

Review of India's Criminal Justice System in Addressing Child Sexual Abuses with Special Reference on POCSO Act

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Abstract: *Sexual abuse, particularly against children, represents a severe violation of human rights, causing lasting harm and trauma. In India, child sexual abuse is a prevalent issue, with significant immediate and long-term consequences for victims. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO Act) stands as a pivotal milestone in India's legal framework, aiming to safeguard children from various forms of sexual exploitation. This paper delves into the historical background of child protection laws in India, tracing the evolution from customary practices to legislative reforms. The study highlights relevant sections under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Constitution of India that provide legal support for children against sexual abuses. Additionally, case laws before the enactment of the POCSO Act shed light on judicial responses to child sexual abuse, emphasizing the importance of sensitivity and accountability within the legal system.*

Furthermore, the study discusses the Vishaka guidelines, which set precedents for preventing sexual harassment in the workplace, and their implications for broader efforts to combat sexual abuse. The enactment of the POCSO Act is examined in detail, emphasizing its provisions for victim confidentiality and the establishment of special courts dedicated to trying offenses against children

Keywords: Child, Sexual Abuse, POCSO Act, 2012, Indian Criminal Justice system.

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