

Quadrant II – Transcript and Related Materials

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Meaning and Definition of Paedophilia

Paedophilia is a psychiatric disorder in which adult or older adolescent experiences a primary or exclusive sexual attraction to prepubescent children.

Recently, it has become a topic of increased awareness and concern. Paedophilia was formally recognised and named in the 19th century. A significant amount of research has taken place since 1980s. Although mostly documented on men, there are women too who exhibit the disorder. No cure for paedophilia has been developed, but there are therapies that can reduce the incidence of a person committing child sexual abuse

The term Paedophilia comes from the Greek term *pais* or *paidos*, meaning child and *philia* means friendly love or friendship.

Paedophilia and child sexual abuse are not the same thing. Not all those who sexually abuse children are paedophiles. Paedophilia refers to an enduring sexual interest in prepubescent children which may or may not be acted on.

According to 'The American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders', paedophilia can be defined as recurrent sexually arousing fantasies, impulsive desires or behaviours involving sexual acts with a child and that occur period of at least five years older than a child.

The prevalence and the causes of paedophilic disorder is unknown. Studies suggests that there are one or more neurological characteristics present at birth that cause or increase the likelihood of being paedophilic

Types of Paedophiles

The person who is sexually attracted towards prepubescent children is termed as paedophile. There are two types of paedophiles:

1. The Sadistic Paedophile: experiences maximum pleasure by brutalising his victim. This occurs both through psychological violence and through physical violence.
2. The Playful Paedophile: tends to play with children and are rarely traumatise them. The game has the dual purpose of winning the trust of the parents and child and of setting an attitude of silence with a child, proposed as a part of the game.

Victims of Paedophiles

The typology of children who are targeted by the paedophiles.

- Migrant Children
- Local children
- Age and sex
- Poor and Uneducated children
- Child labours

The Problem of Paedophilia in Goa

Goa is a tourist destination and also attracts children from the poverty-stricken neighboring states. Goans are familiar with the cruelty of Paedophilia.

Goans have long woken up to this vicious racket set up and run by foreigners for their individual or their community's pleasure. The Freddy Peats case of 1996 is still fresh in the mind of Goans. He ran an "orphanage" for 19 Goan boys of broken families and alcoholic parents. Government agencies tried to sweep the case under the carpet. Among those who conspired to deny justice to the juvenile victims and even attempted to destroy documents and evidence, were the State Advocate General and Trial Judge. It was only through the dogged tenacity of a noted jurist, Adv. Sheela Barse, which finally got Peats convicted and jailed for life. After almost a decade, the racket has now gone commercial and highly organised, with international criminal networks entering it. Undercover investigations done by the Tehelka, an Indian agency who revealed various cases of paedophiles in Goa.

Thelka's investigation

A five-month undercover investigation conducted at the beginning of 2004 by Tehelka, an Indian agency, revealed that hundreds of Europeans — British, Germans, Dutch, French, Swiss and Swedish — visit Goa to seek children for sexual gratification. They come to Goa because it is easy and cheap, to sexually abuse a child here. On the run after crackdowns on child-sex tourism in Thailand and Sri Lanka, the paedophile bus has now rolled into Goa; and turned the picture-postcard tourism destination into a paedophile's paradise.

Ringelmann case

Ringlemann, the German national and an alleged suspect in paedophilia cases and wanted by the Goa police, was finally nabbed, only after the TV story. He was deported because he was an "undesirable element" with incomplete documentation to support his claims to both the minor girls he was living with. The police also say that the German national was not arrested, as there was no complaint registered against him by any one. To add salt to the wound, the government thinks that Tehelka's exposé appears to be an "advertisement campaign" for attracting paedophile clientele to Goa, rather than exposing their heinous criminal activity.

The Mapusa racket

For many years, Goans were led to believe that paedophilia was a practice indulged only by some perverted foreign tourists. After the notorious Freddy Peats case, which could happen in front of an unsuspecting Goan neighbourhood, this belief was further strengthened. Goan paedophiles must have had a good laugh. They could get away with their horrendous crime, because public attention and even the post-Peats activism, was concentrated on foreign paedophiles. That was at least till 2003, when a Goan "Peats" was suddenly discovered and nabbed.

The social lid over moral decay in Goa was finally blown up by the exposure of the paedophilic ring in the city of Mapusa. This particular case seems to have involved mostly poverty-stricken non-Goan children totally vulnerable to abuse. Even then, the evidence so far presented to the police showed a far sinister design. What has been revealed so far does not give a character certificate to the Goan society. The fact that some perverted Goans are involved in this case shows that elsewhere in Goa, such cases might have gone undetected because

Goans strongly believe that if they looked the other way the evil would automatically disappear.

Avelino Pinto and Francis Fernandes were arrested between 10th and 11th October 2003 and were remanded to police custody. The police registered complaints of sexual assault/rape of four minors against Pinto. From reports, it is believed that a minimum of 20 to 30 children have been abused by Pinto.

Mr. Avelino Pinto first came under scrutiny of a woman's group when he approached it for assistance for children who had been raped and who, he claimed, he had adopted. The group was surprised to know that these were children of the same woman who had earlier approached it for assistance, as her husband was an alcoholic. Mr. Pinto had made the husband execute an affidavit to the effect that he was handing over the children to Mr. Pinto for adoption, though this was no legal adoption document.

Earlier, Mr. Pinto used to approach several organisations and pose as a social worker, in order to build good will and indirectly insure himself against suspicion. He claimed to be an engineer and sometimes a lawyer. In one such exercise, Mr. Pinto approached the woman's group stating that one Mr. Francis, the owner of a liquor bar at Mapusa, was abusing a minor girl. Investigations led the group to the minor, who then confided her story of abuse, both by Mr. Avelino Pinto and Mr. Francis Fernandes. Both were later arrested.

The Mapusa case, on preliminary analysis, showed that there was a degree of social sanctity or tolerance, despite knowledge of the people familiar with the routine of the suspects. Perhaps the people must have thought that non-Goan child victims have no dignity. Perhaps things would have been different if Goan kids were to be molested. But paedophiles do not distinguish between victims. They are sexual predators. They are smart and take utmost care to hide their

tracks. Domestically bred Goan paedophiles maintain a low profile. In a liberal Goan society it is difficult to suspect that a familiar local personality, stripped of the social mask, could be actually a weird and sexually perverted person.

Awareness Campaign

The CRG is the first organization dedicated to preventing the abuse and exploitation of children in Goa. Their STOP PAEDOPHILIA campaign (2000) has strengthened over time.

Conclusion

Paedophilia, more than being a crime, it is a mental disorder, which drives certain adults, regardless of their nationality, race, sex and social background, to sexually abuse children. Children will be the worst sufferers, because they are the most vulnerable in society.

In this age of dominant economic globalization and free market forces, children are becoming commodities, and just like any commodity, they are bought, used, and later thrown out, when no longer needed.