

Session by Sr. Arina Gonsalves on Child Protection on 16th August, 2018

On 16th August, 2018, a session on Child Protection was arranged for the Second Year B.Ed. students. Sr. Arina Gonsalves is a lawyer, Principal, Fort Convent School and also an Alumnus of St. Xavier's Institute of Education. Sister Arina is a Member of Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Children and vulnerable adults



Atrocities on children should not happen in education and especially not in Catholic schools
Zero tolerance of all the exploitation on children.

TYPES OF ABUSE

Sr. explained what is actual and potential abuse

Clearly abusing, using physical harm is actual

Potential abuse – fear of meeting a teacher, going to washroom alone.

Emotional abuse-(verbal or mental abuse)labelling children, calling names like stupid, idiot, neglect, not allowing children to express, harm mental or social development, coloured remarks

Exploitation: Domestic work of teachers at home

Physical abuse: beating, scar, burn

Not only in city but also in rural areas

Sexual Abuse : What is included is stated

Neglect : educational neglect- not adequate assistance for disabilities,

As a teacher, Sr. Ariana said be alert to dyslexia, dysgraphia, don't ignore back benchers, remember names, call students with respect,

Exploitation: Trafficking children, selling for camel racing as when the child cries then camel runs, so child is tied to the camel.

Domestic workers below 18

30 % is sexual abuse

#Me too Movement – example of Daisy Irani

Child Protection: protect from any perceived or real dangers

Sr. brought out the Statistics of crimes committed against children in various states. Child population in the age group 0-6 years by sex, India

Example of a vegetable vendor man adopting an abandoned girl child, Smriti.

NGO fighting against child workers

Child trafficking for various reasons – camel jockeys, prostitution, child pornography

Red Light Area,

Kewda case – Judge ordered on basis of Mumbai Mirror- asked Nirmala Niketan to intervene

Child abuse – by neighbours, families, relatives and familiar setting
Sexual Offences in India statistics

Conspiracy of Silence: Don't talk about it, ignore it, turn a blind eye

Talk about sex and sexuality in India – conservative

POCSO law in India going back is only 10 years, but in USA , England it goes to 100 years back case or incident.

Reasons for Child Abuse-

1. Children are not aware when they are being abused
2. Toys and pets are used for luring children
3. Incest
4. Spoiling of one's name
5. Internalising guilt

Consequences – (Long term effects of sexual abuse)

1. Post traumatic – death, suicide
2. Humiliation
3. Spiritual life suffers- as image of God who didn't protect me- non belief in God
4. Emotional and behavioral problems
5. Sleepless nights
6. Cannot reconcile- anger against all men, all people..
7. End up being abuser- bigger boys abuse smaller boys , they say as children they were abused. Become a perpetrator, should break cycle
8. Low self esteem,
9. Become perverts

Pathways to Healing

1. Free oneself from negative consequences of child abuse
2. Break the silence and secrecy
3. Stop blaming yourself
4. Know that you are not alone
5. Go for healing, overcome trauma
6. Counseling therapy
7. Express your feelings, know your instincts
8. Take care of yourself
9. Confront the person
10. Spiritual Approach – forgive... heal yourself

What can we Religious centres do?

1. Prevent sexual abuse of the children
2. Believe in God- go back to God , God bigger than man

Punishments for sexual abuse

1. Imprisonment without bail
2. Zero Tolerance to sexual abuse