# Paedophilia: The Trauma of a Women Gang Raped by Paedophilic Abusers during Her Childhood: Case Study

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#### Abstract

Paedophilia is a psychiatric abnormality of young men having sexual attraction for children. The case study explains the feelings of an adult woman who was sexually abused by paedophile boys. The findings demonstrate the sexual trauma of early childhood disturbs the life of a woman on a lifelong basis. To find out the feelings of an adult women this research was conducted one and one to one face to face interview. The result finds that the Rape Trauma Syndrome applies to this case study as well. In this regard Theory of Trauma and Rape Trauma Syndrome were used to define this case study result. It appears that pornographic materials have a major role in pedophilic child sexual abuse.

Keywords: Paedophilia, Trauma of Women, Gang Raped, Childhood, Young men, Sexual Trauma

#### Introduction

Paedophilia refers to a psychiatric abnormality whereby an adult experience an intense and persistent sexual attraction towards children, specifically prepubescent ones. Criteria for such disorder lie for children that are primarily 13 years old or even younger (Perrotta & Health, 2020) Excessive stimulation of sexual fantasy or behaviour by adults, gives rise to numerous undesirable consequences. Nevertheless, anthropological, psychological and historical records certify considerable evidence related to intense sexual use of prepubescent children by grownups, exceptionally little information is available regarding association of paedophilia with other types of sexual assault and its aetiology (Gannon & behavior, 2021)

Paedophiles are fascinated to young girls as well as young boys, or they may be sexually attracted to both. Generally, girls are more prone to be victimized for sexual abuse (Mohr, Turner, & Jerry, 2019). In some conditions, they may harm only children but in other cases, they may also show paedophilic behaviour for children more than 15 years of age. Long-term sessions of psychotherapy in addition to drugs that help in decrease of testosterone levels and amendment of sex drive, are some of the ways for treatment of paedophilic disorder. Indeed, paedophilia refers to a type of paraphilia as it brings harm to victims and therefore considered an abnormality and unethical according to medical and social norms (Fedoroff, 2018).

### Prevalence of paedophilic disorder

Beyond other facts, paedophilic disorder is more prevalent among men as compared to women. An adult with paedophilia is usually familiar to child being sexually abused in terms of family or he might be stepparent, coach or teacher (Jahnke, 2018). Some paedophilic individuals are only sexually fascinated to prepubescent of their family. Similarly, some of them feel more attracted towards children with specific developmental phase or specific age criteria. Various studies certify that general touching or just looking is more common in contrast to sexual intercourse or touching private parts such as genitals (Stelzmann, Jahnke, Kuhle, & health, 2020).

#### Characteristics of paedophilic individuals

Paedophilic individuals usually make use of force and aggression in order to involve child sexually and harm her abusively. In addition, they threaten them if child yells to communicate her feelings to anybody else. In fact, most of the paedophilic adults suffer from antisocial personality abnormality. They basically feel reluctant to face others in gathering and prefer to stay introvert. According to various research observations, they feel depressed, agitated, stressed and anxious (Tozdan et al., 2018). They have established flaw of dependence and substance use disorder. They are addicted to constant use of drugs and compulsive substances despite their adverse results and substantial health hazards, particularly mental illness (Meyer-Dinkgräfe & Young-Hauser, 2019). Such paedophilic individuals primarily rise from martial conflict or dysfunctional families. In other cases, they may become paedophilic after being sexually victimized as children (Richards, 2018).

### Causes of paedophilic disorder

There are numerous factors that play a significant role in the development of paedophilia. Genetics, hormones, differences in terms of brain structure and development, childhood bad experiences and epigenetics are some of the leading causes of paedophilic disorder (Levenson, Grady, & Morin, 2020),

Genetics: Certain research articles analyse possibility of paedophilic disorder trait in families. Nevertheless, they do not account for its contribution in environmental factor that leads to childhood abuse. In accordance with older twin findings, it has been suggested that paedophilic trait may inherit from one generation to another, but its probability is twice less as compared to other conditions of mental health. On the contrary, some experts verify that development in addition to upbringing factor play a more influential role in causing paedophilia than genes. Epigenetics dramatically affect brain growth and sexual development. It refers to the way our environment influence genes. In this way, epigenetics is one of the factors in developing paedophilic disorder by altering serotonin system and regulating behaviour. In fact, low levels of serotonin are associated with impulsivity and agitation that might consequently lead to paedophilic behaviour (Jahn et al., 2022).

*Brain differences:* Research findings indicate that frontal lobe differences in brain might lead to paedophilic thoughts as prefrontal cortex and frontal lobe are developed for impulse

control and regulation of sexual behaviour. Furthermore, discrepancy in the temporal lobe and white matter results in abnormal sexual fantasy such as paedophilic disorder. The lower segment of temporal lobe, known as amygdala primarily process sentiments and emotions. Thus, differences in brain structure and development are strongly related to sexual attraction for children (Bjelajac, 2020).

Hormones: Certain literature reviews suggest that high exposure of fetus to male sex hormones, androgens, specifically testosterone, leads to paedophilic disorder. In fact, prenatal exposure to high levels of testosterone causes neurobiological and cognitive comorbidity as testosterone dramatically alters volumes of various brain segments, thus ultimately increasing the likelihood of paedophilic abnormality (Perry, 2022. It has been proven by hormone treatment that hormones adversely affect brain thoughts. For instance, level of testosterone is reduced by medication in paedophilic patients which in turn lower their paedophilic sentiments (Landgren, Olsson, Briken, & Rahm, 2022).

Developmental issues: Several research sources correlate some neurodevelopment irregularities like autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) to genesis of paedophilic disorder. Study reveals lower intelligent quotient and disparity between size of second and forth fingers in paedophilic individuals. Experts certify that such differences in development are momentous signs for paedophilic disorder (Berryessa, 2020).

Head and brain injury: Brain injuries as a consequence of either stroke or tumors might relate to paedophilic abuse, as indicated by certain theory papers. Research analysts report that paedophilic criminals in prison had great head injuries, which show that injury has altered their brain structure and function, which might have changed their behaviour to paedophilia (Berryessa, 2020).

History of child abuse: Various findings propose that physical sexual abuse in childhood, disclosure to pornography and participation in sexually inappropriate conversations are some of the major factors for paedophilic disorder. As a matter of fact, there is a strong association between history of child exploitation and paedophilic urge in later life. It greatly influences paedophilic person to forcefully fulfil their sexual fantasy and victimize children. Morais, Alexander, Fix, & Burkhart, 2018

#### **Diagnosis of Paedophilia**

As far as diagnosis of paedophilic disorder is considered, doctors examine and confirm this abnormality when individuals feel afflicted and agitated because of sexual allure to prepubescent or when they have already followed their bad impulse. Paedophilic flaw substantially relies on age of two people who are sexually involved. For instance, paedophilic disorder is diagnosed in western communities when an individual is 16 years old or partially 5 years elder as compared to child who is being victimized for sexual activity. Nonetheless, sexual arousal in an adolescent person (age: 17 to 18) for 12 to 13 years old child might not be recognized as paedophilic disorder, according to some literature reviews. Thus, such act

is identified as serious crime within certain criteria of age only (Kruger, Kneer, interests, & disorders, 2021).

#### Consequences of child sexual abuse

The consequences of child molestation differ in case of every child as there is no specific pattern of after-effects or sequel from childhood sexual abuse. As a matter of fact, paedophilic behaviour by an adult causes victimized child to confront various chronic effects along with abrupt psychological consequences that adversely affect throughout their growth and development phase (Hailes, Yu, Danese, & Fazel, 2019). Shock, anxiety, guilt, post-traumatic stress, confusion, grief, fear, nervousness, denial and isolation are some of the major psychological consequences of child molestation. In fact, sexual abuse during childhood leads to long-term social and psychological adjustment dilemmas in adulthood and adversely impact married life. Paedophilia leads to post-traumatic stress and inadequate sexual attitude in effected children (Mathews, Collin-Vézina, & Abuse, 2019)

#### **Treatment of Paedophilia**

Paedophilic disorder can be treated by means long-term use of drugs and sessions of psychotherapy which consequently decrease levels of testosterone and cause dramatic change in sex drive. However, consequences of treatment and medication vary from person to person. For instance, outcomes are favourable when paedophilic person is willing to correct himself and therefore participate actively in seeking social skills in addition to receiving regular treatment for other dilemmas like depression and persistent use of impulsive drugs. However, if treatment is sought after being criminally apprehended, the results may prove to be less fruitful and ineffective (Bruce, Ching, & Williams, 2018).

Putting paedophilic criminals behind bars is not the ultimate solution to end their paedophilic behaviour, fantasy or desire. In fact, imprisoned paedophiles should be subjected to long-term treatment such as monitored administration of required drugs. It helps paedophilic person to refrain from sexual fantasy and paedophilic acts. As a result, he can integrate himself into society again with moral and ethical values. Several studies in United States reveal effectiveness of certain medicines for reduction of paedophilic disorder at large scale (Jordan, Wild, Fromberger, Müller, & Müller, 2020). For instance, Medroxyprogesterone acetate or leuprolide is injected into muscular tissues to inhibit the activity of pituitary gland from sending signals to testicles for production of testosterone. In this way, these drugs help to decrease level of testosterone and consequently reduce sex drive. Medroxyprogesterone is basically similar in structure to female hormone progesterone (Cantor, 2018).

Incidence of young girl raped by paedophilic abusers: An Example from the Literature Sarah Wilson, 23 years old girl, was raped for multiple times by large number of paedophilic gangs from Rotherham (England). She narrated her story in autobiography, known as 'Violated'. She was only 11 years old when a 30-years old paedophilic adult sexually exploited her in the playground of school at night and left her traumatic, shameful and disgusted (Pilgrim, 2018). She had no sense of sex at that time and feared that her normal life is over. This incidence was an absurd start of her sexual assault. Subsequently, she was manipulated

with drugs in addition to alcohol and was raped by various paedophilic abusers in one night across the country. Certainly, her traumatic story is not unique as 1400 children have been sexually abused from 1997 to 2013 in Rotherham by paedophilic gangs. Nonetheless, Sarah was protected by one of the Pakistani men (Zampini, 2021).

Sarah basically became vulnerable to paedophilic attack because she was left alone after being bullied and browbeaten at school. As she had no age-fellow friends, she felt grateful upon invitation of older girls and so accepted cannabis and drugs they served. For instance, Nadine, her 15 years old friend, brought Sarah to meet her 30-years old boyfriend and other paedophilic men (Harper, Bartels, & Hogue, 2018). In this way, her so called friends became pathway for her sexual assault. She narrated that she lost her virginity when she did not know what was happening with her at time when she had to play with her Barbie doll. As a consequence of initial molestation, she was forced for oral sex with men and not physically abused until she became fully addicted to alcohol and other drugs for one year. Sarah was sexually assaulted again after her 12th birthday by a 35-years old British Pakistani paedophilic driver in a car. Gill & Day, 2020

Sarah became accustomed to compulsive drugs like cocaine, vodka and amphetamines at age of 13 and was frequently raped across the country. She was forced for sexual involvement with dozens of paedophilic men at one night (Britton, 2019). Sarah describes that how sweaty paedophilic men with age of her father used to take turns to get to her room and rape her. Her mind was blank, and her body has gone limp. Sarah blames police more than her paedophilic attackers as police considered it her lifestyle choice. Police showed least consideration even when she was trafficked for multiple time and travelling alone with various adults (Elliott, 2021). Her mother also showed Sarah's phone to police with 177 telephone numbers of adult men, but police did not investigate by making lame excuse of Data Protection Act. In fact, Sarah asked for police help when she was brutally raped, but officers made fun instead of taking any serious action against paedophilic attackers (Cockbain, Tufail, & Class, 2020)

Nevertheless, Sarah became victim of child molestation systematically and repeatedly by mostly British Pakistan men, she was protected by one of them. Hamid, a Muslim, saved her as her guardian angel, detoxing her from drug addiction and warding off her paedophilic abusers. He brought her new phone to get rid of abusers and provided her platform to renew her life. In this way, Hamid saved her life and helped her to escape trauma of being sexually assaulted for multiple times (Tufail, 2019).

#### **Objectives of the study**

The objectives of the study was to know the feelings of an adult female of Sindh who was raped during their childhood or adolescence.

**Key Words**: Pedophilia, Child sex abuse, Rape trauma

#### Methodology

This was a qualitative research study. It was an in depth interview of an adult lady of forty

years. The interview questions were unstructured and open ended. With prior consent to share her experience of gang rape and the feelings there after. She was assured that the contents of the interview and her identity would be kept confidential. No person other than the researcher would know the identity and whereabouts of the interviewee.

#### Theory behind the Research

This research is based on The Trauma Theory and The Rape Trauma Syndrome. The Trauma Theory was originally presented by Sigmund Freud in 1896. This was also named as The Seduction Theory in which unusual behavior of female sex victims e. g. mutism, feeling of being chocked and seizures were classified as sexual trauma. This was later modified by a number of authors. However, the Trauma Theory has its limitations due to sociocultural manifestation of certain terms legitimizing the symptoms in clinical manifestation. In 1974 Drs. Ann Burgess and Lynda Holmstrom coined the term Rape Trauma Syndrome (RTR) (Garrison, 2000) which is related to post traumatic stress specific to sexual assault. RTS describes symptoms of trauma disrupting inter personal behavior like normal, physical, emotional and cognitive behavior. Major symptoms of RTS are described under Re-Experiencing the Trauma and Increased Physiological Arousal Characteristics. RTS has five stages: Acute stage, outward adjustment stage, underground stage, reorganization stage and renormalization stage.

#### The Case Study

This is a case study of an adult female of 40 years old living in small town in Sindh. She was a school teacher at the time of interview who was gang raped by her three boy friends who were senior to her when she was 11 years old. This was early 1980s, a pre-internet era and films were watched on VCR (Video Cassette Recorder). This included pornographic films as well. The girl was in sixth grade while her boy friend was in tenth grade. Both of them lived in the same vicinity and became close friends. The used to go to school together mainly because their acquaintance. The boy used to offer her candies and chocolates quite frequently and their relationship got closer. The boy used to watch pornos which his friends. One day he offered her to watch a very famous Indian movie. The girl was very fond of Indian movies and the idea tempted her to go with him. The boy took her to an old abandoned house where his other two friends joined him. The girl was quite innocent at that age and had no idea of sex and sexual pleasure. The three boys raped her one after the other and two of repeated the act. The girl was scared, bewildered and did not know what to do and how to escape. She was compelled to surrender by force. She was shocked and worn off. She shared her story with her mother who was equally shocked and bewildered. The mother preferred not to share this incident with her husband or anyone since it may create a big noise and disgrace in the family as well as in the locality and the girl would be labelled as unwanted. Because of her physical trauma she had to take one week leave of absentia from the school.

Acute stage: (One to four weeks): Once she recovered from her physical trauma, the emotional trauma set in. She felt numb and dulled and became hyper alert. The following year her academic grade fall despite the fact that she was one of the most brilliant students of her class. She suffered anxiety accompanied by nausea and vomiting. She was at her puberty and her menstruation was about to start. The mother got alerted of any chance of pregnancy. But her

wisdom prevailed and she watched her daughter very closely. Temporarily she suffered obsessive compulsive behavior (OCB) and used to take bath a number of times in a day. This was the month of May and she gave the excuse of summer season having high atmospheric temperature ( $40^{\circ}$  C or more). She was confused and even avoided the male members of her family. After the incident the abuser boys avoided her.

Outward adjustment stage: (One month to three years): She was suffering from inner turmoil. Her anxiety persisted, appetite subsided and health deteriorated. She felt helpless around so many people. She was aloof, silent and was living under constant fear. Suffered insomnia and experienced vivid dream including the dream of further assault. Her sense of safety and security was damaged and her lifestyle changed. She was hesitant to enter into any new relationship and preferred old girl friends.

*Underground stage:* (Three years and beyond): She was depressed and had difficulty in concentration for study. Her results of secondary onwards were low and did not match her intelligence. Her hyper alertness continued and she disassociated herself from the society and avoided family functions or celebrations.

Reorganization stage: (Teen age): Her confusion continued and fear dominated the confusion. She developed phobia for crowd in general and male crowds in particular. Avoided shopping and marketplace. She had extreme phobia for cigarettes and oral tobacco. She developed paranoid feelings about strangers. Loss of appetite continued but nausea and vomiting subsided. Now she was a grown up lady and passed her intermediate examination but with low grades.

Renormalization stage: (Adulthood): The girl became an adult women by now and having a different definition of life. Her childhood traumatic experience subsided. However her sad feelings remained and she was of the opinion that societal lack of vigilance and care are responsible for such crime. Her fear for men remained and though she was an adult woman she resisted the temptation of marriage or any kind of sexual relationship with anyone.

#### Conclusions

It appears that the pornography is playing a major role in sex abuse or pedophilia. The lifelong emotional trauma of the victims with cognitive dissonance and social aloofness makes it mandatory to improve our social system. The menace of pedophilia is not only damaging for the individual but it is also damaging for the society and nation at large. Pedophilic victims withdraws from the mainstream of the society and become a non-contributory citizen for quality enhancement.

#### **Recommendations**

We are of the pinion that all pornographic materials including internet sites should be banned and as well. Breasts tempts and arouse men more than any other part of female body, therefore covering the breasts with extra clothes as advised in the Muslim culture should be made mandatory.

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