



Paedophilia

PAEDOPHILIA

What is paedophilia?

- A sexual dysfunction under the category Paraphilia



DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA

- A. Over a period of at least 6 months, recurrent, intense sexually arousing fantasies, sexual urges, or behaviors involving sexual activity with a prepubescent child or children (generally 13 years or younger)
- B. The person has acted on these sexual fantasies, or the sexual urges or fantasies cause marked distress or interpersonal difficulty.
- C. The person is at least 16 years old and at least 5 years older than the child or children in Criterion A.

(DSM-IV, APA, 2000)

What is child sexual abuse?

Forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (e.g. rape or buggery) and non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material, or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

(Department of Health, 2000,

p.6)

Prevalence

- Using a broad definition that included non-contact acts, figures are as high as 62% for females and 29 %for males.
- When the definition of abuse was restricted to attempted and actual penetrative sexual acts, this figure was more like 28% for females and 1% for males.
- 15% and 30 % of females and between 3% and 15 % of males had been exposed to some form of sexual abuse as children (Fergusson and Mullen, 1999)
- 5 % and 10 % of children in general population have been exposed to severely abusive acts involving attempted or actual penetration
- less than 50 % of cases of child sexual abuse are actually reported

(Willows, 2008).

Preconditions for child sexual abuse



- **Motivation :** The potential abuser has to have some motivation and to find a child sexually desirable
- **Internal inhibitions :** The potential abuser has to overcome internal inhibitions that may act against his /her motivation to sexually abuse
- **External inhibitions:** The potential abuser has to overcome external obstacles and inhibitions prior to sexually abusing the child
- **Resistance:** The potential abuser has to overcome the potential resistance of the child

(Finkelhor, 1984)

Risk factors of becoming a paedophile



- ❑ Research indicates that no-one is sure of the cause of paedophilia but it is thought to develop via a multitude of factors .
- ❖ **Family background, socio-economic status and IQ.** Most paedophiles are from a working class status, often facing poverty, and with a low IQ.
- ❖ **Bio-psychological explanations.** It has been argued that paedophiles can suffer from neurological issues, including exposure to neurotoxins and genetic disorders in childhood/infancy and a strong correlation with head injury .
- ❖ **Social & Psychological explanations.** Paedophiles as well as being sexually deviant are also thought to be socially and psychologically abnormal. Paedophiles and child sexual offenders in general, tend to have higher levels of psychopathic disorders as well as being prone to more psychological disorders than 'normal' people . They tend to suffer from higher levels of social introversion, sensitivity, loneliness, depression; as well as suffering from lower levels of obsessive-compulsive behaviour, lower concern with appearance, poorer sense of humor and a poorer relationship with their mother , in conjunction with lower levels of self-esteem and poorer estimations of their own self-worth .They also have poorer interrelationship and social skills ,leading to them becoming socially isolated , as well as poor relationships with adults.
- ❖ **Cycle of abuse.** The cycle of abuse explanation of child sexual abuse states that individuals who have been sexually abused in childhood will go on to reciprocate the abuse in later life (McCartan, 2008).

Types of paedophiles



Predatory paedophiles: are less common and are the ones who come to the attention of the media in high-profile cases of abduction and sexual murders.

Main characteristics

- Sexual abuse occurs within the context of abduction
- Expression of anger and hostility in sexual way, such as raping a child
- Does not even attempt to seek consent
- Abuser express other needs in a sexual way
- Abduction in order to sexually abuse children
- Threatens the child
- Ignores the child's distress
- Abuser justifies his behavior
- Sexual abuse is often aggressive and sadistic

(Sanderson, 2006)

Non- predatory paedophiles : (78% are known to the children): **1. Regressed:** primarily attracted to adults and are often in a stable relationship to a woman, but under stress regress to sexually abusing children, **2. Fixated :** their main sexual orientation is towards children. They engage in a predictable behavior towards children, following clear patterns of behaviors.

Main characteristics

- Believe that children can give consent to sexual acts , including babies
- Believe that children are sexual
- Presence of distorted thinking and beliefs
- While actions are predatory they do not believe this
- Children are given no choice in the sexual abuse
- Use influence, power and control to form relationships
- Entrap the child
- Distort child's inability to say no; silence or accommodating behavior as evidence that child wanted it.

Female sexual abusers



do adult women collect pictures of prepubescent boys?



- Evidence that women sexually abused children has been available in the last 30 years
- Stereotypes of women as being caring and nurturing prevented people from believing that they can actually abuse
- Sexual acts included touching of the genitals , forcing the child suck the woman's breast or genitalia, forced mutual masturbation , penetration with objects, and actual intercourse
- Sometimes sexual abuse was accompanied with physical beating

(Elliot,1993)

Main characteristics

- Low self esteem, feelings of inadequacy and vulnerability
- Troubled childhood
- Lack of nurturing in childhood
- Early marriage
- Experience of aloneness, isolation and separation from others
- Woman alone or partner frequently absent
- Need for substitute gratification with the child
- History of indiscriminate or compulsive sexual activity
- Severe psychological disturbance
- Alcohol or drug addiction
- Treating children as extensions of themselves
- Unsatisfactory and parasitic relationship with
- The child being unwanted or the wrong sex
- The woman maybe 'stuck' in her relationship with her own mother.

Female sexual abusers



- 20% of sexually abused boys and 5% of girls were abused by female perpetrators
- ❑ Female victims
 - 85% of female victims knew their abusers
 - 62% of female abusers were being mothers, 7% grandmothers, 7% step-mothers, 13% baby-sisters, and 11% aunts, teachers, and nuns
 - age of onset of the abuse in 83% cases is before the age of 5, 16% between 5 and 10, and 1% of cases between 10 and 15
- ❑ Male victims
 - 91% of male victims knew their abuser
 - 96% were mothers and 4% step-mothers
 - 33% were abused by babysisters or family friends
 - 55% reported that the abuse started before the age of 5, 35% between the ages of 5 and 10 and 10% between the ages of 10 and 15.

(Elliot, 1993)

Types of female abusers



- **Polyincestuous abuser** : They represent the 72,5% of the sample. This type of woman was coerced or forced into sexual assault by a dominant male partner
- **Single parent abuser**: 15% were single mothers who were not in an ongoing relationship. They often developed a strong relationship with the oldest child who took on adult responsibilities and was seen as a surrogate mother.
- **Psychotic abuser**: 7,5% was diagnosed suffering from a psychotic illness at the time of the abuse.
- **Adolescent abusers**: 7,5% of the sample , had no other sexual outlets than the children they were abusing
- **Non –custodial abuser**: only one female, did not live with the child but would sexually abuse it during access visits, to satisfy emotional needs (Faller, 1987)
- **The teacher/lover**: involves an older woman engaged in a sexual relationship with a pre-pubescent or adolescent boy, whom she regards as her peer
- **The inter generational predisposed offender** :they target young children, often their own .This category has a long history of early and severe CSA within the family
- **The male coerced**: they are initially coerced into sexually abusing children by a dominant male partner with a history of sexual offending against children , who may abuse them too.
- **The experimenter –exploiter** : this category is associated with adolescent girls who were naïve about sex and sought to experiment with younger children , usually while baby sitting them

(Matthews et al., 1991)

Sexual abuse in the family



- Can include either the biological father, stepfathers or any other male figure that the child trusts
- Sexual abuse is more likely to be instigated by stepfathers than biological fathers, the difference in ratio of abusers to non-abusers being 1 in 6 step-fathers compared to 1 in 40 biological fathers (Russel, 1986)
- 63% of incestuous fathers reported being sexually attracted to their daughters years before initiating the abuse
- ❑ The seductive incest cycle is described as followed:
 - He tickles the child
 - He baths the child
 - He begins to be aroused sexually
 - Child comes to bed
 - He knows the child enjoys being tickled
 - He may use 'sex education' as a pretext to introduce next stage
 - Tickling becomes increasingly intimate
 - He masturbates the child
 - He attempts to trap the child with threats, keeping secrets
 - He rationalizes that the child enjoys sexual contact
 - He increases sexual contact
 - He thinks in a distorted way
 - He finds hard to stop sexual contact having started
 - He reinforces his behavior through masturbation

(adapted from Wyre, 1987)



Sexual abuse in the family

In a study of 118 incestuous fathers who sexually abused their daughters, Williams and Finkelhor (1990) found that they are 5 different types of abusers.

- **The sexually preoccupied:** 66% of fathers fell into this category. they have an obsessive sexual interest towards their child, sometimes from birth.
- **Adolescent regressives:** 33% only became sexually interested in their daughters when they entered puberty.
- **Instrumental self-gratifiers:** 20% reported that they were not sexually attracted to their daughters and that when they abused them they were thinking of someone else, such as their wives. They abused their daughters sporadically and felt guilty about the harm they might cause.
- **Emotionally dependant:** 10% the sample, they see themselves as losers, they are lonely , needy and depressed. The sexual act is a means to connect and acquire an intimate relationship. Their motivation was companionship and friendship that became sexualized.
- **Angry retaliators:** 10% of these fathers abused their daughters out of rage and not out of sexual desire. This included anger at the daughter for making demands on the mother's time and attention, or anger at the mother for neglecting the abuser .

Child sexual abuse and the Internet



- In 2008 Internet Watch Foundation found 1,536 individual child abuse domains, making child pornography one of the most growing businesses online.
- The fastest growing demand in commercial websites for child abuse, depicting the worst type of abuse, including penetrative sexual activity involving children and adults and sadism or penetration by an animal.
- In a study of arrested child pornography processors 40% had both sexually abused children and possessed child pornography.
- Of those arrested between 2000 and 2001, 83% had images involving children between ages 6-12, 39% between 3-5 and 19% had images of infants and toddlers under age of 3.
- Child pornography has become a \$3 billion annual industry.

(www.enough.org/inside.php?tag=statistics)



What happens in Greece?

-15% of boys and 11% of girls have been sexually abused even by an early age

-75% of the abusers were known to the child and only 25% of the perpetrators randomly choose their victim.

(www.mylady.gr/artha/2012/01/02-sokaristiki-i-paidofilia-stin-ellada/)

Legal framework

Greece has signed and ratified UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and has been part of the Greek legal system since December 1992 (Law 2101/1292).

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK ON CHILDREN SEXUAL ABUSE

Greek Penal Code provides for the offences that affect the chastity of the child. The main offences considered as “sexual abuse” of minors are the following

- Rape (article 336 PC)
- Offence of sexual dignity (article 337 PC)
- Seduction of children (article 339 PC) In this particular offence, the age of the victim plays an important role, according to Law 1272/83.
- Abuse of minors and debauchery (article 342 PC)
- Incest (article 345 PC)
- Human trafficking (article 349 PC) (<http://www.envisvictimsupport.eu/?p=565>)
- distribution and possession of child pornographic material is considered to be illegal according to the Penal Code of Greece (Article, 348A).

WHAT HURTS A CHILD
HURTS US ALL.



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