



Basic Causes of Child Abuse and its Impact: an Over View

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ABSTRACT

Children have subjected to physical, sexual and emotional abuse and neglect (i.e. cruelty, sexual and emotional maltreatment and any action, deed or word which debases, degrades or demeans the intrinsic worth and dignity of a child as a mankind) majority of cases are goes unnoticed and unreported on account of victim. The causes are multidimensional in nature. Professionals who have a responsibility for intervening in cases of child maltreatment must recognize the multiple causes of the problem and treat each case individually. In care taker institutions, children with disabilities face violence in the guise of treatment, electric shock to control their behavior, drugs to make them more 'compliant'. Detainees are subjected to violence by staff. Almost all countries, corporal and other violent forms of punishment are accepted as legal in penal institutions. Detention of children with adults is routine in many countries, and this puts them at increased risk. Author tried to draw attention on various causes and factors of abuses.

KEYWORDS

child abuse, physical sexual and emotional abuse, neglect, etc.

Introduction

The significance and the importance of the children lie in the fact, that the child is the universe. If there was no child, there would be no humanity and there cannot be universe without humanity. They are an important national asset and the future well being of the nation depends on their personal growth. They need special law to protect them from exploitation and fraud to save them from certain liabilities and develop their personality in view of their weak position. The Quality of the life they enjoy today would ultimately determine the quality of future population. Very often we ignore the children and hence lose an opportunity to make valuable citizen to the future generation. Children's vulnerabilities and exposure to violations of their protection rights remain spread and multiple in nature. The manifestations of these violations are various, ranging from child labour, child trafficking, to commercial sexual exploitation and many other forms of violence and abuse. By any objective measures, this issue should rank high on the global agenda but in practice it is surrounded by a wall of silence and perpetuated by ignorance. In India, over the centuries, children have been subjected to physical, sexual and emotional abuse as well as neglect infect a majority of cases it goes unnoticed and unreported on account of the innocence of the victim, stigma attached to the act, callousness and insensitivity of the investigating and the law enforcement agencies, etc. Often, Child sexual abuse is a dark reality that routinely inflicts our daily lives but sexual abuse and mental (emotional) abuse of a child less than 18 years of age by a parent or other caretaker or any member the society.

FORMS OF ABUSE

Types of Child Abuse describes in various forms these are,
Physical Abuse: Physical abuse is the inflicting of physical injury upon a child. This may include burning, hitting, punching, shaking, kicking, beating or otherwise harming a child. The parent / caretaker may not have intended to hurt the child. It may, however, be the result of over-discipline or physical punishment that is inappropriate to the child's age.

Sexual Abuse: Sexual abuse is inappropriate sexual behaviour with a child. It includes fondling a child's genitals, making the child fondle the adult's genitals, intercourse, incest, rape, sodomy, exhibitionism and sexual exploitation.

Emotional/Psychological Abuse: Emotional abuse is also known as verbal abuse, mental abuse, and psychological maltreatment. It includes acts or the failures to act by parents or caretakers that have caused or could cause, serious behavioural, cognitive, emotional, or mental trauma.

Neglect:

It is the failure to provide for the child's basic needs. Neglect can be physical, educational, or emotional. Physical neglect can include not providing adequate food or clothing, appropriate medical care, supervision, or proper weather protection (heat or cold). It may include abandonment. Educational neglect includes failure to provide appropriate schooling or special educational needs, allowing excessive truancies. Psychological neglect includes the lack of any emotional support and love, never attending to the child, substance abuse including allowing the child to participate in drug and alcohol use.

Psychological and physical abuse, neglect, cruelty, sexual and emotional maltreatment and any action, deed or word which debases, degrades or demeans the intrinsic worth and dignity of a child as a human being. Unreasonable deprivation of his/her basic needs for survival such as food and shelter; or failure to give timely medical treatment to an injured child resulting in serious impairment of his/her growth and development or in his/her permanent incapacity or death.

CAUSES OF CHILD ABUSE:

The causes of child abuse are multidimensional in nature like:
 : Abused parents may be involved in abusing activities, Poverty and lack of fulfilling basic needs compel children, parents to be involved in abusing activity, Lack of socialization, Lack of education, Lack of parental attitude for parenting, and Lack of proper mind set amongst general public etc. It is important to note here that listing possible causes of child abuse, in no way meant to negate the effects of child abuse and definitely, not to excuse it. The tricky part is in handling families where child abuse is to remember and not to generalize and draw broad conclusions.

This is important because certain factors are present among families where maltreatment occurs, but this does not mean that the presence of these factors will always result in child abuse and neglect and the absence of them means there is no abuse. Professionals who have a responsibility for intervening in cases of child maltreatment must recognize the multiple causes of the problem and treat each case individually.

Violence and its impact: The family has the greatest potential to protect children and provide for their physical and emotional safety. Human rights treaties recognize the right to a private and family life and home. But in recent years violence against children by parents and other family members has been documented. This can include physical, sexual and psychological violence as well as deliberate neglect. Frequent-

ly, children experience physical, cruel or humiliating punishment in the context of discipline. Insults, name-calling, isolation, rejection, threats, emotional indifference and belittling are all forms of violence that can damage a child's well-being. Children are most frequently sexually abused by someone they know, often a member of their own family. Harmful traditional practices are generally imposed on children at an early age by family /community leaders. The violence is hidden behind closed doors because of shame or fear.

In Schools and Educational Institutions: Schools have an important role in protecting children from violence. Educational settings expose or teach them for violence to many children. They are exposed to corporal punishment, cruel and humiliating forms of psychological punishment, sexual and gender-based violence, and bullying. Although 102 countries have banned corporal punishment in schools, often this ban is not adequately enforced. Fighting and bullying are also examples of violence against children in schools. Often bullying is associated with discrimination against students from poor families or marginalized groups, or those with particular personal characteristics such as appearance or a disability. Schools are also affected by events in the wider community – for example, gang culture or gang-related criminal activity associated with drugs.

In Care and Justice System: As many more children are in residential care. Relatively few are there because they have no parents; most are in care because of disability, family disintegration, violence in the home and social and economic conditions such as poverty. Children in some institutions face violence from care-givers and other children. Staff may 'discipline' them with beatings or restraints, or by locking them up. In some institutions, children with disabilities face violence in the guise of treatment, such as being subjected to electric shock to control their behaviour or given drugs to make them more 'compliant'. Children in detention are frequently subjected to violence by staff or adults criminals in almost all countries, corporal and other violent forms of punishment are accepted as legal in penal institutions this puts them at increased risk.

Violence physical, sexual and psychological – affects many millions children who are working across all regions both legally and illegally. It may be used to coerce children to work or punish or control them in the workplace. Some categories of illegal work have been identified as 'worst forms of child labour' and so are considered as violence against children. Most workplace violence is inflicted by employers, although those who inflict violence may also include co-workers, foremen, customers, police, criminal gangs and intermediaries. Many girls work in domestic labour, which is often unregulated. They report maltreatment such as physical punishment, humiliation and sexual harassment. The exploitation of children in prostitution or child pornography is not only a form of violence in itself; it also puts the exploited children at risk of physical and psychological violence, as well as neglect. Child sexual abuse is a dark reality that routinely inflicts our daily lives but violence may also be associated with the mass media and new information and communication technologies. Community violence often affects marginalized groups of children, such as street children. The mass media sometimes portray violence as normal or glorify it. Cyber-bullying through the Internet or mobile

phones has been documented in recent times.

Conclusion: In the conclusion the abusive behavior is often cyclic, many health and developmental problems in early childhood can lead to behavioral, educational, and psycho-emotional problems in later adolescence and adulthood, which could lead to the recurrence of abusive behavior. Detecting and treating health and developmental problems early in life, is important.

Educational campaigns are necessary to make the public aware of the seriousness of the problem and its implications as well how individuals can make a difference. The effectiveness of the preceding prevention strategy will only be realized when there is a fully aware public, committed to preventing child abuse.

There are suggestions for the abolition of child labour. But without proper implementation of socio-economic programmers of the government, the abolition of child labour is not possible unless financial security to poor is not ensured. They will not be able to send their children to school. Education could end the exploitation and torture of hundreds of children.

It is also convincing that government alone cannot eliminate the gigantic child labour problem but the social ethos can be changed gradually. The parents are not motivated to send their children for schooling. What they look for is in terms of gain through the child labour. But they should be made to realize that only education can give a better livelihood at least for their younger generation. It is submitted that preference should be given in employment to the children whose parents had never been in government job in accordance with their abilities. It is suggested that the incentives to the parents will make them realize the importance of child education which may in the long run be proved to be life saving drug, free from all kinds of adulteration, for preventing the innocent buds from being withered un-bloomed.

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