

**THE ROLES OF TEACHERS AND MASS MEDIA IN  
PREVENTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE. BY  
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**INTRODUCTION:**

Since child sexual abuse has become increasingly rampant in our society, it will therefore require the help of all stake holders to curb the menace.

# THE ROLES OF TEACHERS IN PREVENTING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

- Teachers should be able to detect when something is wrong with the child and are thus important resource in the case of child sexual abuse.
- Teachers should get information on abuse privately and help the child by reporting to the school counsellor.
- Teachers together with the school authority should follow up cases.
- Teachers should sensitize children on the issues of child sexual abuse.
- Children should be equipped with age-appropriate materials/knowledge through Sex Education, Social Studies and Home Economics on how to enter into healthy relationships as adults, a fact that can strengthen healthy marriages and enhance effective parenting.
- Numerous programs should be drawn to teach children what is expected of parents as well as the social, financial, physical and psychological implications of sexual activity and potential parenthood.

# Cont.

- e.g The Egg Baby,
- Program that promotes abstinence. Abstinence ensures the avoidance of other consequences that come with premature sexual activity, e.g pregnancy, STDs, homosexuality etc.
- Children should be taught sexual abuse and how to identify potential abusers. For instance, a child should be taught how to distinguish between 'good' 'bad' and 'confusing' touches.

# Cont.

- They should also educate children on what to do when they are abused or feel that they are vulnerable to abuse.
- The school counsellor with the help of the school authority should bring in experts to educate the children on issues of child sexual abuse.

# THE ROLES OF THE MEDIA IN PREVENTING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

- The media should promote awareness of child sexual abuse.
- They should advocate for children's rights.
- The media should put issues on the public agenda, in reinforcing local efforts, raising consciousness about issues of child sexual abuse and conveying information.
- Campaigns and other forms of media education and entertainment, such as television programs, films and live productions should be targeted at all families with a view to: encourage families to have positive attitude towards children and stopping sexual abuse before it starts or is even considered [primary prevention].

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- Groups of people identified as susceptible to abusive behaviour should be targeted [secondary prevention].
- Programs should also target families who have experienced abuse in order to prevent recurrence [tertiary prevention].
- The media should assist in teaching children and young people ways of dealing with abuse, knowledge of their rights to integrity and protection from harm.

# Cont.

- They should provide children and young people with useful information and alerting them to avenues for further information, help and support. This should be done through regular television programs for children.
- News stories on sexual abuse should be derived from facts given to journalists by individuals.

# CONCLUSION

‘It takes a village to raise a child’ goes an African proverb.

This epitomizes the importance of the roles of the wider community in raising a child.

The responsibility is not entrusted solely to parents or guardians but to a whole community.

THANK YOU