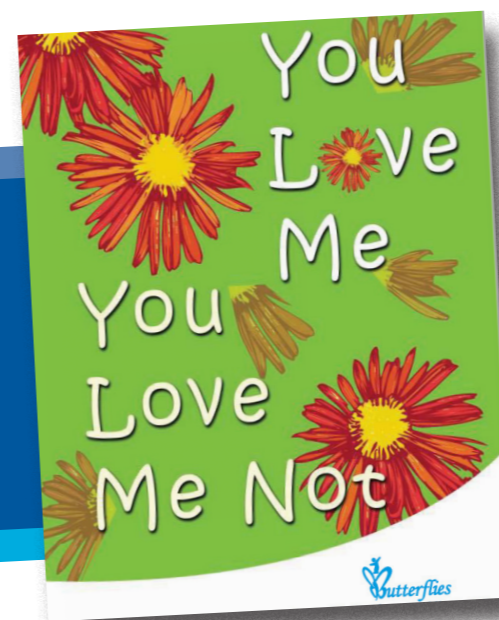


'You Love Me, You Love Me Not': an Awareness-Raising Storybook

Butterflies, India



THE TOOL

'You Love Me, You Love Me Not' is an awareness-raising storybook for children about sexual abuse of boys and girls, an issue which is often hidden in our societies and shrouded by taboo and shame.

Created by the NGO Butterflies, based in Delhi, India, it has been used in their work on prevention of child sexual abuse since 2006. The book also contains guidance for parents and care givers.

'You Love Me, You Love Me Not' presents the true life, anonymised stories of five children. It describes different situations in which children can be abused, in some instances within children's own families or home networks, in others within the school circle. The book contains a number of illustrations which bring the stories to life.

Radhika is a 13 year old girl who suffers sexual abuse at the hands of her stepfather. Nikhil is a 13 year old boy who is sexually abused in his home by his school's head boy and sports captain. Simran is a young girl who experienced sexual abuse by her family driver over a period of 6 years. Maya is a 9 year old girl abused by her uncle while her grandmother turns a blind eye. Rishang is an 11 year old boy abused by his sports teacher. In each circumstance, after bringing the abuse to the attention of a care giver, the child is guided through next steps of disclosure and healing.

Through their work with the storybook, Butterflies aims to grow children's awareness of how they can be harmed and how to keep themselves safe. Butterflies also aims to increase parents' and schools' capacities to cope with disclosures.

IMPLEMENTATION

The storybook has been distributed to private English-speaking schools across Delhi. Butterflies has been invited by those schools to speak to children on the subject of child sexual abuse, providing them with the opportunity to explore the topic and ask questions. Butterflies staff create a safe space for such discussion. Sessions are facilitated on safe and unsafe touch.

The book has not yet reached Government-led schools due to the language barrier. Butterflies is now keen to translate it into Hindi and regional languages, in order that it can be used by schools across India.

Butterflies ensures that each school has child safeguarding policies in place with clear guidelines for staff on how to respond to disclosure.



IMPACT

- 1 'You Love Me, You Love Me Not' has been received very positively by children who say the format helps them to understand the issues.
- 2 Children are gaining confidence in being able to share their experiences, with teachers and parents.
- 3 Parents' understanding of the issues has increased significantly.
- 4 Schools are keen to have further engagement with Butterflies. Teachers who attend Butterflies' sessions in schools have been impressed and taken the storybook home to share with their own children.

CHALLENGES FACED

Some schools have been resistant to engage due to reputational concerns.

Language barriers have made it difficult to reach children across Government schools.

Butterflies is now approached by many schools interested in the project but they don't have capacity to support them all.

THE LOCAL CONTEXT

According to a Government of India 2007 study, 53.22% of children, both boys and girls, reported having faced one or more forms of sexual abuse.

ABOUT BUTTERFLIES

Butterflies is a non-governmental organisation in New Delhi, India, working to protect & empower street & working children since 1989.

They run programmes in 12 contact areas in Delhi at points where there is a high concentration of street/working children, for example bus terminals, markets or railway stations. Butterflies also runs three night shelters in Delhi.

Their programmes, which reach out to 1,500 children, include: education, health care, Children's Development Khazana, Children's Alternate Media (radio, theatre and newspaper), Childline and a resilience centre, Butterflies School of Food Preparation and Catering, and night outreach.

Find out more about Butterflies: www.butterflieschildrights.org

Or contact Rita Panicker, Founder and Director of Butterflies India: ritapanicker@butterfliesindia.org

FURTHER INFORMATION

Family for Every Child is a diverse membership network of civil society organisations based around the world.

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