Use of Information and Communication Technologies to combat trafficking in vulnerable children

Prof. Harendra de Silva

MBBS, FRCP (Lond & Edin), FRCPCH (UK), DCH (Cey), MSc (Birm), FSLCP (SL), FCGP(SL), FCPS (Pak), FCCP (SL)

Chairman, National Child Protection Authority – SRI LANKA
“Violence”

= 

Physical

Sexual – abuse, exploitation and Trafficking

Emotional etc
Cave age Modern Man

Survival
Power

Most of the ‘Intelligence’ of man has been used to develop weapons in the name of ‘Science’ and ‘Progress’ from bows and arrows to the hydrogen bomb.

Even Communications, Transport and Computers have been developed mainly to facilitate Human Aggression.
However, Communication Technologies initially developed for aggression, power and Profit can also be harnessed in the opposite direction as a positive contribution for social issues.
## Incidence of Childhood Sex abuse in A/L Students and Undergraduates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Abused (No Lecture on Child Abuse)</strong></td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n=85/472</td>
<td>n=19/419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Abused (After a Lecture on Child Abuse)</strong></td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n=55/263</td>
<td>n=62/555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n=140/735</td>
<td>n=81/974</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*de Silva D.G.Harendra (1996). CHILD ABUSE : THE GRAVITY OF THE PROBLEM & DILEMMAS IN MANAGEMENT IN SRI LANKA. Published by UNICEF-Sri Lanka*

*D.G.Harendra de Silva. From the Chapter on Sri Lanka – in “Child abuse a Global View” Eds. Swhartz-Kenney, Epstein and McCaully (Greenwood Publication)*
8% of Urban Households (Southern Province) had Child Servants (Often Trafficked)

Ref.

de Silva Harendra *et al* (1996)
Domestic employment of Children in the Southern Province. A study supported by UNICEF-Col.
Child Soldiers

Study - 1995

de Silva D.G.Harendra (1996). CHILD ABUSE : THE GRAVITY OF THE PROBLEM & DILEMMAS IN MANAGEMENT IN SRI LANKA. Published by UNICEF-Sri Lanka


Almost always internally trafficked
ICEBERGH PHENOMENON
Components of ‘iceberg’

Sexual Violence against Children

- Incest & Domestic abuse
- ‘Local’ sexual exploitation, Trafficking & Rape
- Foreign Pedophilia exploitation
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (Physical & Sexual)

It is known that people are more likely to be killed or experience violence in their own home than outside.

Domestic violence is often a hidden phenomenon behind closed doors.

The ‘triad’ of violence including sexual abuse against the wife, child abuse and substance abuse are common associations, which usually are justified, denied and ignored.
“Scream quietly or the neighbours would hear”

Illustrates the strange phenomenon of fear of stigma and shame paradoxically blended with justification.
In societies with inequalities, whether it be gender, race, caste, disability, or a combination, it would be more likely that children too are likely to be affected since they would be considered as a group MOST DISCRIMINATED with minimal rights.
Violence Affects Everyone!

Domestic Violence

Violence Against Children

Violence of War

Media Violence

Alcohol & Drug Abuse
Process of Reducing Violence

- Spread of **Knowledge** of the bad effects of Violence
- **Attitudinal** change of Population/Children
- Development of **Skills** by Population/Child – Non Violent Conflict resolution
- **Behaviour** change of Population – with Violence Reduction

**Slow “Process”**

**Cannot be “Imposed” by laws alone.**
Conceptual Framework
NCPA

Coordination:
- Govt. bodies
- NGO
- District/provincial level
- Foreign organizat./Govts.

Awareness

Skills Dev.

Rehab. & Protection

Legal Reforms & Enforcement

Monitoring
- Investigations
- Court proceedings
- Child-care Institutions

Resource Development

Children in WAR
Street Children
Juvenile Justice

Research
Reaching Grassroots

Vs.

Tokenistic Projects

• Targets a single person
  • Target already ‘converted’

• e.g. leaflets, booklets
Reaching Grassroots

• ‘Tokenistic’
Posters

- Colourful
- Attractive
- White Board – Cost Effective (costs extra only for the paper but LASTS years)

Distribution

- NGOs and other Established Infrastructure: Education Min., Doctors’ Associations, Drug Company Reps etc.

Increases their Credibility if the posters are considered as valuable by public
WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?

1. Exploiting a child in an inappropriate relationship
2. Verbal abuse - putting a child down or threatening
3. Honouring a child
4. Enticing a child to smoke or do drugs
5. Using or forcing a child to do household chores
6. Using or forcing a child to go to school
7. Honouring a child
8. Using or forcing a child to do chores
9. Honouring a child
10. Using or forcing a child to work
11. Honouring a child
12. Using or forcing a child to perform
13. Honouring a child
14. Using or forcing a child to perform
15. Honouring a child
16. Honouring a child
17. Honouring a child
18. Honouring a child
The integrity of the social fabric is crucial in providing safe and a non-violent environment for a child.

Violence in society may be related to armed conflict and other social and political pressures, social, political and legal impunity to laws that are supposed to protect the public and children from violence.

Refugee situations - include risk factors such as, stress, socio-economic pressures, overcrowding and societal violence.