

575 CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN BULGARIA: A NEED FOR POLICY CHANGE

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Background (issue/problem) Sexual abuse has a long-term impact on the child's development. Children victims of sexual abuse become more often abusers. Child abuse is no longer a private problem. We should change the perspective and put an accent on the responsibility of the country and the whole society.

Description of the problem There is a high tolerance against child sexual abuse in Bulgarian society. This tolerance can be found within the family, the public opinion, and even within the institutions like schools, kinder gardens and other institutions responsible for upbringing of children at risk, as well as the police, the prosecutors and the court. An insufficient synchronisation in the legislation exists, especially the interaction and coordination between the institutions and the justice system. Usually investigations have been carried out for years with no result in Bulgaria.

Results (effects/changes) In 2013 the total numbers of reported cases (new and old cases) of child sexual abuse were 304 according to the State Agency for Child Protection (SACP). It is about 15.4% of all types of violence against children. For comparison, in 2012 the number of sexual abused children is 324 or 15.3% of all types of violence. There is a lack of data about the support those victims have received and about the work done by the responsible institutions. There are limited programs for psychological help for victims of sexual abuse at the institutions and no programs developed to work within the family.

Conclusions The services for children victims of violence in Bulgaria are insufficient. It is quite important to create a society, public opinion, legislation, institutions, professionals and policy that are sensitive and intolerant to the child sexual abuse issue and to adopt common standards for people working with children. Transparent data about the services available for victims of sexual abuse and services provided to those who needed them. Continuing training of professionals working with victims of child sexual abuse has to be implemented. Appropriate supervision of activities with children has to be applied. Functioning penal system and functioning child protection system for victims of sexual abuse is needed.

576 EPIDEMIOLOGY OF NON-FETAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE RURAL AREA OF BANGLADESH

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Background Each year more than 1.3 million people worldwide die as a result of violence in all its forms (self-directed, interpersonal and collective), accounting for 2.5% of global mortality. Recent global prevalence figures indicate that 35% of women worldwide have experienced either intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime. The first report of the "WHO Multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence against women" (2005) found that, among women aged 15–49, 30% in rural Bangladesh reported that their first sexual experience was forced. Our study aims at exploring the extent and associated factors of violence against women in a low-and middle-income country (LMIC) setting.

Methods A community base active surveillance system around 6,56,115 population was established in three upazillas (Raiganj, Sherpur, Manohardi) of Bangladesh in 2009 July to 2010 June. Data on Injury and other health event are being collected by chain surveillance data collector. We have analysed the mentioned one year data.

Results A total of 694 violence incidents were identified during the reporting period and 281 cases were violence against women. It is also revealed that >18 age group of women were mostly victimised. 93% of the cases were caused due to quarrel or fight. Most of the violence against women occurred by their husband (23%) and known non relatives (21%).

Conclusions The findings of this study could be the knowledge based for the policy maker in addressing these inhuman acts as well as improving medical care for the victims.

Youth Violence

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577 YOUNG GIRLS EXPERIENCES OF PEER VIOLENCE

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Background The purpose of the study was to develop knowledge about violence among teenagers, especially young girls and their strategies and capacities to deal with this. The population of the Northern Region of Norway statistically is exposed to a greater extent of violence compared with the rest of the country. In the Norwegian context the national criminal statistics show that 24% of the % of the boys og 12% girls are exposed to violence.

Methods This paper investigates if and how girls aged 13–22 years in the Finnmark county of Norway experience actions of violence in their relationships of peers as well as their capacities to deal with such incidents. The eleven interviews were semi-structured quality interviews, based on an interview guide. They were documented anonymously, recorded, transcribed and finally analysed by categorization into themes (Kvale 2009). They were one in depth interview eleven. The theoretically approaches were based on the social constructive views.

This project was two year study, financed by Sanks, the Sami National Competence Centre of Youth Psychiatry, by my colleague, Monica Bjerklund, and myself being assistant professors of social work at the Finnmark University College, Alta, Norway. The project was a follow-up of our former Media Analysis of Youth Violence in the regional papers. The eleven female informants were recruited through a Sami boarding school, and the informants came from different places in the county. Norwegian legislation has strict rules about confidentiality and age, but these were avoided since our eleven informants were 18 years of age, the Norwegian age of majority. at the time of the interview. The Norwegian National Board of Research Ethics were asked of permission, and did not give any research restrictions of interviewing those young girls.

Results

- The findings show that all the girl informants Finnmark Norway had experienced violence among their peers
- The analyses of the interviews illustrated the variations of violence from the the young girls had been exposed to, some as witnesses, or different kinds of physical and psychic violence and threats from rape to physically bullying.