

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE: IS THERE ANY SUFFICIENT PROTECTION FOR OUR CHILDREN?

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We the students hereby, confirm that the work submitted is of our own and that appropriate credit has been given where references has been made to the work of others



ABSTRACT

For the last two semesters, we have been conducting a research on child sexual abuse in Malaysia. We concentrated on punishment which laid down in Section 376 of the Penal Code (Act 574) against the child rapist. In our research, we also touched and discussed about sexual trade among children in the South East Asian country. We strongly believed that person who involved in this should be punished more severely. Also we believe that there should be specific punishment against the child rapist because there is not enough protection for our children.

We have conducted a survey on child sexual abuse by distributing it to 50 respondents. We also consulted the police officer in charged to get the statistic of cases regarding child sexual abuse in Shah Alam. We are glad that all the respondents looked at this issue seriously and gave their opinion and ways to decrease the cases of child sexual abuse. Among the few important questions that were raised in the questionnaire was whether the respondent had ever heard about cases concerning child rape?

- 2) Do they know about the current punishment?
- 3) Do they think that the punishment is sufficient enough for the child rapist?
- 4) Do they agree that there should be specific punishment for child rapist

under the Penal Code

5) Whether they are aware of sex trade or sex- tourism being practiced in any country

We managed to gather a lot of in formations and opinions from distributing the questionnaires. We based our research mostly on the answers and opinion of the public. After two semesters, we finally finished doing our research on the child sexual abuse.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Sexual abuse can be defined as any several activities between an adult and a child, whether a boy or a girl, which includes rape, incest, sexual molestation and exploitation.¹ It is due to their powerless and subordinate status that renders them vulnerable and dependant on adult intervention. Humanity's worst emerges when the gross abuse of children, especially in the area of sexual and commercial exploitation (i.e. sale and trafficking, prostitution, pornography and child labour), is tolerated and condoned.

Prostitution, sexual acts between two homosexuals, adultery, fornication and sale and purchase of pornography materials are some of the sexual offences which is considered to be victimless in the sense that they involve consenting adults who voluntarily engaged in such activities. However, when pedophilic tendency is evident in such circumstances, be it intra-familial or otherwise, grave concern has been voiced today.

¹ Barbara Yen, *Sexual Abuse in Children*, Medical Social Worker University Hospital, Kuala Lumpur, 1996, p1.