

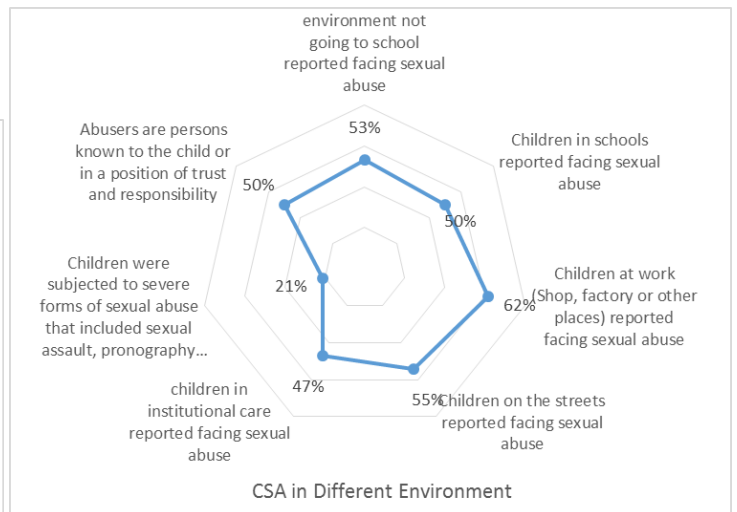
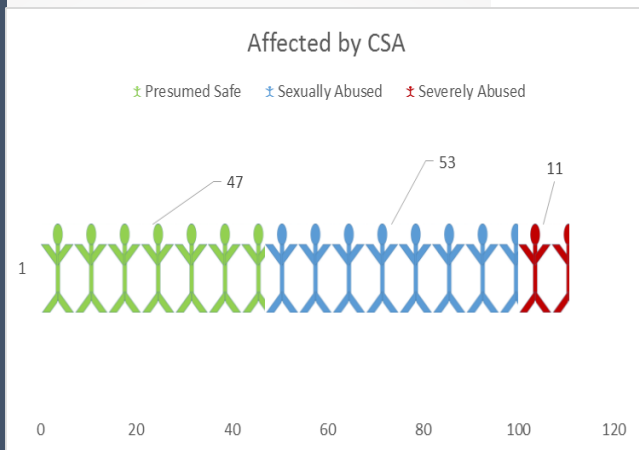
## Moment of Truth

In 2013 the Human Rights published a paper "Breaking the Silence – Child Sexual Abuse in India." It was disturbing. Nation that believed in family values has been apathetic towards plight of children. Around 9000 children go missing and 5 lakhs forced into sex trade every year.

If this picture was not frightening; it was found that children are not as safe at home as we would have liked them to be. More than half, 53% of the children have been sexually abused in so called safe environment.

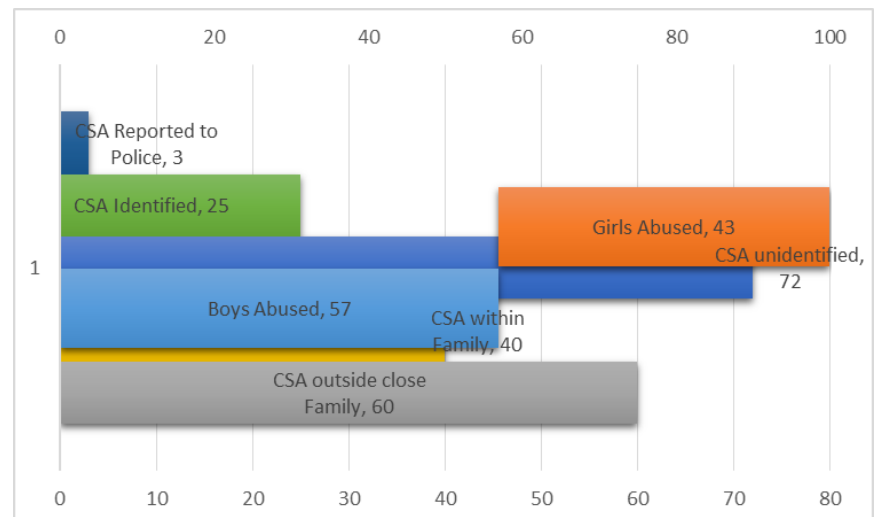
Alarming!

53% of the children have been sexually abused, sadly for 20% of the assaults has been severe and about 40% by reported that the perpetrators were from their close family members.



For once gender discrimination was not done, about half of victims are boys. The sexual abuse seem to be a part of life, with only 25% of the children finding courage to speak about it, only 3% of the cases had been informed to police.

Nation of Child Sexual Abusers



## Vision of Project Angel

To Protect Our Children from Potential Risks of Sexual Abuse by a Way of Educating & Creating Public Awareness. To achieve this Project Angel started conducting classroom training to drive awareness and help children and families in need.

Studies indicated that there is a strong relationship between CSA and development of criminal tendencies. Childhood abuse may increase the adults to engage in criminal or antisocial lifestyle or activities. Though development of criminal tendencies might also be influenced by other causes. It should always be remembered that all CSA victims would not turn to be serial killers. Serial killers are extreme cases, though there is some correlation seen in type of abuse experienced and the method of killing. A sample was taken from general population and serial killer population for the study.

Comparison of organized and disorganized serial killers			
	Type of Killers		
Type of Abuse	Organized	Disorganized	Mixed
Sample Size	n=25	n=11	n=14
Maltreated (Regardless of type)	68%	64%	72%
Physical	36%	36%	36%
Sexual	24%	36%	21%
Psychological	52%	27%	43%
Neglect	16%	36%	29%

India has the world's largest number of sexually abused children, with a child below 16 raped every 155th minute, a child below 10 every 13th hour, and at least one in every 10 children sexually abused at any point in time.

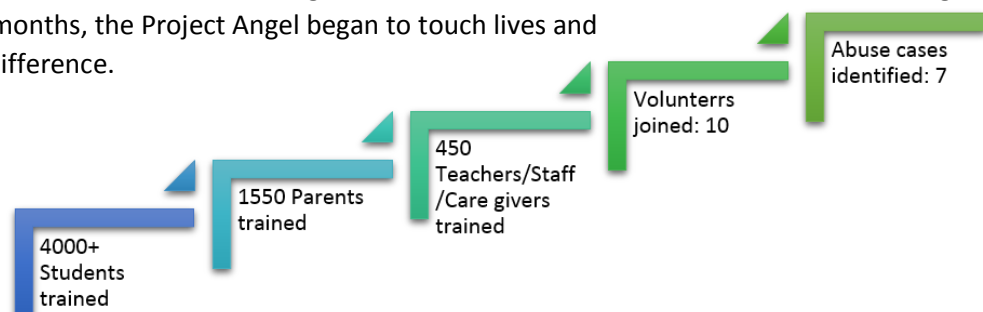
<http://infochangeindia.org/agenda/child-rights-in-india/status-of-children-in-india.html>

Awareness programs, social media and talk shows began discussing and debating on CSA. People started talking about the subject that was considered a taboo. They began questioning the so called reasons and assumptions that the

children are always safe. There are devils walking among us, ready to harm children. The need of the hour was twofold action plan – **first to spread the awareness to prevent CSA and second to instil enough confidence and trust in children to report any case of sexual abuse**; for most of the abusers remain hidden and confident that their crimes would never be reported and they would never face the consequences of their actions.

Children, parents and teachers, all needed to be sensitized to recognize the perpetrators and potential abusers. To spread this awareness to protect the future generation, an initiative of Inchara Foundation started – Project Angel. It was inaugurated in September 16<sup>th</sup> 2014. It began its work from October. It is supported by Rotary Club of Mangalore, Child line 1098 and District Child Protection Unit (Department of Women & Child), Government of Karnataka. It started with Training sessions for Parents, Teachers and Students in Mangalore. In just four months, the Project Angel began to touch lives and create a difference.

It was a wakeup call. The tomorrow looked disturbing. The effects of CSA – Child Sexual Abuse was found to linger in adults. It was time to act. More than half of the children of today, who would be adults would be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.



[sevenSolutions](#), has been associated with Project Angel as Analytics partner. Through sS, I have been monitoring Project Angel's performance. Every matrix indicated that Project Angel was creating an

awareness. Mind was assured that the difference was being made every day. Social media had reflected Project Angel's growing footsteps as it tried to spread awareness. The daily data numbers projected that Project Angel was on the right track. Numbers can quieten the mind, heart needs human element. For me, the story board was still incomplete. A story depicted by numbers needs to be

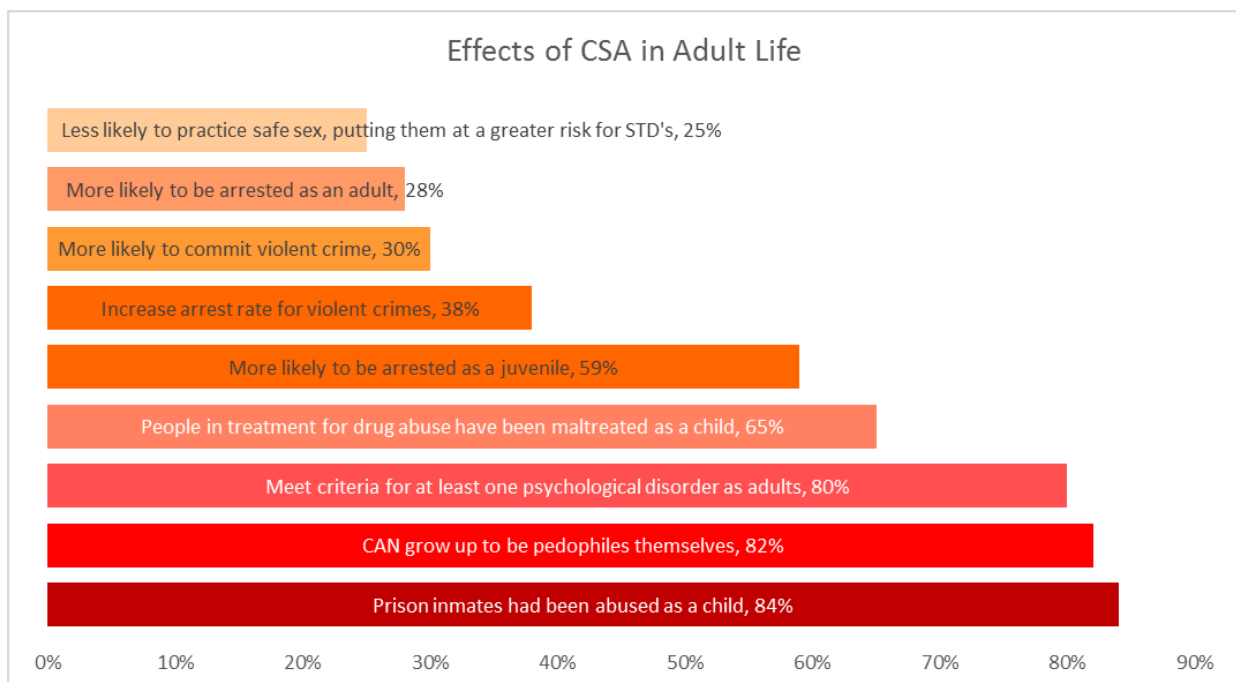
- 25% INCREASE IN FACEBOOK NET LIKES
- A MINIMUM OF 7% IMPROVEMENT ON PERFORMANCE OVER THE LAST MONTH
- ON AN AVERAGE EVERY MONTH 40 NEW PEOPLE GET LINKED/APPRECIATE PROJECT ANGEL'S INITIATIVE

validated by a humane story just as any humane story needs numbers to authenticate its claim.

This is the humane story that assures heart that awareness could indeed drive CSA away from lives of children. Project Angel had conducted CSA awareness session in a school in Mangalore in Jan. Few days after the session on 30<sup>th</sup> of Jan, Gudiya (name changed to protect identity) a high school student, broke her silence. Her neighbour had been harassing her for a long time. She was suffering in silence for a long time. However, session by Project Angel in her school gave her courage to speak up. She went to her principal and shared her ordeal. The Principal contacted Inchara Foundation. Mr. Vazeer Ahammad, Founder. Director of Project Angel immediately swung into action. He took help of district child protection unit.



Complaint was lodged at local police station against the abuser, the matter was also shared with



Child line. Understanding that there could be effects of CSA on adult life, Gudiya was also counseled to counter any ill effect of past trauma.

Kudos to Gudiya, who showed courage and broke the silence. She is an example of the positive impact of Project Angel. The Heart is also assured as mind is – with continuous effort CSA might be a rare incident.