



Paraphilic trends in the metro cities of Mumbai and Kolkata in the age group 25 - 45 years

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Abstract : Paraphilias are a depiction of deviance from the general societal norms in achieving the gratification of abnormal sexual preferences. With such deviance in the normal behaviour, affected individuals are forced to incline towards criminal acts as the gratification of their needs progresses to become a necessity. As a result, the expression of paraphilic tendencies fuels the commission of criminal acts which mandates acquiring more knowledge about the topic and raising awareness with regard to the same. Thus, this case study researched the paraphilic trends in the Indian metro cities, Mumbai and Kolkata in the age group 25-45 years majorly emphasizing on the three most predominant forms of paraphilias i.e. voyeurism, exhibitionism, and pedophilia. The contents of the study en route through the general concepts of paraphilia and an in-depth discourse on voyeurism, exhibitionism, and pedophilia concluding with a discussion and analysis of paraphilic cases in Mumbai and Kolkata in the specified age group.

Keywords: Paraphilia, Paraphilic disorder, Voyeurism, Pedophilia, Exhibitionism, Paraphilic individuals, Societal norms, Deviance, Peepers, Flashers, Pedophiles.

INTRODUCTION

Psychology deals with a vast range of mental aspects starting from the basic interpretation of the happenings around one to complex concepts of emotions. Being an important part of the human psychology, emotions have been studied very thoroughly. These studies break down emotion into three major aspects namely, subjective experience or feelings, physiological response (sweating, increased heart rate, etc.) and behavioural or expressive response (overt expression of the internal feelings like facial expressions depicting anger, sorrow, etc.). All these aspects are important for an individual to function emotionally well. Thus, emotional disorders are a major obstruction concerning their emotional well-being and must be studied meticulously because they result in serious disabilities and disruption of lifestyle. Delving further, an area that needs attention is of - Paraphilias & Paraphiliac disorders. Paraphilias obstruct an individual's life by deviating them from the expected way of indulging in sexual experiences that have already been outlined by the norms.

As defined in layman's terms, a norm is an average behavior displayed by a group of people. It originates from the Latin word 'norma' which means a percept rule indicating that norms are a set standard that keeps an individual's behavior under check and guides them in relevance to some common and consensual ideas propounded in a group. Thus, they are rules or regulations and limitations that an individual is expected to abide by as part of that group. These norms vary greatly across different cultures, geographical locations, communities, etc. For a large-scale group, i.e. a society consisting of individuals from various communities and cultures, the norms could be called societal norms that are universal in nature and are based on consensual and factual ideas. They are a collective of socially acceptable behavior and draw a line between decent and indecent behaviors as per the guidelines laid by the society. But these norms are not necessarily conformed to by everyone, depending

upon the beliefs they nest and the morals that are inculcated in them that consequently leads to their violation, termed deviance. It could be hence described as one's inclination toward behaviors that are not normalized by society or may be considered offensive. Deviance can also suggest having views that are in contrast to the rigid ideas structured by society and getting accustomed to a lifestyle free from these set standards. It could also be pictured as an ideological gap, a contrasting view to the societal means of achievement of the goals laid down by the society. When the goal is sexual gratification (sexual gratification is the fulfilment of sexual desires or interests), individuals may opt for various means to achieve it, ranging from getting consent from the partner to a display of public indecency or criminal activity, that might be a far cry from the normalised means which prioritize and human adult-adult interaction, asking for consent, etc... Therefore, deviance in terms of sexual gratification either connotes an abnormal way to achieve satisfaction or an abnormal sexual preference. However, these abnormal sexual preferences or interests may often relate to psychological disorders. One such domain as first introduced in the DSM-III (1980) under the category of psychosexual disorders is paraphilias.

The term paraphilia is derived from the Greek word 'para' meaning 'beside' and 'philia' meaning 'friendship, love' which could be interpreted as 'out of the ordinary love' or 'attraction to the unusual'. Paraphilia is a mental disorder that entails repetitive and acute urges, fetishes, fantasies, and behaviors arising from deviant sexual interests, for over a span of six months or more. They affect an individual in a manner that their daily life becomes significantly disrupted followed by a great deal of distress and interference in social interactions (Dryden-Edwards, R., 2022). The most recent description of paraphilias given in the DSM-IV-TR presents paraphilias as "Recurrent, intense sexually arousing fantasies, sexual urges or behaviors generally involving nonhuman objects, the suffering or humiliation of oneself or one's partner, or children or other non-consenting persons that occur over a period of six months"(American Psychiatric Association, 2000). Whereas, later the DSM-V readdressed paraphilia as an unusual, extreme, and persistent pattern of sexual arousal that surfaces as a reaction to an atypical stimulus while distinguishing it from paraphilic disorders which denote a paraphilia that is closely associated with dysfunction or significant clinical distress or impairment (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). Such a disorder that aims for sexual gratification is often entitled to cause harm to oneself and others. Paraphilias could be backed by a plethora of causes but certain biological, psychological, and social risk factors might lead to it. Biologically, the risk factors might owe to the changes in the mental activity during sexual arousal, imbalances in hormone or neurotransmitter secretions or an anomaly in the general brain structure, etc... On the other hand, from the psychological perspective, it is viewed as an expression of seized psychosexual development or a consequence of the affected individual's association of something with sexual arousal or experiences reinforced with orgasms. Apart from these, the social risk factors relate to stages of childhood development including premature relationships, traumatizing events (abuse or sexual abuse), a dysfunctional family unit, childhood behavioural problems, etc... The aforementioned conditions lead to an obsession with certain sexual arousal patterns which on repetition may cause rewiring of the brain and changes in neural pathways if pleasurable. As they become permanent, the behavior becomes lasting too.

The DSM-V describes 8 types of paraphilias, namely-

Voyeurism, Exhibitionism, Frotteurism, Sadism, Masochism, Fetishism, Transvestism and Pedophilia (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). According to the statistics, out of these 8 types, the most prominent ones are Voyeurism, Exhibitionism, and Pedophilia, which are elaborated on along the course of this pilot research.

Voyeurism is a type of paraphilia that implies peeping or spying on an unsuspecting person during the most intimate moments without their consent. Voyeurism classifies as a paraphilia since it is a persistent and intense tendency that results in sexual gratification when the affected person observes any stranger or acquaintance while they engage in their private activities such as disrobing, being naked, or while they engage in sexual pursuits which has lasted for over 6 months. The affected person suffers through stress and impairment as they indulge in at least 3 separate voyeuristic acts per day. The most common places where voyeuristic acts occur are changing rooms, the target's residence, and other places where people seek privacy. The hallmark of this condition is that not taking the target's consent is often more gratifying while in very few cases the target does consent to such acts. Recent numbers show that, in the years 2019 and 2020, 5.9% and 7.4% cases of voyeurism were observed in the total sexual harassment cases reported across India respectively. DSM-5 states that among the others, exhibitionism is a comorbid condition of voyeurism. The act of voyeurism is often facilitated by the use of spy cams or the installation of other surveillance devices in the above-mentioned locations. "Peeping tom" is a frequently used moniker for Individuals with voyeuristic interests. (Das, S., 2020; Joseph, L.; National Crime Records Bureau, 2021; Parvez, B., 2022; Sharma, B. and Kumar, N., 2021.)

Exhibitionism denotes a type of paraphilia wherein the affected individual exposes their genitals to strangers or other non-consenting people. It classifies as a paraphilia only if the affected person goes through phases of intense sexual arousal that is persistent for a span of 6 months or more when they expose their genitals to strangers or non-consenting individuals. It is an often uncontrollable tendency that disrupts the normal life of an individual and hence causes a considerable amount of distress and impairment. Exhibitionistic behavior might be specific to adults or children or a certain age group. Individuals with such tendencies often get caught easily. The hallmark of this paraphilia is that it is a life-long disorder with greater chances of recidivism and modifying or controlling these behaviors proves to be exceedingly difficult. The victims are targeted when either alone or in smaller groups. Also, the affected individual is bound to target a victim whose routine and the travel route are well known. Exhibitionists might often want to shock the victims and hence the act might be more gratifying to them if it is very sudden for the victim. Exhibitionism may be accompanied by substance abuse or other disorders like depression or mood disorders. The male population often shows more inclination towards exhibitionism. Expression of exhibitionistic behavior could either be unconscious or purposeful and could be apparent in late teenage or the initial phase of adulthood. The exhibitionist might also resort to masturbation in front of the victim while exposing their genitals. Other forms of exhibitionism might also involve either recording their sexual activity (maybe while with a partner) or displaying it in front of others. And thus, is often coupled with voyeurism. 'Flasher' is a layman's term used to acknowledge an individual with exhibitionistic interests. But it is proven that not all exhibitionists might qualify the criteria for exhibitionism or exhibitionistic disorder and it often is only a form of general behavior. (Meador, P.)

Pedophilia is a paraphilia affecting adults and signifies sexual desires directed towards pre-pubescent children. It classifies as a paraphilia since a pedophile has sexually exciting urges, fantasies, and sexual behaviors toward prepubescent children which remain persistent for over a period of 6 months or longer. Being a consequence of desires pedophilia may cause a great deal of distress and impairment to the pedophile. Pedophilia is more of a sexual orientation or interest, and therefore, only desires or preferences for children classify as a disorder whereas if a pedophile resorts to acting those fantasies and desires overtly, then it is seen as a crime. The 'predatory pedophile' is a term used to suggest individual suffering from pedophilic disorder but who behaviourally or cognitively indulges in those fantasies and desires. A pedophile though suffering the disorder might resist acting out on those as such acts towards children are bound to be accompanied by feelings of guilt, shame, fear, moral beliefs, etc. as an adult-children sexual act is still a socially inappropriate notion. The pedophile may be a person over 16 yrs of age who is about 5 years older than the victim or target child. The onset of the pedophilic disorder in males occurs during the phase of puberty. The risk factors for this disorder might find their origin in childhood traumas or victims of childhood sexual abuse. Hence, pedophiles might have been a victim of childhood abuse or trauma or is a learned behavior due to exposure to explicit materials or pornographic films before they are mature enough. It has a high rate of recidivism and thus, predatory pedophiles are considered to be unsafe around children and must be monitored well. Pedophilia can be specific to various criteria, like sexual attraction to - children only, children and adults, boys only, girls only, or incestuous only. A predatory pedophile might not necessarily be a stranger and is often more usually a close acquaintance. They keep track of the target child's routine to find loopholes to avoid crowds or the child's guardian. After committing an offense with the child the pedophilic offender may either resort to threatening or physical abuse towards the child. Pedophiles also tend to suffer from other disorders like substance abuse, bipolar disorder, depression, anxiety, or even other paraphilias. Data from CSAM ranks India with the highest no. of cases amounting to almost 11.7% of cases of the total reports, recording a total of 19.87 lakh reports of child sexual abuse content uploaded across the entire country. According to the POSCO act, the year 2020 accounted for 47,221 cases across the country, wherein the top states on the list were UP Maharashtra, MP, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal with 6,898; 5,687; 5,648; 3,090; and 2,657 cases respectively. (Bhatnagar, I.; Hindustan Times, 2021; National Crime Records Bureau, 2021; Porter, D.; Taman, V., 2021.)

Paraphilias might pose as a potential cause for the commission of various crimes, due to their nature of deviating from the general societal norms. As a result, it becomes necessary to gather information regarding the same. As we read through the study an observation that this disorder poses a great deal of concern due to its dangers of pushing an individual to incline towards criminal activities for appeasement of these intense fantasies could be made. On the same lines, understanding and assisting individuals struggling with various psychological disorders is a crucial part of learning psychology. Hence, this study engages with analysis of cases related to the three previously mentioned prominent types of paraphilic tendencies i.e. Voyeurism, Exhibitionism, and Pedophilia in the metropolises of Mumbai and Kolkata associated with individuals represented by the age group of 25 to 45 (years).

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Longpré et al., 2020, studied how paraphilic coercion differed from sadism or the lower end of an Agonistic continuum by reproducing the previous outcomes while also collecting findings from the conducting latent profile analysis on 680 sexual offenders. The results of the study opposed the hypothesis that PCD and sadism are two conceptually different disorders, supported by the findings of the author's study.

Surobhi Chatterjee et al., 2019, in the article studied the Concepts associated with paraphilias, their classifications, epidemiology, related attributes, diagnosis, and management of paraphilic tendencies in the affected individuals. It concludes with a discussion of the recommended treatment procedures suiting the patients' condition.

Kristy A. Fisher et al., 2020, views paraphilias in a holistic manner providing a wider perception with regard to what paraphilias and paraphilic disorders entail. It offers a brief focus on all 8 classes while also providing an evaluation of the concepts of paraphilias and paraphilic disorders. Besides, it also opines on the management options and deduces strategies for the best care options for the affected individuals.

Matijašević Obradović et al., 2020, focused largely on pedophilia and child sexual abuse with respect to the criminological, social, medical, and psychological views. It also places a great deal of emphasis on the characteristic traits of these sexual offenders followed by the counter methods employed by the law.

CASE STUDIES

Voyeurism cases

CASE 1

Mumbai, November 2019, a 25-year-old woman was arrested by the local cops for shooting a video of her sister while bathing. The 20-yr old victim lodged a complaint against her elder sister and her sister's married boyfriend who were put behind the bars on Friday.

The alleged was accused of showing her younger sister bathing while on a video call with her boyfriend who also took screenshots of the same, saved, and circulated them to the victim's relatives. The accused man had asked his girlfriend to take her younger sister's nude pictures in return for a promise of marriage. Further interrogation revealed that the female had humiliated her sister's boyfriend during a Navratri celebration and hence had become a target for revenge by the accused man.

The accused woman and her boyfriend were booked under sections 354 (C) (voyeurism), and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code and the relevant sections of the Information Technology Act, as informed by an official.

CASE 2

Mumbai, July 2019, a model filed an FIR against a skin specialist whom she accused of installing a spy cam in the clinic.

The 27-year-old model was taken aback on her recent visit to the clinic for her hair removal treatment when she spotted a hidden camera in the therapy room of Dr. X's Skin lounge at ABC location. The accused did not respond to the calls, messages and landline rings from the TOI (Times of India) office wanting to get more insights on the story. The victim stated that she's already been frequenting the clinic for over a year now when she caught a red-lit camera in a private space where she barely had any clothes on. The complaint also revealed that when she asked the therapist and the manager she was told that it was a smoke detector. Unconvinced, she clicked a picture of it and left the clinic mid-treatment which was questioned by Dr. X via a call the same evening, at around 8 pm. As the complainant asked the accused to delete the pictures, she was asked by the latter to visit her the next day. (On this day, the victim was threatened by the dr. referring to her big contacts and for scolding her employees forcing the victim to maintain silence. She was shown the smoke detectors in the therapy room as well (which

now did not emit a red light). However, the following day, the doctor informed her that the video records get automatically deleted in every 15 days, in accordance with the FIR lodged.

Finally, the senior inspector of the local police station confirmed that the probe on the case was still on.

CASE 3

Kolkata, August 2019, a 32 year old female raised allegations of voyeurism against a man residing in the same house as her in Amherst street on Tuesday (6th Aug 2019).

As stated in her complaint, at around 8 on Monday morning, the man Mr. P had peeped into her washroom while she had a change of clothes and was trying to film her secretly when she raised an alarm and ran out of the washroom. She also added that even though he initially refused the allegations, the accused later threatened her of dire consequences and blackmailing her of circulating her pictures. Sacred, she couldn't lodge a complaint on Monday itself but mustered up courage to report it the next day.

Cop from the local police station confirmed that the complaint has been registered but the accused is yet to be arrested. (The Times of India, 2019)

Exhibitionism cases

CASE 1

Mumbai, February 2018, 43-year-old Mr.C was put behind the bars for practicing exhibitionism.

The accused parked a BMW near an actor and masturbated on Monday which the actor reported to the police and mr.C was caught within two hours of lodging the complaint. On Tuesday, he was presented in the local court and was then sent under judicial custody. In the following days, the actor's husband posted on Twitter in an attempt to raise awareness with regard to the same.

Psychiatrists point out that just like pedophilia, exhibitionism too is a mental disorder and hence needs to be punished as any other sexual offense. It has now come to light that these flashers tend to feed upon the shocked or scared reactions portrayed by the victim. It has also become clear that these exhibitionists do not expect to get caught and do such acts in the first place thinking that they could get away with it.

CASE 2

Kolkata, July 2018, a man was filmed masturbating at the railway station on Sunday (08 July 2018).

This person who was masturbating was caught on camera by a female who was aboard a Howrah-bound train and reported to the railway staff. The staff catching the man realized that he was a mentally challenged person. The person in question pulled down his pants and started masturbating in from of the women's coach but wore his pants back on when he realized gazes on him. The woman who filmed him shared the video across Facebook which was brought to the attention of the authorities who intended to catch him.

However, in the whole situation, the person who was being accused was supposedly a retard (might have a low IQ), who probably couldn't grasp the situation let alone knowing that his act was considered a sexual offense. (Inuth, 2018)

Pedophilia cases

CASE 1

Mumbai, October 2018, Mr.Q was arrested for the 2010 serial rape and murder of two minors in location XYZ.

34-year-old Mr.Q was arrested on 26th of September 2018 after testing positive for the DNA profiling done in multiple cases of luring and raping of minors. He became a suspect of the 2010 serial rape and murder case of two minor girls in Nehru Nagar but wasn't caught until the DNA profiling in 2018. After interrogation, it was found that the accused flew to country S in august 2010 for job and stayed there for the next two years. When asked about the XYZ cases, he stated that with an increased police activity for finding the accused in both these

cases, he stopped leaving his residence and remained hidden. PQR police stated that the forensic tests proved that Qureshi accused for multiple cases of targeting and rape was the culprit of the XYZ crimes as well.

Later Qureshi was arrested on 23 January 2015 by the police of TUV police station for attempting to kidnap an 8 year old from her neighbourhood. The accused had lured the 8 year old into walking with him when a man from the same building as her saw them and found the accused to be suspicious and caught hold of him resulting in Mr.Q being beaten and handed over to the police. But, he was set free on bail on 6 February as the police couldn't find any antecedents (though he had to stay in prison for 6 months more as he couldn't produce the necessary solvency and surety for his bail). This tale of his arrest was only found out after his arrest in 2018 when the cops found a summons from TUV police while searching his MNO residence.

In all, Mr.Q is the accused in several cases counting 9 in Navi Mumbai, 3 in Palghar, 2 in Thane rural, 1 in Thane, and 5 in Mumbai.

The pattern of crime:

The police labelled him as a psychopath who claimed that he felt nothing while the commission of these crimes and that the only reason he committed those were just because he felt like doing so. The modus operandi for all these cases of serial rapes and murders was found to be the same. He used to lure the minor girls to a secluded spot under the pretext of their relatives' names where he raped them but fled from the spot when the girls tried to raise an alarm. As for the XYZ cases, he smothered one and strangled the other girl when they tried to raise an alarm. The places he chose were quite random and that was how one of the girls was found dead on the terrace of the police quarters where a senior inspector at XYZ police station was residing. The police also added that he used to pretend to talk on the phone when he was found to be suspicious while striking up a conversation with his target. (Hindustan times, 2018)

CASE 2

CBI files a case against seven Indian nationals who were allegedly a part of an international WhatsApp group circulating and uploading child pornography.

The group was brought to light by the country G police who launched an investigation against Sasche Treppke who was sentenced to five years of imprisonment for child abuse and distribution of child pornography. Treppke was a part of the 483 members being a member of 29 such groups. Among these were 7 Indian citizens whose names are as follows-

Mr.K and Mr.W from Tamil Nadu, Mr.Z from Delhi, Mr.R from Haryana, Mr.T from Uttar Pradesh, Mr.J from West Bengal, and Mr.H from Rajasthan. (The Hindu, 2019)

INTERPRETATION

Paraphilias, as discussed above, refer to the deviant sexual preferences that depict extreme distortions from the general societal and natural sexual preferences. Paraphilic disorders can thus be referred to as intense and abnormal sexual urges that heavily impact the normal functioning and lifestyle of the individual which eventually makes the gratification of these urges a necessity. Thus, the methods of sexual gratification in these cases that greatly deviate from the societal means of gratification of normal sexual urges, the paraphilic individuals are forced to incline towards criminal means. It is safe to say that, for paraphilic individuals the means of sexual gratification resonate with the criminal behaviors or commission of crimes. Given this fact, acquiring knowledge about paraphilias can help us gain insight into cases like serial killings and many more. As a consequence, it becomes essential to be able to differentiate between cases that might seem a product of paraphilias and cases that might actually be a strong portrayal of paraphilias.

Considering the cases studied under this pilot research, an in-depth analysis is done to derive observations that provide grounds for understanding whether the case is a depiction of paraphilic tendencies in the accused or whether the cases are a far cry from them, delineating another motive. Many times, cases that might seem to be associated with the expression of paraphilic behavior might not be a true representation of paraphilic tendencies but rather are a portrayal of other motives that drive that criminal act. Among the 8 kinds of paraphilias, this study focuses on the 3 most predominant types, i.e. voyeurism, exhibitionism, and pedophilia. Based on the analyses of the cases, the following interpretations could be made:

Voyeurism is a psychological condition that is very well associated with peeking in on others while they are in their most intimate moments. To the voyeurs, peeking earns them sexual gratification. But, these voyeuristic acts stray away from the usual societal norms and are considered deviant acts that are punishable by the law. There exist a plethora of causes that could be associated with the onset of this psychological condition and its

progression from being controllable urges to a full-fledged disorder causing impairments. A great deal of importance is given to the interpersonal, developmental, and social factors while a little weight is attached to the contributing biological (genetic) factors. While looking at the first case (Mumbai) it is very difficult to discern whether it is a case of paraphilia or a criminal act backed by some ill intent. But as reported in the news article by the Times of India, the accused resorted to filming her own sister while bathing as instructed by her boyfriend who intended to seek revenge for his insult, done by the victim on a prior date. This indicates that the motive of the accused male was to seek revenge while the accused female complied with the request of her boyfriend due to her advanced interest in the accused male who had blackmailed her with their marriage. In the researchers' view, the other probable causes behind this criminal act could have been an unresolved grudge of the accused female against the victim or a gradually developing sexual attraction of the accused male towards the victim. In conclusion, this case does not highlight the paraphilic need for peeking at the victim but rather was an act driven by revenge or other probable causes. On the other hand, while looking at the other case in Mumbai, based upon the considerations made by the researcher, the probable cause might have been the doctor's paraphilic interest of voyeurism or that she gained monetary benefits by supplying the therapy room clips illegally to the individuals to whom she had addressed as her big contacts. Thus, even in this case, the cause of the case cannot be solidly ascertained but an estimation of what might have caused it, points towards causes like a major life event or continued exposure to such content might have resulted in her becoming a paraphilic. Meanwhile, when we take a look at the Kolkata case, the accused might have resorted to filming the victim, being attracted to her both sexually and romantically might have gotten converted from a tiny encounter to a hard-core obsession while the other cause being that he already displayed voyeuristic tendencies where in the victim was the first one to notice and report him. As found by the researcher, the accused might have been troubled due to the intense urges he might have faced due to paraphilia i.e. voyeurism, and thus had no other alternative but to give in to his urges which probably would have stemmed from some major life events, or childhood incidents or issues deep-rooted into the interpersonal relationships. To be precise, the expression of voyeurism cannot be rigidly associated with a single factor but could be a product of multiple factors that contributed in different periods of the patient's lifetime owing to interpersonal, developmental, social, and biological factors.

Understanding in a similar sense, exhibitionism bluntly refers to the intense urge to expose their genitals or attempt masturbation in front of other non-consenting individuals (shocking their targets gives them immense pleasure). One can initially cope with the urges but along the passage of time, these urges convert into extremely uncontrollable and intense urges which may hinder the daily routine of the affected individual. Thus, the exhibitionist is forced to act in a way to satisfy their urges which ultimately means adopting criminal ways. When means that do not coincide with societal norms are used to reach their goals, the acts committed are punished by the law. The traits of exhibitionism may start to surface as a consequence of one of the many factors including childhood events, disheveled interpersonal relationships, decreased social interactions, and to some extent biological factors. In the first case (Mumbai) studied, the researchers were able to deduce that the person who flashed the actress might be suffering from exhibitionism or might have decided to target the actress being her fan. In line with her work, the researcher could propose that the exhibitionistic traits in the accused might have been triggered due to the underlying genetics, developmental stage, or impactful life events. Whereas, when considering the second case (Kolkata), the Inuth article points out that the accused was earlier reported as a mentally challenged individual by the local cops. Hence, this case cannot be directly clubbed in with the other cases of paraphilia but it rather signifies that due to his mental condition the accused man might not have been capable enough to distinguish between what is publicly acceptable and what is not. Besides, a flasher generally targets individuals who are alone and not surrounded by any crowds, hence such acts are more prone in deserted streets and alleys at a time that welcomes lesser crowd or no crowd at all further strengthening the opinion that the act of the accused was not done with a paraphilic intention but due to the lack of social awareness that he has. (Another view proposed by the researcher would indicate that it is also possible that the individual was not actually mentally challenged but had acted so to escape the consequences of the situation.)

Lastly, focusing on pedophilia, which is a type of paraphilia wherein the adult individual is sexually attracted to the children as they are faced with constant urges to get intimate with them. While some can control these urges, at a certain point all the limits are crossed and the now intense urges take over, inclining the individuals to commit crimes making them use criminal means like kidnapping and killing in order to gain sexual gratification. While having a look at the first case (Mumbai), as stated in the Hindustan Times article the accused in this case was a serial killer who kidnapped, raped, and murdered his victims/targets. Based on the findings thus made, the researchers could infer that the accused cannot plainly be tagged as paraphilic but he may be associated with a kind of psychological unsoundness that caused him to behave psychotically, a by-product of which was his interest in the vulnerable and easily targetable minors whom he raped and then murdered. Conversely, because of

his pedophilic preferences, he might have bent into committing kidnapping and rapes which progressed a step further when started killing his victims. This outcome would have been backed by a major life incident that had left a very strong impression in his mind making him insensitive (most probably an incident of sexual abuse as a child). While speaking of the second case (Kolkata) the accused grabbed by the police most definitely supported child pornography which might be a depiction of pedophilic preferences in the researcher's opinion.

Conclusively speaking, all the cases mentioned above might have been a product of paraphilic tendencies in the accused individuals but there could have been various other causes backing the criminal act. Thus, it cannot be solidly stated that the cause in all of these cases was paraphilic behaviors. Also, the majority of the time it's very hard to distinguish between cases of paraphilias and general criminal acts with other motives because in an Indian setting, people are rather sparsely aware of this condition. Another major factor is that there is a lot of fear, trauma, and stigma that surrounds the victims and their families which ultimately results in the burying of the incidents and the victims' lips being sealed forever. Therefore, a lack of awareness about paraphilia not only exposes one to the risk of becoming a target but also puts the victims through a great deal of trauma that might bring about drastic changes in their personality or might even lead them to turn into a paraphilic themselves. Raising awareness about paraphilias has become a necessity as unlike other psychological conditions, impairments and ailments individuals affected by paraphilias cannot be picked out from a general crowd but can only be identified when caught in the act.

Moving on to the statistical results, one can view the number of pedophilic cases involving child sexual abuse targeted around 18-20% of females and 8-10% of males on average worldwide. Of which Asia, showed the least cases, accounting for around 11.3% of female and 4.1% of male targets or child sexual abuse. In accordance with the 2021 NCRB data, while considering the scenario of pedophilic case in the country, the registered child sexual abuse cases take up around 38.1% cases of the 1,49,404 registered cases of crime against children which when compared to the total 60,96,310 criminal cases in India makes up to 2.45% of the pie. As stated in the 2019 NCRB records, there were around 2419 total cases of voyeurism reported across the nation, which accounted for about 0.047 cases of the 51,56,172 criminal cases reported that year. The 2018 NCRB data shows that of the total voyeurism cases around the country that year, Mumbai ranked the highest with 47 cases to its name. (Taman, V., 2021; Das, S., 2020; National Crime Records Bureau, 2021; Namboodiri, N., 2022; Ghosh, D., 2022;)

Even after the mention of the presented statistics which only mention the data pertaining to the reported cases, a number of other cases that go unreported also need to be taken into consideration while discussing raising awareness about paraphilias.

CONCLUSION

As emphasized earlier, the depiction of paraphilic traits through criminal acts endangers public peace and hence a great amount of focus needs to be given to the concept of paraphilia and its behavioral output. The first step in understanding and punishing these sexually deviant acts lies in understanding the general differences in the acts that might only seem to be paraphilic but are solely committed due to other motives like revenge, etc. As opposed to the display of abnormal sexual perversions. This case study thus analyzed the cases in the metro cities of Mumbai and Kolkata (in the age group 25-45 years) deducing the basic probabilities of the causes or motives other than the paraphilic condition supported by any other ill-intent. Simply put, the paper discussed what other latent motives might have probably backed the cases which were thought to be an exhibit of paraphilic acts. It also covers the downside of not being aware of the concept of paraphilia risking and increasing the population's vulnerability to more criminal cases fuelled by paraphilic motives. A better grasp of the current situations and the aspects of paraphilia would not only support the society in handling paraphilic individuals in the most appreciated manner but would also save the victims of such acts from being heavily impacted by altering their personalities for the worse. Therefore, based on this study the researchers encourage a better perception of paraphilias and raise awareness about it to brace a progressive society from the threat of paraphilic incidences induced in the population.

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