

Analysis Of General Perspective Regarding Child Abuse

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Abstract

The present study is about general concepts of people about Violence against children and mal-treatment. Child abuse and mal-treatment is a vibrating issue of recent decades around the globe. Parenting behaviors and cultural practices may also be the part of abuse regarding children depends on societies' and cultures' common perceptions and norms. Child mal-treatment impacts the children (either a boy or a girl) as well as the society. This study examined the reasons and causes of child abuse and its effects on child's personality socially, physically and psychologically. The research is conducted by descriptive and quantitative methods; convenience sampling technique of non probability has been used to select the target population, and interview schedule is used as a tool to collect data. The study reveals that child abuse of any kind, either it is of minor intensity or extreme, have its impact on children depending on intensity of abusive behavior.

Key Words: Child, Abuse, Sexual Assault, Mal-treatment

تلخیص

زیر نظر مطالعہ بچوں کے خلاف تشدد اور زیادتی کے بارے میں عام لوگوں کے خیالات کا اظہار یہ ہے۔ فی زمانہ دنیا بھر میں بچوں کے ساتھ زیادتی اور بُرا سلوک ایک اُبھرتا ہوا مسئلہ ہے۔ والدین کے رویے اور ثقافتی روایات جو بچوں کے ساتھ زیادتی کا باعث ہے ہمارے معاشرے اور روایات کا حصہ ہیں۔ بچوں کے ساتھ بُرے برتاؤ سے (چاہے لڑکا ہو یا لڑکی) بچے بہت زیادہ متاثر ہوتے ہیں اور نتیجہ کے طور پر معاشرہ بھی متاثر ہوتا ہے۔ یہ مطالعہ بچوں کے ساتھ زیادتی کی وجوہات اور بچوں کی شخصیت پر سماجی، نفسیاتی اور جسمانی اثرات کا معائنہ کرتا ہے۔ معطیات کے حصول کے لئے زیر نظر تحقیق میں بیانیہ اور کمیٹی طریقہ کار کے ساتھ غیر امکانی کی سہولتی نمونہ بندی اور سوالنامے کا استعمال کیا گیا ہے۔ یہ مطالعہ واضح کرتا ہے کہ بچوں کے ساتھ ہونے والی زیادتی معمولی یا انتہائی نوعیت کی کیوں نہ ہو بچوں کی ذہنی نشوونما پر اثر انداز ہوتی ہے۔

کلیدی الفاظ: بچے، تشدد، مجرمانہ حملہ، نازیبا رویہ

Introduction

Child Abuse has a long history in the world. History tells that violence against children was also reported in medieval times (Bensel, Rheinberger and Radbill, 1997). Global

approaches must consider the different parenting patterns regarding child abuse and maltreatment in various cultures around the globe. A culture designs our societal behaviors and on belief system people's concept is developed, it includes ideas, views and activities on the basis of practices and negligence regarding child abuse. We can say that culture formulates child rearing principles. Child rearing practices considered healthy for one society but may seem abusive for other society. It seems that in various cultures general perceptions is that child abuse should not be practiced and accepted; particularly sexual abuse and such other practices are concerned (Singh, 2001). It is very unfortunate to observe that some cultural and social practices encourages and promotes some categories of violence. For example, our cultural beliefs and practices give right to men for controlling women's lives by means of physical dominance therefore women face violence and sexual abuse by their intimate partners (Mitra, 2007; Iluka, 2005).

Girl child has no social and economic empowerment in male oriented society and are considered less effective part of society (Larme, 1997). Therefore children specially girl child has low status within the family and society (Coope, 2006). While rearing child physical punishments are considered normal practices in our society as well as other cultural practices includes genital mutilation Orhon and Admassu (2006) and early child marriage in different countries like Turkey, Ethiopia, Nigeria and India (Amusan and Satti, 2006; Ouattara, 1998).

Child and mal-treatment, sometimes is generally known as child abuse and disregard, bearing almost all kinds of psychological and actual physical harm, sex-related abuse, disregard, and mistreatment resulting in possible harm to the child's health, development or pride. Mainly five categories are established including sexual abuse; disregard and irresponsible conduct; psychological abuse; and mistreating a child (WHO, Child Mal-treatment).

Another term used for child abuse is mal-treatment and disregarding a child, it is a very complex term, with a variety of physical and psychological harm. Abusive treatment with child results in lack of confidence and trust in relationships and they may face psychological disorders in their later life. (Krug, Dahlberg, Mercy, Zwi, & Lozano, 2002; World Health Organization, 1999). Child occurs in different forms and the person behind such acts exploits a child, thus damaging child's psyche. The perpetrator of child mal-treatment can be parents, teachers, law authorities and strangers. Whereas bullying is done by fellow students.

Child mal-treatment has become a very complicated problem globally. Its characteristics and the aspects that generate it, and efficient protection techniques, all vary considerably according to the child's age, the circumstances in which the maltreatment happens, and the connection between sufferer and criminal. Sexual assault against child by family

members usually goes unnoticed, because it occurs within the house, but it is a common practice and is very frequent in our societies (WHO, Preventing child maltreatment).

Reasons of Child Abuse

Child abuse has become a universal issue which distorts child's physical and mental health. Nothing can be said with authority why any perpetrator has violent and abusive behavior for children and why it is becoming so common.

Some social unforeseen circumstances becomes the main cause for the promotion of child abuse, for instance social values which supports severe physical penalties of children, economic disparities and the lack of social well-being. Over a period of time social scientists have accepted the fact that child abuse is a result of compound aspects person's character, genealogy, and societal background. Ecological theory explains that increase or decrease in child mal-treatment depends on individual or communal factors and currently this is the most universally established theory (Garbarino, 1977; Bronfenbrenner, 1989; Belsky, 1980). Following are the factors involved in child abuse:

- Parents, guardians and even a child himself can be a perpetrator
- Social setup, marital status and even family members sometimes can be the key factors
- Extraordinary care by family, physical and mental well-being of care providers
- Different problems faced by family which may include health issues, psychological issues and poor economic conditions
- Right of getting employment opportunities, family values about children's standing in the family, and social norms
- Economic policies and social structure along with poverty can be one of the major reasons (Wynd, 2013).

Review Literature

Protecting child against all kinds of abuse has become a burning issue regarding health all over the world due to four categories. First, exposition and future studies have recognized that child maltreatment has strong, long-lasting effects on intelligence, mental performance, health risk behaviours, social performance, average life (Anda, 2006; MacMillan, 2007). Second, the full implications of these effects on human capital formation, the workforce, and, ultimately, social and economic development in low-, middle- and high-income countries are now better understood (Knudsen, 2006; WHO, 2008). Third, epidemiological studies have clearly established that child mal-treatment is not peculiar to the West but a truly global phenomenon that occurs in some low and middle-income countries at higher

rates than in wealthier countries (Runyan, 2004, 2008). Fourth, evidence strongly suggests that treating and later trying to resolve the effects of child mal-treatment are both less effective and more costly than preventing it in the first place (Kilburn, 2008).

Children who have been neglected or abused are more likely to suffer from a variety of other problems, including attention deficit disorders, depression, conduct problems, reduced cognitive development, language deficits, reduced emotional stability and poor self-regulation, poor problem-solving skills, an inability to cope with or adapt to new or stressful situations, and shortfalls in physical health. All of these are important factors in school readiness and school success (Chalk, Gibbons & Scarupa, 2002). Depression, affection difficulties, and post-traumatic stress—prevalent among moms living in poverty—undermine mothers' growth of concern, understanding, and responsiveness to their kids, often declines chances of improvement (National Research Council, 2000). Kids whose parents are patients of depression or likely to have risk of depression shows variety of negative results, such as wellness, and socio-emotional issues (Child Trends, 2002); behavior issues and lesser performance on numeric and reading abilities (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1999); and inadequate psychological changes occur with increase in age (Miller, 1998). Their mother and father lack in parenting abilities, motivating, and helpful communications with their kids (Downey & Coyne, 1990; Zaslow, et al., 2001).

There is now a significant corpse of analysis connecting child abuse and inadequate results in youth and/or into puberty and later life. A variety of aspects leaves impression on the impact of mal-treatment and disregard. Which are as follows:

- Age of a kid and growth at the time of the occurrence of abuse;
- The type of abusive behaviour (physical and sex-related abuse, etc.);
- The regularity, period, and brutality of abuse;
- The connection of kid and perpetrator (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2008).

A 2006 report released by the World Health Organization (WHO) describes some of the physical repercussions of mal-treatment, with a specific concentrate on mental growth of three years old children. The report notes: “The effects of understanding during childhood and early age on mental growth create the foundation for the appearance of intellectulism; feelings and character create the basis for the expression of intelligence, emotions and persona. When these early understanding are mainly adverse, kids may create psychological, behavioral and learning problems that continue to persist throughout their life-time, especially if targeted involvements are lacking. For example, children who have faced continual abuse and disregard during their early years of age may live in a serious condition of hyper-arousal or dissociation, expecting a risk from each and every dimension. To gain and learn new dimensions of knowledge, whether

from their academic or social understanding, the child must be mentally stable which a student with psychological issues lacks. Children who have not been able to create healthy relationship with their care providers, and their psyche and emotional state is effected, have not set the necessary foundation for positive psychological growth, may have a restricted potential for concern. In severe cases if a kid seems no psychological connection to any human being, that kid cannot be predicted to feel regret for harming someone (World Health Organization, 2006).

Abuse in early years of age can have different effects n vary from person to person. It has been noticed that children's personality is affected badly by external and internal agents and leaves them frustrated and alienated as well (Bentovim et al, 2009). Research has shown percentage of children who have suffered abusive behaviours (Cuevas et al, 2007; Day et al, 2008).

UNICEF's perceptive of violence originates from Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which describes the opportunity as "all types of physical or psychological assault, injury or abuse, disregard or irresponsible treatment, mal-treatment or exploitation, such as sexual abuse, while in the custody of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the take care of a child. Understanding and dedication of child mal-treatment: Exploratory evaluations across three nations. Little is known about perception and dedication of child maltreatment across nations. Although variations in perception and dedication of maltreatment across areas of a single country are well recorded, relative knowledge across nations continues to be rare. This internet study analyzed knowing of violent actions and factors considered important in identifying mal-treatment in three nations (i.e., the United States, Ghana, and Nigeria). Despite national and local variations, there are signs that cross-cultural agreement on knowing and dedication of violent actions is possible. Understanding variations in socio-cultural encounters may help link the current loop holes in cross-cultural consent on acuity and dedication of violent actions (Fakunmo, 2013).

Community Responses and Perceived Barriers to Responding to Child Maltreatment

Since child abuse has drastic impacts on physical and mental health of children but still cases are not reported. Similarly very less information is available about the efforts done by individuals or communal groups regarding preventing child abuse. In a research conducted in 2002 in Washington, "respondents were asked whether they had ever known an abused child and if so, how they responded and any barriers they experienced to responding. Regardless of whether they had known an abused child, they were asked how they would respond in a hypothetical situation and hypothetical barriers". They replied in positive way that they wanted to help such children whom they know as victim of mal-treatment but their parents were afraid that family will lose it's morality and

child's situation will also be worsen. Some respondents believed that such fearful parents need counseling in order to eradicate this social evil. These findings clearly demonstrates that people are interested in helping victimized kids and wants to remove the barriers that leads to the failure of reporting abuse cases against children (Bensley, 2004).

Problems Children and Young People Face Nowadays

The disparities are not momentous between the different regions of between different age groups, when determining the biggest issues that kids and adolescents face today, a huge number of issues that kids and adolescents have are related to generation gap, poor interaction and weak relationship bonds between parents and children. The common understanding of all communal groups is that there is need to strengthen bond between parents and kids. Because limitations against children without understanding their point of view harms their personality and thus opening doors for them to trust strangers who take undue advantage of such children in form of abuse and mal-treatment. One group believed that state policies have a important impact on parents' ignore of kids.

In a research by UNICEF three different groups were treated as respondents to get their perception regarding the issue. One group was strongly convinced that parents force their children to do things against their will is also a form of abuse. The other two groups gave generalized view point. One of these two groups focused on fear of sexual abuse (UNICEF, 2005). Child sex-related abuse has been discovered to be associated with the growth of an extensive range of psychological wellness and societal issues in early years of age and teen age (Beitchman, 1991; Kendall, 1993).

Some of the long-term and short- term issues are posttraumatic stress disorder (ptsd), fear, depression and anxiety, suicidal thoughts/behaviors, anger/acting out, interpersonal problems and social withdrawal or isolation as well as sense of betrayal, powerlessness, psychotic disorders, and sexual dysfunctions.

Every individual has different effect of child abuse. Severity, intensity, and frequency, age of the child, relationship between the child and perpetrator, degree of support from non-offending parents, level of acknowledgment by the perpetrator, quality of family performance, extent of violence, and specific nature of the abuse all affect the type and severity of effects seen in the child victim. Thus, it is worth noting that no indication is unique to kids who have been victimized sexually (Kendall, 1993; Conte, 1987).

Methodology

The present study is examining the notions of people generally regarding the social issue of child abuse and its impacts, People generally consider such incidence influence the

children's personality, psychology and development. This research is quantitative in nature and descriptive survey method is administered to collect data. Data is collected from different areas of Karachi 76 males and females were selected through convenience sampling technique of non- probability sampling method. Descriptive method is used to explore the deep views and notions about child maltreatment and also analyzed the variables that make cause and effect relationship.

Tabulation

Table: 1
Distribution of respondents according to Age

Ages	Males		Females		Total frequency	Total %
	frequency	%	frequency	%		
Less than 18	13	17.1%	13	17.1%	26	34.2%
18-22	3	3.9%	8	10.5%	11	14.4%
23-27	12	15.7%	6	7.8%	18	23.6%
28-32	2	2.6%	3	3.9%	5	6.5%
33-37	3	3.9%	4	5.2%	7	9.2%
38-42	1	1.3%	1	1.3%	2	2.6%
43-45	2	2.6%	1	1.3%	3	3.9%
Above 45	2	2.6%	2	2.6%	4	5.2%
Total	38	49.7%	38	49.7%	76	100%

According to this table less than 18 are 17.1% and 18 to 22 are 10.5% females and 3.9% males, similarly males of 17.1% are less than 18 and 15.7% males are 23 to 27, 38 to 42 are 1.3% both males and females, these people explained their views regarding child abuse.

Table: 2
Distribution of respondents according to literacy

Literacy	Males		Females		Total frequency	Total %
	frequency	%	frequency	%		
Literacy	36	47.3%	36	47.3%	72	94.7%
Illiteracy	2	2.6%	2	2.6%	4	5.2%
Total	38	49.9%	38	49.9%	76	100%

According to this table 47.3% males and 43.7% female are literates and 2.6% male and 2.6% females are illiterates showing their ideas about social problems.

Table: 3
Distribution of respondents according to children is treated with violence

Reasons	Males		Females		Total frequency	Total %
	frequency	%	frequency	%		
Physical	3	3.9%	4	5.2%	7	9.2%
Psychological	6	7.8%	2	2.6%	8	10.5%
Sexual	2	2.6%	1	1.3%	3	3.9%
Neglect	3	3.9%	1	1.3%	4	5.2%
Threatening	2	2.6%	1	1.3%	3	3.9%
All kinds of violence	19	25%	28	36.8%	47	61.8%
Verbal abusing	3	3.9%	1	1.3%	4	5.2%
Total	38	49.7	38	49.8	76	100%

According to these table 36.8% females and 25% males respond on all kinds of violence that children face in their life that impact their life, 7.8% males and 2.6% females show psychological violence 3.9% males and 1.3% females' shows verbal abuse prevailed which confront by children of any society.

Table: 4
Distribution of respondents according to perceptions regarding things included in child abuse or violence against children

Reasons	Males		Females		Total frequency	Total %
	frequency	%	frequency	%		
Closing in a room, Beaten, Scare by horrible things, Badly insult them, Verbally	31	40.7%	34	44.7%	65	85.5%
Molestation	1	1.3%	-	-	1	1.3%
Compelling children to do Wrong things	1	1.3%	1	1.3%	2	2.6%
Sexually Touch	5	6.5%	-	-	5	6.5%
Total	38	49.8%	38	49.9%	76	100%

According to this table 40.7% males and 44.7% females show closing in a room, Beaten, Scare by horrible things, badly insult them and verbal abuse also the part of violence against children. Similarly 1.3% males show molestation, 1.3% males and females show forced work and 6.5% males think sexual touch are integrated in child abuse.

Table: 5
Distribution of respondents according to whose influence more

Reasons	Males		Females		Total frequency	Total %
	frequency	%	frequency	%		
Boy	3	3.9%	1	1.3%	4	5.2%
Girl	10	13.1%	9	11.8%	19	25%
Both	25	32.8%	28	36.8%	53	69.7%
Total	38	49.8%	38	49.9%	76	100 %

According to this table 32.8% males and 36.8% females said both gender become violated and abused, 13.1% males show girls more influenced and 1.3% females and 3.9% males show boys face more abusive behaviors. Both genders susceptible towards maltreatment but cultural standards differs this sensitivity and behaviors.

Table: 6
Distribution of respondents according to impacts on child's personality

Reasons	Males		Females		Total frequency	Total %
	frequency	%	frequency	%		
Negative	30	39.4%	25	32.8%	55	72.3%
Positive	1	1.3%	-	-	1	1.3%
Both	6	7.8%	13	17.1%	19	25%
Neutral and numb	1	1.3%	-	-	1	1.3%
Total	38	49.8%	38	49.9%	76	100%

According to these table 39.4% males and 32.8% females show negative effects, while 1.3% male show positive and neutral and numb personality while 17.1% females show both impacts on children's personality. The 72.3% result represents negative effects of child abuse and maltreatment on children's skills development, psychology and overall personality.

Table: 7
Distribution of respondents according to changes occurs in child personality after these incidents

Reasons	Males		Females		Total frequency	Total %
	frequency	%	frequency	%		
Remain in anger	8	10.5%	8	10.5%	16	21%
Start weeping	3	3.9%	1	1.3%	4	5.2%
Remain silent	6	7.6%	9	11.8%	14	18.4%
Lack of trust	2	2.6%	1	1.3%	3	3.9%
Fears and depression	5	6.5%	7	9.2%	12	15.7%
All such behaviors	14	18.4%	12	15.7%	26	34.2%
Total	38	49.5%	38	49.8%	76	100%

According to this table 18.4% male and 15.7% females show all such behaviors like anger, fear silence, while 10.5% males and females show more anger respectively, 2.6% males and 1.3% female show lack of trust in the stages of life, after face up to maltreatments of any level. Such kind of behaviors may seem to be developing in girls and boy after suffering abusive incidents, as most of the time they are unable to discuss and explain their feelings regarding maltreatment and any other thing.

Discussion and Results

Child abuse and maltreatment is the global prevalent phenomenon, which exists in every culture and society. It is deeply associated with the child bearing-rearing practices and beliefs of people considering cultural practices as well as child maltreatment. Universally, many work have been done in recent decades, made people aware about children are also harassed in every society and culture in diverse practices. UNCRC, an international covenant for children's rights consider violence against children and clearly mention in the article 19. Child maltreatment takes place in several forms: psychological, physical sexual and cultural norms. Some societies prefer strict behaviors and cultural practices towards children such as harsh disciplinary practices, child marriages, child labor and female genital mutilation. Young males suffer more physical violence and young girls face sexual violence more, perpetrators could be any one. These children influence by such incidences in minor and extreme level, but shatter downs their personality to some extent. Exploited child whether she is a girl or he is a boy of any age suffers both physical and psychological problems due to child abuse. It make them to suffer self pity and sometimes severe psychological. They have problems of sharing and expressions of their suspicions and emotions. They become a problematic child sometimes as well as they also may suffer sleeping problems. It develops feelings of hate and anger. Following results are showing the views of people towards children and violence against children. People of different ages are included in the study, as less than 18 are of 34.2%, in which 17.1 % males and females respectively, and 15.7% males are 23 to 27 and 7.8% females, 38 to 42 are 1.3% both males and females, these people explained their views regarding child abuse. By education, 47.3% males and 47.3% female are literates and 2.6% male and 2.6% females are illiterates but they clearly show their ideas about social problems. Female of 36.8% and 25% males think that all kinds of violence that children face in their life which impact their life, 7.8% males and 2.6% females show psychological violence prevailed and 3.9% male and 1.3% females illustrate verbal abuse prevailed more which face up to children of any society.

Similarly 40.7% males and 44.7% females state closing in a room, beaten, scare by horrible things, badly insult them and verbal abuse are also the part of maltreatment. 1.3% males show molestation, 1.3% males and females show forced to do wrong work and 6.5% males believe sexual touch are integrated and main element in child abuse. On the basis of gender,

according to 32.8% males and 36.8% females both gender become violated and exploited, 13.1% males think girls are more influenced and 1.3% females and 3.9% males mention boys face more abusive behaviors. Hence we can say that both genders sensitive towards maltreatment but cultural values differ this sensitivity and behaviors.

Child maltreatment and abuse affects the development, personality and psychology of young ones negatively and positively. 39.4% male and 32.8% females show negative effects, while 1.3% male respond on positive, neutral and numb personality while 17.1% females explain both impacts on children's personality in social, personal and physical aspects. According to 18.4% male and 15.7% females, all such behaviors like anger, fear and silence grow in children, while 10.5% males and females show more anger respectively, 2.6% males and 1.3% female think less smiling in the stages of life, after suffering of maltreatments of some level. Sometimes these sort of attitudes may seem to be emergent in girls and boy after facing abusive incidents, as most of the time they are unable to discuss and explain their feelings regarding maltreatment and any other thing.

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