



Exploring the  
Mechanics of  
Male Child  
sexuality  
in the context  
of the street:  
**Obstacles and  
Solutions**

by VISION resource center

# Exploring the Mechanics of Male Child sexuality in the context of the street: **Obstacles and Solutions**

## Introduction:

The visibility of children on streets makes them vulnerable to various forms of abuse. Whereas sexual abuse remains one of the most common forms of abuse relevant in this context.<sup>1</sup>

It is considered to be a societal norm that the most sustainable and effective intervention that can rescue a child from a sexually abusive or sexually exploitative situation should come from the adult who has the best interest of the child at the very core of his/her thought process, that generally being the parents or blood relatives of the child. However, what is becoming evident is that due to rising poverty levels resulting in the neglect of the child, the core values of care giving and/or care taking of the children is getting redefined. In this redefinition, children are becoming part of a process that adds to the economic sustenance of their own families. Thus constructing a feasible situation where children were taken care and protected from any or all forms of abuse becomes extremely difficult in certain social-economic set ups.

This holds valid for most of the developing societies but its manifestation is highly pronounced in South Asia i.e. Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan.

Historically military conflicts and anarchic situations in countries add to the woes of children. This effect is multiplied in the context of the children who already exist on the fringes of a society, therefore making them even more vulnerable.

Currently Pakistanis facing an economic crisis in addition to a highly politically volatile situation. This has had a major impact upon the populations of children who for one reason or another define the streets to be their temporary or permanent abode<sup>2</sup>.

In most cases the survival of children on streets is through labor. However, this form of abuse is not inflicted upon children in isolation. Rather the curse of child labor is accompanied with other.....Continues

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