



# Psychical, Emotional And Temperamental Aspects Behind Molestation

**Dr. Gazala Bhoje**

Associate Professor

Head, Department of Sociology

K. M. E. Society's G. M. Momin Women's College

## Abstract:

Molestation is form of sexual violence. Any act of sexual interest, when forced / without consent is an assault and is considered as human rights violation. Crimes of such sexual nature on one hand disturbs the societal environment and threatens security of locals, on other hands it leaves a life along mark on the memories of victims after the occurrence of such incident. This study strives to understand what the reasons behind such abuses and assaults are. It also investigates to a little extent about what is the psyche behind any act of sexual violation. It throws a light on other perspectives of sexual violence as an act of imposing plover, dominance or to suppress other genders. Relatively this study also explores victims other than women (Men and Children) of such violence.

Key words: - Molestation, Psychology, power, dominance, gender, society, crime.

## Introduction

Molestation is regarded as a sexual assault or abuse. We consider that women are always the center of victimization of such abuses, not disagreeing with the fact that they are abused the most, but there are other gender and population groups who fall prey to such heinous crimes every other day and choose to remain silent. Shockingly, children (both genders) as well as men (although relatively small in number than women) were also seen to have fallen as a quarry to molestation. Children are sexually abused by adults as their innocence doesn't make them aware about any incoming threat of such kind. Men are also molested by women at workplaces, at their home being in an emotionally challenging relationship.

Why such molestation occurs and why this kind of violence is tolerated till unbearable extent is the question raised, while this topic is discussed. Increasing attention has focused on the emotional deregulation that can result from adverse childhood experiences among those who commit sexually violent crimes. While studies

confirm a relationship between child maltreatment and anger, and child maltreatment affect the use of violence during the commission of the sex crime <sup>1</sup>.

### Objectives

1. To study what encourages the thinking of molesting a child or women.
2. To find how mindset of victims change after being molested or sexually abused.
3. To highlight the Vice Versa abuse.
4. To create an awareness regarding the stinky perspective of potential accusers.

### Limitation

- This study is based on sexual violence and its effects and consequences and solely deals with it. It is retrieved from secondary sources of information, but with utmost care of authenticity.

### What is Molestation?

Molestation is the crime of sexual acts without consent, including touching of private parts, exposure of genitalia, taking pornographic pictures, rape, inducement of sexual acts with the molester with other children's and variations of these acts by pedophiles. Molestation also applies to incest by a relative with a minor family member and any unwanted sexual acts with adults short of rape<sup>2</sup>.

Cambridge English dictionary defines molestation as to touch or attack someone in a sexual way against their wishes<sup>3</sup> as well as Merriam Webster dictionary defines molestation as to annoy, disturb, or persecute especially with hostile intent or injurious effect<sup>4</sup>.

### Why do people molest children?

Sexual gratification can be a motive for abusing a child, but it is not the only one and there are usually also other motives at play.

Other motives people might have to abuse a child include: -

- The desire to control someone and feel powerful,
- A need to manage or act out difficult emotions,
- A desire to gain status in the eyes of others,
- A need to feel close to someone.

Most child abuse is not only sexually interested in children. Children are often targeted for sexual abuse simply because they are usually more vulnerable than adults.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/article/PMC51516691>

<sup>2</sup> [https:// dictionary .law.com](https://dictionary.law.com)

<sup>3</sup> <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/English/molest>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/molest>

### Delusions-

Abusive people find it easier to act on their desires if they have convinced themselves that what they want to do is fine. They may tell themselves that they are more important than the children they abuse that the abuse isn't harmful, that they deserve or are entitled to it, that part of being man is being sexually dominant, or that the child consented.

### Psychological Difficulties-

Some abusive individuals may have psychological difficulties that are contributing such as :-

- Problem controlling their emotions,
- A preoccupation with sex,
- Impaired abilities to feel for other people or understand social rules of life experiences.

All these things (their desires, beliefs and psychological difficulties) are themselves influenced by previous life experience and current life circumstances. So, for example, growing up living with domestic violence can make it more difficult to manage intense emotions, and make it easier to believe that it's fine to control others<sup>5</sup>.

### Why molestations occurs?

Sexual abuse is far more prevalent than people realize. Those who molest children look and act just like everyone else. Abusers can be neighbors, friends and family members. Sexual abuse takes place under specific, often surprising circumstances. Most adolescent sex offenders are not sexual predators and will not go on to become adult offenders. Adolescent sex offenders are more responsive to treatment than adults. They do not appear to continue to offend into adulthood, especially when provided with appropriate treatment<sup>6</sup>.

### Mentality that encourages abuse

Despite its name, sexual abuse is more about power than it is about sex. Although the touch may be sexual, the words seductive or intimidating, and the violation physical, when someone rapes, assaults, or harasses, the motivation stems from the perpetrator's need for dominance and control. In heterosexual and same-sex encounters, sex is the tool used to gain power over another person. And as # Me Too attests with heart-breaking clarity, sexual abuse affects children and adolescence as well. Far and away most sexual assaults and sexual violence are perpetrated by someone who occupies a more powerful or dominant position in relation to the victim. Although the vast majority of # Me Too describes stories of occurrence within the family, with a classmate, a man on the street, in a bar or at a party – where men assert power bestowed on them by mere virtue of their being men, the events that propelled the recent social media outcry involve powerful, prominent men who use their positions and the perks of their power to seduce, coerce, manipulate, and attack. These men have what

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/article/why-do-people-sexually-abuse-children>.

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.d21.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/statistics\\_3\\_circumstances.pdf](https://www.d21.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/statistics_3_circumstances.pdf).

their victims, who are in less powerful positions, want and need: a job, good grade, a promotion, a recommendation, an audition, a role in a movie, a place close to the center of power. They confuse and control by dangling enticements with one hand and wielding threats, implied or explicit, with the other. In October 2016, a month before the prudential election, a 2005 tape came to the public's attention. In raw footage from behind the scenes on Access Hollywood, republican candidate Donald trump bragged boldly about kissing women without their consent, grabbing at their genitals and simply having his way: "when you're star, they let you do it." In a subsequent debate, CNN's Anderson Cooper called the actions that Trump described "Sexual assault". Trump called it "locker room talker". Whatever the term the behaviour and the attitude ultimately proved inconsequential, not sufficiently meaningful or outrages to derail Trump's election victory. In January 2017, Trump took up the position as the most powerful man in the Western World <sup>7</sup>.

#### Child Molestation:-

Child sexual abuse is a form of child abuse that includes sexual activity with a minor. A child cannot consent to any form of sexual activity, period. When a perpetrator engages with a child this way, they are committing a crime that can have lasting effects on the victim for years. 81% of child sexual abuse incidents for all ages occur in one – perpetrator child circumstances. Six to eleven years old children are mostly likely (23%) to be abused in multiple victim circumstances. Child sexual abuse does not need to include physical contact between a perpetrator and a child. Some forms of child sexual abuse include:

- Exhibitionism, or exposing oneself to a minor
- Fondling
- Intercourse
- Masturbation in the presence of minors or forcing them to do so.
- Obscene phone calls, text messages, or digital interaction.
- Producing, owning or sharing pornographic images or movies of children.
- Sex of any kind with minor.
- Sex trafficking.
- Any other sexual conduct that is harmful to a child's mental, emotional or physical welfare.
- Most perpetrators are someone the child or family knows. As many as 93% of victims under the age of 18 know the abusers. A perpetrator does not have to be an adult to harm child. They can have any relationship to the child including and older sibling or a playmate, family member, a teacher, a coach or instructor, a caretaker, other parent of another child. According to 1 to 6, "[Child] sexual abuse is the result of abusive behavior that takes advantage of child's vulnerability and is in no way related to sexual orientation of the abusive person."

Abusers can manipulate victims to stay quiet about the sexual abuse using several different tactics. Often an abuser will use their position of power over the victim to coerce or intimidate the child. They might tell the

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/psychoanalysis-unplugged/2017/1/sexual-assault-is-about-power>



child that the activity is normal or that they enjoy it. An abuser may make threats if the child refuses to participate or plans to tell another adult. Child sexual abuse is not only a physical violation; it is a violation of trust and for authority <sup>8</sup>. Child sexual abuse is a serious, pervasive problem with clinical, social, moral, and legal implication. Between 100,000 and 500,000 children in the United States are thought to be sexually molested annually. Physicals in all specialties may detect sexual exploitation of youngsters and are mandated to report such cases. Failure to diagnose child molestation and paedophilia and to treat their cause can have seriously lasting consequences for innocent victims and continued distress for the professional who missed the diagnosis. A single child molester may commit hundreds of sexual acts on hundreds of children. The ethology in paraphilic syndromes is multifactorial. These are substantial differences among sexual abusers of children in their personalities and psychopathologies. Although available interventions are symptomatically palliative rather than curative, many pedophiles can benefit from appropriate treatment. Primary prevention may be the key to reducing the frequency of child sexual abuse <sup>9</sup>.

#### Women Molestation:-

Pathetically, women and girls are subjects to various forms of molestation, physical and mental torture and eve teasing at home, in streets and public places of entertainment, campus of educational institutions, prisons, rescue homes, crowded places like markets, meals festivals, railway platforms and bus stands, running trains and buses, workplaces, etc <sup>10</sup>. Sexual assault and abuse is any type of sexual activity that you do not agree to, including-

- Inappropriate touching.
- Vaginal, anal, or oral penetration
- Sexual intercourse that you say no to
- Rape
- Attempted rape
- Sexual assault can be verbal, visual or anything that's forces a person to join in unwanted sexual contact or attention. Examples of this are Voyeurism (when someone watches private sexual acts), exhibitionism (when someone exposes him/herself in public incest sexual contact between family members), and sexual harassment. It can happen in different situations by a stranger in an isolated place, on a date situation by a stranger in an isolated place, on a date, in the home by someone known.
- Rape is a common form of sexual assault. It is committed in any situation- on a date, by a friend or an acquaintance. "Date rape" "drugs can be slipped into a drink when a victims is not looking. Date rape drugs makes a person unable to resist assault and have a type of memory loss so the victim doesn't know what happened.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.rainn.org/articles/child-sexual-abuse>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/2642565>

<sup>10</sup> Violence Against Women and Human Rights, 2006 chapter 3 "problem of molestation eve teasing" Alfa publications, ISBN 81-89582135,pg.no 55.

- Violence against women by any one is always wrong whether the abuser is somebody dated; a family member an acquaintance; or a stranger. Victim is not at fault. It was no victim who caused the abuse to occur and is not responsible for the violent behavior of someone else <sup>11</sup>. The Crime Against Women Cell (CAWC) Delhi reported a total of 11,457 cases between 1983 and 1987 of violence against women. The traditional form of eve teasing by passing lewd remarks was replaced with brazen acts such as dupatta snatching, back putting and in some cases even forced kissing <sup>12</sup>.

#### Men's molestation by women:-

The belief that it is impossible for males to respond sexually when subjected to sexual molestation by women contradicted. Male sex response can occur in a variety of emotional states, including anger and terror, are corroborated. A post – trauma reaction occurs in which sexual function and psychological state are affected. Recognition of this phenomenon should lead to increased identification of male victims as well as to better medical, psychological, and legal services for them <sup>13</sup>.

#### Development of post-traumatic stress disorders:-

Post-traumatic stress Disorder, once called shell shock or battle fatigue syndrome, is a serious condition that can develop after a person has experienced or witnessed a traumatic or terrifying event in which serious physical harm occurred or was threatened. PTSD is a lasting consequence of traumatic ordeals that causes intense fear, helplessness or horror, such a sexual or physical assault. Reliving people with PTSD repeatedly relive the ordeal through thoughts and memories of the trauma. These may include, flash back, hallucinations, and night mares. They also may feel great distress when certain things remind them of the trauma, such as the anniversary date of the event <sup>14</sup>.

- Avoiding: - The person may avoid people, places, thoughts or situations that may remind him or her of the trauma. This can lead to feelings of detachment and isolation from family and friends, as well as a loss of interest in activities that the person once enjoyed.
- Increased arousal:- These include excessive emotional problems relating to others, including feeling or showing affection; difficulty falling or staying asleep; irritability; outbursts of anger, difficulty concentrating; and being “jumpy” or easily started. The person may also suffer physical symptoms such as increased blood pressure and heart rate, rapid breathing, muscle tension, nausea and diarrhea.
- Negative Cognitions and Mood:- this refers to thoughts and feelings related to blame, estrangement and memories of the traumatic event.

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.webmd.com/sexual-conditions/guidr/sexual-abuse-and-assault#1>

<sup>12</sup> Violence Against Women and Human Rights, 2006 chapter 3 “problem of molestation eve teasing” Alfa publications, ISBN 81-89582135, pg.no 51-58.

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/7125884>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.webmd.com/mental-health/post-traumatic-stress-disorder#2>

Effects of abuse on victims and their personal life:-

Each survivor reacts to sexual violence in their own unique way personal style, culture and context of the survivors life may effect theses reactions some express their emotions while others prefer to keep their feelings inside. Some may tell others right away what happened, others will wait weeks, months or even years before discussing the assault, if they ever choose to do so. It is important to respect each person's choices and style of coping with this traumatic event. Whether an assault was completed or attempted, and regardless of whether it happened recently or many years ago, it may impact daily functioning. A wide range of reactions can impact victims-

1. Emotional Reactions- guilt, shame, self-blame, embarrassment, fear, distrust, sadness, vulnerability, isolation.
  2. Psychological Reactions- Nightmares, flashbacks, depression, difficulty concentrating, Post traumatic stress disorders.(PTSD)
  3. Physical Reactions- changes in eating or sleeping patterns, increased startle response, concerns about physical safety lack on control, anger, numbness, confusion, shock disbelief, denial, anxiety, eating disorders, substance use or abuse, phobia ,low self-esteem, physical injury, concerns about pregnancy or contracting an STI or HIV.
- When someone is a victim of sexual violence, it effects not only the survivor, but also all the people around them. Sexual violence can affect many people in a victims/survivors life- parents friend, partners, children, supposes, classmates and for co-workers.

A part of what makes it so difficult for loved ones is not knowing what to say or do, but there are ways to offer constructive help <sup>15</sup>.

Childhood sexual abuse has been correlated with higher levels of depressions, guilt, shame, self-blame, eating disorders, somatic concerns, anxiety, dissociative patterns, repression, denial, sexual problems, and relationships problems. Depression has been found to be the most common long term symptoms amongst survivors. Survivors may have difficulty in externalizing the abuse, thus thinking negatively about themselves. (Hartman et al 1987). After years of Negative self- thoughts, survivors have feelings of worthlessness and avoid others because they believe they have nothing to offer (Long et al 2006). Ratican (1992) describes the symptoms of child sexual abuse survivor's depression to be feeling down much of the time having suicidal ideation, having disturbed sleeping patterns and eating patterns. Survivors often experience guilt, shame and self-blame. It has been shown that survivors frequently take personal responsibility for the abuse. When the sexual abuse is done by an esteemed thrusted adult. It may be hard for

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.ourresilience.org/what-you-need-to-know/effects-of-sexual-violence/>.

the children to view the perpetrator in a negative light, thus leaving them incapable of seeing what happened as not their fault. Survivors often blame themselves and internalizes negative messages about themselves <sup>16</sup>.

- Cases Studies:-

1. John's Story-

John eventually turned to Callan when he felt he was “better off dead”. He broke down when he first explained his situation to a counselor. “She was always jealous of other women being attracted to me” he said of his partner. She would be nasty to me for days. Then it went to the stage where she was nasty to all the time, there was no let up at all. “I couldn't do anything other than try and hold her off. It was very difficult, you are judged by people like the police as if you were the one who was causing everything. “They don't understand men are getting abused, though I think they are starting to. “I said ‘I feel terrible talking about my partner, I feel like I am betraying her. She's left me broke and she's broken me as well ‘all I had at Christmas was £10 to live on, but I have been learning to live on soup and bread. “Callan, based in Llandarcy, has worked with academics at the University of South Wales (USW) to develop the compass programme, which supporters me to see themselves as victims, challenging gender stereotypes. Michael Dix- Williams's project manager said: “There's very much a belief that domestic abuse only happens to women, and that prevents men coming forward. “It feeds into this fear they are not going to be believed” <sup>17</sup>.

2. When Jacob Noll was growing up in the Midwest he could never have imagined he would experience domestic violence. “I was a straight, white guy in a normal, small town that kind of catered to people like me”, he says wryly. “My family was really close. My folks are still tighter. There were no big family problems that would have given me a window into how dark the world can be. Yet Noll spent several years in such darkness after falling in love with Courtney, a woman he met online. Courtney was a year older than Noll, and from the start, he was enchanted by her presence online. She found him funny and engaging. Noll says he “made a Play” to meet Courtney in person- they lived a few hours apart from each other and was disappointed when she declined. But a year later, in 2006, she emailed Noll “out of the blue” she was just out of the relationship and asked if he wanted to be together. “I ran at it,” he says of her offer. It was an adventure for her because she lived far away. It was summer of 2006, and Noll was 22 years old. He was a somewhat rudderless college grad, he wanted to do big things but wasn't sure what that looked like. Instead, he poured his energies into nurturing a relationship with Courtney. She was charming and funny, but also vulnerable. He thought he could help her, perhaps be her knight in shining Armor.

The long distance relationship progressed quickly. Even from the beginning Noll saw signs of volatility, but he always found a way to write them off, even when they involved Courtney's episodes of drinking too much

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<sup>16</sup> <https://www.counseling.org/does/disaster-and-trauma-sexual-abuse/long-term-effects-of-childhood-sexual-abuse.pdf>.

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wale-4725275>



and passing out. “I would always put it back on myself and say “you’re a guy who’s not good with emotions and feelings you’re dumb, you’re a dunce, and she just know more” he admits <sup>18</sup>.

### Conclusion:-

To conclude, molestation is a devastating crime that needs to be stopped. The accuser’s mindsets behind molesting remain to be causal as if it does not affect the victim and they take the second person's consent as a yes which is not actually the case. It can be said that women, men and children all can fall prey to several assaults and can even develop PTSD after such incidents.

Suggestions: - Molestation that leads to major sexual violence are crimes that threatens social security and should be controlled and diminished from its sources.

Future Implication: - This study can be helpful to educate masses about sexual violence in the society and its consequence that leads major crimes. It would prove fruitful for further additional research and to spread great awareness.

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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/relationships/a37016/male-survivor-of-domestic-violence/>

