



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: CHILD ABUSE AND ELDER ABUSE

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Abstract

Domestic Violence does not only physical hurt caused to the person. It shows a power of superiors. In this the person abusing controls the other person who is being abused by giving threats, hurting them or giving mental trauma. The violence is not one-time thing; it is a result of months and years. It can be seen or said that the definition of domestic violence is not same; it differs from place to place, state to state or even country to country. These abuses can be done by family, Friends or former or current intimate partners. Violence or abuse is done by physical hurt, mental trauma or controlling the persons. It can be done to anyone as it has a wider scope; it can be done to women, children, old age people, girls, students (irrespective to boy or girl), colleagues and lot more.

In this paper we have restricted our scope to children abuse and elder abuse because these people are the ones whose abuse rate is at the higher side.

The aim of this paper is to explain the situation of a Abused Child and Abused elder as how this abuse impacted their life, and in case of child how abuse can break and shattered their lives as it leaves a scar on a child's mind forever that it affects his/her life at different stages.

This research paper also analysis the impact of pandemic on the Child Abuse and Neglect, as this is the major concern because children are the future of any Nation there is an urgent need to protect them and frame them into a better human for better tomorrow.

Key Words: Domestic Violence, Abuse, Child, Neglect, Elder, Pandemic, Prevention

Introduction

Domestic violence means a violent behavior by a person in order to gain supremacy over their spouses or any intimate family member i.e. their own children, family members children, elder etc. Domestic violence term is used when there is close relation between accused and victim. Abuse is something that can happen anytime, anywhere and by anyone irrespective to its age, sex, religion, race or their cultural background. Elder abuse is where people over 60 years are exploited. Child Abuse is any kind of harm, being physical, sexual, or psychological or any kind of maltreatment or neglect by child's parent or caregiver.

There are many forms of Domestic Violence such as¹

1. **Physical abuse** is the abuse that includes physical contact between two persons from whom one causing bodily harm by hitting, pushing, or slapping to the other.
2. **Emotional abuse** also called psychological abuse, including hurtful words, yelling, threatening, or repeatedly ignoring the older adult or the children.

¹ <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/child-abuse/symptoms-causes/syc-20370864>



3. **Abandonment** is deserting an old age person or a child who cannot take care of themselves and is dependent on others.

4. **Sexual abuse** includes the abuser forcing to get physical with the older age person or the child or make them watch some sexual acts.

Research Methodology

Method used to analysis the situation of Domestic Violence in respect of Child Abuse and elder Abuse even in situation of pandemic is based upon Secondary research methodology, so we have taken into account newspapers, articles, academic papers, data available on the internet, documents available by various organizations such as World Health Organizations, UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund etc.

Objective

- To study about the situation of children and elders who are being abused and their future problems related to such abuse.
- To analysis the problems emerging during covid-19 pandemic regarding child Abuse and neglect also to get the desired solution to new upcoming issues emerging out of Internet and social media.
- To conclude the possible solution so that it can prevent the Domestic Violence against children and elderly people.

Child Abuse

It is an act, failure, or negligence on the part of adult or care-giver that leads to severe threat to the child's life or his/her development of personality which then leads to impact their lives in prolonged physical or psycho-social state. Abuse in childhood majorly impacted the child's mental as well

as physical well being. In majority cases, child abuse is done by someone in close relation to the child or someone child generally knows and trusts. There is an important need to nourish the child, and provide him/her a protective, safe and healthy environment. According to the World Health Organization², nearly 3 in 4 children or nearly 300 million children aged 2-4 years old suffers physical punishment/psychological violence at the hands of parents or the care givers.³

ELDER ABUSE:

Abuse are usually are done on people who are dependent on others for their everyday chores like-bathing, dressing, taking medicines and etc. These people are said to be easy frail. Elder abuse is an important public health problem. Older maltreatment can prompt gloom, disconnection, and wellbeing. Older folks carry on with an a lot shorter life in view of the strain it put on them. 76% of all old that experience senior maltreatment carry on with a shorter life by in any event 7-9 years when contrasted with those that didn't get manhandled. There is medication out there that can support them and have enormous advantages that help them, yet medication can just go up until this point. In many states, there are therapists that have practical experience in helping the old; with old maltreatment, yet different requirements or issues they may have. Unfortunately, practically all elders who experience elderly misuse have the impacts of it for long haul.

Consequences of child abuse and elder abuse:

These abuses leave never ending and long lasting impression on a child mind and their personality. Abuses on elders' ruins their

² <https://www.who.int/> 12 October 2020 4:05

³ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/child-maltreatment> 12 October 2020 4:12



further life, their mental state is deeply disturbed. It is very difficult to take out the bad experiences from a child's mind as well as from an elder's mind, such experiences leaves a scar on their mind and also a sense of insecurity and helplessness. There are some difficulties a child or an elder faces after any abuse.

- i. **Lack of trust and relationship difficulty**– It is very difficult to maintain a mature relationship if a person has suffered in their childhood with abuse or neglect, or even an elder suffered the same, tendency to trust in a relationship or upon their partners or any person in that matter is nearly impossible, feeling of insecurity is all over the place, demand of undivided attention and affection, ultimately destroys the relationship which happens to be more dangerous than ever as it may lead to major mental issues and crimes.
- ii. **Core feeling of being “worthless”**– This feeling of being worthless settles in a person's mind if he/she has been regularly told from their childhood or even in their old age that they are of no use, when they started to feel that their parents or their children in case of elders, aren't happy about their existence, or they don't have any value whatsoever they do, this result in denial of everything, feeling unworthy of everything in life. These abuses cause them to struggle their whole life as well as have a feeling of being destructed or harmed.⁴
- iii. **Trouble regulating emotions** – Abused children or abused elders are not able to express the emotions. The survivors of child abuse suffer from anxiety, depression, and anger alcoholic or addicted to drugs to numb their feeling which they can't express.

Elders are suffering in the form of depression, dignity, independence, health conditions result of abuse. These abuses can also cause drift between the family members which result to more loneliness and isolation for the older people.

Impact of Pandemic on Child Abuse and Neglect

Nowadays our life has drastically shifted to the networks and so does the criminals. Social media is an important part of our children's everyday life online interactions is different from face-to-face interactions because in online world you can operate as anonymously. It is a different world where everything is not what it looks like due to which children are exposed to many risk while they are online such as pornography, sexual coercion, extortion and bullying etc. The technology gives us many good and useful opportunities, but it also has a flip side – child sexual exploitations are a growing type of crime. The number of victims of online child sexual abuse during the Covid-19 pandemic has grown worldwide.⁵

The internet watch foundation has a hotline for reporting suspected child abuse material online had a record month in September with calls increasing 45% driven by shift to work from home and more use of internet and social media. The UK-based Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), which identifies child sexual abuse content online, said it processed 15,258 reports from the public in September

⁴ <https://www.helpguide.org/articles/abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect.htm>

⁵ <https://www.helsinkitimes.fi/columns/columns/mp-talk/18230-child-abuse-material-cam-is-a-growing-problem.html>



2020, a record for the charity and up from 10,514 in September 2019.⁶

In 2020, up to September the IWF processed a total of 230,520 reports, including tip-offs from members of the public, the police, and internet providers. In year of 2019 IWF analysts processed 260,400 report of Child Abuse⁷

In a global compilation of reports of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) found online, India stands right on top of the list, with 11.7% of the total reports or at 19.87 lakh reports.⁸ The National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) urges people to report CSAM found online across the globe annually, on their online platform CyberTipline.⁹ This year, the Centre received a total of 1.68 crore reports. The material thus reported by the members of the general public and electronic service providers, principally comprises still pictures and videos depicting children in a clear exceedingly sexual angle.

Lockdown impact- There is also concern that the lockdowns across the world will lead to an exacerbation of the situation. Police and child welfare experts around the world are all expressing great anxieties about the impact of the mass lockdown. Pedophiles who work online are seeking to exploit the situation,

looking for bored children. It might be some time before official figures show any increase in arrests or harms to children. That's unavoidable but also, sadly, inevitable. The corona virus pandemic has led to an unprecedented rise in screen time.

PRECAUTIONS THAT CAN BE TAKEN:

1. A support group needed to reinforce regarding parenting skills and to closely monitor the child's well being. The NGOs working in the field of children and elder abuse must given more manpower and funding so that door to door monitoring can be done because it is necessary to aid the victims of the abuse, for their mental as well as physical well being.¹⁰
2. There should be a mandate program or scheme where there must be provisions of home visiting of nurse or social-worker to evaluate the progress of taking care of child or elders.¹¹ If such kind of medial as well as health care personnel in a structured way it will be very beneficial for the victims it may help them to grow and reduce the psychosocial risk factors also offering the parents regarding parenting may prevent the child and elder mal treatment.

⁶ The guardian weekly magazine, guardian news and media limited.
<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2020/oct/30/calls-to-online-child-sexual-abuse-watchdog-up-45-in-september>

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<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2020/oct/30/calls-to-online-child-sexual-abuse-watchdog-up-45-in-september>

⁸ The Hindu Express Series on Covid-19
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/most-online-content-on-child-sexual-abuse-from-india/article31377784.ece>

⁹ The Hindu Express Series on Covid-19
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/most-online-content-on-child-sexual-abuse-from-india/article31377784.ece>

¹⁰ The 28th CMAAO General Assembly & 49th Council Meeting Child Abuse and Neglect in India: Time to act Narendra Saini
https://www.med.or.jp/english/journal/pdf/2013_05/302_309.pdf

¹¹
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Child_abuse#Prevention



3. Primary place to learn everything for a child is School, so it must be mandate for schools to conduct the workshops or programs which make the child to learn about good touch and bad touch, providing child some activities such as role-play and learn to avoid the potentially harmful scenarios
4. Pediatricians can help identify the children at the risk of maltreatment or abuse and intervene with the social worker or provide access to treatment that addresses the potential risk factors as such maternal depression.
5. Initiate the Caregiver Interventions¹² models to prevent elder abuse. These interventions should provide services to relieve the burden of care giving, such as housekeeping and meal preparation, respite care, education, support groups, and day care and are promoted as abuse-prevention strategies. Thus this is a very promising approach of prevention.
6. Extensive reports on elder abuse states that individuals are vulnerable to financial exploitation which can be helped through Money Management Programs¹³, these programs feature daily money, paying bills, saving money, making bank deposits, negotiating with creditors and paying home care personnel. These are programs should target the elders specifically as there are at higher risk of being financial exploitation and in particular individuals with some degree of cognitive impairment and who are socially isolated.
7. Government should take initiative with the assistance of local social workers or some devoted religious building which is made for the purpose of charitable purpose to convert them Emergency Shelter¹⁴ for the elder abuse victims. Also government can provide funding to make Old Age Home for such persons so that caregivers can help them to live with dignity, provide them safe and secure environment without any kind of abuse or exploitation.
8. There can be development of local library regarding the awareness of child abuse, books for parting which may help the parents to tackle their child without being an abusive parent or being too harsh on their child.¹⁵ There should be some programs for the parents where they can also learn about parenting and abuse which they think not being abuse but it might be damaging the mental personality of a child. Also there must have some help lines available for parents to get some assistance or there can be an availability of counselors for helping and developing the parenting skills and all over personality of a family.
9. In today's era where everything is online and social media being a major part of everyone's life including children, that mean they are now more vulnerable to abuse online through bullying, pornography, sexual exploitation, etc. so to prevent such abuse of children parents must monitor their children's access online as to what type of films, T.V shows, they are watching either their child is accessing any harmful sites online or watching inappropriate or violent videos or images, or playing any games that are not

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<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5291158/> 2 November 2020 1:50 AM

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<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5291158/> 2 November 2020 2: 11 AM

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<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5291158/> 2 November 2020 2: 18 AM

¹⁵ <https://preventchildabuse.org/resource/ten-ways-to-help-prevent-child-abuse/> 2 November 2020 2:30 AM



meant for their child's mental as well as physical health.

10. An advice to report the Child Abuse or Elder Abuse is helpful to prevent such abuses or any crime related to it, awareness must be their regarding warning signs of abuse, many street plays at different locations will help through creating awareness, advertising on Televisions, telecasting valuable and good deeds or shows or cartoons so that a child mind be prepared at early stage that he has to report to their parents or caregivers that he/she is being abused by any person. And this will also help them to open their minds about respecting elders and taking care of elderly people, because it is so important to mold little mind in a right direction to secure the future and maintain the safe environment for child and also for elder persons.

Conclusion

As per the paper we hereby conclude that if person if child, and adult or an elder person every person has a right to live with dignity and respect along with safe and lovable environment. It is so necessary to help these people, to create awareness, even to report such crimes. Child abuse have a major impact on a child's all over growth, childhood creates a person's personality, those drastic incidents may lead a child to live a abusive life throughout or either he/she themselves become such abusive offenders in their adulthood which ultimately led to ruin their personal, marital, and also work life or life in the society. Even these abused minds are more vulnerable and inclined towards the crime world, as in justifying their revenge towards abuser, or to prove that he/she is not weak.

As analyzing the elder abuse we observed that the scars older maltreatment can leave on an individual can be irreversible. An older

individual who is dealing life by being abused does not rely on any kind of help; he/she may have trouble with trusting people again. This may lead them to go into a serious discouragement that can bring about self-destruction, body closing down, or psychological issues. Old maltreatment affects the older that can be hard to opposite and help fix and most occasions can be long haul. The greatest issue with tackling this is their age they are already dealing with the old age body problem being joint pains, organ failure or any disease. It causes a great deal of issues and makes it harder to support them and tackle the issues they have now because of the maltreatment they received. There is urgent need to protect the elders and new rules and guidelines needs to be made in respect of elder abuse otherwise Domestic Violence is a disease to the society and will affect the society at large.
