



From the Editor's Desk

Dear Readers, Greeting!

As I sit to write this message, I'm reminded of the countless stories that never make headlines, stories whispered in the corners of emergency rooms, hidden behind closed doors, or buried in the quiet sobs of a child. These are the stories of child victims of sexual abuse and of the nurses who care for them.

Nurses stand at the frontline of care for children impacted by abuse, yet a deeper exploration of their responsibilities and the most effective approaches to support is urgently needed. To support abused children effectively, nurses need expertise in developmental and psychosocial assessment, as well as the ability to observe parent-child interactions and deliver critical support to families.

When asked to describe their most difficult cases, many nurses put child-abuse cases at the top of their list. The challenges these nurses face are immense. Emotionally, it is a heavy burden. They carry those images home, imprinted into their minds, yet return the next day to do it all over again. There is the silence, not only from the child, who may be too traumatized to speak, but also from systems that fail to give nurses the tools they need. Many are not trained to handle these sensitive cases. There are few clear protocols, limited collaboration with legal and social services, and even less emotional support for the caregivers themselves.

As editor, I feel compelled to shine a light on this often-invisible struggle. Nurses are more than medical professionals in these moments, they are protectors, witnesses, and sometimes the only voice a child has. It's time we stop expecting them to carry these emotions and circumstances alone. We must provide them with training, resources, and psychological support. We must build systems that collaborate closely with nurses to deliver compassionate care to young victims of sexual abuse, many of whom are too young or traumatized to even understand what has happened to them.

I urge nurses to collaborate with fellow healthcare professionals to help heal the pain and trauma experienced by the young minds who represent the future of our society. The greater your insight into the clinical and legal aspects of child abuse, the greater your ability to meet the challenges these difficult cases can pose.

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