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Digital-Era Justice under Pressure: Ethical and Policy Challenges in Police Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Pakistan (2018–2025)

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KEYWORDS	ABSTRACT
<p>Child Sexual Abuse, Police Response, Ethics, Human Rights, Policy, Digital Era, Media Pressure, Online Activism, Justice Reform, Pakistan</p>	<p>This study examines the ethical, policy, and human rights dimensions of police responses to child sexual abuse (CSA) cases in Pakistan between 2018 and 2025, within the evolving digital and media landscape. Using a qualitative content analysis of eight high-profile CSA cases—one from each year—the research investigates how digital exposure, public discourse, and online activism influence justice processes. The analysis focuses on three interconnected areas: the initial police response, the role of digital media and public pressure in shaping institutional actions, and the ethical implications of investigative practices. Findings reveal inconsistencies and reactive policing patterns often driven by viral outrage and online scrutiny rather than structured policy implementation. Despite ongoing justice reforms, gaps persist in accountability, digital ethics, and victim-centered approaches. This study contributes to contemporary debates on ethics, policy, and human rights in the digital era by highlighting how digital visibility both enables and complicates justice for vulnerable victims in Pakistan.</p>
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