



SAFE-TEA TRAINING

(Safeguarding Children)

Research Analysis (2017)

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Overview

During the month of January 2017 The TEA Project completed eight, 1-day, SAFE-TEA (Safeguarding Children) Training Programmes across Sri Lanka. The training was led by a UK Consultant Social Worker, and TEA Project Trustee, Dee Tracey. Five Local Government Schools and three non-profit organisations participated in the programme. Non-profit organisations included the Women's Development Centre who support abused women and girls, Social Work students from NISD (National Institute of Social Development) and The POWER Foundation; a Civil Rights Organisation. The training TEAm consisted of two Project Workers, VolunTEArS and Directors; travelling to the Central, Eastern, Western and Uva Provinces running SAFE-TEA training with TEA Project partners.

Aim of SAFE-TEA

The programme looked to educate professionals about the different forms of child abuse, signs of abuse, how to respond to disclosures and how to reduce harm and keep children safe from abuse. Each partner received a flash drive with supplementary safeguarding children information; including posters, reports, a draft Safeguarding Children Policy and Job Description for a Lead Safeguarding Officer. 'Safe Touch leaflets' and informative laminated awareness posters for children were also provided.

Government schools in Sri Lanka do not commonly have safer recruitment procedures or policies in place to protect children from abuse. Simple action plans were completed with schools to encourage them to implement a Child Protection Policy and to nominate a lead professional to manage and record all incidents of Child Abuse.



Details of SAFE-TEA Training partners:

Date	Organization/School	No of participants	Area	participants
09 th January 2017	Royal International School	32	Kurunagala	Teachers
10 th January 2017	Siddi lebbe school	28	Kandy	Teachers
13 th January 2017	Kuliyapitiya school	28	Kuliyapitiya	Teachers
16 th January 2017	Women's Development Centre (WDC)	39	Kandy	Community Development Workers
17 th January 2017	Rasindeve School	13	Kandy	Teachers
18 th January 2017	Karangawa school	17	Ampara	Teachers
19 th January 2017	The POWER Foundation	38	Badulla	Teachers
23 rd January 2017	Centre For Children's Happiness (CCH)	19	Colombo	Social work undergraduates

Feedback

A total of 214 participants took part in the month long SAFE-TEA Programme; 78% of participants completed detailed evaluation forms and feedback from participants has been analysed and is presented in this impact report. All participants told the project they learnt about child abuse, symptoms and signs of abused children and related information about the current situation of abuse of children in Sri Lanka.

Some participants felt the laws protecting women and children needed to be strengthened. A number of domestic laws do exist; however enforcement of laws and legislation is weak in Sri Lanka.

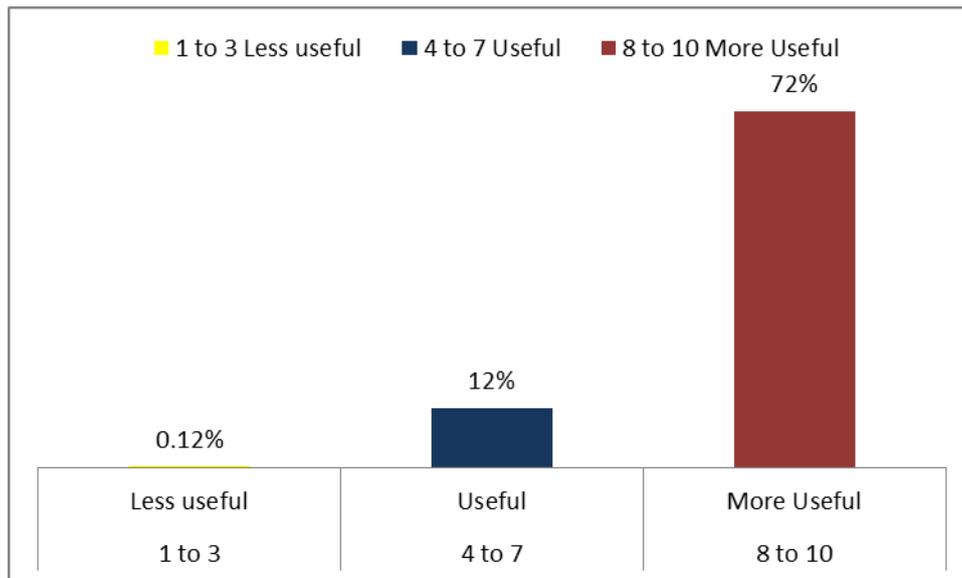
Some participants commented that they learnt: *'what is the role of the teacher when working with an abused child'*. A participant from a non-profit organisation commented, *"I identified that I should give more attention about this topic, the details of this programme are important because we are working with children"*. A school participant in the Eastern Province commented, *"child abuse is a disaster in the current situation so it is important to protect children for the future"*.

We asked participants how useful they found the SAFE-TEA training by rating the training from 1 (very poor) to 10 (excellent).

72% of participants gave a rating of between 8-10 which tells us that the vast majority of teachers found the training very useful indeed.



The table below shows how useful teachers and professionals found the training.



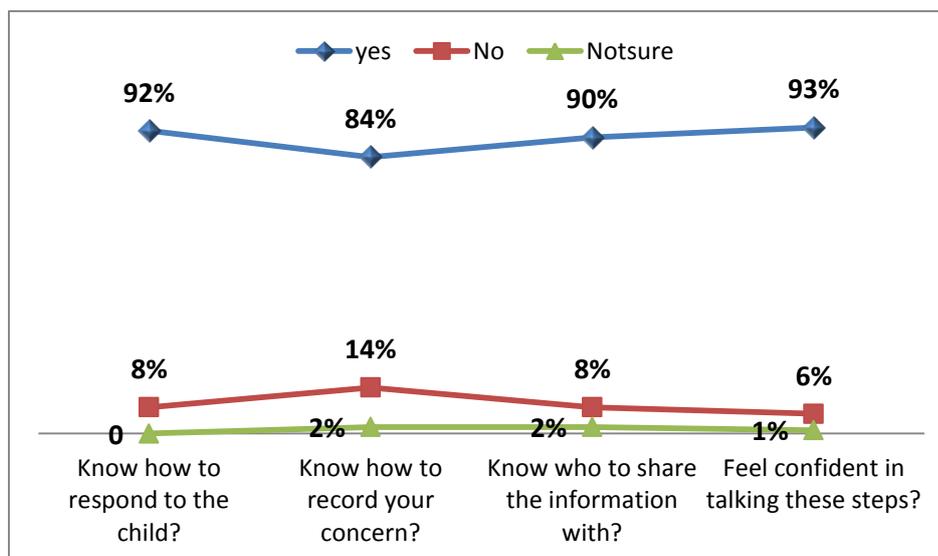
We asked participants if they now felt confident to do the following after participating in the training:

1. Do you know how to respond to the child?
2. Do you know how to record your concern?
3. Do you know who to share the information with?
4. Do you feel confident in talking these steps?

- ✓ 92% of participants said the training helped to equip them with knowledge to effectively deal with child abuse concerns at their school and/or organisation.
- ✓ 84% said they learnt how to record a concern about child abuse.
- ✓ 90% said they learnt how and who to share information with.
- ✓ 93% said they feel confident in taking steps to protect children who they work with.

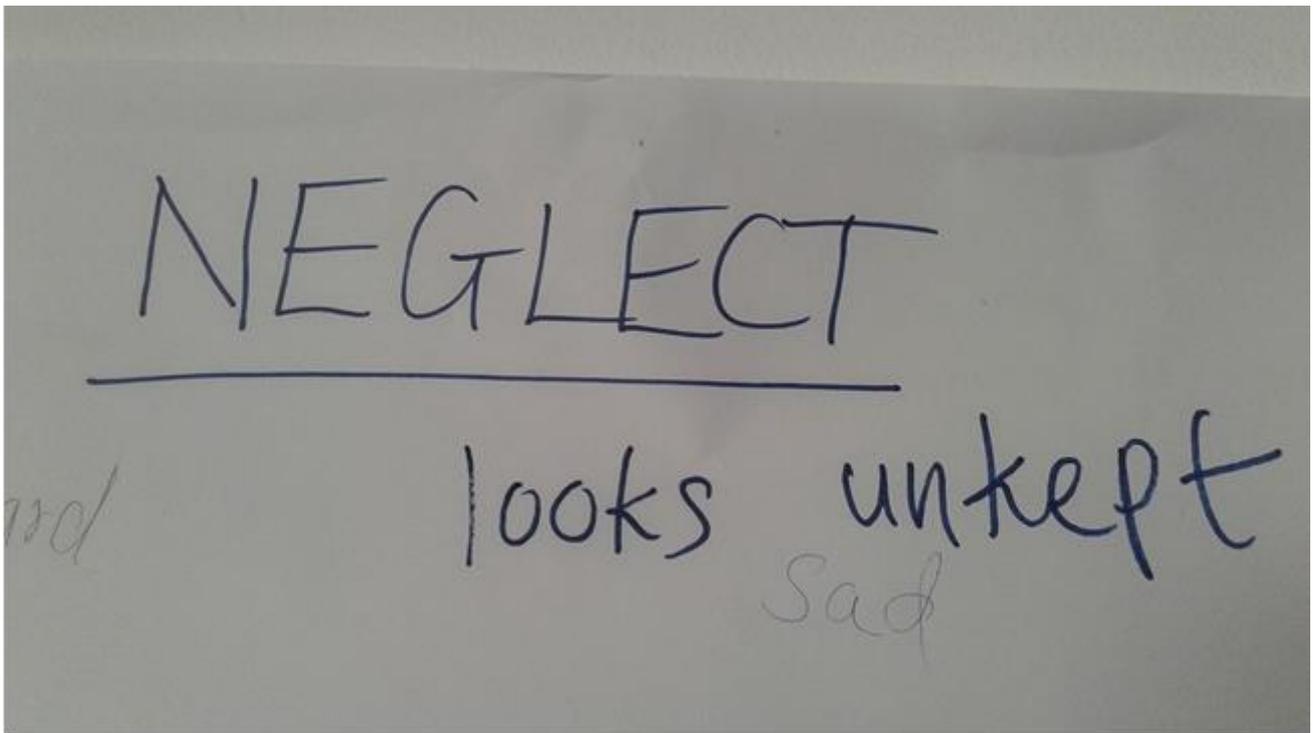


The Table below shows how confident participants felt to deal with local child abuse concerns and procedures after the training.



Key Recommendations

- ✓ Participants told us the SAFE-TEA Training was a successful and effective programme; they gained important knowledge related to child abuse in Sri Lanka and many teachers suggested the training should be taken to all schools around the country.
- ✓ Participants suggested future programmes should include videos and case studies; it was suggested the length of the training should be extended.
- ✓ The majority of participants felt that a ‘healthy relationship/safe sex’ programme was needed for school children.
- ✓ Lobby the Ministry of Education to make SAFE SCHOOLS a priority; encourage all schools to adopt safer recruitment procedures and a Safeguarding Children Policy.
- ✓ Strengthen reporting mechanisms and law enforcement procedures.



Summary

“Sex” is the most commonly searched word in Sri Lanka with searches peaking annually in April and December; school holiday periods in Sri Lanka. Children do not receive education on sexual health, healthy relationships or contraception and the subject of ‘sex’ is generally not discussed until marriage. Therefore children are naturally drawn to the Internet to seek knowledge and understanding which is of great concern.

Sri Lanka is a conservative and traditional nation therefore the subject of intercourse and child abuse is not discussed openly. Encouraging conversations about relationships would be beneficial for children and help them to increase personal safety.

Schools we visited did have local systems in place, however these were not written down and not all teachers were aware of local procedures or felt confident to deal with child abuse concerns.

February 2017

This report was written & evaluated by The TEA Project.