

AARAMBH DOWNLOADABLES

Do's and Don'ts for Reporters while covering cases of Sexual offences against Children

DO	DON'T
Be exact when describing the nature of the offence – use the right terminologies	Use ambiguous or minimizing language (e.g. "sexual relationship with a child" or "affair with a minor" etc
Be clear that ' consent is immaterial '	Blame the victim. It is NOT his or her fault. The abuser is solely responsible for this crime
Use terms like "victim" and "survivor"	Refer to victims as "alleged accusers." They are not "alleged"
Hold institutions or individuals in position of power accountable	Refer to abuse as an "affair" or "sex scandal," or in any way imply consent.
Report on relevance of CSA in society; look beyond the story as it unfolds in the criminal justice system	Assume the victim is alone; often it takes one person coming forward for others to share like experiences
Include information about the social and cultural impact of CSA cases	Downplay the severity of this crime, the long-term effects of which can be devastating
Focus on multiple aspects of the case including rehabilitation, prevention. Source experts in the field, such as child advocates, lawyers, and psychologists. Always check your facts with credible organizations	Only focus on the role of police and judiciary.
Seek help of a support Person/NGO or a person known to the victim and the family before interviewing	Directly approach the victim and family on your own with all the questions
Read the case file (if available) or the copy of the FIR before approaching the victim and families with specific questions	Ask them questions directly on the offence and its nature or publish the FIR in your article
Take consent of the parent or the trusted adult/organization before talking to the victim	Directly approach the victim without parental consent
Focus on the modus operandi of the offender and grooming process to create larger awareness	Focus only on the nature of sexual offence e.g. Rape etc
Highlight cases from different socio economic strata and high profile pedophiles	Label this as a problem pertaining to poor and uneducated communities