

# Child Sexual Abuse In Schools

## KNOWLEDGE AND PERCEPTION

- Most of the basic and secondary school children between 10 – 17 years in Awutu – Senya, Effutu and Upper Manya Krobo districts of Ghana have adequate knowledge of CSA.
- 96% of school children perceive girls to be more vulnerable to sexual abuse than boys.
- Majority of boys believe that only girls are sexually abused.

## SURVIVORS

- 14% of school children have been sexually abused.
- Girls are more vulnerable to sexual abuse than boys in a ratio of 11:9. Children with 14-16 years are more at risk of sexual abuse.
- 67% of the victims of CSA are in SHS, 28% in JHS and 5% in primary school.
- About 53% of sexual abuse occurs in school environment and 47% happen at home.
- 86% of school children feel safer at home than in school.

## PERPETRATORS

- Main perpetrators of CSA are classmates (89%), female friends (55%), male friends (37%), neighbours (36%), teachers (21%), other male adults in the community (14%) and relatives (13%).
- 36% of male victims are sexually abused by males while 10% of female victims are abused by females.

## TYPES AND FORMS

- Victims of CSA experience contact and non – contact forms of abuse.
- Common types of CSA children experience include: giving sexual notes or messages (48%), request for sexual favours (46%), unwelcome sexual advances or attacks (43%) and fondle, touch, grab or pinch in a sexual way (42%). The rest are; shown or given sexual photographs (35%), sexually motivated physical contact (26%) and actual sex (15%).
- More girls experience request for sexual favours (66%), unwelcome sexual advances or attack (64%), fondle, touch, grab or pinch in a sexual way (58%) and sexual messages or notes given to them at school (56%).
- Significantly, most of the male victims experience actual sex (78%), sexually motivated physical conduct toward them (55) and exposure to sexual photographs (52%).

## CAUSES

- Poverty (35%), sexual pleasure (12%), lack of parental control and care (10%) and peer influence (10%) are the main factors that influence CSA.

## EFFECTS

- CSA negatively affects children's education:
  - 100% of girl victims do not enjoy school again, 73% become afraid of perpetrator and 58% are unable to concentrate on studies after sexual abuse in school.
  - About 60% of boy victims are afraid of pregnancy and 57% feel

uncomfortable anytime they see perpetrator.

## MANAGEMENT OF CASES

- Only 30% of CSA victims report incident to someone.
- Those who tell someone about incident mostly tell their friends (45%), Parents (20%), relative (12%), teacher (7%) and the police (2%).
- 70% of CSA victims do not tell anyone about incident because: they feel they can handle it (21%), they want it (18%), they consider it to be “normal” (13%), they are afraid of being stigmatized (10%) and they do not want to betray a friend (8%).
- In most cases when CSA is reported nothing is done about it (38%), Perpetrator is warned not to do that again (28%), perpetrator is insulted by victim and friends (11%) or perpetrator is beaten or given grounds work (8%).
- About 5% of CSA victims who experience actual sex receive cash compensation of Gh ₵1.00 - Gh ₵25.00.

## INSTITUTIONS PROVIDING SERVICES TO VICTIMS

- About 87% of children do not know of any institution that supports victims of CSA.
- Most of the institutions mandated to deal with CSA do not have adequate knowledge and resources to deal with the problem. ■