

Schoolgirls filmed for porn

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SHOCKING claims of Chatsworth schoolgirls, as young as 13, performing sexual acts for pornographic use were revealed by police at a crime meeting this week.

Startled members of the Shallcross Crime Forum on Monday were told that teenage girls from schools in the greater Chatsworth area were being lured by drivers in smart vehicles. Founder of the forum, Jayraj Singh said he also suspected the girls were using drugs.

It is believed that a Toyota RunX, a VW Polo and a 4x4 double cab with tinted windows were doing the rounds outside schools.

"Police said they heard the young girls were carrying a change of clothes in their bags and were escaping from school around mid-day," said Harry Sookoo, public relations officer of the forum.

"They would then be picked up by one of these vehicles and taken to Anstey's Beach on the Bluff, where they were recorded on cell-phones performing sexual acts. These images were then posted on the internet.

"Police told us they were going to check the websites to see if they could identify any of the girls or the vehicles," Sookoo said.

Drugs

Chatsworth police spokesman Capt Edmund Singh said although no official complaints or charges had been lodged, police were aware of the allegations.

"We are not saying this is not happening. We must have an official complaint which will be criminally investigated. We are urging the community and schools to report these matters so that police can investigate the claims," Singh said.

"Just when we think that we have heard the worst, we hear something even more outrageous," chairman of the Anti Drug Forum, Sam Pillay, said.

"We hear about this (pornography) happening all the time, but it is even more scary when it comes so close to home. There is definitely the element of drugs when it comes to porn.

"From our experience, in dealing with children who have become addicted to drugs, they have no idea of what they want to become in life. They take drugs because they want

to feel high and then they are no longer in control of what is going on around them. This leads to these sickening acts of perversion," Pillay said.

He said one way to rid the problem might be to reintroduce school guidance and right living classes.

"It's all good and well when a child knows maths and accounting and how to read and write, but what about building their character?"

"Schools used to have classes that encouraged children to have

goals and ambitions. This helped them to build their character, know their strengths and weaknesses, set goals and respect themselves.

"We are losing children because this is no longer being taught at schools," Pillay said.

He said teachers and parents must communicate if they wanted to resolve such issues.

"If a pupil is not in class, the teacher must take the extra step and inform the parents. If the pupil is going to be absent for a day, the parent must let the teacher know. This

would be a deterrent to children if they were considering absconding, because they would know that they would be caught," Pillay said.

Director of Childline, Linda Naidoo said the effects of child pornography were far-reaching and parents would be able to identify these if their children had become victims.

"Child pornography is illegal and a total violation of their rights. Children are under age and cannot consent to such behaviour. It is also a criminal act and the perpetrator

will face criminal charges.

"The impact of pornography on children is devastating and sometimes affects them for the rest of their lives. They become withdrawn, isolated and embarrassed to be around people because their faces will always be remembered.

"Pornography will also have a negative effect on them when they become adults and are involved in sexual relationships," she said.

Naidoo warned parents to look out for signs of withdrawal and isolation. annie.dorasamy@inl.co.za