



The Prevalence Of Child Abuse Among Children Studying In Selected Schools Of Indore, Madhya Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

We conducted a survey to determine the frequency and kind of child abuse. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to examine the data. In the first stage, we found that 69.60% of the kids we polled at certain schools had experienced some kind of child abuse. Factors such as gender, age in years, education level, family income per month, family type, number of children, and where the information about child abuse first came from were all shown to be significantly associated with one another.

Keywords: Child, Abuse, Children, Schools and Health

INTRODUCTION

Victims' physical and mental health, wellbeing, and development, as well as society at large, are profoundly affected by child maltreatment, making it a major worldwide concern. The literature makes use of the phrase's child maltreatment as well as child abuse and neglect. Intentional physical or sexual violence, exploitation, or neglect of a child is what is known as child abuse. These injuries are not considered accidental and might occur as a consequence of carers' actions, such as physical assault or neglect to protect. The term "child maltreatment" encompasses a wide range of behaviours that violate a child's rights, including but not limited to: sexual abuse, physical and emotional abuse, neglect, and commercial or other forms of exploitation that endanger a child's life, development, or dignity. Child maltreatment may be classified into four distinct forms according to the World Health Organisation Consultation on Child Abuse Prevention: physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional and psychological abuse, and neglect. The article uses the phrases child maltreatment and abuse and neglect interchangeably.

Neglect and abuse that does not result in death affect millions of children annually around the globe. Children less than 15 years old die from murder at a rate of around 31,000 each year. Many fatalities among children are misclassified as being caused by things like burns, falls, or drowning, so this figure doesn't tell the whole story. Maltreatment of children has far-reaching negative effects on their physical and mental health, which are expensive for society and the victim throughout their lives. More far-reaching than physical harm and fatalities are the social and health effects of child abuse and neglect (CAN). The physical, psychological, cognitive, behavioural, and social aspects of development are all susceptible to CAN, and they are all interconnected. These include a wide range of issues, such as being a victim or perpetrator of violent acts, dealing with depression, smoking, being overweight, engaging in risky sexual behaviours, being pregnant unexpectedly, and using drugs and alcohol.

Stopping child abuse before it happens and helping authorities find victims quickly are two main goals of current preventive initiatives. Due to the unique needs of those under the age of 18 that adults do not always share, global leaders saw the necessity for a convention devoted just to children in 1989. This led to the creation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Convention on the Rights of the Child provides the legal basis for the protection and promotion of children's rights. A thorough understanding of child protection is provided in Article 19 of the CRC, which stresses the significance of preventing child abuse. Once a state ratifies the Convention on the Rights of the Child, it is legally bound to implement all of its articles.

LITERATURE RIEVIEW

Abdul-Rahman, (2021) The level of physical abuse is now unclear, although it is the most significant issue affecting children in Mosul city. The purpose of this research is to quantify the frequency of physical abuse among a representative sample of 12-to 18-year-old Mosul pupils. The research began on December 1, 2018, and ended on March 4, 2019. It was a cross-sectional study. Eight hundred children (396 boys and 404 girls) were selected for the study using a self-report questionnaire utilising a systematic selection strategy based on multiculturalism. The results showed that out of 800 students enrolled in intermediate school, 43.6% were male and 1:1 were female. Of these students, 36.1% had experienced physical abuse, with 32.6% of the violence coming from their mothers. There is a very significant correlation (0.000, 0.004) between parental education and the father's occupation. Conclusion: compared to other cities, Mosul has a high prevalence of physical abuse. The most important factors to consider were children's mental and physical health issues.

ÖZBAY (2024) The issue of violence persists on a global scale despite the fact that it predates recorded human history. Abuse in any kind, whether physical, emotional, or sexual, may have devastating repercussions on a kid and continue to follow them into adulthood, even when it occurs within the family. One of society's and the field's greatest obligations is

to safeguard children from harmful behaviours that might affect their physical and emotional health; nevertheless, child abuse is entirely avoidable. A study on this topic is urgently needed, as shown by all of these results. Improving the efficacy of preventative studies including child maltreatment requires first identifying the elements that work.

Mikaeili (2012) This research aims to perform two things: (a) find out how common child abuse is in an Iranian city, and (b) utilise parental and child traits to tell abused teenage males apart from non-abused ones. The frequency of various forms of child maltreatment was the subject of a survey. The 2,100 students that made up the prevalence sample were chosen using a multistage random sampling technique. Symptom Check List 90 (SCL-90-R), Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ), State Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI), and Beck Depression Inventory, II (BDI-II) were used for data collection. We analysed the data using discriminant function analysis and descriptive statistics. In this study, emotional abuse was the most common kind of child maltreatment, affecting 52.09 percent of the participants, and 14.85 percent of the individuals overall. Factors that differentiate abused males from their non-abused peers include parental despair and anxiety as well as children's attachment patterns, anxiety, and aggressiveness.

Sharma, (2019) One of the most critical human rights concerns that still need widespread attention, particularly in more traditional communities, is the abuse of children. The viewpoints of parents and caretakers are portrayed in this research. Researchers in central India surveyed parents who brought their children to the outpatient department (OPD) and ward of a rural tertiary care hospital. Statistical analysis was performed on a questionnaire that was produced and filled out by parents. Results showed that: 1. Most parents are unaware of the need of education and safety measures for their children (POSCO and RTE) Two, the majority of parents wanted their sons to have more opportunities in the workforce. Thirdly, questions about a child's emotional, mental, and physical well-being were also put to the parents. The vast majority of parents felt that academic achievement should be the primary criterion for parental recognition. Several steps to prevent child abuse were also suggested in the research.

Kirankumar (2011) In the Bagalkot area in north Karnataka, India, this research set out to examine medical professionals' views, attitudes, knowledge, and experiences with regard to child abuse and neglect. The province's public and private healthcare providers were all polled by a single operator. The data that was collected was then used to conduct descriptive analysis. The medical community as a whole has a negative impression of child abuse and neglect (CAN), and its members exhibit a lack of understanding and professionalism when it comes to the topic. There is a lack of knowledge and information as well. Medical practitioners are unable to recognised and identify probable instances of CAN due to a lack of information, positive attitude, and correct perceptions of the disease, according to the study's conclusions. In order to improve doctors' capacity to identify CAN instances, continuing medical education is necessary.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present research employed a non-experimental survey approach to determine the frequency and kind of child abuse in a sample of schools. Students at Indore public schools who were in the seventh to tenth grade made up the study's population. The 556 students included in the sample were all in the 7–10 age range and were from randomly chosen schools. Screening instrument for child abuse developed and maintained by the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN), a well-recognized and respected organization on a global scale. Demographic characteristics were analyzed using descriptive statistics, including percentages and frequencies

DATA ANALYSIS

The frequency with which children are victims of abuse is discussed in this part.

Table 1: Prevalence of child abuse among children

Total number of samples	Number of children experienced child abuse	Prevalence (%)
556	387	69.60

The data shown in the table showed that 69.60% of the children questioned at certain schools had experienced child abuse. This section focuses on the specific forms of child maltreatment experienced by identifiable students in certain Jodhpur schools.

Table 2: Distribution of children according to the types of abuse

Type of Child Abuse	F	%	Gender	
Physical Abuse	82	21.7	54	28
Emotional Abuse	52	13.4	28	38
Neglect	43	11.1	14	24
Sexual Abuse	5	1.2	3	2
Physical abuse and emotional abuse	77	19.8	44	29
Physical abuse, emotional abuse and neglect	58	14.9	27	31
Physical abuse and neglect	36	9.3	18	18
Emotional abuse and neglect	32	8.2	8	19
Emotional abuse, neglect and sexual abuse	1	0.2	1	0
Physical abuse, emotional abuse, neglect and sexual abuse	1	0.2	1	0
	387	100	198	189

The children who participated in the study reported experiencing various forms of child abuse, with the most common being physical abuse (21.7%) and the least common being sexual abuse (1.2%), as shown in the data table above. Abuse of minors was reported by 51% of boys and 49% of girls. Despite this, they reported several forms of child maltreatment, the most common of which were physical and emotional abuse (19.8%).

In order to determine the efficacy of the nurse-led intervention on child abuse knowledge, this section compares the mean score of knowledge before and after the intervention. The purpose of this research is to assess the impact of nurse-led interventions on students' understanding of child abuse in a sample of Indore schools. A paired t-test with a significance threshold of 0.05 was used to evaluate the hypothesis.

Table 3: Significance of difference between mean score of knowledge score regarding child abuse among children before and after nurse led intervention

	Mean	SD	Mean difference	Calculated t value	p value
Pre-test	6.0	6.03	17.71	52.870	<0.001**
Post-test	23.71	1.42			

Considered significant at the 0.001 level, $t(328) = 1.967$ at the 0.05 level of significance. Using a paired t-test, this research aims to determine if nurse-led interventions improved carers' understanding of child abuse in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, schools where the intervention was implemented. The null hypothesis is given before the hypothesis is tested. Caretakers' mean scores on a knowledge test concerning child abuse did not change significantly before and after a nurse-led intervention (H_0).

Table 4: Significance of difference between mean score of knowledge regarding child abuse among caretakers before and after nurse led intervention

	Mean	SD	Mean difference	Calculated t value	p value
Pre-test	8.82	4.90	21.37	72.928	<0.001**
Post-test	30.19	1.89			

** Significance at the 0.001 level; $t(328) = 1.967$ at the 0.05 level of significance

The mean difference of 21.37 points between the pre-test knowledge score (8.82 ± 4.90) and the post-test knowledge score (30.19 ± 1.89) is clearly seen in the table above. The t-value that was computed ($t = 72.928$) exceeded the t-value that was found in the database (1.967). The obtained mean difference was a real difference, leading to the rejection of the null hypothesis and acceptance of the study hypothesis. At the 0.001 level of significance, the nurse-led intervention improved knowledge.

The data in the table clearly shows that there was a mean difference of 17.71 points between the pre-test knowledge score (6.0 ± 6.03) and the post-test knowledge score (23.71 ± 1.42). Compared to the value in the table (1.967), the computed t-value ($t = 52.870$) was greater. The obtained mean difference was a real difference, leading to the rejection of the null hypothesis and acceptance of the study hypothesis. At the 0.005 level of significance, the nurse-led intervention significantly improved the children's understanding. Even at the more stringent 0.001 threshold of significance, it was significant.

H_{02} : There is no significant difference between the mean attitude regarding child abuse among caretakers before and after nurse led intervention. The hypothesis was tested by using paired 't' test at 0.05 level of significance.

Table 5: Significance of difference between attitude score regarding child abuse among caretakers before and after nurse led intervention

	Mean	SD	Mean difference	Calculated t value	p value
Pre-test	37.38	9.40	10.07	17.640	<0.001**
Post-test	47.45	9.03			

** Significance at the 0.001 level; $t(328) = 1.967$ at the 0.05 level of significance

The mean attitude score after the exam (47.45 ± 9.03) was 10.07 points higher than the mean attitude score before the test (37.38 ± 9.40), as can be seen in the table above. While the table value was 1.967, the computed t value was 17.640. The obtained mean difference was a real difference, leading to the rejection of the null hypothesis and acceptance of the study hypothesis. At the 0.005 level of significance, the nurse-led intervention was successful in bringing about an attitude change. There was a greater degree of significance at the 0.001 level as well.

CONCLUSION

Children of all ages, as well as their parents, educators, and healthcare providers, may benefit from the nurse-led intervention that the researcher created. Primary school students may learn to be alert, recognized signs of abuse, and respond quickly using the intervention's components.

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