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ABSTRACT

Pedophilia is the experience of recurrent intense sexual urges and sexually arousing fantasies involving sexual activity with a prepubescent child by a person (at least 16 years of age and 5 years older than the victim) who has acted on these urges. This research paper reviews research on the effects of parent-child relationships and home environment on the development of pedophilia. Research in the etiology of pedophilia has been extensive in scope. The research examined here is mainly retrospective and focuses on pedophiles' perceptions of their families. The review is divided into three categories: (1) Parent-child interactions in the lives of pedophiles, examining mother-son relationships, father-son relationships, and parental identification; (2) Family environment, analyzing the structure of the sex offenders' families and the impact of sexual abuse and familial relationships; and (3) Sexual victimization, exploring the validity of the molestation theory and the literature concerning intra-familial and extra-familial victimization of sex offenders. Each study's statistically significant results and validity were critiqued. Research results across the three areas were mixed. Most of the studies were unable to discriminate pedophiles from other sex offenders and sexually deviant groups. Methodological considerations and recommendations for further research are suggested. (RJM)

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EFFECTS OF HOME ENVIRONMENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF PEDOPHILIA:  
A REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

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EFFECTS OF HOME ENVIRONMENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF PEDOPHILIA:  
A REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

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A Doctoral Research Paper  
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the Faculty of Rosemead School of Psychology  
Biola University

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In Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Doctor of Psychology

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by  
James H. Brown  
May, 1994

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## ABSTRACT

### EFFECTS OF HOME ENVIRONMENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF PEDOPHILIA:

#### A REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

by

James H. Brown

Research on the effects of parent-child relationships and home environment on the development of pedophilia is reviewed. The research in this area has been mainly retrospective and has focused on the perceptions which pedophiles have of their families. The review has been divided into three categories: (a) parent-child interactions in the lives of pedophiles, focusing on mother-son relationships, father-son relationships, and parental identification; (b) family environment, focusing on structure of sex offenders' families and the impact of sexual abuse and familial relationships; and (c) sexual victimization, focusing on the validity of the molestation theory and the literature concerning intrafamilial and extrafamilial victimization of sex offenders. Each study was critiqued in light of its statistically significant results ( $p < .05$ ) and the validity of its research. Methodological considerations and recommendations for further research are suggested.

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# EFFECTS OF HOME ENVIRONMENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF PEDOPHILIA: A REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

## Introduction

Pedophilia is a disorder which is described as the experience of recurrent intense sexual urges and sexually arousing fantasies involving sexual activity with a prepubescent child by a person who has acted on these urges, is at least 16 years of age, and is at least five years older than the victim (American Psychiatric Association, 1987). Research concerning the etiology of pedophilia has been extensive in its scope. Finkelhor and Araji (1985), in their review of the empirical research, found 81 studies covering a broad range of etiologic explanations. The reviewers grouped these studies into four theoretical categories: emotional congruence, sexual arousal, blockage, and disinhibition. They described the concept of emotional congruence as characteristics in children which have emotional meanings to an adult. Their category of sexual arousal involved how an adult comes to find children sexually arousing. Blockage was defined as aspects which block individuals from obtaining their sexual and emotional needs in an adult heterosexual relationship. Disinhibition was defined as the absence of those conventional inhibitions against having sex with children. Research reviewed in their study focused on areas such as: lack of dominance, self-esteem and immaturity, early sexual experiences, biological factors, pornography, social skills, disturbance in adult sexual or romantic relationships, lack of impulse control, senility, mental retardation, and alcohol/drugs.

The aim of this current review is to examine the published research concerning the effects of the home environment on the development of pedophilia. Research in this area has been primarily retrospective and has focused on the perceptions which pedophiles have



of their families. These studies are presented in three categories: parent-child interaction, family environment, and sexual victimization. Research concerning parent-child interactions is divided into three sections: mother-son relationships, father-son relationships, and parental identification. The family environment section focuses on the structure of sex offenders' families and the impact of sexual abuse and familial relationships. The section concerning sexual victimization considers studies of the validity of the molestation theory, and literature concerning intrafamilial and extrafamilial victimization of sex offenders. Each study is critiqued in light of its statistical significance ( $p < .05$ ) and its internal and external validity.

### Parent-Child Interaction

The parent-child relationship has appeared to play an important role in the etiology of psychosexual and paraphilic disorders (Gaffney, Lurie, & Berlin, 1984). Early research in this area consisted primarily of case reports and incident-related studies (Hartogs, 1951; Peters & Sadoff, 1970). The current review focuses on both the mother-son and father-son relationships and their connection to the development of pedophilia.

#### Mother-Son Relationships

The relationship between sexual deviancy and poor parental relationships has been unclear (Gebhard, Gagnon, Pomeroy, & Christenson, 1965). Prior to the mid 1970's, research sought to examine the association between parental relationships and male homosexuality, but the relationship with pedophilia was not specifically studied (Evans, 1969; Freund, Langevin, Zajac, Steiner, & Zajac, 1974). The following studies focus on the relationship between mother and son and the development of sexual deviancy, specifically pedophilia.

Paitich and Langevin (1976) did a study using the Clarke Parent Child Relationship Questionnaire (PCR) with a group of sexually deviant males. The intent of the study was

to test the usefulness of the PCR as a clinical and research instrument. The researchers used seven groups from both inpatient and outpatient sources and a total of 278 subjects were studied. The groups were as follows: transsexuals, bisexuals, homosexual pedophiles, heterosexual pedophiles, exhibitionists, incest perpetrators and exclusive homosexuals.

Significant results were obtained in a comparison of these groups on nine out of the sixteen scales of the PCR. Significant results from three of the nine scales were related to mother. The three mother scales showing significant results were Mother Affection, Mother Strictness, and Mother Indulgence. Heterosexual pedophiles, homosexual pedophiles and incest offenders scored lowest on the Mother Affection scale, viewing their mothers as less affectionate than did other groups. Both the heterosexual pedophiles and the incest offenders scored lowest on Mother Identification and highest on Mother Strictness scales, viewing mother as more strict and identifying less with her than did the remaining groups. The results indicated that both of the pedophilic groups and the incest offender group perceived mother as low in affection and strict.

Langevin, Hucker et al. (1985) conducted a study comparing four groups of men: heterosexual pedophiles, homosexual pedophiles, bisexual pedophiles, and a control group with no history of sexual deviancy. All three of the sex offender groups were selected from the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry forensic data bank. All subjects were given the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI), Cattell 16 Personality Factors (16PF), Clarke Parent Child Relations Questionnaire (PCR), Clarke Sex History Questionnaire (SHQ) for males, Raven Standard Progressive matrices and the Clarke Vocabulary test.

Significant results were obtained from a comparison of the groups on six of the 16 scales of the Clarke PCR. Four of the six were mother scales and two were father scales. The four mother scales included Mother's Aggression to the Respondent, Mother's

Affection, Mother's Strictness, and Mother's Identification. Mothers were reported to be more aggressive and strict by the heterosexual and bisexual pedophile groups than by the others. These same two groups reported significantly more mothers with a history of psychiatric hospitalization. Overall, mothers in all the pedophilic groups were reported as less affectionate than mothers in the control group. Though significant results were found on the mother scales of the Clarke PCR, the study was unable to significantly discriminate between the pedophilic groups, and no other sexual deviant groups were used for comparison.

Langevin, Day, Handy, & Russon, (1985) compared heterosexual pedophiles and incest offenders with a control group which had no history of sexual deviancy. A group of 34 fathers who had sexual contact with their daughters and 32 heterosexual pedophiles with no history of committing incest were selected from the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry data bank. A group of 54 control subjects with no history of mental illness, crime, or sexual deviancy was selected from the community. The groups were all given the MMPI, the 16PF, the Clarke PCR Questionnaire, the Clarke SHQ for males, the Raven Standard Progressive matrices and the Clarke Vocabulary test.

Significant results were obtained on six of the sixteen scales of the Clarke PCR of which four were mother scales and two were father scales. The four mother scales were Mother's Aggression to the Respondent, Mother's Affection, Mother's Strictness, and Mother Identification. Both heterosexual pedophiles and incest offenders reported that their mothers were stricter and less affectionate than controls' mothers, and that they identified less with them. Overall, both incest offenders and heterosexual pedophiles reported similar mother-child relationships.

Lang and Langevin (1991) did a study comparing 181 cases at the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry. The sample included 66 heterosexual pedophiles, 29 homosexual pedophiles, 36 incest offenders and 50 controls. Each subject was given the Clarke PCR

Questionnaire. Though the researchers found clinically important results ( $p < .10$ ) and trends approaching significance on the mother scales of the Clarke PCR, no statistically significant results were found.

Tingle, Barnard, Robbins, Newman, and Hutchinson (1986) did a study of the childhood and adolescent characteristics of pedophiles and rapists. The study was a family history comparison using data obtained from 64 consecutive admissions to an inpatient forensic psychiatric facility in northern Florida. Individual interviews were done comparing characteristics of the family unit, relationships to family members and significant others, and problems with the educational system and the law. The two groups consisted of 21 rapists in one group and 43 child molesters in the other. The rapists were defined as those found guilty of a crime of sexual violence and the child molesters were defined as those found guilty of a nonviolent sexual crime (i.e., lewd and lascivious behavior) against minors under 16 years of age. Results indicated that 83 percent of the child molesters felt close to their mothers but only 23 percent of them found her to be a person to whom they could turn and discuss their problems.

Though significant results were obtained in some areas, no standardized instrument was used for the comparison in their study, and the child molester group was not subdivided to differentiate between pedophilia and other paraphilias. In terms of the mother-son relationship, the results were indeterminate for the child molester group in light of the apparent incongruence between feeling close to their mothers yet also believing they could not turn to their mothers to discuss their problems. The ambiguity of these results was increased by the use of an adolescent sex offender sample, preventing the generalization of results to an adult population.

In summary, Paitich and Langevin (1976), Langevin, Hucker et al. (1985), and Langevin, Day et al. (1985) concluded that mother-son relationships, as perceived by the pedophilic sons, were aggressive, strict, and non-affectionate. In addition, Paitich and

Langevin (1976) and Langevin, Day et al. (1985) reported similarities between pedophiles and incest perpetrators in relationships with their mothers in that both groups of men perceived these relationships to be strict and non-affectionate. Though Tingle et al. (1986) and Lang and Langevin (1991) reported inconclusive or non-significant results, the remainder of the studies indicated that adult offenders who prefer immature partners, were more likely to report disturbed mother-son relationships than either homosexuals, other paraphiliacs, and controls as shown by the Clarke PCR. These studies were not able to significantly discriminate between the pedophilic groups and incest offenders suggesting that these two groups may be similar in their mother-son relationships. These studies were also unable to significantly discriminate between the pedophilic groups themselves, suggesting a homogeneity among pedophiles in terms of their mother-son relationships. Further research is needed to adequately discriminate mother-son relationships specific to the pedophilic population, as opposed to the sex offender population in general.

#### Father-Son Relationships

In an overview of case studies, Hartogs (1951) reported that 92% of the sex offenders studied had been physically abused by either their mothers, fathers, or by both parents. Case studies have implied a connection between father-son relationships and the etiology of pedophilia (Hartogs, 1951; Gebhard et al., 1965). The following is a review of the research which attempts to draw a relationship between pedophilia and the father-son relationship.

In the Paitich and Langevin (1976) study discussed earlier, significant results were obtained from a comparison of the seven subject groups on five of the father scales out of the total sixteen scales on the Clarke PCR. The five scales which showed significant results were Father's Aggression to Subject, Subject's Aggression to Father, Father's Affection, Father's Strictness, and Father Identification. The control group reported the least exchange of aggression with father, receiving the most affection from him and

identifying most with him. Only the homosexual and pedophilic homosexual groups reported their fathers as aggressive and unaffectionate to them. They also reported returning aggression to their fathers. Heterosexual pedophiles and other sexual deviant groups viewed father as strict while the homosexual group did not differ from the control group in their perception of father's strictness. The study is significant in that the pedophilic groups differed from the other sexual deviant and sex offender groups in their view of father's aggression and lack of affection.

In the Langevin, Hucker et al. (1985) study cited earlier, significant results were found on only one of the eight father scales: Father Indulgence. It was shown that fathers of bisexual pedophiles were reported to be more indulgent than fathers of the other three groups. The researchers concluded that the father scales on the Clarke PCR were not as discriminating as the mother scales in terms of the pedophilic groups as compared to the control group.

In the Langevin, Day et al. (1985) study cited earlier, significant results were obtained on two father scales on the Clarke PCR. The two scales which indicated significant results were Father Affection and Father Identification. Both heterosexual pedophile and incest offender groups reported less father affection and identified less with him. Overall, both incest offenders and heterosexual pedophiles reported similar father-son relationships.

In the Lang and Langevin (1991) study cited earlier, significant results were obtained on three of the Clarke PCR father scales: Father's Affection, Father's Strictness, and Father Identification. The results suggest that the heterosexual pedophiles, homosexual pedophiles, and the incest offenders' fathers were considered more aggressive and strict, but were also viewed as more affectionate compared to the controls. The heterosexual and incest offender groups identified with their fathers but the homosexual pedophiles were less inclined to do so. The offenders who used force in their offenses did

not significantly differ from offenders who did not use force, suggesting that father-son relationships contributed little to the presence or absence of force. Though the study produced significant results on three of the father scales, it did not discriminate between the sex offender groups in terms of their father-son relationships.

In the Tingle et al. (1986) study on childhood and adolescent characteristics of pedophiles and rapists, the role of father emerged as a relatively insignificant one in the homes of both the rapist and the child molester. Though child molesters reported a slightly greater degree of closeness to the father than rapists, about 50 percent of both groups reported not being close at all. No significant differences were shown between child molesters and rapists in terms of their relationship to their fathers.

In summary, Paitich and Langevin (1976), Langevin, Day et al. (1985) and Lang and Langevin (1991) concluded that fathers were perceived by their pedophilic sons to be aggressive and strict, though these studies also reported conflicting results in terms of father's affection and father identification. Paitich and Langevin (1976) were able to discriminate between the pedophilic groups and the other sexual offender groups to show that pedophiles viewed their fathers as both aggressive and unaffectionate to them. Langevin, Hucker et al. (1985) and Tingle et al. (1986) found few significant differences between groups in the father-son relationships of pedophilic offenders. Overall, the research suggests that the father scales were not as discriminating as the mother scales on the Clarke PCR with a sex offender population. Further research is needed to adequately discriminate father-son relationships specific to the pedophilic population, as opposed to the sex offender population in general.

#### Parental Identification

Identification has traditionally been defined as "the tendency for an individual to reproduce the emotional responses, actions, or attitudes exhibited by a real-life or symbolized model" (Levant & Bass, 1991, p. 463). Identification with parents has been

shown to be an important aspect of the growth and development of children during their formative years (Sears, 1957). The following is a review of the recent research which draws a relationship between parental identification and development of pedophilia.

Levant and Bass (1991) conducted a study focusing on parental identification in the lives of rapists and pedophiles. The researchers defined identification as "the tendency by the participants to attribute the same traits and constructs to themselves as they do to their parents" (p. 463). The researchers used 54 adult males, divided into four groups: 16 rapists, 18 pedophiles, nine general offenders (convicted of nonviolent crimes), and 11 college student controls. The Parental Identification scale developed by Marc Levant was given to each group. The sex offender sample was incarcerated at the North Florida Evaluation and Treatment Center at the time of the study.

Results obtained from a comparison of the groups indicated that the offender groups identified significantly less with both their mothers and fathers than did the control group. Pedophiles and rapists identified significantly less with their mothers as compared to both the control group and the general offender group. Pedophiles identified significantly less with their fathers as compared to all three of the groups. Though the researchers obtained significant results and were able to significantly discriminate between the sex offender groups, the small sample size used in each group may limit the generalization of results to other sex offender populations.

A follow up study was done by Bass and Levant (1992) which compared family perception of sex offenders. The same group of 54 adult males were used in this study as in the Levant and Bass (1991) study reported above to assess perceived parental communication patterns and attitudes. Each group was given the Children's Report of Parental Behavior Inventory which measures parental attitudes of acceptance versus rejection, autonomy versus control, and firm versus lax discipline (Schaefer, 1965).



Results indicated that pedophiles and rapists perceived their mothers as being less accepting and more rejecting than either the control group and the general offender group. Both pedophiles and rapists reported that their mothers allowed less autonomy than did the control and general offender groups. Fathers were perceived by pedophiles as being more rejecting and more controlling, whereas rapists perceived their fathers as only more controlling than the control and general offender groups. The nine general offenders, as compared to the control group, did not emerge as a separate group in any of the researchers' statistical comparisons. Though some results were significant, the small sample size used in each group, as noted earlier, may limit the generalization of results to other sex offender populations.

In summary, Levant and Bass (1991) and Bass and Levant (1992) concluded that pedophiles identified significantly less with their fathers and perceived their fathers as more rejecting than did rapists, general offenders or the control group. These studies also indicated that both pedophiles and rapists perceived their mothers as rejecting and that they identified less with them than general offenders or the control group. Both studies suggest that a lack of identification with parents may be associated with perceived rejecting and controlling behavior of the parents. Overall, this research suggests that impaired parental identification may play a role in the subsequent development of pedophilia and sexually assaultive behavior.

### Family Environment

This review will now focus on research which examines the relationship between the pedophile's family of origin and the development of pedophilia. Much of the research reflects an effort to link sexual abuse in the lives of sex offenders with the development of pedophilia. The research attempts to show a causal relationship between the development

of pedophilia and aspects of dysfunctional families such as sexual and physical abuse of children.

#### Family Transmission

Gaffney, Lurie, and Berlin (1984) did a study addressing the possibility of familial transmission of pedophilia. Their study was a double blind family history comparison of sexual deviancy using the relatives of inpatients having manifested pedophilic and non-pedophilic paraphilia. The researchers used records of inpatients and their families in the Johns Hopkins Biosexual Psychohormonal Clinic from January, 1980 through April, 1983. Paraphilia was defined by using the diagnostic category as stated in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-III) which categorized paraphilia as either Exhibitionism, Fetishism, or Frotteirism. To be diagnosed in each category, the individual must have experienced recurrent sexual urges and sexually arousing fantasies lasting over a period of six months and must have acted on these urges. Thirty-three inpatients met the criteria for pedophilia and within that group 16 were homosexual pedophiles, 13 were heterosexual pedophiles and four were bisexual pedophiles. Twenty-one patients met the DSM-III criteria for non-pedophilic paraphilia consisting of a variety of paraphilias, and 33 male inpatient subjects meeting the DSM-III criteria for depression were used as controls. Using the DSM-III criteria, pedophilia was found in five of the 33 pedophilic families, only one of the 21 non-pedophilic paraphiliac families, and zero in the control group families. There were four of the 21 non-pedophilic paraphiliac families and one of the 33 control families in which sexual deviancy not involving pedophilia was found.

Given this data, the researchers found that 18.5 percent of the families of all patients manifesting paraphilia had family members, mostly male, with a sexual deviancy. The researchers believed that they had shown a clear separation of pedophilia from the non-pedohilic paraphilia. They concluded that, "families of pedophiles exhibited pedophilia; families of non-pedophilic paraphiliacs, a non-pedophilic paraphilia. The data

suggests that sexual deviancy in the broad sense is not familial, rather that a specific syndrome, in this case pedophilia, is familial" (p. 548).

Gaffney et al. (1984) suggested that factors within the family may significantly add to the development of pedophilia. The study did not provide hypotheses regarding what those factors might be, but only reported both the number of relatives and families at risk for developing pedophilia and a non-pedophilic paraphilia. The researchers made a broad conclusive statement about familial transmission of pedophilia without further investigation of the heterogeneity of the pedophilic groups. A break down of the different paraphilic groups and their familial relationships as well as an increased sample size would have helped clarify the familial ties to a paraphilic disorder. Overall, this study provides an investigative foundation for further study of familial factors involved in the development of pedophilia.

#### Family Structure

The following research examined the family background of pedophiles and sex offenders. The studies focused on family structure and function, specifically interparental relationships and family stability, among a sex offender population.

Saunders, Awad, and White (1986) did a study using 63 male adolescent sex offenders who had been referred to the Toronto Family Court Clinic between 1980 and 1985. The assessment consisted of two individual interviews with the adolescents; psychological testing consisting of the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children-Revised (WAIS-R), Rorschach, and the Thematic Apperception Test (TAT); two interviews with the parents and a family interview. A comparison was done by dividing the 63 offenders into three groups: courtship disorders, sexual assaults, and pedophilic offenses. The researchers defined courtship disorders as erotic behavior occurring prior to copulation. The sexual assault group consisted of adolescents who assaulted victims their age or older. Their offenses included indecent assault, attempted rape, and rape. The pedophilic group

consisted of adolescents who sexually molested a child. The comparison focused on six areas: the offense, the victims, the violence of the offense, family structure, subject's adjustment, and intellectual functioning. The results of this study showed differences among the three groups with regard to their family background and their adjustment at home, school, and in the community.

The results regarding family background indicated that the pedophilic group had the highest rate of parental physical violence and the highest rate of truant siblings as compared to the other two groups. The researchers described the pedophilic group as being "disorganized, as shown by the high incidence of short parent-child separations, high rate of truancy among the siblings of the offenders and the high incidence of physical violence between the parents" (Saunders et al., 1986, p. 545). The researchers also found that 33 percent of the pedophilic group were reported by their parents to have been infants who were not cuddly. The researchers noted that the pedophilic group was very heterogeneous and could have contained several different subgroups.

Though Saunders et al. (1986) found statistically significant results in their comparison of sex offender groups, each group was composed of a very heterogeneous sample. The courtship disorder group consisted of people who displayed exhibitionism, toucherism, and made obscene phone calls. The pedophilic group consisted of both homosexual and heterosexual pedophiles as well as incestuous and non-incestuous pedophiles. The adolescent population used for the study limits generalization of results to an adult sex offender population. The researchers also could not use the DSM III-R categories for sexual disorders because of the subjects being adolescents. The groups therefore, were not defined by standard criteria. The statistically significant results cannot be generalized due to these limitations.

Gebhard et al. (1965) conducted one of the most extensive studies of the background of sex offenders. Their data was collected by comprehensive interviews with

over 1300 men in prisons or hospitals following conviction of a sexual offense. Part of the researchers' focus was to study the interparental adjustment and the family stability of a large group of sex offenders. The researchers defined interparental adjustment as how well one's parents get along together and they defined family stability as the presence of both parents in the home. The researchers divided their sample into eight groups which included an outside control group, a prison group, heterosexual pedophilic offenders, rapists, incest offenders, homosexual pedophilic offenders, peepers and exhibitionists. The researchers interviewed each subject asking specific questions about the family and obtaining general background information.

The study of interparental adjustment showed that subjects who displayed less aggressive sexual behavior had parents with better interparental adjustment than subjects who used force or were sexually involved with children under twelve. Gebhard et al. (1965) also found that family stability differed depending on the group. Thirty percent of the control group males came from broken homes whereas 58 percent to 68 percent from the sex offender groups and 61 percent from the prison group came from broken homes. The researchers also found that 80 percent of the control group had lived with an intact family for 15 years or more. The researchers concluded that the length of time a boy lives in a home with both parents present seems to correlate positively with voluntary sexual activity with older partners.

Gebhard et al. (1965) demonstrated correlations and significant differences between the sex offender groups and the control group, but failed to show significant differences between the sex offender groups themselves in terms of interparental adjustment or family stability. The researchers did not use any assessment measures in their comparisons between groups other than the clinical interview. Given the sheer number of participants in the study and the number of subgroups which the authors were able to define, the conclusions are of clinical importance.

In summary, Saunders et al. (1986) found that pedophiles are more likely to come from homes which are disorganized in nature with a high rate of physical violence and truancy among the siblings. Gebhard et al. (1965) concluded that better adjustment between sex offender's parents made it less likely the subject would be sexually aggressive or get involved sexually with children as an adult. The results of both studies should be taken cautiously. Gebhard et al. (1965) did not use assessment measures for comparing diagnostic groups in their study. Saunders et al. (1986) used an adolescent population and were not able to discriminate diagnostically between the sex offender groups, making it impossible to compare the study to adult pedophilic studies.

#### Sexual Abuse and Familial Relationships

The following studies focus on sexual abuse in the lives of sex offenders and their families of origin. Both mother-son and father-son relationships are the focus, but they are examined in light of the effects of sexual abuse on the family in general.

Langevin, Wright, and Handy (1989) conducted a study drawing from a data bank of 479 sex offenders, comparing those reporting any childhood sexual abuse versus those reporting none. This unique study focused on the home environment of both abused and non-abused sex offenders. The researchers separated the sex offenders into nine groups: 14 exhibitionists, 39 homosexuals, 31 bisexuals, 29 heterosexual pedophiles, 22 homosexual pedophiles, 46 transsexuals, 27 incestuous men, 217 multiple deviants (two or more of the sexual anomalies), and a control group of 54 men. The groups were compared using demographic information, the MMPI, Clarke SHQ, and the Clarke PCR.

Results indicated significant differences between the abused and non-abused offender groups on nine of the 16 scales of the Clarke PCR. Seven of the nine scales related to father and only two related to mother. The significant results were on the following scales: Father's Aggression toward Subject, Subject's Aggression toward Father, Mother's Aggression toward Father, Father's Aggression toward Mother, Father

Competence, Mother Affection, Father Affection, Mother Identification, and Father Indulgence. The abused sex offenders saw their fathers as more aggressive to them and they in turn were more aggressive to their fathers. Fathers were viewed by the abused sex offenders as less competent, less affectionate, stricter, less indulgent and, as a group, the subjects identified less with them. The abused sex offenders reported their mothers as being more aggressive toward their fathers, and they reported their mothers to be less affectionate than the non-abused group. Overall, abused offenders showed more significant disturbances in their father relationships than non-abused offenders.

In regard to parents in general, results indicated that the abused offenders' parents were more often in trouble with the law than parents of non-abused offenders. The results indicated that there was more alcohol abuse and criminality among parents of the abused offenders than the non-abused offenders. The abused offenders were more often aggressive outside their home both before and after age 16, engaged in more fist fights, and more often ran away from home than the non-abused offenders.

Langevin et al. (1989) concluded that these results did not imply a causal relationship between childhood sexual abuse and later sex offenses because only a small fraction of the sex offenders experienced sexual abuse in their childhood. The researchers stated, "it is possible that the disorganized and aggressive home made them more vulnerable to the sexual experiences outside their home, one of which was sexual abuse, thus, their emotional disturbance may be more important than the sexual abuse per se" (Langevin et al., 1989, p. 252). The researchers pointed out that aggressiveness within the home was an important feature which differentiated the abused and non-abused groups. The researchers believe that sexual abuse in any offender population is an important clinical consideration, but not a causal variable for their adult sexual behavior.

Langevin et al. (1989) did a thorough job in dividing the large group of sex offenders into diagnostic categories and then comparing familial relationships of the

abused verses non-abused sex offenders. However, the researchers' data analysis did not assess differences on this variable between the various sex offender groups. Comparison between sex offenders groups would have provided data to further differentiate these groups.

As stated previously, Lang and Langevin (1991) did a study comparing 181 cases at the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry. The sample included 66 heterosexual pedophiles, 29 homosexual pedophiles, 36 incest offenders and 50 controls. Each subject was given the Clarke PCR Questionnaire and the sample was further divided into those who reported a history of both sexual and physical abuse in their childhood, versus those who did not.

Significant results were found on five scales of the Clarke PCR among the sexually abused sex offender group. The five scales were: Father's Aggression toward Subject, Subject's Aggression toward Father, Father's Aggression toward Mother, Father Strictness, and Father Identification. These results suggest that the sexually abused sex offenders' fathers were more aggressive and strict with their sons and more aggressive toward their wives than the non sexually abused group. The sexually abused offenders themselves identified less with their fathers than did the non sexually abused group.

Significant results were found on three scales of the Clarke PCR among the physically abused sex offender group. The three scales were Father's Aggression toward Subject, Father's Aggression toward Mother, and Father Strictness. The results suggest that physically abused sex offenders' fathers were more aggressive toward their sons and wives and were perceived by their sons as being more strict than the non-physically abused group.

The Lang and Langevin (1991) results indicated that an aggressive home environment was characteristic for both the physically abused and sexually abused sex offenders. More specifically, fathers of both physically and sexually abused offenders were aggressive and strict toward others within their families. This study did not compare



the two pedophile groups with the incest group, therefore no specific conclusions can be made about pedophiles but only sex offenders in general.

Seghorn, Prentky, and Boucher (1987) conducted a study examining the incidence of childhood physical and sexual abuse in a sample of incarcerated rapists and child molesters. They identified sexual abuse through reviews of the case records of inmates at the Massachusetts Treatment Center for Sexually Dangerous Persons. Sex abuse was defined as any unambiguous sexual activity prior to the age of 16. They defined rapists as those men whose sexual assaults were on victims 16 years or older and child molesters whose victims were under the age of 16.

Results indicated that the incidence of sexual abuse in the childhood of child molesters was more than twice as high as the incidence of sexual abuse among rapists. The researchers reported that sexual abuse occurring in the lives of both groups of sex offenders was associated with many other indices of familial turmoil and instability. The results indicated that the home environments of the sexually abused subjects were very different from the home environments of the non-abused subjects. Of the child molesters who were sexually victimized as children, 50 percent had fathers with criminal records, (compared with none of the non-sexually abused subjects) 75 percent had drug/alcohol abusing fathers, (compared with 33 percent of the non-sexually abused subjects) 33 percent had mothers and fathers with a psychiatric history, (compared with none of the non-sexually abused subjects) and more than 75 percent were neglected as children (compared with less than 33 percent of the non-sexually abused group). In both groups of sex offenders, childhood sexual abuse was clearly associated with disturbed, chaotic home environments. The researchers concluded that sexual abuse was definitely a derivative of global pathology characterizing the family of sex offenders and that abuse had been integrated into their family dynamics.

Seghorn et al. (1987) showed a strong association between childhood sexual victimization and parental pathology. A positive aspect of this study was that the researchers were able to do multiple comparisons using both rapists and child molesters as well as sexually abused and non-sexually abused sex offenders. A problem with this study was that the researchers' definition of rapists and child molesters was general in nature. Therefore the study's sex offender sample may well have contained diagnostic categories other than rapists and child molesters. The researchers' choice of a general population of sex offenders makes their results impossible to generalize to a more specific sex offender population such as pedophiliacs.

In summary, Langevin et al. (1989) and Lang and Langevin (1991) produced similar results in their studies. Both found disturbed father-son relationships and parents who were aggressive, strict, and more often in trouble with the law as compared to a non-abused sex offenders. Seghorn et al. (1987) also found similar results in that sexually abused sex offenders more often came from home environments which were chaotic, abusive and dysfunctional. Each study focused on sexual abuse as it related to sex offenders in general, therefore it is not possible to apply these conclusions to a pedophilic population.

### Sexual Victimization

This section will focus on research which examines the relationship between sexual victimization in the lives of sex offenders and their own sexual abuse of children. The molestation theory is discussed in view of Hanson and Slater's (1988) research. Recent studies in this area are reviewed as well as research including both intrafamilial and extrafamilial victimization in the lives of sex offenders.

### Molestation Theory

A current hypothesis proposes that men who sexually abuse children were themselves sexually abused, and that this factor is a causal link in the development of pedophilia in men (Cooper & Cormier, 1982; Groth, 1979; James & Nasjleti, 1983). This is called the cycle of abuse hypothesis or the molestation theory. Though this hypothesis seems to have an intuitive appeal for many clinicians, the statistical evidence for such a relationship is questionable.

Hanson and Slater (1988) reviewed the empirical literature on the proportion of child sexual abusers who were themselves sexually victimized as children. The researchers found that in individual studies from zero percent to 67 percent of the offenders reported such abuse. But on the average, 28 percent of the offenders reported being sexually victimized as children. This rate is similar to the rates found in other sexual or non-sexual offender populations. Hanson and Slater (1988) concluded,

The relationship between childhood sexual victimization and sexually abusing children as an adult does not appear to be specific; rather, it is probable that many forms of childhood maltreatment can lead to many forms of behavioral and psychological problems in adulthood. (p. 487)

Hindman (1988) investigated the reliability of offenders' retrospective reports. Hindman compared paroled male adult sex offenders during two time frames. In the first period, from 1980 through 1982, she interviewed 40 subjects. In 1982 through 1988 she interviewed 129 subjects, but this time she told them they would have to submit to polygraph tests, and if their self-reports were contradictory they would be returned to prison. In the first period, during which patients were not threatened with a polygraph test, 67 percent of the patients indicated that they had been molested as children. In the second period, only 29 percent of the patients indicated that they were abused as children. Hindman's results indicated that sex offenders may have fabricated their own sexual

victimization as an excuse for their erotic attraction to children. These results suggest that sex offenders may typically overreport personal sexual abuse in retrospective studies.

Hanson and Slater (1988) and Hindman (1988) concluded that there was not enough evidence to statistically substantiate a causal relationship between sexual victimization in the lives of sex offenders and their subsequent sexual attraction to children. Both studies indicated that the relationship, if any, is not direct, but more generalized in nature.

### Recent Studies

Two more recent studies comparing sexual victimization in the childhood of sex offenders offer interesting results. Freund, Watson and Dickey (1990) studied the reliability of the hypothesis that pedophilia is caused by sexual abuse in childhood. The study examined self-reports of 77 heterosexual pedophiles, 54 homosexual pedophiles, 51 nonpedophilic sex offenders against children, 36 rapists, 75 heterosexuals, and 51 homosexuals. The researchers found that pedophiles reported they were sexually abused in childhood more often than individuals who were not pedophilic but the difference was small. The interesting aspect was that the researchers also reassessed Hindman's (1988) conclusions by measuring the degree of denial in each of their groups. Results indicated that the pedophilic groups who reported being molested as a child had a significantly higher denial score as measured by the Pedo Admitter scale. This can be interpreted to mean that as many as two-thirds of the pedophiles in their study who claimed to have been sexually abused in childhood may have made this claim falsely. The results of this study are in agreement with those of Hindman (1988) who demonstrated that there is no reliable empirical basis for the molestation theory of pedophilia.

Another recent study by Greenberg, Bradford, and Curry (1993) compared sexual victimization in the childhoods of pedophiles and hebephiles. The study was designed to assess the differences between these groups across features of their own childhood

victimization. The authors used 135 pedophiles and 43 hebephiles who admitted to their offenses. The pedophiles were defined as being sexually attracted to prepubertal children, and hebephiles were defined as being attracted to pubertal children. A total of 42 percent of pedophiles and 44 percent of hebephiles reported being sexually victimized in their own childhood. Results indicated that hebephiles reported being sexually abused in early puberty, whereas pedophiles reported such abuse during their prepubertal period. Pedophiles reported being molested at a younger age than hebephiles, and both groups appeared to choose their victims in accordance with the age of their own experience of sexual victimization. These results support the role of social learning theory and modeling in the development of child molesting behavior.

In summary, Freund et al. (1990) and Greenberg et al. (1993) obtained conflicting results in tying childhood victimization in the lives of sex offenders to their subsequent victimization of children. Given Hanson and Slater's (1988) review of the literature, and the recent studies of Freund et al. (1990) and Greenberg et al. (1993), one could conclude that sexual abuse in the lives of sex offenders is one of many precipitating factors which may lead victims toward becoming sex offenders, or more specifically, pedophiles.

#### Intrafamilial\Extrafamilial Victimization

Previous research (Gibbens & Prince, 1963; Peters, 1976) has suggested that the closer the relationship of the assaulter to the child, the greater the subsequent psychological damage. In light of this previous research, two studies which have examined the type of victimization occurring in the lives of sex offenders will be reviewed.

Groth (1979) conducted a study examining sexual trauma in the life histories of both rapists and child molesters. Sexual abuse histories from interviews and clinical records of 178 child sexual abusers and 170 rapists in a security treatment center were examined. A comparison group of 62 male law enforcement officers was used, and each of these subjects were given an anonymous questionnaire assessing sexual trauma

experienced in his childhood. Sexual trauma was defined as any sexual activity witnessed or experienced which was emotionally upsetting or disturbing to the subject. The sexual trauma experiences were grouped according to the following categories: type of victimization, age of victimization, assailant, sex of the assailant, age differential, and frequency of abuse.

The results indicated that 33 percent of both rapists and child molesters reported they had been sexually victimized as children. Rapists' early sexual victimization was more likely to be incestuous in nature: seventy percent of rapists' abuse was perpetrated by a family member. Child molesters, however, were abused by someone outside the family 73 percent of the time. The study also indicated that the most prominent type of traumatic event for the rapists was a sex-pressure/sex-stress situation, whereas for the child molester, it was forcible sexual assault. More rapists reported witnessing disturbing sexual activity by their parents than did child molesters. Groth (1979) concluded,

the principal psychological impact for the child molester may be one of fear and for the rapists one of anger. This would be consistent with the child molester turning away from adults and directing his interest toward children, who are safer and less threatening. (p.15)

Though Groth's results concerning sexual trauma in childhood are statistically significant, his conclusion, as stated above, is interesting but theoretical in nature. Groth's groupings of both rapists and child molesters were made according to their criminal conviction and are not necessarily diagnostically accurate. Therefore, the population used in this study could be very heterogeneous in nature containing a variety of different diagnostic categories of sex offenders. Groth's conclusions cannot be generalized to pedophiles.

Seghorn et al. (1987) examined the incidence of childhood sexual and physical abuse in a sample of incarcerated rapists and child molesters. The researchers identified sexually abused subjects by reviewing case histories of inmates at a treatment center for

sexually dangerous individuals. Sexual abuse was defined as any unambiguous sexual activity instigated by an adult against a child victim.

The results indicated that 57 percent of the child molesters and 23 percent of the rapists were sexually victimized as children and that the abuse was associated with many other indices of familial turmoil and instability. Rapists were more typically victimized by a family member whereas child molesters were more typically victimized by a stranger or a casual acquaintance. Seghorn et al. (1987) state:

Our findings suggest in cases where male victims are well known to the offender (e.g., nuclear or extended family; close friends or acquaintances), the sequelae of the victimization may include a greater potential for sexually aggressive behavior manifested as rape. Molestation by a casual acquaintance or stranger, on the other hand, may, under certain conditions, predispose to sexually aggressive behavior manifested as child abuse. (p. 265)

In summary, both Groth (1979) and Seghorn et al. (1987) concluded that when sexual abuse occurred in the lives of child molesters, the victimization was most likely perpetrated by someone outside the family, whereas for rapists, the perpetrator most likely was a family member. Both researchers have attempted to tie the perpetrators' sex offenses to earlier intra- or extra-familial victimization. Their statistically significant results reflect a high incidence of victimization in the lives of sex offenders and could be attributed to the pathology in the sample used for the study. Both researchers drew causal inferences from their results suggesting that either intra- or extra-familial victimization in the lives of sex offenders will result in sexually aggressive behavior such as rape or child abuse. These causal conclusions made from their data are theoretical in nature and cannot be generalized to the sex offender population.

## Validity of Research

This section will focus on the validity of the research presented in this review and it will be critiqued in light of four validity factors: internal validity, statistical conclusion validity, construct validity, and external validity. On the basis of this critique, final conclusions will be made regarding the extent to which results can be trusted.

### Internal Validity

Internal validity has been defined by Cook and Campbell (1979) as "the approximate validity with which we infer that a relationship between two variables is causal or that the absence of a relationship implies the absence of cause" (p.37). Several significant factors described below are the major threats to the internal validity of the pedophilic research in this review.

An ex post facto design is a posttest only design with nonequivalent groups. This quasi-experimental design is used in all the studies in this review which researched the correlation between factors in the home environment of sex offenders and the development of pedophilia later in a sex offender's life. The ex post facto design does not allow for causal interpretation given the inherent ambiguity of the design itself. Cook and Campbell (1979), in their discussion of ex post facto design, stated:

The most obvious flaw is the absence of pretests, which leads to the possibility that any posttest differences between the groups can be attributed either to a treatment effect or to selection differences between the different groups. The plausibility of selection differences in research with nonequivalent groups usually renders the design uninterpretable (p.98).

Selection. The inherent difficulties in studying the home environment of pedophiliacs are that each study relies only on known samples of child sexual abusers, usually from a prison population (Finkelhor & Araji, 1985). Selection is an inherent threat to an ex post facto design because the researchers could not randomize the initial selection



of subjects for each study. This increases the possibility of selection bias and makes the groups of sex offenders nonequivalent which means that no causal inferences can be made (Cook & Campbell, 1979).

History. This internal validity threat is caused when an observed effect might be due to an event which takes place between the pretest and the posttest, and this event is not a part of the experiment (Cook & Campbell, 1979). The pedophilic studies in this review did not include pretest measures and there was no control for historical events which may have affected subjects differently in each of the studies.

Maturation. This internal validity threat is caused by each subject growing wiser, older, stronger, or more experienced between the pretest and post test (Cook & Campbell, 1979). Because no pretest could be given in the ex post facto studies of sex offenders, a maturation effect could cause differences among the subjects tested.

In summary, the ex post facto, quasi-experimental design, which was used in the research examined in this review, has significant internal validity threats. The selection, history, and maturation effects make any casual conclusions drawn from the research impossible.

#### Statistical Conclusion Validity.

Statistical conclusion validity can be defined as inferences about whether it is reasonable to draw specific conclusions about covariation between the variables. The relevant threats to statistical conclusion validity are low statistical power, reliability of the measures, reliability of the treatment implementation, and random heterogeneity of subjects (Cook & Campbell, 1979). The research reviewed here will be discussed in terms of these three aspects of statistical conclusion validity.

Low statistical power. The size of the sample used in each of the research studies is an important factor in the ability of a study to find a statistical difference between the groups (Cook & Campbell, 1979). The sample size in most of the pedophilic research

throughout this review has been adequate with the largest sample size being 1300 sex offenders in Gebhard et al. (1965) and the smallest being 52 sex offenders in Gaffney et al. (1984). In Levant and Bass's research, the sample size was 54. In studies such as Gaffney et al. (1984) and Levant and Bass (1991), the small sample size decreased the power of the study to find statistically significant differences among the groups studied.

Reliability of the measures. The stability of a test is an important factor in the amount of error variance which a study contains (Cook & Campbell, 1979). Paitich and Langevin (1976), in their standardization study of the Clarke PCR (which was used in over 50 percent of the research in this review), indicated that the average test-retest reliability coefficient was .74. Overall, the other measures used in the research reviewed here had equal or higher test-retest reliability than the Clarke PCR. Therefore, the measures used in these studies were both reliable and stable.

Reliability of the treatment implementation. The lack of standardization by which the treatment is implemented will inflate the error variance and decrease the chances of obtaining true differences among the variables (Cook & Campbell, 1979). Seven studies included in the current review did not use standardized instruments for their measurements, but used clinical intake data taken from the subjects' admission to the various facilities. Individual interviews by many different clinicians were used to collect the data in each of these studies. The lack of standardization of these studies may have increased the error variance and therefore likely increased the probability of a type I error which means that a statistical difference may have been found between the variables when there was no difference.

Random heterogeneity of subjects. The heterogeneity of the sex offender population was not adequately controlled throughout the research considered in this review. The random heterogeneity of the sex offender groups used throughout these studies could have prevented detection of statistical differences between the groups.

In summary, the statistical conclusion validity of the research included in this review was shown to be adequate in terms of its statistical power in most of the studies, adequate in the reliability of its measures, but inadequate in terms of the reliability of its treatment implementation and random heterogeneity of subjects.

### Construct Validity

Construct validity is concerned with the particular issue or construct which one is measuring. It examines the fit between the conceptual definitions and the operational definitions of variables and determines whether the instrument actually measures the theoretical construct it purports to measure (Cook & Campbell, 1979). The two important aspects throughout this review in terms of construct validity were the definition of pedophilia and sexual abuse, as well as the ability of the Clarke PCR to measure both mother and father relationships with their children.

A consistent variation throughout the research included in this review is present in the definition of sexual abuse as well as the definition of pedophilia. Some of the studies defined pedophilia as any sexual contact with a child, whereas Groth (1979) had a more exclusive definition limiting pedophiles to those who have an enduring and exclusive sexual interest in children which he called fixated. Seghorn et al. (1987) defined abuse as "any unambiguous sexual activity prior to the age of 16" and child molesters as "those who sexually abused children under the age of 16" (p. 263). Hanson and Slater (1988) in their empirical review of the pedophilic literature, used a more restrictive definition of pedophilia which stated, "forced or pressured sexual contact by an adult to a child; or any sexual activity prior to age 16 with a person five or more years older" (p. 491). Given the variation in definitions throughout the studies reviewed, it makes it difficult to compare the statistical conclusions reached.

Paitich and Langevin (1976) conducted a standardization study of the Clarke PCR to test its validity and usefulness as an clinical instrument. The results indicated that the

Clarke PCR had satisfactory convergent and discriminate validity among its scales. Paitich and Langevin (1976) stated, "The results suggest that the 16 scales have reasonable internal consistency and show a moderate communality with sufficient unique variance to present different aspects of the PCR" (p. 430). Overall, results suggest that the Clarke PCR is a useful clinical and research instrument and adequately measures aspects of parent-child relationships.

#### External Validity

External validity can be defined as the ability of results to be generalized across populations or to a target population (Cook & Campbell, 1979). Two major factors affecting the external validity of research on pedophilia were the selection of sex offenders and the heterogeneity of the sex offender sample.

Each of the studies reviewed used samples from a prison or inpatient population. The narrow scope of these samples limited the external validity. The conclusions can be generalized to some degree to other prison and treatment facility populations but not to the entire sex offender population. Though the external validity of this research is limited to a prison population, it is worthy of consideration since a large percentage of the sex offender population has been in prison or in a treatment facility (Finkelhor & Araji, 1985).

Most the studies reviewed did not discriminate between the groups of sex offenders used. As stated earlier, the definition of specific sex offender populations was inconsistent throughout the research. This inconsistency and lack of definition made it difficult to compare sex offender groups within and between studies. Studies such as Paitich and Langevin (1976) divided the sex offenders into diagnostic groups, such as homosexual versus heterosexual pedophiles, while others such as Gebhard et al. (1965) and Langevin, Day et al. (1985) separated incestuous from nonincestuous offenders. Langevin et al. (1989) and others chose to do subgroup comparisons among the sex offender groups, separating the abused and non-abused offenders. The heterogeneity of

sex offenders was not sufficiently controlled, making it difficult to evaluate and compare the pedophilic research.

In summary, generalizing results from these studies to the pedophilic population is not possible given the narrow scope of the sample used in the studies. The variety of subgroups used in this research makes it difficult to compare the results within and between studies. In general, the heterogeneity of the sex offender population was not adequately controlled and therefore conclusions reached in these studies is applicable only to the populations from which the specific samples were taken.

### Conclusion

The research in the area of pedophilic parent-child relationships has shown mixed results. The majority of the research in the area of mother-son relationships has indicated that mothers, as perceived by their pedophilic sons, were aggressive, strict, and non-affectionate. The majority of research in the area of father-son relationships has indicated that fathers, as perceived by their pedophilic sons, were aggressive, and strict. The research of both Levant and Bass (1991) and Bass and Levant (1992) indicates that pedophiles were unable to identify with their parents and viewed both their mothers and fathers as rejecting. The majority of research was unable to significantly discriminate pedophiles from the other sex offender and sexually deviant groups. This suggests that the pedophilic parent-child relationship could be similar to that of other sex offender groups. Further research is needed in both the pedophilic mother-son and father-son relationships in order to further identify significant factors in the etiology of pedophilia.

The research which examined the home environment of a pedophilic population produced similar results. In general, the research suggests that pedophiles are more likely to come from a disorganized home environment which would include both physical and sexual abuse, drug/alcohol abusing parents, and truant siblings. The research suggests that

sexually abused sex offenders are more likely to have disturbed father relationships and come from a more chaotic dysfunctional family as compared to non abused sex offenders. The research was limiting in that the results can be generalized to sex offenders but not to pedophiles specifically. Overall, the research could not pinpoint an etiologic cause of pedophilia from the many aspects of a dysfunctional family environment. The research was able to determine that a pedophilic offender is more likely to come from a dysfunctional family where sexual and physical abuse is common. Thus, the emotional trauma which characterizes the home environment of sex offenders may play as significant a role as any other etiologic aspect of pedophilia.

The research of Hanson and Slater (1988) and Hindman (1988) strongly suggests there is not enough significant evidence to substantiate a causal relationship between sexual victimization in the lives of sex offenders and their subsequent sexual victimization of children. The recent studies of Freund et al. (1990) and Greenburg et al. (1993) offer conflicting results in tying childhood victimization in the lives of sex offenders to their subsequent victimization of children. Groth (1979) and Seghorn et al. (1987) offer interesting suggestions regarding the type of victimization in the lives of sex offenders, but any causal conclusions made from their research are theoretical in nature. Further retrospective research is needed in order to identify the type of sexual victimization in the lives of sex offenders, specifically pedophiles, and correlate it with their offenses.

In terms of the statistical validity of the studies, the ex post facto, quasi-experimental design creates significant internal validity concerns. No causal interpretations can be drawn from the research in this review. The statistical conclusion validity is adequate in terms of the statistical power of the studies and in the reliability of its measures, but inadequate in terms of the reliability of its treatment implementation and the random heterogeneity of subjects. In terms of both construct and external validity, there was no consistent operational definition for pedophilia and the population of sex

offenders used in the research was from a prison or treatment facility. Therefore, the ability for these studies to generalize across populations is limited and narrow in scope. The sex offender samples used in these studies were inconsistently defined and the studies did not consistently discriminate the pedophilic subgroups from the general sex offender population.

In light of the issues stated above, the measures used in the research were stable and the statistical results generated from the studies in this review can be trusted. Longitudinal research is needed which would investigate the distinctives between the pedophilic population and other sex offenders over a 10 to 20 year time frame in order to more precisely define etiologic factors in the development of this disorder.

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