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Q5(b)

Construct a sociological narrative on the increasing trend of child abuse in India.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2018 · Sociology GS 2 · 10 marks · Industrialization and Urbanisation in India
Industrialization and Urbanisation in India: Evolution of modern industry in India; Growth of urban settlements in India; Working class: structure, growth, class mobilization; Informal sector, child labour; Slums and deprivation in urban areas.

Core demand of the question

- Construct a sociological narrative on the increasing trend of child abuse in India
- Keep the note to a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Child abuse is organised in family, labour, and school, not only by strangers.

Rising numbers mix better reporting with new urban and digital risks.

Caste, gender, and poverty stack the harm.

POCSO named what honour had hidden.

The trend is social structure becoming public.

Introduction

A sociological narrative of rising child abuse does not stop at monsters. It locates harm in the family, caste labour, school, and the informal economy. 'Increasing' is both more reporting after new laws and real exposure as households and cities change.

Body**Where abuse sits**

- The household, organised by Seed-and-Earth authority, can hide sexual and physical harm as discipline.
- Child labour in farms, workshops, and domestic service is abuse as work, beyond a narrow informal-sector raid story.
- Schools and hostels reproduce caste humiliation and corporal harm.
- Digital circulation creates new images of harm and new reporting.

Why a trend appears now

- **POCSO** and helplines name crimes that custom called family honour.
- Migration splits care; children in slums and left-behind villages are less watched by kin and more by the street.
- Media, like the fourth pillar at its best, makes cases public.

Stratification

- Dalit, Adivasi, and girl children face stacked risk.
- Middle-class silence in coaching hostels is a class variant, not an absence.

Flow diagram

Patriarchal household -> Child abuse

Child labour school -> Child abuse

POCSO media -> Visible trend

Child abuse -> Visible trend

Conclusion

The narrative is that child abuse is a structural product of patriarchal families, cheap child labour, and weak civic care. The increasing trend is partly visibility, partly new urban and digital settings. Law without wages, school, and a challenge to household sovereignty will not close it.

Facts & figures

POCSO

Law that made child sexual abuse a distinct public crime.

Child domestic work

A hidden site of abuse inside 'respectable' homes.

Seed and Earth

Adult authority over children's bodies as kinship right.

Left-behind children

Migration pattern that thins care and raises exposure.