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TO STUDY THE CHILD ABUSE IN MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES



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ABSTRACT

The aim of the present research was to study the child abuse in middle class families. The study was conducted on 50 families (25 from Awas Vikas Colony and 25 from ADA colony) of Aligarh district Uttar Pradesh. 50 children from each colony were selected purposively for the study. A baseline survey was conducted in the selected areas through stratified sampling.

Introduction : The desperate conditions affecting the rural as well as the urban India are forcing growing number of children. They are deprived of their most basic rights as children including education and a joyful childhood. 19% of the world's children live in India. 42% of India's total population are aged below eighteen. India is home to almost 19% of the world's children, child protection has remained largely unaddressed. In many cases this lack of protection is subject to child abuse.

Most child abuse happens in a child's home, with a smaller amount occurring in the organizations, schools or communities they interact with. There are four major categories of child abuse: Physical abuse, emotional abuse and sexual abuse. In India, Out of 69% children physically abused 54.68% were boys. Out of those children physically abused in family situations, 88.6% were physically abused by parents. The states of Andra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar and Delhi have almost consistently reported higher rates of abuse in all forms as compared to others. Every second child reported facing emotional abuse. Equal percentage of both girls and boys reported facing emotional abuse. In 83% of the cases of emotional abuse, Parents were the abusers. 53.33% children reported having faced one or more forms of sexual abuse. 21.90% child re-

spondents reported facing severe forms of sexual abuse and 50.76% other forms of sexual abuse. 50.00% abusers are persons known to the child or in a position of trust and responsibility.

New Delhi has an abuse rate of over 83%. In most cases parents and caregivers are responsible for every type of abuse not only in metro cities but also in small cities and towns of India.

Objective : In present society child abuse is occurring a new problem within the families. The objective of this paper is to study the child abuse in middle class families.

Methodology :

Sample Selection: - The study was conducted on 50 families (25 from Awas Vikas Colony and 25 from ADA Colony) in Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh due to easy accessibility. 50 children from each colony were selected purposively for the study. The stratified sampling was used considering the wide implication of this study. A baseline survey was conducted in the selected areas of Aligarh through home visit and interviews to elicit information.

Tools: "A tool is anything necessary to carrying out of an occupation."

In the present study, Interview schedule was used to collect the data.

Result & Discussion :

Table 1:- Distribution of normal and abused children in Middle class Families.

The above table shows percentage of normal and abuse children in middle class families. Out of the total selected children in Awas Vikas colony, majority of them, 52.00% children were normal but only 48.00% children were abused. Out of the total selected children in ADA colony, majority of them, 54.00% children were abused but only 46.00% children were normal. The result shows that percentage of abused children is higher in ADA colony

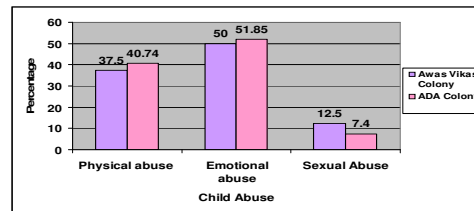
Table 2:- Distribution of abused children in Middle class Families.

Child Abuse	Awas Vikas Colony		ADA Colony	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Physical abuse	9	37.50	11	40.74
Emotional abuse	12	50.00	14	51.85
Sexual Abuse	3	12.50	2	07.40
Total	24	100.00	27	100.00

The above table shows the various type of abuse in middle class families. Out of 24 children of middle class families of Awas Vikas Colony, majority of them, 50.00% faced Emotional abuse followed by 37.50% faced Physical abuse. Only 12.50% faced sexual abuse. Out of 27 children of middle class families of ADA Colony, majority of them, 51.85% faced emotional abuse, followed by 40.74% faced physical abuse. Only 07.40% faced sexual abuse. The result shows that in middle class families children were faced emotional and physical

abuse more than sexual abuse. Parents hold high expectations for their child’s development, they do not provide the necessary encouragement that assist children in meeting these goals. Consequently their children are disappointed. In this study it was found that threatening, beating, slapping children on the face or head were most frequently used as punishment. Cultural factors influence the emotional abuse that parents choose to discipline their children. Cursing, shouting, insulting, giving the silent treatment toward children and lack of care were the common responses by parents in the families. Research shows that when sexual abuse occurred, a child can develop a variety of distressing feelings, thoughts and behavior, jealousy or shame of other family members, or be afraid the family will break up if the secret is told. Children are not able to understand that abuse or neglect is not their fault, they may think that they did something wrong and deserve what happened. It is up to adults who care to protect them.

Figure: - Distribution of abused children in Middle class Families.



Conclusion : Child abuse is a serious global problem. Although most studies on it have been conducted in developed countries, there is compelling evidence that phenomenon is common throughout the world. Much more can and should be done about the problem. Prevention, Efforts and Policies must directly address children, their caregivers and the environment in which live in order to prevent potential abuse from occurring and to deal effectively with cases of abuse and neglect that have taken place. So great strides should be made to understand and prevent abuse.

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