	Rural	6	50.0
	Urban	6	50.0

Source: The required data was collected from different jails in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, where they were residing after their legal trials.

Demographic information of molesters

“Most respondents were between 20 and 25 years old, with just two males between 40 and 49 years old. Seven of the twelve participants had a monthly salary of less than PKR 10,000. 8% were jobless, and 5% had a monthly salary between PKR 40,000 and PKR 70,000. The majority of

responders were unmarried at the time they committed the offense. 8% of the offenders had degrees in Electrical Engineering, Engineering, Bachelor of Arts (BA), Faculty of Arts (FA), and Middle School, while 16% had an elementary education. 8% had a salary between PKR 3000 and PKR 7000, 33% had a salary of PKR 5000,

and 25% had a salary of PKR 500000. 25% of the offenders were self-employed, 16% were employed, and 50% were manual workers. 8.3 percent were jobless. 66.7% were single, while

33.3% were married. 50% of the population resided in urban areas, while the remaining 50% resided in rural regions.”

Table 2. Comparing lived experiences of child molesters living in rural and urban areas.

Main Themes	Sub theme of Rural areas	Sub-theme of Urban areas	Common themes
Profession	Part time work	Jobs Part time work	Part time work
Friendship with	Old friends	Peer Friends	
Games	Outdoor games Games on Mobile	Indoor Games Mobile games	Mobile Games
Education	Illiterate	College education Literate	Literate

Source: The required data was collected from different jails in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. where they were residing after their legal trials.

Verbatim Comparing lived experiences of child molesters living in rural and urban areas

“Mr. ABC said that he had some part-time jobs to support himself and that he would work for a few days, make money, and then spend it until he found a new job. Mr. ABC's answer to the passage of time was that he used to play mobile phone games and waste time during his leisure time. Regarding education, Mr. ABC said that he can distinguish between English and Urdu on the page.”

that they were used to doing part-time work. In the matter of the urban areas, the offender replied that they had jobs, part-time work, and part-time work. There was only a similarity in the matter of part-time work. There was no similarity between the themes of friendship in the following theme. Games are an important theme. The rural offenders used to play outdoor and mobile games. On the other hand, urban offenders used to play indoor and mobile games. The similarities in this theme were indoor and mobile games.

The thematic analysis was done, and the main theme was the profession of the offender. The rural offender replied

Table 3. Activities of the Child Molesters at the Time of Their Childhood.

Main Themes	Sub theme of Rural areas	Sub theme of Urban areas	Common themes of urban and rural areas.
Sharing	Games	Computer games	Games
	Goods Thought sharing's Playing with friends	Playing with peer Friends Mobile games	Playing with friend
Social Relationship	Neighbors	Neighbors	Neighbors
	Vagabonds	Friends	
	Friends	Relatives	
	Drug sellers		

Source: The required data was collected from different jails in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, where they were residing after their legal trials.

Verbatim Activities of the Child Molesters at the Time of Their Childhood

“According to Mr. BCD, traditional games are performed in their native areas based on the local culture. After 4 p.m., all boys and men were

compelled to play together on the ground in their local areas. Mr. BCD further said that their relationships with their neighbors are positive.

On Eid, we would visit our neighbors' homes and spend time with them, sharing their sadness and sorrow. Whatever unique dish my mother prepares, she puts it into a huge bowl and proposes sharing it with the neighbors. No one could tell the difference between a neighbor and a blood relative. All of the elders in the indigenous area were related by blood."

On the question of sharing, the themes that emerged from rural offenders were games, goods, thought sharing,

and playing. On the other hand, computer games, playing with friends, and **mobile games emerged from urban offenders, but a common theme was playing games and playing** with friends. On the question of the social relationship, the themes that emerged from rural offenders were neighbors, vagabonds, friends, and drug sellers. When the same question was posed to urban offenders, themes such as neighbors, friends, and family emerged. However, neighbors are the most common theme.

Table 4. Social life of child molesters.

Main Themes	Sub theme of Rural areas	Sub themes of Urban areas	Common themes
Environmental factors	Bullied Negative Abusive Poverty around Average	Protective Caring Positive Middle class Average	Average
Nature of Interaction	Limited interaction with neighbors and relatives	Friends Business work Neighbors Business Relation	Neighbors

Source: The required data was collected from different jails in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, where they were residing after their legal trials.

Verbatim of social life of child molester

"Mr. CDE said that their neighborhoods had an average climate and that they exchanged minor things with one another. Sometimes, they would deny each other if they had already shared it and intended to utilize it and requiring prompt return of the item. When required, people were seen debating about things. Additionally, Mr. CDE said that he had a decent connection with his neighbors, as there were only a handful of them on their little street and we all had average relationships with one another. All the residents of the street used to commemorate sacred occasions and grieve with their neighbors. We, the children of our neighbors, were all used to accepting the advice of the order without reservation."

On the question of the role of environmental factors, themes that emerged from rural offenders were bullying, negativity, abuse, poverty, and average. Themes that emerged from urban offenders were protective, caring, positive, middle class, and average, but the most common theme was average. In terms of interaction, urban offenders had limited interaction with neighbors and

relatives. But the common theme was neighbors.

Verbatim Conversations of child molesters with peer group

"Mr. DEF said that they chat about male private body parts, and we also discuss the sexual behaviors that our friends saw occurring in the rural setting. In answer to a query about recreational activities, Mr. DEF said that he lacked sufficient knowledge and experience with the Internet to run it correctly. They only have the option of viewing videos, clips, and images on YouTube and Facebook, as well as listening to music on YouTube."

On the question of the conversation topic, the following themes emerged in rural offenders: sexual conversation gossip and planning to steal goods. In the case of urban offenders, wondering, gossipy WhatsApp clips came out, and gossip was a common theme among both urban and rural offenders. When asked about leisure activities, porn videos, films, YouTube, Facebook, and music were discovered to be common themes among rural offenders, while spying, wondering, and domestic violence, planning, and meeting with friends emerged as common

themes among urban offenders. YouTube, Facebook, and music were common.

Verbatim of sexual orientation: On the response of sexual orientation of child molesters

“Mr. EFG said that he had no sexual orientation since he was interested in men and women

equally. Mr. EFD said that he had no sexual intentions. He began engaging in this form of sexual behavior as a result of occurrences that began on the field of play when players made sexual jokes. The entire study sample was bisexual.”

Table 5. Conversations of child molesters with peer group.

Main Themes	Sub themes of Rural	Main theme of Urban areas	Common themes
Conversation Topic	sexual conversation Gossips Planning to steal the goods.	WhatsApp clips Wondering Gossips	Gossips
Leisure activities	Porn videos Films YouTube face book Music What’s app clips Sitting by roadside	Spying others. Wondering Domestic work Planning to go some were Meet friends	Youtube Face book Music

Source: The required data was collected from different jails in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, where they were residing after their legal trials.

Table 6. Sexual orientation of child molesters.

Main Themes	Sub themes of Rural	Main themes of Urban	Common themes
Sexual orientation	Straight bisexual	Bi sexual	Bi sexual
Sexual interaction	Planned Incidentally	Raped Incidentally	Incidentally

Source: The required data was collected from different jails in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, where they were residing after their legal trials.

Table 7. Thoughts of child molesters about child sexual abuse.

Main Themes	Sub themes of Rural areas	Sub themes of Urban areas	Common themes
Thought about child abuse	Soft target Revenge based Liking	Incidentally Incest sex Raped by cousin	
Reason of sexual abuse	Gang rape thought Abused in childhood	Planned Incidentally Thought Targeted Raped by cousin	
Child molestation	Fear Known man Noncooperation Black mailing Threat	Fear Threat Cooperation Curse	Fear Threat

Source: The required data was collected from different jails in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, where they were residing after their legal trials.

Verbatim of thought about child sexual abuse.

“Mr. FGH said that he fled out of concern that the boy would be questioned by police if he reported the abuse to his parents.”

Thoughts about child abuse were also the generated theme. The sub themes from the urban area were incidentally and raped by cousins. This is another theme of the study in which there was no similarity found. The most important theme of the study was child molestation. Fear, known men, noncooperation, blackmailing, and threats were found in the case of urban

offenders. Fear, threats, cooperation, and cures emerged from the rural offenders. The similarities between rural and urban offenders were fear and threat. Soft target, vengeance, and preferences the themes were raised from the urban cases, like, incidentally, incestuous sex and being raped by cousins. This is one theme where no similarities were discovered. In the case of rural offenders, the following themes emerged: gang rape, thought, and childhood abuse; and in the case of urban offenders, planning, thought, targeting, and being raped by cousins. This theme had no similarities.

Table 8. Reasons behind child sexual abuse.

Main Themes	Sub themes of Rural areas	Sub themes of Urban areas	Common themes
Reasons of psychological issues	Death of parents	Forget the ways Loss of parents	Loss of parents
	Death of relative Loneliness Depression Weeping	Weeping	Weeping

Source: The required data was collected from different jails in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, where they were residing after their legal trials.

Verbatim of reason behind child sexual abuse

“Mr. GHI said that he was unable to withstand the shock of his parents' deaths and that he cried throughout the day and night.”

In the theme of mental health, the rural offender faced a problem due to the death of parents, and urban offenders

faced a problem due to forgetting the ways, but the common theme between the two is the loss of parents. Rural offenders faced the death of relatives, loneliness, depression, and weeping. On the other hand, the urban offender used to weep, and that was the common theme among urban and rural offenders.

Table 9. Internet content viewed by child molesters.

Themes	Rural	Urban	Common
Use of internet	Porn movies Social media	Do not use	Social media
	Films	WhatsApp status	

Source: The required data was collected from different jails in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, where they were residing after their legal trials.

Themes of internet content

“Mr. GHI said that he sometimes engaged in excessive social media usage.”

There was only one similarity—that they used social media in different ways.

DISCUSSION

The research identified the different causes of child

sexual abuse in different regions of Pakistan. Even though previous studies (Children's Bureau, 2019) didn't talk about how child abuse affects a child's mind, body, and behavior. Social and cultural factors play a very important role in child abuse (Abbas, 2021). The participants of the present research have shown deep concern about child abuse. Children are neglected members of different societies, and they become soft

targets of different sorts of violence (Yohanna, A., & Muhammad, 2018). Communication also plays a large role in shaping how abusive people think and give lame excuses for their various acts (Rafique, 2020). Our culture continuously shows different people, especially women and girls, as subjects' objects. Child molesters often treat the victim with abuse, which increases the confidence of the abuser for more abuse. All types of sexual abuse among children are a violation of child rights. This paper has highlighted the lived experiences of child molesters. It has also shown the importance of each person's own traits and the roles of their families, communities, and peers. For the prevention of violence against children, the call of the day is to eliminate it before it happens. Prevention efforts need to target the basic root cause of child abuse. Without changing these indicators, child abuse will continue in the same way, with high rates (UNICEF, 2014).

After examining the themes and subthemes that emerged from the interviews, the majority of lived experiences are significantly different. There are very few categories in the lived experience study that are similar and match each other. Most of the themes are found in urban molesters, and the same one is missed in the urban molesters. All those themes, which are found in the rural molesters, are missing from the urban molesters. Fear, threat, child abuse, bisexuality, gossip, use of social media, WhatsApp, interaction with neighbors, use of mobile games, loss of parents, crying, and sexual incidents are all included. So, it can be said that there are few lived experiences that have similarities, but every molester has unique characteristics and a developmental framework.

CONCLUSION

The research has examined the causes and behaviors of child molesters in cities. The data for the research was collected through 12 interviews with structured questionnaires, which were administered in study areas to obtain the classified information from respondents. The study has found that the adult's offenders have brought up in different environment and they faced the different circumstances and few of them has faced the sexual abused by the family members in their childhood and few of them came towards the child molestation by an incident.

Few offenders were bisexual, and they fell into child molestation by accident. The majority of the offenders

had minimal social relationships in their social surroundings, and just two of them had substantial social ties to the community. Both urban and rural backgrounds were represented. Only two of them could not read or write, and only eight percent of them had attended college. Among the offenders, it was discovered that they played similar games, and that they had positive relationships with their neighbors.

Compared to rural areas, urban environments have only negative environmental factors. Conversation is a universal means of communication among humans. Rural and urban offenders used YouTube, music, and Facebook to spread rumors about a variety of subjects. Bisexuality was prevalent among all child molesters, regardless of whether they resided in the country or the city, albeit only a tiny percentage of them were bisexual. Thoughts concerning child molestation also led to the development of themes. The subthemes from the cities were that people were raped by their relatives and by accident. Why the kid had been molested was the most crucial subject of the research. The themes of threat, terror, and blackmail were developed, and themes of fear and threat were identified as the leading causes of child molestation. When asked why they favor children, they said because they are soft and easily injured. The majority of offenders were bisexual, and both categories of offenders used the internet.

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