



Ending the Sexual Exploitation of Children

*Sexual Exploitation of children in Fiji and
the Pacific*



SOCIAL AND CULTURAL FACTORS

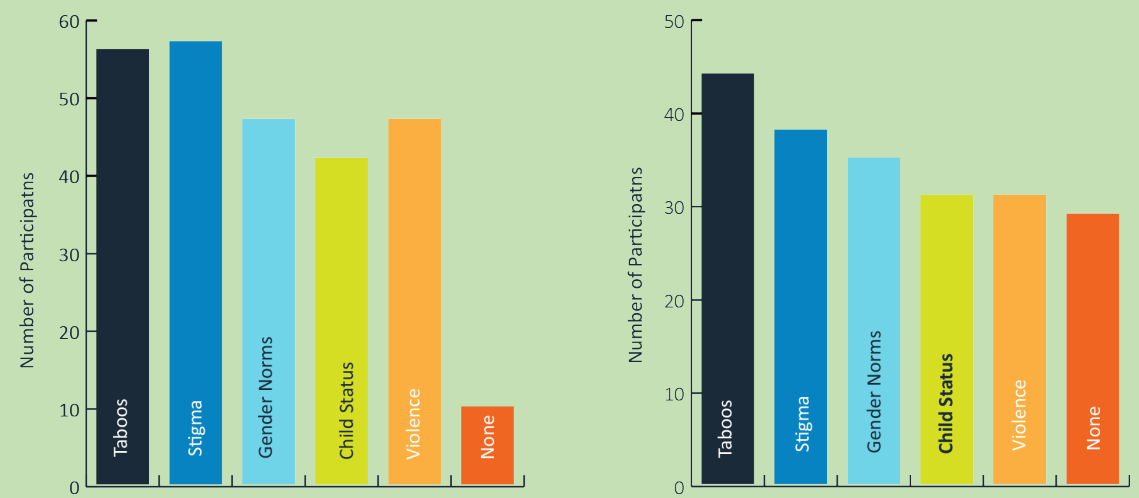
Violence against children

In Fiji, 70% of children have experienced some form of violent discipline

Two thirds of women (71%) have experienced some form of physical/and or sexual intimate partner or non partner violence in their lifetimes, nearly double the global average.

Deeply Rooted tradition of shame and silence

Figure 13. Participants' perceptions of social and cultural influences on providing support to child victims.



Factors that Affect Availability of Support for Child Victims



ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

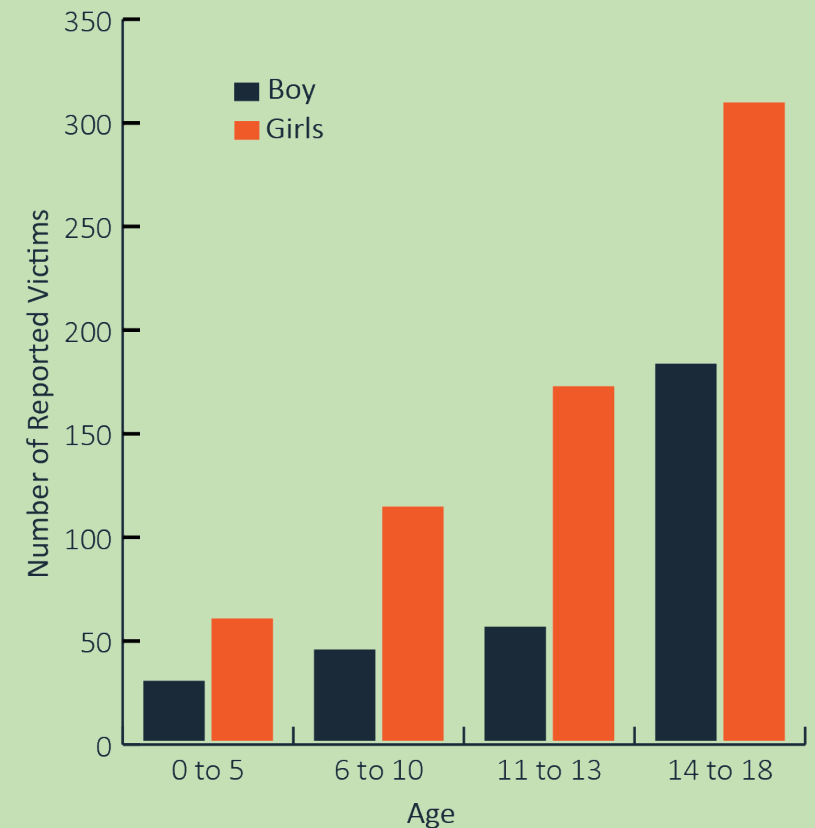
Urbanization

- Children in street situations characterize this urbanization. They are vulnerable to multiple forms of labor and sexual exploitation, including through prostitution and trafficking.
- Evidence indicates that both boys and girls living in these street situations engage in prostitution as a survival strategy.

Natural Disasters

- Fiji's frequent natural disasters contribute to children's vulnerability
- In 2016, Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Winston affected an estimated 350,000 Fijians, including 120,000 children.

Figure 5. Estimated age and gender of child victims of SEC.





ADDITIONAL FACTORS

In 2017, 70% of Fijian 15-24 year olds had access to the Internet

Technology

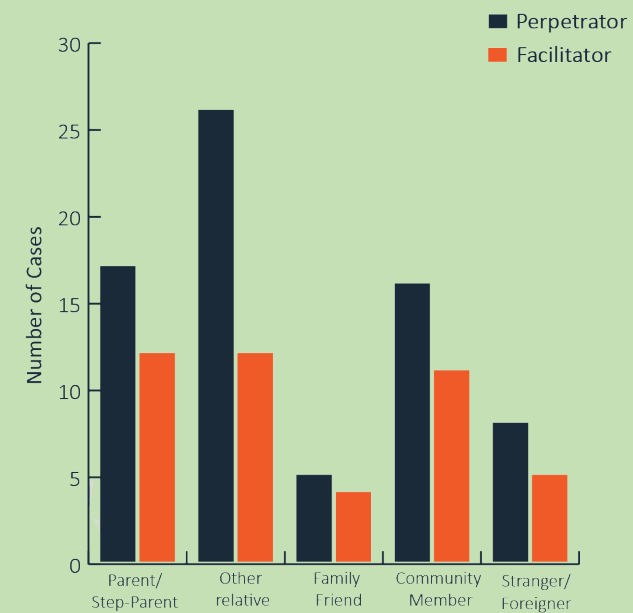
- Technology plays a growing role in children’s exploitation.
- Parents lack of awareness of the risks that their children face online, was identified as a major factor in children's vulnerability

Key Offenders – Circle of Trust

- Amongst the primary offenders in Fiji, perpetrators include: family members, foreign tourists, crew members on foreign fishing vessels, taxi drivers and businessmen.
- This was confirmed by participants in Pacific Study:

Perpetrators of SEC cases were those of whom the children have trusted the most. They were breadwinners of the whole family as well as tuition fee providers

Figure 7. Estimated most common relationship between offenders and victims.





NATIONAL RESPONSE

- Fiji has not passed legislation specifically addressing OCSE
- Fiji lacks a legal framework protecting children from SECTT.
- Law is comprehensive on child early and forced marriage, however the practice continues through a traditional form of apology called *bulubulu*

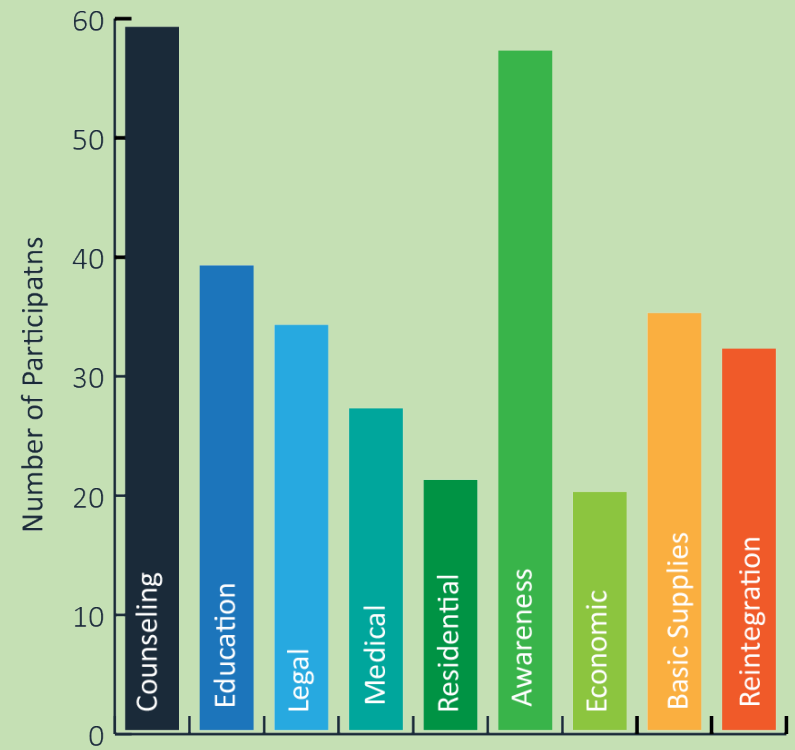


NATIONAL PLANS, COORDINATING BODIES AND SERVICES

Strengths

- Fiji's coordinating body on children's rights is the National Coordinating Committee for Children.
- Much of Fiji's efforts to address the sexual exploitation of children have been implemented in the context of its anti-trafficking strategy and child protection programmes.
- Dedicated and professional NGO's who conduct critical community outreach programmes.

Figure 2. Types of services provided by participants' organisations.



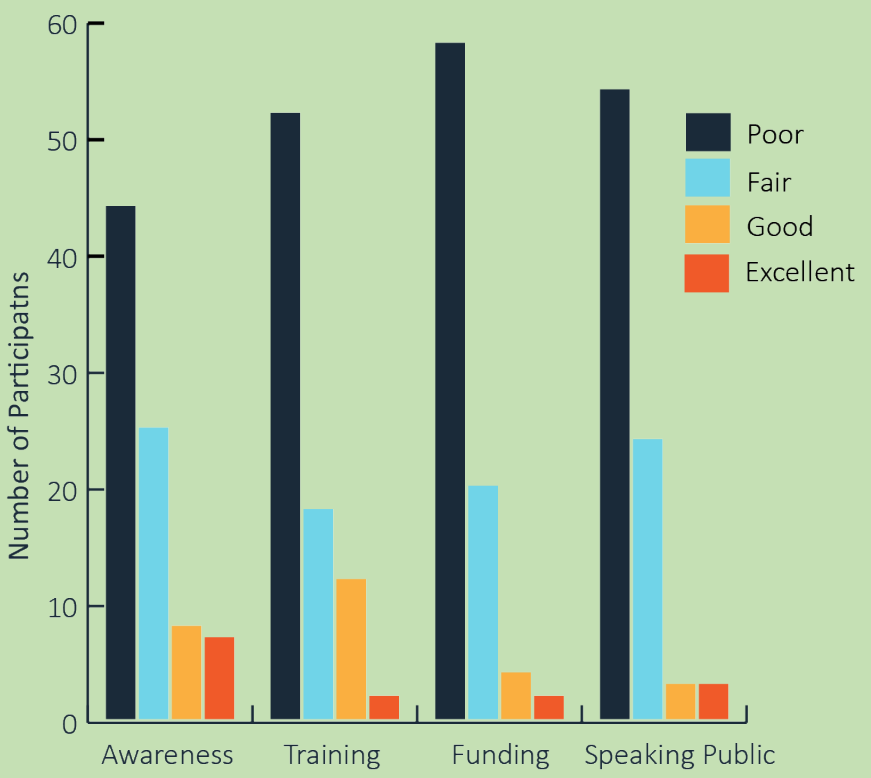


NATIONAL PLANS, COORDINATING BODIES AND SERVICES

Key Gaps:

- Funding
- Human Resources
- Support services focuses primarily on girls

Figure 16. Participants' perceptions of government support of efforts to address SEC.





SHORT TERM STRATEGY

- Strengthen the National Coordinating Committee for Children (NCC);
- Improve training of law enforcement officials;
- Promote the inclusion of child protection and sexual exploitation of children in key youth groups such as the National Youth Council of Fiji;
- Implement the National Plan of Action to Eradicate Trafficking in Persons and Child Trafficking as well as mechanisms to monitor and evaluate its implementation;
- Promote strategies to address the shortcomings of the *bulubulu* practice and raise awareness on how the practice further victimizes child victims of sexual exploitation;



LONG TERM STRATEGY

- Accede to and enact legislation to comply to the Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography;
- Research should be conducted on specific trends within Fiji that have not yet been extensively addressed
- Increase access and strengthen victim support services; where suitable, build on existing services for victims and ensure services for male victims
- Reduce cultural taboos around sex and the stigma associated with sexual exploitation through programmes co-ordinated at the family and community levels;