

# **The National Study on Child Sexual Abuse in Lebanon**

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# Team Work

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## Executive Summary

Child sexual maltreatment against children is considered one of the most dangerous problems which is affecting their rights at the different psychological and social levels.

This study tackles the phenomenon of child sexual abuse in Lebanon. It was organised by the Lebanese Ngo, Dar AL Amal, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs, The Higher Council for Childhood, Diakonia and Ecpat - France.

(Child Sexual abuse is becoming a growing problem and is one of the most dangerous affecting children's rights on various psychological and social levels. Therefore, it was necessary to define the current situation of sexual violence against children and its reality in Lebanon. This study tackles the phenomenon of child sexual abuse in Lebanon. It was organised by the association Dar AL Amal in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs - Higher Council for Childhood, Diakonia and Ecpat – France).

This study aims to move from dealing with sexual abuse as individual cases, and to work on it as a general social phenomenon in order to evaluate the size of diffusion of sexual abuse in Lebanon, and to investigate about its causes, varied forms, geographical distribution, and the factors affecting it;

It also aims to break the secrecy, fear and shame barrier surrounding this phenomenon and to understand the reasons of the prevailing culture of silence, and trying to determine the identity of the abuser and his/her method to “capture” the child, which will help considerably in raising the awareness of potential victims and in activating protection strategies.

This study also aimed to monitor children who have the use of a high level of awareness, and who know how to defend themselves, and when and towards whom they address, in opposition to the children who are easily attracted whereas most of the protection strategies should focus on them.

This study tried also to record children's opinion on available services such as hotlines and associations activities, and to document their recommendations aiming directing quality and specialized services and to consolidate and activate the principles related to prevention and protection which must be adopted by the State and NGOs.

The targeted sample of the study had been defined through a questionnaire composed of **74 questions**. The random sample consisted of **2162 children** of both genders in all Lebanese Mouhafazats and from different nationalities, religions, social strata, and the most vulnerable age categories (**9 - 17 years**);

It also targeted various types of schools and classrooms of these categories. The sample included also working children and non schooled children and beneficiaries from Ngos

It has been adopted a combined methodology of several phases allowing us to state that the sample represents the research society. And also, 120 **children** aged between **7-8 years subject** to the same variables of the quantitative study's sample, were targeted through **10 focus groups**.

The field study revealed **that 4.1% of children** in the sample had been exposed to sexual abuse during 2013, which is a low ratio seen the sensitivity of the subject and the embarrassment it causes, and that 47.2% of victims were Attending in public schools, **19.1% not schooled**, and **18% working** children. The highest

levels of child abuse were in the **North (33%)** followed by the **South (22%)** and the lowest one was registered in Nabatieh (7%).

The results of the study revealed that the ratio of females exposed to sexual abuse in the sample was **53.9% and 46.1% for males**.

The first sexual abuse and age stage during which female and male victims were exposed to this experience seemed very close between genders and ranged from 10 to 14 years (59.6%). This group aged (10-14 years) monopolized the first sexual abuse of males 58.5% and 60.4% for females. Interestingly, we found that 4.9% of males had experienced sexual abuse before the age of 6, while the group aged 6-9 years revealed double exposure of females compared to males (16.7% vs. 7.3%). The study revealed that the first child sexual abuse occurred by a person belonging to the surrounding of the child's family (49.4%). Important differences emerged between males and females, in regard to the identity of the first abuser and the place where this incident occurred. The house and its surroundings monopolized 66.7% of cases of first sexual abuse on female, and public places occupied the highest percentage amongst males (48.8%).

The study revealed that the average age of exposure to sexual abuse does not differentiate significantly between males (14.2%) and females (14.3%), as it revolves around the age of fourteen for both genders, and that 34.8% of the victims exposed to sexual abuse had experienced it once, 38.2% had repeated sexual abuse by the same abuser, and that the most prevalent forms of sexual abuse was the verbal one since 43% of the victims were forced to hear sexual words, face to face or over the phone, or to hear jokes or stories bearing sexual connotations or conversations with sexual interpretation. This form was followed in equal rates by preliminary sexual abuse (30%) where the child is forced to touch and caress intimate areas And includes all sexual relationship's components except a complete sexual act (penetration), And by visual sexual abuse (30%) such as obliging the child to see obscene pictures, books, magazines and pornographic films.

Regarding the identity of the abuser, his / her characteristics and style, we have tried in this study to identify the characteristics of child sexual abusers. The results concluded that most of abusers were male, single, distributed in different percentage between adolescents (under 18 years) and adults (over 18 years). Adolescent abusers had a preference to visual sexual abuse (54%) such as attracting victims to watch indecent pictures or movies, while adult abusers preferred unconventional sexual behavior or sexual abuse via internet (63%), and preliminary sexual abuse (48%) inclusive caressing and touching intimate zones simulating sexual act practices<sup>1</sup>. Interestingly children under the age of twelve disclosed that they became child sexual abusers (3.4%). 28.1% of those who were exposed to sexual abuse assert that their sexual abusers also molested other children, and consumed alcohol (11.2%) or drugs (6.7%) in their presence. The field study confirmed that the means of persuasion to which abusers resorted to lure the child were by telling him / her that she / he is special and that the abuser will teach him / her things that only adults know; this highlights important details to be used in protection programs from abuse. We did not notice a unified style of abusers; the predominant is their impulsion and their perception of the child as a "sexual thing" to achieve their pleasures.

The field study confirmed the presence of risk factors surrounding the child such as alarming family conditions, as they provide the suitable ground for sexual abuse against children. The study revealed that risks of exposure to sexual abuse increase for children who have some factors related to their environment or their living conditions or components of their communication with others. For example, it showed that 56.2% of mothers and 49.4% of fathers of the children who have been exposed to sexual abuse are illiterate, and 14.6% did not study beyond primary education (both mothers and fathers). It also revealed high unemployment rates among father's of sexually abused children (36%), and prevailing marital problems between parents (47.2% of them shouting in loud voice on each other, in presence of their children who are hearing their yelling, 15.7% of them insult each other and 12.4% reach beating each other).

It was also noticed a high percentage of relatives and family's friends who slept at the child's home (62.9% of which 56.2% sometimes and 6.7% always). If we exclude the first sexual abuse, and counted the percentage

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1. We did not take into consideration in the study the complete sexual act as its total ratio for all categories was 1% which is not a significant ratio (table 22)



of subsequent child sexual abuse in their homes, we find that 13.5% of them occurred exclusively in the child's home, regardless of gender, and that 22.9% of them occurred on females in their homes, in the place which is supposed to be the most safe and trustful for them.

Strikingly, we noticed a very low level of awareness of parents manifested in their blind trust of their surrounding neighbors, friends, relatives and acquaintances, and the transfer of this excessive confidence to their children by allowing them to always or sometimes, sleep with those persons alone (50.6%) or to go out with them (61.8 %) or visit them alone (67.4%).

We have mentioned above that the highest percentage of the first child sexual abuse occurred from the family and its surroundings (49.4%), especially on females (66.7%), This reflects the low level of awareness of parents, regarding risks to which their children are exposed.

The study also revealed that there is a strong correlation between the occurrence of child sexual abuse and being the child exposed to physical and moral violence.

The study clearly pointed out that a high ratio of those who have been exposed to sexual abuse lived also in an environment of physical violence (58.4%) or moral violence (70.4%), and that the person who exposed them to physical violence, is from their family (55.1%) or from their school (24.7% ) or from their work (1.1%);

The same applies for moral violence on children, as it occurred from one of their family's members (19.5%) or their school (31%) or their work (21%).

As for the focus groups, similar results were draw up in many subject-matters. Children pointed out their exposure to physical and moral violence, and expressed their ignorance of many subject matters relating to sexual abuse and their ignorance of the reporting mechanisms and available security networks. They did not have enough information about hotlines and other protection methods.

The study also revealed that a high percentage of children who have been victims of sexual abuse remained silent and did not inform anyone about what happened to them (49.4%). The low level of awareness of the samples' children in general was a matter of concern in this study.

If we try to build a total picture of the level of awareness among children through the study's findings, we note that those who have been exposed to sexual abuse are showing greater reckless behavior (23.6%) than those who have never been exposed (10.3%), as if they haven't learn anything from their previous experience, namely when it comes to the risks derived from family.

We did not notice significant differences in dealing with strangers, as both groups act with great caution with strangers (96.6% of the group exposed to abuse and 97.4% of the non-exposed group). In parallel, the category abused acted with greater confusion with its acquaintances, friends and relatives, and continue to have adventures without calculating their results (28.1% versus 25.9% for the group not exposed to sexual abuse). Same applies to the acceptance of gifts, the group exposed is more responsive (10.1%), than the group not exposed to abuse (6.9%), with suggestions of gifts in exchange of intimate caresses from people it knew.

In addition, both groups (exposed and non-exposed to sexual abuse) have lack information about children sexual molestation (36% of the group exposed to abuse and 45.3% of the group not exposed), appropriate skills for self-protection (22.5% of the group exposed and 20.4% for the non-exposed one), knowledge of the existence of a law to protect them (53.9% of the exposed group and 49.5% of the non-exposed one) and the existence of associations and hotlines to report the violation (68.5% of the group exposed to sexual abuse and 59.5% of the non-exposed group). In all cases, they prefer not to report (46.1% for the exposed group and 33.3% for the non-exposed one). This refers to the deterioration of the level of awareness and vigilance of children in the sample. We noted also that there is a positive correlation between some families's situations and between exposure to sexual abuse e.g., when the child changes a lot of schools and lives in a family atmosphere full with problems, where parents use physical and moral violence to solve their own problems and those with their children, and the low level of awareness of risks and employment and others...

The study revealed that a group of children in the sample, who had not been exposed yet to sexual abuse, live in conditions regrouping available and variable factors that may turn them from potential victims of sexual abuse, to effective victims.

This implies the importance of building prevention and protection strategies from sexual violence based on the findings, and outreach programs not only focusing on educating parents but also providing children with knowledge about their rights to protect their bodies and about risks, safety networks existing in the society and the effectiveness of these procedures to protect them;

In addition, the importance to finding preventive and proactive plans to ensure that these children will not turn into victims. Therefore, it is important to adopt a policy of partnership, integration, networking and advocacy between the public and the private sectors, in order to urge the communities to implement self-monitoring and to fight sexual abuse in normal situations, as in wars and emergencies.,

The study exposed a wide range of recommendations and strategies to fight child sexual violence on the level of the State, the Family and the Child.

## Introduction

Child sexual abuse is a global phenomenon affecting almost all communities. It appears in all social stratas, in cities as in rural areas and in public utilities, as in work institutions, schools and houses, regardless of age and gender.

Studies in the past two decades have indicated that child sexual abuse is a dangerous problem for communities on different social and economic levels and ethnic and racial groups.

There is a growing need, day after day, to pay attention to the Problem of Child sexual abuse.

Although communities are aware of the seriousness of this problem, it's high spread capacity, international laws sanctioning it, and despite international conferences warning of it's danger, and even though it appears to be less visible than other forms of violence, in despite of that, sexual abuse of children occurrence is not rare.

Child sexual abuse is widespread in the world and its ramifications affect all aspects of social life;

It is one of the most serious concerns fears threatening the physical safety of the child and his mental health and emotional stability.



# I – Background of the study

## 1. Definition of child sexual abuse

The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) at the United Nations gave a description on violence on the child in article 19.1 as follows: “All forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse....”.

The “International Study on Violence against Children” has adopted the definitions in the “Convention of the Rights of the Child” and the term violence was selected in this context, although the fact that other terms are also used to describe harm types (damage, abuse, bad treatment, exploitation), carry the same significance.

## 2. Child sexual abuse - Lebanese reality

Although the applicable laws in Lebanon have theoretically immunized children against violence in several areas (Universal Declaration of Human Rights / Convention of the Rights of the Child / Law 422/2002) this subject remains one of the most sensitive and embarrassing ones ,affecting sexual life, which is not-desirable to raise publicly and accordingly this increased difficulty, to carry out this study.

## 3. Objectives of the study

The objectives of this study converge with the recommendations of the International Commission for the Rights of the Child on the third national report of Lebanon, and with the interest of Dar Al-Amal to shed light on a project it has been working silently for years with victims of sexual violence. One of the objectives of this study is to estimate the prevalence of sexual abuse, it’s causes and consequences and to provide it as a national reference for sexual violence against children in Lebanon. Also, in addition, to identify the level of sexual violence experienced by children at the national level, and estimate its diversified forms, and geographical distribution in the Lebanese society, and to exploring differences arising from the variables of the study and understanding the combined factors i.e. psychological, social and economic ones entailing it.

This study aims also to break the silence barrier, secrecy, fear and shame surrounding the phenomenon of sexual violence on children, and try to understand the causes of the prevailing culture of silence and observe the most vulnerable children and families.

It tried to determine the identity and style of the abuser and observe children who enjoy a high level of awareness, as opposed to children who are easily lured since most of the protection strategies should focus on them as they are the least protected and most vulnerable.

We have tried to understand how children perceive realities and services, and their recommendations in order to focus quality and specialized services

We have tried also to establish and activate principles relating to the prevention and protection that need to be adopted by the state and NGOs to change the traditional mentality prevailing in the family on the difficulty of talking with a child about sexual subjects.

Also we have tried to activate the role of the school in raising awareness on sex education subjects and the protection of the body, and to suggest enactment of new laws and to amend unfair ones, in addition to activating the role of civil society in raising awareness through public campaigns.

## II – Hypothesis of the study and research method

### First - Hypothesis of the study

Based on the theoretical data referred to previously which addressed factors leading to child sexual abuse, we explored the impact of these factors in the Lebanese society, taking into account that they are affected by values and cultural norms of communities.

As a matter of fact, an influential factor in our society may not necessarily have an effect on another.

The study was built on a set of hypothesis, in an attempt to confirm the effects of some of them:

**1<sup>st</sup> hypothesis:** Is there a correlation or link between the exposure of the child to physical violence and being exposed to sexual abuse?

**2<sup>nd</sup> hypothesis:** Is there a correlation or link between the child exposed to emotional, verbal, or moral violence and between exposure to sexual abuse?

**3<sup>rd</sup> hypothesis:** Are there alarming family conditions rendering the child more vulnerable, and therefore more likely to be exposed to sexual abuse?

**4<sup>th</sup> hypothesis:** Are there any special characteristics between the most vulnerable children and those sexually abused?

**5<sup>th</sup> hypothesis:** this hypothesis regards the level of awareness of child facing risks, in other words is he / she sufficiently conscious to protect him/herself from the risk derived from the family or from acquaintances and friends or strangers?

Are safety networks that he/ she knows (Hotline ...) effective in his / her opinion, does he / she resort to any and consider them adequate to protect him / her from risks?

**The hypotheses of the study were gathered in eight main vectors, namely:**

- Marital status, professional and educational status,
- Health status of the family, family's relations, family's activities,
- Educational method adopted with the child,
- The prevalence of an environment of physical or emotional violence,
- Moral and verbal violence, and last, the level of awareness of children of the risks.

## Second - Research method

The study covered all Lebanese territories in eight governorates (Mohafazats) and targeted children from 7 years to +17 years old:

- From 7 to 9 years: through the technique of discussion groups
- From 9 to +17: through the technique of questionnaire
- The sample was split into schooled and non schooled children (2162 children)
- Schooled children were targeted through going to schools (official - private semi private, public and private technical and vocational academies)
- Children outside the educational system were targeted through communication with civil society associations and SDC / Social development centers of the Ministry of Social Affairs

## Third - Target sample: it's size and method of selection

The total size of the sample was repartitioned on two groups:

### The quantitative sample of the study

#### (A) Sample size:

The study was conducted on a random sample of children's schooled and non schooled living on Lebanese territory covering 2656 children with a margin of error of 2.5 and confidence level of 99%, according to the following equation:

$$ss = \frac{Z^2 * (p) * (1-p)}{c^2}$$

In which:

Z = Z value (2.58 to 99% confidence level)

p = the selection ratio, as we do not have a previous idea on the study, the value of 0.5 so that the value of p \* (1-p) is the largest possible value

c = margin of confidence chosen to be: 2.5

Then we corrected the size of the sample to take into account the approximate number of children of Lebanon in this age group, therefore, the new size of the sample was :

$$\text{New ss} = \frac{SS}{1 + (SS-1)/\text{pop}}$$

in which:

pop = Approximate number of individuals in the community who are represented in the sample, i.e. children from 9 to 17 years old.

#### (B) Systematic selection of the sample

The adoption of multi-stage method for the selection of a random sampling merged between several methodologies.

First, the sample was divided into non-overlapping clusters (geographical areas) (Clustering).



In the second stage it was divided on the basis of the quality of education: private schools, public schools, private technical and vocational institutes, public technical and vocational institutes, semi private schools, Schools of Palestinian associations.

Third, and under the former division we've divided the study's population into Strata, which means to have a sample within each area in each Cluster in accordance with Proportionate Stratified Random Sampling as per the quota based on gender, age, and school grade (for schooled ones).

This means that the size of the sample's representation is identical to its ration in the school environment, based on the statistics of the Educational Center for Research and Development (Statistical Bulletin, 2011-2012).

In the fourth phase we computed non schooled children according to the school dropout based on the Central Bureau of Statistics ratios (MICS-third session, 2009).

### **The quantitative sample of the study was selected according to two techniques:**

The first technique is Stratified Random Sampling Proportionate referred to above.

The second technique was the random selection technique or Systematic Random Sampling. This technique is often used owing to its simplicity and quality.

It is based on a random selection such as the first element of the list of children who constitute the subject-matter of the study, the researcher then select all "n<sup>th</sup>" i.e. selection of any number repeated periodically separating every two children selected,

At schools we selected students whose numbers on the classrooms lists are multipliers of 7 (student No. 7, 14, 21 ...), i.e. selection of students in classrooms was made according to random selection method regardless of the number of sections in the class.

As for non-school children, we have adopted the above-mentioned sources to determine their number as they mention the number of non schooled children, and calculated them according to the following equation:

$$N = N - \text{Schooled} + N - \text{Non Schooled}$$

Since we had figures of schooled students through the Educational Center for Research and Development, as well as non-schooled ones out of the total number of children (Cluster Survey), we were able to calculate the estimated number of non-schooled children.

Therefore we have in accordance with the Systematic Random Sampling technique i.e. systematic random selection what follows:

#### **• Combination of several methodologies**

- **Phase 1:** dividing the schooled population into non-overlapping clusters i.e. geographic areas
- **Phase 2:** A new breakdown was made under this section according to the quality of education:
  - Schooled in:
    - ← private
    - ← public
    - ← semi private
    - ← schools of Palestinian associations
- **Phase 3:** Under the former division we've divided the study population by:
  - Gender
  - grade (age group) (Source: Educational Center for Research and Development)
- **Phase 4:** non-schooled children were calculated according to non school percentage in accordance with figures of the Central Bureau of Statistics.

The circumstances of the study and the Country did not allow conducting more than **2162 questionnaires over 2656 children** with a margin of error of 2.77.

During the implementation of the study tense atmosphere reigned in Tripoli and the southern suburbs as well as explosions and the security situation was unstable, which forced schools to close for lot of days.

In addition, we faced a great reluctance by some public and private schools administrations' regarding the implementation of the study, which hindered the execution pace much and obliged us at the end to drop 371 children from the study either because we could not access them or for other considerations (questionnaire quality not fair, .....).

**123 children** were sufficient to study the reliability of the questionnaire. The same were not included in the final sample of the quantitative sample study, therefore the total net number was 2162 child. The division of the sample did not address school as strata standing-alone, but its role was limited to access to students (sample's schooled children).

**The survey was conducted in 176 educational institutions, 77 public schools , 17 semi private ,52 private, 17 public academies and 13 private academies.**

### **(C) Analysis of questionnaires and reports' outline**

The data entry and analysis program were made on IBM SPSS Statistics 20.

## **2. Focus groups' sample**

Focus groups targeted groups of children from 7-8 years old on whom the questionnaire cannot be applied as they are less than 9 years.

This group is not included in the quantitative study, because the questionnaire is not suitable for this age category. We worked on 10 age-homogeneous groups (7-8 years).

In order to cope with the objectives of the study and research tool used (groups), we adopted the Purposive Homogeneous Sampling Method.

The homogeneity of the group is essential to take as much information and results far from any effects.

Therefore, there was a need to separate groups of schooled and non schooled children. The groups were divided equally between genders: males and females.

The total number of children was 120 children, divided into groups of 12 equally between male and female.

The sample included 82 Lebanese, 20 Palestinians and 18 Syrians. 10 sessions were conducted in different parts of Lebanon: Jounieh (Mount Lebanon), Bebnin (Akkar, north), Hosh El Omara (Bekaa), Halba (Akkar, North), Al Bayssarieh (South), Rashidiya camp (Tyr, South), Ein el-Hilweh camp (Saida, South), Sabra (Beirut), Ghubairi (Mount Lebanon), Tarik El Jdideh (Beirut).

## **3. Pilot sample**

This sample was not included in the final sample for the study.

It aimed to experience the questionnaire on a small group of children (Echantillon Pilote) having the same specifications as the final sample to make sure that the questionnaire complies with the purposes of the study and to make it as much as possible close to children complying with their understanding and more suitable for their age.

This is known as “pre-testing questionnaire” (Pretest) which aims to achieving the following objectives:

- Specify the time needed for the questionnaire With children exposed to sexual abuse and those not exposed.
- Test the clarity of questions and the extent of the viability of the questionnaire to be applied.
- Test the field team and the percentage of its adherence to the guidance and instructions given to it.
- Pilot questionnaires constitute an additional exercise to field workers before working with the final sample.

- Test the responsiveness of children and parents to the study.
- Avoid shocking words for a child due to the sensitivity of the subject and embarrassment it creates. Therefore questions with important research connotations were deleted as they were not suitable for a child and others causing fear or confusion or Inhibition were amended to prevent refraining from conducting the questionnaire.

We have also identified unclear terms or words to the child due to their social or cultural specificity and endeavoured to replace them with simplest and easier words, and modified the form of some questions and answers to be less expanded and more suitable for application.

## **Fourth- Study tools**

### **1. The questionnaire:**

In order to achieve the objectives of the study, the main researcher was called to draft a questionnaire in Arabic, which objective was to observe sexual abuse in the study's sample and variables associated with the nature and circumstances of this traumatic experience.

While the sample building began or was based on local sources of information (the Central Administration of Statistics, statistical bulletins for Education center for Research and Development and some of the local population studies), the questionnaire was based in its composition on global studies and passed through several stages.

The first stage was the adoption of a set of key words (Key words) allowing us to identify the most important global studies for the construction of public information base on this subject.

Then we summarized the references base components we have obtained by adopting new key words components, such as sexual violence on children and / or child sexual abuse....

And then, we have identified additional Criteria of reduction, therefore we excluded all studies that do not fit into the age categories we are studying, or which were conducted on adults in retrospective studies, or which occurred in different environments, for example camps, or which relied on different measurement methods ....

By doing so, and by excluding a wide range of information which formed our initial starting theoretical base (see the list of references), we were able to have our list of global studies that formed the final literature of the study, on which we relied for the formulation of the theoretical background for the study and construction of the questionnaire and its variables.

The variables presented in the questionnaire were revealed in tables. since the variables in the study are categorical by nature, some tables revealing the results of the study may contain only percentages.

#### **(A) The reliability of the questionnaire:**

The reliability of the questionnaire was tested by constituting a sample having the same variables of the study's sample in terms of age, gender, demographic distribution, educational levels and other variables.

The basic criterias adopted was that all segments of the sample are represented in the reliability study regardless their effective volume.

We selected the Disproportionate Stratified Random Sampling so that the percentage of representation of the categories does not match necessarily their percentage in the study's population.

To verify the reliability, the questionnaire was applied to the sample referred to, then re-apply to the same sample after one month of the first application and in similar circumstances, while performing a comparison between the answers of children on the same questions in the first and second application.

The final number of questionnaires adopted in the reliability study was 123 questionnaires and did not enter in the final sample of the study.

This sample was distributed among males and females, for schooled and non schooled and from different age categories.

The questionnaire was applied to 62 children first and then on the same sample in another phase.

**(B) Testing the reliability of the questionnaire:**

- ← In order to test the reliability of the questionnaire ,we used Kappa coefficient to calculate the extent compatibility of the results and the stability of the child’s answers in both stages.
- ← Equation to calculate the Kappa coefficient

$$\kappa = \frac{\text{Pr}(a) - \text{Pr}(e)}{1 - \text{Pr}(e)},$$

- ← Pr (a) is the extent of the observed relative compatibility between the two stages, and Pr (e) is the default probability of compatibility by chance, using the data to calculate the possibilities at every stage. In case stages are in full compliance  $\kappa = 1$ , and if there is a discrepancy between the two stages other than expected by chance (as defined by Pr (e)),  $\kappa = 0$ .
- ← Analysis of the reliability test through Kappa coefficient, on a scale from -1 to +1, in which a negative value indicates a weaker compatibility than chance, zero refers to compatibility identical to chance, and a positive value refers to a stronger chance of compatibility. (Cohen, 1973).
- ← Results  $\kappa$  value ranged between 0.84 and 1 for all basic questions tested for the Kappa coefficient, which indicates a very good reliability of the questionnaire used in the study.

## 2. The objectives of the focus groups and the tools used

### a. Objectives:

Focus groups aimed to collect qualitative information to assess the children’s knowledge of the subject of sexual abuse, and their familiarity with the ways of protection, by trying to answer some questions related to the subject-matter.

### (b) The Study tools:

Since sexual violence is a sensitive topic in general, addressing it with children requires a lot of skills, knowledge and caution to ensure that no harm and inconvenience is caused to the child. Therefore, and taking into account the capabilities and characteristics of children in this age, we worked with them through games, in order to explore their knowledge on this subject and to observe any signs that may refer to exposure of any child to an offensive situation without forcing him / her to speak. Activities have been carried out by a specialized facilitator<sup>2</sup>, through a series of interactive directed exercises to create a safe space and environment of comfort and trust in order to allow children to interact and express. The sessions were documented by using a documentation form.

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2. Planning, designing and facilitating activities as well as the group’s discussion report were done by Mrs. Ola Ataya expert in the field of psychological health and child protection.

### III. Results of the study

#### First: Analysis of the results of focus group discussions

In general, children manifested interest in the subjects of the Offensive situation, and enthusiastically interacted with each other and with the facilitator in activities. The place and the familiarity of the children with the center had impact on their comfort in the session, and their smoother expression.

On the other hand, most of the children who participated in the session in Halba (And some of the Rashidiya camp) were refugee families from Syria, and have shown some caution and lack of self-confidence despite their interaction with the activities, which is normal, because of their sense of alienation and lack of familiarity with the location (Center and employees).

The results reveal that there is a correlation (negative) between children's displacement, poverty learning (non schooling) the level of comfort and self-confidence.

A severe discrimination and feeling of un-acceptance was obvious between Lebanese and Syrian children as it appeared in the way of talking and sarcasm.

The results revealed a clear link between schooling (learning) and living conditions (displacement and poverty) and between knowledge and interest of parents concerning awareness about violence and rights.

The results also revealed that children living in poor areas and those who do not attend school, are exposed more than others to physical abuse and punishment.

In general, children need more awareness about the protection and the distinction between good and bad touches.

In all regions, children did not show sufficient knowledge on the subject of sexual violence, and had a linkage between physical violence and abuse. They all link between violence and danger and external world. The safe place for most children is with the family at home, while the unsafe place was outside and the road, where they spoke significantly about kidnapping, theft and sale of organs (it seems that these topics are evoked by parents frequently ,or they use them to scare their children).

Regarding the role of parents in educating their children about issues related to protection, this was clearly evident in children in Jounieh and Tarik El Jdideh, Bebnin, Al Baysariya and Ghubairi and Sabra. While the absence of the role of parents in raising awareness appeared at Hosh El Oumara, in Halba and the refugee camps of Ein el-Hilweh and Rashidiya.

When asked who was the most vulnerable to violence, children answers pointed to the fact that females are more vulnerable and less able to protect and defend themselves (a common belief in our society).

However, some of the children said that everyone may be exposed to harm, male or female.

It is worth to note that a number of children have said they heard about incidents, or them or their siblings, have been subjected to molestation via Internet and means of social communication (Whats'up).

In these cases, when asked about what they do / have done in these cases, children had knowledge of the need to cut off communication with the person and inform their parents about this issue.

As for the children's suggestions on how to put an end to sexual abuse were not many; this can be linked to a lack of knowledge on the subject and adopted methods of protection.

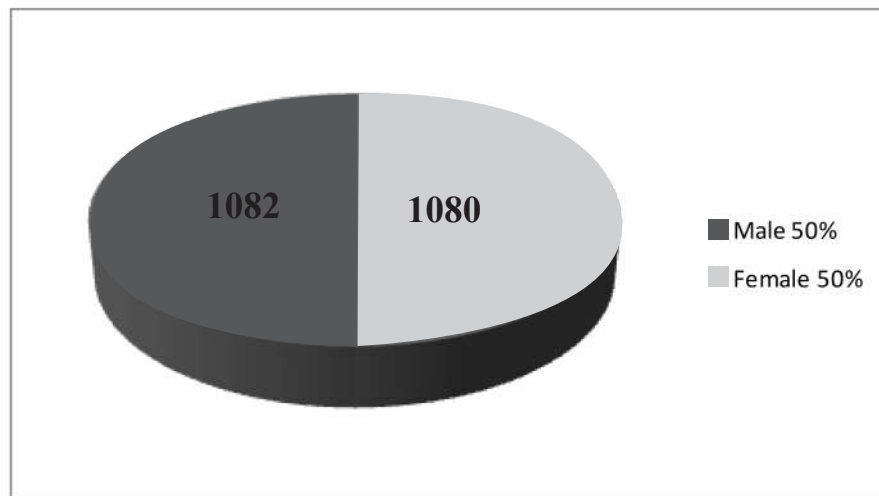
For them ,protection and prevention are insured by staying with family and in safe places (house) and not being in in dangerous places. They did not have much information about other methods of protection with a tendency to inform parents immediately and punish the abuser.

## Second: results of descriptive statistical data of the study

### 1. The total sample's description and characteristics in terms of gender, nationality, age groups, geographical distribution and schooling

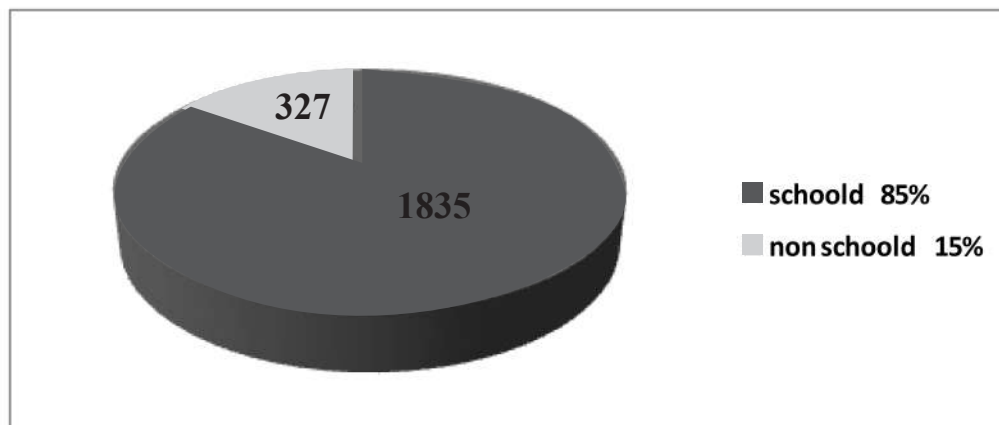
- The total sample is distributed by gender and schooling.

Figure 1 – Distribution of the sample according to the percentage of male and female.



The sample is divided equally between males 1080 and females 1082.

Figure 2 – Distribution of the sample according to schooling



The number of children schooled in the sample is 1835 and constitutes 85% compared to 15% non-schooled.

**- Distribution of the total sample according to schooling status, age, gender and geographical distribution**

*Table 2A – Distribution of the sample according to age and schooling status*

Schooling status Age	Schooled children		Non schooled children	
	number	percentage	number	percentage
9	162	8.8	30	9.2
10	203	11.1	30	9.2
11	223	12.2	35	10.6
12	221	12.0	48	14.7
13	219	11.9	45	13.8
14	200	10.9	54	16.5
15	176	9.6	33	10.1
16	166	9.1	18	5.5
17	265	14.4	34	10.4
<b>total sample</b>	<b>1835</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>100</b>

*Table 2B – Distribution of the sample according to gender and schooling status*

Schooling status Gender	Schooled children		Non schooled children	
	number	percentage	number	percentage
female	163	49.8	919	50.1
male	164	50.2	916	49.9
<b>total sample</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1835</b>	<b>100</b>

*Table 2C – Distribution of the sample according to the governorate and schooling status*

Schooling status Governorate	Schooled children		Non schooled children	
	number	percentage	number	percentage
Beirut	465	25.3	71	21.7
Mount Lebanon (except Beirut suburbs)	247	13.5	31	9.5
North	483	26.3	148	45.3
South	390	21.3	54	16.5
Bekaa	250	13.6	23	7.0
<b>total sample</b>	<b>1835</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3 – Distribution of the sample according to casa or region

Governorate	Casa	Number of children	Percentage
Beirut and suburbs	Beirut	173	8.0
	Southern suburbs	297	13.7
	Northern suburb	67	3.1
South Mount Lebanon	Chouf	96	4.4
	Aley	61	2.8
North Mount Lebanon	Byblos	18	0.8
	Kesrouan	30	1.4
	Metn	52	2.4
	Baabda	21	1.0
North Lebanon	Koura	30	1.4
	Batroun	14	0.6
	Zgharta	39	1.8
	Bcharri	6	0.3
Tripoli – Minieh – Dounieh	El Miniyeh – El Dounieh	48	2.2
	Tripoli	221	10.2
Akkar	Akkar	273	12.6
Nabatieh	Nabatieh	88	4.1
	Bent Jbeil	28	1.3
	Marjeyun	22	1.0
	Hasbaya	12	0.6
South	Jezzine	11	0.5
	Saida	154	7.1
	Tyr	129	6.0
North Bekaa	Hermel	21	1.0
	Baalbeck	112	5.2
South Bekaa	West Bekaa	50	2.3
	Rachaya	11	0.5
	Zahleh	78	3.6
<b>Total sample</b>		<b>2162</b>	<b>100</b>



- The total sample is distributed according to age, nationality and type of schools frequented

*Table 4 – Distribution of the sample according to age*

Age	Number of children	Percentage
9	192	8.9
10	233	10.8
11	258	11.9
12	269	12.4
13	264	12.2
14	254	11.7
15	209	9.7
16	184	8.5
17	299	13.8
<b>Total sample</b>	<b>2162</b>	<b>100</b>

*Table 5 – Distribution of the sample according to nationality*

Nationality	Number of children	Percentage
Lebanon	1751	81.0
Syria	232	10.7
Palestine	154	7.1
Other	20	0.9
Don't know	5	0.2
<b>Total sample</b>	<b>2162</b>	<b>100</b>

Lebanese children constitute the overwhelming majority of the sample 81%, followed by Syrians children 10.7%, then Palestinians ones 7.1%.

*Table 6 – The distribution of the sample according to the types of schools*

Type of school	Number of children	Percentage
Public	710	32.8
Semi private	131	6.1
External private	804	37.2
Internal private	9	0.4
Palestinian associations	75	3.5
Public technical and vocational institute	37	1.7
Private technical and vocational institute	69	3.2
Schooled	1835	84.9
Non-schooled	327	15.1
<b>Total sample</b>	<b>2162</b>	<b>100</b>

## 2. Characteristics of the sample exposed to sexual abuse

Despite the adoption of the best standards in the implementation and conception of the study, and in spite of the efficiency of the team composed of specialized social workers, this percentage of sexual violence against children in Lebanon is considered low, with our conviction that there are children who might not have disclosed to us about their exposure to this painful experience because of the sensitivity of the subject, and the difficulty of declaring it in public.

Embarrassment surrounding discussions about this issue was obvious through apology of many families to accept that their children participate in the study, and through some of the results of this study which indicated the difficulty for the child to speak with his/her family about these sensitive topics.

*Table 7 – Distribution of the sample according to the percentage of exposure to sexual abuse*

Exposure to sexual abuse	Number of children	Percentage
Not Abused	2073	95.9
Abused	89	4.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2162</b>	<b>100</b>

Amongst 2162 children with whom interviews and questionnaires were conducted, 4.1% declared that they were exposed to some form of sexual abuse.

**- The sample exposed to sexual abuse is distributed according to gender, schooling and type of school, transferring between several schools, their labor, their nationality and geographical distribution.**

*Table 8 – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse sample according to gender*

Gender	Number of children	Percentage
Female	48	53.9
Male	41	46.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 8 shows that females are more vulnerable to sexual abuse than males (53.9% compared to 46.1%). the exposed male high percentage remains expressive and confirms exposure of both genders, in not much spaced percentage.

*Table 9 – Distribution of the sample of children exposed to sexual abuse schooled and non-schooled*

Sample exposed to sexual abuse	Number of children	Percentage
Non schooled	17	19.1
Schooled	72	80.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 9 shows that 19.1% of children who have been exposed to sexual abuse are not schooled.

*Table 10 – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the type of schools*

<b>Type of school</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Public	42	47.2
Semi private	3	3.4
Private	19	21.3
Palestinian schools	2	2.2
Public Technical	3	3.4
Private Technical	3	3.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>80.9</b>

Table 10 shows that 47.2% of the sample who suffered from sexual abuse was schooled in public schools. If we add to it the public technical institutes, we reach 50.6%.

*Table 11 – Distribution of the sample according to transfer of school by children exposed to sexual abuse*

<b>Schooled</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Same School	18	20.2
Transferred Schools	54	60.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>80.9</b>

Table 11 shows that 60.7% of the sample children who have been exposed to sexual abuse have transferred several schools.

*Table 12 – Distribution of employed and unemployed children in the sample exposed to sexual abuse*

<b>Employment of family members</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Unemployed	73	82
Employed	16	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

We noted that most of children sexually abused are unemployed, while 18% of those who have been victims of sexual abuse are employed.

*Table 13 – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to governorates*

<b>Governorate</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
North	29	33
Mount Lebanon	12	13
Bekaa	8	9
Nabatiye	6	7
Beirut	14	16
South	20	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 13 shows that the sexual abuse is at its highest levels in the north 33%, then in southern Lebanon (22%). The lowest levels are found in Nabatieh (7%) and the Bekaa (9%)

*Table 14 – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the nationality of children*

<b>Nationality of children exposed to sexual abuse</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Lebanese	74	83.1
Palestinian	5	5.6
Syrian	8	9
Other	2	2.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 14 shows that 83.1% of the sample children who have been exposed to abuse are Lebanese, and Syrians at 9% and 5.6% for Palestinians, while the percentage of child sexual abuse of various other nationalities registered only 2.2%.

### **3. The sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the characteristics of the faced situations**

*Table 15 – Distribution of the sample according to the age when the first sexual abuse occurred*

<b>Age of the child when exposed to the first sexual abuse</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
< 6 years old	2	2.2
6 - 9 years old	11	12.4
10 - 14 years old	53	59.6
15 - 17 years old	22	24.7
Don't Remember	1	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

The sample did not include children under the age of 9 years and at this age group less than 9 years only refers to the age of occurrence of the first abuse

We note that the age of first exposure to sexual abuse is highly centered between 10-14 years (59.6%), although we find that 2.2% of children in the sample had been exposed to sexual abuse before the age of 6 years.

*Table 15A – Distribution of the sample according to the age of first sexual abuse of males*

<b>Age of the male child when exposed to the first sexual abuse</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
< 6 years old	2	4.9
6 - 9 years old	3	7.3
10 - 14 years old	24	58.5
15 - 17 years old	11	26.8
Don't Remember	1	2.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100</b>

*Table 15B – Distribution of the sample according to the age of first sexual abuse of females*

<b>Age of the female child when exposed to the first sexual abuse</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
< 6 years old	0	0
6 - 9 years old	8	16.7
10 - 14 years old	29	60.4
15 - 17 years old	11	22.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100</b>

The sample did not include children under the age of 9 years and at this age group i.e. less than 9 years old only refers to the age of occurrence of the first abuse

Important differences between males and females with regard to the age of exposure for the first sexual abuse, appear especially for the age group between 6 to 9 years. Since we found that male exposure at this stage does not exceed 7.3%, whereas we note that this ratio for females is 16.7%, .And an absence of female sexual abuse under the age of 6 years, and 4.9% of males who have been victims of abuse at this early age.

Both genders are close in terms of exposure in other age groups. This ratio is 58.5%, for example, between the ages of 10-14 years for males and 60.4% for females in the same age category.

Table 16 – Distribution of the sample according to the identity of the abuser in the first sexual abuse

Place where the first abuse occurred	Environment of the abuser	Identity of the abuser	percentage	percentage	Total rates
Family Environment And Its Surrounding	Home Family	Father	1.1	4.5	49.4
		Brother	3.4		
	Relatives	Uncle	3.4	19.1	
		Aunt	1.1		
		Grandmother	1.1		
		Brother in Law	1.1		
		Cousin (father's side)	2.2		
		Cousin (Mother's Side)	10.1		
	Workers At Family Or Around	Gardener	1.1	4.5	
		Worker At The Grocery Market	3.4		
Family Friends	Family Friend	4.5	7.9		
	Neighbor	3.4			
	Individuals at school environment		13.5	13.5	
School Environment	School Friends		12.4	12.4	12.4
Work Environment	Individuals at work environment	Boss	2.2		2.2
Public place	strangers				36
<b>Total</b>					<b>100</b>

It seems that abusers from the surrounding of the child are the most dangerous persons.

About half of the first cases of sexual abuse on children were done by people in the family environment (49.4%), while the first sexual abuse that took place by individuals at work environment were not more than 2.2% and 12.4% at school.

Persons of the family surrounding mean any member of the child's home or acquaintances of his/her family or his/her relatives or friends of the family or workers at family or in its surroundings (driver, janitor ...).

If we tried to investigate the identity of the most dangerous persons in this family environment, we found that these risks are distributed either on a member of the small family (4.5%) or workers at home or at the grocery or at the family (4.5%) or at a parents friends (7.9%). Interestingly, the percentage of relatives is high to 19.1%, while the percentage of sexual abuse from strangers is up to 36%.

*Table 16A – Distribution of the sample according to the identity of the abuser during first sexual abuse of females*

<b>Place where the first abuse occurred</b>	<b>Environment of the abuser</b>	<b>Identity of the abuser</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>T o t a l Percent</b>
Family Environment And Its Surrounding	Home Family	Father	2.1	6.3	66.7
		Brother	4.2		
	Relatives	Uncle	6.3	31.3	
		Aunt	2.1		
		Grandmother	2.1		
		Brother in Law	2.1		
		Cousin (father's side)	4.2		
		Cousin (Mother's Side)	14.6		
	Workers At Family Or Around	Gardener	0	4.2	
		Worker At The Grocery Market	4.2		
	Family Friends	Family Friend	4.2	10.4	
		Neighbor	6.3		
Neighbors' Kids			14.6		
School Environment	School Friends	8.3		8.3	8.3
Work Environment	Individuals at work environment	Boss	0	0	0
Public place	strangers	Unknown by the child		25	25
<b>Total</b>					<b>100</b>

Of course, some variations are observed when we try to study the potential differences between males and females regarding the identity of the abuser.

Indeed, we note that 66.7% of the first incident of female sexual abuse occurs in the family surrounding which components are mentioned above (family, relatives, neighbors, friends of parents, workers in the vicinity of the family .....), we found that only 8.3% of the first cases of female sexual abuse occurred at the school environment. This suggests that the house and its surroundings is not a source of permanent protection for the girl as risks derive from those close to her, who obtain her trust, as opposed to the prevailing social concept, which believes that the risks to the girl only come from outside and from public places.

We found that the risks derived from strangers in public places did not exceed 25 percent compared with the risks within the family and its surroundings, which reached 66.7%.

Table 16B – Identity of the abuser in the first sexual abuse on males

Place where the first abuse occurred	Environment of the abuser	Identity of the abuser	Percentage	Percentage	Total Percent	
Family Environment And Its Surrounding	Home Family	Father	0	2.4	29.3	
		Brother	2.4			
	Relatives	Uncle	0	4.9		
		Aunt	0			
		Grandmother	0			
		Brother in Law	0			
		Cousin (father's side)	0			
			Cousin (Mother's Side)	4.9		
	Workers At Family Or Around	Gardener	2.5	4.9		
		Worker At The Grocery Market	2.4			
	Family Friends	Family Friend	4.9	4.9		
		Neighbour	0			
	Neighbors' Kids		12.2			
School Environment	School Friends		17.1	17.1		
Work Environment	Individuals at work environment	Boss	4.9	4.9		
Public place	stranger	unknown by the child		48.8		
<b>Total</b>					<b>100</b>	

When comparing the identity of the abuser in the first sexual abuse on males, we note that family environment with all its elements referred to above, is also considered as a non safe environment for males (29.3%), but duly less dangerous than the one of females (66.7%) (Table 16A).

While first female sexual abuse does not exceed at school 8.3% (Table 16A), we find that these risks double for males (17.1%).

However, the strangers in public places pose a greater risk to male children (48.8%). This is easily understood if we start from the prevailing social standards.

Parents allow their male child in adolescence to go out socialize and have free access far from parents control and restrictions making him more vulnerable to the risks arising from strangers in public places.

## Second - Characteristics of the sexual abuse that followed the first abuse

### - Distribution of the exposed sample according to age, gender, place of abuse and number of times

Concerning child sexual abuse in the sample and not exclusively with regard to the first sexual abuse, we note here also a set of properties characterizing these abuses.



Table 17 – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse sample according to the age of the child

Age of exposure to sexual abuse	Number of children	Percentage
9 years old	2	2.2
10 years old	5	5.6
11 years old	9	10.1
12 years old	7	7.9
13 years old	9	10.1
14 years old	8	9
15 years old	14	15.7
16 years old	14	15.7
17 years old	21	23.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

We note that the most risky ranged from 15 years (15.7%) to the age of 17 (23.6%), during which puberty characteristics appear in teenagers male and female. These puberty characteristics on attracts and his sick appetite. At this stage the curiosity of adolescents and opportunities for social communication with others increase whether via internet or through direct meetings.

Table 17A – Distribution of the sample according to the average age of males and females sexually abused

Gender	Average age
Average Age For Males	14.32
Average Age For Females	14.25

We note that the average age of exposure to sexual abuse does not differ much between males and females, as it resolves centered especially around the age of fourteen for both genders (14.3 for males and 14.2 for females).

Table 18 – Distribution of the sample according to the place where the sexual abuse occurred

Place of occurrence of the sexual abuse	Number of children	Percentage
Home	12	13.5
Neighborhood	25	28.1
Friend's House	2	2.2
Family Friend's House	1	1.1
Relative's House	9	10.1
Neighbor's House	2	2.2
School	9	10.1
Work	2	2.2
Public Place	20	22.5
Other	2	2.2
Don't Remember	5	5.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

In terms of the place of exposure, we note that the neighborhood is generally the most dangerous place for children of both genders (28.1%), followed by public places (22.5%) and the home of the child (13.5%) and then the home of a relative (10.1%) and the school ( 10.1%).

If we consider the influence of the gender of the child on the place which it is dangerous for his/her significant differences between males and females in terms of the place of sexual abuse.

*Table 18A – Distribution of the sample according to the place of occurrence of male sexual abuse*

<b>Place of occurrence of sexual abuse</b>	<b>Number of males exposed</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Home	1	2.4
Neighborhood	16	39
Friend's House	1	2.4
Family Friend's House	0	0
Relative's House	1	2.4
School	5	12.2
Work	2	4.9
Public Place	11	26.8
Other	1	2.4
Don't Remember	3	7.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100</b>

*Table 18B – Distribution of the sample according to the place of occurrence of female sexual abuse*

<b>Place of occurrence of sexual abuse</b>	<b>Number of females exposed</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Home	11	22.9
Neighborhood	9	18.8
Friend's House	1	2.1
Family Friend's House	1	2.1
Relative's House	8	16.7
Neighbor's House	2	4.2
School	4	8.3
work	0	0
Public Place	9	18.8
Other	1	2.1
Don't Remember	2	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100</b>

Tables 18A and 18B show that the largest number of sexual abuse of the female sample occurred at home (22.9%) or in the neighborhood (18.8%) or at the home of a relative (16.7%) or in a public place (18.8%) or at school (8.3%), this makes us say that the general social trend prevailing is keeping the girl at the house to protect her. This seems that this home or its neighborhood are the most dangerous place in many cases for girls.

As for males, the highest percentage of sexual abuse had occurred in the neighborhood (39%) or in a public place (26.8%) and at school (12.2%).

Therefore important differences between males and females with regard to sexual abuse arise.

At the level of the exposure place, home or neighborhood or the home of a relative or more public place are one of the place where females are exposed to sexual abuse.

In contrast, sexual abuse in the home seems less for males (2.4%) than females 22.9% despite the fact that the house is supposed to be a place of security for females (Table 18B).

It is noticeable that the neighborhood (39%) or public place (26.8%) constitutes the most dangerous places for males (Table 18A).

Table 19 – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the number of abuses

Number of times exposed to sexual abuse	Last Year			Prior to Last Year		
	percentage	total	Number of children	percentage	total	Number of children
Once	34.8	60	31	27	43	24
2-5 times	28.1		25	9		8
6-10 times	1.1		1	4.5		4
More than 10 times	3.4		3	7.9		7
Don't Remember	12.4		11	21.3		19
Don't know	20.2		18	30.3		27
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>		<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>		<b>89</b>

Table 19 shows that about 34.8% of those who have been sexually abused have experienced it once last year or before (27%).

They were followed by the category of those who have been sexually abused twice to five times with a percentage of 28.1% and 9% respectively.

Those who were exposed more than 10 times seem to be undergo this sexual experience constantly and continuously, at a percentage of 3.4% over the past year and 7.9% before, i.e. there is a significant ratio of children who are sexually abused continuously and recurrently.

#### - Distribution of the sample according to the time of exposure, frequent exposure with the same abuser and forms of abuse

It seems that we are facing three categories of children exposed to sexual abuse.

The first category has been exposed exclusively the past year.

The second category have been sexually abused in the past then this stopped, for some reason, and did not have any sexual abuse in the past year.

The third category is those who have been exposed in the past and are still exposed until last year, i.e. until the date of the study.

To calculate the number of children who have been exclusively exposed the past year, and children who have been exposed before whose sexual abuse stopped as well as the third category which had been exposed in the past to abuse and still following formula is used:

#### - Number of time of exposure (counting those who were only exposed last year and who were exposed only before last year)

**The letter A** refers to the number of children ( $31 + 25 + 1 + 3 = 60$ ) who have experienced sexual abuse for the past year, and some of them may also have been exposed before last year (Table 19).

**The letter B** refers to the number of children ( $24 + 8 + 4 + 7 = 43$ ) who have experienced sexual abuse before last year and some of them may have also suffered from its before last year (Table 19).

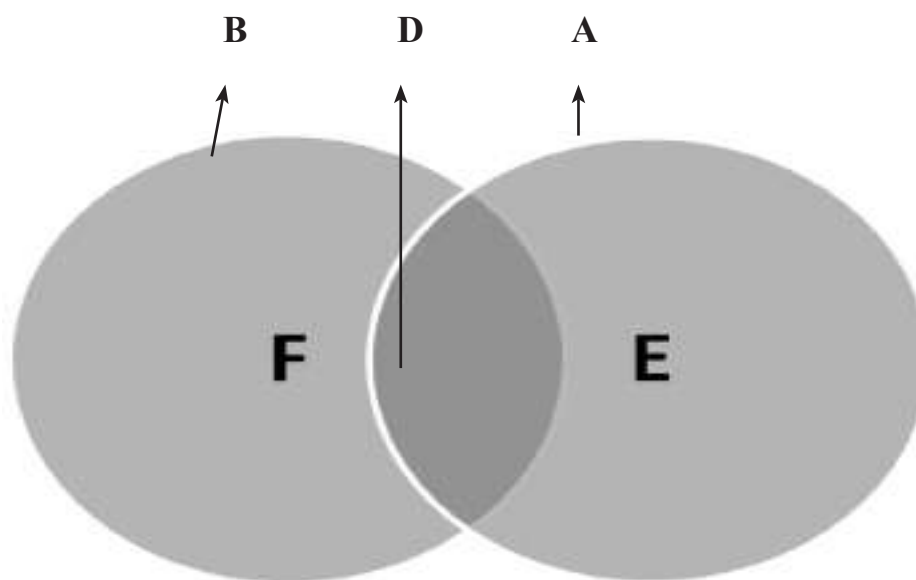
**The letter C** refers to the total sample of children (89) who have been subjected to sexual abuse.

**The letter D** refers to the number of children who have been subjected to sexual abuse last year and also before it (permanent).

**The letter E** indicates the number of children who have been subjected to sexual abuse last year only (new).

**The letter F** indicates the number of children who have been subjected to sexual abuse before last year only (old).

Figure 3 – Calculating the new, old and permanent victims exposed to sexual abuse A



$$E = C - B = 89 - 43 = 46$$

$$F = C - A = 89 - 60 = 29$$

$$D = C - E - F = 89 - 29 - 46 = 14$$

Table 20 – distribution of the sample subject to sexual abuse according to the time of exposure

Categories of victims	Number of children	Percentage
New victims ( only last year)	46	51.7
Former victims (before last year only)	29	32.6
Permanent victims (last year and before)	14	15.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

Based on the above equations we conclude the following:

- The number of children who have been exposed to sexual abuse last year alone, was 46 children.
- The number of children who have been exposed to sexual abuse before last year alone, i.e. have not been exposed last year for abuse was 29 children.
- The number of children who have been exposed to sexual abuse last year and before was 14 children.

Based on the statistics contained in Table 19 and specifically the total number of children who were exposed last year (60 children) and before last year (43 children), and the mathematical equations above, we can get an idea of:

- children who have recently been subjected to sexual abuse (last year when applying the questionnaire), and referred to as “new victims”,
- children who have experienced in the past sexual abuse that stopped after that, and referred to as “old victims.” Those who have been subjected to sexual abuse the past which continued until the date of conducting the study questionnaire are referred to as “the permanent victims.”

Table 21 – Distribution of the sample according to the frequency of exposure to sexual abuse with the same abuser :

frequency of the sexual experiences with the same abuser	Number of children	Percentage
Yes the experience repeated	34	38.2
No the experience did not repeat	55	61.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

It seems that the frequency of sexual abuse with the same person is 38.2%, while the identity of the sexual abuser changes for 61.8% of the exposed sample

### - Forms of sexual abuse

We have relied in forms of child sexual abuse on some studies in this area (Montes De Oca et al., 1990) and adopted the following classification:

#### (A). sexual abuse without physical contact which include:

- Verbal sexual abuse (gets victims to hear words or jokes or stories of sexual connotations or meanings .....
- Visual sexual abuse (expose parts of the body of the abuser in front of the child, watch him/her, force him/her to see / obscene pictures, films, books and magazines ...).
- Sexual abuse via internet (expose to the child pornographic pictures and pornographic sites ....).

#### (B) Sexual abuse with physical contact which include:

Abuse which is based on touching the child, palpation, hugging, caressing, kissing and fondling sensitive parts of his/her body (breasts, anus, and genitals). This type of sexual abuse was included in our study under the name of: preliminary sexual abuse, as it includes all caresses and touches and fumbling the body and kissing intimate areas, which all constitute the basis of the sexual act or sexual full relationship.

#### (C) Violent sex with penetration:

Any sexual relationship with the child (genital or anal), rape or attempted rape (Montes De Oca et al., 1990), an abuse which was included in our study under the name “complete sexual act.”

Table 22 – Distribution of the sample according to forms of sexual abuse suffered by victim children

Sexual Abuse Form	percentage
Oral	43
Visual	30
Via Internet	9
Preliminary	30
Sexual Act	1
Other	3

\* The child shall have the right to give more than one answer

Table 22 shows the most prevalent sexual abuse and reveals that verbal sexual abuse (verbal) occupies the first rank. getting the victim>s to hear face to face or over the telephone words or jokes or stories with sexual connotation are the most outspread form of abuse.

It may be used to excite the child or to lure him/her with visual abuses like watching pictures or movies or books or magazines which include naked people, or lure him/her to say to the abuser words with sexual connotation or to accept watching pornographic images or films.

Verbal abuse (verbal) is ranked first with 43%, followed by preliminary sexual abuse (30%) and visual and sexual abuse (30%).

The sexual abuse via internet is only in 9% of the cases. The percentage of cases of rape or sexual act with full penetration do not exceed 1%

#### 4. The identity of the abuser, characteristics and style

Who are sexual abusers on children? Can you identify them?

In this study, we will try to identify the sexual abusers of children, in terms of age groups, gender and means they adopt to lure these children.

##### - Characteristics of the sexual abuser of children

Table 23 – Distribution of the sample according to the characteristics of the sexual abuser of children (gender, age, nationality and social status)

Type of sexual abuse	Gender %		Age group %		Social condition %		Nationality %	
	Male	Female	Child	Teenager	Single	Married	Undefined	Other nationalities
Verbal abuse (words)	95	5	8	45	71	8	57	27
			47		21		3	3
							3	2
							7	
<b>Total rates</b>		<b>100</b>		<b>100</b>		<b>100</b>		<b>100</b>
Visual abuse	89	11	12	54	73	8	71	18
			35		19		2	0
							0	2
							7	
<b>Total rates</b>		<b>100</b>		<b>100</b>		<b>100</b>		<b>100</b>
Internet abuse	75	25	0	38	75	13	91	7
			63		13		1	0
							0	0
							1	
<b>Total rates</b>		<b>100</b>		<b>100</b>		<b>100</b>		<b>100</b>

<b>Preliminary abuse</b>	Male	93	Child	11	Single	81	Undefined	70
	Female	7	Teenager	41	Married	7	Lebanese	20
			Adult	48	Widower/ divorced	11	Palestinian	1
							Syrian	2
							Other nationalities	2
							Unknown	4
<b>Total rates</b>		<b>100</b>		<b>100</b>		<b>100</b>		<b>100</b>
<b>Sexual act</b>	Male	100	Child	0	Single	0	Undefined	0
	Female	0	Teenager	0	Married	0	Lebanese	0
			Adult	1000	Widower/ divorced	100	Palestinian	0
							Syrian	0
							Other nationalities	100
							Unknown	0
<b>Total rates</b>		<b>100</b>		<b>100</b>		<b>100</b>		<b>100</b>
<b>Other type of abuse (unconventional)</b>	Male	100	Child	33	Single	33	Undefined	97
	Female	0	Teenager	0	Married	0	Lebanese	1
			Adult	67	Widower/ divorced	67	Palestinian	0
							Syrian	0
							Other nationalities	0
							Unknown	2
<b>Total rates</b>		<b>100</b>		<b>100</b>		<b>100</b>		<b>100</b>

In an attempt to analyze the characteristics of the abuser in terms of gender, age, social status, nationality, we note that a high percentage of abusers are male, in all kinds of sexual abuse, most of them Lebanese except a very modest percentage of Syrians and the Palestinians, most of whom are single and in all kinds of sexual abuse categories as well.

As for the age of the abuser, they are distributed between adolescents and adults (over 18 years). one age group prevail to the other, depending on the type of favorite sexual abuse in these age groups as we will refer to later.

When comparing between male and female abusers, we note that male ones prefer first verbal or verbal sexual abuse or verbal (95%). making the victims hear directly or over the telephone words or jokes or stories, having sexual connotation are most spread abuses in order to excite generate the child or lure him / her or drive him/her into the arms of the abuser, or use words of containing sexual connotation to move after that to the preliminary sexual acts (93%), including started fumbling and fondling intimate areas of the body of the child, and all the sexual relationship components with the exception of penetration (full sexual act).

We noticed a tendency to visual sexual abuse (89%) like watching pictures, books, or magazines of naked people or luring a child to watch pornographic films attempt as a luring.

Sexual abuse via internet (75%) aims to lure the child and make him / her learn new things through the exploitation of his/ her desire to imitate adults and then abuse him / her as well as circumstantial practices of sexual abuse out of the ordinary, resorted to by male abusers only we have included in the category «other» or abuses «unconventional sexual abuses» or «another type», which include luring a child to do sexual relationship with other acquaintances of the abuser or to bring one of his /her companions to do this, which also include giving the victim money and gifts in exchange for sex.

Also falls into this category everything out of the ordinary as asking the child to wear certain clothes or do actions required by the abuser during sexual caresses.

Female abusers were not noticed in the category of «unconventional sexual abuse» or «another type» i.e. abusers never resort to such sexual practices out of the ordinary, but prefer in the first place children molestation via the Internet (25%), visual abuse (11%) by luring the victims to see sexual pictures and movies as a preliminary for the transition to a preliminary sexual relationship (7%), including fumbling and intimate touching.

At last we notice sexual verbal abuse relating to female abusers rationale for passion and tenderness and romance (5%).

When comparing age groups, we notice teen abusers tend to visual sexual abuse (54%), while those over eighteen (adults) prefer unconventional sexual abuse 67% or via internet (63%)<sup>3</sup>. These methods may pave the way for preliminary sexual abuse as this type ranks second in the hierarchy of the of adults abusers (48%).

Interestingly children (under the age of twelve) tend to do sexual abuses to other children, as we note in this age group an unconventional sexual behavior (33%) and preliminary sexual acts (11%) and visual sexual abuse (12%) and verbal one (8%), which confirms that the child who has been sexually abused may in turn become a sexual molester of other children.

As for nationality, most abusers are Lebanese in all types of sexual abuse referred to, with a shy and modest participation of other nationalities.

We note that most of the abusers are single with the presence of a high percentage (67%) of divorced or separated from their wives in the category of “unconventional sexual abuse” or “another type,” which components are mentioned above.

*Table 24 – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the knowledge of the child that the abuser abused other children*

<b>Knowledge of the child that the abuser abused other children</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	25	28.1
No	64	71.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 24 shows that the vast majority of children who have been abused ignored if the abusers who subjected them to sexual abuse had molested another child (71.9%), while 28.1% asserted that those who sexually abused them may also have molested another child.

*Table 25 – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the fact that the abuser used alcohol and drugs in the presence of a child*

<b>The abuser used drugs or alcohols in presence of the child</b>	<b>Alcohol Use (%)</b>	<b>Drug Use (%)</b>
Last Year	11.2	6.7
Prior To Last Year	15.7	4.5

11.2% of the abusers drank alcohol and 6.7% used drugs in the presence of the victim last year. It is important to study if the use of alcohol and drug by the abuser appears as correlative to the phenomenon of sexual abuse, or at least allows us to constitute an idea about the the tendencies and habits of the abuser.

3. We did not take into consideration in the analysis the percentage of the total sexual act as its total percentage for all groups was insignificant 1% (table 22)



**- Abuser styles to lure a child and singling him and his /her behavior with the victim during sexual caressing and after completion**

*Table 26 – Distribution of the sample according to the means of persuasion and threat adopted by of sexual abuser*

<b>Methods of the abuser in convincing and threatening</b>	<b>First Abuser (%)</b>	<b>Second Abuser (%)</b>	<b>Third Abuser (%)</b>
Claimed first that fondling the child is something fun	2.25	3.37	8.99
Claimed that when adults fondle kids it is normal	1.12	0.00	2.25
Claimed that it is natural to fondle a child as he / she loves him / her and trust him / her	1.12	0.00	7.87
Claimed that the child will be accustomed to this	1.12	1.12	3.37
Claimed that the child is special and he / she prefers him / her on others	1.12	0.00	12.36
Claimed that the child is a hero of a secret story such as films	0.00	0.00	1.12
Claimed that he / she expresses his love to the kid	1.12	1.12	7.87
Claimed that he / she will teach the child new things	4.49	0.00	16.85
Threatened to deprive the child from money or gifts or his / her love and tenderness	0.00	0.00	1.12
Convinced the child that no one will believe him / her and he / her will look like a liar and ridiculous	0.00	0.00	4.49
Threatened to beat the child	0.00	0.00	12.36
Agitated in the child beautiful emotions and feelings	3.37	1.12	8.99
Started to caress directly without any preliminaries	17.39	4.35	20.22
Other methods (unconventional)	2.25	2.25	6.74

\* The child has the right to give more than one answer

Table 26 highlights the means of persuasion and threats used by the abuser to capture the victim. It appears that the immediate molesting of a child without doing any preliminary procedure, constitutes a significant percentage (20.2%), especially when the abuse is repeated.

This shows the impulsive behavior characterizing the sexual abuser of children. In contrast, the allegation of the abuser that he/she is teaching new things to the child is a common means also used by the sexual abuser (16.8%). The same applies to the allegation that it is natural to flirt with the child as he/she is special (12.3%).

The abuser tries to convince a child that he/she is special, and these methods were referred to in literature of global studies about the abusers plans to coax the victims.

If this not work beating or threat of beating option remains (12.3%). 61.8% of children who have been exposed to sexual abuse said they had experienced more than one abuser (Table 21), and that the methods were varied.

For this reason, in the subsequent tables we refer to the multiplicity of abusers (first, second, third abuser) and the diversity of tactics adopted.

*Table 27 – Distribution of the sample according to the preliminary style of the abuser after singling the victim*

<b>Preliminary style of the abuser</b>	<b>First Abuser (%)</b>	<b>Second Abuser (%)</b>	<b>Third Abuser (%)</b>
Said nice words to the child and showed a great concern towards him / her	3.37	3.37	33.71
Offered to teach the child	1.12	0.00	3.37
Offered to play with the child	2.25	0.00	8.99
Offered to transport the child or take him / her somewhere	0.00	1.12	4.49
Invited the kid to do an activity with him / her	0.00	0.00	3.37
Bought to the child sweets or gifts	0.00	0.00	8.99
Attracted the child with money	0.00	0.00	5.62
Manifested to the child love and tenderness	2.25	2.25	6.74
Promised to achieve to the child some of his / her wishes	0.00	0.00	3.37
Obligated the child to go with him / her	0.00	0.00	7.87
Started to caress the child without any preliminaries	11.76	0.00	15.73
Don't remember	1.12	0.00	3.37
Other methods (unconventional)	4.49	2.25	14.61

\* The child has the right to give more than one answer

We do not note a uniform preliminary style of the sexual abusers of child, after capturing the victim and after singling with him, it is common to use fondling words and expressions of interest to the victim before direct sexual caressing (33.7%), although a category of abusers also tend to start directly, and without introductions and without any preliminary in sexual caressing (15.7%).

*Table 28 – Distribution of the sample according to the behavior of the abuser in sexual caressing of the victim*

<b>behavior of the abuser in sexual caresses</b>	<b>First Abuser (%)</b>	<b>Second Abuser (%)</b>	<b>Third Abuser (%)</b>
Kissed the child and touched him / her tenderly to prevent him / her of being afraid	2.25	0.00	12.36
Said sweet things to the child to express his / her feeling	0.00	0.00	21.35
Threatened the child to beat him / her or did so	0.00	0.00	3.37
Insulted the child and disrespected him / her	0.00	0.00	3.37
Started to caress the child without any preliminaries	4.49	2.25	23.60
Don't remember	0.00	0.00	3.37
Other methods (unconventional)	19.10	13.48	51.69

\* The child has the right to give more than one answer

Here, too, we do not note a unified style in sexual caresses performed by the abuser. Some of them kiss the child tenderly to prevent his / her fear (12.3%), but immediate sexual caressing are highlighted (23.6%), which confirms once again the impulsion of the abuser and the lack of interest in the feelings of the victim and his / her tendency to pass immediately and without introductions to caresses, although some abusers show apparent interest, sometimes for victims through the verbal fondling (21.3%).

*Table 29 – Distribution of the sample according to the behavior of the abuser with the victim after the completion of sexual caresses*

<b>Behavior of the abuser</b>	<b>First Abuser (%)</b>	<b>Second Abuser (%)</b>	<b>Third Abuser (%)</b>
Gave money or gifts	0.00	0.00	2.25
Talked tenderly to the child	0.00	0.00	6.74
Apologized from the child	2.25	0.00	10.11
Claimed that the child requested so	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hit the child or insulted him / her	0.00	0.00	2.25
Threatened him / her	0.00	0.00	5.62
Did not talk or show any concern	1.12	1.12	10.11
Submitted the moral support	0.00	0.00	1.12
Asked the child if he / she felt pleasure	0.00	0.00	4.49
Left immediately	1.12	0.00	13.48
Don't remember	0.00	0.00	3.37
Other things	2.25	0.00	6.74
Nothing	22.47	17.98	53.93

\* The child has the right to give more than one answer

We do not notice here also a unified style adopted by the abuser with the victims but varied methods of dealing, without a consistent pattern after the completion of sexual caresses. What remains apparent is the tendency of some abusers to apologize to the victim (10.1%), which is striking because the abuser usually rarely care about the feelings of the victim.

From here, we understand the tendency of some abusers to «leave the place immediately,» and leave the victim immediately after sexual caresses (13.4%), and not speaking with him/her or show any interest before departure (10.1%), this confirms what was indicated in global studies that the victim is a thing and the abuser does not care to share feelings with him / her.

In summary the study shows a great variety of actions of the aggressors inherent to the stages of child sexual aggression, making it difficult to find specific and fixed attributes to his / her style in each of these stages.

However, it is dramatically clear that artificial fondling is predominant as a way to lure children in general, and proceed immediately after to sexual act without any introductions or preliminaries and then not to speak with the victim and leave immediately after the completion of sexual caresses.

## **5. Alarming family conditions**

We have seen in the context of the study that there are alarming family conditions constituting an effective source of threat for the occurrence of child sexual abuse.

We will show the presence and extent of the outreach of these conditions or some of them in the sample of children violation of sexual abuse.

**- The sample exposed to sexual abuse is distributed according to the educational level of the parents and the nature of their work**

*Table 30 – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the educational level of the parents*

<b>Educational level</b>	<b>Mother %</b>	<b>Father %</b>
Illiterate	56.2	49.4
Elementary School	14.6	14.6
Middle School	15.7	13.5
Technical	12.4	19.1
High school	1.1	3.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 30 shows that 56.2% of mothers and 49.4% of parents are illiterate or did not go beyond primary level (14.6% for both mothers and fathers), while we note that only 1.1% of mothers and 3.4% of parents have completed secondary level.

*Table 31 – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the nature of the work of parents*

<b>Professional condition</b>	<b>Mother %</b>	<b>Father %</b>
Unemployed	10.1	36
Public Sector Employee	10.1	52.8
Public Sector Manager	76.4	5.6
Private Sector Manager	3.4	4.5
University Instructor	0	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

The study reveals an increase in the child sexual abuse with unemployed fathers (36%), and clear differences in ratio of sexual abuse among other categories.

What is striking is the sexual abuse especially in employed families, especially parents who work as employees in the public sector (52.8%).

It seems that child sexual abuse is active when the mother occupies an important position such as of public sector administration (76.4%).

The limited appropriate presence of the mother at home due to her career requirements, without a replacing supervisor, makes it easier for the abuser to lure her children and prepare ruses and lure them and abuse them.

**- The sample exposed to sexual abuse is distributed according to: the existence of a disability in the family, criminal background or alcohol or drug addiction by a family member**

*Table 32 – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the existence of a disability in the family*

	<b>The disabled person</b>			
<b>Member</b>	<b>Mother</b>	<b>Father</b>	<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Sibling</b>
<b>Percent</b>	21	25	10	18

It appears that the environment of chronic diseases or disabilities are frequent in the sample children who have been subjected to sexual abuse since 25% of their father's or 21% of their mothers or 18% of their siblings have chronic illness or disability.

*Table 33 – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the criminal background of a family member*

<b>Imprisonment of one family member</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Number of children</b>
Yes one of the family member is imprisoned	9	8
No family member is imprisoned	91	81
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>89</b>

We note a very small percentage of children who have been subjected to sexual abuse and who belong to families in which one member is imprisoned (9%).

*Table 34 – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse sample according to drugs and alcohols intake of a family member*

<b>Use of drugs / alcohols</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Mother	1
Father	2.20
Sibling	3.40
Respondent	2.20

The addiction to alcohol or drugs in families of children who have been sexually abused, whether it relates to the mother (1%) or father (2.2%) is not high.

A relational causal analysis should be done between the emergence of addiction in the family and the child's vulnerability to sexual abuse in order to confirm or refute the significance of the link between these two factors.

The most significant figure, albeit by a small margin relates to addiction of one of the brothers of the Child (3.4%).

**- The sample exposed to sexual abuse is distributed according to: the atmosphere prevailing between parents, living in a family recomposed and the nature of romantic relationships in it**

*Table 35 – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the climate of violence and marital spats prevailing between the parents \**

<b>Behavior of parents during fights</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Discuss calmly	30.3
Yell at each other in a loud and nervously	47.2
Insult each other	15.7
Hit each other	12.4
Reprimand the child or hit him / her	4.5
Reprimand or hit his / her siblings	5.6
Their fight strengthen due to the use of drugs or alcohols by one of them	2.2
Threaten each other with a weapon or a knife or a sharp tool	2.2
Other behavior	2.2

\* The child has the right to give more than one answer

It is clear that the percentage of parents who discuss quietly is 30.3% which suggests that the climate of violence between the parents is not a general in absolute.

However, what is striking on the other hand is that 47.2% of parents yell loud on each other and that 15.7% of them resort to mutual insults and 12.4% of them resort to mutual beating.

*Table 36A – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the living in a recomposed family*

Identity of the person with whom the child lives	Number of children	Percentage
Mother and father	73	82.0
Father	3	3.4
Father and step mother	1	1.1
Mother	7	7.9
Mother and step father	1	1.1
Other not family members	2	2.2
Other	2	2.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 36A shows the percentage of children living with the mother only (7.9%) or with the father only (3.4%) or in a recomposed family of a father and stepmother (1.1%) or of a mother and her husband (1.1%).

However, the majority of children in the sample exposed to sexual abuse is living with their effective parents (82%).

*Table 36B – Distribution of the the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the quality of its emotional relationship with parents*

Emotional relationship	Mother/Step mother (%)	Father/Stepfather (%)	Relatives Home (%)
Good	85.4	64	-
Average	3.4	16.9	1.1
Bad	7.9	11.2	-
Don't know	1.1	4.5	1.1
Other	2.2	3.4	-

Table 36B shows an important indicator of the level of positive and good relationship between children subject to sexual abuse or with their father or step father (64%) and their mother or their step mother (85.4%).

We noticed that only 7.9% of them pointed a bad relationship with the mother or the step mother. The same is true on a bad relationship with the father or step father (11.2%).

**- The sample exposed to sexual abuse is distributed according to the prevailing social activity in the family and the size of the dwelling**

*Table 37 – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the pace of receiving relatives and friends at home*

Receiving relatives and family friends at home	Number of children	Percentage
Always	40	44.9
Sometimes	41	46.1
Never	6	6.7
Don't remember	2	2.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

We do not notice a social closure in families of children victims of sexual abuse, as the study shows that 44.9% of the parents of victims greet friends and relatives «permanently» and that 46.1% of them greet «Sometime the guests».

Only 6.7% of these parents are living closed and completely secluded and abstain from receiving for relatives and acquaintances and comrades.

*Table 38A – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the frequency of relatives and family friends sleeping in the house*

<b>Relatives and family’s friends sleeping at home</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Always	6	6.7
Sometimes	50	56.2
Never	31	34.8
Don’t remember	2	2.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

*Table 38B – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the size of the dwelling in which its members live*

<b>Number of rooms at home</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
A single room	6	6.7
Two rooms	7	7.9
From 3 to 5 rooms	62	69.7
6 rooms	7	7.9
7 rooms	3	3.4
12 rooms	1	1.1
Unknown	3	3.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

The percentage of children increases to reach 56.2% when relatives and friends of the family sleep in the child’s home sometimes.

If we add to this category the percentage if these who are hosting relatives and friends to sleep «permanently» (6.7%), this percentage reaches a total of 62.9% (Table 38A), which is a high ratio making the child in contact daily at his/her home with «strangers» in the absence of parents from home to work or for other concerns, noting that some of the sample homes of children exposed to sexual abuse, contain three to five rooms (69.7%) (Table 38B).

## **6. Children who are most vulnerable and susceptible to sexual abuse**

Exposure to sexual abuse risk rises with the group of children who complain from a variety of factors, as some are considered facilitating factors for exposure to sexual abuse.

Among these factors exposure of the child to physical or moral violence suffering himself / herself or a family member from chronic illness or disability not attending school, or transfer to a large number of schools, employment ... and other factors hereby, we will tackle the most important ones:

**- The child exposed to sexual abuse or a member of his family suffers from a chronic illness or disability**

We pointed out previous in the study (Table 32) that the presence of someone in the family with a disability or chronic illness may make the family environment more difficult and constricting.

The same table indicates that 10% of children who have been subjected to sexual abuse have said that they themselves complain of a disability or chronic illness.

The study also indicated (Table 12) that 18% of them are employed.

**- The sample exposed to sexual abuse is distributed in accordance with the simultaneous exposure to physical or moral violence and place of the occurrence of these types of violence.**

*Table 39A – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse in accordance with the simultaneous exposure to physical violence*

Child exposed to physical violence	Number of children	Percentage
Yes	52	58.4
No	37	41.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

The simultaneity of sexual violence with physical and moral violence is one of the most obvious results of this study, as 58.4% of children who have been subjected to sexual abuse may also have suffered from a type of physical violence.

*Table 39B – The distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the place of their exposure to physical violence*

Location where the sexual abuse occurred	percentage
At home	55.1
At school	24.7
At work	1.1
Other places	19.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

The picture is clearer in Table 39B with respect to the frame or the place where the physical violence on the child was practiced amongst children who have been subjected to sexual abuse, we find that 55.1% of them were subjected to physical violence in their families.

Also, about 24.7% of these children have been subjected to physical violence in their schools.

This is not surprising as the culture of violence in child-rearing is common in the community. School and home are the most dangerous places here the child is subject to physical violence.

The study did not notice a higher percentage of child subjected to physical violence at work (1.1%).



*Table 40A – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to its simultaneous exposure to moral violence*

<b>Exposure of the child to moral violence</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	63	70.4
No	26	29.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

As is the case with physical violence, we notice that the child is subjected to moral, verbal and emotional violence in conjunction with exposure to sexual abuse, as 70.4% of children exposed to sexual abuse have said they experienced exposure to moral or verbal violence.

*Table 40B – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the place where moral violence occurred*

<b>Location of exposure to sexual violence</b>	<b>Percent</b>
At home	19.5
At school	31
At work	21
Other places	28.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

this applies to the frame or the place where the moral violence on the child was done as we note that it occurs either from a family member (19.5%) or one of the individuals working at school (31%). The rise of number of child subjected to moral violence by his / her employer or his colleagues was striking (21%) compared to the low percentage of exposure to physical violence at work as we pointed out previously in table 39B.

These results reflect the culture of the community, considering that irony of the child and humiliating him / her in front of his / her friends, relatives and contempt his / her in the presence of his /her brothers and threatening him / her from time to time is something that should be done ..... all of these does not conflict with the educational process, but it may be for someone of the obvious methods upon which the correct educational process is built.

If we try to monitor all sites and circumstances in which the sample children are subjected to physical and moral violence, we reach high indicators of violent practices as outlined in the study (Tables 39A, 39B, 40A, 40B) as summarized in Tables 41 B and A.

*Table 41A – The percentage of the sample exposed to sexual abuse and physical and moral violence*

<b>Sample exposed to sexual and physical and moral violence</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Exposure to Physical violence	52	58.4
Exposure to Moral violence	63	70.4
Exposure to sexual violence	89	100

*Table 41B – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the place of their exposure to physical and moral violence (home, school and work)*

<b>Exposure of the child</b>	<b>At home %</b>	<b>At school %</b>	<b>At work %</b>
Physical violence	55.1	24.7	1.1
Moral violence	19.5	31	21

- The sample exposed to sexual abuse is distributed according to the identity of the party to whom the child resorts when exposed to problems and the extent of its responsiveness with him / her

*Table 42 – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the identity of the party to whom the child resort*

<b>Persons to who the child resorts</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Mother	40	44.9
Father	2	2.2
Sometimes from mother or father	7	7.9
Sibling	14	15.7
Relative	7	7.9
Family Friend	3	3.4
Neighbor	1	1.1
Teacher	1	1.1
Friend	16	18
NGO	1	1.1
No one	9	10.1
Other	2	2.2

\* The child has the right to give more than one answer

It is clear that the mother constitutes for the children an important emotional reference. She is one of the best person to whom a child resorts when falling having problems or when exposed to sudden plight. 44.9% of children who have been subjected to sexual abuse, said that they turn to their mothers when they are exposed to a problem or to ask about intimate things, while 10.1% prefer to solve their problems on their own without seeking the advice of anyone.

The most impressive thing is recourse to the father in 2.2% of the cases which indicates the absence of the effective father or the absence of his symbolic role or distance emotional relationship.

This explains the expressive recourse to comrades (18%) or to the brothers (15.7%).

*Table 43 – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the responsiveness of the party to whom the child resorted to the child to ask for advice*

<b>Responsiveness of the person to whom the child resorted</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Responsive	79	98.7
Not responsive	1	1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>

98.7% of the victims who had seek refuge near others to ask for advice and assistance in solving a problem, deem that this person was ready to provide support and assistance. There are 9 children (10.1%) (Table 42) who do not resort to anyone when having problems.

- The sample exposed to sexual abuse is distributed according to the educational method of parents and teachers in dealing with children and the extent of adoption of the sample of the same educational method with its children in the future

*Table 44A – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse in accordance with the way parents deal with their children’s mistakes \**

Method of dealing of parents	Percentage
Tolerance towards the error of the child	4.5
Discuss with him / her calmly	80.9
warn him / her in reasonable words	11.2
hit him / her to prevent the recurrence of the error	3.4
Punish him / her in prevention by depriving him / her from something	2.2
other acts	1.1

*Table 44B – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the way the teachers deal with children errors \**

Reactions of the teachers towards the errors of the children	Percentage
Tolerance towards the error of the child	3.4
Discuss with him / her calmly	73
warn him / her in reasonable words	9
hit him / her to prevent the recurrence of the error	2.2
Punish him / her in prevention by depriving him / her from something	3.4
other acts	11.2

\* The child has the right to give more than one answer

The study revealed that a high percentage of children in the sample declared that their parents (80.9%) and teachers (73%) discuss with them quietly mistakes they have committed, only 3.4% of parents and 2.2% of teachers beat them when they make mistakes.

Strangely 2.2% and 3.4% of teachers punish them for prevention, before committing any error (Table 44A and 44B).

*Table 45 – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to its tendency to adopt the same educational style of parents with its children in the future*

Use of the child of his parents educational method with his / her children in the future	Number of children	Percentage
Yes	41	46.1
No	48	53.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

What is striking is that children exposed to sexual abuse, claim that their parents discuss with them quietly and help them when they need, is not consistent with what they declared i.e., that they will not exercise with their children the same educational method adopted by their parents (53.9%).

**- Parents monitoring of the activity of the child in the exposed to sexual abuse sample**

*Table 46 – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the control of parents of its social activities*

Frequency of acceptance of parents	Visit of the child to neighbors alone (%)	Visit of the child to relatives or family's friends alone (%)	Sleep at neighbors or relatives alone (%)	Go for trips with the relatives or neighbors alone (%)
Always	32.6	30.3	7.9	14.6
Sometimes	34.8	37.1	42.7	47.2
Never	31.5	32.6	49.4	38.2
Don't remember	1.1			
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

We note that the percentage of children whose parents allow them to «always» visit neighbors alone is 32.6%.

If we add the percentage of those whose parents allow them «sometimes» (34.8%), we will have a high percentage (32.6% 34.8% = 67.4%) of children who visit their neighbors without any direct control of their parents.

The same applies to visits to acquaintances and friends of the family, as the percentage of those visiting them «permanently» on their own is 30.3%, or «sometimes» 37.1%, which equals 67.4% consider as a too high and disturbing percentage at the same time because it implies that the child stays with relatives and family friends without any supervision by his / her parents.

The worst is when parents allow their child to sleep at the homes of relatives and neighbors either «permanently» (7.9%) or «sometimes» (42.7%) which together constitute a percentage of 50.6%.

The awareness of parents with regard to allowing their child to go with relatives and neighbors does not differ from allowing him / her to have leisure activities with them as the percentage of children who go out «always» is 14.6% and «sometimes» 47.2%, i.e. an aggregate of 61.8%.

These figures are alarming as our children stay with the people who are as showed previously in the study, a source of danger such as relatives and acquaintances and neighbors, and this highlights a sad thing as the abuser has the relation with the victim. these child sexual abuse are painful because they come from people connected with the victims and continue to have contact with them on a daily or semi-permanent basis.

**- The sample exposed to sexual abuse is distributed according to the existence and identity of the persons who raise its concerns**

*Table 47 – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the person who raises its concerns*

A person making the child feel afraid	Number of children	Percentage
Exist	43	48.3
Don't exist	46	51.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

That's why we understand answers of children relating to the existence of people, in their family or their school or their work environments from whom they are afraid. 48.3% of children exposed to sexual abuse the presence of people in their surroundings from whom they were dramatically afraid.

*Table 48 – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the identity of the person who raises its concerns*

<b>Identity of the person</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Father	7	7.9
Mother	1	1.1
Sibling	4	4.5
Relative or Neighbor	10	11.2
Friend	5	5.6
Other	16	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>48.3</b>

In an attempt to identify the person who raises all these concerns it appeared that 11.2% of children exposed to sexual abuse, are afraid of the neighbors and acquaintances, and 5.6% are afraid of comrades, and 18% of strangers compared to only 7.9%, who are afraid of their father.

This means that the child's fears may not necessarily be linked to the person who punishes him / her on his / her mistakes as a father or a teacher, but the person who makes him /her feel threatened, and possibly sexually threatened such as acquaintances and relatives, neighbors, friends and strangers.

**- The sample exposed to sexual abuse is distributed according to the participation in recreational activities with the family**

*Table 49 – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the participation in recreational activities with the family*

<b>Social activities</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Do activities	72	80.9
Don't do activities	17	19.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

It is noted that the percentage of those who do not do recreational activities with their families is modest in general (19.1%).

*Table 50 – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the reasons of the dropout of parents to do leisure activities \**

<b>Reasons of not doing activities</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Financial reasons	4.5
Continuous conflicts between parents	4.5
Volume of the family	1.1
Work schedule of parents and narrow available time	5.6
Belief of parents that there is no need to this	4.5
Ignores the reasons	1.1

\* The child has the right to give more than one answer

The reasons of not doing these activities are based on sporadic factors, including those related to the limited financial means or shortness of time of parents or marital problems.

A high percentage of children benefits from recreational activities provided by parents (80.9%) (Table 49).

Therefore, the parental behavior allowing their children to visit neighbors and relatives and acquaintances on their own. Also, to go picnics with them and sleeping with them is surprising parents are doing their own leisure activities with their children, reflects the blind confidence of parents in their acquaintances and neighbors and relatives, and their low level of awareness of the risks that may arise to their children in this environment, which they think is safe, and described this behavior as alarming the study in its referred earlier statistics.

## 7. Physical health, school impacts, and behavioral implications of child sexual abuse

### (A) Physical and genital symptoms in the sample of children exposed to sexual abuse

It is natural that the child complains after being objected to sexual abuse from a range of physical and genital symptoms.

In order to prevent confusing the child or embarrassing him because of the sensitivity of the subject and the shame it raises, we put one question in the questionnaire with a retrospective nature in order to recover as much as possible physical and genital symptoms, suffered by the child after being sexually abused.

The children's answers about this subject were gathered in three categories.

*Table 51 – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the physical and genital symptoms suffered*

Physical and genital symptoms	Last Year (%)	Prior To Last Year (%)
Bruises over the body	4.49	5.62
Physical Pain or Bleeding	4.49	5.62
Pain or Disease in Sexual Organs	6.74	5.62

In the sample exposed to sexual abuse suffered from these symptoms in very shy percentage, as indicated in table 51.

### (B) Academic performance and cognitive disorders in the sample of children exposed to sexual abuse

The study was concerned in determining school difficulties suffered by the child exposed to sexual abuse manifested in performance problems over the past year (2013) for the simple reason that the whole field study was conducted during the academic year 2014, and therefore, it is impossible for a child to anticipate difficulties for an academic year in progress.

*Table 52 – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the academic performance and cognitive disorders*

Mental and learning indicators	Total rates	Males (%)	Females (%)
Concentration and attention disorders	69.66	32.11	37.55
Absence from school	26.97	12.43	14.54
Distraction and cease of work	80	36.88	43.12
Difficulty in understanding the explanation of the teacher	18	8.30	9.70
Will to leave school	4	1.84	2.16

Table 52 shows that children who have been exposed to sexual abuse, have lot of academic problems.

However, the «cease of work, distraction» (80%) and «difficulty in understanding the instructions of the teacher and following explanation» (18%), and disorders of concentration and attention (69.6%), and absence from school (26.9%) are most significant and frequent school problems.

These problems reflect the mental effects of sexual abuse, as a result of the difficulty of this experience.

By comparing between females and males, we noted that these school problems, are higher for females than males.

37.5% of girls complained of problems in concentration and attention disorders, while this disorder is reduced in males to 32.1%. as for being distracted and ceasing work 43.1% females vs.

36.8% males suffered from it, which demonstrates the impact of psychological harm resulting from this experiment for a girl, and the nature of the thoughts dominating her mind permanently, preventing her from paying attention, and weakening her ability to focus on homework.

However, it is necessary to treat this issue carefully as these cognitive problems may result from a variety of other problems not related to sexual abuse. Therefore, we cannot confirm that the appearance of these symptoms is associated with exposure to sexual abuse.

### **(C) Health, psychological and physical problems of the sample exposed to sexual abuse**

For health, psychological and physical problems, we have chosen from global studies, referred to in few health psychological and the context of the study physical symptoms, on short or long term, of which children who have experienced sexual abuse complain from.

To avoid retrospective questions relying on memory, we requested from the child only to remind us of health problems suffered the last month (from the date of carrying out the questionnaire), regardless of the period during which he/she been the victim of sexual abuse.

The goal here was to try to investigate the health, psychological and near and far-reaching that result from sexual abuse.

The symptoms listed in the questionnaire were gathered in sections to facilitate its count and its analysis. These sections are:

- Eating disorder (eating excess, loss of appetite, indigestion, disgust of some foods, stomach aches, nausea and vomiting, special dietary habits ....).
- Repeated exposure to accidents (burns, wounds, and frequent falling, scares on the body ...).
- Disorders of weight (drop in weight, overweight ...).
- Burnout and fatigue problems (fatigue or permanent fatigue ...).
- Psychological – physical symptoms without clear reasons (physical pain, frequent headaches, skin problems, and problems without clear reasons in the mouth and throat, pharynx, nervous movements, involuntary urination ...).
- Disturbances in the metabolism (dizziness, fainting, breathing problems, heart rhythm disorder, chronic diarrhea or constipation,).

*Table 53 – Distribution of the sample according to health psychological and physical problems of the sample exposed to sexual abuse*

<b>Health, psychological and physical problems</b>	<b>Total rates</b>	<b>Males (%)</b>	<b>Females (%)</b>
Eating Disorders	38.20	17.61	20.59
Fatigue	21.35	9.84	11.51
Accidents	13.48	6.21	7.27
Psychosomatic Disorders	85	39.19	45.82
Metabolism Disorders	72	33.19	38.81
Weight Disorders	17	7.84	9.16

Table 53 shows health's psychological and physical problems suffered by the sample children, who have been exposed to sexual abuse, based on the rules referred above. We note that 85% of children exposed to sexual abuse show manifested psychological and physical problems. 72% of them complained of disturbances in the metabolism and 38.2% from eating disorder, symptoms of fatigue burnout 21.3%, and weight problems 17% and frequent exposure to accidents 13.4%.

A comparison between male and female, showed that females manifested higher rates than males, in all symptoms mentioned above, especially in relation to psychological – physical symptoms (45.8% females vs. 39.1% males) and in metabolism disorders of 38.8% for females vs. 33.1% for males.

As for other symptoms of the differences between the genders, it is close to a large extent.

Here, too, caution should be taken into account before making a definitive link between these symptoms and the sexual abuse because these symptoms may manifested by a variety of other reasons not related to the sexual abuse.

#### **(D) The abused child will abuse another child**

It is well known that the child exposed to sexual abuse may become a child sexual abuser.

The majority of prisoners who abuse sexually children were exposed to sexual abuse or neglect in their childhood (Ditaffo 0.1991).

*Table 54 – Distribution of the sample according to abused child will abuse other children*

<b>Abuse of another child</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Last Year	3.4
Prior to Last Year	1.1

The study statistics indicate that few children have declared their conversion last year to abusers i.e. they have abused other children (3.4%).

#### **(E) Indicators of behavioral problems and distribution on children exposed to sexual abuse**

Regarding behavioral indicators, we have chosen from some global studies, referred to in the context of the study, few of the behavioral indicators occurring frequently after exposure to sexual abuse, on the short or long term.

Here also the period of time for a child to answer questions related to these symptoms, was fixed one month (from the date of execution of the questionnaire), in order to avoid gaps in memory.



We have gathered behavioral symptoms in the questionnaire in sections to facilitate their calculation and analysis:

- Low self- estimation: the low sense of self-estimation, avoid a confrontation, depression, a sense of helplessness and inability to self-protection, a sense of guilt, feelings of inferiority ....
- The emergence of fears and phobias: fear or phobias of the dark, men or women, of marriage, of the future, anxiety and a sense of insecurity, fear of specific places or from certain people, sticking to people permanently ...
- Sleep Disorders: nightmares, sleep intermittently, early wake-up, repeated same dreams, difficulties associated with sleep, sleep walking, refuse to go to sleep or stay in the room alone, insist on lighting the room during sleep ....
- Escape from school or home.
- Execute actions and things of socially unacceptable: theft, sexual behavior towards an early comrades ...
- The emergence of compulsive behavior such as excessive hands washing, frequent bathing, the emergence of any obsessive preoccupation on thinking of sexual matters or ideas constantly recurring.....
- The tendency to isolation: social and relational difficulties, loneliness, weak confidence forwards others, escape from family gatherings, social isolation, lack of desire to play with brothers, not wanting to meet with comrades.
- Reduction or excess movement: drowsiness, dullness or agitation and a tendency to perpetual motion.
- Acquire new habits such as smoking and drinking alcohol and drug abuse.
- The tendency to violent behavior: aggressive towards people or animals and property, the tendency to constant quarreling and fighting with brothers and comrades, the tendency to hurt people.
- A sudden change in behavior and actions: crying or screaming suddenly for trivial reasons, suicidal ideation, sudden use of new sexual words or terms, tendency to lack of self-interest or personal hygiene.....

*Table 55 – Distribution of the sample according to indicators of behavioral problems and distribution amongst children exposed to sexual abuse*

<b>Indicators of behavioral problems</b>	<b>Total rates</b>	<b>Males (%)</b>	<b>Females (%)</b>
Loss of Self Esteem	95	43.80	51.21
Fear & Phobia	87	40.11	46.89
Lean to Violence	92	42.41	49.59
Compulsive sexual behavior	89	41.03	47.97
Loneliness	93	42.87	50.13
Hypo or Hyper Activity	93	42.87	50.13
Acquire new habits (smoking or drinking alcohols)	2	0.92	1.08
Sleeping Disorders	92	42.41	49.59
Obsessive disorders	76	35.04	40.96
Doing Taboos	63	29.04	33.96
Ditching home or School	45	20.75	24.26
Sudden Change in Attitude	95	43.80	51.21
Having Nightmares or repetitive dreams	91	41.95	49.05

The results of the study revealed a higher frequency of behavioral indicators referred to above in the sample exposed to sexual abuse.

These indicators have appeared in males and females at high rates, though its occurrence in females seemed much higher.

Indicators related to the weakness of self-estimation came first (95% of the total sample exposed to abuse).

The same applies to the sudden change in behavior and attitudes (95%) and a tendency to violent behavior (92%), as well as loneliness and isolation (93%) low or excessive movement (93%) sleep disorders (92%) phobia (87%) obsessions (76%), compulsive sexual behavior (89%) Escape from school or home (45%).....

As for the acquisition of new habits, like drinking alcohol and drug abuse same were very such as scare. As the case with previous indicators this indicator (alcohol and drug use) was higher in females than in males.

Here, too, caution should be accounted, before making definitive link between these symptoms and the sexual abuse, because these symptoms may appear for other reasons, not related to the sexual abuse.

## 8. Silence option or disclosure of the accident in the sample exposed to sexual abuse sample

*Table 56 – Distribution of the sample exposed according to the option of remaining silent or disclosure sexual abuse*

Disclosure of sexual abuse	Number of children	Percentage
Yes the child told someone	45	50.6
No the child did not tell anyone	44	49.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

About half of the children who have been exposed to sexual abuse, i.e. 49.4%, did not tell what happened to anyone i.e. half of the cases of sexual abuse are unknown.

### A. silence option and the reasons for rejection of the disclosure of sexual abuse

The questions we have tried to answer in this study are: Why was the victim keep silent and do not disclose exposure to sexual abuse?

*Table 57 – Distribution of the sample according to the reasons of disclosure of sexual abuse \**

Reasons of non disclosure	percentage
The child considers that what happened is not important	5.6
Due to threatens by the abuser to harm his / her parents	2.3
Fear of the child on the reputation of his / her family	4.5
Fear of the child not to be protected by anyone	6.8
Fear of the child that the abuse claims that the child wanted to do so	0
Fear of the child not to be believed	15.9
Fear of the child to be punished by his / her family	13.6
Feeling of embarrassment or shyness of the child	20.5
Owing to his wish to preserve the secret	22.7
Fear from sarcasm	11.4
Fear not to be believed by the school	2.3
Fear not to be believed by the employer	0
Due to fear of the abuser's threats	2.3
Other reasons (feeling guilty ...)	22.7
None of the above	9.1

\* The child has the right to give more than one answer

The study revealed that the most important reasons for non-disclosure by the victim of child sexual abuse is due to the feelings of embarrassment to speak about the subject (20.5%), and commitment to secrecy imposed by the abuser (22.7%).

Other reasons for the lack disclosure of sexual abuse varied between children's fear of not believing his / her story (15.9%), or fear of being punished because he/she did not defend himself/herself appropriately or he/she inventing stories (13.6%), and fear of being ridicule (11.4%) , in addition to various other reasons.

**(B) Disclosure option of sexual abuse and the identity of the person who has been informed**

*\* Table 58 – Distribution of the sample according to the identity of the person informed of the sexual abuse*

<b>Identity of the persons to whom the child resorted</b>	<b>percentage</b>
Mother	37.08
Father	8.99
Sibling	12.36
Grandfather	0.00
Grandmother	1.12
Relative	7.87
Neighbor	0.00
Friend	6.74
Police	0.00
NGO	1.12
Ministry (hotline)	0.00
Did not resort to anyone	14.61
Other	24.72

\* The child has the right to give more than one answer

Table 56 indicates that 50.6% of children who have been exposed to sexual abuse had disclosed and announced that they were victims of this bitter experience.

Mother remains the first resort for children exposed to sexual abuse (37%), while the other options are distributed among informing siblings (12.3%) or relatives (7.8%) or friends of the family (6.7%). Interestingly, the father does not occupy the first rank in terms of protection and assistance requested from him (only 8.9%).

**- Distribution of children who disclosed about sexual abuse and were believed and the procedure adopted by those who did not believing them**

*Table 59 – Distribution of the sample according to its belief that its story was believed*

<b>Believing the story of the child</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes believed what the child said	42	93.3
No they did not believe	3	6.6
<b>Total sample that disclosed</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100</b>

93.3% of children who disclosed exposure to sexual abuse believed that the person they told about what happened to them did not doubt their sincerity and only 6.6% told the children that they are making up things that did not actually occur.

*Table 60 – Distribution of children according to the measures it adopted when its story was not believed*

<b>Reaction of the child who was not believed</b>	<b>number of children</b>	<b>percentage</b>
Told another person he trusts	1	2.2
Decided not to tell anyone	2	4.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6.6</b>

The opinion of children about the action they did when they were not believed between two positions:

The first position was to inform someone else about what happened while the second position was to adopt a self-defense option and not to disclose this subject to others.

**- The reaction of people who have been informed of sexual abuse and receiving support from a competent institution and the quality of this support**

*Table 61 – Distribution of the sample according to the reaction of people who have been informed of the sexual abuse*

<b>Reaction of the person after hearing what happened with the child</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
heard quite good what the child said and did nothing	7.9
Faced the abuser with what was said by the child	15.7
Asked the child to keep silence and not to disclose the issue to anyone	2.2
Submitted affective assistance and support to the child	5.6
Told police about this incident	0
Other various reactions	19.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>50.6</b>

We note that 15.7% of those who have been told about the child sexual abuse faced the abuser with what had happened.

While we noted a negative behavior and fear in dealing with the situation such as listening to what the victim may say and do not do anything (7.9%).

Some of them (2.2%) requested the child to keep silent about what happened and not to tell anyone about the subject.

Others who knew about it resorted to others varied options.

For example, demand from the child to stay away from the abuser or mocked what he/she was saying or his/her fear or prevented him/her from going out alone from home or other options (19.1%), and strikingly none of those parents reported what had happened to the police.

*Table 62 – Distribution of the sample according to the percentage of children who have received support or assistance from a specialized Association*

<b>Support from specialized Association</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	2	4.5
No	43	96.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100</b>

The table shows that 96.5% of children who have disclosed their exposure to sexual abuse did not receive any support from any party or institution.

A small percentage of families (Table 61) faced the abuser (15.7%) but only 4.5% of the victims have received support from a competent institution (Table 62), most likely initiated by the parents or the child himself/herself (1.1% of the children had taken refuge at a civil association, Table 58) because no official report of the incident was reported to official authorities to have a role in this field.

*Table 63 – Distribution of the sample according to the opinion of the victims in the support's quality*

Quality of support	Number of children	Percentage
Yes	1	2.2
No	44	97.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100</b>

The opinion of children who have declared their exposure to sexual abuse, about the quality of the support they can get from an association fighting violence of children. Amongst those who actually received support from such kind of institutions (4.5%) (Table 62), one child declared that the same support was of quality (Table 63).

In an attempt to understand the opinion of the sample, who disclosed its exposure to sexual abuse (45 children), 97.8% of them said they do not believe in the quality of support provided by institutions involved in fighting against child sexual violence.

#### **- The information of the exposed sample about the fate of the abuser**

*Table 64 – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to its knowledge about the fate of the abuser*

Knowledge of the child about the fate of the abuser	Number of children	Percentage
Ignored what happened to the abuser	36	40.4
Nothing happened to the abuser	17	19.1
The abuser was imprisoned	4	4.5
The abuser was not questioned	30	33.7
Other	2	2.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

Regarding the fate of the abuser very few of those who have been exposed to sexual abuse said that the abuser is in prison (4.5%) (Possibly for other reasons, because the abuser was not reported).

A large group of victims asserts ignoring anything about the subject (40.4%) while 33.7% said that the abuser was not reported and therefore have not been questioned and 19.1% said that disclosing sexual abuse passed unnoticed and nothing happened after they announced they have been exposed to sexual abuse.

## **9. The level of awareness of the sample towards risk**

The awareness towards risks has important role in the protection of children from exposure to sexual abuse.

So it is useful to investigate the level of awareness of children who have been exposed to sexual abuse and children who have not yet experienced this ordeal to determine their behavior and easiness of luring them in everyday situations with some risks.

**- The level of awareness of the sample to dangers derived from the family**

*Table 65A – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the level of awareness of the risks arising from family*

<b>Reply of the child to the request of the abuser from the family to keep his / her caress secret</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Accepted the issue and kept it secret	3	3.4
Kept silent despite the fact that he / she disliked this	18	20.2
Got away from the abuser and told a person he / she trusts	68	76.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

*Table 65B – Distribution of the sample not exposed to sexual abuse according to the level of awareness of the risks arising from family*

<b>Reply of the child to the request of the abuser from the family to keep his / her caress secret</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Accepted the issue and kept it secret	29	1.4
Kept silent despite the fact that he / she disliked this	184	8.9
Got away from the abuser and told a person he / she trusts	1860	89.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>2073</b>	<b>100</b>

Although they have already been exposed to sexual abuse, the category of children of this group manifest shy or fear or are reluctant to prevent touching or kisses by people from within the family compared to those who were not exposed to sexual abuse.

The percentage of children who say «I accept not told anyone about what happened to me because I love him and I want to keep the secret» is 3.4% of sexually abused children, and 1.4% in the other category.

The percentage of those who say «I remain silent to be nice, even though I do not like these behaviors» is 20.2% for the group sexually abused and 8.9% in the one not abused (Table 65A and 65B).

**- The level of awareness of the sample of the dangers derived from the acquaintances and neighbors**

*Table 66A – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the level of awareness of the risks derived from the acquaintances and neighbors*

<b>Response of the child to the request of one neighbor to give him / her a ride</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Accepted immediately the offer as it emanates from a neighbor	18	20.2
Rejected the offer categorically as he / she did not take the parent's permission	64	71.9
Hesitated a while then accepted the offer	7	7.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

*Table 66B – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the level of awareness of the risks derived from the acquaintances and neighbors*

<b>Response of the child to the request of one neighbor to give him / her a ride</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Accept the Offer	386	18.6
Reject the Offer	1536	74.1
Hesitant But Accept	151	7.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2073</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 66A shows a tendency of children who have been sexually abused “to approved immediately the proposal of neighbor to drive them 20.2% for “instant approval” and 7.9% “for hesitant approval” versus 18.6% instant and 7.3% for hesitant approval in the other group (Table 66B).

In contrast, an excellent ratio of children in both groups refuse the offer submitted to it as it did not ask parents’ permission (74.1% of the non-exposed group compared to 71.9% of the sexually abused category).

**- The level of awareness of the child to affect him/her with gifts**

*Table 67A – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the easiness of attracting it with gifts*

<b>Response of the child on one of his / her acquaintances on caresses in exchange for a gift</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Accepted it because he / she loves it and did not tell anyone	3	3.4
Rejected it and got away from the person	80	89.9
Accepted the gift after hesitation but refused to do what he / she was asked to do	6	6.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

*Table 67B – Distribution of the sample not exposed to sexual abuse according to the easiness of attracting it with gifts*

<b>Response of the child on one of his / her acquaintances on caresses in exchange for a gift</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Accepted it because he / she loves it and did not tell anyone	10	0.5
Rejected it and got away from the person	1930	93.1
Accepted the gift after hesitation but refused to do what he / she was asked to do	133	6.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2073</b>	<b>100</b>

The children who have been exposed to sexual abuse are less aware and more responsive to exchange of gifts against caressing or touching by people they know such as a neighbor, relative or teacher or janitor compared to their peers in the other category.

We note that 3.4% accepted gifts and did what others who gave the gifts to do, and 6.7% accepted after hesitation the gift but rejected to do what they were asked to do (Table 67A).

Conversely we noted a higher level of awareness on this subject in the sample not exposed to sexual abuse, as a very small category accepted the gift (0.5% the sample not exposed versus 3.4% for the exposed sample) (Table 67B), while the percentage of those who accepted the gift and rejected to do what the abuser told them to do is 6.4% in the sample not exposed which constitute totally 6.9% (6.4% + 0.5%) (Table 67B) versus 10.1% of the sample exposed to sexual abuse to accept gifts (3.4% + 6.7%) (Table 67A). Accepting the gift is in itself a good start to lure a child and abuse him/her.

**- The level of awareness of the sample to dangers derived from strangers**

*Table 68A – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to the level of awareness of the risks derived from strangers*

<b>Response of the child to the proposal of a stranger to give him / her a ride</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Exited to the proposal and goes with him / her	1	1.1
Hesitates a little and then goes with him / her	2	2.2
Does not accompany a stranger he / she ignores	86	96.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

*Table 68B – Distribution of the sample not exposed to sexual abuse according to the level of awareness of the risks derived from strangers*

<b>Response of the child to the proposal of a stranger to give him / her a ride</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Exited to the proposal and goes with him / her	17	0.8
Hesitates a little and then goes with him / her	37	1.8
Does not accompany a stranger he / she ignores	2019	97.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2073</b>	<b>100</b>

The majority of the children, both those who have already been exposed to sexual abuse or not said they “do not accompany a stranger they do not know if he proposes to get them in his car”, i.e. 97.4% (Table 68B) for the not exposed ones and 96.6% for the group exposed to sexual abuse (Table 68A).

We noticed that children who have been exposed to sexual abuse are generally less aware than their peers who have never been exposed to abuse in many situations.

Also that most of the children are more aware and conscious of the necessity to act in critical situations when it comes to strangers, while they were more hesitant and confused when it comes to people close to them or they know very well, especially those who have been exposed to sexual abuse.

**- Information on the sample about child sexual abuse**

*Table 69A – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to their knowledge about child sexual abuse*

<b>level of information of the child on sexual abuse</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes has information	57	64
No does not have information	32	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>



*Table 69B – Distribution of the sample not exposed to sexual abuse according to their knowledge about child sexual abuse*

<b>level of information of the child on sexual abuse</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes has information	939	45.3
No does not have information	1134	54.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>2073</b>	<b>100</b>

Although they are children exposed to sexual abuse, however, 36% of them said that they have no information about child sexual abuse (Table 69A).

In contrast, this percentage is increased in children who have not experienced sexual abuse 45.3% (Table 69B), which threatens that both categories are exposed to significant risk.

**- The awareness of the child regarding the necessity to protect himself/herself**

*Table 70A – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to its awareness regarding the necessity to protect itself*

<b>Information of the child on how to protect him/herself</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes has information	69	77.5
No does not have information	20	22.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

*Table 70B – Distribution of the sample not exposed to sexual abuse according to its awareness of the necessity to protect itself*

<b>Information of the child on how to protect him/herself</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes has information	423	20.4
No does not have information	1650	79.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2073</b>	<b>100</b>

Strikingly the category that was exposed to sexual abuse still (22.5%) ignores how to protect itself (Table 70A). Perhaps the psychological – social characteristics in the personality of the victims referred to before in the context of the study may be a weak factor through which the abuser may sneak.

The children's category not exposed to sexual abuse ignoring how to protect itself, constitutes a significant percentage (20.4%) (Table 70B).

**- Child's knowledge of the existence of a law to protect him /her from violence**

*Table 71A – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according its knowledge about the existence of a law to protect children from violence*

<b>Knowledge of the child of the existence of a law to protect him / her from violence</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes knows	41	46.1
No ignores	48	53.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

*Table 71B – Distribution of the sample not exposed to sexual abuse according to its knowledge of the existence of a law to protect children from violence*

<b>Knowledge of the child of the existence of a law to protect him / her from violence</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes knows	1026	49.5
No ignores	1047	50.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>2073</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 71B shows that the percentage of children who know the existence of the law protecting them from violence is higher among children who had never been exposed to sexual abuse 50.5% compared to 46.1% for the ones exposed already to sexual abuse (Table 71A).

**- Child’s knowledge of the existence of associations to protect him/her from violence**

*Table 72A – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse according to its knowledge of the existence of associations for the protection of children*

<b>Knowledge of the child of the existence of associations to protect him / her</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes knows	28	31.5
No ignores	61	68.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

*Table 72B – Distribution of the sample not exposed to sexual abuse according to its knowledge of the existence of associations for the protection of children*

<b>Knowledge of the child of the existence of associations to protect him / her</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes knows	1233	59.5
No ignores	840	40.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>2073</b>	<b>100</b>

The group that was not exposed to sexual abuse appear to be more protected than those who were exposed as it had knowledge about the existence of associations and telephone numbers to contact and to inform about exposure to violence or abuse (40.5% versus 31.5% for the exposed ones) (Tables 72A and 72B).

Perhaps this issue refers to the question of the low level of awareness and insight of the children’s in general.

**- The position of the sample regarding reporting of violence**

*Table 73A – Distribution of the sample exposed to sexual abuse, according to its position regarding reporting of violence*

<b>report the violence</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes the child will report	48	53.9
No the child will not report	41	46.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100</b>

*Table 73B – The sample not exposed to sexual abuse according to its position regarding reporting of violence*

<b>report the violence</b>	<b>Number of children</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes the child will report	690	33.3
No the child will not report	1383	66.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>2073</b>	<b>100</b>

Interestingly, 46.1% of the category that suffered sexual abuse (Table 73A) and 33.3% of the non-exposed group said they will not contact these numbers, if exposed or their siblings or their comrades to violence (Table 73B).

**Third - Expressive findings of the study (based on the correlation coefficient between independent variables and the occurrence of child sexual abuse)**

The correlation coefficient is a correlation between two or more variables.

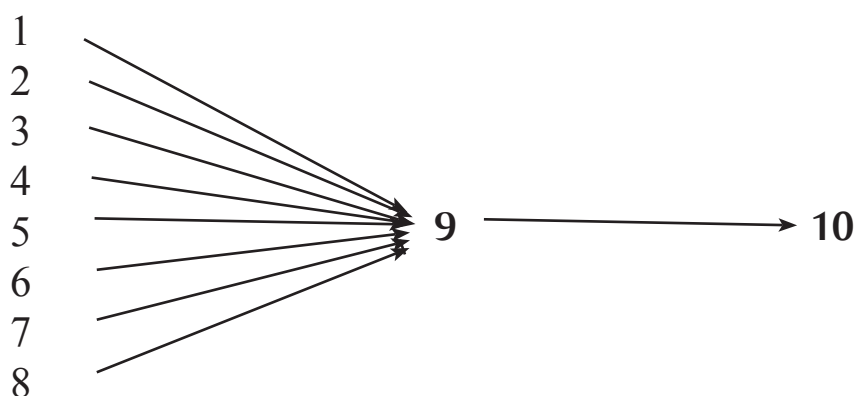
We find in the area of research important relations and non-expressive ones.

The important relations we reached in our study rely on a level of trust equivalent to 95% while the value of probability p-value less than 5% i.e. 0.05.

According to our hypotheses, there are 8 independent variables (Vulnerability of family, vocational and educational status of the family, the deterioration of the health status of one family member, the educational method adopted with the child or poor upbringing, the nature of family relationships, the adoption of physical violence with the child, the adoption of the moral, verbal and emotional violence with him /her, the level of awareness of the child towards risks).

All these independent variables, in some of their components, have a positive relationship to child sexual abuse. As a reminder, we listed below the factors we have taken into consideration at the start of the study, for they may facilitate the exposure of the child to sexual abuse:

1. Family situation
2. Vocational and educational status of the family
3. Health status of the family
4. Family activities and family relations
5. Educational method adopted with the child
6. Physical violence practiced on the child
7. Emotional violence (moral) practiced on a child
8. Level of awareness of the child in front of risk
9. Exposure to sexual abuse
10. Academic, psychological, physical and behavioral problems (consequences of sexual abuse)



This relationship was confirmed by the results of the data we've gathered, as the various factors that have been analyzed, in each independent variable showed a positive relationship of some of these components with the occurrence of child sexual abuse.

To simplify, only important correlations were mentioned i.e. expressive correlation (p-value) is the one included in the tables.

This means, as it appeared in the study, that every hypothesis contains a large group of components that we have believed to be impressive at the start of the study.

It has been found effectively that some of the components included in each hypothesis have a positive and clear impact on making the child more vulnerable and exposed to sexual abuse.

It was also shown that some components lie within each hypothesis did not establish it's statistical association with child sexual abuse therefore were dropped and not referred to in the tables of correlation coefficient

## **Forth - Potential new victims in the total sample**

Based on the correlation coefficient between the affecting variables and the exposure to child sexual abuse, the percentage of potential sexual abuse that will occur was deducted based on positively associated factors.

The model of non exposed children to sexual abuse was analyzed to investigate the percentage of children in this category, who have components or factors associated positively with abuse and who may become

possible victims, due to the availability of a strong correlation between their life and family circumstances and between their slide to become victims of sexual abuse.

Therefore we have to find ways to detect them and to ensure their protection in any society i.e. the goal here is to make proactive step to stave off the risk for them.

We note in our analysis of the ratios of statistical variables that the risk factors associated with a positive occurrence of child sexual abuse are about 18 components, we recall especially the factors or components which percentage constituted an important indicator, such as changing many schools (47.2%), the violent home environment and the way parents solve the problems either by exchanging screaming (35%) or insulting each other (4%) or beating each other (3%), severe punishment of the child leading to physical and psychological pain (32.7%). Especially if it comes from a family member (27.3%) or school member (13.9%), as well as the lack of a child's awareness of the risks he/she or siblings or friends of exposure to sexual abuse and his/her refusal to resort to specialized associations to ask for help or intervention (33.3%).

In addition to other less effective components such as Child labor (5%), illness or disability of a parent or siblings, the presence of one member of the child's family in prison (3.1%), alcohol and drug consumption and other components that can be referenced.



## IV- Discussing the Results

### 1. Prevalence of child sexual abuse in Lebanon

The study revealed that the prevalence of child sexual abuse in Lebanon for the year 2013 was 4.1% (Table 7), which is a somehow low percentage due to the sensitivity of the subject, the embarrassment, and the difficulty in breaking the silence in a society which considers that addressing sexual subject constitutes a violation of taboos, especially when it comes to minors.

We have insisted to comply faithfully to the standards of the study i.e. select the sample “randomly” with very precise specifications to insure wider representation.

Therefore we rejected lot of cases of sexual abuse we have encountered, or that has been encountered by chance in schools and associations, or which have been sent to us by teachers and departments of schools.

We have excluded all these cases because they fall within a sample having other specifications and are not based on the “random sample” standards, which was our study’s option.

The low percentage of sexual abuse we have obtained may be attributed to the exclusion from the sample institutions with a large number of victims of sexual violence.

Such as civil associations active exclusively in the field of protection of children from violence, and juvenile courts, and organizations working in the field of combating violence against children, i.e. .

We did not deliberately target institutions caring about children classified as victims of sexual violence.

### 2. Characteristics of the sample exposed to sexual abuse

The results indicated that the percentage of females in the sample exposed to sexual abuse was 53.9% and 46.1% males (Table 8).

The percentage of employed children exposed to sexual abuse was 18% (Table 12). It revealed that 19.1% of victims are not schooled (Table 9), although 60.7% have transferred many schools (Table 11).

The highest rates of sexual abuse was noticed in public schools (47.2%) (Table 10).

The distribution according to governorates showed 33% in the North and 22% in the south.

It reached its lowest levels in Nabatiyeh (7%) and in the Bekaa (9%) (Table 13).

The victims were in majority Lebanese (83.1%) only 9% Syrians and 5.6% Palestinians (Table 14).

As for the first sexual abuse and age group during which there was frequency of exposure of females and males to this bitter experience, ratios were very close between the genders and extended from 10 to 14 years (59.6%) (Table 15).

In the age group (10-14 years) 58.5% of first incident of sexual abuse on males (Table 15A) compared to 60.4% for females (Table 15B). Interestingly, 2.2% had been victims of sexual abuse before the age of 6 years (Table 15).

The study revealed the existence of first child sexual abuse was between 6-9 years (12.4%) (Table 15) at a percentage of 16.7% for females (Table 15B) and 7.3% for males (Table 15A). first sexual abuse was observed at very early age for males (4.9%) under 6 years (Table 15A).

We did not note any sexual abuse of females under the age of 6 years (Table 15B).

The age group between 10-14 years was a very critical and dangerous phase, which requires focus on protection measures against sexual abuse.

The study showed that the first child sexual abuse was done by someone from the family environment (49.4%) or school (12.4%) or work (2.2%) or from a stranger in a public place (36%) (Table 16). We tried to determine the identity of the abuser in the family's environment, we noticed that the first sexual abuse risks come either from people inside the house (4.5%) or from one of the workers in the child's home or its surroundings (maid, concierge, driver ...) (4.5%), or from friends of the parents (7.9%) or from neighbors (13.5%).

Interestingly, we noticed a high percentage of abusers from relatives (19.1%) (Table 16). This means that the abusers from the surrounding of the child are the most dangerous people.

Nearly half of the sample was first sexually abused by people in his/her surroundings (49.4%) (Table 16). Important differences emerged between males and females with respect to the identity of the first abuser and place of occurrence of this abuse.

The house and its surroundings monopolized 66.7% of the first sexual abuse incident on females (Table 16A), committed 31.3% by relatives and 10.4% by family friends and 6.3% by people from the house and 14.6% by neighbors while the school incidents were 8.3% of the first sexual abuse (Table 16A). We noted that these statistics contradicted the popular belief that the house and its surroundings is the safest place for female, and risks only come from outside, though the public place is also an unsafe place for females (25%) (Table 16A) with a low percentage compared to the family and its surroundings (66.7%).

The most dangerous places in the first sexual abuse of males are public places where risks come from strangers (48.8%), then from the family and its surroundings (29.3%) and from school (17.1%) (Table 16B). This is easily explained as the male is liberated gradually from the parent's grip in adolescence and goes out publically while the control over females remains tighter.

In child sexual abuse in general, we noted that the most dangerous age for adolescents ranges from 15 (15.7%) to 17 years (23.6%) (Table 17).

Here, too, the average age is about 14.3 years for males and females (Table 17A) and risks come generally from the surroundings of the family (28.1%), followed by public places (22.5%) and family home (13.5%) and then relative home (10.1%) and at school (10.1%) (Table 18).

If we try to distinguish between the most dangerous places to females and males we find that important differences stand out: Females are more vulnerable at home (22.9%) or in its surroundings (18.8%) or at relatives' places (16.7%) or in a public place (18.8%) (Table 18B).

Unlike females the surroundings occupied the first in the hierarchy of the most dangerous places for males (39%) followed by strangers in public places (26.8%) and school (12.2%) and only 2.4% at home (Table 18A). same way we explained the first sexual abuse.

Popular concepts in our society state that the protection of females from harm is by making her stay at home and within its surrounding.

As revealed by statistics females are at risk by a person who know them, i.e. "from the inside" (home and neighborhood, neighbors, relatives, acquaintances), in contrast to males where risks come from the surroundings (39%), and also from "outside" i.e. public places (26.8%).

Parents are more tolerated in our society with male children concerning social activities and allow them to expand their social relations sphere.



Therefore, often males are victims of sexual abuse from the surrounding, as well as from strangers from outside the family because they are more liberal than females in social activities. It is known that abuse deriving from the surrounding of the child is very painful because it comes from people he/she knows well, without doubting their intentions and to whom he/she are close constantly, always communicate with them and trust them, and who are received without hesitation by the family or send the child to visit them.

The study showed strikingly that 28.1% of children in the sample have experienced over the past year (from date of execution of the questionnaire) frequent sexual relations from 2 to 5 times, to more than 10 times (3.4% over the past year and 7.9% before last year) (Table 19).

According to a calculation approach depending on the division of the sample according to the number of times of exposure (Figure 3), we were able to distribute the sample according to the time of exposure and divide it into three categories: “new victims” (51.7%), i.e. children who were exposed only during the year 2013 to sexual abuse, and “former victims” (32.6%), i.e. those who experienced a previous sexual abuse in the past and then for some reason, this bitter experience stopped, and “permanent victims” (15.7%), i.e. children who have been exposed in the past to sexual abuse and still (Table 20).

It seems that the ability to repeat sexual abuse with the same person is familiar (38.2%), while the identity of the sexual abuser unchanged for 61.8% of the victims (Table 21).

As for the most common forms of sexual abuse in our study, we have adopted the Montes De Oca classification referred to in the context of the study, which as a reminder, includes three basic forms of sexual abuse.

The first form is a non physical contact with the victim and includes verbal, visual, and abuse via internet.

The second form includes physical contact with the victim, which we called it in our study “preliminary sexual abuse” because it paves the way to the full sexual act without doing it and includes all forms of touches and caresses and kisses and fumbling of all areas of the body and intimate parts.

The third form, referred to in the classification of Montes De Oca is the “sexual violence with penetration” which focuses on the full sexual intercourse (anal or vaginal) with the child.

This type has been included in our study under the name of “complete sexual act.”

The study showed that the most common and prevalent form of sexual abuse prevalent is the (verbal) one as 43% of the victims were forced to hear sexual words, whether face to face or over the phone or to hear jokes or stories bearing sexual connotations or conversations with sexual connotations (Table 22), followed by preliminary sexual abuse 30% in which victims were forced to kisses and intimate contacts which is one of the most dangerous types as it include all sexual practices without penetration, which means that the child tested at an early age most of the elements and details of the sexual relationship.

Children are often lured through verbal persuasion to imitate adults, and to learn new things, therefore become victim of intimate contacts (preliminary) or are drawn into visual sexual practices (30%) by looking obscene pictures, books and magazines and pornographic films (Table 22).

This means exposing him/her gradually to become more heavily involved in either preliminary or visual practices i.e. see parts of the body of the abuser in front of him/her or to force him/her to see pornographic pictures, movies and magazines.

Sexual abuse on the internet did not exceed in general 9% and full sexual act 1% (Table 22).

We have included unconventional sexual practices under the category “other” or “sexual abuse of another kind” (3%), which include luring a child to do a sexual relationship with the acquaintances of the abuser or to invite his/her friends to do so.

This category includes also giving the victim money and gifts in exchange for sex or asks him/her to do unfamiliar sexual behavior i.e. wearing certain clothes or jewelry as required by the abuser during sexual caresses...

### 3. The identity of the abuser his /her characteristics and style

Regarding the identity of the abuser and his/her characteristics and style, we endeavored in this study to try to identify the characteristics of child sexual abusers.

Who are they? What is their identity, nationality, gender, marital status, moral background?

In addition to trying to understand their way in preparing the child (convince him/her or threatening), and then their style at different stages to deal directly with the victim whether by singling him/her and before caressing him/her or during it or after sexually abusing him/her.

In an attempt to determine the characteristics of the abusers, we have noticed in relation to their gender that they are often males, and in all kinds of sexual abuse, most of them were Lebanese considering that most children included in the study are also Lebanese who likely interact with Lebanese adolescents and adults in social environments where they belong.

Also, most of the abusers are single, distributed in different percentage on adolescents (under 18 years) and adults.

Male abusers tend to use sexual verbal abuse (95%) and then sexual preliminary acts (93%), , then the visual abuse (89%) (Table 23). Sexual abuse via internet (75%) rely on suggesting to the victim that the abuser knows new practices making him/her more similar to adults, especially that the child in adolescence is eager to belong to this category.

As for female abusers, they prefer child sexual abuse via Internet (25%) and then drawing the child to view indecent pictures or movies (visual abuse) (11%), those acts may constitutes gateway to preliminary sexual relations (7%), which are satiated through caresses, kisses and touches over the body and private intimate areas (Table 23).

When comparing age groups of abusers we noticed that teenagers tend to visual sexual abuse (54%), adult sexual abusers prefer sexual abuse via internet (63%) and preliminary sexual abuse (48%) because they are largely similar to sexual acts<sup>4</sup>.

We must explain the reasons why adult abusers tend to preliminary or sexual abuse via internet (Table 23).

The preliminary or via internet sexual abuse constitute for abusers an Controlled adventure in a society considering sexual relations outside of marriage as prohibited acts on social level subjected to family, social and legal restrictions especially when it comes to minors.

Therefore adult abusers do preliminary or via internet sexual abuse as they are not easily detectable.

The study highlighted the existence of children abusers committing preliminary sexual (11%) or visual (12%) or verbal (8%) ones (Table 23), which confirms that the child who suffered sexual abuse may turn into a sexual abuse of other children (3.4%), as we pointed out in another place of the study (Table 54).

The study also highlighted that divorced and widowers tend to complete the sexual act or unconventional sexual abuse (67%) such as demanding from the child, for example, to wear certain clothes or to do a strange action required by the abuser (Table 23).

In an attempt to create an ethical background of the abusers personality we relied on three indicators i.e. consumption of drugs and alcohol in the presence of the child by the abuser and abuse of another child in his / her presence (or at least his/her knowledge).

We found that 11.2% of the abusers actually consumed alcohol and 6.7% used drugs in the presence of victims (Table 25), and that 28.1% of the abusers had sexually abused another child (Table 24). These statistics reflected the moral values of such abusers.

We said in the context of the study that luring a child and turning him / her into a victim usually passes through several stages.

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4. We did not take into consideration in the analysis the percentage of the full sexual act as its total rate for all group was insignificant 1% (table 22)

After the “preparation through caresses”, the direct relationship of the abuser with the child passes in three stages, the first is the way of dealing with the child after singling him /her and caressing him/her sexually followed by his / her style during sexual caresses and lastly his/her behavior after the completion of the sexual abuse.

The first condition to singling the child is going gradually by doing particular activity with the him/her or to drive him / her somewhere or provide services, and If not possible, by threatening.

The method of the abuser is a progressive process designed to implicate the child gradually, sometimes by persuasion or by intimidation.

Therefore, we have noticed in relation to the methods of persuasion or threat to which the abuser resort, that the most commonly used one by the abuser is the claim that the child is special (12.3%) or that he / she will teach him /her new things that the child ignores (16.8%), though abusers do not mind to molest the child without any action or preliminary acts especially in case of repeated acts of abuse (20.2%) (Table 26).

And this is a clear reference to the impulsive behavior that characterizes child’s sexual abuser.

If this does not work, hitting the victim remains a possible option (12.3%) (Table 26). These methods were referred in global studies on the abuser’s plans to persuade victims, by luring a child or suggest that he/ she is distinguished and then induce that he / she will teach the child things the latter does not know.

This difference highlights the critical details to be used in protection programs of child sexual abuse, i.e. awareness programs should focus on alerting children not to fall into the trap of those who lure them that they are special or who urge them to imitate adults and who suggest to them the need to sit with them or accompany them to teach them modern electronic technologies.

Same applies on the preliminary style of the abuser, as we do not note a unified style that abusers follow once the child is in their trap.

What is common is the expression of interest towards the victim (33.7%), or directly starting the sexual flirting (15.7%) (Table27).

This is emphasis on the impulsive behavior of abusers, which this is referred in most of international studies.

Sexual abuser does not care much about interactive relationship with the victims and do not care about their feelings (though sometimes he / she claims otherwise) as he / she see them as sexual objects for sexual pleasures and desires (Chevrant et al. 1994).

Same applies on the abuser style in sexual caresses of the victim.

Here also we do not note a unified style. However, as highlighted by the study there is a tendency to verbal fondling and declaring attention to the victim (21.3%), but the overwhelming behavior remains a direct start of intimate caresses without introductions (23.6%), and this also confirms the impulsive behavior of the abuser (Table 28).

Same is noted immediately after the completion of the sexual caresses as there is no unified style.

Some abusers tend to leave the place immediately (13.4%) and not to speak with the victim or have any interest towards him/her before leaving (10.1%) (Table 29), this is an additional emphasis on the impulsive behavior of the abuser and its inability to express his / her feelings and tendency to establish a proprietary relationship with the child. This is indicated also in international studies when stating that impulsive behavior characterizing abusers cannot be stopped, and needs immediately to be discharged.

So the abuser does not feel the need to verbally express his / her feelings and to prepare the child for the preliminary stage that precedes a sexual act, nor to deal with the child as a partner.

The few words said or the virtual interest shown by the abuser towards the child in any stage as mentioned is only for the lure of the child and to absorb his / her resistance.

The victim is an object without feelings for the abuser. So he / she does not expect mutual interaction with the child.

This means that most of the child sexual abusers do not care to interact with the victims do not care about their feelings (though sometimes claims reversely) because they look to the child as a sex object to achieve their needs and desires.

We tried to identify abusers in terms of age groups, gender, nationality, social status and means adopted to capture children.

The study showed that it is very difficult to monitor them because they are females and males (albeit at different rates), from various segments of society, and from different age categories.

Their apparent behavior is normal and they do never suggest risks, at the contrary, they are nice in dealing with children and do not raise any suspicion around them.

Some of them expressed him / herself by showing the child pornography images and magazines some exhibited his / her body and genital parts in front of children. And some of them molested physically minors and did with them intimate sexual practices as we have mentioned in the context of the study's results.

It is interesting to highlight what was shown by the study about the age group from 10 to 14 years during which most of the "first" sexual abuse acts occurred (Tables 15, 15A and 15B).

The abuser lured children and gradually becoming closer to them, resorting sometimes to the means of persuasion based on smooth attracting fondling, and the need to imitate adults and learn what they do, especially regarding modern techniques and other practices of an adult.

We were able to draw some of the methods used by abusers to capture these children. This helps in planning protection strategies.

Awareness programs must be purposeful and focused on the methods used by the abusers, and points to the vulnerability of children, according to gender, age groups and circumstances, as the abuser exploits weaknesses to better hunt children and turn them into victims.

The target is then to raise awareness so that the child does not fall into the trap of such abusers, and test the methods they use, but quite the contrary, learn these "ambiguous" methods employed by the abuser and receive training to protect him /herself from falling in it.

#### **4. Family alarming situations**

As for family alarming situations, one question was raised: are there family factors constituting a valid ground for child sexual abuse?

we cannot claim that there are family situations constituting a source of constant sexual threat to the child. However, some parental features, if available, and family situations in combination with the existence of some psychological traits of Children vulnerability, may constitute a source of serious danger to the child and make him / her easy prey of sick persons.

We pointed out these situations in the context. As a reminder, they include the dysfunctioning of the family, presence in a recomposed family, marital spats, violence at home, moral deteriorating in the family, whether because of parental addiction or criminal background, unemployment, low level of awareness of parents regarding risks, and other factors referred to in the study .

Indeed, the field study showed the presence of some family alarming situations. Table 30 indicates that 56.2% of mothers and 49.4% of fathers who have been subjected to sexual abuse are illiterate or did not exceed primary education (14.6% for each of the parents), while we note that only 1.1% of mothers and 3.4% of fathers have completed secondary education (Table 30).

In line with our expectations, the study showed an increase in unemployment rates among fathers of abused children (36%) (Table 31).

These results suggest at first glance a stratified and discriminatory nature of the study, since children who underwent sexual violence belong to the poorest social classes, and sexual violence on children grows up in these strata, and mostly in families less fortunate in getting a job or a good level of education.

This conclusion is incorrect and needs rectification.

Sexual violence on children is not limited to one social class or a specific economic level, as it appears in poor and rich families, and is not affected by the educational level of parents or unemployment, but is influenced by a wide range of factors that appear at all social classes, even when parents occupy a high standards position as the study showed. The risk of exposure to sexual abuse of children increases, for example, in homes experiencing violent marital hassles, independently from the economic level of those people, as well as in homes in which the child is a victim of physical and moral violence, or experiencing a deteriorating moral environment, or which is characterized by low level of awareness of the risks and threats of children.

It may also increase in broken families experiencing separation of parents, and if the child lives afterwards in a recomposed family with the stepmother or stepfather.

All of these factors cannot be classified or limited to specific social strata and that does not mean that all children who are exposed to these factors will become victims of sexual violence.

Based on the above, we have not analyzed the results of the economic index of the family, and studied the number of family members in relation to the size of the house, but we preferred to highlight the combination of a variety of other family factors that we have mentioned above appearing in all social strata, which constitute in their dynamic interaction a potential danger coefficient to the child living within these atmosphere. Interestingly. For example, we noticed an emergence of sexual abuse in families where the father works . In the public sector (52.8%) and where mothers occupied significant administrative positions (76.4%) (Table 31), as maybe in this case due to her long absence from her home, without alternative to provides the required control, she is unable to monitor sexual tricks. It is obvious that the marital problems impact the prevalence of domestic violence .

We have tried in our study to determine the impact of such environment, and noticed that the sample of abused children lived in an atmosphere of family tensions.

This confirms the raise of the violence environment and marital squabbles between parents, and the reflection of this atmosphere on the methods of dealing with children. Although 30.3% of the parents speak quietly about their problems, 47.2% of them shouting loudly at each other, and often their voices are heard by their children, 15.7% of them resort to mutual insults, and 12.4% mutual beating (Table 35).

What really complicates some family's atmosphere is the existence of a criminal background as shown in 9% Sexually abused children (Table 33).

We have also monitored the use of siblings (3.4%) or mother (1%) or father (2.2%) or the child him/herself (2.2%) of alcohol or drugs (Table 34).

We observed in these families that 25% of fathers or 21% of mothers or 18% of their siblings suffer from disability or chronic illness (Table 32).

The study showed an important indicator of a positive relationship between children and their father or stepfather (64%) and their mother or stepmother (85.4%). Only 7.9% stated the existence of a bad relationship with their mother or their stepmother, and 11.2% with their father or stepmother (Table 36B).

We also showed that 82% of victims are living with their biological parents (Table 36A). On the other hand what is interesting, despite the child's claim about this good positive emotional relationship with his / her parents, and assertion that the relationship with the father is solid, is that we saw a significant decline of the actual and symbolic role of the father in this sample, since the child, also as shown in the study statistics, does not resort to his / her father except in limited cases to help him / her in solving problems (2.2%) or even to ask about some intimate things.

While the mother, despite her educational level, constitutes an important emotional reference to the child (44.9%) (Table 42).

What is striking is that the child has publicly stated (53.9%) that he / she will not adopt the same educational method as his / her father (Table 45).

Similarly, despite that children claimed that their parents discuss with them constantly (80.9%) (Table 44A) and their teachers adopt with them meaningful and quiet style (73%) (Table 44B), some children said that their parents and teachers punish them with beatings or other various ways (Tables 44A, 44B).

Therefore, the study reflected a clear absence of the authoritarian role of the father in the family.

Child required his protection in shy percentage (2.2%), making him / her more vulnerable (Table 42).

This authoritarian role does not mean, as some believe, to yell on the child and insult him / her, but it is intended to be a reference to the child to support and protect and advise him / her when needed.

We did not notice remarkable things concerning the social activity of the family.

We did not notice a high level of social isolation for children who have been sexually aggressed.

Families of victims are not asocial, in contrast with international studies that focused on the existence of this phenomenon in families of sexually abused children.

Only 6.7% of these families live alone and refrain from receiving friends and acquaintances and relatives (Table 37); what is surprising is the high percentage of relatives who sleep in the child's home "sometimes" (56.2%) "and always (6.7%), i.e. 62.9% (Table 38A).

If we examine the dynamic relationship between these high percentage of relatives who sleep in the child's home and the number of children who are exposed to sexual abuse in their homes, we will understand that parents should take very much care in relation to this subject.

19.1 % cases of the first child sexual abuse derive from relatives (Table 16), especially on females (31.3%) (Table 16A) compared with males (4.9%) (Table 16B).

If we count the percentage of sexual abuse on children in their homes, we find that 13.5% of these are in the child's home (Table 18), especially for females (22.9%) (Table 18B) compared with males (2.4%) (Table 18A).

But what is really striking in the results of the study is the very low level of awareness among parents with regard to their blind trust in their direct surroundings such as neighbors, friends and acquaintances, and the transfer of this overconfidence to their children by allowing them to sleep at their neighbors and relatives "always" (7.9%), or "sometimes" (42.7%) i.e. 50.6% of the cases (Table 46), even though the parents are doing recreational activities for their children (80.9%) (Table 49).

Their behavior is surprising in terms of absence of control over their children when they are with the acquaintances, neighbors and relatives.

This makes the child in daily contact with those closest in absence of full monitoring from parents (Table 46).

It also applies to the subject of allowing their children to go for a walk "on their own" with relatives and neighbors "always" (14.6%) or "sometimes" (47.2%), i.e. 61.8% from those exposed to sexual abuse (Table 46).

Same applies on allowing the child to visit neighbors alone "always" or "sometimes" 67.4% (respectively 32.6% and 34.8%) and on visits to relatives and friends of the family alone (67.4%) (Respectively 30.3% and 37.1%) (Table 46).

This raises many concerns, and confirms that there is insufficient awareness of parents regarding the risks waiting for their children arising from well-known people.

There is also a surprising lack of insight in the group exposed to abuse, as parents should be more careful and cautious and prevent their child's from retesting this traumatic experience, especially when it comes to the family's environment.

The study showed that the highest percentage of child sexual abuse comes from the family and its environs (tables 16,16A, 18, 18A, 18B), and this reflects the parents' blind trust in this environment and the low percentage of their awareness of the risks on their children from an environment they think is safe.

## 5. Prevailing culture of silence

When the child is lured and become a victim of sexual abuse, it is surprising to have a high percentage of children who kept silent (49.4%), and did not tell anyone on what had happened (Table 56).

The most shocking was the family's attitude on this subject, because we did not find in the study's sample any family that have reported to concerned authorities what happened (Table 61). So we have tried in this study to respond to the following questions: does a child disclose sexual abuse? To whom? Does he keep silence? Why don't he / she disclose exposure to sexual violence? Is silence due to feeling of shame, to embarrassment or to the belief that what is happened to with him is common to all others? Or to his / her inability to describe what is going on? Or fear on the unity and cohesion of his / her family? Or sometimes fear of losing the distinctive relationship with the abuser, or fear of threats of punishment caused by the abuser and parents together? Or fear of scandal? Or fear of the community's reaction or fear of parents not believing him / her?

Around half of the children who have been subjected to sexual abuse i.e. 49.4% did not tell anyone about what happened with them (Table 56).

This is not surprising in light of the prevailing concepts in our society which "scourges" the victim rather than punishing the abuser. Often the child fears the reaction of parents and is afraid to tell them.

We noticed that family instead of cherishing what the child told it about the violence he / she suffered, it criticizes and blames him / her that he / she quickly surrendered or that he / she did not resist adequately or belied him / her and sometimes punishes him / her or blames him / her that he / she undermined the cohesion of the family and its reputation and that he/she lured the abuser.

The slogan of "blaming the victim" is still widespread, especially for female victims after exposure to sexual abuse, and the fear from the social scandal, as in case they are exposed to sexual abuse this dishonors the entire family, and wastes the reputation of the victim and her chances in life sometimes, and the loss of the right of her sisters to have a promising and successful marriage.

Females are victims twice, first when exposed to sexual abuse, and second due to social punishment in a society believing that a male can protect himself and protect his sisters in these situations.

The study refuted this, as it showed that male are exposed to sexual abuse as females (Table 8), and that the social attitude that values the "bravery" of males is also a reason for the males to cover their exposure to sexual abuse in order to preserve this social "masculine image."

The choice to reveal sexual abuse and not to succumb to the threats of the abuser or to the pressures of parents or masculine social concepts forms an important juncture .

This option deprives the abuser from continuing to exploit the victim and going too far, and frees the child at least partially, from this bitter suffering and from bearing silently the painful feelings that may result from this experience.

In all cases, when the child remains silent this is a serious indicator as it reveals that the child is suffering silently suggesting his / her difficulty to overpass alone this traumatic incident without getting the support and assistance of the family and specialists in rehabilitation.

This makes the sexual abuser multiply his / her abuses as we have seen (38.2%) (Table 21).

The culture of silence is the abuser goal, and children were raised on adopting it. Various kinds of fear are the main reason driving the victim to remain silent and not revealing the abuse (Table 57), in addition to the desire to save the secret (22.7%) and feeling of embarrassment (20.5%).

Also, the fear of not being believed (15.9%) drives the child to endure the suffering and to keep the violation confidential (Table 57).

Mother remains as we have said previously the main shelter for children when they are sexually abused.

The preferred option for all the groups was to notify the mother and seek her protection (37%) (Table 58).

This choice is followed by siblings (12.3%) or relatives (7.8%) or family's friends (6.7%). The percentage of resort to father was not remarkable (8.9%) (Table 58).

How did the persons react when the child told them that he / she was sexually violated? What did they do? How did they face the traumatic event?

We have noted that the reactions of people who were told ranged from facing the abuser (15.7%) to listening passively to the details of the incident without any action (7.9%) or only provide emotional support for the child (5.6%).

Instead of reporting to the competent authorities, which is a completely absent option, we have seen that those who knew about it told their child to remain silent about what happened and not to tell anyone about the subject (2.2%).

Some have resorted to a variety of other options (19.1%) as demanding to the child to stay away from the abuser, for example, or made fun of what has been told to them (Table 61).

Moral support (for victims who divulged) from specialized institutions was delivered in low percentage (4.5%) (Table 62).

This modest support received came probably at the request of parents, or because some of the children told one of the associations (1.1%) (Table 58).

In any case, the sample which disclosed its exposure to sexual abuse expressed that it does not believe in the quality of support provided by the associations (97.8%) (Table 63).

The worst is the fate of the aggressor: a small group of abusers was imprisoned (4.5%) (Perhaps for other reasons, because the abuse was not reported by parents) (Table 64), and another group was not even Interrogated (33.7%). Perhaps because they were not reported, while no further discussion was made with the child about the abuser as he / she ignores what happened to him / her (40.4%) and 19.1% considered that nothing did happened to the abuser.

The culture of opacity or ignorance or silence is prevalent in general. Take the necessary legal measure and report sexual molestation of children is still covered with lot of confusion and undergoes multiple considerations beyond the incentives to do an effective measure.

Perhaps the lack of awareness of the psychological effects left by this incident of child sexual abuse, of various types, is one of the most important impediments to take certain actions by guardians or the ones responsible for the child.

This is supposed to be addressed actively in protection programs and strategies against Child sexual abuse.

Parents do not report either out of fear of shame or due to lack of confidence in legal references, and they do not realize the seriousness of the lack of notification.

And also not to discuss the matter with their child, and the importance of mitigating these feelings for him / her as the child is a victim and not a partner of the abuser, with the need to transfer him / her to a qualified institution to help him / her medically and psychologically, and perhaps also obtain a rehabilitation assistance for the entire family.

Silence is more dangerous than violence.

Therefore one of the most important control strategies is to teach the child to break the silence barrier and dared not to obey to keep discreetly any suspicious No matter that may be confusing or shameful or disgraceful.

## **6. Children that are the most vulnerable and at risk for sexual abuse**

What was revealed in the study concerning the most vulnerable and most at risk to sexual abuse children, is that the risks of exposure to sexual abuse rises for children who complain of a variety of factors.

And therefore the presence of some of these factors in their environment or conditions or communication components with other, is considered as facilitating factors for exposure to sexual abuse.

Studies on the effect of these factors were contradicting. Some considered these factors as ineffective adequacy; others classified them as facilitator elements for the child to become victim of sexual violence.

In order to respect the scientific credibility, and based on our commitment not to adopt prior provisions about the impact of these factors, we studied each of them to demonstrate its effectiveness.



In any case a one factor cannot be decisive in its effect, but the combination of these factors and their dynamic interaction lead to easily luring a child to situations which may constitute a real risk to him / her.

As a reminder, the most important of these factors is the child exposure to physical or mental violence (emotional or verbal), suffering from a disability or chronic illness, school dropout or changing a lot of schools, non schooling, child labor, his feeling of loneliness and isolation, spending most of his / her spare time outside home, a bad emotional relationship with his / her family, not resorting to them to help in solving problems, living in a recomposed family and the low level of consciousness of the risks surrounding him / her, whether derived from strangers or from family or from acquaintances and direct surroundings.

Most of these factors were studied. The sample exposed to sexual abuse contained a percentage of children who complain themselves from a chronic illness or disability (10%) (Table 32).

We have referred in a different paragraph of the study that the percentage of non schooled children in this sample was 19.1% (Table 9) and 60.7% had change a large number of schools (Table 11), and 18% are employed (Table 12).

The study clearly highlighted the prevalence of physical and moral violence in dealing with children.

We found indeed that a high percentage of those who have been exposed to sexual abuse also lived in an environment of physical violence (58.4%) (Table 39A) and moral violence 70.4% (Table 40A).

The study revealed that the place where these vulnerable children were sexually abused or exposed to physical violence was in their family (55.1%) or their school (24.7%) or their work (1.1%) (Table 39B).

This means that the family remains the main place where physical abuse of child occurs. Same applies for the place where moral, emotional or verbal violence is applied. Moral violence of the child came from his / her family (19.5%) or school (31%), while the work location recorded a percentage of 21% (Table 40B).

Interestingly, we notice a high exposure of the child to moral violence in his / her work location compared to the low percentage of exposure to physical violence in this same place (21% for moral violence (Table 40B) versus 1.1% for physical violence (Table 39B)).

We have summarized in the results the high percentage of children exposed to sexual abuse and those who had this painful experience accompanied with exposure to physical and moral violence, whether at their home or school or work (Tables 41 A and B).

These statistics relating to the rise in the pace of sexually exposed child to physical and moral violence both in family or school or work, are in line with what indicated by most international studies showing the narrow connection between being a victim of sexual abuse and the exposure to physical or mental violence or both.

This is not surprising as the culture of violence in child-rearing is still prevalent and constitutes a “valuable” educational base for a large category of parents, teachers and employers.

Associations involved in combating violence on children are still struggling on a permanent basis to modify the traditional educational concepts and to push towards modern methods based on the principles of the rights of the child For a balanced mental health and upbringing.

While summarizing the international studies about the existence of a group of children who are more vulnerable than others, more inclined to become victim of sexual abuse. It is essential to be cautious not to adopt shallowly these findings, as if the child is the one who induce the sexual abuser and attracts and deceives him / her due to his / her difficult circumstances.

This shallow link is not acceptable because it frees the abuser from the responsibility, and transforms the child into a self torturer.

If a child attracts sexual violence to him/ herself, the equation will turn upside-down, and the abuser will be transformed into a victim while the child will become the torturer who attracts those abusers due to his / her conditions.

Our duty is to take this matter into consideration and not adopting previous provisions by doing an in-depth study of all these factors. It must be taking into account that the presence of these conditions in the child's environment or in his / her personality components makes him / her more inclined to accept the sympathy of

others, and their interest towards him / her, making it easier to attract him / her due to his / her need for affection and attention.

This does not transform the abuser in to a victim seduced by the child, quite the contrary, it turns the child into a double victim of the unsuitable conditions and the abuser who took advantage of these conditions to capture the child “and lure him / her”.

## **7. Consequences of exposure of the child to sexual abuse**

The study showed that 3.4% of children, who have been exposed to sexual abuse, became in turn, molesters of other children (Table 54).

This transformation is mentioned in the majority of international studies.

The health and school effects and behavioral indicators resulting from exposure of the child to sexual abuse (tables 52.53,. 55), have been presented in the study with reservation because these indicators are affected by several factors, including the identity of the abuser, the duration of the abuse, the frequency of abuse, disclosure or remaining silent about the violation and the level of violence that accompanied the sexual abuse. Therefore, it is necessary be cautious in dealing with these symptoms and understand their significance as they may also result from circumstances unrelated to sexual abuse, since any of these symptoms may appear for quite different other reasons.

It also important to point out that long-term psychological effects of sexual abuse need a long period of follow up of the children, and performing some psychological tests that will confirm the statistical results.

But due to the impossibility of following up Sexually abused children for a long period of time, and the difficulty of obtaining appropriate psychological tests, we preferred to keep some reservation in terms of disseminating the results related to psychological aspects, and the interpretation of the causes of cognitive psychological – physical and behavioral symptoms.

## **8. The level of the child awareness in front of risks**

One of the main goals of the study was to try to understand the reasons behind the culture of silence covering the phenomenon of child sexual abuse and push towards revealing the secret raised by the abuser and adopted by the child.

Also, and, to observe children who enjoy a high level of immunity and who know how to defend themselves and to whom they speak and contact.

And to specially monitor the group of children who does not enjoy a high level of awareness as protection strategies should focus on it since their age or behavior or family circumstances make them more likely to be lured into a sexual adventure which will be destructive for their psychological balance.

The awareness of the child regarding risks has an important role in his/her protection sexual abuse. There is no doubt that parents and school are the main provider of such awareness.

We have seen that parents in general do not enjoy a high level of awareness, as they allow their children to do many activities with the acquaintances and neighbors without supervision.

Therefore it is useful also to observe the level of awareness of children who have been sexually abused as well as children who have not yet experienced this to determine their knowledge about their rights, and to assess their choices whether to reveal or to remain silent about sexual abuse and to find out their behavior towards the styles used by the abuser to lure them.

If we try to constitute a global image of the level of awareness among children through the study’s results, we note that those who have been sexually abused are less aware than children who had never been exposed (Tables 65A and 65B), when it comes to the risks derived from the family.

Which is scary is that the group suffered from abuse did not learn the lesson well, as 23.6% of this group (20.2% and 3.4%) (Table 65A) is still accepting offers submitted by family for one reason or another.

If we compare the results of this group with non exposed one (10.3%) (i.e. 1.4% and 8.9%) (Table 65B), we see that the Non exposed group isn't entirely protected by appropriate preventive guidance to avoid dangerous situations and to defend itself, but is more alert than the first group.

Same applies on the group exposed to abuse since 23.6% (Table 65A) suffered from the bitterness of this experience and is supposed to be more careful and cautious.

These attitudes should not be faced with careless otherwise exploitation and harm will get worse.

In dealing with strangers, we did not notice significant differences between the exposed and not exposed groups to sexual abuse.

They both act with great caution and remarkable discretion.

The group exposed does not accompany strangers with a percentage of 96.6% (Table 68A) versus 97.4% for the non exposed one (Table 68B), which confirms that both groups are protected well against strangers and that they deal cautiously with them.

In contrast, the group that has been previously exposed to sexual abuse behaved with much confusion and hesitation when it comes to persons from its acquaintances, relatives and friends, and is still doing adventures with uncertain results, with a behavior not reflecting adequate caution and care. 28.1% (20.2% + 7.9%) of the group exposed to abuse accept "immediately" (20.2%) or on "Deferred" basis (7.9%) (Table 66A) the offer of the neighbor to drive it versus 25.9% for the not exposed group (18.6 % "immediate" approval and 7.3% "deferred" one) (Table 66B), suggesting that a broad category of these two groups lack insight and awareness of the consequences of things, especially the category that had been previously exposed, as it is supposed to be more cautious, careful and aware of risks.

Interestingly, both responded quickly to offers of gifts given to them.

The group which experienced sexual abuse was more responsive to gifts in exchange for caresses and intimate touches from people they know well such as a neighbor, relative, teacher or janitor (Table 67A). 10.1% accepted the gift, either "immediately" (3.4%) or after "hesitation" (6.7%).

This is inconvenient because once the child accepts the gift he / she will become victim of ascending luring from the part of the abuser. It is natural that risks also apply to the group not exposed to sexual abuse who accepts gifts, either "immediately" (0.5%) or after "hesitation" (6.4%), which means that 6.9% of them are "potential" victims easy to be lured (Table 67B) .

Going back to tables 65 (A, B), we note that the acceptance of the child exposed to sexual abuse, for invitations is striking when these come from family (23.6%) (Table 65A) (Compared with the sample not exposed to abuse) (10.3%) (Table 65B), which means that a child generally trusts his / her family blindly.

And, the child accept caresses and touches from its members, and keeps this matter confidential for several reasons, most notably since he / she never doubts the bad intentions of any family member, despite the fact of what this "close" person is doing does not make the child feel comfortable, and despite the fact that he / she had experienced sexual abuse.

It is noticeable in terms of the level of awareness that almost half of the non exposed sample stated that it does not have any information on the subject of child sexual abuse (45.3%) (Table 69B), compared to 36% for the one exposed (Table 69A) which implies significant risks that may encounter these two groups.

This is also surprising. How can 36% of the group exposed to sexual abuse lack information about the subject?

Regarding the awareness concerning self-protection, the situation does not seem more optimistic, as 20.4% of the non exposed group (Table 70B) and 22.5% of the exposed one (Table 70A) stated that they do not know how to protect themselves.

Same applies on the knowledge of both groups concerning about the existence of a law to protect children from violence.

A high percentage of exposed group (53.9%) (Table 71A) and of the non exposed one (49.5%) (Table 71B) ignores the existence of this law, which means that about half of each sample from both groups lack information on deterrent legal measures of sexual violence on children.

The dangerous thing is also that 59.5% of non exposed children (Table 72B) and 68.5% of the exposed ones (Table 72A) ignore that there are associations and hotlines to inform them on violation.

This high percentage of children in both groups together is disturbing because “effective “and “potential” victims (i.e. those prone to sexual violence), do not know anything about the reporting mechanism.

More seriously, the study pointed out clearly that a large percentage of children from both groups refused to report as a percentage of 33.3% in the non exposed group ( Table 73B) and 46.1% in the exposed one (Table 73A) stated that they will not call hotlines or concerned associations

All these information refer to the deterioration of the level of awareness, insight and alertness in children in general, and especially for the group already exposed to sexual abuse, which is supposed to be more careful in order to protect itself from any potential risk or that these information indicate a mistrust in official authorities and Consequently and in order to avoid scandal by not reporting.

Nothing will be provided to the victim. This means that awareness programs must focus not only on providing children with knowledge about risks arising from their surroundings and about their rights to protect their bodies from the “close” and “Strange people”, but also to provide them with knowledge about existing safety networks in the community, and on the effectiveness of these measures to protect them. It is very important that protection programs aim to strengthen children’s personality through self-confidence and courage to confront and learn how to interpret suspicious behaviors of individuals and to encourage them to report and breaking the prevailing culture of silence.

## **Expressive results and potential new victims**

The indicators to which we have referred in the context of the study and in international studies as constituting situations making the family more fragile and the children more vulnerable to the risk of sexual abuse, we note, after examining the results of the field study, that there is no positive link between all the indicators and the child exposure to sexual abuse.

Rather, some of these indicators (not all) seemed to have a positive correlation with child sexual abuse.

We have indicated in the study the correlation coefficient between independent variables and the exposure to sexual abuse,

And according to the scientific credibility of the statistical correlation, we were able to talk about a positive relationship between independent variables and the exposure of child to sexual abuse.

What is certain is that the combination of more than one factor and the dynamic dialectical relationship between them must be taken into account when studying the phenomenon of sexual abuse on children.

In summary, and based on the expressive results of the study and with reference to the correlation coefficient between independent variables and exposure.

The child exposure to sexual abuse, we can say that some of the eight hypotheses components that have been addressed in the study had expressive significant results, and confirmed the presence of a positive correlation between their availability in the child’s environment and between making him /her victim of sexual abuse.

Amongst these components there is child labor, changing lots of schools (marital status, education and vocational condition of the family), the existence of a disability or chronic illness of one of the parents, siblings or the child him/herself (health status), the presence of both parents or one of them or one of the siblings in prison.

Consumption of alcohol or drugs by the child or one of his/her siblings, severe marital problems and the prevalence of tension and bickering between parents who resort to yelling or insulting or hitting each other, aggravation of problems because of drug intake, tendency of parents to solve problems with physical and moral violence on the child and his / her siblings (hypothesis of family relations and activities), recourse

by parents to exercise multiple types of physical violence leading to pain and mental, verbal and emotional violence on the child (hypothesis of practicing physical and moral violence on the child's), the low level of the child awareness towards risks surrounding him / her (hypothesis of the awareness in front of risks). And finally the fragility of the emotional relationship between the child and his / her parents, especially the father, which prevents the child to resort to him when solving problems or at least to ask questions about some sexual intimacy subjects .

And instead the child will seek help from comrades, neighbors or friends of the family to address these problems (hypothesis of the adopted educational method with the child).

Based on the components of these hypotheses and the positive correlation observed between them and the child exposure to sexual abuse, it was possible to evaluate the percentage of potential sexual abuse on children who have not experienced this painful experience in the study's sample, which means that there is a group of children in the Non exposed sample having some components in their health, education, family and life conditions, which constitute through the interaction with each other, a suitable ground to transform them into new victims of sexual abuse.

Therefore it is possible that a group of children belonging to the total sample may shift from being "potential" victims to "effective" ones because of the existing components facilitating this paradigm shift.

These children are the ones who change lot of schools (47.2%), and whose house environments are characterized with solving problems through yelling and bickering between parents (35%) or insults and mutual beating (4%, 3%) or children who undergo severe physical punishment leading to pain (32.7%). Especially when this punishment is carried out by a family member (27.3%) a school member (13.9%) and those who manifest fears from specific individuals (13.9%), as well as those having lowest levels of awareness of the risks by refusing to contact specialized associations for help (33.3%), in addition to other components having less impact such as labor (5%) parents or one of the siblings imprisonment (3.1%), chronic illness or disability of the child or a family member or one of his / her siblings (1.6% + 4.8% + 0.3% = 6.7% ) in addition to alcohol and drug use.

The statistical correlation shown in the study between these components, referred to above, and the child's transition from a "potential victim" to "a real victim", leads us to draw the existence of a new group of children, constituting a " grey area " .

With the probability to slip "immediately" or in a "deferred" manner towards sexual risks, and require, in addition to the group Exposed to sexual abuse, rapid intervention by ministries ,official authorities and associations involved in combating All types of violence against children.



## V- Ethical Considerations of the Study

The basic principles on which the study was based were: the child's best interest, child privacy, not forcing them to fill the questionnaire if they refuse. And out of respect for these ethical considerations the following was done:

- Respect the terms of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in all steps of the study.
- Modifying the questionnaire several times after extensive discussions between the study partners in order to make it more appropriate for the group age of children.
- Hire social workers for the field work as they are specialized in dealing with children and are committed to the principles and ethical basis of social work
- Develop a "code of conduct of the questionnaire." The main objective was to train female social workers on the ethical standards to be adopted and the principles of dealing with the child through the Implementation of the questionnaire
- Prepare a General Code of conduct concerning the standards to be adopted by social workers during the implementation of the study.
- Prepare intellectual property" Form to protect the study questionnaire
- Consider the characteristics of children concerning their age (7-8 years) and targeting them through focus group
- Prepare a "Parent consent form" to get written approval on the participation of their children in the field study's
- Prepare a follow up mechanism for cases of sexual abuse that emerged during the study, and prepare a "referral form", to be filled by the social worker when she discovers that the child who had been interviewed was sexually abused.
- Those forms are then collected and delivered to Dar Al Amal the follow up mechanism
- provide a training session for social worker on how to act in emergency situations (child in trauma)
- Establish a network of therapists to be contacted directly by social workers to provide immediate and psychological support for children when needed
- Conduct an interactive session Between the social workers and the psychologist to observe emotions and disclose them in a protected and oriented frame.
- Most probably this is the only study that took into account the psychological comfort of the working team through the organization of a meeting with a psychologist in order to enable social workers to disclose their emotions.





## VI- Difficulties and restrictions of the study

The most prominent difficulty encountered was the sensitivity of the subject, as sexual issues are “taboos” not discussed with children.

Considering that this study is the first in kind in terms of geographical coverage and comprehensiveness of the sample and in terms of its focus on accurate and sensitive details not previously addressed about sexual violence on children, it was not easy to break the silence about these hidden violations, and go through taboo, and explore in depth these violations bringing to the victim and his / her family shame and guilt.

For this reason, the subject of the study formed a barrier that prevented schools from participating.

Several schools administrations considered that the introduction of the subject within the schools’ campus may raise undesirable confusion. In contrast to the ease cooperation with public schools and the openness of the Ministry of Education we faced difficulty negotiating with private schools, as the approval of the Ministry of Education exempt public schools and high schools from the responsibility towards parents and students, while the Ministry does not have an effective authority (Directorate of Private education) to oblige private schools administrations that are in their turn responsible in front of parents.

Thus, it is easier to these schools to refuse participating in the study than to try to convince parents or parents committees.

In addition the unstable security situation in the country made it difficult to carry out the study. Many explosions along with security problems have occurred. This left its impact on the words and drawings of children in focus groups.

We have also noticed a reluctance of some institutions to prepare the suitable place and recruit children in advance and notify parents in prior which cause a delay.

The limited budget of the study was reflected negatively on the number of the study team.

The size of the study and the large number of variables collected required a greater number of academic researchers as well as the presence of supervisors and field supervisors in governorates to monitor the daily work of the field workers and perform immediate intervention when needed.

The administrative routine to issue official decisions was one of the most significant logistical difficulties we faced, such as delaying access to official approvals, the difficulty of social workers to be available on daily basis and forbidding them to fill more than five questionnaires per day in order to maintain high quality standards.

The team had an additional burden of recruiting with coordination with some association non schooled children for the pilot sample and for the reliability test and for the final sample.

However, the greatest difficulty in the study was represented in build a questionnaire in Arabic to observe the exposure of children to sexual abuse.

A significant time was needed to reach a final version.

Our commitment to the reliability of the study also prolonged this period.

It must be pointed out that this study has aroused the attention of the Ministry of Education as we were asked by the Directorate of guidance and orientation to organize a training course for pedagogical supervisors on the subject of child sexual abuse.

## VII- Conclusion and Recommendations

### First: Summary

The field study highlighted that the prevalence of sexual abuse in Lebanon is not high (4.1%).

We are convinced that the sample represents the Lebanese society through the adoption of very rigorous scientific standards, the study highlighted very important results in terms of the broad and striking prevalence of physical and moral violence exerted on children in general, and on the correlation of sexual abuse with these types of violence, and the impact of some family factors in providing a valid ground to sexual abuse against children.

The study revealed a striking and alarming element which is the lack awareness towards risks which was clearly observed in children exposed and not exposed to sexual abuse, and their parents as well, especially among those who have already experienced this painful situation, as if the bitter experience was not enough to teach children and their parents a hard lesson.

No significant differences appeared on the level of awareness among males and females, and among children in the focus groups as well.

Most children in each of these groups lacked awareness.

We had clearly noted in the results related to the focus groups that children who were exposed to physical and moral violence expressed their ignorance of many of subjects relating to sexual abuse, as well as reporting mechanisms and the availability of security networks.

### Summary of the most important recommendations and suggestions

Based on the summary and general conclusions emerging in the study, (which we have addressed in the discussion of the results or the conclusion), it is necessary to adopt a partnership, integration, networking and advocacy policy between all concerned parties. Whether governmental and non-governmental, local and international organizations and specialists, in order to urge the community to fight against sexual abuse in normal conditions, as well as in wars and emergencies and to adopt self-monitoring. The subject of sexual violence requires the integration of human and technical resources from various disciplines.

The most important work priorities maybe summarized as follows:

- The need to amend articles 490, 491 and 505 to 522 of the Penal Code.
- To activate the medical ethics law number 288 dated Feb. 22, 1994, as amended by Law No. 240 dated Oct 22, 2012.

- To add a text in the Code of Medical Ethics or in the Penal Code that punishes criminally any doctor as well as the management of hospital in case of violation of the obligations incumbent on them.
- To work on the modification, or cancellation of, or creation of new laws in line with international conventions ratified by Lebanon
- To work on the application of the national strategy for prevention and protection of children from all forms of violence (approved by the Cabinet in 2012) which is consistent with most of the recommendations listed below.
- To allocate weekly sessions at schools on the International Convention on the Rights of the Child and to train teachers to transfer this knowledge in interesting and simplified manner to students
- The absolute commitment to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to support community awareness and culture concerning children rights and include and include it in the educational curricula of universities.
- To launch plans of action to raise awareness for children, parents, school, caregivers and the community and by preparing programs, leaflets, brochures and campaigns that will contribute to spread social awareness, and through the implementation of activities with children at the national level, and in all regions, on the subject of violence and sexual education and the child protection in appropriate manners depending on the child's age and local culture and to provide financial resources to implement these programs and activities.
- To introduce sex education in the curricula for all ages and teaches the child how to defend his / her body and protect it from the risks and educate him / her academically, psychologically and sexually.
- To prepare programs directed to parents on the principles of prevention of the child from sexual abuse.
- To prepare courses or programs on DVDs' targeting children and protecting them from sexual abuse, to be launched by the Ministry of Education and distributed to them for free in schools, after discussion, in order to increase awareness and urge children to disclose abusers under the slogan: "I own my body and I have the right to say No."
- To intervene rapidly with children at risk through a national mechanism to monitor, complain and notify with an immediate intervention team under a legal cover which allows a direct protection of victims.
- To activate the hotline at the Ministry of Social Affairs and in the offices of the Juveniles protection union
- To launch specialized rehabilitation centers in the Ministry of Social Affairs to help children victims of sexual violence
- To establish specialized centers to receive, shelter and rehabilitate victims of sexual violence
- To network the public sector and anti-violence associations with the Doctors union to report immediately the security authorities In case of violence
- To establish centers targeting non schooled children, as work should be done with these marginalized groups to avoid their deviation. The field study showed the percentage of the low level of awareness about the risks in these groups
- To sentence perpetrators of violent practices and compel them to undergo psychiatric treatment.
- To motivate more women to enroll in the internal security forces and integrate social workers partially or on full-time basis in police stations and provide a special training to them.
- To strengthen the juveniles protection union with financial capacities and human resources, especially social workers, legal specialists, forensic doctors and psychologists.
- To cooperate with media, to raise awareness on child rights and to organize campaigns stimulating to change the prevailing social attitudes, and encourage people to report violence to concerned institutions. Media have a great responsibility to educate the community, and mobilize public opinion and officials to address the problem.

- To organize awareness-raising campaigns on the subject of violence in all its forms, Specially sexual violence on children, targeting various community groups (parents, children, municipalities, doctors, schools administrators, teachers, nurseries, civil associations, workers and volunteers with children) as well as the distribution of leaflets and booklets in hospitals and clinics ....
- To impose severe restrictions on addressing in media cases of abused children in a manner that does not respect the confidentiality and privacy.
- To raise awareness and prevent school dropout, through the application of a law providing compulsory education for children.
- To develop an academic system for children with disabilities in line with their mental abilities.
- To work on the development of a child protection policy within social institutions receiving orphans and people with disabilities.
- To create mechanisms and programs to assist and protect non Lebanese children and adolescents and those not possessing identification papers.
- To work on the development of local financial and human resources through small development programs and projects.
- To develop Youth policies and to promote volunteering, sports, recreational and educational activities for teenagers and young people and to strengthen the role of municipalities and civil society
- To create an informative database on the status of children and forms of violence practiced on them.
- To develop implementation mechanisms for the protection of children at work and correctional and penal institutions.

The objective of each of these proposals is to ensure that the child will not turn into a victim.

Violence produces violence, and violated child can become a violent, and the victim may someday turn into an abuser.

We reap what we plant, therefore if we plant violence we will harvest violence and if we plant psychological reassurance we will harvest social security, this is what we endeavored to highlight in this national study.

Despite the difficulties faced by it and its gaps it is still considered as an advanced research step because it is the first comprehensive study at the national level, despite its modest budget and the limited number of its research team.

We hope that this study will constitute a base for future studies relying on the components of this project and overcoming its gaps while getting inspired from its results.



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