

shame!

CRIME AGAINST KIDS, WOMEN

quotemartial

People should share any information related to anti-social activity or any suspicious character in their neighbourhood with the police.

NANDAN DUBEY, DGP

Saving little girls from brutality

STUNNED Horror of the rapes in Delhi and Seoni district has brought the issue of child abuse to the limelight again. As HT tries to get to the root cause of such incidents, experts call for vigilant society and age-appropriate sex education

Sravani Sarkar

ssarkar@hindustantimes.com

BHOPAL: People get stunned, ashamed and often helpless when they hear about little girls being raped and brutalised. The first reaction is to blame the system and the police and their inherent inefficiencies.

But experts feel while it is very important to frame strict laws, and make sure they are sincerely executed and that the policing is improved multiple times, there are certain things that we could do as individuals, parents and as society to curb the deplorable trend.

Prarthna Mishra of Sangini Gender Resource Centre says it is high time that the children receive training from a very early age that would prepare them to detect abuse and say no to any such attempt. "We have to teach them to differentiate between good and bad touch and report abnormalities immediately. This has to start at pre-nursery level," she added.

Prarthna said that probably through activities and interaction-based packages, the children have to be taught to detect signs of abuse and tell their parents or teachers, so that preventive steps could be initiated.

She maintained that with changing times, neighbours have started ignoring even major happenings in the surroundings, which is a very unfortunate trend. The neighbours should actually keep a watch on the movement of any suspicious elements in the neighbourhood or any abnormal behaviour by anyone, said Prarthna.

Coming to the role of police, she stressed the most important thing is to ensure that police take the missing reports seriously. Often, when the missing girl is over 12 or 13 years of age, police presume that she might have eloped and ask the parents to wait for the communication on her part. In case of younger children, police presume they might have wandered off and will return soon. "Such casual approach causes loss of precious time and crime is committed," Prarthna said.

She added that shortage of personnel in police stations and lack of resources like dearth of fuel in the vehicles is also a practical problem that police force faces and all these factors need policy-level intervention. The social activist further said that only sensitising the police personnel through training session is not enough as is the experience during last several years. "Actually strict action is needed in all instances of negligence related to such serious crimes," she said.

Prarthna said that it was high time that the police and government think about a way to track people with criminal records, because often the sexual offenders have

LOOKING OUT FOR A POSSIBLE CHILD RAPIST



Nand Kishor, 50, who was convicted for rape and murder of an 8-year-old girl in Bhopal.
HT FILE PHOTO

- They are usually diffident and lack the confidence to get along with people of their own age
- They are in a way timid and shy, which leads to general impression that they are very simple and nice
- They are quite mediocre and never excel in anything and thus their sensations are unfulfilled
- They are normally very charming with children and make friends with them easily
- Parents/neighbours should watch for persons with abnormal interest in children as normal adult males do not go beyond mere formalities with children not too close to them



They must learn to differentiate between good and bad touch, report abnormalities immediately.

PRARTHNA MISHRA



Providing an open atmosphere to children where they can talk to their elders is very important.

VINAY MISHRA

that age-appropriate sex education is imperative for children and they have to be given information that would help them in warding off the unwanted attention or touch. "Also, providing an open atmosphere to children where they can talk to their elders is very important," said Vinay.

He further said that the parents were the best guides and they should seek professional help to answer the questions of their children if they feel so. Parents should remember that as children do not ask to be educated and it is parents' responsibility to send them to school, similarly, children won't seek sex education and parents would have to provide the right information to them at right age.

The psychologist also highlighted the importance of a vigilant society. "People shouldn't hesitate to stop and ask questions when they find some child talking to or moving with unknown or little known people. A simple question might put the perpetrator on guard and prevent the crime," he added.

Blaming the government and police and politicising the issue is very easy, but taking ownership of the trends in society is difficult and that is what is needed at this time, said Vinay, adding that the police can't be present everywhere, but there are people around all people and they could keep a watch for each other.

He added that there are certain characteristics of perverted sexual offenders and one can identify people with such traits (see box).

Explaining the psychology of child rapists, Mishra said such offenders often have a criminal background and a psychopathic personality.

They have their conscience switched off and do not have any sense of guilt, they do not learn from their own or others' experiences and have a very low tolerance level. "When the sexual frustration gets better of them, everything else blurs," the psychologist said.



Community policing would help: DGP

The director general of police (DGP), Nandan Dubey said the community-policing involving dedicated and genuine co-operation of people could help in preventing crimes against children, but many times people get involved in community policing for personal benefits. He also said that people should share any information related to anti-social activity or any suspicious character in neighbourhood

to police, which could help a lot to keep tab on activities of criminals. Dubey said according to the Supreme Court ruling, every missing child case has to be registered promptly, but added that only registration would not help. "Unless we have dedicated staff to pursue the missing cases hard, it would not help and we have to accept that we are short on staff," the DGP added.

Child rape incidents*

- JANUARY 20** - An eight-year-old girl raped in Barwah
- JANUARY 24** - A six-year-old raped in Sheopur
- JANUARY 28** - A four-year-old girl raped in Chhindwara
- FEBRUARY 1** - A nine-year-old girl raped in Khandwa
- FEBRUARY 1** - A six-year-old raped in Morena
- FEBRUARY 3** - An eight-year-old girl raped and killed in Bhopal
- FEBRUARY 4** - An eight-year-old girl raped in Mandla
- FEBRUARY 8** - An eight-year-old girl gang raped in Khargone
- FEBRUARY 9** - A ten-year-old girl sodomised and raped in Tikamgarh
- FEBRUARY 10** - A ten-year-old girl raped in Vidisha
- FEBRUARY 12** - A six-year-old girl raped in Bhopal
- FEBRUARY 16** - A six-year-old girl raped in Jabalpur
- FEBRUARY 18** - A seven-year-old girl raped in Indore
- FEBRUARY 19** - Rape bid on nine-year-old girl in Harda
- FEBRUARY 22** - A ten-year-old girl molested in Sagar
- FEBRUARY 27** - A ten-year-old girl raped in Narsinghpur
- MARCH 5** - A three-year-old girl raped in Bhopal
- MARCH 13** - A six-year-old girl raped in Damoh
- MARCH 15** - An eight-year-old girl raped in Raisen
- MARCH 15** - A three-year-old raped in Shajapur
- MARCH 28** - A seven-year-old raped in Sagar
- APRIL 2** - A nine-year-old raped in Rewa
- APRIL 2** - A one and half year old raped in Shahdol
- APRIL 2** - A nine-year-old raped in Rewa
- APRIL 12** - A four-year-old raped in Indore
- APRIL 19** - A four-year-old raped in Seoni
- APRIL 19** - A seven-year-old raped and killed in Datia

* Incidents between January 20 and April 20, 2013. Victims below 10 years of age.

been found to have previous criminal records, especially related to crime against women. Also, the society should contribute to this by getting the background of any new entrant in neighbourhood checked thoroughly, she added.

Psychologist Vinay Mishra also agrees



RAU RAPE: CONG THREATENS TO GHERAO IG'S HOUSE

HT Correspondent

editorbhopal@hindustantimes.com

INDORE: Rau Congress unit will gherao the residence of the IG (Indore) on April 26 if the accused of the Rau rape case is not arrested by then.

"We have decided to gherao the IG house if the arrest is not made soon," said Jitu Patwari, a Congress leader of Rau.

On April 12, a four-year-old tribal girl was raped by an unidentified person at a village near Rau. She had sustained injuries in her private parts and admitted to Choithram Hospital but on Saturday she was discharged and sent home.

Police claimed to have detained a suspect in Rau rape case, which had scratches of nail mark on his neck which could be connected to the rape but till now - even after ten days - Indore police are yet to trace the real accused.

A senior police official claimed that the detained suspect had also bought liquor from a nearby shop which is another lead and therefore they have sent the DNA samples. The sketch of the accused is also matched with the suspect, a source said. "Let the DNA sample come in next couple of days because police officials have told us about the suspect," added Patwari. Police sources also confirmed that, "more suspects have been rounded up".

We have decided to gherao the IG house if the arrest is not made soon.

JITU PATWARI
Congress leader, Rau



Children demonstrate against the increasing rape incidents under the aegis of 'Jago Bharat Abhiyan' at Board Office square in Bhopal on Sunday.
MUJEEB FARUQUI/HT

Seoni rape case: ₹1 lakh cash award for culprit's arrest

HT Correspondent

editorbhopal@hindustantimes.com

JABALPUR: The police on Sunday announced a cash reward of Rs 1 lakh for providing information leading to arrest of Firoz Khan, the main accused in minor girl's rape case of Ghansaur, Seoni.

Inspector general of police (Jabalpur range) SK Jha said the police were close to catch hold of Firoz Khan. The police have announced the reward of Rs 1 lakh for providing information leading to arrest of the main accused, he said. The accused belongs to Bihar and the police team is already camping in Bihar

SEONI SP MITHLESH SHUKLA SAID THE DOCTORS HAVE SAID THAT THE CONDITION OF THE GIRL IS STABLE

and other places in search of him.

Seoni superintendent of police Mithlesh Shukla said the doctors have said that the condition of the minor girl is stable. The girl was shifted to Nagpur from Jabalpur on Saturday night.

The Congress took out a silent procession in Seoni on Sunday demanding immediate arrest of

the culprit. The youths from the Lakhnadaun and Ghansaur also took out a procession in Seoni and submitted a memorandum to the sub-divisional magistrate for immediate action against the culprit.

Meanwhile, the Lakhnadaun Bar Association president Dinesh Rai said the lawyers have been requested not to defend the minor girl rape case accused persons of Ghansaur in the court. The lawyers of Lakhnadaun, Ghansaur and Chapara are members of the Lakhnadaun Bar Association. He said the Association condemns the incident and want the culprits to be hanged in short time.

Brutally raped, killed, stuffed in a gunny bag

Ritesh Mishra

riteshmishra@hindustantimes.com

INDORE: Ten months after the rape and killing of a 10-year-old girl at Sondwa in Alirajpur, police are yet to arrest the accused. The case was handed over to Indore crime branch in January 2013, but the crime branch is yet to identify the accused. "We have scanned the technical aspect of the case but still we are not clear as to who committed the crime. The investigation in the case is going on," said ASP crime branch Indore Manoj Rai.

On June 27 2012, Meena (name changed) along with another teenager was called by a tutor, Rahul Sharma, for cleaning the house in the afternoon. Sharma, who claimed himself to be a resident of Alirajpur town, had rented a house just two days

We've scanned the technical aspect but we are not clear as to who committed the crime.

MANOJ RAI
ASP crime branch, Indore

back before the incident for private tuition.

Sharma after few minutes sent the other girl for some work and raped Meena. While doing so, the accused strangled her and dumped her in his bathroom.

The rape was so brutal that the doctor who conducted the post-mortem was shocked for the accused tied the girl's neck with a duppatta. The brutality reached such an extent that the victim's throat was slit in this

act. The doctors found pieces of duppatta inside the throat during the post-mortem examination.

Sharma fled from the spot. When the parents of the victim started searching her, they found the girl's body stuffed in a gunny bag in the bathroom.

Father of the victim, who is posted a constable in CRPF in Jammu and Kashmir, had also expressed his dissatisfaction over the probe.

It is worth mentioning here that SP Alirajpur was himself monitoring the case and also retrieved 30,000 pages mobile call details of the area and is closeting on some persons but was not successful. In January, the then IG Anuradha Shankar handed over the case to crime branch Indore. "We are yet to find any concrete lead to arrest the accused," said Rai.

YOUTH HELD FOR RAPING AUNT

BHOPAL: Police have arrested a youngster for allegedly raping his maternal aunt in Chhindwara on Sunday.

The incident had occurred on April 10 at Nandwadi village of Chhindwara district but the complaint was made on April 20, police said. According to police, the accused Hareesh Somkunwar, 22, resident of Kodhali village, was nabbed from his village during the wee hours on Sunday.

Station house officer BS Sharma said, "The case was registered around 10 days later as the victim did not disclose the incident to her husband earlier. When she informed her husband, the couple approached the police." **HTC**

Woman raped by brother-in-law

HT Correspondent

editorbhopal@hindustantimes.com

BHOPAL: A 22-year-old woman, being harassed for dowry by her husband Faizal Khan and his family, was allegedly raped by her brother-in-law Sohail Khan in Budhwara on Saturday.

The victim lodged a rape complaint against her brother-in-law and a complaint regarding demand for dowry against her husband and mother-in-law at the women's police station.

Police said the accused have been arrested and sent to jail after being produced in the

court. Victim told the police that she was raped by her brother-in-law Sohail Khan when she was alone at home. Police said medical examination of the woman has been carried out and the report is awaited.

The victim had married Faizal Khan, a resident of Budhwara, in 2008.

The victim told the police that her mother-in-law Nasrin, husband Faizal and brother-in-law Sohail were harassing her for dowry ever since the marriage took place. She also complained that the husband used to beat her asking for dowry.

MINOR CHARGED WITH TRYING TO OUTRAGE INFANT'S MODESTY

HT Correspondent

editorbhopal@hindustantimes.com

JABALPUR: A twelve-year-old boy has been charged with attempting to outrage the modesty of an infant girl in remote village Jilehati, Mandla.

The boy, a student of Class 6, was at large since April 18 evening and returned to his house on Sunday.

Niwastown inspector RKS Chouhan said the parents have been asked to hand over the boy to the police on April 22 as in the night the minors are not kept at the police station.

He said the incident occurred on April 18 and was reported by the girl's parents to the police on April 20.

The mother with her 16-month-old girl went to watch television in the nearby house when the boy took her on pretext of playing with her. The boy took the girl to his house, he said.

The mother after sometime went to see the girl outside but found her nowhere. Thereafter she went to the house of the boy. The mother saw the girl was disrobed and the boy was attempting to outrage the modesty of the infant, he said.

No sooner the boy noticed the girl's mother he fled the spot, the parents told the police.

The parents of the girl even consulted the elders in the village and panchayat members who suggested them to make complaint with the police to avoid clash in the families, Chouhan said.

The police have registered the case under section 354 of IPC.