



# How Communication Can Help Defeat Child Sexual Abuse

Hello [[first\_name]],

India is home to the world's largest number of cases of child sexual abuse. Studies suggest that half of the nation's children are exposed to abuse, and approximately one in five face extreme forms of it.

Even worse, a great number of these cases go unreported because victims are not taught the difference between appropriate and inappropriate interactions (safe and unsafe touch) or they do not have a safe environment in which to discuss their experiences — or both. By providing children with education about personal safety and abolishing the widespread taboo of sexuality, we can help combat the prevalence of child sexual abuse in India.



We invite you to <u>learn more</u> about how Share & Care and Arpan are working together to combat child sexual abuse in India.











# "I Am Special and Unique"

Excerpts from classroom posters used during prevention and education training.

# Say NO & Get Away



If it happens or if I feel confused or uncomfortable about any touch, I will say NO and GET AWAY

I will TELL a TRUSTED ADULT and keep telling until I get the help I need.

What happened was not my fault.

I will never blame myself!

### **Personal Safety Rules**

Instructors teach children to follow three main rules. First, it is never okay for someone to touch, look, or talk about their private body parts — or ask them to touch, look, or talk about theirs. Second, if someone does this, say "no" and get away. Third, they must tell someone they trust until they get help.

### Safe & Unsafe Touches

Children are taught that a safe touch is "anything that makes us feel good and leaves us happy and comfortable" — like sharing meals or holding hands with friends. They also learn that an unsafe touch is "anything that makes us feel confused and leaves us feeling uneasy or uncomfortable."

#### **Healing After Abuse**

It is critical that children who've been abused receive professional support so that they can heal and rebuild their self-esteem and confidence. It also very important that parents be compassionate, patient, and encouraging, and remind their children that sexual abuse is NEVER a child's fault.



## Overcoming Barriers to the Empowerment of Women in Rural India

Recently, we examined some of the most important strategies used to help Indian women overcome cultural, social, and economic barriers to empowerment. We also meet three women (including Geeta, shown here) who had lost hope, but when given the

opportunity, they chose empowerment. Visit our blog to read more.

Join the Fight Against Child Sexual Abuse We're teaching children about personal safety and raising awareness in their communities about the issue of sexual abuse. Join us in making a difference now.





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