

Study of sodomy cases referred to medico legal department / Ministry of Justice in sohag in the period from january,2014 to january ,2017.

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Introduction

Sodomy is defined as generally anal or oral sex between people or sexual activity between a person and animal, but it may also mean any non-procreative sexual activity, Sodomy is illegal in some countries and the law punish the sodomist, On the other side it's legal in other countries that have laws to regulate it (*Scheb, 2013*).

This abnormal sexual practice is popular allaround the world without any age limitation,involving adults, children and old subjects(*Koerner and Brendan, 2002*).

Sodomy is a sexual, social and religious crime, It refers to fail in all society institutions in taming the sexual desires (*Nandy, 1995*).

The society exposes to a strong attack on the principles and morals due to absence of religious faith and absence of the role of the families in monitoring actions of their children (*Koerner and Brendan, 2002*).

The unemployment is the mainly source in spreading of most sexual crimes because it leads to delay of age of marriage and increase of sexual desires which leads to abnormal sexual relationships (*Nandy, 1995*).

Sodomy is a very dangerous crime due to many complications on sodomist and on the society ,These complications are psychic and health complications which lead to spread of dangerous diseases that destruct the community (*Koerner and Brendan, 2002*).

It is very difficult to know exactly the real sodomy rate because most of victims refuse to inform the authorities fearing of scandals (*Parikh, 1995*).

Strong family and good communication between father, mother and their children are the keys in struggling the sodomy (*Parikh, 1995*) Sexual crimes are difficult crimes in dealing with them because they need long experience to understand different sexual behaviors, There are many factors that increase the difficulty of these crimes such as family and social complications and the interest in the media (*Markovchick and Vincent, 2016*).

Many scientists have made researches aimed at studying the causes of sodomy and trying to find solutions and assessing the results(*Smothers and Donovan, 2011*).

In developing countries, Intervention occur only after the discovery of the problem of sodomy and not taken to advance the development of reliable strategies to prevent this problem and protect the community , Most of developed countries put many programs to struggle sodomy(*Smothers and Donovan, 2011*).

Aim of the work :

This work aims to study sodomy cases referred to medico legal department Ministry of Justice in sohag in the period from january,2014 to January ,2017 to find the relationship between sodomy and related factors and try to

find strategies to solve this problem in sohag.

Patients and methods :

Study design:

A retrospective &prospective study.

Subjects:

A total of 105 cases referred to medico legal department, Ministry of Justice in Sohag Governorate in the period from January, 2014 to January, 2017 will be included in the study.

Methods:

All of the participants will be subjected to the following:

1. Full history (demographic data and personal history, detailed history of general health condition and chronic or current diseases).
2. We will take inconsideration relationship between sodomy and sex, age, residence, marital status, socio-economic status, education level and relationship between victim and perpetrator.
3. Examination of clothes of victim wearied at time of the crime .
4. Viewing all the papers related to the crime.
5. General and local examination for signs of sodomy.
6. The data will be collected and suspected to statistical analysis for finding relationships.

Ethical considerations:

Discussion

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- The study was approved by the Scientific Ethical Committee of Faculty of Medicine, Sohag University.

- An informed written consent was taken from all of the participants in the study.

Statistical analysis:

§ Statistical package for social sciences (IBM-SPSS), version 24 (May 2016); IBM- Chicago, USA will be used for statistical data analysis.

§ Data will be expressed as mean, median, minimum, maximum, standard deviation (SD), frequencies, number and percentage. Mean and standard deviation will be used as descriptive value for quantitative data.

§ (ANOVA) test will be used to compare means of more than two groups.

§ Student t test will be used to compare the means between two groups.

§ Pearson Chi square test will be used to compare percentages of qualitative variables.

§ For all these tests, the level of significance (P-value) can be explained as:

1. No significance $P > 0.05$
2. Significance $P < 0.05$
3. High significance $P < 0.01$
4. Very high significance $P < 0.001$.

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Sodomy is a very dangerous crime due to many complications on sodomist and on the society , These complications are psychic and health complications which lead to spread of dangerous diseases that destruct the

community (*Koerner and Brendan, 2002*).

It is very difficult to know exactly the real sodomy rate because most of victims refuse to inform the authorities fearing of scandals (*Parikh, 1995*).

Strong family and good communication between father, mother and their children are the keys in struggling the sodomy (*Parikh, 1995*).

Many scientists have made researches aimed at studying the causes of sodomy and trying to find solutions and assessing the results(*Smothers and Donovan, 2011*).

In developing countries, Intervention occur only after the discovery of the problem of sodomy and not taken to advance the development of reliable strategies to prevent this problem and protect the community , Most of developed countries put many programs to struggle sodomy(*Smothers and Donovan, 2011*).

Aim of this study was to study sodomy cases referred to medico legal department Ministry of Justice in sohag in the period from january, 2014 to january, 2017 to find the relationship between sodomy and related factors and try to find strategies to solve that problem in sohag.

This study included 105 cases, including 66.7% males and 33.3 % females, the victims and perpetrator were 41.0% from urban and 59 % from rural areas.Regarding marital Status, 85.7% of perpetrators were single and 14.3 % were married.The victims were 100% single, however in study of *Al-Mahroos et al.,(2005)*, male and female victims are almost equal in number (50.5% and 49.5%, respectively). Our results was similar to study of *Maklad et al., (2006)* as 54% of victims in their study were males, also *Mohamed et al., (1990)* reported that 321 cases of sexually abused boys were examined

in the Medico-Legal department in Cairo during the period of 1986–1990.

Regarding gender of victims in this study, 66.7% were males and 33.3% were females. Contrasting with study of *Madu and Peltzer, (2001)* on South African students yielded the highest prevalence rate of sodomy in their study. Furthermore, the prevalence rate found among their male subjects (60%) was higher than that of their female subjects (53.2%), however, other authors (*Finkelhor, 1994; Wynkoop et al., 1995*) argue that differences in research methodology account for most of the variance in prevalence rates between studies. In the study of *Back et al., (2003)*, the ratio of female to male victims of sodomy in childhood ranges between .89 and 5.50, although most of the studies report ratios above 1, thus illustrating the higher prevalence rates among women (*Bouvier et al., 1999; Briere & Elliott, 2003; Robin et al., 1997*). Several factors have been suggested to explain these results. *Holmes and Slap, (1998)* argue that males who have been sexually victimized may be reluctant to divulge their experiences. First, sexually victimized males may consider that it is unmanly to seek help (*Dhaliwal et al., 1996; Romano & De Luca, 2001*), since the abuse experience undermines many men's concepts of their masculinity (*Holmes et al., 1997*). It may also be that men are less likely to label clearly their childhood sexual activity as abusive, since their role in the ideology of sexual abuse has been that of victimizers (*Holmes et al., 1997*).

Mean age of the victims in this study was 11.19 range from 8 to 16 years, mean age of the perpetrator was 22.73, and range from 18 to 28 years. This was similar to study of *Hilal et al., (2006)* as age of victims in their study was between ages 12 and 18 years, also in study of *Olsson et al., (2008)* 66% of

victims were maleyounger than 12 years. These results are close to those of a study done in Tanzania that revealed that the mean age at which abuse occurs for males and females is similar at 13.5 and 13.8 years, respectively(*McCraan et al., 2006*).

Another study in El Salvador showed the mean age of child sexual abuse was 14 years(*Barthauer and Leventhal, 1999*).A study carried out on 87 cases of sexual assault in the Assiut Governorate from 2003 to 2007 showed that the highest percentage of cases was among the age group 15–18 (35 cases, 40.2%) of which females represented 34 cases, followed by age group 5–9 (20 cases, 23%) of which male represented 17 cases. Young males were often playing outdoors, not under the supervision of their families, Females of a young age group tend to stay at home close to their mothers(*Thabet, 2008*).

In a study done in Saudi Arabia on child abuse, about 15% were sexually abused in the period from 2000 to 2008. Thirty percent took place in the period from 2000 to 2004, 10% in 2005 to 2006, while 60% were in the period 2007 to 2008(*Al Essa and Al Muneef, 2010*).A study from United States of America revealed that children are responsible for 16.4% of rapes and 18.6% of other sexual offenses as sodomy. Additionally, 6.4% of rapes and 9.7% of other sexual offenses are committed by children less than 15 years of age. There are offenders even as young as 10 years old (*Becker and Hicks, 2003*). In USA, of all children and adolescents who were charged with committing sexual assault, 28% were between 12 to 14 years, 37% were between 15 to 17 and the remaining 42% were between 18 to 20 years of age (*Pratt et al., 2007, Burton, 2000*).

Regarding education level, 80% of perpetrators were low education level, 20 % were high education level. This

was similar to study of *Heise et al., (2006)* as 82% of the perpetrator were low educational level and 18% were high educational level. Another study indicated the low educational level of mothers of adolescent sexual offenders (*Al Essa and Al Muneef, 2010*). Accordingly, a study from Turkey also revealed low educational levels of parents and socioeconomic levels of families (*Göker et al., 2009*). Studies suggesting broken families as the key risk factors showed that overwhelming majority of child sexual offenders were living with only one parent, while only 16–30% of the offenders were from intact nuclear families (*Kahn and Chambers, 1991*). Another study revealed that half of the offenders were from intact families (*Pratt et al., 2007*). In a Canadian study, *Allagia, (2010)* describe how families that experience child sexual crimes incidents may also experience intimate partner violence. In these families, the sexually abused children encounter difficulties in disclosing the abuse to their mothers, who are facing violation by the same perpetrator. The same study (*Allagia, 2010*) describes how non-disclosure might occur to preserve family integrity when intra-family sexual abuse is identified. Such barriers to disclosure are referred to as “micro-system level factors” (family environment factors). *Finkelhor et al., (2001)*.

Regarding socioeconomic level of victims, 88.57% were low socioeconomic level, 11.43% were high socioeconomic level. This was similar to study of *Barthauer and Leventhal, (1999)*. As 89.5% of victims were low socioeconomic level, 10.5% of victims were high socioeconomic level.

Regarding socioeconomic level of perpetrators, 81.9% were low socioeconomic level, 18.1% were high socioeconomic level. This was similar to study of *Barthauer and Leventhal,*

(1999). As 80.5% of perpetrators were low socioeconomic level, 19.5% of perpetrators were high socioeconomic level.

These observations reflect that although lower socioeconomic status might put children at higher risk of sodomy, higher socio-economic status does not guarantee the child's safety (Barthauer and Leventhal, 1999).

Child sexual offenders are reported to suffer from certain problems during their educational life. The literature revealed that they have at least one of the problems out of inappropriate behaviors, nonattendance and learning difficulties. Therefore, approximately half of child sexual offenders fail their class at least once. In accordance with the literature, similar problems and interruption of education were observed to be common in our series, as well (Kahn and Chambers, 1991).

Another study showed that sexual offenders have an IQ slightly under average values. Mild and moderate mentally retarded offenders were prone to commit non-violent acts (Ferrara and McDonald, 1996; McCurry et al., 1998).

Children may be sexually abused by family members or nonfamily members. Regarding relationship between the victim and the perpetrator we found that, 14.3% were strange, 25.7% relatives and 60% were friends, also study of Olsson et al., (2008) in a Nicaragua as the most common perpetrators of abuse on children were family members including uncles, cousins, and fathers (66%); other studies on perpetrators of sodomy showed that the vast majority of perpetrators were male and known to the victim or family (Heise et al., 1999; Jejeebhoy and Bott, 2008), This was similar to study of (Barthauer and Leventhal, 1999), 15% were strangers, Regarding comparison between ages of the victim with ages of the perpetrator,

27% were relatives and 58% were friends. Contrasting with result of study of Chen et al., (2006), 82% were strangers, 7% were relatives and 11% were friends. Another researcher stated that about 30% of all perpetrators of sexual abuse are related to their victims; 60% of the perpetrators are family acquaintances such as a neighbor, babysitter, or friend and 10% of the perpetrators in child sexual abuse cases are strangers (Joan, 2005). Prevalence of parental child sexual abuse is difficult to assess due to secrecy and privacy; some estimates show 20 million Americans have been victimized by parental incest as children (Turner and Jeffrey, 1996).

However, in a study in Israel, the majority of perpetrators were strangers, and the intra-family abuse was more common in females than in males (Chein et al., 2000). In the study of Wijk et al., (2006), 8.6% of cases reported sexual assault combined with physical assault, while 3.9% reported armed threat. There was a similarity between their study and a study in Tanzania that documented almost 13% of females mentioned physical force as a major form of persuasion (Wijk et al., 2006). Canadian incidence study revealed that genital touching and fondling (62.5%) was the most common form of child sexual abuse and followed by sodomy in 39% of the children (Public Health Agency of Canada, 2010). A qualitative study among survivors in Israel established shame and stigma as barriers to sexual abuse disclosure. When the perpetrator is familiar, the cases are especially unlikely to reach the legal system. Researchers established that such families are often closed systems, characterised by chaos and isolation (Hershkowitz et al., 2007).

there is significant difference between the age of the victim and age of

perpetrator with P value <0.001 (VHS). The average age of the victim is 11.19 ± 2.47 . The average age of the perpetrator is 22.73 ± 3.27 .

Regarding comparison between residence of the victim & residence of the perpetrator, the majority of cases were rural, and there is significant difference between the two groups regarding residence as the p value = <0.001 (VHS). Regarding victims, 41% of victims were urban, 59% were rural. Regarding perpetrators, 41% were urban, 59% were rural.

Regarding comparison between socioeconomic level of the victim & socioeconomic level of the perpetrator, the majority of cases were low socioeconomic, and there is significant difference between the two groups regarding socioeconomic level as the p value = <0.001 (VHS). Regarding victims, 88.57% were low socioeconomic level, 11.43% were high socioeconomic level. Regarding perpetrators, 81.9% were low socioeconomic level, 18.1% were high socioeconomic level.

Recommendations :

- 1) Sodomy is a major sexual, social and religious crime.
- 2) Early detection and early management of sodomist is very important in struggling the sodomy.
- 3) Strong family is the most important key to prevent the sodomy.
- 4) Our study recommend putting many strategies to struggle the sodomy and doing more studies over a wide scale of cases.

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