Bullying victimization and child sexual abuse among left-behind and non-left-behind children in China

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Background: Bullying is one of the most important factors associated with child abuse. However, robust tests supporting the assumption that being bullied can contribute to child sexual abuse (CSA) among left-behind children (LBC) remain sparse. This study aims to investigate the association of bullying victimization with CSA among LBC in China.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was conducted in six middle schools of Sichuan and Anhui province in 2015. The bullying victimization was assessed by seven items from the Revised Olweus Bully/Victim Questionnaire. The experience of CSA was measured by ten items CSA scale with good consistency.

Results: A total of 1 030 children met the sampling criteria, including 284 LBC and 746 non-LBC. The prevalence of CSA was 22.89% in LBC and 20.19% in non-LBC(p > 0.05). Bullying victimization was related to CSA among both LBC (adjusted Odds Ratio [aOR]= 2.52, 95% confidential interval [CI] =1.34-4.73) and non-LBC (aOR=2.35, 95%CI=1.58-3.53). The association between bullying victimization and CSA was much higher among left-behind girls (left-behind girls: aOR=7.36, 95%CI=2.16-24.99; non-left-behind girls: aOR=2.38, 95%CI=1.08-5.27). Besides, LBC with young age (11-15), children with siblings, living in rural areas and non-traditional family structure who were bullied were more likely to suffer CSA than their non-LBC peers.

Conclusions: Bullying victimization is associated with a significant increase in CSA among both LBC and non-LBC. Anti-bullying programs should target vulnerable populations including female LBC and LBC with siblings to reduce the risk of CSA.

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20 **Abstract**

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22 robust tests supporting the assumption that being bullied can contribute to child sexual abuse

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26 province in 2015. The bullying victimization was assessed by seven items from the Revised

27 Olweus Bully/Victim Questionnaire. The experience of CSA was measured by ten items CSA

28 scale with good consistency.

29 **Results:** A total of 1 030 children met the sampling criteria, including 284 LBC and 746 non-LBC.

30 The prevalence of CSA was 22.89% in LBC and 20.19% in non-LBC($p>0.05$). Bullying

31 victimization was related to CSA among both LBC (adjusted Odds Ratio [aOR]= 2.52, 95%

32 confidential interval [CI] =1.34-4.73) and non-LBC (aOR=2.35, 95%CI=1.58-3.53). The

33 association between bullying victimization and CSA was much higher among left-behind girls

34 (left-behind girls: aOR=7.36, 95%CI=2.16-24.99; non-left-behind girls: aOR=2.38, 95%CI=1.08-

35 5.27). Besides, LBC with young age (11-15), children with siblings, living in rural areas and non-

36 traditional family structure who were bullied were more likely to suffer CSA than their non-LBC

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38 **Conclusions:** Bullying victimization is associated with a significant increase in CSA among both

39 LBC and non-LBC. Anti-bullying programs should target vulnerable populations including female

40 LBC and LBC with siblings to reduce the risk of CSA.

41   **Keywords:** School bullying, Left-behind children, Child sexual abuse

42

43 **Introduction**

44 Child sexual abuse(CSA) can occur regardless of culture, ethnic heritage, gender or income level,

45 and the prevalence of CSA ranged from 8% to 31% for girls and 3% to 17% for boys around the

46 whole world(Barth et al. 2013). In China, the prevalence of CSA experience before the age of 16

47 years ranged from 10.2% to 35.2%, showing that CSA has become a huge concern in China(Yu et

48 al. 2017). CSA includes a broad and often inconsistent range of behaviors in different studies.

49 Some studies include only physical contact, whereas others also include non-contact sexual abuse.

50 World Health Organization defines sexual abuse as "the involvement of a child in sexual activity

51 that he or she does not fully comprehend, is unable to give informed consent to, or for which the

52 child is not developmentally prepared, or else that violates the laws or social taboos of

53 society"(WHO 2010). CSA has a negative impact on the psychological and educational functions

54 of adolescents and youth(Meinck et al. 2015a). The variety of adverse outcomes include risks for

55 bullying victimization(Hebert et al. 2016), unintended pregnancy and sexual abuse

56 perpetration(Meinck et al. 2015a). Exiting research has identified some individual risk factors that

57 increase risks for CSA, including gender, age, family constellation, parental characteristics, roles

58 of school bullying, and so on(Meinck et al. 2015b).

59 School bullying, including physical, verbal, property and relational bullying, is pervasive around

60 the world(Coyne et al. 2006). In China, 66.1% of boys and 48.8% of girls suffered one or more

61 kinds of school bullying; 8.1% of boys and 2.9% of girls experienced more than four types of

62 school bullying in 2009(Yi-juan et al. 2009). The newly reported incidences of bullying

63 victimization, perpetration and witnessing were 26.10%, 9.03%, and 28.90% respectively,

64   according to the updated national representative survey data collected in 2016(Han et al.

65   2017).Most importantly, the consequences of school bullying can be severe and persistent,

66   including mental health problems, self-harm, and suicide (Lereya et al. 2015). Some youth being

67   bullied in school may also be the victims in other settings, such as their family and

68   communities(Holt et al. 2007). A study showed that physical assault in the community doubled

69   the risk of sexual abuse for girls(Meinck et al. 2015a). Another study found that school bullying

70   was associated with increased risk of CSA, the prevalence of CSA was 12.1% in victims and

71   decreased to 3.1% in non-involved students(Holt et al. 2007).

72   The left-behind children(LBC), a particular group with a higher risk of getting mental health

73   problems in rural China, are defined as the children who stay in rural areas more than six months

74   with one or both their parents heading to urban areas for work(Wang et al. 2015). The number of

75   LBC in China has reached 61.02 million in 2010, accounting for 21.88% of all children in China

76   (Liu et al. 2016). Although millions of migrant parents pursue better opportunities for their

77   children, their children left behind actually live in a situation lacking parental care and nurturance

78   and are more likely to suffer abuse than others(Zhao et al. 2015). LBC were more likely to report

79   being bullied (Otake et al. 2017), and suicide attempts (Chang et al. 2017) than non-LBC did in

80   China.

81   Children being bullied by their peers are more likely to suffer sexual abuse can be explained

82   somewhat by the developmental victimology framework(Finkelhor & Dziuba-Leatherman 1994).

83   Developmental victimology is the study of the broad spectrum of children's victimizations during

84   all childhood, and the effort to understand the overlaps, common risk factors, interrelationships,

85   and sequencings. The explanations show that children who involved in any kinds of victimizations

86   such as family instability, lack of supervision, and bullying might create a risk for additional types

87   of victimization(Finkelhor & Dziuba-Leatherman 1994).

88   Although available studies examined risk factors associated with school bullying and sexual abuse

89   separately(Hinduja & Patchin 2012; Madu & Peltzer 2001), there is scientific evidence indicating

90   that bullying victimization was a potential risk factor for CSA (Hebert et al. 2016). The survey

91   including 8194 students aged 14–18 years attending public and private schools in Quebec showed

92   that school bullying was significantly associated with CSA (β=0.36; *p*<0.001) as well as

93   cyberbullying (β=0.40; *p*<0.001). However, the link between CSA and bullying victimization

94   remains unexplored mainly among LBC in China. Hence, there is an urgent need to understand

95   the importance of bullying victimization as the predictor for CAS among LBC and non-LBC in

96   China. Also, it is essential to identify changeable factors that may amplify the risk. We

97   hypothesized that (1) bullying victimization was positively associated with experience of CSA,

98   and (2) the association in LBC was stronger than that in non-LBC.

99   **Method**

100   **Study site and participants**

101   The study was a cross-sectional study conducted in Anhui and Sichuan provinces from January

102   2015 to May 2015. Those two provinces are the top 2 most prominent origins of migrants in China

103   (Liu et al. 2015; Yang et al. 2016). The target population comprised LBC and non-LBC aged 11-

104   18 years in middle schools and high schools. In this study, we defined LBC as children who were

105   left behind by either one or both parents and stayed at home with extended family members more

106   than six months (Fan et al. 2010; Wang et al. 2015).

107   We selected one junior high school and one senior high school in Sichuan province and two junior

108   high schools and two senior high schools in Anhui Province using purposive sampling to

109   oversample the LBC. We adopted random cluster sampling to select 2-3 classes in grades7-12 in

110   each school. All students in each selected class were included in the survey. We recruited 1 063

111   children and dropped 33 children aged over 18, resulting in a sample size of 1 030.

112   The study was reviewed and approved by the institutional review board of Shanghai Institute of

113   Planned Parenthood Research (PJ2015-05). All participants provided oral consent before the

114   survey. Passive consents were obtained from school administrators and children's

115   parents/guardians.

116   **Measures**

117   In this study, a questionnaire survey was conducted using computer-assisted self-interviewing

118   (CASI) technology in school computer labs. The content of the questionnaire included the

119   background information (individual characteristics, family, and school information), the

120   experiences of bullying victimization and CSA.

121   **Bullying victimization**

122   According to the Revised Olweus Bully/Victim Questionnaire by Dan Olweus which has been

123   used in China(Tang et al. 2018), we selected seven items to identify the victims of bullying. The

124   internal consistency of the scale was acceptable (Cronbach's alpha=0.79). The seven items

125   comprising the scale are listed as follows:

126   a. I was called mean names, was made fun of, or teased in a hurtful way.

127   b. Other students left me out of things on purpose, excluded me from their group of friends, or

128   completely ignored me.

129   c. I was hit, kicked, pushed, shoved around, or locked indoors.

130   d. Other students told lies or spread false rumors about me and tried to make others dislike me.

131   e. Other students made sexual jokes, comments, or gestures to me.

132   f. I was bullied by my classmates using a computer or e-mail message or pictures.

133   g. I was threatened or hurt by my classmates with swords, clubs and other weapons.

134   The responses were coded as "0 =never, 1 =1-2times/year, 2 =3-5 times/year, 3 =6-11 times/year,

135   4 =1-2times/month, 5 =1-2times/week, 6 $\geq$ 2 times/week".

136   The total score ranged from 0 to 42, with higher scores indicating severer experiences of being

137   bullied. We divided the children into two groups (low and high score victims) according to the

138   median score due to non-normal distribution.

139   **CSA**

140   We used CSA scale with ten items to measure the CSA experience (Chen et al. 2002), and the

141   internal consistency was also acceptable (Cronbach's alpha=0.69). The CSA scale includes two

142   forms of CSA (non-physical contact and physical contact) and the ten items are listed

143   below(Halperin et al. 1996):

144   a. Has an adult or an older child ever not respected you by demanding you or forcing you to look

145   at pornographic pictures, drawings, films, videotapes or magazines?

146   b. Has an adult or an older child ever not respected you by sexually explicit talk or hostile

147 language?

148 c. Has an adult or an older child ever not respected you by demanding you or forcing you to be

149 naked and to expose your genitals for picture taking or filming?

150 d. Has an adult or an older child ever not respected you by demanding you or forcing you to look

151 at his/her genitals or watch him/her masturbate?

152 e. Has an adult or an older child ever peeked at your breast or genital?

153 f. Has an adult or an older child ever not respected you by demanding you or forcing you to be

154 fondled (caresses, rubs, kisses on the whole body and/or your genitals)?

155 g. Has an adult or an older child ever not respected you by demanding you or forcing you to be

156 fondled him/her (caresses, rubs, kisses on the whole body and/or his/her genitals)?

157 h. Has an adult or an older child ever not respected you by demanding you or forcing you to submit

158 to having his/her fingers or an object introduced into your body?

159 i. Has an adult or an older child ever tried to making anal sex or vaginal sex with you?

160 j. Has an adult or an older child ever made anal sex or vaginal sex with you?

161 The options of the ten items were all binary (1=yes, 0=no).The children suffered CSA if they

162 answered yes to any of these items(Hawton et al. 2018; Peterson et al. 2018; Sanchez et al. 2017).

163 **Covariates**

164 We controlled eight variables (age, gender, only-child, current place of residence, family structure,

165 relationship with mother and father, parental educational level) as potential confounders because

166 they were associated with the CSA and school bullying (Wolke et al. 2013).

167 We labeled children as only-child if they had no siblings. We recoded the current place of residence

168 as urban area and rural area. We defined family structure as traditional if students' biologic parents

169 married to each other at the time of the survey. We assessed parent-child relationship using the

170 questions "how is your relationship with your mother and father respectively" with options

171 "1=good, 2=general, and 3=poor". We measured parental educational level by the higher level of

172 educational attainment of both parents, ranging from 1=below junior high school to 3=college

173 degree or above.

174 **Statistical analysis**

175 The Stata/SE 15.1 (StataCorp, LLC) was used to analyze the data. Descriptive analyses were

176 performed using frequencies and percentages. Chi-square tests were performed to evaluate

177 differences in categorical variables including socio-demographic characteristics among LBC and

178 non-LBC. The median was used to divide the bullying scores into two groups due to skewed

179 distribution.

180 We investigated the association between bullying victimization and CSA using logistic regression

181 models, with and without controlling for potential confounders, including age, only-child, current

182 place of residence, family structure, relationship with mother and father and parental educational

183 level among LBC and non-LBC. Besides, subgroup analysis stratified by gender, age, only child,

184 current place of residence and family structure were also performed. The statistical significance

185 was considered at $p < 0.05$ for two-sided tests.

186 **Results**

187 **General information**

188   The final sample consisted of 1 030 children, including 284 LBC (27.57%) and 746 non-LBC

189   (72.43%). Among the 284 LBC, the prevalence of being left behind by their father only, mother

190   only or both parents was 43.31%, 13.73% and 42.96% respectively.

191   The demographic characteristics of the LBC and non-LBC groups were shown in Table1. We

192   didn't observe any significant differences in age, gender, only child and parental educational

193   level between the two groups.

194   A total of 76.76% of LBC lived in rural areas, and the rate was 65.95% in non-LBC. The rate of

195   living with a divorced or single parent was 18.66% in LBC and 11.26% in non-LBC. The two

196   differences were both statistically significant ($p<0.05$).

197   The rate of poor relationship with mother was 4.24% and 2.43% in LBC and non-LBC, the rate of

198   poor relationship with father was 6.03% and 3.52% in LBC and non-LBC. These differences were

199   also both significant ($p<0.05$), indicating that LBC tended to have a poor relationship with parents

200   than their peers. The rate of bullying victimization was similar in LBC and non-LBC, and so did

201   CSA (Table 1).

202   **Association between bullying victimization and CSA**

203   The results of the crude odds ratio (cOR), adjusted odds ratio (aOR) and their 95% confidence

204   intervals (CIs) were reported in Table 2-3. Bullying victimization was significantly related to CSA

205   (cOR=2.04 and aOR=2.52 for LBC, cOR=2.25 and aOR=2.35 for non-LBC), suggesting that

206   victims of bullying were more likely to suffer sexual abuse among both LBC and non-LBC.

207   The results also indicated that victimization was significantly associated with higher proportion of

208   CSA among female LBC (cOR=6.01 and aOR=7.36) than that of female non-LBC (cOR=2.30 and

209   aOR=2.38). Participants who were bullied were at higher risk of being sexually abused in younger

210   age (cOR=2.56 and aOR=3.42 for LBC, cOR=2.86 and aOR=3.32 for non-LBC) than those aged

211   16-18 years. Non-traditional family structure puts the bullying victims at higher chance of being

212   sexually abused (cOR=4.23 and aOR=12.25 for non-LBC).

213   We also observed that victims of bullying who had siblings (cOR=2.89 and aOR=3.85 for LBC,

214   cOR=2.31and aOR=2.58 for non-LBC), or lived in rural areas (cOR=2.66 and aOR=2.97 for LBC,

215   cOR=2.60 and aOR=2.92 for non-LBC) were more likely to suffer CSA.

216   **Discussion**

217   We investigated the association between bullying victimization and CSA among LBC and non-

218   LBC from Anhui and Sichuan provinces, which was unexplored in Chinese culture before. Our

219   results indicated that CSA was a major concern and affected a significant proportion of LBC,

220   especially in those who were more vulnerable, namely victims of bullying.

221   The prevalence of CSA in the present study was 22.89% in LBC and 19.17% in non-LBC, which

222   echoes the findings of other studies abroad ranging from 7.00% to 29.87%(Afifi et al. 2003; S.A

223   et al. 2001). The prevalence was the highest(29.87%) in high school students (S.A et al. 2001) and

224   lowest(7.00%) in primary school students (Afifi et al. 2003). Our results were within the range

225   because our participants included both junior and senior high students.

226   Few existing studies have reported the dose-response relationship between bullying victimization

227   and CSA. One review article suggested that exposure to bullying was an identified correlate of

228   sexual abuse, however, the authors didn't mention the contribution of bullying victimization to the

229 development of sexual abuse (Meinck et al. 2015b).The literature on poly-victimization claimed

230 that victims of abuse were prone to suffer other types of abuses (Finkelhor et al. 2007), which was

231 confirmed in our study where we observed a potential dose-response relationship between bullying

232 victimization and CSA, the high score victims were accompanied by higher risk of being sexually

233 abused in both LBC (aOR=2.52, 95%CI=1.34-4.73) and non-LBC (aOR=2.35, 95%CI=1.58-

234 3.53).

235 Based on existing research(Wolke et al. 2013), we identified and controlled a range of potential

236 confounders(Andersson & Ho-Foster 2008; Austin et al. 2018; Carey et al. 2008; Ibrahim et al.

237 2008; Shams et al. 2017; White & Warner 2015). After adjusting for potential confounders, the

238 contribution of bullying victimization to the sexual abuse increased from 6.01 times (95%CI=1.90-

239 19.09) to 7.36 times (95%CI=2.16-24.99) among left-behind girls.

240 We noticed that the association between bullying victimization and CAS was significant only

241 among the female LBC (aOR=7.36,95%CI=2.16-24.99), suggesting that female victims are more

242 likely to be sexually abused(Meinck et al. 2015a). Besides, CSA was associated with bullying

243 victimization among LBC aged 11-15 years (aOR=3.42, 95%CI=1.18-9.93). However, the

244 association wasn't significant within the older group, which indicated early adolescence was a

245 critical transitional period (11-15 years old) for sexual abuse, which was worthy of public attention

246 (Hamil-Luker et al. 2004). Thus, CSA caused by bullying victimization is preventable, if the

247 school or main caregivers could put more attention on this age group.

248 The risk of victims of bullying suffered sexual abuse was 3.85 times in LBC who had siblings,

249 while the risk was not observed in LBC who had no siblings. The possible explanation behind was

250   LBC who had siblings got less care from parents than their only-child peers did, and parental care

251   could prevent victims of bullying from being sexually abused (Dai et al. 2017). Victims of bullying

252   living with or without traditional family structure were more likely to suffer sexual abuse (for

253   traditional family: aOR=2.20, 95%CI=1.54-3.14; for non-traditional family: aOR=5.95, 95%CI=

254   1.46-24.21). Parents divorced or died may have a worse contribution to CSA in non-LBC, while

255   living apart could threaten the relationship and secure attachment with parents in LBC(Wang et al.

256   2015). Parental departure actually could reduce parents' support and supervision and increase the

257   risk of suffering abuse and neglect(Zhao et al. 2015). One study indicated that the care of mother

258   was the key protective factor for the mental resilience of LBC, and the probable cause was that

259   most children felt the strongest attachment to their mothers, given that in most cases mother was

260   the primary caregiver and was difficult to be replaced(Qiaolan et al. 2011). What's more, other

261   studies have shown that parental psychiatric problems, domestic violence, and disinterested mother

262   could contribute to CSA (Afifi et al. 2003; S.A et al. 2001).

263   Bullying victimization was associated with CSA in both LBC (aOR=2.97, 95%CI=1.42-6.22) and

264   non-LBC (aOR=2.92, 95%CI=1.74-4.89) who lived in rural areas. Rural and urban areas differed

265   from some important variables including socioeconomic status, liberalism/conservatism, and

266   poverty rates(Kowalski et al. 2017). Compared with their urban counterparts, rural children might

267   get less care from their parents when they were bullied in school because of the poor living

268   environment, which increased the risk of being sexually abused(Xia et al. 2010).

269   **Limitations**

270   Our study has some limitations. First, the study is a cross-sectional design, which hinders its ability

271   to infer causality. The relationship between bullying victimization and CSA may be bidirectional

272   (Duncan 1999; Meinck et al. 2015a), and further studies with longitudinal design are needed.

273   Second, the self-reported experience of bullying victimization and CSA may result in recall bias.

274   Thus, the prevalence of bullying victimization and CSA could be underestimated. However, the

275   CASI technology we adopted in the survey can protect the privacy of children better and

276   substantially reduce the information bias(Brown et al. 2008). Third, our findings from school

277   students may not be generalized to adolescents that have dropped out of school. Fourth, we

278   simplify condensed the experience of CSA with ten items in one dummy variable (yes/no), which

279   may lead to biased results of the current study. The effect of bullying victimization on severity of

280   CSA need to be explored in future studies.

281   Despite these limitations, our findings demonstrate that bullying victimization increases the risk

282   of CSA and add evidence that individual characteristics, including younger, female, only-child,

283   rural area, and non-traditional family, may amplify the adverse effects of being bullied on CSA

284   among Chinese LBC. Our study suggests that anti-bullying interventions targeted at those

285   vulnerable populations may enhance the protective effects on CSA among over 61.02 million

286   Chinese LBC.

287   **Conclusion**

288   Our findings attest that victims of bullying among both LBC and non-LBC are more likely to suffer

289   CSA, which has significant implications for bullying intervention. Screening for peer bullying in

290   schools may help reduce the risk of CSA, given that CSA, in most cases, is insidious and subtle.

291   Our results highlight the female victims of bullying are more vulnerable to CSA. Besides, the

292   children who live in rural areas or who have siblings are also susceptible to CSA after being

293   bullied. Thus, more attention should be paid to these vulnerable children to lower the risk of CSA.

294   Since the present study is the first step in understanding the relationship between bullying

295   victimization and CSA among Chinese LBC, future studies should also point to the contribution

296   of social support to resilience enhancement in victims of school bullying.

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304   analysis, data interpretation, writing of the report, or the decision to submit the paper for

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Characteristics of the study population (n =1 030)

Table 1 Characteristics of the study population (n =1 030)

Variables	Total (n=1 030)	LBC (n=284)	Non-LBC (n=746)
Age(years)			
11-15	497(48.25)	135(47.54)	362(48.53)
16-18	533(51.75))	149(52.46)	384(51.47)
Gender			
Boys	485(47.09)	127(44.72)	358(47.99)
Girls	545(52.91)	157(55.28)	388(52.01)
Grade			
Junior high school	489(47.48)	134(47.18)	355(47.59)
High school	541(52.52)	150(52.82)	391(52.41)
Only child			
Yes	481(46.70)	144(50.70)	337(45.17)
No	549(53.30)	140(49.30)	409(54.83)
Home place			
Urban	320(31.07)#	66(23.24)	254(34.05)
Rural	710(68.93)	218(76.76)	492(65.95)
Family structure			
Traditional	893(86.70)*	231(81.34)	662(88.74)
Non-traditional	137(13.30)	53(18.66)	84(11.26)
Relationship with mother			
Good	899(88.05)#	231(82.21)	668(90.27)
General	92(9.01)	38(13.52)	54(7.30)
Poor	30(2.94)	12(4.27)	18(2.43)
Relationship with father			
Good	832(81.49)*	217(76.95)	615(83.22)
General	146(14.30)	48(17.02)	98(13.26)
Poor	43(4.21)	17(6.03)	26(3.52)
Parental education level			
Low	796(78.35)	226(80.43)	570(77.55)
General	167(16.44)	48(17.08)	119(16.19)
High	53(5.22)	7(2.49)	46(6.26)
Bullying victimization score			
Low	624(60.58)	161(56.69)	463(62.06)
High	406(39.42)	123(43.31)	283(37.94)
CSA victims			
No	822(79.81)	219(77.11)	603(80.83)
Yes	208(20.19)	65(22.89)	143(19.17)

2   * $p<0.05$, # $p<0.01$

Adjusted associations between bullying victimization and CSA, stratified by gender, age, only child, home place, family structure

1 **Table 2** Crude associations between bullying victimization and CSA, stratified by gender, age, only child, home place, family

2 structure

	Total OR(95%CI, *p* value)	LBC OR(95%CI, *p* value)	Non-LBC OR(95%CI, *p* value)
Bullying victimization	2.20(1.62-3.00, <0.001)	2.04(1.17-3.58,0.013)	2.25(1.55-3.25, <0.001)
Gender			
Boys	1.76(1.20-2.59,0.004)	1.33(0.64-2.76,0.439)	1.97(1.25-3.09,0.003)
Girls	3.23(1.77-5.90, <0.001)	6.01(1.90-19.09,0.002)	2.30(1.10-4.82,0.027)
Age(years)			
11-15	2.78(1.72-4.47, <0.001)	2.56(1.03-6.38,0.044)	2.86(1.63-5.00, <0.001)
16-18	2.03(1.32-3.10,0.001)	2.04(0.97-4.29,0.062)	1.97(1.17-3.32,0.011)
Only child			
Yes	1.94(1.25-3.01,0.003)	1.57(0.73-3.38,0.252)	2.16(1.26-3.69,0.005)
No	2.48(1.60-3.82, <0.001)	2.89(1.24-6.75,0.014)	2.31(1.39-3.85,0.001)
Home place			
Urban	1.52(0.89-2.61,0.129)	0.91(0.29-2.84,0.875)	1.75(0.94-3.23,0.076)
Rural	2.64(1.81-3.85, <0.001)	2.66(1.38-5.11,0.003)	2.60(1.63-4.13, <0.001)
Family structure			
Traditional	2.11(1.52-2.93, <0.001)	2.05(1.11-3.75,0.020)	2.12(1.44-3.13, <0.001)
Non- traditional	3.72(1.36-10.21,0.011)	3.14(0.57-17.23,0.189)	4.23(1.20-14.87,0.024)

Crude associations between bullying victimization and CSA, stratified by gender, age, only child, home place, family structure

1   **Table 3** Adjusted associations between bullying victimization and CSA, stratified by gender, age, only child, home place, family

2   structure

	Total	LBC	Non-LBC
	OR (95%CI, *p* value)	OR(95%CI, *p* value)	OR(95%CI, *p* value)
Bullying victimization*	2.35(1.68-3.30, <0.001)	2.52(1.34-4.73,0.004)	2.35(1.58,3.53, <0.001)
Gender*			
Boys	2.02(1.34-3.03,0.001)	1.32(0.58-2.98,0.501)	2.34(1.44-3.79,0.001)
Girls	3.40(1.81-6.38, <0.001)	7.36(2.16-24.99,0.001)	2.38(1.08-5.27,0.032)
Age (years)*			
11-15	3.16(1.89-5.30, <0.001)	3.42(1.18-9.93,0.023)	3.32(1.80-6.15, <0.001)
16-18	1.78(1.10-2.87,0.018)	2.06(0.86-4.91,0.105)	1.65(0.92-2.97,0.093)
Only child*			
Yes	2.12(1.31-3.43,0.002)	2.33(0.95-5.67,0.063)	2.17(1.19-3.96,0.011)
No	2.81(1.72-4.57, <0.001)	3.85(1.37-10.85,0.011)	2.58(1.46-4.54,0.001)
Home place*			
Urban	1.55(0.85-2.82,0.157)	0.96(0.23-4.06,0.956)	1.65(0.83-3.30,0.153)
Rural	2.82(1.86-4.26, <0.001)	2.97(1.42-6.22,0.004)	2.92(1.74-4.89, <0.001)
Family structure*			
Traditional	2.20(1.54-3.14, <0.001)	2.69(1.35-5.34,0.005)	2.13(1.40-3.26, <0.001)
Non-traditional	5.95(1.46-24.21,0.013)	11.72(0.36-379.20,0.165)	12.25(1.51-99.63,0.019)

3   * Adjusted for potential confounders, including age, gender, only child, home place, family structure, relationship with mother,

4   relationship with father, parental educational level.