

Research Article

THE CAUSES AND CONDITIONS OF CHILD VIOLENCE: THE RAPE CASE

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ABSTRACT

Our primary purpose is to investigate the increased frequency of rape and indecent assault against kids, despite strengthened legal restrictions and prevention efforts. It seeks to identify and examine the primary contributing factors—such as family instability, inappropriate relationships, household drunkenness, unsupervised internet usage, and insufficient child supervision—that put children, particularly those aged 8 to 17, at danger. The study aims to evaluate the efficacy of current preventative and protection initiatives, emphasizing the need for enhanced implementation, professional ability, and social commitment to protecting children's rights. Finally, it aims to inform more effective, evidence-based approaches for reducing and preventing sexual assault against children. The number of rapes and indecent attacks on kids has risen annually, with an average of 320 incidents reported each year, however a little decline is expected in 2024. Despite improved legal restrictions and NGOs' efforts, the incidence of child rape continues to rise by 14.2-22.8 percent each year, with many cases buried behind birth and abortion statistics. Key contributing variables include family instability, improper interactions, household drinking, unsupervised internet use, and insufficient kid supervision, with the majority of victims aged 8-17 and perpetrators being adults with lower educational attainment. Effective prevention and response necessitate not only strong laws, but also coordinated implementation, professional ability, and a social commitment to protecting children's rights and safety.

Keywords: Child sexual abuse prevention, legal and societal response, evidence-based intervention.

INTRODUCTION

Any intentional harm or mistreatment of a kid under the age of 18 is child abuse. Child abuse can take many different forms, and it frequently occurs concurrently. Physical abuse has occurred. Physical child abuse happens when someone intentionally injures or puts a child in danger.

Emotional abuse occurs. Emotional child abuse is defined as damaging a child's self-esteem or emotional well-being. It involves verbal and emotional abuse, such as repeatedly insulting or berating a child, as well as isolating, neglecting, or rejecting a youngster.

Neglect. Child neglect is failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, clean living conditions, affection, supervision, education, or dental or medical care. In many cases, child abuse is done by someone the child knows and trusts — often a parent or other relative. If you suspect child abuse, report the abuse to the proper authorities. Sexual abuse. Child sexual abuse is any sexual activity with a child. This can involve sexual contact, such as intentional sexual touching, oral-genital contact or intercourse. This can also involve noncontact sexual abuse of a child, such as exposing a child to sexual activity or pornography; observing or filming a child in a sexual manner; sexual harassment of a child; or prostitution of a child, including sex trafficking.

The Preamble to the Constitution of Mongolia states that “the establishment and development of a humane, civil, democratic society in the country shall be the supreme goal,” and Article 1(2) of the law states that “democratic principles, justice, freedom, equality, ensuring national unity, and the rule of law shall be the fundamental principles of state activity.” Article 19(1) reinforces the basic norms that the State shall be responsible to its citizens for the creation of

economic, social, legal, and other guarantees that ensure human rights and freedoms, for combating violations of human rights and freedoms, and for restoring violated rights.”

Since the adoption of its Democratic Constitution, Mongolia has been following the Criminal Code (1986, 2002), and the Criminal Code (2015) has become a law with a wide range of regulations in terms of concepts and objects of protection. Chapter Twelve of the Criminal Code. Crimes against human sexual freedom and inviolability (Articles 12.1-12.5), and the crime analyzed in this article is Article 12.1 of the Criminal Code. The crime of rape, as well as Article 12.2 of the law. The quantitative data on the registered, processed, and resolved crimes of sexual misconduct were analyzed, and some issues to be considered in the processing of this type of crime were identified and used to develop a preliminary questionnaire for a qualitative study.

THE ISSUES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

What is sexual violence?

Sexual violence, which is frequently accompanied by physical or mental abuse, can take the form of direct physical contact or unwelcome exposure to sexual words and imagery. It includes instances in which a kid is forced to execute a sexual act, persuaded to reveal her or his body parts (in person or online), compelled to see the sexual actions of others, subjected to sexual approaches by adults or peers, and a variety of other forms of abuse. Rape is a serious kind of sexual assault that can be committed by an individual or a group as a form of punishment or a weapon of warfare.

Sexual assault affects children more than adults. Their inadequate understanding of what constitutes abuse puts them at risk of victimization. Furthermore, they may be uninformed of the attackers' objectives, leading to further.

Suffering sexual violence during childhood impedes all aspects of development. Physically, abuse can result in considerable injury, early pregnancy, and HIV or other sexually transmitted infections. Psychological consequences include depression, anxiety, panic disorders and a range of self-harming behaviors, like eating disorders and suicidal thoughts. Children may cope with their experiences by running away, skipping school, turning to drugs and alcohol, or engaging in risky sexual activity – behaviors that often isolate them, raising their exposure to more abuse.

In these ways and others, the social harm associated with sexual violence can be severe. Child victims may develop insecure or disorganized attachments, especially when violated by a person they depend on. They may grow up struggling to trust others and to maintain close relationships. Some enter adulthood without ever receiving the support they need to speak of their abuse. Because sexual violence can be shrouded in stigma and shame, silence remains the crushing burden of the survivor.

Sexual violence is any unwanted sexual act or behavior imposed on a person without their consent, often involving coercion, force, or manipulation. It includes a wide range of acts such as rape, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, incest, sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, unwanted sexual contact or touching, exposure to sexual language or images, and forced participation in sexual acts.

Children are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence due to their limited understanding of abuse and susceptibility to manipulation. Sexual violence against children can involve forcing them to perform sexual acts, exposing their bodies, coercing them to witness sexual activities, or subjecting them to sexual advances by adults or peers.

The consequences of sexual violence are severe and multifaceted. Physically, victims may suffer injuries, early pregnancy, and sexually transmitted infections including HIV. Psychologically, victims often experience depression, anxiety, panic disorders, self-harming behaviors, and suicidal thoughts. Socially, survivors may develop insecure attachments, struggle with trust and relationships, and face stigma and shame that often lead to silence and isolation.

Sexual violence can be perpetrated by strangers, acquaintances, family members, or intimate partners. It occurs in various contexts including domestic settings, workplaces, schools, and during armed conflict, where it may be used systematically as a weapon of war.

Child Sexual Violence: Key Facts and Impacts

Child sexual violence encompasses any deliberate sexual act or exploitation perpetrated against a child, including contact (e.g., rape, assault) and non-contact acts (e.g., exposure to pornography, voyeurism). It affects millions globally, with 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 7 boys experiencing sexual violence during childhood.

Approximately 650 million women and girls globally have endured childhood sexual violence. Sub-Saharan Africa reports the highest rates (22% of girls), followed by Eastern and South-Eastern Asia. In armed conflicts, systemic sexual violence remains a grave violation of children's rights. Recent estimates suggest nearly 1 in 8 girls (over 370 million) experience abuse before age 18. Between 240 and 530 million men and boys are affected, with underreporting due to stigma. In conflict zones, boys face sexual slavery (e.g., Afghanistan's Bacha Baazi system) and coercion to commit abuses.

Causes and Conditions of Violence Against Children Rape

Structural Inequalities and Poverty exacerbates vulnerabilities through economic deprivation, with children from low-income households facing higher risks of exploitation and neglect. Persistent poverty and deep deprivation limit parental capacity to meet basic needs, while economic shocks increase abuse rates unless mitigated by welfare support. Children in poverty are often compelled into labor or high-risk environments, increasing exposure to perpetrators.

Perpetrator Tactics and Risk Conditions, abusers target children in vulnerable circumstances, including those from isolated or unstable households, exploiting trust through grooming tactics. Passive or neglected children in fractured families are particularly susceptible due to reduced oversight and social support. Cultural and Social Norms such as normalization of violence: Physical discipline is often culturally accepted, reinforcing cycles of abuse.

Gender inequities as girls face higher risks of sexual exploitation due to patriarchal norms, while boys in conflict zones experience targeted violence. Conflict-related exploitation: Armed groups weaponize sexual violence to terrorize communities, with children as young as one year old targeted.

ANALYSIS AND COMPARISONS OF CRIME AS RAPE.

Analysis about the status of the police registering and investigating this type of crime

Article 4.1 of the Law on Police Service (2017) states that the Police Service shall fight crime, ... and carry out this function within the scope of its powers specified in Article 10.1 of the Law. The following quantitative data on the work carried out by the police within the scope of its powers specified in Article 10.1.4 of the Law on Police Service, respectively, to register and investigate crimes under the law; and Article 10.1.10 of the Law on Police Service, respectively, to maintain a unified statistical register of crimes, violations, and persons convicted of them, and to make inquiries, was analyzed. Article 12.1 of the Criminal Code registered by the police in 2020-2024. Rape crime, and Article 12.2 of the Law. Quantitative study of crimes of sexual misconduct.

This crime resulted in a miscarriage or pregnancy of a person under the age of sixteen; rape of a person under the age of sixteen related to the family - 81, Article 12.1 4. This crime was committed against a minor - 990, Article 12.2 2. This crime was committed against a person over the age of fourteen and under the age of eighteen - 16, Article 12.2 3. This crime was committed against a minor - 46 crimes.

From table ass below, it is noteworthy that the number of crimes of this type has increased steadily, 4. This crime was committed against a minor - 990, which is an increase of 1.8 percent compared to the 2020 table for this type of crime. Article 12.1 of the Criminal Code registered in the last 5 years. Rape crime, as well as Article 12.2 of the law. Of the 1,601 crimes of sexual misconduct registered, an average of 320 crimes were registered and investigated over the past 5 years. In light of the above table, the current state of detection of this type of crime is as follows:

Table 01. Number of people registered and checked by the police (2020-2024)

No	Relevant articles, sections, and provisions of the Criminal Code	2020 year	2021 year	2022 year	2023 year	2024 year
1.	12.1 article 2.1	66	78	82	123	119
2.	12.1 article 3	21	15	19	18	8
3.	12.1 article 4	138	171	222	212	247
4.	12.2 article 2	2	1	3	3	7
5.	12.2 article 3	6	7	7	9	17
TOTAL		233	272	333	365	398

12.1 article 1., the crime of rape, Noted by: The results of our study

Comparing the crime detection rate, the detection rate of the crime in 2020 was average and above average, while the detection rate of the crime in 2024 has decreased sharply, which is related to the decrease in the detection rate of the above crimes for each crime. In addition, it is necessary to determine the reasons for the decrease in the detection rate of this type of crime through the results of a comprehensive study.

The table indicating the personal status of the victims of the above detected crimes are: 1553 women, 77 men, 110 children 0-7 years old, 685 children 8-13 years old, and 835 children 14-17 years old. In terms of social status, the victims are 1320 secondary school students, 21 school dropouts, 60 students, and 229 others.

Table 02. The number of people born (2020-2024)

Age	2020 year	2021 year	2022 year	2023 year	2024 year	TOTAL
Between 10-14 age	11	18	22	24	23	98
Between 15-19 age	2934	2553	2386	2074	1931	11878

Noted by: The results of our study

The statistical data supplied by the Health development center should be thoroughly investigated in terms of the age and social position of the victims of the aforementioned crimes. For example, it is possible to compare the age and quantitative data of victims of crimes registered in the last 5 years to the quantitative data released by the organization, conduct qualitative research, and draw conclusions to identify unregistered and undetected victims of crimes, prevent this type of crime, and take action.

Furthermore, 1597 disabled minors were victims of the aforementioned crimes documented between 2022 and 2024, of which 19 were disabled, and by type of disability: 1) 15 people with intellectual disabilities, 2) 3 people with dual disabilities (speech and hearing), and 3) 1 person with hearing disabilities. We are actively watching and investigating the fact that, despite quantitative studies on the age and health status of victims of this sort of crime, as well as preventive and intervention measures organized in stages, many conclusions are ineffectual.

CONCLUSION

The number of rapes and indecent assaults on minors has been increasing annually, with an average of 320 cases registered each year (about 0.8 cases per day).

While legal frameworks and law enforcement capacity have improved, prevention remains a challenge. Social and economic conditions, the quality of law implementation, and the attitudes of officials and citizens all influence outcomes. Excessive punishment and public advocacy, while intended to deter crime, can have severe psychological effects on victims, including suicidal tendencies. Many cases remain hidden due to fear, stigma, and inadequate support systems. Child sexual abuse is linked to lasting mental health challenges, including PTSD, substance abuse, and depression.

International experience suggests that influencing perpetrator behavior through targeted information campaigns and education is more effective than punitive measures alone. Prevention laws must focus on stopping crimes before they occur, requiring coordinated efforts from state institutions and communities.

Despite some projections for a 6-20% decrease in detected cases in 2024, the overall trend over recent years has shown a steady annual increase of 14.2-22.8% in reported cases. Behind statistics such as 11,976 births and 3,165 abortions (2020–2024) are many unreported crimes against minors. Over the past five years, 4,161 individuals have been examined as victims of sexual violence, with 1,601 cases registered by police and 1,413 prosecuted.

Children aged 8–17 are most affected. In 2024, there was an 11.5% increase in male child victims compared to the previous year, with 19 boys reported as victims. Most abuse occurs in homes, often by someone the child knows and trusts—reflecting broader patterns where 93% of abused children are victimized by familial individuals.

Major drivers include family instability, inappropriate relationships, household alcoholism, uncontrolled internet use, and weak child supervision. The majority of perpetrators (91.8%) have low or incomplete secondary education, and most offenders are aged 26–35.

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