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Prioritizing Factors Affecting Sexual Victimization of Children and Identifying Personality Characteristics of Sex Delinquents in Iran

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Abstract

The increased commission of sex crimes in Iran highlights the need for more efforts to design strategies towards prevention and reduction of such crimes. Accordingly, the present research aimed to identify the factors affecting the sexual victimization of children and adolescents as well as to identify the personality characteristics of sex delinquents in the criminal justice system of Iran. The research method is mixed design in terms of data nature (qualitative and quantitative) and practical in terms of purpose. The qualitative section has reviewed the previous literature and the quantitative section has benefited from the analytic hierarchy process (AHP). This research has used the opinions of 13 experts in the field of crimes against children and adolescents, and 43 sex offenders. The research findings led to the identification of six factors (social, economic, psychological, legal, executive, media) that are effective on the prevention and postvention of sexually abused children and adolescents in Iran. The highest rank is related to the economic and social factors, and the lowest rank is related to the media factors. The results of this study showed that the identified parameters are approved by experts and have theoretical support that can be effective in reducing sexual delinquency.

Keywords: childhood and adolescence; sexual victimization; effective factors; analytical hierarchy process; Iranian law.

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Priorización de los factores que afectan la victimización sexual de los niños e identificación de las características de personalidad de los delincuentes sexuales en Irán

Resumen

El aumento de la comisión de delitos sexuales en Irán destaca la necesidad de más esfuerzos para diseñar estrategias para la prevención y reducción de tales delitos. En consecuencia, la presente investigación tuvo como objetivo identificar los factores que afectan la victimización sexual de niños y adolescentes, así como identificar las características de personalidad de los delincuentes sexuales en el sistema de justicia penal de Irán. El método de investigación es de diseño mixto en cuanto a la naturaleza de los datos (cualitativos y cuantitativos) y práctico en cuanto al propósito. La sección cualitativa ha revisado la literatura previa y la sección cuantitativa se ha beneficiado del proceso de jerarquía analítica (AHP). Esta investigación ha utilizado las opiniones de 13 expertos en el campo de los delitos contra la niñez y la adolescencia, y 43 agresores sexuales. Los hallazgos llevaron a la identificación de seis factores (social, económico, psicológico, legal, ejecutivo, mediático) que son efectivos en la prevención de niños y adolescentes abusados sexualmente en Irán. El rango más alto está relacionado con los factores económicos y sociales, y el rango más bajo está relacionado con los factores mediáticos.

Palabras clave: niñez y adolescencia; victimización sexual; factores efectivos; proceso de jerarquía analítica; derecho iraní.

Introduction

Sex crimes are one of the oldest human deviations, whose traces can be seen throughout history (Sotoudeh *et al*, 2015). Sex crimes, behind murder and assault, are considered one of the most important crimes in the world, which greatly affect the victim and the society. These crimes are also of special importance in Iran due to Sharia and Islamic law. The Islamic government of Iran does not allow the occurrence and spread of such crimes in any way. Correspondingly, the use of various methods of prevention and postvention and reduction of these crimes, like other crimes, have always been considered by lawyers and experts (Tawhidi and Fazli, 2013: 72).

Sex crimes, in its general sense, include any type of sexual behavior for which punishment is determined by the law (Tawhidi and Fazli, 2013); and sexual harassment is defined as the imposition of sexual demand on a person, regardless of their consent, and this occurs when power relations are unequal (Andersen & Hysock, 2009: 234).

In Iranian law, sexual delinquency was criminalized for the first time in Article 3: “Legal bill regarding the punishment of carrying knives and other types of cold weapons and disturbing public order, security, and comfort”, approved in 1957; at that time, the victims of this crime were only women and girls. In 1996, in Article 619 of the Islamic Penal Code of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the legislator included children in the territory of the victims of this crime; therefore, currently molestation of boys up to 15 full lunar years is included in the scope of this crime.

There is no specific definition of sexual harassment in the legal system of Iran. According to the United Nations, sexual harassment is any unwelcome physical approach, request for sexual service or other physical, verbal and non-verbal behaviors (Bagheri, 2017: 428).

There is no definition of sexual harassment in the law of Iran. Despite the inclusion of the Islamic Penal Code in Article 619 of the Penal Code, which refers to verbal sexual harassment implicitly, and Article 637 of the same law, which refers to sexual harassment other than rape (an act that violates chastity), and finally Article 224, which refers to rape, no precise definition of the term sexual harassment has been used. However, it should be noted that it is very difficult to prove sex crimes even in Hudud cases, and in many cases the perpetrator may go unpunished. The proof of this claim is related to Article 224 of the Islamic Penal Code.

Rape is also a divine Hudud and it has the aspect of divine right, and the perpetrator’s repentance and confirmation of it for the judge, despite the conditions prescribed in religion and law, will cause the punishment to fall or be changed and reduced. Unlike qisas, which has the aspect of human rights and is not removed by the perpetrator’s repentance, and the judge is not allowed to reduce or convert it without the consent of the victim or the guardians, in rape and fornication by force, according to Article 114 of the Islamic Penal Code, if the perpetrator of fornication repents before the crime is proven, and in some cases even after the crime is proven, and his repentance is verified by the judge, even without obtaining permission from the plaintiff, the judge can cancel the Hudud punishment of his execution.

However, based on Note 2 of the same law, regarding the general aspect of the crime, this aggressor should be sentenced to imprisonment or flogging of the sixth degree or both. On the other hand, with more precision in the mentioned legal cases, it seems that these actions were only to preserve the sanctity of Sharia and not to preserve the rights of the victim. In addition, Article 619 itself has caused a lot of confusion because it is not easy to distinguish what action is inside or outside of this article. It can be concluded that the failure to mention the evidence related to sex crimes causes the lack of follow-up by the law and also leads to the failure to preserve the dignity and framework of privacy of individuals.

It seems that the increasing spread of abnormalities in sexual relations in recent years shows the ineffectiveness of the legislator's reactive approach in the field of crimes and sexual abnormalities. Despite the excessive increase in the rate of committing sex crimes and the increase in the rate of sex crimes in the society, these crimes have not received much attention from experts and specialists in various fields for unknown reasons.

Considering the spread of these crimes and their appearance in virtual spaces and people's awareness of this type of behavior, it is considered necessary to criminalize and inform the family, children and adolescents; and this type of education has not yet been implemented in the media, schools, etc., and even their expression is considered obscene; since the reasons and factors for the occurrence of this crime are different and on the other hand, this class of society (children and adolescents) has a more sensitive and vulnerable psychological and social status than others; therefore, an effective method should be adopted according to the conditions and situation of these people.

Nevertheless, previous researches have each addressed one aspect of prevention and postvention of sexual victimization; accordingly, this research was designed and compiled with the aim of providing a model of prevention and postvention of sexual victimization of children and adolescents in the criminal justice system of Iran to answer the question, what factors are effective on the prevention and postvention of sexually victimized children and adolescents in Iran?

1. Theoretical principles

It should be kept in mind that sexual victimization is one of the issues that has roots in different fields and scientific fields, with multifaceted causes. Nowadays, due to the complexity and multidimensionality of the causes of sexual victimization and the ineffectiveness of single-disciplinary knowledge, there is a need for comprehensive and multidimensional investigations. Child abuse, like other phenomena, has causes and factors that become the basis and because of its occurrence. In the research literature, some studies presented the cause of sexual abuse in a general way.

Some sociologists and psychologists believe that some social and family factors, including the place of residence, migration from the village to the city, drug addiction, parental divorce, parental alcoholism, smoking, parental death, conflicts and fights in the family, staying alone at home, having a separate room, fear of the child at home affect the incidence of sexual victimization of children and adolescents (Delia, 2020; Savioja, 2019; Stewart *et al.*, 2019; Letourneau *et al.*, 2017; Woodward *et al.*, 2017; Arslan *et al.*, 2016).

Some researchers reported that economic factors such as parental occupation, occupation of sex delinquents, type of residential home, family income, offer of gift or money to sexually abused children, and the level of educational facilities of schools are involved in this field (Hosseini and Safari, 2014; Mohseni, 2012; Stewart *et al.*, 2019; Letourneau *et al.*, 2017; Kirby, 2015).

Psychological researchers believe that there are some factors affecting sex offenders, including the preference to wear clothes of the opposite sex, orientation towards the opposite sex, desire to have sex, enjoying sex, watching porn videos and photos, seeing the intimacy and sex of others, seeing the intimacy and sex of parents, having friends who have been sexually assaulted, corporal punishment of the child, swearing at the child in the family, lack of peace in the family, conflicts with siblings, strict parents, having strict teachers, making fun of the child in the family, aggressive behavior before sexual assault, depression of the sex offender, the sex offender's anger, high self-confidence in the sex offender, fear of the sex offender, isolation of the sex offender, lack of self-control in the sex offender, feelings of guilt or worthlessness in the sex offender, mental or practical obsession (Abed Khorasani, 2010; Amran *et al.*, 2020; Siria *et al.*, 2020; Savioja, 2019; McMunn, 2019; Woodward *et al.*, 2017; McCuish and Lussier, 2017; Curcio *et al.*, 2013).

Physicians and biologists introduced some influential factors in this field, including the weight of sexually abused children, skin color of sexually abused children, hair color of sexually abused children, eye color of sexually abused children, order of sexually abused children in the family, and physical condition (Smallbone *et al.*, 2013; Letourneau *et al.*, 2017).

In the law books and documents in the field of sexual delinquency, there are reports about the influencing factors in this regard, including the age of sexually abused children, the age of sex delinquents, the gender of sexually abused children, educational status, the number of family members of sexually abused children, age gap with friends, time of sexual assault of sexually abused children, age gap of sexually abused children with the person who sexually assaulted, and marital status of sex delinquents (Hosseini and Safari, 2014; Mohseni, 2012; Stewart *et al.*, 2019; Letourneau *et al.*, 2017; Kirby, 2015).

In the last decade, media factors have shown their importance in this regard, including the use of satellites, the possession of personal mobile phones of sexually abused children, the use of mass media such as Telegram, WhatsApp, and Instagram (Bagheri, 2017; Letourneau *et al.*, 2017; Choi *et al.*, 2017; Wykes, 2017). According to the mentioned introduction, the theoretical foundations of sexual victimization can be classified into six categories including social, economic, media, psychological, legal and executive factors.

2. Methods

The research method is mixed design in terms of data nature (qualitative and quantitative) and practical in terms of purpose. The qualitative section has reviewed the previous literature and the quantitative section has benefited from the analytic hierarchy process (AHP). The statistical population in the quantitative section included all experts, specialists and professors related or informed in the field of sex crimes against children and adolescents in the country, so that we used the opinions of 13 experts in the field of criminal law and criminology.

Therefore, following the design of the questionnaire through AHP, experts in the field of criminal law and criminology were asked to rate each of the criteria and determine the priority of each of the criteria. In using AHP to solve the evaluation process, five basic steps were performed as follows:

- The first step: Forming the hierarchy.
- The second step: Determining the importance coefficient of criteria and sub-criteria.
- The third step: Determining the importance coefficient of items.
- The fourth step: Determining the final score (priority of items).
- The fifth step: Examining the consistency of judgments.

Expert Choice software was used for analysis and analytic hierarchy process.

Cattell's 16 Personality Factors questionnaire was used to determine the personality characteristics of sex delinquents, and 43 sex delinquents were used in this section.

3. Results

Ranking of factors affecting sexual victimization

In this research, the factors affecting sexual delinquency were identified through theoretical literature, which were divided into six categories including economic, social, psychological, legal, executive and media.

After developing the model, a questionnaire was designed and re-evaluated by experts to check the effect of each factor. The designed questionnaire is given in Table 1.

Table 1. Factors affecting sexual delinquency

No.	Effective factors	Number of experts' response to items			
		Low	Moderate	High	Very high
1	Social	0	0	3	10
2	Economic	0	0	4	9
3	Psychological	0	0	3	10
4	Media	0	0	4	9
5	Legal	0	0	4	9
6	Executive	0	0	5	8

Source: authors' elaboration.

After collecting the questionnaires, the results obtained from the responses were analyzed. In order for the degree of importance of each criterion to be known, specific numerical values were assigned to the options of the degree of influence (low=2, moderate=4, high=7, very high=10). By summing and averaging the obtained values for each factor, the effectiveness of the factors was determined. Factors that had an influence among variables as value as between 7 and 10 (very high influence) were considered as main criteria.

Table 2. Determining factors affecting sexual delinquency

No.	Main criteria	Mean value	Result
1	Social	9.307	Acceptable
2	Economic	9.076	Acceptable
3	Psychological	9.307	Acceptable
4	Media	9.076	Acceptable
5	Legal	9.076	Acceptable
6	Executive	8.846	Acceptable

Source: authors' elaboration.

According to Table 2, all determined factors were estimated to be among the effective factors on Sexual Victimization of Children ($\mu \geq 7$).

The results showed that the degree of inconsistency of six items of the pairwise comparison matrices were less than the standard limit (0.1) and

thus all items were used in AHP. The final matrix of pairwise comparisons was formed by using the six matrices of pairwise comparisons obtained by the experts; thus, the arrays of the final matrix of pairwise comparisons were formed from the average arrays of all six pairwise comparison matrices obtained from experts. Table (3) shows the final matrix of pairwise comparisons. The degree of inconsistency of the above matrix is 0.08, which is a verified value.

Table 3. The final matrix of pairwise comparisons for the factors affecting sexual victimization of children

Social	Economic	Psychological	Media	Legal	Executive
	3.36587	2.0	2.0	3.0	3.9487
		5.0	7.0	5.0	2.0
			7.0	1.43097	3.03143
				1.64375	4.04282
					3.5652
Incon:0.08					

Source: authors' elaboration.

The weight of the criteria

The weight and importance of each criterion was determined using the information of the final matrix of pairwise comparisons and Expert Choice 2000 software.

Table (4) shows the weight of each of the influential criteria.

Table 4. The weight of each of the criteria affecting sexual victimization of children

No.	Main criteria	Weight	Normalized weight	Rank
1	Economic	0.397	1	1
2	Executive	0.257	0.647	2
3	Psychological	0.143	0.362	3
4	Social	0.095	0.240	4
5	Legal	0.057	0.143	5
6	Media	0.051	0.129	6

Source: authors' elaboration.

As can be seen in table (4), the most influencing factors (weight) on sexual delinquency were economic (1), executive (0.647), psychological (0.362), social (0.240), legal (0.143) and media (0.129) factors, respectively. The degree of inconsistency was estimated to be 0.08, which is lower than the standard limit of 0.1; therefore, these results can be trusted.

B: Identifying the personality characteristics of sex delinquents

Table (5) indicates that the personality characteristics of sex delinquents included sociability, domination, boldness, suspicion, imagination, insecurity, self-righteousness, anxiety, objective reasoning, emotional instability, lethargy, non-adherence to the law, stubbornness, self-disclosure, conservatism and unrestrainedness (Table 5).

Table 5. Profile of Cattell's 16 Personality Factors questionnaire in 43 sex offenders

Factors	F-	Aligned scores										F+	Factors
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Isolation	A				3		5	11	20	4		A	Sociability
Objective reasoning	B		11	23	8			1				B	Abstract reasoning
Emotional instability	C		22	15	5		1					C	Emotional stability
Submission	E				2	3		17	19	2		E	Domination
Lethargy	F	1	20		18		3			1		F	Vitality
non-adherence to the law	G	10	13	10	8		1		1			G	Adherence to the law
Caution	H	1	2		3			11	10	16		H	Boldness
Stubbornness	I	8	11	20		2		1		1		I	Gentle and sensitive
Trust	L		2	1		2		9	13	16		L	Skepticism
Pragmatism	M	1		2	1		2	12	10	15		M	Imagination
Self-disclosure	N		16	9	12	2	1		1	2		N	Accountancy
Safety	O		1	2		2		8	12	18		O	Unsafety
Conservatism	Q1		14	15	11			2		1		Q1	Empiricism
Reliance on others	Q2			1		2		10	12	18		Q2	Self-righteousness
Unrestrainedness	Q3	1	8	16	10	5		1		2		Q3	Perfectionism
Calmness	Q4			1		2		16	13	11		Q4	Anxiety

Source: authors' elaboration.

According to the information in Table 5, it can be said that the offenders are sociable in terms of personality, meaning that they are people with strong communication and have effective interactions with others.

- Another characteristic of sex offenders is domination, which includes a set of behaviors, customs, and principles that cause one person to dominate another person in the sexual dimension or lifestyle.
- Another personality trait of sex delinquents is boldness, indicating that most of them are fearless and bold people.
- Another personality trait of sex delinquents is suspicion, so they don't trust others most of the time.
- The results showed that the personality of sex offenders is imaginative and not pragmatism.
- Another personality trait identified for sex offenders is unsafety, which affects their communication, and they are distrustful of communicating with others, but at the same time, they try to adapt to others.
- Another personality trait of sex offenders is selfishness, so that these people are not able to sympathize and understand the feelings of others and exploit others as much as possible. Self-righteous people have unfavorable expectations from others, they need a lot of admiration from others and feel arrogance.
- Another personality trait of sex offenders is anxiety and indicates that they are restless people. Sex offenders suffer from other personality characteristics, including objective reasoning, emotional instability, lethargy, non-adherence to the law, stubbornness, self-disclosure, conservatism, and unrestrained Ness, which are considered negative personality characteristics.

4. Discussion

The results of our analyses revealed that the most influencing parameters on sexual delinquency were economic, executive, psychological, social, legal and media factors, respectively.

One of the effective factors that may affect the sexual victimization of children is the economic factor, and criminologists have paid special attention to it and have written about this factor in most of their works. Therefore, criminologists have agreed on the principle that "the economic factor is effective in sexual victimization" and if there is a difference in some cases, it is due to the effect of different aspects of this strong factor (Stewart *et al*, 2019).

Economic poverty can be one of the important factors of committing people to all kinds of deviations such as theft and paraphilia, especially in adolescents and young people, and they will leave their negative impact on human life in any case (Letourneau *et al.*, 2017). Deprivation of food and clothing, illiteracy, backwardness, ignorance and superstitions, insufficient hygiene and all kinds of mental and physical diseases and even wars and bloodshed at the global level are all rooted in material needs and poverty.

Unemployment, which is the result of the economic crisis, causes unemployment and puts people in trouble and is the basis for committing various crimes (Smallbone *et al.*, 2013). Poverty in the family causes parents to be unable to fulfill their duties in order to meet the needs of life, in such a way that they abandon raising their children and start working outside the home. Inadequate housing for families, lack of living facilities, unhealthy entertainment, inability of families to protect their children from corruption in unhealthy environments and socializing with unscrupulous people are all caused by poverty and helplessness of families (Letourneau *et al.*, 2017; Stewart *et al.*, 2019).

Sexual victimization may occur due to social factors, because criminology of some social factors is examined under the title of social environment, which is a part of social factors (Savioja, 2019). In this regard, we analyze some of the social factors under the same title. Social factors cause an increase in sexual delinquency and victimization, which are problems that have a wide scope throughout society; in other words, sexual delinquency also increases with the increase in the extent of family disorder.

The social and economic dimensions together show the special importance of these two, so that the inappropriate conditions of each of them create many problems for families, such as the increase of sexual delinquency in the society (Smallbone *et al.*, 2013). The family is one of the most important factors affecting the society; as far as it is possible to say that no society can be healthy unless it has healthy families.

It is obvious that any failure in the functioning of the family leaves adverse effects on the child's behavior, which can have negative consequences for the entire society. As prevention is better than treatment to prevent disease, it is necessary to take preventive actions to prevent sexual delinquency in order to finally achieve a healthy society (Badali, 2019).

Psychological factors originating from the family and school environment can have an effect on delinquency and sexual victimization of children and adolescents. Usually, the parents of delinquent children or adolescents are either very violent and strict in terms of behavior, or they are very inattentive and negligent towards their children (Amran *et al.*, 2020). Parents of this group of children and adolescents often suffer from problems in communicating with their children and cannot properly perform their duties towards their children (Curcio *et al.*, 2013).

Researchers and scientists have found the fact that family factors are among the crime factors in the society that provide the causes of crime. Criminologists also confirm that the family is the most important center for the education of children's delinquency and victimization. The results of most studies showed that family factors have a significant effect on sexual delinquency and victimization of people (Badali, 2019; Kirby, 2015; Curcio *et al.*, 2013; Woodward *et al.*, 2017; Savioja, 2019).

Considering the fact that the health of the society depends on the health of the individual and the family, extra efforts should be made to eliminate the causes of sexual abuse. It should be kept in mind that despite the control of social, economic, family and psychological factors, we still cannot hope that sexual victimization and delinquency can be controlled. Because researchers have acknowledged in the last two decades that media factors and mass media have undeniable effects on sexual delinquency and victimization (Wickman, 2017; Wykes, 2014).

The media factor is one of the other influential factors identified in this research. Human achievements in relation to industry and new technologies, in addition to benefits and prosperity, have always brought harm. One of the clear examples of these innovations is the creation of social networks (Razavi Fard *et al.*, 2017). While creating interaction and multi-way communication among users, these networks make it possible to share interests, communicate with other cultures, beliefs, and religions, and obtain information on various topics.

In addition to these advantages, the incorrect use of these networks can lead to irreparable harm, such as the endangerment of personal privacy, the loss of family relationships, and the phenomenon of sexual abuse. Sexual delinquency in social networks can be defined as the process of sexual victimization of people through the emergence, growth, development and consequently the use of information and communication technology. This crime can manifest itself in various forms, including sexual harassment, extortion, and pornography.

Therefore, identifying the sources of this damage both at the social-family level and within social networks requires the provision of a complete and comprehensive program in order to provide the possibility of curbing a wide range of sexual injuries in this communication technology, on the one hand, and all affected persons should be included in its measures by identifying different classes of sexual victims, on the other hand (Razavi Fard *et al.*, 2017).

Another factor affecting sexual delinquency is executive factors. Executive factors refer to the strict supervision of executive agents on harmful environments; monitoring the correct implementation of preventive and protective rules and regulations; establishing a management organization

for the prevention of sex crimes; cooperation of governmental and non-governmental institutions in order to prevent sex offenders; identifying vulnerable and high-risk people; and providing suitable platforms for not committing sex crimes. Some researchers including Bagheri (2017), and Tawhidi and Fazli (2013) have studied the effect of executive factors.

Another identified influential factor on the sexual delinquency of children and adolescents is related to legal factors. The results obtained from the interviews with experts and the classification of the results showed that legal factors such as revision of laws and regulations, maximum use of decriminalization methods, emphasis on restorative justice, formulation of preventive (active) criminal policy against sexual harassment, adopting situation-oriented preventive measures (situation-oriented), and formulating counter-criminal policy (reactive prevention) can be effective in preventing sexual victimization of children and adolescents.

The research literature supports the obtained results, so that in accordance with the results of the present study, Bagheri (2017) also found the effect of the mentioned factors to be effective in preventing sexual victimization of children and adolescents.

Conclusion and Suggestions

The results indicate the identification of six factors affecting the sexual victimization of children and adolescents; among the factors, the highest rank was related to economic factors and the lowest rank was related to the media factor. Therefore, according to the findings of the research, the prevention and postvention model is presented for each factor, so that the use of the results of this research and the desired models for the identified factors is suggested for the officials and planners.

Table 6. Suggested prevention strategies in the field of factors affecting sexual victimization and delinquency

Dimensions	Prevention strategies
Economic factors	Rapid development of educational indicators in schools
	Rapid development of entrepreneurship in society
	Conducting vocational training and entrepreneurship courses
	Economic rehabilitation of sex delinquents and the family of sex victims

Social factors	Control of crime-prone places and neighborhoods through both governmental and non-governmental institutions
	Family supervision and control over children in unsafe environments
	Parental supervision and control over friends and acquaintances of sexually abused children
	Education of sexual care to children in families and schools
	Identifying sexually deviant people in society and monitoring them
	Identifying vulnerable points and social crisis in urban, rural and informal settlements and planning to improve their situation.
	Continuous assessment of social health, especially sexual delinquency, and adoption of mechanisms to reduce it.
	Providing various facilities and opportunities for the leisure time of the community members, especially children and adolescents.
Psychological factors	Creating a healthy environment without fear in the family
	Educating families about proper parenting
	Teaching the correct and rational treatment of children with sex offenders
	Existence of diagnostic tools and equipment to determine the level of readiness of criminals to leave care facilities
Legal factors	Maximum use of judicial solutions
	Developing preventive (active) criminal policy against sexual harassment
	Adopting situation-oriented preventive measures
	Identifying the legal gap in the field of sexual delinquency
Media factors	Educating families to prevent sexual delinquency by national media
	Non-use of satellite in the family
	Controlled use of mass media for children under 18 years of age
	Proper sex education in schools and family
	Using the capacity of virtual space and social networks to inform, raise awareness and increase people's sensitivity to sexual injuries.
	Using the capacity of mass media in the field of information and awareness in the field of controlling and reducing sexual harm.

Executive factors	Cooperation of governmental and non-governmental institutions to prevent sex offenders
	Detailed supervision of executive agents on harmful environments
	Monitoring the correct implementation of preventive and protective regulations
	Providing appropriate platforms for not committing sex crimes
	Forming a management organization for the prevention of sex crimes
	Identifying vulnerable and high-risk people
	Setting up a monitoring system for the prevention of sex crimes

Source: authors' elaboration.

Study limitations

This research was conducted cross-sectionally, which makes it difficult to draw conclusions about causality.

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