

PAEDOPHILIA: A MENTAL DISORDER INSIDE US

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Abstract

Paedophilia is sometimes used to refer to the sexual attraction that has a relation with mental health of some individuals who do sexually abuse to children or teens. The term Paedophilia, in a broader and general meaning, goes to a person who does a sexual crime and leaves behind some of underage victims. It involves some including crimes such as child pornography, child grooming, stalking, and indecent exposure. Paedophile is a person who is convicted by law for child sexual abuse who is also described by psychological analysis as a person of mental disorder. Through paedophilic action, a paedophile finds a big interest to offend children of special physical attraction or sometimes they are abusing their own children mostly from fathers or stepfathers. As familial victims and offenders, the yesteryears of paedophilic action act as negative affects in the lifestyle of both sides .

A paedophilic disorder explains the fantasies of a person who is at least age over 20 years involved with a child of at least 5 years. According to medical community, paedophiles are defined by their desires that definitely differ from child molesters who are defined by their acts. They are often men treated as mentally ill and needed to reduce their sex drive. With some references to stars such as Michael Jackson or Gary Glitter, the paper focuses on the causes and effects of paedophilia within an international scope .

Keywords: Paedophilia, Mental disorder, child molestation

1. Introduction

The abuse issue is to present the dangerous moral crisis through centuries when individuals look as sexual offenders against children or adults. Those who engaged in sexual issues with children usually have a need to act power and control. Paedophilia acts the same of child molestation when the paedophile cannot hide his mental disorder and cannot avoid committing harassment and violence.

In popular usage, paedophilia goes to mean a sexual interest in children or teenagers that is another form of child sexual abuse. Paedophilic actions might be correlated by many scholars and sociologists as a kind of mental disorder that is subjected to different motivations and reactions.

Paedophilia came from the Greek origin; (pais) that means 'child', and (philia) that means 'friendly' love or 'friendship'. In general, paedophiles are those who show their interest as child lovers toward prepubescent children. The term paedophilia is divided or name classified to be Paedophilia for prepubescent children aged 13 or younger, Nepiophilia (infantophilia) aged under 5 years, and Hebephilia for the age between 11 and 14 year old pubescent.

A paedophile is described as a person of disorder of sexual preference who acts the same as homosexual or heterosexual interests for he/she starts this interest before or during puberty. In most cases, a paedophile can be helped and treated by mental health specialists to heal the harmful sexual contact with children by offenders.

2. Psychopathology and Self Traits

Researchers agree that paedophilia has sometimes common motivation behind this type of interest, among them is the feeling of low self-esteem, passivity, aggressiveness, beside the status of psychopathy and any congenital deformity.

Krafft-Ebing, a German sociologist started to investigate that paedophilia has much in common with homosexuality that characterized by an erotic inclusion for childhood to be considered as erotic paedophilia ⁽¹⁾, and to be treated as a kind of cure rather than a criminal justice. To Krafft-Ebing, a paedophile is that one who is affected by hereditary defect or that one who lives the abnormality and intense feelings of pleasure. Moreover, a paedophile is affected by the physical appearance of a victim passing through the steps of molestation and masturbating the victim, sometimes without ejaculation.

According to psychopathy, a paedophile has a set of fundamentals that allow him to be convinced of his deeds because he is doing always rightness and normal desire and attitude. As psychopath, a molester oppose the morals of society and its ethics. He blames his unfair social systems that put roles for limitations that forbid him to enjoy life fully. De Masi says : Paedophiles...may feel that the world is a set of sexualized relations, that the children they desire are in turn full of sexual desires, and that it is impossible to forgo this unique source of pleasure ⁽²⁾.

To psychopath paedophile, life should go on without any generational diversity with a total denial for the parental role. Moreover the beauty of body of child must be available to those who appreciate its sexual value because a "child's body and beauty are idealized and absolutized while adult bodies simply no longer exist either as desiring machines or as objects of desire" ⁽³⁾. For a paedophile, self-esteem and self-respect are questioned because he feels that he is victimized by his society and its systems.

To a certain extent, incestuous relation can be classified as a result of paedophilic representations. Some of parents find in their children or their relative children great sexual attractiveness. Through parental merger between individuals and children, a paedophilic attachment began to be establish according to the closeness and familiarity between them ⁽⁴⁾. Such a familial bonding might be accounted by paedophile as a desired sexual activity. However, children who live with step-parents are more subjected to be molested or abused than children live with their real parents.

In literature, molestation and paedophilia are presented in fictional style. Maya Angelou, the African-American writer, stresses the abusive relation between herself when she was a child of five years old and her mother's friend when she was molested and raped by him to live that trauma for the rest of her life. Acting this experience through her autobiographical novel *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* indicates that this oppressive relation between a child and relatives might end in long-life complex. To Angelou, the paedophilic action of her mother's friend caused her five-year-imposed silence and passive psychological effect especially when Angelou reached her adulthood and began her tendency to have sexual relations with neighbour boys to prove her self-assertion and self-respect. Alice Walker in her novel *The Color Purple* shows that Celie, the black girl, suffered the repeated rape of her step-father during and after the death of her mother. Her silence and submission allow her step-father to behave oppressively through patriarchal authority. In *The Color Purple* Walker focuses on the passivity of familial relationships when the victim is female and daughter. These relations have a great effect on evaluating self that reach of self-esteem and self-respect to dehumanization and degradation.

As a part of mental disorder of paedophiles, the insecure parental attachments in childhood build a sequence failure to form trust among people. Hence, the victims of these attachments are distinguished by their long-life quest for figures (replaceable parents) to care, love, secure, and to search for familial stability. But soon, this replaceable attachment might turn into eroticized relation motivated by the parental figure. This understanding of the familial attachment and its derived originality had long ago suggested by Sigmund Freud when "newborn infants reveal symptoms of perverse sexuality, as evidenced by their penchant for deriving pleasure from different sorts of bodily stimulation" ⁽⁵⁾. Melitta Sperling, a specialist in the treatment of psychosomatic disorders in children, mentions some cases of sexual offending; an 8 ^{1/2}-year-old boy who used to attack younger girls at school, pinching them, and inserting his fingers into their anuses. Yet, once, the boy stabbed another child in the back with a pencil in the time when the boy's father often bites him on the buttocks, pinches, squeezes him, and most importantly to stick his nose in the boy's anus. This case suggests that much of the sexual behaviours depend mainly on the parental attitudes ⁽⁶⁾.

Paedophilic documents assert that naturally and consequently a child who was subjected to a sexual abuse will turn to be a paedophile and repeat the same sexual abuse of his own experience by transforming his victimization to another child victim almost exactly the same tendencies.

3. The Interconnectedness between Social and Psychological Effects

Many reasons have been piled up over time to spread of paedophilia. Among these reasons is the ever-increasing tense familial relationships represented by indifferent reactions, over-busy time, routine style life, and the dissatisfaction of spiritual needs. The main part of the problem is interconnected with the body of the social structure that might be started with television. It became normal and usual in most families that television is left on for many hours as it is watched differently or indifferently. It functions as a good replaceable character for the familial communication and a filler of a great void of that gap among family members.

The effect of television may be directed to those who stay a long period of time inside home for

housework or who prefer to stay away from people, especially old or people of psychological problems. This incommunicability works as a sort of frustration and a repetitive routine and ends with a result of isolation and depression.

In the absence of communicable relationships among family members, all the messages of television will be effective and became models of representations especially for children who find no good listeners to their direct or indirect necessities but television. As a peaceful and relaxable entity, television is attracting children's attention with a great another attention to the depression of their mother and her passive relation with the father.

In appreciating the role of television as the factor of high volume, all the programs even those of violence or death fighting will be responded by children in positive attitude. Hence, through early stages of childhood and growing up, man's formation and assortment were already started to take place in the psychological regards of self, particularly when a child remembers how he/she was faced with parental rejection or indifferences. It might be remarked that television has a big role in directing, increasing, and stimulating the inner and interpersonal relationship conflicts, particularly with the presence of the fragile intimacy and the weak communicative relationship in a family. Beside the dangerous effect of television, those of video games act as another exercises of controlling people and resurrection souls after death or murdering. Teens passionately withdraw such scenes to make them live or to imagine living them with lifeless bodies and powerful or super powerful characters who are led by their emotion to risks or suicide as a kind of imitation to what they see and admire. Beside, scenes of rape or sexual violence that teens or juveniles long to experience in reality or fantasy have a great impact to distort their psychological stability directing them towards aggressiveness and may be paedophilic disorder. In this type of response, the action of rape is a matter of seeking power and control more than seeking for pleasure. A paedophile feels he is able to impose his power and control over a victim. He is able to frighten and humiliate a weaker partner just like the way and situation that he was frightened and humiliated when he was a child.

A paedophile builds his excitement on his seeking to impose the feeling of domination over other's bodies and fear to inflict pain and inner conflict and to act violently remembering how he was the victim of lack of respect and powerlessness when his body was subjected to hits. Until the age of twenties, thirties or more, that man is ready to stop that history by himself using the physical weapons and the means of power he could have.

To a paedophile, the act of rape or molestation is no more than a response to the faults of boring and criminal societies. This defensive response depends main on the childhood fantasies and desires that were not insatiable. Thus, a paedophilic action is built on an assumption of infantile passionate period which was incomplete and not interested. Hence, an old or adult paedophile is affected by not compassionate experiences during childhood that chronologically began to convince him with paedophilic behaviours. This is the task of most psychological scholars who treat paedophiles through mental health cases, considering a paedophile as a child's heart in an adult body with a mind and thinking of much developed person.

4. Child Abusers: Identities and Images.

In the vast majority of cases, child abusers are mainly those who take the responsibility of caring children or preaching for such caring. Most molesters seem to be persons of well-looking, normal, attractive, well-presented, clean, and friendly. By their outer looking, abusers represent, in some cases, the elite of their societies who are respectable and acceptable by others. They behave normal, social, and natural. Within these cases, a clergy might be considered a threat that creates doubt in faith and trust. Through the feeling of safety, a clergy is a figure of authority, trust, and worthiness in communities. He is the one who grooms adults, advising them for charity and virtue. He is possessing confidence for being other's self-identification. As a religious and spiritual protector, the clergy is recognized by his spiritual support and security. Paedophilia among the clergy twists all virtues of truth and faith that associated with priesthood ⁽⁷⁾.

According to the church, the minority of paedophilic crimes of few clergy effects the innocent majority of all other priests. Because of their great responsibility, priests are eager to keep people's trust and never will be reluctant to give trust while their children are used the priest's care.

Child sexual abuse by priests is inevitable scandals that attract public attention to a dramatic behavioural damage socially and religiously. Gauthe case can be considered a typical case of sexual exploitative clergy who was questionable by the church for his molestation from 1972 until 1985. The young Gillbert Gauthe molested 37 youngsters in hundreds of incidents. Gauthe case opened other gates for investigating sexual matters happened under the cover of church. Richard Sipe, a sociologist and author of 6

books about Catholicism, argues that approximately 20 percent of all clergy have homosexual orientation⁽⁸⁾. Most of those condemned clergy molesters believe that their religious bodies are in a place of attraction to others. In Porter case, James Porter, a Roman Catholic priest, convicted of molesting 28 children. He suffered from mental problems and admitted that he has a great sexual orientation that examined his homosexual attitude. John C. Gonsioek in his article "The Interplay of Psychological and Institutional Factors in Sexual Abuse by Roman Catholic Clergy" relates any paedophilic crime of clergy to the mental disorder. He emphasizes that sexual exploitation by clergy is considered as psychopathological behaviour by the troubled clergy⁽⁹⁾.

Scholars and investigators agree that most of clerical offenders were themselves victims of abuse resulting in a cycle of offending when a victim becomes an offender as an attempt to resolve personal issues of abuse⁽¹⁰⁾. Beside, the mental disorder, priests may live hard factors of emotional repression that enhances his need for sexual obsession because they live like a martyr-like person who represents the guardian and champion of morality⁽¹¹⁾. This increases in a clergy the feeling of failure to be religious and sexual. He feels fragile and undeserving to represent the image of God who demands perfection. Simultaneously, the clergy is incapable to enjoy what is permitted to others. Hence, priests draw a paradoxical line between limitations and mistakes that leads them to another type of conflict closely related to lack of passion and the repression of any sexual reaction.

Researches have shown that the crime of paedophilia is usually committed by someone who is close and known to victims. But, it is not only those who are relatives to victims, most other examples can be exposed under the title "Name and Shame". Such paedophilic cases have been covered as political or social issues committed by names that are always under spotlight. In Ian Watkins case, the Lostprophets singer, Watkins was convicted of offending babies and children in late 2013 and he was sentenced to twenty-nine years in prison. Watkins pleaded guilty for his attempt to rape an 11-month old child. The film director Roman Polanski was charged of abusing and raping children under 14 years old.

In a review of paedophilic evidences, scholars point out that any heterosexual behaviours between adults and teens may be considered paedophilia. They go far even when they considered such crime is old in storytelling such as Romeo and Juliet because Romeo was adult while Juliet was only thirteen years old.

5. Conclusions

Finally, the researcher stressed the point that psychological and environmental factors play a big role in designing one's mental formation. Moreover, the researcher focused briefly on paedophilia as a mental disorder which is an arguable crime aiming to heal its offenders and to provide child perfection.

Notes

1 - Paolo F. Peloso and Cosimo Schinaia "Paedophilia in Medical and Psychiatric Thought". In *On Paedophilia*. Edited by Cosimo Schinan. London: Antonella Sansone, 2010, pp: 115-139 p. 115

2 - Cosimo Schinaia "The Paedophilia Relationship". In *On Paedophilia*. Edited by Cosimo Schinan. London: Antonella Sansone, 2010 , pp: 189-219 p. 190

3 – Ibid., p. 191

4 – Anthony Stevens and John Price, *Evolutionary Psychiatry: A New Beginning*. Routledge, 2000, p. 210

5 – Brett Kahr " Juvenile Paedophilia: the Psychodynamics of an Adolescent Sex Offender" in *The Mind of the Paedophile: Psychoanalytic Perspectives*. Edited by Charles W. Socarides and Loretta R. Loed. Karnac Books, 2004, pp: 95-121 p. 95

6 – Ibid., p 97

7 – Shirley Williams, *God and Caesar: Personal Reflections on Politics and Religion*. London: MPG Books Ltd., 2003, p. 13

8 – Philip Jenkins, *Paedophiles and Priests: Anatomy of a Contemporary Crisis*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996, p. 100

9 – John C. Gonsirek " The Interplay of Psychological and Institutional Factors in Sexual Abuse by Roman Catholic Clergy". In *Clergy Sexual Abuse: Social Science Perspectives*. Edited by Claire M. Renzetti and Sandra Yocum. Lebanon: Northeastern University Press, 2013, Introduction.

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11 – Ibid.

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