

UNDERSTANDING THE PAEDOPHILE



Protsahan
India Foundation

A person who is sexually attracted to children

Let's try to move forward with this subject without prejudice, but with self preservation, if not with the mindset of providing them with help.

Pedophilia or paedophilia is a psychiatric disorder in which an adult or older adolescent experiences a primary or exclusive sexual attraction to prepubescent children, generally of age 11 years or younger. As a medical diagnosis, specific criteria for the disorder extends the cut-off point for prepubescence to age 13. A person who is diagnosed with pedophilia must be at least 16 years old, but adolescents must be at least five years older than the prepubescent child for the attraction to be diagnosed as pedophilia.

However, it is further divided into different terms such as Nepiophilia or Infantophilia (sexual preference for infants and toddlers [ages 0–3 or those under age 5]) and Hebephilia (primary or exclusive sexual interest in 11- to 14-year-old pubescent children). However, we will take the term to branch out to all minors, as is the law.



Most people imagine Paedophiles as ugly old men dressed in trench coats, hiding in the bushes, waiting to snatch young children off the street. However, recent studies have exposed paedophiles as local neighbors, trusted friends, clergy, babysitters, teachers, and even family members.

What Causes Pedophilia?

The aetiology of pedophilia can be attributed to both biological and environmental factors.

Case studies indicate that cerebral dysfunction may be a contributing or dominant factor of pedophilia, including problems with self-control, extreme urges, and cognitive distortions.

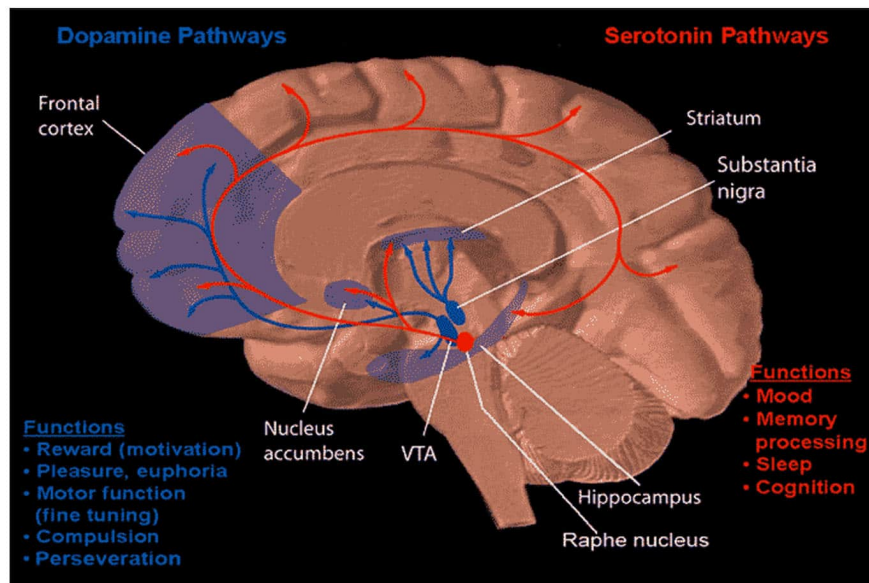
Many experts also believe that disorders for sexual preferences emerge from childhood experiences during critical periods in human development.

In many cases, child sex abusers suffer from traumatic experiences during their childhood. As children, they lacked the ability to control the situation.

By sexually assaulting children, pedophiles attempt to re-live the trauma they experienced and they learn how to master it. A complete role reversal gives them the upper hand and prevents them from being victimized.

Overall, through the impact of cerebral dysfunction and traumatic development, the sexual urges and desires for children can become ingrained within a person's nervous system.

ROLE OF BRAIN



There is significant evidence that indicates structural abnormalities in the brains of pedophiles.

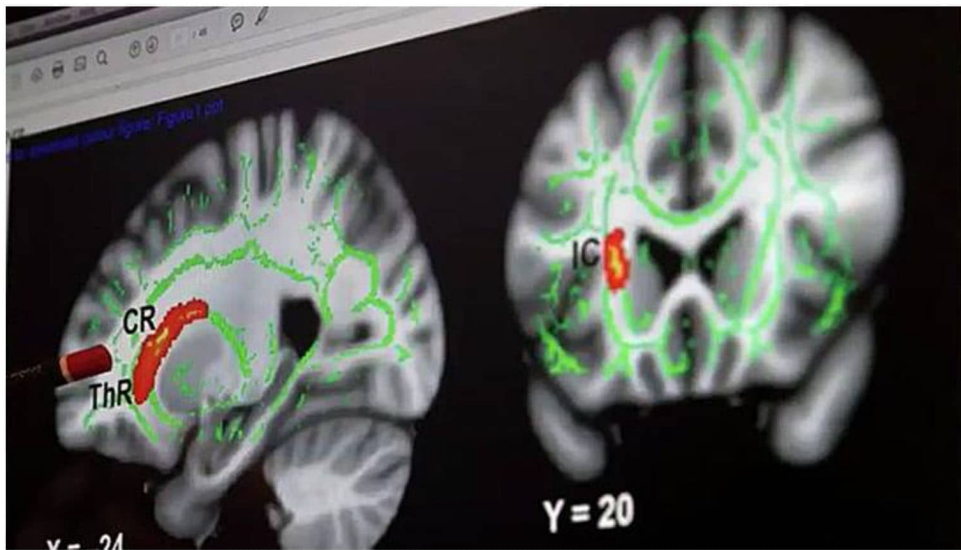
Abnormalities occur when the brain is developing and can be on-set through certain experiences, such as sexual abuse as a child.

Abnormalities in the brains of pedophiles may result in compulsion, poor judgment, and repetitive thoughts.

These abnormalities in the brains of pedophiles are caused by early neurodevelopmental perturbations.

The use of functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRIs) and positron emission tomography scans (PET) has revealed that the abnormalities of pedophiles exhibit appear in the frontal (involved in motor function, problem solving, spontaneity, memory, language, initiation, judgement, impulse, and social and sexual behavior) and central regions (coordinates multiple aspects of cognition, including motor and action planning, decision-making, motivation, reinforcement, and reward perception.) of the brain.

In particular, there is a decreased volume of gray brain matter in the central striatum. As a result, the nucleus accumbens, orbital frontal cortex, and the cerebellum are all affected.



These areas of the brain play an important role in addictive behavior. The accumbens is the central mediator of reward signaling and expectation. The striatum and orbito frontal cortex control this reward system. As a result, this contributes to the aetiology of pedophilia because a reward deficiency complication disturbs the neuro-transmission of dopamine involved in compulsive and addictive behaviors.

Due to the frontotemporal dysfunctions, pedophilia shares neural characteristics with psychiatric disorders that fall in the range of the obsessive-compulsive (OC) spectrum. These impulsive disorders include pathological gambling, kleptomania, and even Tourettes syndrome. While some debate this claim, there is substantial evidence for the existence of physiological and genetic overlaps. In particular, studies have shown that alterations in the frontostriatal circuitry are a major abnormality leading to obsessive-compulsive behavior. Pedophiles tend to act inappropriately and exhibit poor judgment because they lack the ability to control their impulses.

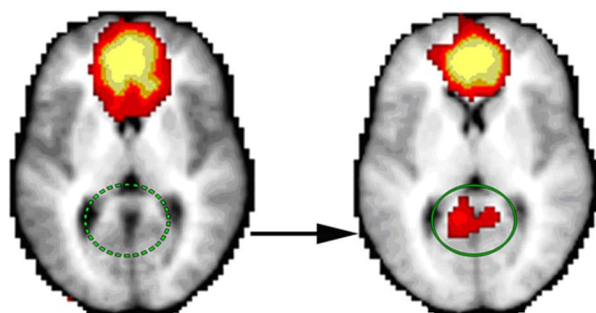
These structural alterations underlie the antisocial behaviors exhibited by someone with pedophilia.

Pedophiles are burdened with repetitive thoughts and urges.

They seek to fulfill these desires through behavior that is socially unacceptable and at times, even illegal.

Most pedophiles express shame and guilt after partaking in their immoral behavior because their neurological dysfunctions deal strictly with urges and not emotions.

Is there a cure?



Pedophilia does not have a complete cure.

The sexual urges associated with pedophilia may never permanently disappear, and a person's sexual preference and orientation can be difficult to completely re-orient.

At present, treatment primarily focuses on preventing further offenses rather than changing sexual orientation.

Pedophilia is a life-long disorder and needs lifelong treatment. Therapy includes discussing traumatic events, especially those from the childhood of an abuser. Therapy also seeks to help patients identify situations that may tempt them to engage in harmful behaviors toward children.

During therapeutic treatment, therapists may try to correct a patient's cognitive disorder, which may include misperceptions that the child enjoyed the abuse.



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