

SEXUAL ABUSE: AN ETHICAL DILEMMA OF AUTONOMY VS. BENEFICENCE AND THE ROLE OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS IN A COMMUNITY SETTING



Saleema Gulzar,
Assistant Professor & PhD student
Rozina Karmaliani,
Professor

Aga Khan University, School Of
Nursing and Midwifery- Pakistan

ROADMAP

- ✘ To share the case study of a child abuse dealt by School Health Nurse in School setting
- ✘ Discuss the applied 'MORAL' model of decision making proposed by Patricia Crisham.
- ✘ Share the future implications and way forward

WHAT IS SEXUAL ABUSE?

Any interaction when the child is being used for **sexual stimulation** of the child or the perpetrator or observer.

It includes:

Non-contact sexual abuse: No physical force.

Contact sexual abuse: Physically forced.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2005)

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

“Child sexual abuse is the involvement of a child in sexual activity that he or she does not fully comprehend, is unable to give informed consent to, or for which the child is not developmentally prepared and cannot give consent, or that violates the laws or social taboos of society.”

World Health Organization (1999)

CASE SCENARIO

A Year-I (high school) student, aged 16 was not performing well academically, resulting in **FREQUENT ABSENTEEISM**



Sexually abused by one of her **Family Friends** in his thirties. Her whole body was trembling. She was experiencing mental trauma.

She **refuses to share** this incidence with anyone. Not even with her family.

CONTD...

I explained the situation to the school principal. The principal's **respect the girl's wish of not disclosing the incident to her family.**



If the girl's autonomy was respected, then she might be exposed to further abuse as she would not get sufficient support, guidance and protection from her family.



If the incident was disclosed to her parents, then her autonomy, which is her fundamental right, would be violated.

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (CSA) AND SOCIO-CULTURAL CONTEXT OF CSA IN PAKISTAN

- ✘ 7.9% men
 - ✘ 19.7% of women
- Aged less than 18

Pereda *et al.* (2009)

- ✘ Globally 44% of CSA age between 13 and 16
- ✘ 68% of these teenagers were abused by close friends or relatives.

Medical Study News (2004)

- ✘ Overall global estimate of 12.7%

Stoltenborgh (2011)

CONTD...

- ✘ In Pakistan, a total of 2,595 cases of CSA were reported in 2010

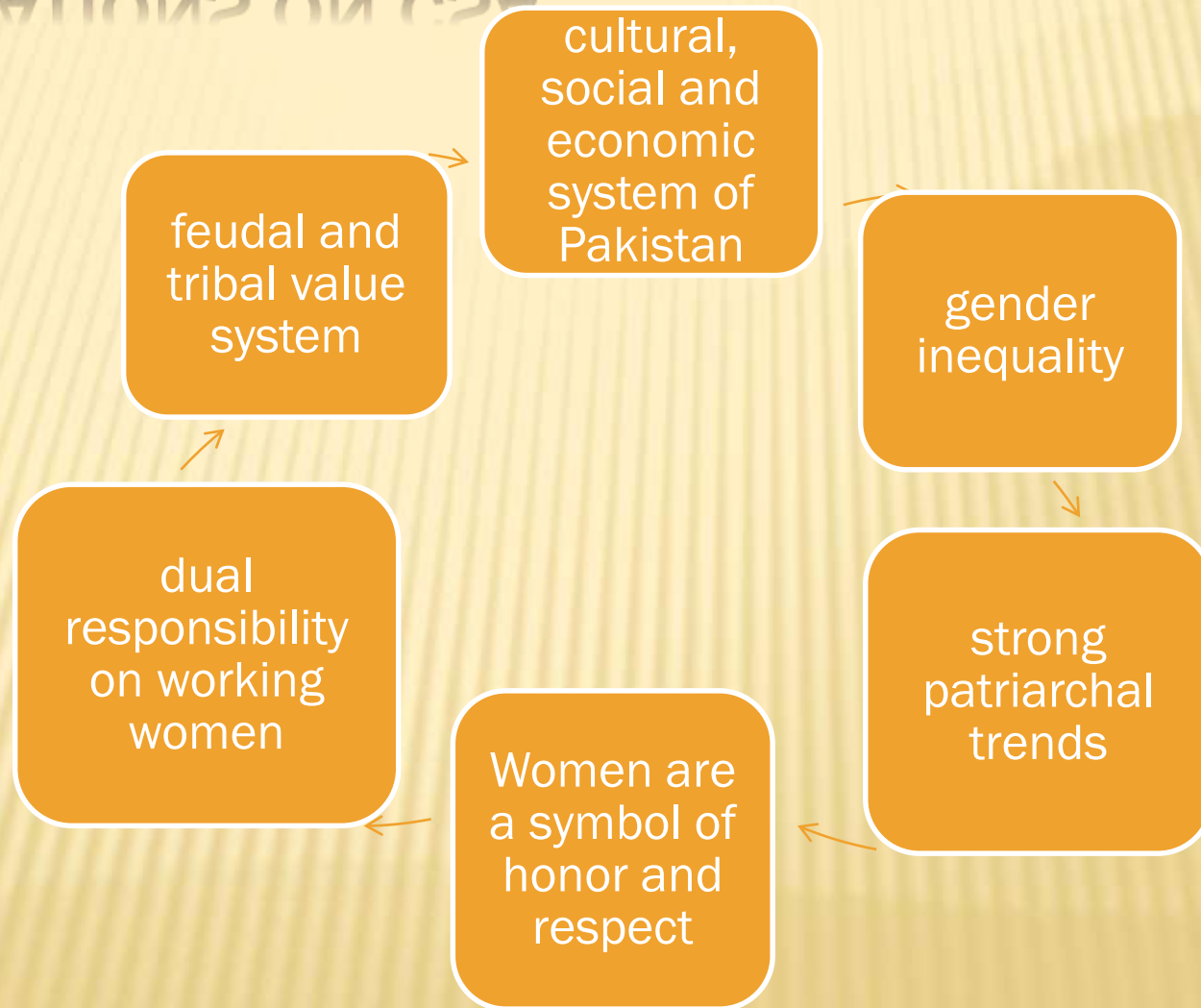
Anwar (2010)

- ✘ Latin American, Asian and African women and girls are most likely to be abused by someone known to them, often a family member.

Ellsberg (2005)



STATUS OF WOMEN IN PAKISTAN — IMPLICATIONS ON CSA



FIRST POSITION

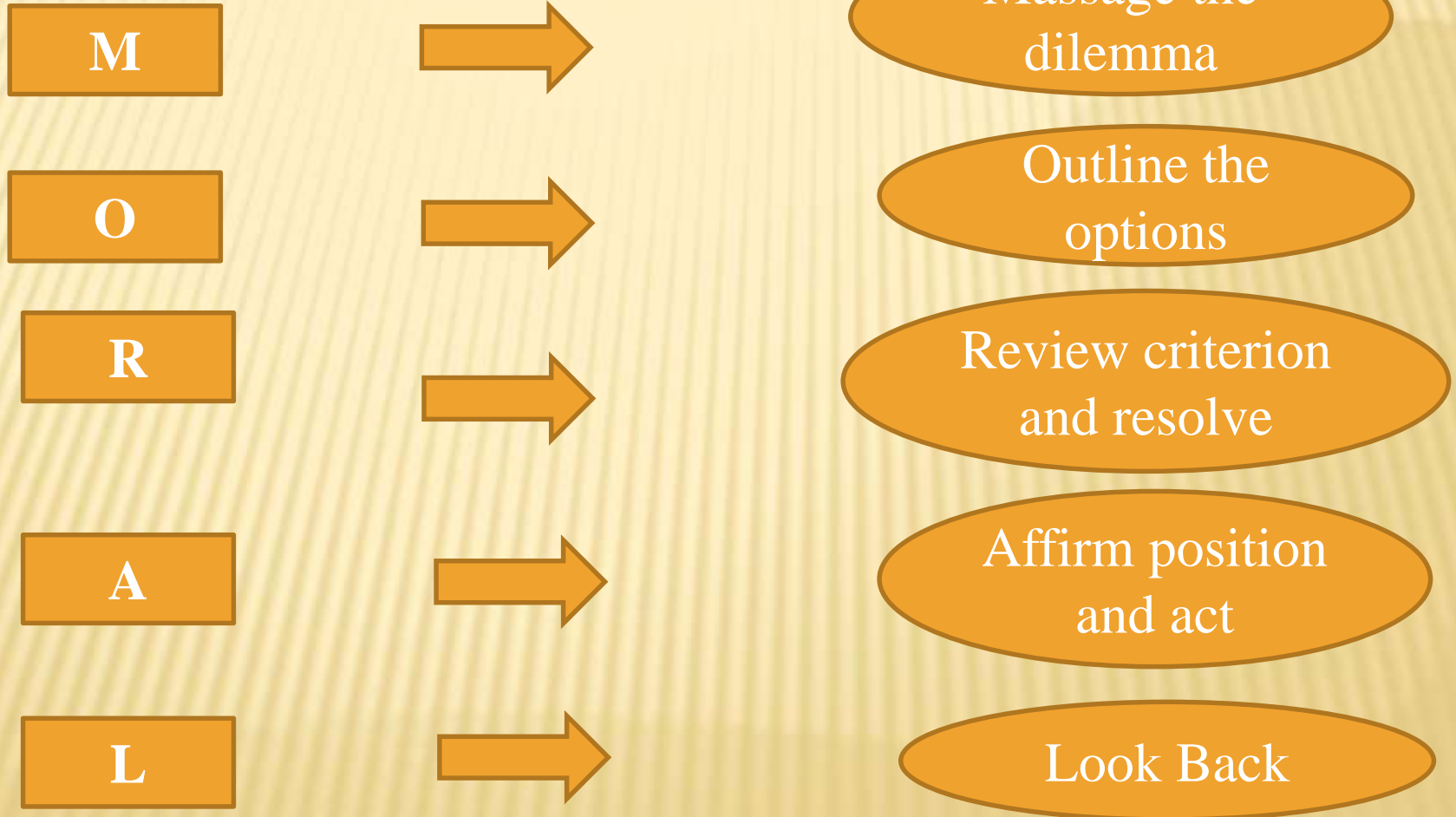
- **Maintaining Confidentiality; Respecting Autonomy**
- **Autonomy and liberal individualism/rights-based theory**

SECOND POSITION

- **Disclosing Information; Potentially Benefiting Victim**



THE FINAL POSITION - "MORAL" MODEL OF DECISION-MAKING



IMPLICATIONS FOR NURSING

- ✘ Schools must have a qualified school health nurse
 - + Must have the capacity to identify and report
- ✘ Awareness sessions on parent-child relationship and CSA
 - + For parents , teachers
 - + For school children
- ✘ Capacity development of:
 - + School health nurses
 - + Teachers



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Thank you

Contact information

Saleema Gulzar
Assistant Professor
Aga Khan University-
school of Nursing and
Midwifery

saleema.gulzar@aku.edu

