The sexual arousal factor in paedophiles

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1 INTRODUCTION

One can state unreservedly, without fear of contradiction, that the state of their sexual arousal plays a dominant role when paedophiles abuse their victims. It is difficult to access sexual arousal, and it is even more difficult to measure it. The existing recognised methodology used to measure sexual arousal, a penile plethysmograph in the cases of male offenders (Flora 2001:140), is very intrusive. Another issue that compounds sexual crimes against children is rehabilitation. In this regard, marked differences of opinion exist amongst scholars from the various helping professions: some are convinced paedophiles can be rehabilitated, some maintain they cannot, and others believe that paedophilia can only be managed.

LVA (layer voice analysis) claims to give new direction to some of the difficulties in the assessment and measuring of sexual arousal. One of LVA’s claims is that it can expose the sexual arousal of the paedophile without any bodily intrusions whatsoever. This research study demonstrates this ability of LVA. The paedophile only has to converse with the researcher and no straps or tubes need to be attached to the interviewee.

With regard to rehabilitation, South Africa’s Department of Correctional Services has instituted what it calls a PedoStop programme, developed by Mr Reinier Naudé, in an effort to change the behaviour of these perpetrators. This is not a rehabilitation programme in the strict sense of the word but rather a (self) management programme. How LVA assessed the results of PedoStop is also demonstrated with this research.

The research for this article was conducted during August 2005 and involved 15 paedophiles who had been convicted of sexual crimes against children. This article addresses the following issues: the management programme of PedoStop and the analysis capabilities of LVA-technology regarding sexual arousal. A definition and understanding of paedophilia is, however, needed as background for these issues.

2 UNDERSTANDING AND DEFINING PAEDOPHILIA

Araji and Finkelhor (Hesselink-Louw & Schoeman 2003: 168-169) argue that paedophilia can be understood in terms of four aspects:

The first aspect is emotional congruence. Emotional congruence explains why someone feels emotionally comfortable to associate with and relate to a child in a sexual manner. Child victims may serve as substitutes for adult partners. Paedophiles may feel emotionally comfortable with children due to the fact that children lack dominance, and the offender has a low self-esteem, or due to male socialisation
want to dominate. They may also feel more at ease with children due to immaturity and narcissism.

The second aspect that supports an understanding of paedophilia is blockage. Blockage in this sense refers to psychological and physical attributes that may prevent abusers from interacting with their peers and substitute such relationships with interaction with children. These factors include difficulty to relate to females, inadequate social skills, sexual anxiety, repressive norms about sexual behaviour, disturbances in romantic or adult relationships, and family problems.

The third aspect is termed disinhibition. Disinhibition explains why paedophiles are not deterred by social restraints and inhibitions that prohibit sexual involvement with children and include substance abuse, use of child pornography, senility, impulse disorder, mental retardation, cultural intolerance, patriarchal norms and situational stress.

The last aspect relates to sexual arousal. This includes intensified arousal towards children, misattribution of arousal, early childhood conditioning, modelling based on childhood experiences, hormonal and chromosomal abnormalities, socialization through inappropriate sexual acts and pornography.

Based on the above arguments, the operational definition of paedophilia addressing the purposes of this research is based on the authoritative DSMIV-R (2002) description. The Diagnostic and Statistic Manual IV (Revised), compiled by the American Psychiatric Association, states that a paedophile can be diagnosed as such when he or she has experienced, over a period of at least six months, recurrent, intense, sexually arousing fantasies, sexual urges, or behaviours which involves sexual activity with a pre-pubescent child or children (generally aged 13 or younger). Such fantasies, sexual urges, or behaviours cause clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning. The person should be at least 16 years old and at least five years older than the child or children in question. Adolescents involved in an ongoing sexual relationship with a 12 or 13 year old should not be included. The diagnosis of paedophilia should also specify if the attraction exists towards males, females, both males and females, if it is limited to incest, or whether it is exclusive or non-exclusive to children.

In order to be convicted of a sexual crime against a child, according to South African law, an individual’s behaviour has to correspond with at least some of these diagnostic criteria.

This definition indicates that the DSMIV-R (2002) diagnoses paedophilia in terms of the primary sexual attraction to pre-pubescent persons. This is also the motivation behind the choice of the distinguishing picture questions, which depict two half-naked pre-teens; one picture depicts two boys and the other two girls. The other
picture questions were included in order to determine possible sexual arousal from sources other than pre-pubescent persons.

The DSM-IVR does not link paedophilia to the developmental phase or age of the perpetrator. The paedophile is, however, usually fixated on children of a specific age group. Those more attracted to girls, usually choose victims between eight and ten years of age. Those attracted to boys, usually choose victims a little bit older than that. More are attracted to girls than to boys. Some only touch their victims in a sexual way, whilst other commits acts of sexual penetration. They usually rationalise their behaviour and say that they educate the children, the child enjoys it, or that the child approached them for sex.

3 THE RESEARCH SETTING

The perpetrators were interviewed utilising layer voice analysis technology (LVA). It consists of a computer programme, which runs on a laptop. The functioning of LVA is explained in some detail under the next sub-heading.

The sample of fifteen participants actually consisted of two different samples; one sample of twelve participants and the other of three. The sample of twelve was a purposeful and convenient sample. It was purposeful because the researcher wanted to involve the paedophiles who were participating in the PedoStop Programme. It was convenient, due to the fact that they were incarcerated at the same facility or on parole in the same city close to that same prison facility. All twelve (six incarcerated and six on parole) participated willingly after Mr Reinier Naudé, the local psychologist, discussed the research with them. The sample of three was also purposeful and convenient. The Leeukop Correctional Facility is close to Tshwane where the researcher resides, and these three were the only available prisoners who were willing to participate, after their local psychologist had informed them about the research, Mr Jeremy Mostert. When the researcher met with the participating offenders he also showed them the official letter of permission that allows him to conduct the research, explained the Research Agreement (compiled by Dr Lorinda Bergh of the Department of Correctional Services) to them, which they signed.

The six incarcerated offenders, who participated in the PedoStop programme, were interviewed in an abandoned crèche inside the premises of the prison at Grootfontein, close to the city of Bloemfontein in the Free State, a province of South Africa. The other six, who were on parole, were interviewed at the Community Correctional Facility in the city Bloemfontein. The incarcerated offenders were interviewed during the course of the morning and those on parole in the evening of the same day. The interview setting was arranged so that the interviewees waited in a waiting room before they were called into the interview room.
The three participants, who did not participate in the PedoStop Programme, were interviewed during the day in an office at the Leeukop Correctional Facility.

The researcher conducted the interviews, with the technical assistance of Mr. Louis Van Wyk, who is also trained to operate and apply LVA-technology. This procedure was followed to ensure that the recording process ran smoothly and to enable the researcher to act as naturally as possible when the interviews were conducted, and not focus on the laptop to monitor the recording, but to focus on the interviewee.

From the above discussion it should become clear that this research is not qualitative or quantitative in the traditional sense of the word. It is qualitative in the sense that a semi-structured interview schedule was used and that the interviews were captured electronically. The analyses of the interviews were, however, also conducted using the layer voice analysis (LVA), installed on the same laptop. It should therefore rather be described as electronically enhanced qualitative research. This is explained in more detail under the section entitled LVA-technology.

With regard to the interviews, the participants were asked 18 questions, including 11 picture-questions (which were co-developed and approved by Drs Sibosisiwe Bengu and Lorinda Bergh from the head office of the Department of Correctional Services). For the purposes of this article, the focus is only on the picture-questions. Only the first two pictures (half-naked pre-teen girls and half-naked pre-teen boys who play in water) were included in the statistical tabularised information, which follows, in order to link the sexual arousal of the interviewees to these pictures. The complete list of picture questions was as follows:

They were instructed to describe the following pictures and say what they thought about them:

- Question 6: A picture of 3-4 year old half-naked/bathing girls
- Question 7: A picture of 3-4 year old half-naked/bathing boys
- Question 8: A picture of an attractive dressed woman
- Question 9: A picture of an attractive dressed man
- Question 10: A picture of an attractive undressed woman (not erotic)
- Question 11: A picture of an attractive undressed man (not erotic)
- Question 12: A picture of an attractive man and woman (erotic)
- Question 13: A picture of an attractive man (erotic)
- Question 14: An erotic picture of a few attractive women (in bikinis)
- Question 15: An erotic picture of a few attractive women (lustful)
- Question 16: A picture of half-naked women with blood on their breasts

The underlying guiding principle behind the use of these specific pictures is based on DSMIV-R’s diagnostic criteria. According to these criteria a paedophile will exhibit the highest level of sexual arousal when shown the pictures of half-naked bathing girls or boys. Furthermore, it was hypothesised that, if the PedoStop pro-
gramme is indeed effective, the convicted paedophiles will no longer display such a high sexual arousal when they see the pictures of the pre-teen children. To ensure the consistency of the measuring instrument, pictures depicting suggestive heterosexual, homosexual and kinky-sex pictures were also included. These pictures would address the possibility that offenders could be sexually aroused by such images as well and not only by pre-teen pictures.

The interviews always started with an introduction of the researcher and his assistant, and an explanation of the use of the laptop. They were then given an opportunity to ask questions, which were then answered. They were then requested to sign the Research Agreement, and again, their questions were answered.

The interview actually started when the offender was invited to tell the team something about himself. At this point the computer data capturing facility was switched on. The participant was encouraged to summarise his childhood, family setting, and training in a few sentences. The content of these responses was used to calibrate the programme with the voice of the offender. Once this has been accomplished, the layer voice analysis would treat the voice of the researcher and any other noises, like passing cars or chirping birds, as background noise.

For the sake of completeness, the non-picture questions that were asked during the interviews are also provided here. In this article, however, the analysis is only based on the responses to the picture questions. The non-picture questions were as follows:

1. Please describe, in your own words, why are you here.
2. Please describe, again using your own words, what a sexual offence is.
3. Can you describe how you think a sexually abused person feels?
4. Describe in your own words what a paedophile is.
5. Can you describe the last sexual assault you conducted in as much detail as possible, and how do you feel about it today?

The picture questions followed. These were full-colour pictures and shown to them on the screen of the laptop on which the interviews were recorded.

17 (A ‘non-picture’ question followed again) – How do you feel today about your last sexual offence, and do you believe you will ever do something like that again?

18 How do you satisfy your sexual fantasies now?

In the following section the layer voice technology, which was used to capture and analyse the interviews, will be explained in some detail, because this is the first time (as far as the researcher could determine) that this technology has ever been utilised to conduct this type of research. Because the training manual is the only document available to describe the technology, what follows will mainly be based on this Manual.
4  LVA-TECHNOLOGY

According to Nemesysco (2005:1-3) this technology is designed for security purposes and focuses on formal police investigations, security clearances, secured access control, intelligence source questioning, and hostage negotiations. It facilitates a better understanding of the subject’s emotional structure, insights into the way he thinks, what troubles him and what excites him, what part of his story he is uncertain about, and what attracts his attention. It also enables the user to explore several levels of conscious and unconscious thoughts and feelings. This technology thus reveals additional layers of information that would otherwise be inaccessible.

LVA utilises a wide range broad-spectrum analysis and minute micro-changes in the waveform of speech and not micro-tremors (De Vries 2005). LVA thus exposes any anomaly in brain activity and classifies the results accordingly. The fight-or-flight paradigm only comprises a small part of the analysis structure. LVA also detects the intention behind lying.

According to the developer of LVA (Nemesysco 2005:2), two basic formulas are used. The first formula uses thousands of mathematical calculations to extract more than 120 emotional data parameters from each voice segment. The second formula then analyses the emotional data further and automatically groups it into nine major categories of emotions. The final result of these calculations is then reflected in eight formulae, relating to lies, stress, arousal level, attention level, deception and additional methods for veracity assessment.

Speech and voice need to be viewed as any other complex set of behaviours. These behaviours are the manifestation of cortical activity. Events occur that are perceived by the individual and these events are processed by the brain according to personal experience and/or behavioural hierarchies. These interpretations as manifested by the individual’s voice are unique to that person. Behaviourally, people think that they know what police investigators look for, for example; eye contact, sitting straight at all times, and not swallowing. and they try to behave accordingly. A voice, however, is different because the majority of the people do not know what to listen for and so they are not in a position to change these behaviours as easily (De Vries 2005).

In principle the LVA technology is based on and is related to what happens when we speak. Initially, the brain has to understand the situation and the possible implications of whatever will be said. The brain closely monitors all the procedures during speech (tongue, air flow, teeth, lips, and nasal space). Therefore, every event going through the brain leaves a ‘fingerprint’ on the speech flow. The technology of LVA ignores what the subject is saying and focuses on the brain activity that is involved when the subject speaks. How the subject speaks is crucial, not what he says (Nemesysco 2005:3). The technology detects states of stress and emotions and then
measures and grades these various states. It pinpoints the cause of stress and the LVA reports indicate whether a subject’s stress is caused by a lie, excitement, an exaggeration, or cognitive conflict. It aims to detect many layers of the subject’s conscious and unconscious states, using 18 vocal parameters and thousands of mathematical processes to accurately analyse a subject’s state of mind, including exited, confused, stressed, aroused, embarrassed, deceptive and joking (Nemesysco 2005:1).

LVA technology is the product of Nemesysco Ltd., an Israeli company, owned by Mr Amir Liberman, who is the developer of the technology. In this article the emphasis is on demonstrating the ability of LVA to reveal the sexual arousal of 15 paedophiles.

Next, the key aspects of the PedoStop Programme will be explained. What follows is based on the 31-page manual prepared and used by Mr Naudé. This manual is utilised during the actual implementation of the PedoStop Programme and contains the content that is conveyed to the participants during group sessions. The programme contains practical educational skills. It aims to develop attitudes of overall prevention amongst sexual offenders (Naudé 2005:2). The content of the programme has been re-arranged and abbreviated for the purposes of this research. It is based on the principles of cognitive-behavioural treatment.

5 THE PEDOSTOP PROGRAMME

5.1 STARTING POINT

The PedoStop Programme is based on the principle that paedophilia can be managed (Naudé 2005:3).

To achieve this goal the content of the programme opens with a definition of the sexual abuse of children. The leading definition of paedophilic activities that is used, is that of Schecter and Roberge (Naudé 2005:2) and asserts the following view: “the involvement of dependent, developmentally immature children and adolescents in sexual activities that they do not fully comprehend and to which they are unable to give informed consent or to violate the social taboos of family roles”. This definition, and various other similar ones like that of Finkelhor, Hobson, Boland and Jamieson as well as Faller (Naudé 2005: 2–3), are then analysed, which indicate that non-sexual abuse, like the exposure and touching of the genitals of the child, is also included. The sexual contacts are explained as deliberate touching of genitals to stimulate or gain sexual gratification, and oral-genital contact (licking, kissing, sucking or biting) including oral copulation with the perpetrator. The definitions are also explained in terms of inter-femoral intercourse and sexual penetration (digital, object, genital and oral) (Naudé 2005: 2-3).
5.2 INFECTION

In the following section the content of the programme explains (to the perpetrators) that paedophilia is infectious. The perpetrators are taught that, if each paedophile only has four victims per year and continues his behaviour for ten years, he would have offended against 40 victims. Further calculations reveal that the third generation would have resulted in 1 000 paedophiles with 4 000 victims. To curb this (very conservative calculation) the facilitator of PedoStop needs an intimate knowledge of the reasons behind the paedophile’s thoughts, as well as the paedophile’s need for offending and how he chooses his victims.

5.3 THE NEED FOR OFFENDING AND CHOICE OF VICTIMS

PedoStop asserts that, depending on the nature of the dysfunction (psychological, emotional or sexual) of the paedophile, he will target victims of a specific age group. This age group can usually be linked to the phase the offender is fixated on or has stagnated at in his own sexual-emotional development. Since the paedophile’s target groups are and remain very specific, the offender moves from one victim to the next as the victims mature beyond the age group that satisfies the paedophile’s sexual fantasy (Naudé 2005:4).

The PedoStop Programme teaches those who attend the programme that, usually, pre-teen victims (8–12 years old) are ‘willing’. The luring, grooming and bribing of these victims (by the offenders) are usually successful. The offender focuses on needs in the life of the victim, inserts himself into that child’s life and provides what is lacking in that child’s life. Due to the emotional attachment that develops as a result of the offender’s manipulation, these offences usually remain undetected, because the child keeps it a secret. The paedophiles that attend the course are taught that these victims experience the paedophilic sexualisation as a ‘normal’ extension of the ‘friendship’ that develops between victim and offender (Naudé 2005:4).

Naudé (2005:5) further explains that even teenage victims (13–18 years old) are often ‘willing’ victims. They are seldom aware of the trauma they suffer, yet they will carry the trauma of such psych-sexual deviance into adolescence with them. This happens because they are sidetracked from ‘normal’ childhood development by early sexual exposure. The perpetrator encourages the natural rebellion of the teenager and rationalises that the rules of society do not apply to him because he is different. Since a trusted adult encourages them to flout the rules, teenage victims easily develop a scatological view regarding the ‘natural order’ of society. Based on these notions the programme emphasises that teenagers, who were misled in such a way, could be pressurised to become paedophiles themselves.

The PedoStop Programme also contains a section that addresses the way paedophiles think and (based on their thinking), why they do what they do.
5.4 THE WAY PAEDOPHILES THINK AND WHY THEY DO WHAT THEY DO

According to Naudé (2005:6-9) the way paedophiles think, and the reasons for the misbehaviour, should also be transferred to those paedophiles participating in the Pe-doStop Programme. Therefore his programme depicts the following:

The human mind operates on the conscious and the unconscious levels. The world is perceived through one’s senses and data is gathered, based on one’s personal interpretation of reality. This is where a problem occurs amongst paedophiles. Their perception of reality is not in line with the norms of society. Furthermore, what they have perceived is associated with past experiences and stored in the subconscious of the mind. Any new information is evaluated and compared to these past experiences. When a correlation exists between past and current experiences, they experience comfort, whereas a lack of correlation leads to discomfort. (In LVA language, it can even be interpreted as cognitive stress or psychological conflict.) Therefore, when a young person has been exposed to any form of deviant sex that gave him or her sexual pleasure, such a youth will be inclined to take on the sexual persona of the particular deviancy to which he or she was exposed. When he or she is then later exposed to ‘normal’ sex as it is perceived by society, he or she may experience discomfort due to his or her own perception of ‘real’ sex and ‘real’ love, which in turn is based on correlations with his or her past experiences. Thus the individual, if faced with an experience associated with pleasure or emotional need, will tend to follow his or her own norms, even when these fly in the face of the norms of society. This is why paedophiles do what they do, because their first (or ‘original’) impression about the sexual norms of society engraved in their subconscious is that paedophilia is acceptable.

During the group sessions the participants in the PedoStop Programme also receive instructions on how they make the decisions that oppose the sexual norms of society.

5.5 DECISION MAKING

Generally speaking most people make decisions based on their immediate needs and goals and they make these decisions quickly. These decisions are made unconsciously. Even if the paedophile takes weeks and even months to groom his victim, his decision to follow through with the abuse is still based on his immediate primordial need, which functions on his unconscious thinking levels. These needs include acceptance, emotional needs and sexual gratification. Paedophiles are unable to constantly formulate their decisions to fall within the boundaries of society, because they have no experience of ‘normal sexuality’ as society perceives it, with which they can identify.
Naudé (2005:7) therefore states and teaches the course attendees that it is only when the paedophile can be taught to function consciously with regard to his sexual and emotional needs that a new norm (that of society) can be realised. He can then begin to identify with the sexual norms permitted by society. This change can be managed when one considers the functioning of the subconscious mind.

5.6 THE SUBCONSCIOUS MIND

Naudé (2005:8) explains in the PedoStop Programme that all learned behaviour – good or bad – commences at the conscious level. Through the repetition of this behaviour, it is assimilated by the subconscious mind. These actions then become automatic and there is no more conscious control over them. These actions then manifest as habits or mannerisms and become part of who we are. We are stuck with these actions and behaviour. These activities define our comfort zones. We uphold these opinions, ideas and actions – unless we consciously decide to change and control them. This is what PedoStop tries to achieve: to change the deviant automated actions of pedophiles. The individual’s resistance to breaking out of his comfort zone hampers this type of change. This is why the prognosis of rehabilitating paedophiles is perceived as very low – it is very difficult to break and change the habits established in the subconscious (Naudé 2005:7-8).

The creative subconscious, however, provides the opportunity to unsettle the subconscious, thus disturbing the comfort zone, which opens up the possibility for managed change.

5.6 THE CREATIVE SUBCONSCIOUS (CSC)

The paedophile may want to change, but is not ready to change his ‘self’ at a subconscious level. He is too fixated on his comfort zone. The CSC causes him to act like the person he perceives himself to be and maintains his self-image. However, the CSC cannot perceive anything and can therefore not distinguish between what is right and wrong. It only maintains the equilibrium between the perceived conscious and the reality of the subconscious. When there is a discrepancy, the result is stress. The CSC compensates by returning to the equilibrium. Thus, because the paedophile believes himself to be attracted to children, maintains this image and prevents permanent meaningful change, he will not change except when his subconscious image of reality is changed. The paedophile must therefore first accept the need to change.

The CSC also acts as a creative problem solver. Any form of change is, however, stressful, therefore most persons avoid change. They remain in their comfort zone. This is where the denial, manipulation and lying from the paedophile originates. When they are cornered, they fabricate the most amazing and unbelievable stories. It is the CSC at work, trying to restore and maintain the disturbed equilibrium so
that he can remain in his comfort zone (which is perceived as the truth) (Naudé 2005:8).

Therefore, to manage and overcome paedophilia, it is imperative to deliberately and consciously cause an imbalance between the conscious and the subconscious so that disequilibrium is activated. When this disequilibrium is presented to the CSC, it causes stress and discomfort for the paedophile. Such a process activates a motivation to work towards equilibrium. Thus change is created from the inside (subconscious) and progresses to the outside (conscious). The aim of PedoStop is therefore to ‘grow’ a new self for the paedophile, because they act the way they perceive themselves in given situations (Naudé 2005:9).

The CSC also provides the person with drive and energy (Naudé 2005:9). When it senses a problem or an obstacle to a goal, it provides the energy and motivation to find a solution. From the perspective of the paedophile, this is described as grooming. It consists of a learned pattern of behaviour that the paedophile adopts to befriend his victims and convince them to put their trust in him, the offender. These patterns of behaviour become so entrenched in the subconscious of the paedophile that they eventually are perceived by him as ‘truth’ and ‘reality’. It is also this same function that can help the paedophile to find other solutions to manage his deviance in a conscious way.

However, even if the paedophiles understand and accept all the above-mentioned aspects of their behaviour, they also need to be informed about the obstacles that prevent goal achievement. The PedoStop Programme therefore also transfers this knowledge to them.

5.7 OBSTACLES TO THE MANAGEMENT OF PAEDOPHILIA

The leading problem (of society and the transgressing individuals) is the inability to gain insight into the problem (Naudé 2005:17). This lack of insight is enhanced by the taboos and secrecy surrounding the sexual activities of children. It is further supported by double standards. One example suffices: when a man of 60 years of age marries an 18-year-old girl, he is seen as a virile old man, but when a 60-year-old woman marries an 18-year-old young man, she is viewed as a ‘cradle snatcher’.

Another problem is the amount of time to break down the defence mechanisms of the paedophile so that he can see himself as society does. Although he is aware of what others think about paedophilia, he is unable to prevent himself from offending due to the fact that his own sexual ‘reality’ overrides the sexual norms of society. This is why such offenders often experience serious guilt and depression after they have committed an abuse. They vow never to do it again and they try to change, but it is only superficial. Such attempts are futile because he still thinks like a paedophile and will therefore continue to act like one. His thought patterns need to
change before he will start to act in a different manner. His emotional horizons need to be extended. Such change cannot occur from the outside to the inside. Change has to be generated from the inside (Naudé 2005:17) – *inter alia* by means of the programme content of PedoStop.

PedoStop contends that another obstacle is in the policing system of South Africa. The police are understaffed and the members have little if any insight into the mind of the paedophile. They are exposed to crimes of extreme violence on a daily basis and this desensitises them, so that many instances of conclusive arrests are lost. The police are confronted by many offending paedophiles that return to the community, unchanged. The police are also prohibited, by the law that protects privacy (Constitution, article 103, section 35), from approaching and warning known paedophiles about their indecent conduct. Furthermore, the South African Police Service (SAPS) does not have an official form that needs to be completed by paedophile suspects. Such questionnaires are currently in use in the USA and Europe and make it easier to detect sexual offenders. Police officials can be taught to encourage offenders to disclose their offences, when and because society – although detesting their crimes – is prepared to help them to overcome the crime and their problem (Naudé 2005:18). To achieve this, a major mindset change has to take place, both in society in general, as well as the police and the individual paedophile in particular.

Another major stumbling block is found in the South African justice legislation, especially the fact that paedophiles may be convicted of indecent assault or rape, but not of paedophilia. Paedophilia is a medical and not a legal term and courts cannot find someone guilty of a medical condition. Paedophiles are often send to jail for long periods of time. This means that they and their problem are locked away for a long time, and when they are free they and their problem reappear. The paedophile has, during his time in jail, acquired better skills to avoid detection. The lengthy prison sentences thus actually make them better at what they have been doing. Their self-concepts, comfort zones and thinking patterns have not changed. The legal reluctance to recognise paedophilia as a treatable (or manageable) condition, actually effectively prevents the management and rehabilitation of these offenders (Naudé 2005: 19). It should be noted, however, that due to the complex behaviour of the paedophile, it is imperative to remove him from any form of temptation for a period of time (Naudé 2005:24).

The PedoStop Programme also teaches, during the group sessions, the pros and cons of the programme itself, because it has an impact on the group’s insights and future behaviour.
5.8 PROS AND CONS OF PEDOSTOP

The positive aspects of this programme are listed by the inventor (Naudé 2005:25) as follows:

The offender cannot hide because he is part of a group. He is always under observation by his fellow members and periodically by the therapist. The group is sensitised to attitude changes because any relapse will reflect negatively on the whole group. The offender has a large and readily accessible support base that can assist him to address his fears and uncertainties. PedoStop makes it easier for the offender to speak out because the programme educates him that it is for his own, and the other members of the group’s, good to do so. Due to their visibility, members of the Department of Correctional Services, as well as friends and family and the community, monitor them. PedoStop is a life style programme – not a quick fix. It can contribute even more with a possible conditional early release – linked to ongoing participation in a ‘civilian’ PedoStop Programme. The offenders can stay in group therapy for the rest of their lives, and it involves the community as a whole. The results of PedoStop include better support for victims, quick convictions, better rehabilitation for perpetrators, and a safer and more educated community. Paedophiles’ progress can be monitored consistently.

The following are drawbacks of this programme (Naudé 2005:25): PedoStop does not accommodate violent offenders. Not all paedophiles will be suitable candidates for the programme. The negative press and public opinion inhibit the openness of the perpetrators and the victims. The community would rather spend money on incarceration than on rehabilitation. Facilitators need to be trained properly to manage the programme.

The next section contains the analysis of the data captured during the interviews with the 15 paedophiles. The statistical tables were generated by LVA.

6 BIOGRAPHICAL PARTICULARS OF THE OFFENDERS

The perpetrators who were analysed during this research project had all been convicted of a sexual crime against a child. Eleven were white and four were black. Their ages were between 22 and 61. Only one was still married, four were divorced and the balance remained single. It is also noteworthy that one research subject had one child, four had two children and one had three children, while another had four children. The remainder of participants were childless. The educational qualifications of the group were low. Only one had a law degree. There were five who had passed Grade 6, one who had passed Grade 7 and one had passed Grade 3. Only one indicated that he had a Matric certificate. Two had obtained NTS3; two had diplomas, one of which was a university teaching diploma for a primary school teacher.
The type of work they did also reflected their qualifications and included the following jobs: an electronics expert, garden services, general assistant, hospital supervisor, hawker, mechanical inspector, motor guard, high school pupil, as well as a tyre sales and repair man. One was a spiritual worker, one a revenue consultant, another one a retired teacher, and one was a lawyer. There was also a welder, who runs his own small business. In Table 1 is a list of the crimes they have been convicted of.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime found guilty of</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indecent Assault</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indecent Assault (Incest)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indecent Assault using a weapon</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indecent Assault</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molesting 14 yr old boy</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molesting boys</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public indecency/exposure</td>
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<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape/Indecent Assault</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual assault/Rape</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The duplications evident in Table 1 are due to the fact that the table reflects the various crimes each of the 15 perpetrators was found guilty of. It should be noted that close scrutiny of the table indicates that the courts registered only five counts of rape. In the majority of the cases they were found guilty of indecent assault.

Regarding their punishment, four (26.7%) were sentenced to less than five years and five (33.3%) were sentenced to between six and ten years. Six of the subjects (40%) were under correctional supervision and thus not behind bars.

7 MEASURING SEXUAL AROUSAL

Because LVA utilises free speech as input for its analysis, it is important to briefly give some theoretical background in this regard. Murphy (Auburn & Lea 2003: 283) says that the cognitive process allows the perpetrator to deny, minimise, justify and rationalise his behaviour. However, according to Auburn and Lea (2003: 283) there are two aspects of the cognitive approach to sex offender talk which points towards a discursive approach.

The first one is that the cognitive approach assumes that distorted cognitive processes animate descriptions of sex offences. But the cognitive approach has rarely
examined systematically the offender’s actual description of their offences in detail. The second is that the cognitive approach does not provide for logical constraints on the self-statements that can be produced by offenders, which would count as distorted (that is, minimising and denying).

It is true that statements (descriptions, beliefs, attitudes) are assumed to be the product of the cognitive process, it is under specified to the extent that distorted self-statements can only be identified post hoc examination of their production. The meaning of an utterance and the inferences from it, are indexically determined. This index is crucial for how the participants orient to the statements made (Auburn & Lea 2003: 283). It should be noted that the tokens of distorted thinking like minimising and justifying are not exclusively associated with sexual offending – or even with offending defined more broadly (Auburn & Lea 2003: 283).

Wooffitt (Auburn & Lea 2003: 283–284) states that one of the main principles of discursive psychology is to treat talking as social action and not as a route to other phenomena like a cognitive process. When this principle is applied seemingly mundane activities such as describing an event can be shown to be sites where psychological business such as blaming, seeking help, shifting responsibility, are constructed. Another principle is that talk is – psychologically speaking – fact construction. Therefore, when offenders describe their offences, these descriptions can be examined for their action orientation, that is, how they are constructed and how they achieve particular effects for the social context at hand, like deflecting blame or reducing responsibility.

Against this background this section will present the application of the LVA-programme with regard to the convicted paedophiles that participated in this research project. The emphasis of this discussion will be on the participants’ responses to the picture questions, and the effect these pictures had on their sexual arousal, as measured by the LVA-technology. The analyses of examples of selected individuals’ results that demonstrate the LVA-findings best, will then follow.

The results could be classified (and will be analysed accordingly) as follows: mainline or hardcore paedophiles (PedoStop Subjects 7 and 9) who reacted with the highest sexual arousal factor to the picture questions of the half-naked pre-teen girls; slowed-down paedophiles (PedoStop Subject 5, and Leeukop Subjects 1 and 2) whose sexual arousal was the highest when they discussed their modus operandi; and inactive paedophiles (PedoStop Subjects 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 12) whose scores where the highest when they talked about how they sexually satisfy themselves now. Two respondents (Pedostop Subject 4 and Leeukop Subject 3) did not react to the primary paedophile questions. The one’s highest sexual arousal occurred when he responded to the attractive, fully dressed white male (Leeukop Subject 3) and the other one responded to the women with blood on her breasts (Pedostop Subject 4).
For the purposes of this research, they are called sideline paedophiles because adults primarily aroused them. All the graphs are automatically produced by the LVA-programme. These results are discussed in more detail below.

8 MAINLINE OR HARDCORE PEDOPHILES

The two ‘real’ paedophiles (PedoStop Subjects 7 and 9), who reacted with the highest sexual arousal factor in response to the picture of the half-naked pre-teen girls, are categorised under this sub-heading.

Table 2 PedoStop Subject 7

PedoStop Subject 7 clearly experienced the highest sexual arousal when confronted with the picture question of the two half-naked pre-teen girls (Question 7: a picture of 3–4-year-old half-naked/bathing girls).

The significant support LVA provided to the researcher is indicated and demonstrated by the complete but brief response of Subject 7, which is given verbatim, and registered his highest sexual arousal. How the technology analysing his response in real time is also presented (which presented the researcher with the opportunity to question the participant further, in real time, on the cue provided by LVA). Some of the other aspects like truth, inaccuracy, and high tension, which are present in the respondent’s narrative, and which LVA also analyses in real time, are added in brackets. These aspects are displayed on the screen of the laptop, while the interview is being conducted.

The respondent said the following in response to the picture of the two half-naked pre-teen girls: “They are (truth) youngsters who are also playing (highly stressed) in the pool or the swimming (inaccuracy) … They are also swimming (inaccuracy) … and … ah … (high tension) look to be happy (probably false)”.

PedoStop’s Subject 7’s highest sexual arousal was activated when he looked
at the picture of the pre-teen children, and it was also the case with PedoStop Subject 9, but it should be noted that it happened when he responded to the picture of the pre-teen boys. Because their sexual arousal was the highest when they viewed the half-naked pre-teens it is deducted for the purposes of this research, that they are mainline paedophiles, they appear to be classical examples of what DSMIV-R indicates as paedophiles.

9 PAEDOPHILES IN REMISSION OR SLOWED-DOWN PAEDOPHILES

This category was utilised in this research to refer to those subjects who experienced their highest sexual arousal factor when they described their last sexual assault (Leeukop Subject 1) and when they defined a paedophile (PedoStop Subject 5, Leeukop Subject 2). Their sexual arousal, which was activated by children, is the highest when they discussed it as indicated in Table 4 below. It appears as if their paedophilia is being slowed down or in remission.

It should be noted that, although Leeukop Subject 1 reacted to the question of what a paedophile is, the content of his answer referred to his modus operandi (thus also his last sexual assault(s)). He said (translated from Afrikaans): “It is someone that (inaccuracy) does something against (high anticipation) … that does something sexually against (stressed) women and children and (inaccuracy) … without their (inaccuracy) … without their consent (probably false).”

Table 3 PedoStop Subject 5

Leeukop Subjects 1 and 2 experienced the highest degree of sexual arousal when they explained the detail of their last sexual assaults (question 5). It is interest-
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ing to note that Leeukop Subject 1 was the most sexually aroused when, in his reaction to this question, he said that he had never been sexually assaulted and neither had he sexually assaulted anyone, which indicate his forceful denial.

Only one of the 15 subjects’ sexual arousal rose the highest when he described, in his own words, what a paedophile is (question 4) as indicated in Table 4.

Table 4  Leeukop Subject 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>Q2</th>
<th>Q4</th>
<th>Q3</th>
<th>Q5</th>
<th>Q6</th>
<th>Q7</th>
<th>Q8</th>
<th>Q9</th>
<th>Q10</th>
<th>Q11</th>
<th>Q12</th>
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</table>

Although the Subject responded to the question of what a paedophile is, the content of his answer reflected, in retrospect, much about his *modus operandi*. Therefore, the content is more related to his last sexual assault (question 5). His answer to question 4 is transcribed below. This is another indication that LVA can actually access the speaker’s highest sexual arousal factor even when the speaker wants to hide it.

“A paedophile is a person that feels (stressed) who is (not sure) a person who can’t … (extreme tension) … who’s only living for sexual abuse (stressed). There’s no positive sex there (truth). Only abuse (inaccuracy). It only comes down to abuse because he … (stressed) … if he can’t abuse … That’s not what he really (stressed) wants (high tension). If it’s a normal sex … (highly stressed) scene what you’ve got, and then you’ll (suspected) never be satisfied (excited). It must be abuse on … (stressed). Even it happened to me also (probable false). I had to go to other children and abuse them (stressed) because that’s what happened to me (truth) and that’s how I got my sex … (inaccuracy). You understand? I believe (high anticipation) if I don’t get involved with a little girl (stressed) because she’s clean … she’s never got sex before … (not sure). You understand? Things like that (high anticipation) then (not sure) I’ve got a peer sex, a … a … (stressed) relation (high anticipation). That’s how I believe … that’s how I … (stressed) have done it (truth). You understand what I mean? And … ah … (excited) I was just like that … I was never caught (high tension). You understand what I mean? (truth) Because I was … (high tension) … I never abused (high tension) it like that … to hurt anybody (stressed). I’ll… I’ll… (high tension) … want her feeling and … (stressed) … and mentally (high anticipa-
tion) … eye contact and things like that (truth). But never (truth) to go on an aggressive way (stressed). You understand? I had to (stressed) lead her (truth) … I used a child (truth) to take me and (high tension) control me in a manner that … (inaccuracy) I can’t … do not control the child (inaccuracy). So I know what a child wants from me when it comes (stressed) down to that (truth). You understand what I mean? (high anticipation) And unfortunately I went through cases like that (stressed). The child was (stressed) actually in (high anticipation) control (not sure). I led the child to take control (stressed). I actually done it. Let the child (inaccuracy) take control (high anticipation). Then I know exactly what it wants (stressed) to (not sure) satisfy myself (truth). You understand? (high anticipation) Then I know the child is happy and I’m happy (stressed). I mean that’s how I … (stressed). OK – in my case …

In the online mode such assessments make it possible for the interviewer to access even more information while the subject is talking. In the case of this subject, the overall summary indicated his average thinking level as normal, the anticipation and emotional levels as middle, the sub-cognitive level as low, and the average for the say-or-stop level as normal. LVA also indicated that this subject’s emotional factor is not very stable, an emotional change was detected. LVA did not register any logical conflicts, but it did register a light guilt complex.

10 INACTIVE PAEDOPHILES

Two research subjects experienced the highest levels of sexual arousal when they described their last sexual assault on a child. For the purposes of this research it seemed logical to name them the inactive paedophiles. One participated in the PedoStop Programme (Subject 3) and the other one was from Leeukop (Subject 1). The detail in Table 5 indicates the response.

Table 5  PedoStop Subject 3
“My last sexual offence was against a nine year old boy (stressed). Up to a point (inaccuracy) I knew I was doing mischief (inaccuracy) with the child, because (inaccuracy) by hh … hh … (high tension) having sex with him (stressed) I created another paedophile (truth). Today I am angry with myself (stressed) … I wouldn’t say angry (inaccuracy) … I am disappointed with myself because I (stressed) did this to a child (probably false) full well knowing what (inaccuracy) that child will go through (stressed).”

It is not clear why the offender who participates in the PedoStop Programme and the other who is not even aware of the PedoStop programme manifest the same results in their reaction to the same question. When persons are sexually aroused when they describe their sexual activities, it is a clear indication that they are still fantasising about what they describe. This – reflecting on and fantasising about previous victims – is something paedophiles regularly do. The deduction of this research is therefore to classify them as inactive due to the fact that their sexual arousal ‘stopped’ with their last assault.

11 SIDELINE PAEDOPHILES

The fact that two responded with the highest sexual arousal when confronted with the attractively dressed male (same-sex preference) and the women with a knife in her mouth and blood on her breasts (kinky sex preference), indicate that they can be classified as sideline paedophiles. The deduction suggests that they engage in paedophilia as a sideline. Another research subject was sexually aroused when he responded to the attractive, fully dressed young women (heterosexual preference). This is also a clear indication that paedophilia is only a sideline for him. The one respondent from Leeukop (Subject 3) is the one case in point, as indicated in Table 6.

Table 6 Leeukop Subject 3

![Graph showing sexual arousal levels for Leeukop Subject 3](image-url)
Leeukop Subject 3 was the most sexually aroused by the attractive fully dressed white man (picture question 9). The relevant speech segments were very haphazard, close to stammering, but finally he admitted that the man in the picture was attractive. Leeukop Subject 3 was not included in the PedoStop programme. He was the only person from the 15 who had participated in this research project with this sexual preference. If this is his real sexual preference, his offence against children seems to be even more unacceptable, because if he had lived out his real sexual preference he would not have needed to involve children in his sexual activities. Subject 4 from the Grootvlei Correctional Facility registered his highest sexual arousal when confronted with the picture that suggested kinky sex (question 16).

Table 7 PedoStop Subject 4

It is clear from table 7 that Subject 4 from Grootvlei was stimulated sexually the most when confronted with the picture that depicted kinky sex. This clearly indicates that in terms of the DAM1V-R’s diagnostic criteria for paedophilia, he is also a sideline paedophile.

The relevant speech segments of subject 4 were as follows: “This missus is busy there with something (highly stressed) … I don’t know what exactly she is doing there (stressed) … I see she is busy with something … I don’t know what she is eating (inaccuracy) … or licking something, but this is (stressed) … is what makes no impression on me (probably false) … totally not … (high anticipation).”
INACTIVE PAEDOPHILES

Those who are identified as inactive paedophiles are those who responded with the highest sexual arousal scores when they talked about how they now, that is whilst incarcerated or whilst on parole, satisfy their sexual fantasies (Grootvlei Subjects 1, 2, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12). The fact that the majority of research subjects fall into this category speaks highly of the success of the PedoStop programme. The particulars of Subject 6 are provided as an example:

The results of PedoStop are clearly illustrated in this table. Subject 6 is an inactive paedophile – his sexual arousal is markedly lower when he responded to questions 5 through 18. It is clear that he showed some sexual arousal when he responded to picture questions 6 and 7 (the pre-teen half-naked girls and boys). However, the results of the LVA-analysis seem to indicate that he is at least busy ‘unlearning’ to be a paedophile, to use his own words, in other words, to be an inactive paedophile. It can also be argued that PedoStop is effectively teaching him how to manage his own paedophilia.

The particular speech segments were as follows which resulted in the above graphical presentation by LVA: “Now (not sure). Well, up until when my girlfriend (inaccuracy) and I broke up … we had a very normal (highly stressed) heterosexual (probable false) … very spontaneous (stressed) sexual relationship (stressed). What I do find – let me add to that – (excited) … what I do find is that the fantasies (highly stressed) I encountered as a paedophile (highly stressed) – an active pedophile then – (stressed) … my fantasies were about people to come (stressed). What I do find now is that fantasies now (probably false) are of (not sure) … limited to (probable false) the past (probable false).”
The sexual arousal factor in paedophiles

The speech segments of subject 1 of the PedoStop programme are also a good illustration that LVA has the capability to do what it claims: the system’s focus is more on how things are said than on what is said to make its findings. Subject 1 was also, as an inactive paedophile after he had submitted to the PedoStop programme, the most sexually aroused when he answered the question that addressed how he satisfies his sexual fantasies now. He said: “When I (high anticipation) feel … I have people that I (probably false) … young ladies to whom I go (inaccuracy) … not young ladies (inaccuracy) … but I mean (high anticipation) women of my age (inaccuracy) … and you (high tension) … I go to them when I (stressed) … feel horny to say it like that (inaccuracy) … Then I go to them (high anticipation). I stay away from children (excited).”

13 CONCLUSIONS

It is clear that LVA is a powerful tool and able to access the sexual arousal of paedophiles. To ensure its prowess in this area is beyond doubt, its ability to register sexual arousal could be checked against the plethysmograph test, which is a well-established sexual arousal test. It is also clear that the PedoStop programme is making inroads into inactivating some paedophiles. Further research is needed to determine if those who do not respond to the PedoStop programme were those individuals who resorted to violence when they committed their sexual crimes against children. Further research is also needed to determine the existence and incidence of indiscriminately choosing or misusing sexual partners (adult males or females, pre-teen boys or girls) by people whom we have diagnosed and classified as paedophiles. It is also clear that further research is paramount to determine the affectivity of the LVA-technology as a research instrument in this sensitive area.

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