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## Understanding ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN (OSEC)

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WORLD HOPE INTERNATIONAL  
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## Topic outline

Overview of OSEC  
Prevalence of OSEC  
How does OSEC happen?  
Facilitators of abuse  
Why OSEC happens  
Referral and reporting

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## Overview of OSEC

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## FILIPINOS ONLINE

The Filipinos are one of the world's heaviest Internet users. In the Digital 2018 report, there are **7 million internet users** in 2017 representing **63% out of 105.7 million** Filipinos.

Portable devices are frequently used to access the internet. Filipinos surf the internet for about **9 hours and 29 minutes** in a day. Philippines is the second-highest internet users in the world (Camus, 2018).

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## FILIPINOS ONLINE

The Philippines is the world's leading social media user with **67 million Filipinos in social media**, according to We Are Social (Kemp, 2015).



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## INTERNET AND ABUSE



The “Triple A Engine” of the internet facilitates sexual abuse and exploitation namely **accessibility, affordability, and anonymity**. It has become easy for a perpetrator to access child sexual abuse contents while being anonymous at a very affordable cost Cooper (1998).

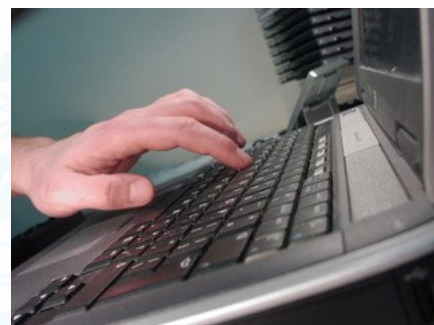
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## Online Sexual Exploitation of Children

- OSEC is an emerging form of exploitation and child sexual abuse that happens in information and technology medium. It involves the production, possession, and distribution of child sexual abuse materials and the gradual grooming of target victims purposely for livestreaming of sexual abuse or exploitation (We Protect Global Alliance, 2015)



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## TYPES OF ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION

Child sexual abuse material, as well as digitally produced child sexual abuse material

Online grooming

Sexting

Sexual extortion

Live online child sexual abuse

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## Online Sexual Exploitation of Children

- Child Protection Compact Partnership identifies OSEC as a form of child sex trafficking, which occurs “. . . when the abuse or exploitation is performed through the use of live webcam and children are induced to perform commercial sex acts or other explicit sexual acts that are then broadcasted over the Internet” (p. 12). Exploitative activities range from ***sexually explicit photographs, which are sold via the web, to the live-streaming of sexual abuse*** (U.S. Department of State, 2017).

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# Prevalence of OSEC

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## THE FILIPINO CHILD IN the CYBERSPACE

The data of Stairway Foundation in 2015 in a survey of 3,000 Filipino children found that **90% of Filipino children have access to and use the Internet**. One in five children aged 7-12 and 40% of children aged 13-16 years shared that they “chat with strangers” online.

In addition, one in 10 children indicated that they “knew someone who had been asked to strip naked online” in exchange for money or phone credit.<sup>10</sup>



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## THE FILIPINO CHILD IN the CYBERSPACE



UNICEF's study on Violence Against Children in 2016 found that 2.5% of Filipino children have been streamed nude or performing sexual acts on the internet – either via a PC or a smartphone.

The prevalence consists of 3.2% among males and 1.8% among females.

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## THE FILIPINO CHILD IN the CYBERSPACE

It also showed that **8 out of 10 Filipino children** are at risk of being victims of sexual abuse or bullying online.

The rapidly increasing proliferation of Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC) has made the Philippines the global epicenter of live stream sexual abuse (UNICEF, 2016)



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## PREVALENCE OF OSEC

The IJM reported that the number of rescue and arrest operations related to the cybersex business in the Philippines escalated from just 17 in 2015 to 51 in the first nine months of 2018.

Another notable trend is that the victims' age is getting younger whereby most of them are 12 years old or younger, and one in ten are boys. (Promchertchoo, 2018).



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## PREVALENCE OF OSEC



More recently, IJM found that from 43 out of every 10,000 Internet Protocol (IP) addresses being used for child sexual exploitation in 2014, the number has ballooned to 149 in 2017

41% of victims' abuse was facilitated by biological parents and 42 % by other relatives or at least 83 percent by people related to child victims.

Ijm.org. 2020. Online Sexual Exploitation Of Children In The Philippines: Analysis And Recommendations For Governments, Industry, And Civil Society. [online] Available at: <[https://www.ijm.org/documents/Final\\_OSEC-Public-Summary\\_05\\_20\\_2020.pdf](https://www.ijm.org/documents/Final_OSEC-Public-Summary_05_20_2020.pdf)> [Accessed 8 July 2020].

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



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**PHILIPPINES**

### Reports of sexual abuse of children triple during lockdown

The justice department receives nearly 280,000 reports from March to May. It blames telecommunications companies for not proactively blocking access to forms of online sexual exploitation of children.

**Lian Buan**  
Journalist  
Published 6:13 PM, May 25, 2020  
Updated 6:38 PM, May 25, 2020

Facebook  
Twitter  
Reddit

**INQUIRER.NET**  
Tuesday, June 9, 2020

### Human trafficking and COVID-19

By: Marielito Dela Cruz - @inquirerdotnet 12:41 PM April 11, 2020

The impact of COVID-19 is not confined to sickness and death.

The shutdown of major economic sectors and the prohibition of social activities leaves the vast majority of Filipinos without a source of income and very limited means to socialize. According to We Are Social's Global Digital Report 2019, 71 percent of the Philippine population spend an average of four hours a day on social media. The percentage and the hours could be much higher in these times of quarantine. The lack of income and being locked into social media can lead to dangerous situations.

One of the growing concerns in the country is the increase of online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC) cases. According to the "Child Trafficking

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# How does OSEC victimization happen?

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## GROOMING :NORMALIZING ABUSE



Grooming is a process by which a person prepares a child, significant adults and the environment for the abuse of this child (Craven, 2007).

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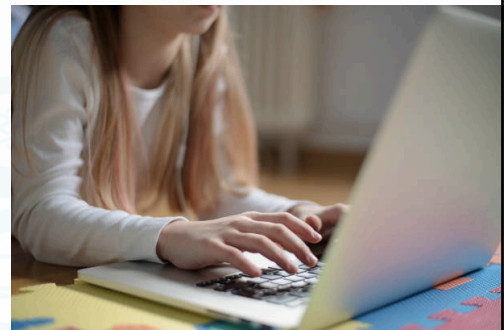


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## GROOMING :NORMALIZING ABUSE

The survivors who are usually heavily influenced by their families. The Filipino value of being family centric makes it easy for parents to appeal to the children's emotions in bearing duty to earn money for the family.

They remind their children that the money they earn from the "shows" pays the bills. (Terre des Hommes, 2013)

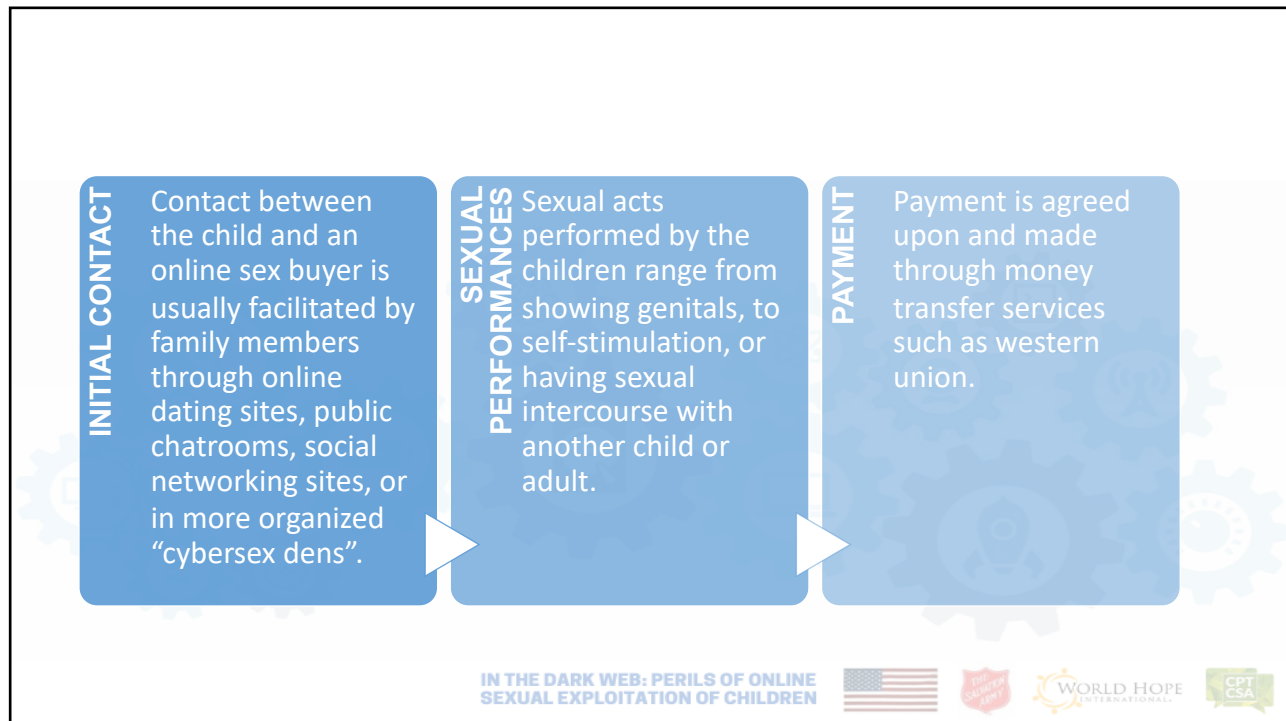


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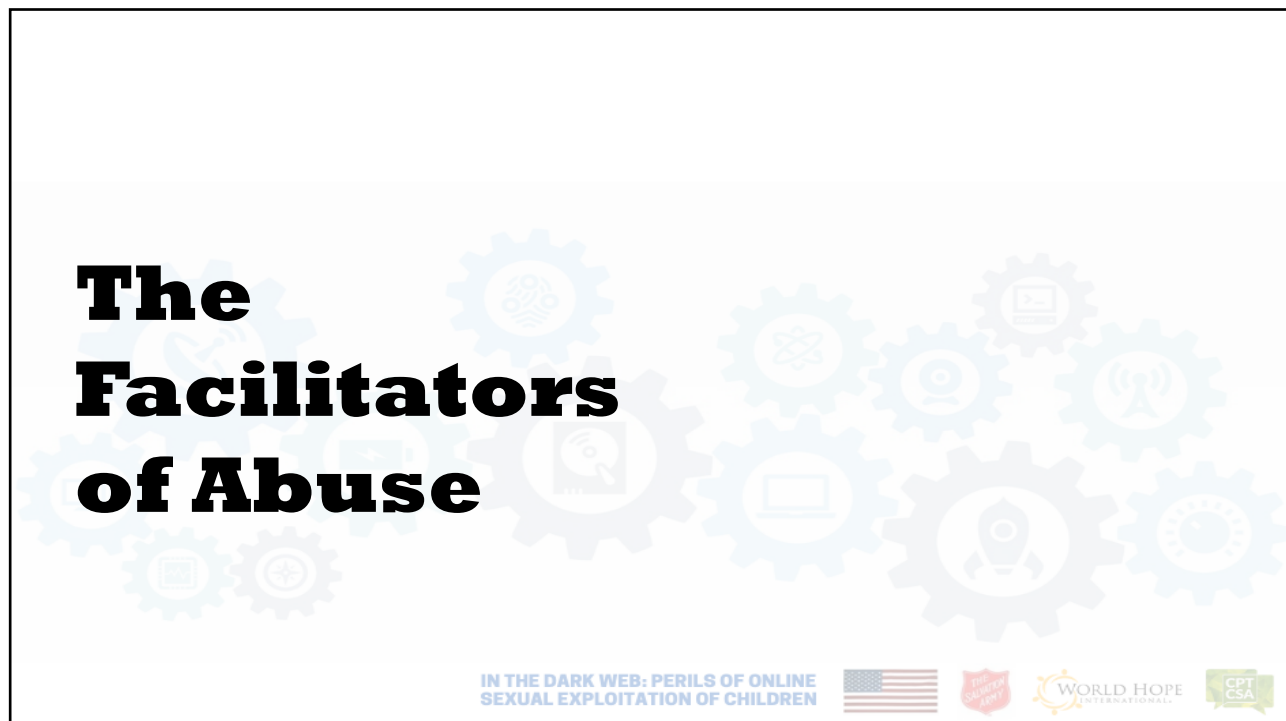


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## **DYNAMICS OF OSEC FAMILIES**

Child victims are mostly from very poor families; usually ones without a steady of income.

Child victims have homes that can be generally characterized as dysfunctional due to poor parenting skills, and large family size (Terre des Hommes, 2013).

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## **DYNAMICS OF OSEC FAMILIES**

One in two children reported substance use present in the family which included alcohol and drugs.

Corporal punishment that can qualify as physical were also employed by most parents of the survivors.

Meanwhile, emotional abuse is prevalent. The children reported being criticized, degraded, even humiliated by their parents or family members (Terre des Hommes, 2013).

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## DYNAMICS OF OSEC FAMILIES

There are identified patterns of unhealthy behaviors common among the survivors' family. One in two children reported substance use present in the family which included alcohol and drugs.

Corporal punishment that can qualify as physical were also employed by most parents of the survivors. Meanwhile, emotional abuse is prevalent (UNICEF, 2017)

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## Online Perpetrators

The online sexual abuser found to be chatting with young girls in the Philippines are typically western men.

Statistical data regarding the nature of OSEC suggest that it is a crime committed almost exclusively by consumers in developed and affluent countries (Terre des Hommes, 2013).

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## Online Perpetrators

In a sample of online sex offenders, about 50% reported “low levels of dominance and warmth, suggesting self-consciousness and a lack of assertiveness, as well as lacking empathy in personal relationships”, all of which led to interpersonal difficulties.

The offenders’ lack of healthy intimate relationships is linked with difficulties in forming and sustaining age-appropriate relationships.

Many were also found to be experiencing dysphoric mood and high levels of depression. Laulik, S., Allam, J., & Sheridan, L. (2007)

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## Online Perpetrators

It was also found that online offenders seemingly use online interaction to alleviate their loneliness and see such online interactions as reducing their intimacy deficits. These online interactions also minimize the risk of rejection driven by low self-esteem (Kloess, J. A., Beech, A. R., & Harkins, L., 2014).

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# Why does OSEC happen?

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## Driving Factors of OSEC

OSEC happens because children are in a position of vulnerability and are not being protected. Adults who should be in protective positions—parents, aunts, uncles, friends—are not shielding children from abuse.

OSEC happens, in many cases, because of the financial benefits, oftentimes due to poverty.

With the above issues, combined with the relatively affordable high-speed internet and high levels of English literacy in the Philippines, individuals are able to connect more easily to international perpetrators.

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- Ultimately, OSEC happens because there is a demand; abusers are willing to pay to watch a child being abused, for their own sexual pleasure. This person is in power because he/she has the money to pay for the exploitation.

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## How can I help in #EndingOSEC?

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- Be informed
- Be vigilant
- Be caring enough to listen
- Be empowered to report

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## REPORT ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN (OSEC) NOW

Tumawag o mag-email sa mga ito kapag ikaw ay nakakita ng kaso ng OSEC.

■ **Bantay Bata 163**

Landline (toll-free) 163  
Smart 163  
Globe (toll-free) #163

■ **PNP Aling Pulis Hotline (24/7)**

Landline (8) 532 6690  
Smart 0919 777 7377  
Globe 0966 725 5961

■ **NBI Anti-human Trafficking Division**  
(02) 85238231 or 0285219208

■ **DOJ Inter-Agency Council Against  
Human Trafficking**  
1343 or [www.1342actionline.ph](http://www.1342actionline.ph)

■ **Commission on Human Rights**

Landline (08) 294 8704  
TM 0936 068 0982  
Smart 0920 506 1194  
Email [chad.pasco.chr@gmail.com](mailto:chad.pasco.chr@gmail.com)

■ **Twitter Help Center**

<https://help.twitter.com/forms/cse>

■ **How to report on Facebook**

<https://bit.ly/reportonfb>

■ **For Smart subscribers**

Text "ENDOSEC [space]  
[message/report]" to 7444-64

■ **Philippine National Police**

Landline 117

■ **PNP- Women and Children  
Protection Center (WCPC)**

Luzon 0945 863 2235  
Visayas: (032) 410 8483  
Mindanao: 0928 604 6425 or  
0917 180 6037

OFFICE OF SENATOR  
RISA HONTIVEROS

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*As helping professionals, we all  
have a role to play in the healing  
and recovery of osec survivors*

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## Mental Health Outcomes and Support for OSEC Survivors

Norieta Calma-Balderrama,  
M.D., FPPA, FPSCAP



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Before

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NOW

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## Objectives

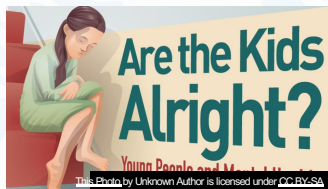
1. Explain mental health outcomes of children affected by online sexual exploitation.
2. Discuss the role of health and provision of therapeutic care to aid recovery of children affected by online sexual abuse.

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## Support for OSEC multisystem



### OUTCOME

Online Child sexual abuse may lead to a wider range of **psychological symptoms**

**Anxiety, trauma, depression, risky behaviors**  
→ **suicide**

**Similar to other types of abuse**

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## Philippines Situation

- At risk for Online sexual **exploitation**
- 2018 – UNICEF , National Baseline
- 600,000 online OSE images
- 80 % of children with history of some form of violence
- 90 % of Filipino Children can access the internet when they want to
- Out of 18% children with unwanted sexual experience online,
- 17% said that family members were involved
- ( parents and younger siblings )
- 2 in 10 children are vulnerable victims of online sexual abuse and exploitation
- Boys and girls equally vulnerable

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## Forms of Child Abuse & Exploitation

- **Made-to-order** child sexual abuse material
- User-generated content & self-generated content including sexting
- **Broadcasting of live** sex abuse
- Use of sexual images / child pornography by sexual offender
- Used as **blackmail**

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## Children Can Be abused Online

### Unwanted sexual approaches



- system
- Wolak et al. found the group most **vulnerable** to sexual approaches and grooming tend to be **high risk youth** with **prior history of sexual abuse**
- Access points always available
- Multitude of offerings for anything we can imagine
- Philippines – **high risk** related to **poverty** and **lack of knowledge** on the effects
- **Brain of the child is responding and can be affected**

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Liezyl Margallo



*Senior police officers and prosecutors wept when they viewed one video called 'Daisy's Destruction' that Scully allegedly sold on the internet showing an 18-month-old girl being sexually assaulted while being tied upside down by the legs...*

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### Children Most at Risk Online

- Due to access and anonymity
- Baumgartner et al.
- **Adolescents taking most at risk online were more likely to face negative consequences such as abusive situations than those who did not engage in risky online behavior.**
- **They were more likely to be sensation seekers who have low level of satisfaction with their lives and with family difficulties**
- **Philippines –more complex because of participation of family or relatives ( 17%) and financial problems**

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### Risky Online Behaviors of Third and Fourth year High School Students in a Public and Private High School in Metro Manila Predisposing to Sexual Solicitation and Harassment : Cross Sectional Study

- The odds of experiencing internet harassment and/or sexual solicitation is **twice for those:**
- Sending personal information online, interacting with unknown persons,
- Having unknown persons on the buddy list
- Using the internet >5x a week
- .... but the odds are **increased 4x** for those visiting x-rated websites.

• Flores, Tan, Gregorio (2009)

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### TEXTMATE/CHATMATE is the SEXUAL ABUSE PERPETRATOR (Women & Child Protection Units data)



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### What makes children and teens at risk for online victimization?

- It is not the internet or a specific place online, per se, but rather the **pattern of online behaviors** and **psychosocial problems** that are most influential in explaining the likelihood of online interpersonal victimization.
- Almost all of the youth reporting online victimization (96%) also reported at least one offline victimization.

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## Impact on children who are subjects of sexual images online

- The “**double silencing**” of children caused by the fact that they feel there is evidence of their “willing participation”.
- May appear to be “smiling” as if she is “enjoying” the abuse
- - reality extreme **sense of guilt, shame**. As they realize it that is when the mental effects manifest.
- Very few children disclose sexual abuse: even **fewer disclose** their abuse when the process has occurred using **internet** .

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Many forms of ICT-Facilitated child  
abuse and exploitation involve the  
same dynamics, patterns &  
structures as non-digital ones.

But with more challenges  
Multiple and ongoing traumatizing  
aspects

Unicef 2011



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## Challenges/ Difficulties

- Being **photographed** during the abuse
- Knowing the **images are available** indefinitely
- **Fear of being recognized** online
- Feeling **shame and humiliation** – images of abuse remain in public domain ( Leonard, 2010; Martin , 2014a;von Weriler , Haardt-Becker, &Schulte, 2010)
- **Trauma symptoms** may not occur in the aftermath of the abuse , the **abuse is ongoing** with no definable end

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## Effects/ outcome





Livingstone and Smith

- Fewer than 1 in 5 adolescents were affected by negative sexual experiences online

Hamilton –Giachritsis et al. – abuse involved control, permanence, black mail, revictimization and self blame

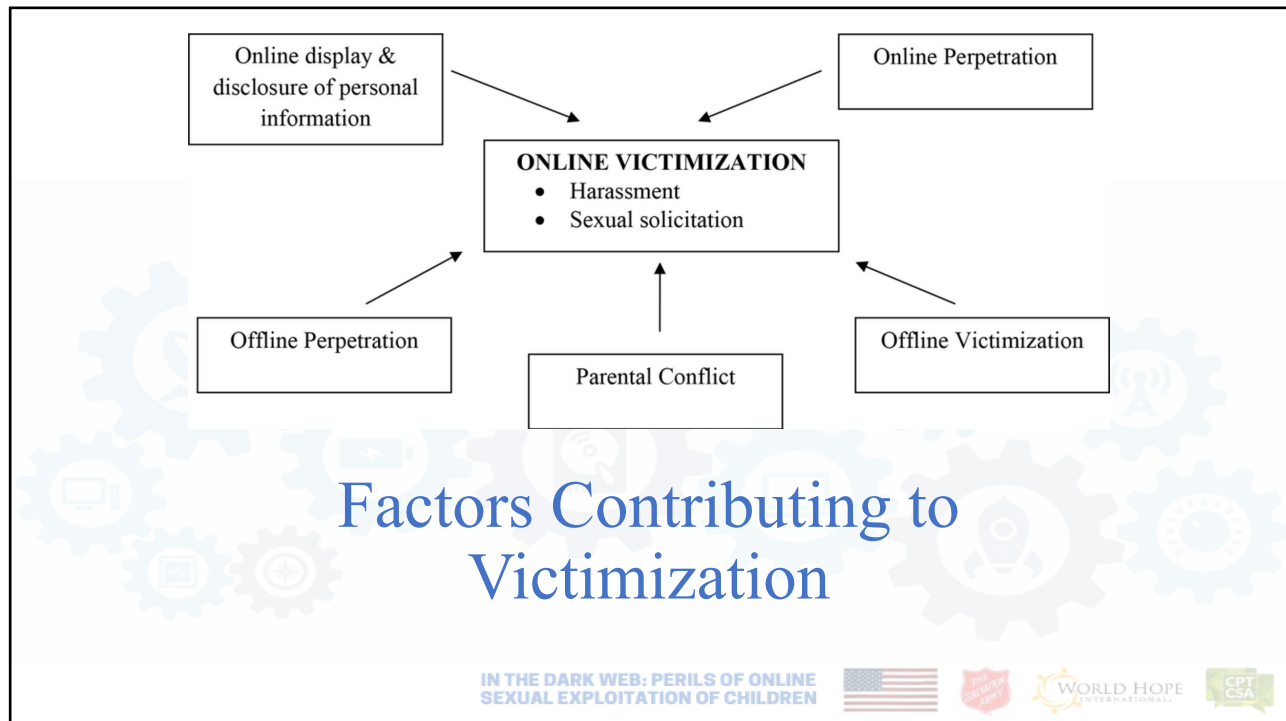
4 out of 5 had a score consistent with diagnosis of posttraumatic stress.

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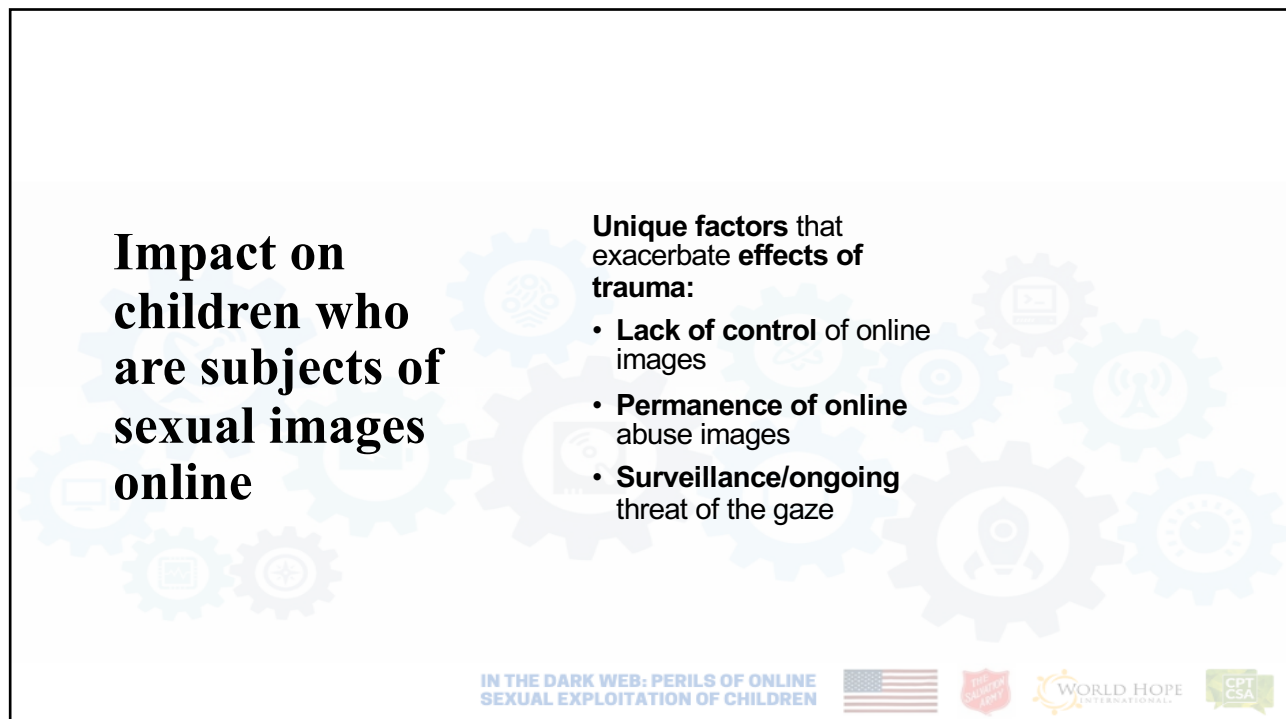


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The complex block contains text on the left and a bulleted list on the right. The text on the left reads: "Impact on children who are subjects of sexual images online". The text on the right reads: "Unique factors that exacerbate effects of trauma:". Below this text is a bulleted list with three items: "• Lack of control of online images", "• Permanence of online abuse images", and "• Surveillance/ongoing threat of the gaze". The background features a light blue gear pattern.

**Impact on children who are subjects of sexual images online**

**Unique factors that exacerbate effects of trauma:**

- Lack of control of online images
- Permanence of online abuse images
- Surveillance/ongoing threat of the gaze

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US Flag, The Salvation Army, World Hope International, CPT CSA

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## Impact on children who are subjects of sexual images online

- **Multiple and ongoing trauma** – indefinite
- Fear of being **recognized anytime, anywhere**
- **Shame and humiliation** that the images remain in the public domain of cyberspace
- Children may be further harmed if asked to recount memories, thoughts and feelings
- **Established approaches** for “conventional” CSA may be inadequate or inappropriate

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## Impact of technology assisted/ online child sexual abuse

- Outcome is **as much as offline** abuse. They experience:
- **Self blame**
- **Flashbacks or intrusive thoughts**
- **Depression** and low self esteem
- Nightmares and trouble sleeping
- **Anxiety** and panic attacks
- **Self harm**
- School related problems

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## Outcome

- **Online** caused additional psychological effects ( some later as they realize what happened )
- 1. **Fear of sexual images** being shared online or being viewed in the future
- 2. Being filmed led them to to feel **uncomfortable around cameras**
- 3. When in constant contact they become **fatigued** because they were in contact at night
- 4. More vulnerable to being abused leading to **risky behaviors** like **drinking, taking drugs, running away** → low sense of self

( Hamilton- Giachritsis, C et al. 2017 )

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## Impact

- 4. Some of them **blamed themselves** for allowing the abuse and this is aggravated if the family is not supportive or if they are the perpetrators.

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## Online sexual abuse of adolescents

- **Johnsson and Fredlund et al. 2019**
- **Sociodemographic background – less favorable**
- **Parents unemployed, lower level of education, child did not live with parents, more likely with poorer financial situation ( not statistically significant )**
- **Philippines – the same low socioeconomic background and family members can sometimes be the perpetrators**

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## Experience of other forms of abuse

Child and Adolescent  
Psychiatry and Mental Health (   
Johnsson and Fredlund, et al.   
 ) –

Exposed to different types of  
abuse during their childhood  
including physical abuse

- **Philippines – cases seen showed prior traumatic experiences ( psychological, physical abuse in addition to poverty ) and trauma related to being rescued**

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## Parenting bonding , self esteem and trauma symptoms

- Same study
- Poorer relationships with both their mothers and fathers
- less parental care
- Lower self esteem
- Those both abused online and offline scored higher trauma symptoms than those abused only online , the difference was significant only on the subscale depression
- Philippines – those with OSE did not manifest with trauma symptoms in relation to the OSE in the beginning
- Trauma symptoms occur as they understand what really happened and when they are separated from their families

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**Sexual contact online** were  
positive experiences with  
persons of same age or older

- Previous studies showed **meeting a person online increases the risk of facing negative** consequences like receiving unwanted sexual approaches → sexual experiences online
- 9 % were persuaded , pressed or coerced

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- Adolescents with OSE had backgrounds with significantly **more numerous** and varied **experiences** of different **forms of abuse**
- The **more severe form of abuse**, the more serious the **subsequent associated health** issues ( same as ACE study )
- **Online abuse** is associated with **poor health**, **low self esteem**, poorer relationship between parent and child

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## Outcome

### Regarding trauma symptoms

- **Online sexual abuse** was associated with poorer health , at least on the same level as offline sexual abuse
- Those with both online and offline scored **highest** supporting the poly victimization model
- Philippines - high scores on PTAQ  
in relation to past trauma, total experience  
Trauma symptoms in relation to the online  
experience would manifest later

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## Outcome

- Online sexual abuse was strongly associated with depression.
- Philippines – mixed presentation of depression and other trauma symptoms – needs further study
- \* the depression related to SEPARATIONS , changes in family structure or arrangements

Trauma symptoms are related to whole experience of being rescued, family members being aware of the OSE and later as time goes by due to the OSE

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## Outcome

- Effects
- Adolescents abused online
- More online risk behaviors such as sharing personal information significantly more often , looking for someone online to talk with / talk sex with or posting nude pictures on community site
- → **result to being a victim again of online sexual abuse**

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## Findings

- Children that we are dealing with in the Philippines do have
- Different forms of abuse or
- that they do not have good relationship with parents or
- that parents do not have the time to supervise their activities because they have to earn a living
- or go abroad as OFW
- **They usually belong to the poly victimized group.**
- **Together with risky online behavior, poorer psychological health, with poor relationships with parents and low self esteem → INCREASES THE VULNERABILITY TO OSE**

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## Treatment

Many professional agree that there is still no definite therapy that is tailored for for child victims of online sexual abuse.

Most of the therapies being used are also the same as children victims of offline sexual abuse. Main difference is continuous **shame and guilty feelings**

( images of abuse may be forever )  
difficult for children to develop narrative about the abuse ( gradual exposure )


Important to include other approaches apart from trauma focused behavior therapy

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- **In treatment**
- **Psychological trauma**
- **Consider the developmental stage of the child**
- Need to **review the way** in which one tells the child about the recorded images for the first time
- **Do not interview in front of parents**
- Need **time to explain to non-offending parents** and answer their concerns
- They may feel they are “in love” with their online boyfriends and see there was nothing wrong
- Social services , Police intervention, legal and psychological support and all other interventions may need to be simultaneous

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## Things to consider in dealing with online sexual exploitation of children

- Emphasize **Use trauma informed care** by all caregivers
- Plan the interview – time, place, manner of interview
- If there is visual and oral evidence of the child’s abuse
- Do you still need to interview them about it?
- **Consider how the interview will be recorded** – videotaping may further traumatize the child or multiple interviews

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## Very Important Prevention

- Should target the youth directly and **acknowledge normal adolescent interests** in romance and sex and the increasing integration of technology into the life of today's youth in a developmentally appropriate way.
- **Part of curriculum and the school should help**
- Adolescents should be made **aware of seduction techniques and the criminal nature of relationships with adults** (statutory rape), grooming
- Give particular **attention to at-risk youth. Online risks are related to off-line risks.** It is not the online activity that is important but whether youth is **vulnerable** to emotional manipulation due to **offline factors**.

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SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN



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## Use of Trauma informed Philippine Psychosocial Processing

- Using **CBT based therapy tailored to our culture – TIPP**
- **From the point of view of poly victimization and complex dynamics of online sexual exploitation**
- TIPP addresses the psychoeducation , the coping and healing from traumatic experiences whether it is due to online exploitation or other traumatic events in their lives , meaning making and also includes safety skills and dealing with triggers. ( holistic approach to their trauma experience )
- Initial studies shows TIPP is effective
- ( more than 70 trained )

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## Family education and therapy



Educate the parents on  
the importance of support



Supervising and training  
of social workers and  
other caregivers on how  
to handle children with  
history of online sexual  
exploitation

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**TIPP is not enough and**

**there is a need to add some  
components related to the  
effects of online abuse**

**we have to augment with other  
psychosocial interventions  
depending on the mental health  
status of the child and family**

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SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN



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### Intervention modalities

- **Developmentally appropriate**
- Young children – game based therapies – more towards coping than telling and retelling
- **Conventional CSA** – blame themselves
- Explain the effects – Traumatic sexualization, stigmatization, betrayal, powerlessness→ distortion of child's self concept , worldview and affective capacities ( Finkelhor, 1986 )

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## Intervention Modalities

- Public discovery of the abuse – intensely shaming experience , tendency to blame the child for the abuse , reinforced by the reaction of others - shock or distress- ( Feiring &Taska 2005 )
- Continuous making meaning may not be effective – child's internalization of shame and humiliation adds to the burden of the child

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## Intervention modalities

- They struggle with the knowledge of what unknown perpetrators are doing sexually with the pictures – related to power and surveillance ( contributes to and perpetuates harm )
- Therapy – deal with shame , humiliation, powerlessness, fear, guilt , hopelessness or even psychological paralysis , need to monitor them closely

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## Additional areas that needs to be addressed

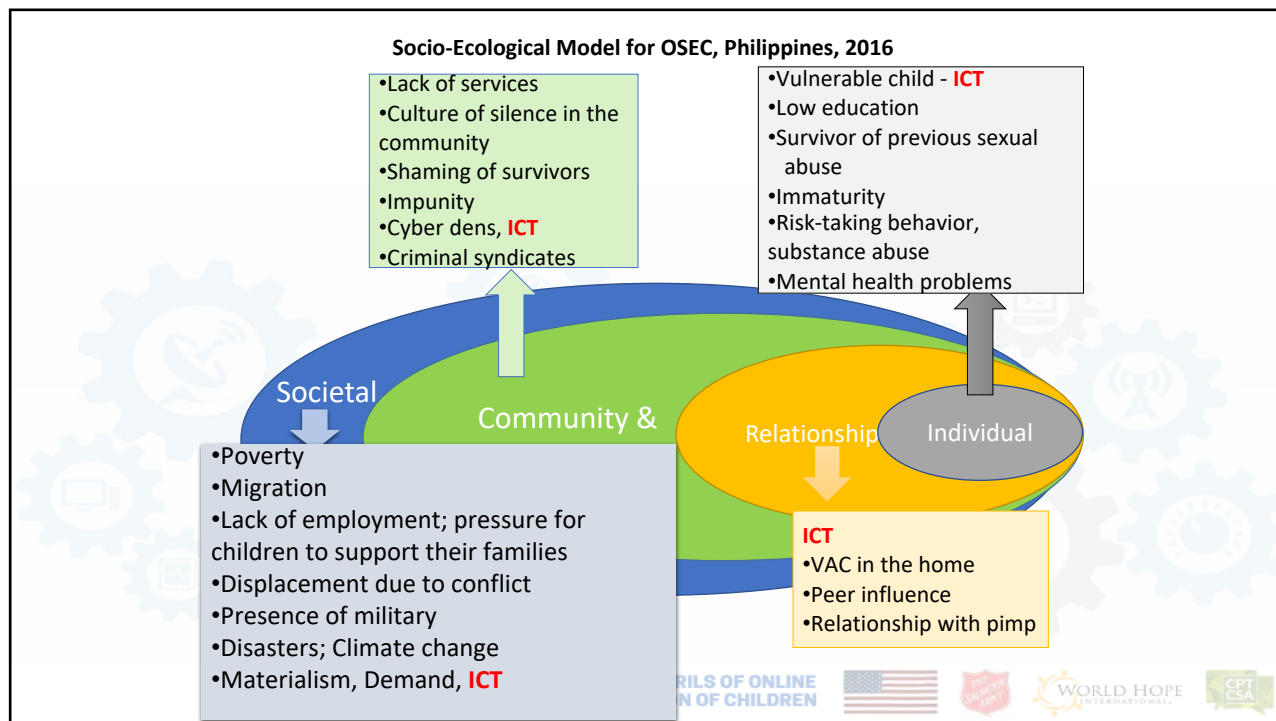
- Disclosure process
- Invasion of privacy
- Failure to protect
- Vital to have best practices – process of response to OSE
- To lessen trauma experiences

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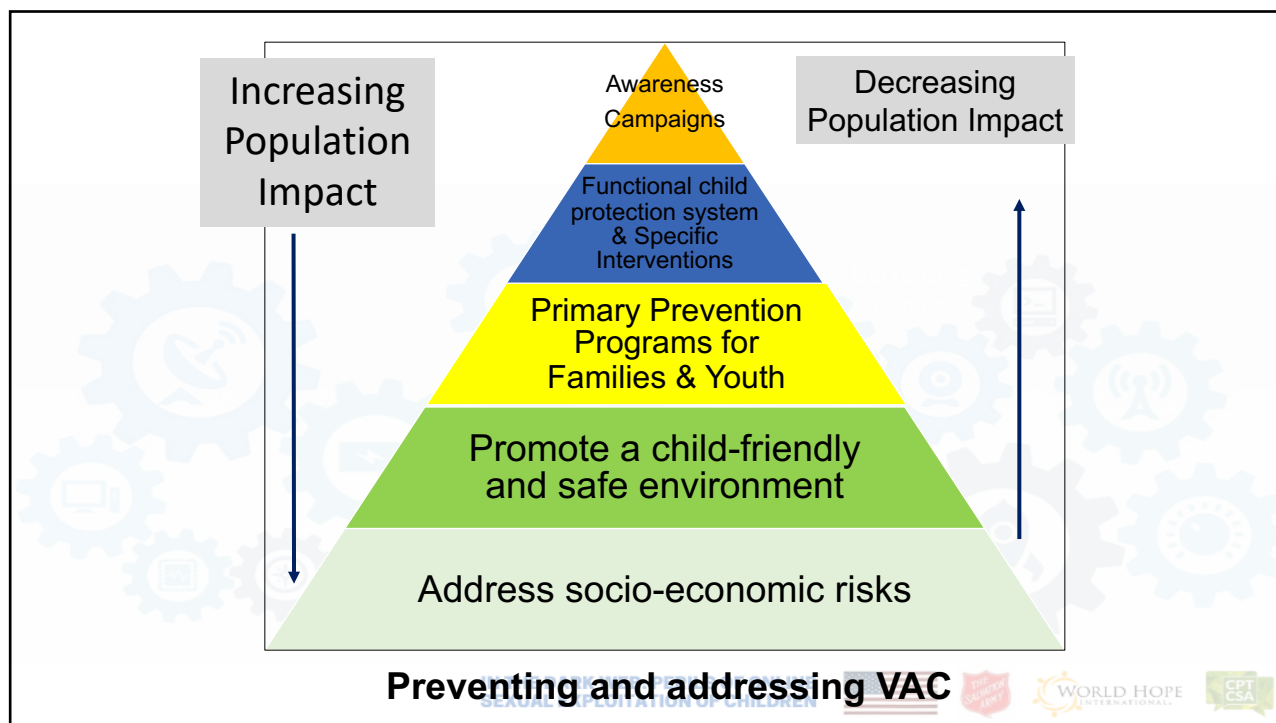


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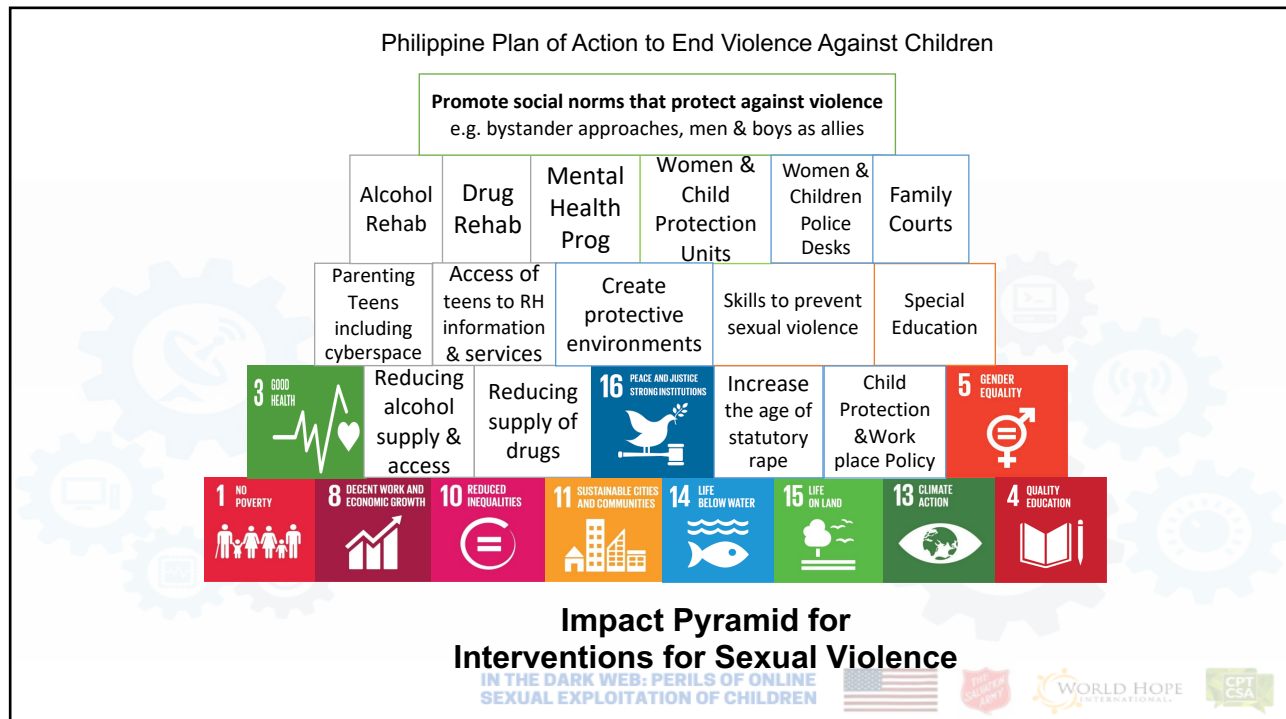




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## Summary

- Victimization affects children differently according to age and developmental stage
- Younger children may not be preoccupied with images , but as they age they are likely to understand the permanence of the images on the internet – **may not** always be **pathological** and it depends on multiple variables
- Traditional notions about trauma may be limited to capture the complex nature of online sexual exploitation
- **More research needed**

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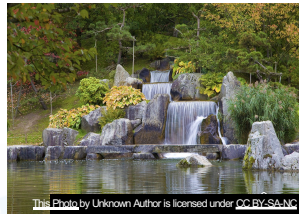
## Message

- **VIEW ONLINE SEXUAL ABUSE AS A SERIOUS FORM OF ABUSE** even if they have not met outside of the internet.
- **We must always screen now for online behavior , online abuse and other forms of previous abuse in addition to screening for trauma and depression .**

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**Thank You!**

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# Psychosocial Needs of OSEC Survivors

The provision of services: Research of Dr Keri Bassett & Rebecca Draper

By Haley Clark, WHI Director of Anti-Human Trafficking and Gender-Based Violence

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## Objectives

- ▶ to explore the experiences of the service providers trained through the PAVE project to implement TIPP and EXA interventions with OSEC survivors
- ▶ to analyze client data collected through this part of the project
- ▶ to fill in some of the gaps in the literature regarding the psychosocial needs and the treatment of OSEC survivors
- ▶ to identify what needs to be incorporated into an effective treatment process with this population



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## Research Questions

- ▶ What are the characteristics and psychosocial needs of survivors of OSEC in residential care?
- ▶ What are the lived experiences of social workers providing psychosocial interventions to OSEC survivors?
- ▶ How effective are psychosocial interventions in reducing trauma-related symptomatology in OSEC survivors?



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## Methodology

- ▶ Archival data
  - Psychological Trauma Assessment Questionnaire (Child)
- ▶ Questionnaires
  - ▶-Child Psychotherapy Questionnaire (Social Worker)
- ▶ Semi-structured interviews

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## Social Worker Participants



Total of **21**  
**social**  
**workers**



11 Participants  
(48%) trained in  
**EXA**



10 Participants  
(52%) trained in  
**TIPP**



Mean age of  
**30.2 years**



Average of **6.6 years** of  
**professional**  
**experience** in social  
work



11 Participants  
went through an  
**in-depth**  
**interview**

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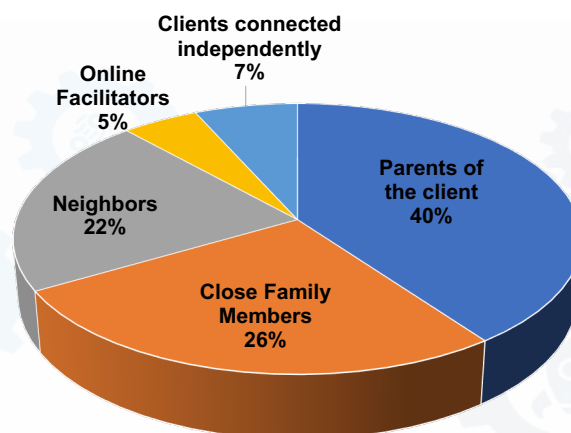
## Survivor Participants



**87% Female**  
**13% Male**



Mean age of  
**13.42 years**



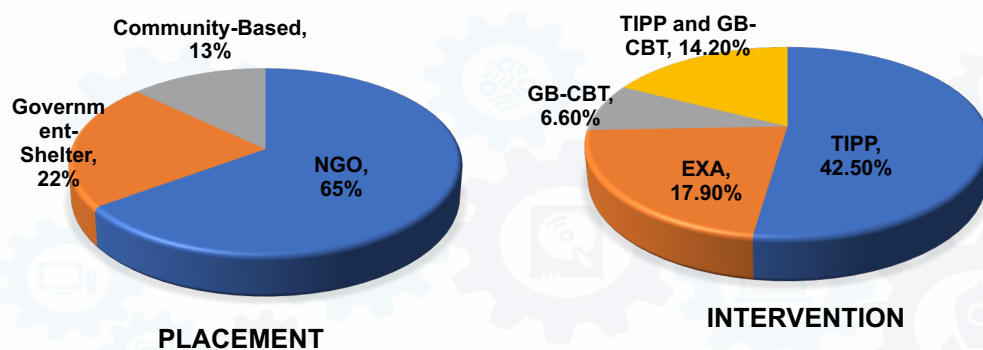
**RELATIONSHIP WITH PERPETRATOR**

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n = **106 OSEC Survivors**



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## Survivor Participants



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n = 106 OSEC Survivors



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## Results

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## Characteristics and Psychosocial Needs of Survivors of OSEC

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## Prototypical OSEC Client



### Item Title (Highest)

- Child discusses his or her parents in counseling
- Child is curious
- Child's aspirations or ambitions are clearly expressed
- Child asks for advice or information
- Child expresses feelings about needing someone or being close to someone
- Child is active
- Child is clear and organized in verbal expression
- Child draws social worker into play or activities
- The quality of child's play is fluid, absorbed (vs. fragmented, sporadic)
- Child seeks greater intimacy with the social worker

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## Prototypical OSEC Client



Item Title (Lowest)
Child attributes own characteristics or feelings to the social worker
Child ignores or rejects social worker's statements and observations
Child expresses negative feelings (e.g. criticism, hostility) towards social worker (vs. expresses approval or admiration)
Child feels wary or suspicious (vs. trusting and secure)
Child does not feel understood by the social worker
Child is socially misattuned or inappropriate
Child is competitive, rivalrous with the social worker
Child conveys or expresses mixed or conflicted feelings about the social worker
An earlier developmental phase or past life events are discussed by the child
Child appears unwilling to examine thoughts, reactions, or motivation related to problems.

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## Trauma Level of OSEC Survivors



PTAQ mean pre-intervention score is 31.9  
indicative of mild trauma level



25 clients (23.6%) scored above the clinical  
cut-off on pre-intervention PTAQ



Results suggest that trauma-related  
symptoms at the start of treatment did not  
vary based on the age and gender of OSEC  
survivors

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## Trauma Level of OSEC Survivors

There is a significant difference between the type of facilitator and level of trauma-related symptoms at the start of treatment. <sup>1</sup> The type of facilitator factor accounted for 28.7% in the variance of the pre-intervention PTAQ score.

The PTAQ score increased from close family members group to parents, neighbors, and independent operators.

<sup>1</sup> ANOVA test of difference  $t(27) = 2.99, p = .006$ . The standardized effect size index,  $d$ , was .57, indicating a medium effect size.

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## Lived Experiences of Social Workers

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## THEME 1: SURVIVORS OFTEN LACK SIGNS OF OBSERVABLE TRAUMA

There are few  
signs of PTSD

This can impact social workers'  
perception of client

Outward signs  
of trauma may  
increase as  
treatment  
continues



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## THEME 2: SURVIVORS DON'T ALWAYS PERCEIVE OSEC AS ABUSE

Denial of abuse

It's difficult  
to believe a  
loved one would  
abuse them.



*"It was just  
a picture."*

Their behavior  
is helpful to  
The family.

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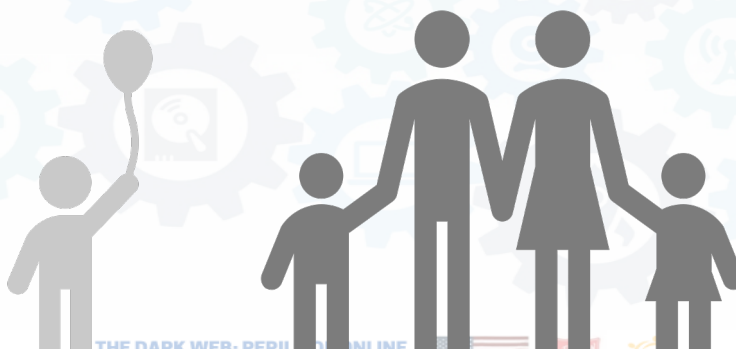
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### THEME 3: SURVIVORS OFTEN HAVE PRE-EXISTING FAMILY DYSFUNCTIONS

History of verbal and physical abuse within The family.

Limited life skills

Limited parental guidance



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### THEME 4: SURVIVORS ARE TRAUMATIZED BY THE RESCUE

*"I was caught by the police."*

May blame police officers and social service providers.



The nature of the rescue can be damaging.

The rescue can be very confusing.

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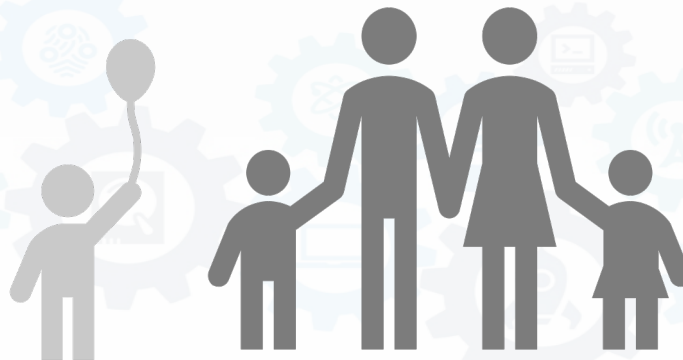
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## THEME 5: SURVIVORS STRUGGLE WITH SEPARATION FROM FAMILY

Survivors miss  
their families.

Reintegration with  
family is a slow and  
lengthy process.

*'Being separated from  
their family is very  
stressful and  
traumatic for the  
children, regardless of  
the service we provide  
for them'*



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## THEME 6: Limited Self-disclosure

There may be fear of  
incriminating  
family/loved ones.

There is lack  
of trust.

OSEC Survivor  
may feel shame  
about their  
behavior.



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## THEME 7: PSYCHOEDUCATION IS IMPORTANT FOR SURVIVORS



Psychoeducation defines the abuse.

Psychoeducation helps decrease negative feelings.

Psychoeducation prevents future abuse.

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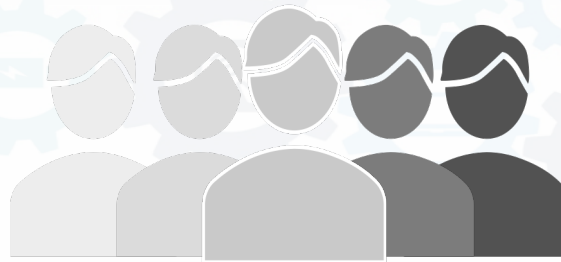


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## THEME 8: SURVIVORS REQUIRE TIME AND PATIENCE TO HEAL

*"It's hard to gain their trust as a service provider. You have to be consistent with your words and actions. They love it when they feel your sincerity in helping them."*

*"To effectively overcome their lack of disclosure, their unrecognized abuse, and their inability to label their feelings and situation, the counselor must be patient. You cannot just use the treatment strategies alone."*



*"you have to really tell them over and over again that it's not their fault that their parents got apprehended. Everyday, you have to be patient because deep down, they do not understand."*

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## Trauma Informed Psychosocial Processing (TIPP)



TIPP theme 1:  
Client utilization of coping skills



TIPP theme 2:  
Trauma narrative can be  
problematic



TIPP theme 3:  
Effective with limited clientele

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## Trauma Informed Expressive Arts Therapy (EXA)



EXA theme 1:  
Increased disclosures and processing of personal  
experiences



EXA theme 2:  
Client enjoyment of EXA therapy



EXA theme 3: Behavioral problems during group  
sessions

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## Effectiveness of the Psychosocial Interventions in Reducing Trauma-related Symptomatology in OSEC Survivors

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## Therapeutic Interventions



Mean post-intervention PTAQ score ( $M=23.29$ )  
Mean pre-intervention PTAQ score ( $M=31.64$ ).<sup>2</sup> The  
standardized effect size index indicated a medium effect size.



OSEC survivors scoring above clinical cut-off at the start of  
intervention ( $M=51.00$ ) had significantly lower post-intervention  
PTAQ score ( $M=25.67$ ).<sup>3</sup>



Overall, significant reduction in trauma-related symptoms,  
after approximately 12-weeks.

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**Trauma-informed interventions are beneficial to traumatized OSEC survivors and should continue to be an important part of their treatment.**

- Trauma-informed treatment is evidence-based and recommended by international organizations to inform the treatment of survivors of human trafficking.
- Dr. Bassett's current research project provides preliminary evidence of the effectiveness of both TIPP and EXA through an examination of pre- and intervention trauma rating scales.

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**It is important to expand the understanding and education of services providers regarding the mental health needs of OSEC survivors.**

- Help better understand internalizing and externalizing behaviors and how these may manifest and impact OSEC survivors
- Further develop assessment skills to better understand and identify trauma and mental health concerns within the OSEC population
- Train social workers in more than one intervention modality to allow workers to address the specific needs of each client

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**Aspects of the Filipino system for addressing and combating OSEC may be perpetuating trauma for survivors.**

- Rescue operations
- Lack of confidentiality
- Requiring survivors to testify in court against loved ones
- Residential care and family separation

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# Stories of Change: Psychosocial Services for OSEC Survivors

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SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN



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## Hello! I am

SINDYPEARL P. MELENCIO, RSW

DOCTOR OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

WORK EXPERIENCE

13 years of work experience as a Registered Social Worker with various development and humanitarian organizations. 7 years of which as a Manager of Child Protection Programs.

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### DAILY HOME SCHEDULE

Activities (AM)	Activities (PM)
5:30 – 6:00 Wake Up Call	1:00 – 3:00 Nap Time
6:30 – 7:00 Breakfast Time	3:00 – 3:30 Snack Time
7:00 – 9:00 Supervised Home Life Activities	3:30 – 4:30 Recreational/Psychosocial Activities
9:00 – 10:00 TV Time	4:30 – 5:30 Supervised Home Life Activities
10:00 – 11:00 Free Play	5:30 – 6:30 Dinner Time/Supervised Home Life Activities
11:30 – 12:00 Supervised Home Life Activities	6:30 – 7:00 Devotion
12:00 Lunch Time	7:00 – 9:00 TV Time
	9:00 Sleeping Time

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### CHARACTER BUILDING PROGRAM

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