**VIOLENCE**

**DEFINITION**

**According To WHO –** The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in Injury, Death, Psychological harm, Maldevelopment or Deprivation.

**According To U.S Department Of Justice –** Violence can be defined as the maltreating, physically or psychologically, by injury, attack, or ill-use of persons or property, when engaged with great energy.

**According To Merriam Webster –** Violence is the use of physical force to Injure, Abuse, Damage or Destroy.

**INCIDENCE**

* The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) annual report has revealed a distressing surge of 4% in crimes against women in India throughout 2022. This includes cases of cruelty by husbands and relatives, abductions, assaults, and rapes.
* The NCRB report detailed a substantial escalation in reported crimes against women, soaring from 3,71,503 cases in 2020 to 4,45,256 cases in 2022. Compared to 2021’s 4,28,278 cases, the 2022 statistics marked a troubling increase.
* The report highlighted that a significant proportion of crimes against women under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) involved ‘Cruelty by Husband or His Relatives’ (31.4%), ‘Kidnapping and Abduction of Women’ (19.2%), ‘Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty’ (18.7%), and ‘Rape’ (7.1%). The crime rate per lakh women population rose to 66.4 in 2022 from 64.5 in 2021.
* Notably, the country registered 13,479 cases under the Dowry Prohibition Act, with over 1,40,000 cases categorised under ‘Cruelty by Husband or His Relatives’ (Sec. 498 A IPC).
* Based on data gathered from 36 states, Union territories, and central agencies, The report’s findings extended beyond crimes against women, indicating a surge in crimes against children, senior citizens, Scheduled Castes (SC), and Scheduled Tribes (ST) by 8.7%, 9.3%, 13.1%, and 14.3%, respectively.
* Additionally, economic offenses saw an 11.1% rise, corruption surged by 10.5%, and cybercrimes increased by a staggering 24.4% in 2022.
* Moreover, concerning trends were observed in major cities like Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru. Delhi recorded 14,158 cases of crimes against women, Mumbai saw 6,176 cases with a high 80.6% chargesheet rate, while Bengaluru reported 3,924 cases with a 74.2% chargesheet rate.
* Uttar Pradesh registered the highest number of 65,743 cases of crimes against women under IPC and Special and Local Laws (SLL), Maharashtra recorded 45,331 cases, and Rajasthan reported 45,058 cases, each with varying chargesheet rates.

**Nature of Violent Acts**

The nature of violent acts are some of them

1. Sexual
2. Physical
3. Psychological
4. Deprivation and Negligence

**TYPES OF VIOLENCE**

1. Sexual Violence
2. Domestic Violence
3. Self directed Violence
4. Online or Technology facilitated Violence
5. Acid Attack
6. Child Abuse
7. Elder Abuse

**CAUSES OF VIOLENCE**

We can classify it in four categories. They are

1. **Personal :-** Biological and Personal factors of a person majorly affect how an individual conduct oneself and increase their possibility of becoming victim or offender.

For example, Age, Sex, Education, Income, Personality disorder, Substance abuse, Be a witness of violence etc.

1. **Family and Friends :-** Teenagers who are having friends engaging in violence or encourage them to do violence, crimes or support violence and crimes in any form can be a higher risk of being a victim or offender.

In the case of intimate partner violence some of the reason are, desire for power and control in relationship, Relationship conflict, Low self-esteem, Forced marriage etc.

1. **Community :-** Involvement of community in illegal activities such as regional drug dealing, substance abuse, caste and religion based criticism or violence are affecting people’s life.
2. **Society :-** Lacking in social structure can leads to violence. For example, poor judicial system, inequality, lack of good leadership, toxic cultural norms, spreading false news and roomers etc.

**PREVENTION TECHNIQUES OF VIOLENCE**

1. Security
2. Patrolling
3. Social support
4. Social equality
5. Good education
6. Mental health care
7. Surveillance cameras
8. Strong judicial system
9. Women empowerment
   * + 1. **SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

Anyone can be subject to sexual violence, but it is most commonly carried out by men against women, girls, and to a lesser extent boys

**DEFINITION**

**According to WHO -** Sexual violence is “any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, or other act directed against a person’s sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting.

**According to Nicola Gavey-** Sexual violence refers to an inclusive category of sexual acts and experiences that are imposed, coerced, or forced onto a person. Rape, attempted rape, sexual assault, sexual abuse, sexual violation, and so on are all included.

**Or**

Violation of a person’s rights to dignity, respect, and control over their own body also called as sexual harassment and violence .

**According to CDC –** Sexual violence is sexual activity when consent is not obtained or freely given.

**INCIDENCE**

* Over half of women and almost 1 in 3 men have experienced sexual violence involving physical contact during their lifetimes. One in 4 women and about 1 in 26 men have experienced completed or attempted rape. About 1 in 9 men were made to penetrate someone during his lifetime. Additionally, 1 in 3 women and about 1 in 9 men experienced sexual harassment in a public place.
* Rape is the fourth most common crime against women in India. According to the 2021 annual report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), 31,677 rape cases were registered across the country, or an average of 86 cases daily, a rise from 2020 with 28,046 cases, while in 2019, 32,033 cases were registered. Of the total 31,677 rape cases, 28,147(nearly 89%) of the rapes were committed by persons known to the victim. The share of victims who were minors or below 18 – the legal age of consent – stood at 10%.

**TYPES OF SEXUAL VIOLENC**

Some of the type are given below

* 1. **Rape -** It is any non-consensual vaginal, anal or oral penetration of a sexual nature of the body of another person with any bodily part or object, including through the use of physical violence and by putting the victim in a situation where they cannot say no or complies because of fear. This can be by any person known or unknown to the survivor, within marriage and relationships, and during armed conflict.
  2. **Corrective Rape –** It is a form of rape perpetrated against someone on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity. It is intended to force the victim to conform to heterosexuality or normative gender identity
  3. **Sexual Harassment -** May involve any conduct of a verbal, nonverbal or physical nature, including written and electronic communications. Sexual harassment can take a variety of forms, from looks and words though to physical contact of a sexual nature. Examples of sexual harassment include sharing sexual or lewd anecdotes or jokes; unwelcome touching, including pinching, patting, rubbing, or purposefully brushing up against another person, repeatedly asking a person for dates or asking for sex and making sexual comments about appearance, clothing, or body parts, among others.
  4. **Sexual violence in conflict –** Acts of violence against women include violation of the human rights of women in situations of armed conflict, such as systematic rape, sexual slavery and forced pregnancy, as well as forced sterilization, coercive/forced use of contraceptives, female infanticide and prenatal sex selection.

**EVIDENCE COLLECTION**

Sexual assault or violence evidence collection is the process of collecting specimens and documenting injuries of sexual assault victims to be used in the court of law. Forensic examination for evidence collection is performed in emergency departments 90% of the time, and 10% in other locations such as urgent care, OBGYN, and primary care offices. Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) often perform evidence collection.

 The protocol for evidence collection is as follows:

1. Completion of consents and forms in the Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit (SAECK)
2. A thorough history involving recent genital procedures, symptoms since the assault, details of the assault, number of assailants, specific threats, type of penetration, nongenital acts, loss of consciousness, amnesia, activities after the assault.
3. Control swabs
4. Toxicology testing within 72 hours, especially if there is a loss of consciousness, to determine what drugs the patient used or ingested
5. Blood or saliva swabs for patient’s DNA
6. Oral swabs/smears if <24 hours since oral penetration
7. Fingernail scrapings if the patient was able to scratch perpetrator
8. Foreign material collection, which is material that falls off patients when undressing. Collect sheets on the exam table and/or from an ambulance as evidence may be present in the debris.
9. Clothing collection. If cutting clothes off the patient, providers should pay special attention to preserve holes in clothing, stains that would corroborate the use of force against the patient.
10. Examine the full body for injuries, lesions, secretions. Document with photos when possible. If bite marks are present, swab the area twice.
11. Head-hair combings
12. Pubic hair combings
13. For female patients, examine for anal and genital injuries in the lithotomy position. Take external genital swabs, vaginal swabs, perianal swabs.
14. For male patients, examine penile and anal injuries. Take penile swabs, urethral swabs, anorectal swabs.
15. Complete forms and seal envelopes inside the sexual-assault evidence collection kit with specimens.

The examiner should go through each step with the patient before performing them and then allow the patient the opportunity to decline individual steps. The patient must provide written and verbal consent to the forensic exam, and this becomes problematic in the case of minors, elderly patients, and intoxicated patients.

The primary focus of the exam should be on treating injuries before collecting evidence. The process of evidence collection could take up to 6 hours by a trained professional. The optimal time frame for a forensic evaluation is within 72 hours of the assault to be able to collect as much DNA evidence as possible. However, a kit can still be useful in gathering evidence after this period, up to 7 days due to advancements in DNA technology. After this window of time, or if the patient does not give consent, only the physical and medical treatments are possible.

* + - 1. **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Domestic violence not only affects those who are abused, but also has a substantial effect on family members, friends, co-workers, other witnesses, and the community at large. Children, who grow up witnessing domestic violence, are among those seriously affected by this crime. Frequent exposure to violence in the home not only predisposes children to numerous social and physical problems, but also teaches them that violence is a normal way of life - therefore, increasing their risk of becoming society's next generation of victims and abusers.

**DEFINITION**

**According to IPC Section 3 –**

Any act, omission or commission or conduct of the respondent shall constitute domestic violence in case it -

1. harms or injures or endangers the health, safety, life, limb or well-being, whether mental or physical, of the aggrieved person or tends to do so and includes causing physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal and emotional abuse and economic abuse.

**Or**

1. harasses, harms, injures or endangers the aggrieved person with a view to coerce her or any other person related to her to meet any unlawful demand for any dowry or other property or valuable security.

**Or**

(c) has the effect of threatening the aggrieved person or any person related to her by any conduct mentioned in clause (a) or clause (b)

**Or**

(d) otherwise injures or causes harm, whether physical or mental, to the aggrieved person.

Explanation I :- For the purposes of this section,

* 1. **“Physical Abuse”** means any act or conduct which is of such a nature as to cause bodily pain, harm, or danger to life, limb, or health or impair the health or development of the aggrieved person and includes assault, criminal intimidation and criminal force;
  2. **“Sexual Abuse”** includes any conduct of a sexual nature that abuses, humiliates, degrades or otherwise violates the dignity of woman;

(iii) **“Verbal and Emotional Abuse”** includes -

(a) insults, ridicule, humiliation, name calling and insults or ridicule specially with regard to not having a child or a male child; and

(b) repeated threats to cause physical pain to any person in whom the aggrieved person is interested;

(iv) **“Economic Abuse”** includes -

(a) deprivation of all or any economic or financial resources to which the aggrieved person is entitled under any law or custom whether payable under an order of a court or otherwise or which the aggrieved person requires out of necessity including, but not limited to, house hold necessities for the aggrieved person and her children, if any, stridhan, property, jointly or separately owned by the aggrieved person, payment of rental related to the shared house hold and maintenance;

(b) disposal of household effects, any alienation of assets whether movable or immovable, valuables, shares, securities, bonds and the like or other property in which the aggrieved person has an interest or is entitled to use by virtue of the domestic relationship or which may be reasonably required by the aggrieved person or her children or her stridhan or any other property jointly or separately held by the aggrieved person, and

(c) prohibition or restriction to continued access to resources or facilities which the aggrieved person is entitled to use or enjoy by virtue of the domestic relationship including access to the shared household.

Explanation II :- For the purpose of determining whether any act, omission, commission or conduct of the respondent constitutes “domestic violence” under this section, the overall facts and circumstances of the case shall be taken into consideration.

**According to WHO –** Domestic violence refers to behaviour by an intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours.

**INCIDENCE**

In India, 32% of ever-married women reported having experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence by their husbands in their lifetime. The most common type of spousal violence, in India, is physical (28%), emotional (14%), and sexual (6%).

**TYPES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

1. Physical Abuse
2. Sexual Abuse
3. Verbal & Emotional Abuse
4. Economical Abuse

**EVIDENCE COLLECTION**

**Photographic Evidence**

Pictures may show visible injuries or signs of

* Violence (torn clothing, bloodstains, damaged Property, etc.)
* Take multiple pictures of injuries from different Angles, as well as closer and
* Farther away. Include victim face in at least one of the pictures.
* Take comparison shots between injured and Uninjured parts of body.

**Medical Records**

* Full medical records of victim.
* Discharge and other paperwork is helpful to prove Injuries and can be used in court.
* In addition to a regular copy, it is best to also obtain a copy of “Certified Records” which will be Provided in a sealed envelope marked “certified.” Do Not Open this envelope.

**Police Records**

* FIR & Police reports are extremely helpful.
* Obtain copies of any time the police were involved or called.

**Social Media, Text Massages and Emails**

* Screenshot social media (postings can be deleted and the evidence lost).
* Try to include and dates and times of messages, emails, and postings.
* Try to include the phone number/name/username/email address associated with the text, post, or emails.

**Witnesses**

* People who have seen or heard abusive incidents or injuries can testify about what they saw or heard.
  + - 1. **SELF DIRECTED VIOLENCE**

Self-directed violence and other forms of self-injury are serious problems that affect children, youth, and families. However, there are things that families and health professionals can do to help prevent these behaviours.

**DEFINITION**

**According to CDC**

Self-directed violence is anything a person does intentionally that can cause injury to self, including death, For example: Cutting, Suicide, Burning.

**According to WHO**

Self-directed violence refers to violence in which the perpetrator and the victim are the same individual and is subdivided into self-abuse and suicide.

**According to Angela Moss & Nika Ball**

Self-directed violence or SDV is another term that is commonly used among mental health professionals, that describes a range of violent behaviours, including acts of fatal and non-fatal suicidal behaviour and non-suicidal intentional harm.

An example of self-directed violence might be cutting. This where you have an individual who feels numb or describes a feeling of numbness, and they just want to feel something again, and so they cut themselves.

**INCIDENCE**

Self-harm also called as self directed violence is the leading cause of death among Indian adolescents and young adults aged between 15 and 24, followed by road accidents, according to London-based Lancet Commission on Adolescent Health and Wellbeing. The report said that at least 60,000 Indian adolescents within that age group died due to reasons related to self-harm in 2013.

**TYPES OF SELF DIRECTED VIOLENCE**

1. **Self directed Violence –** Behaviour that is self directed and deliberately results in injury or the potential for injury to oneself.
2. **Suicidal intent –** There is past or present evidence ( implicit or explicit) that an individual wishes to die.
3. **Preparatory –** Acts or preparation towards engaging in self directed violence, but before potential for injury has begun. This can include anything beyond verbalization or thought , such as assembling a method (e.g., Buying a gun, Collecting pills) or preparing for one’s death by suicide (e.g., Writing suicide notes, Giving things away).
4. **Physical Injury –** A bodily lesion resulting from acute over exposer to energy (It can be electrical, mechanical, thermal or radiation) .
5. **Interrupt by self or other –** A person takes steps to injury self but is stopped by self or another person prior to fatal injury. The interruption may occur at any point.
6. **Suicide Attempt –** A non fatal self inflicted potentially injurious behaviour with any intent to die as a result of the behaviour.
7. **Suicide –** Death caused by self inflicted injurious behaviour with any intent to die as a result of behaviour.

**EVIDENCE COLLECTION**

**Physical Examination**

The forensic examiner will take a history from the patient to help guide in performing a detailed head-to-toe assessment to identify injury or findings to the patient’s body. Injury or findings must be documented by taking photographs, measuring the injury utilizing measuring tools, and/or using age-specific body diagrams. The correct terminology must be used to describe injury and findings. For example, medical personnel confuses lacerations versus cuts. Lacerations are caused by blunt force trauma, and cuts are caused by sharp force trauma, usually by a sharp object.

It is critical to correctly identify the injury and the mechanism of the injury:

* Bruises, abrasions, lacerations, swelling, redness, pain caused by blunt force trauma.

Blunt force trauma is usually a serious injury caused by a blunt object or impact with a blunt surface.

* A bruise is an injury to the tissue, causing rupture of the small blood vessels and escaping blood into the tissue that causes discoloration.
* Discoloration varies from red, purple, bluish, green, yellow, and brown.
* Abrasion is the rubbing or scraping of the surface layer of cells or tissue from an area of the skin or mucous membranes.
* A laceration is a torn and ragged wound.
* Swelling is an abnormal enlargement of tissue.
* Redness is abnormal redness of the skin or mucous membranes due to capillary congestion (e.g., inflammation).
* Pain is the physical feeling caused by disease, injury, or something that hurts the body.
* Cuts are puncture wounds resulting from sharp force trauma or a type of projectile---Cuts indicate penetration with or as if with an edged instrument.
* Puncture wound means to pierce with or as if with a pointed instrument or object.
* Again to emphasize, when possible, the examiner may use a camera, measuring tools, and age-appropriate body diagrams to document the medical forensic examination.

**Collecting Evidence At Scenes**

* A scene is a place where something happened. It may contain valuable physical evidence, even if time has passed since the incident under investigation occurred.
* Processing a scene means examining it in a methodical fashion to minimise the possibility of evidence being overlooked. Processing should be done in a way that avoids destroying or changing any physical evidence.
* The first task is to protect the scene from contamination. That includes limiting who can enter the scene and, if it is outdoors, protecting it from the elements.
* Persons trained in scene processing will often work with the lead investigator to create a crime scene investigation plan. The plan will describe the area to be searched, what is being looked for and the order in which evidence will be collected
* A scene should be photographed and videoed before anything is moved. It should also be measured, preferably using GPS technology.
* A scene can also be processed using grid search methods. This is where the scene is divided into a grid, with each segment thoroughly searched for possible evidence.
* A wide variety of physical evidence can be collected at a scene that is deemed valuable (“probative”) for collection and investigation:

1. Biological evidence (e.g., blood, body fluids, hair and other tissues)
2. Latent print evidence (e.g., fingerprints, palm prints, foot prints)
3. Footwear and tire track evidence.
4. Trace evidence (e.g., fibers, soil, vegetation, glass fragments)
5. Digital evidence (e.g., cell phone records, Internet logs, email messages)
6. Tool and tool mark evidence
7. Drug evidence
8. Firearm evidence
   * + 1. **ONLINE OR TECHNOLOGY FACILITATED VIOLENCE**

As more and more people turn to the internet for communication, commerce, and social interaction, online violence are an ever growing concern. The anonymity and reach of the internet make it an attractive medium for those who wish to harm others, whether through fraud, cyberbullying, or more serious crimes

**DEFINITION -**

“Online violence is when someone is violent to you on the internet or social media. It is also called cyber-violence or cyber-bullying.”

“The use of computer systems to cause, facilitate, or threaten violence against individuals, that results in (or is likely to result in) physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering and may include the exploitation of the individual’s circumstance, characteristics or vulnerabilities.”

“Define online violence or cyber violence as online behavior that constitutes or leads to assault against the well-being (physical, psychological, emotional) of an individual or group.”

**INCIDENCE**

Cases of cyberstalking or bullying of women or children increased by 36% from 542 in 2017 to 739 in 2018, data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) showed. Meanwhile, the conviction rate for cyberstalking or bullying of women and children fell 15 percentage points from 40% in 2017 to 25% in 2018. However, during the same period, the pendency percentage saw an increase of 1 percentage point to 96%, the data show.

Yet, the reported cases of threatening/blackmail fell 28.3% from 311 to 223 during the same period, which experts said is largely due to underreporting. In all, there has been a 25% increase in the number of cybercrime cases from 2017 to 2018, the NCRB data show.

**TYPES**

1. **Digital harassment-** Any threat, assault, including unwanted or inappropriate sexual advances and comments (sexual harassment). In the online space, this can take the form of receiving sexually explicit messages and images, or threats, and more subtle ways such as commenting on your appearance or making suggestive remarks. In some cases, it may involve sharing false information about people (defamation), for instance through video or photomontage. It can also include sharing explicit materials without your consent, or using sexually charged language and behaviour to intimidate or discriminate against you.
2. **Doxing -** The act of publishing someone’s personal information online without their consent. When your personal information is published, you may be at risk of offline stalking, harassment, and even physical harm. In addition to the immediate risks that doxing poses, it can also have long-term consequences. For example, your personal information may be spread across the internet, making it difficult to remove and potentially leading to ongoing harassment or abuse. Doxing can be especially harmful for displaced people, as they may be at risk of persecution or violence if it is revealed.
3. **Sexual violence -** Any form of harassment, assault, threat, extortion or exploitation, of sexual character and/or with sexual purposes. Online sexual violence can take the form of receiving unsolicited sexual requests or images, sharing explicit images or videos of you without your consent or coercing you into sexual activity through threats, intimidation or manipulation. Online sexual violence is unwanted, unsolicited, and aggressive. It has serious consequences for the victim, including psychological distress, physical harm, and damage to their social relations.
4. **Grooming -** The process of building an emotional connection in order to exploit or extort the victims. Online groomers may use social media or messaging platforms to establish trust with you, and then use this trust for manipulation and exploitation. As you are seeking connections and support in your new communities, you may be particularly vulnerable to grooming online.
5. **Sextortion -** A special a form of sexual violence that involves using sexual images or threats to extort something from the victim. Sextortion can take many forms, such as demanding money or other favours in exchange for not sharing explicit images or videos. It can also involve threatening to share images or information unless the victim performs certain sexual acts via a camera-enabled device or provides more images.
6. **Hacking -** Unauthorised access or manipulation of a computer and other electronic devices. It can be done for a variety of reasons, such as to steal personal information, get access to bank accounts, or to spread malicious software. Hacking can have serious consequences, including financial loss and loss of privacy. It can also lead to other forms of online violence, such as doxing or cyberstalking.

**EVIDENCE COLLECTION**

**Identification**- Recognize the purpose of the investigation.

* identify and collect the resources required in the investigation.

**Preservation**- Isolate the data files or devices for examination.

* Secure the files to inspect data.
* Preservation of data for investigation.

**Analysation**- Identify the techniques and tools to use to analyse digital evidence.

* Process data and interpret the possible results.

**Reporting and Documentation** - Prepare documentation of the complete crime scene.

**Presentation** - Get a conclusion with the help of gathered facts.

* Summarization and explanation of the process.

**Police Records** - FIR & Police reports of cyber bullying & cyber violence.

**Social Media, Text Massages and Emails** - Screenshot social media post of offender (postings can be deleted and the evidence lost).

* Try to include and dates and times of messages, emails, and postings.
* Try to include the phone number/name/username/email address associated with the text, post, or emails
  + - 1. **ACID ATTACK**

An acid attack is the crime of hurting a person by throwing acid on them, administering acid to that person or doing anything with acid with the intention or knowledge that it would harm the person. An acid attack may result in injuries to a person, in any part of the body. An acid attack can happen anywhere. Incidents of acid attack have frequently taken place at home, on the streets and even at work places.

**DEFINITION**

**According to Law Commission of India -** The Law Commission of India has defined an acid attack, as a form of violence against women where the perpetrator splashes a person or object with acid in order to deface or kill them.

**According to IPC Section 326A -** An acid attack is legally defined under Section 326A IPC. It provides that any person who causes injury to the victim, either permanently or partially, by throwing acid is guilty of an acid attack. The injury due to an acid attack is usually deformity of the victim’s body or maiming.

**According to Wikipedia –** An acid attack, also called acid throwing, vitriol attack, or vitriolage, is a form of violent assault involving the act of throwing acid or a similarly corrosive substance onto the body of another “with the intention to disfigure, maim, torture, or kill”. Perpetrators of these attacks throw corrosive liquids at their victims, usually at their faces, burning them, and damaging skin tissue, often exposing and sometimes dissolving the bones. Acid attacks can lead to permanent, partial, or complete blindness.

**INCIDENCE**

The National Crime Records Bureau’s (NCRB) data reveals that there has been no let up in the number of this gender-based crime in 2011, there were 83 acid attacks; in 2021, it grew to 176 (albeit down from 249 in 2019).

West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh consistently record the highest numbers of acid attacks, generally accounting for nearly 50% of all cases in the country year on year. In 2021, 153 men were charge-sheeted. Merely seven have been convicted.

**EVIDENCE COLLECTION**

* **Search for Evidence**
* Stains of acid on floor, mud, soil etc. Where attack has taken place.
* Swabs of acid from the body of the victim to be collected at the time of medical examination/ post-mortem.
* Container from which acid was thrown at crime scene or around the crime scene.
* Pieces of glass bottle, bulb, plastic bottle, jar etc.
* Stains of acid found on the clothes, body, vehicle of accused.
* Sign of burnt injury on the body of victim.
* Burnt or partially burnt clothes of the victim/ accused.
* **Collection**
* Investigation officer should collect information of incident in detail from the witness and the victim .
* Apprehended the accused as soon as possible and collect the clothes he was wearing at the time of committing the act.
* If the container still contains some acid or the traces of acid, collect that acid in separate glass bottle.
* Collect soil, mud where stains of acid are visible.
* If cases where the acid stains are on the floor made of brick, concrete or coal tar, the floor surrounding it be removed with the help of hammer and chisel. The control sample is taken from some distance away.
* Take photographs of crime scene along with the photograph of victim showing the burnt parts
* Victim should be taken to nearby hospital for medical examination and treatment and for collection of clothes, hair having acid stain.
* Dr. In the hospital should take swab from burnt part of body and collect washings in a bottle.
* Check the hands of the accused/ suspect if they contain any acid burn.
* Look for any marks of tyre, foot, shoes, etc., at the scene of acid attack and lift, photograph it.
* Ascertain the exact place and direction from where acid was thrown.
* Record the statement of victim.
* Collect CCTV footage, if available.
* Mobile phone of victim to track the attacker & check email records for linking purpose.
* Find out source from where acid was purchased.
  + - 1. **CHILD ABUSE**

Violence against children takes many forms, including physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, and may involve neglect or deprivation. Violence occurs in many settings, including the home, school, community and over the Internet. Similarly, a wide range of perpetrators commit violence against children, such as family members, intimate partners, teachers, neighbours, strangers and other children. Such violence not only inflicts harm, pain and humiliation on children, it also kills.

A human being who is below the age of 18 years define as child

**DEFINITION**

**According to WHO** - It defines child maltreatment or child abuse as all forms of physical and emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect, and exploitation that results in actual or potential harm to the child’s health, development or dignity.

**According to IPC** - The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015[2] defines child abuse as any physical, sexual, emotional, or economic maltreatment of a child. This includes neglect, abandonment, exploitation, and any other form of harmful treatment.

“Child Abuse is purposeful and serious injury inflicted upon a child by a caregiver.”

**INCIDENCE**

Nearly 3 in 4 children - or 300 million children - aged 2–4 years regularly suffer physical punishment and/or psychological violence at the hands of parents and caregivers

One in 5 women and 1 in 13 men report having been sexually abused as a child aged 0-17 years.

120 million girls and young women under 20 years of age have suffered some form of forced sexual contact.

Consequences of child maltreatment include impaired lifelong physical and mental health, and the social and occupational outcomes can ultimately slow a country's economic and social development

**TYPES**

1. **Child neglect** – most frequently reported form of child abuse and the most lethal, defined as the failure to provide shelter, safety, supervision or nutrition, can be physical, educational, or emotional.
2. **Physical neglect** - refusal of or delay in seeking health care, abandonment, expulsion from the home or refusal to allow a runaway to return home, and inadequate supervision.
3. **Educational neglect** - includes the allowance of chronic truancy, failure to enrol a child of mandatory school age in school, and failure to attend to a special educational need.
4. **Emotional neglect** - includes such actions as marked inattention to the child’s needs for affection, refusal of or failure to provide needed psychological care, spouse abuse in the child’s presence, and permission of drug or alcohol use by the child.
5. **Physical abuse** – physical injury inflicted upon the child with cruel or malicious intent; includes but is not limited to punching, beating, kicking, biting, burning, shaking, or otherwise bodily harming a child.
6. **Emotional abuse** – Also called psychological child abuse, verbal child abuse, or mental injury of a child. includes acts or omissions by parents or other caregivers that could cause serious behavioural, emotional, or mental disorders.
7. **Sexual abuse** - It includes fondling a child’s genitals, intercourse, incest, rape, sodomy, exhibitionism, or commercial exploitation through prostitution or the production of pornographic materials.

**EVIDENCE COLLECTION**

**Photographic Evidence**

Pictures may show visible injuries or signs of

* Violence (torn clothing, bloodstains, damaged Property, etc.)
* Take multiple pictures of injuries from different Angles, as well as closer and
* Farther away. Include victim face in at least one of the pictures.
* Take comparison shots between injured and Uninjured parts of body.

**Medical Records**

* Full medical records of victim.
* Discharge and other paperwork is helpful to prove Injuries and can be used in court.
* In addition to a regular copy, it is best to also obtain a copy of “Certified Records” which will be Provided in a sealed envelope marked “certified.” Do Not Open this envelope.

**Physical Examination**

* Bruises, abrasions, lacerations, swelling, redness, pain caused by blunt force trauma.

Blunt force trauma is usually a serious injury caused by a blunt object or impact with a blunt surface.

* A bruise is an injury to the tissue, causing rupture of the small blood vessels and escaping blood into the tissue that causes discoloration.
* Discoloration varies from red, purple, bluish, green, yellow, and brown.
* Abrasion is the rubbing or scraping of the surface layer of cells or tissue from an area of the skin or mucous membranes.
* A laceration is a torn and ragged wound.
* Swelling is an abnormal enlargement of tissue.
* Redness is abnormal redness of the skin or mucous membranes due to capillary congestion (e.g., inflammation).
* Pain is the physical feeling caused by disease, injury, or something that hurts the body.
* Cuts are puncture wounds resulting from sharp force trauma or a type of projectile---Cuts indicate penetration with or as if with an edged instrument.
* Puncture wound means to pierce with or as if with a pointed instrument or object.
* Again to emphasize, when possible, the examiner may use a camera, measuring tools, and age-appropriate body diagrams to document the medical forensic examination.

**Police Records**

* FIR & Police reports are extremely helpful.
* Obtain copies of any time the police were involved or called.

**In Case Of Child Sexual Assault**

 The protocol for evidence collection is as follows:

1. Completion of consents and forms in the Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit (SAECK)
2. A thorough history involving recent genital procedures, symptoms since the assault, details of the assault, number of assailants, specific threats, type of penetration, nongenital acts, loss of consciousness, amnesia, activities after the assault.
3. Control swabs
4. Toxicology testing within 72 hours, especially if there is a loss of consciousness, to determine what drugs the patient used or ingested
5. Blood or saliva swabs for patient’s DNA
6. Oral swabs/smears if <24 hours since oral penetration
7. Fingernail scrapings if the patient was able to scratch perpetrator
8. Foreign material collection, which is material that falls off patients when undressing. Collect sheets on the exam table and/or from an ambulance as evidence may be present in the debris.
9. Clothing collection. If cutting clothes off the patient, providers should pay special attention to preserve holes in clothing, stains that would corroborate the use of force against the patient.
10. Examine the full body for injuries, lesions, secretions. Document with photos when possible. If bite marks are present, swab the area twice.
11. Head-hair combings
12. Pubic hair combings
13. For female patients, examine for anal and genital injuries in the lithotomy position. Take external genital swabs, vaginal swabs, perianal swabs.
14. For male patients, examine penile and anal injuries. Take penile swabs, urethral swabs, anorectal swabs.
15. Complete forms and seal envelopes inside the sexual-assault evidence collection kit with specimens.
    * + 1. **ELDER ABUSE**

As older adults become more physically frail, they're less able to take care of themselves, stand up to bullying, or fight back if attacked. Mental or physical ailments can make them more trying companions for those who live with them. And they may not see or hear as well or think as clearly as they used to, leaving openings for unscrupulous people to take advantage of them.

Elder abuse tends to take place where the senior lives: where their abusers are often adult children, other family members such as grandchildren, or a spouse or partner. Elder abuse can also occur in institutional settings, especially long-term care facilities.

**DEFINITION**

**According to WHO -** In 2002, the World Health Organization defined elder abuse as a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person.

**According to “Adult Protective Services Act” -** The Adult Protective Act, Act 519, Public Acts of 1982, MCL 400.11 clearly defines what qualifies as elder abuse.

According to the Act, elder abuse is defined as: The harm or threatened harm to an adult’s health or welfare caused by another. The term “elder abuse” includes physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation.

**INCIDENCE**

One in every six senior citizens faces abuse globally. According to some studies, the prevalence of elder abuse in India ranges between 9.6 to 61.7% across different states, although the actual figures may be much higher than reported. It is understood that only one in every twenty-four cases of elder abuse is reported in the country.

Elder abuse awareness in India is very low. In fact, it is usually hidden and ‘normalised’ within the closed walls of homes and nursing homes with the abusers being immediate family members and caregivers.

As per a survey conducted in 2014, half of India’s elderly (50%) reported experiencing abuse, of which 77% identified their abuser within their families. Another survey conducted across 22 cities in 2022 found that 35% of elders in India suffered abuse by their own sons, 21% by daughters-in-law and only 2% of them were abused by their house help, who was not a family member.

**TYPES**

* **Physical elder abuse** - The non-accidental use of force against an elderly person that results in physical pain, injury, or impairment. Such abuse includes not only physical assaults such as hitting or shoving but the inappropriate use of drugs, restraints, or confinement.
* **Emotional elder abuse -** The treatment of an older adult in ways that cause emotional or psychological pain or distress, it including :
* Intimidation through yelling or threats.
* Humiliation and ridicule.
* Habitual blaming or scapegoating.
* Ignoring the elderly person.
* Isolating an elder from friends or activities.
* Terrorizing or menacing the elderly person.
* **Sexual elder abuse -** Contact with an elderly person without their consent. Such contact can involve physical sex acts, but activities such as showing an elderly person pornographic material, forcing the person to watch sex acts, or forcing the elder to undress are also considered sexual elder abuse.
* **Healthcare fraud and abuse -**Carried out by unethical doctors, nurses, hospital personnel, and other professional care providers. This can include :
* Not providing healthcare, but charging for it.
* Overcharging or double-billing for medical care or services.
* Getting kickbacks for referrals to other providers or for prescribing certain drugs.
* Overmedicating or under medicating.
* Recommending fraudulent remedies for illnesses or other medical conditions.
* Medicaid fraud.
* **Elder neglect -** Failure to fulfil a caretaking obligation. This constitutes more than half of all reported cases of elder abuse. It can be intentional or unintentional, based on factors such as ignorance or denial that an elderly charge needs as much care as they do.
* **Elder self-neglect -** One of the most common forms of elder abuse encountered by geriatric care managers is self-neglect. Physical or mental impairment or diminished capacity can mean that an older adult is no longer able to perform essential self-care. They may lack basic personal hygiene, appear dehydrated, malnourished, or underweight, live in increasingly unsanitary or dirty conditions, and be unable to pay bills or properly manage their medications.

**EVIDENCE COLLECTION**

**Medical records –** Medical records are an official documentation of injuries. Physical injuries especially lead to medical treatment, resulting in a record at the hospital. Gather these documents as evidence.

**Nursing Home Documentation -**

Nursing homes and other care facilities often have their own documentation procedures. Injury reports, staff logs, and resident charts can provide details about the staff-to-resident ratio, noted physical conditions, and who was working at the time of the abuse.

**Photographs & Videos -** Take photographs and videos whenever possible. Consider photographing injuries such as bruises, medication, clothing, and the surrounding physical environment. It may be unclear at that time what could have contributed to the abuse, so air on the side of caution.

Time and date stamp the photographs as well.

**Witness Testimonies -** Statements from witnesses are a crucial part of building a solid legal case. Other nursing home residents, staff members, or people who visited the care facility can all provide valuable testimony.

Collect the names and contact information of all potential witnesses and, if possible, get a written testimony as well. An attorney can later go back and ask these witnesses further questions.

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