


"CHILD ABUSE & JUVENILE DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR."
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Abstract :

"Child abuse and juvenile delinquency", the purpose of this research is to examine the relationship between the child abuse & delinquency. The research work highlights the child abuse leading to aggression & letter delinquency. Literature shows delinquency is one of the long term effects of childhood victimization. The study also reveal that child abuse has more severe adverse effects on development outcomes than physical abuse including negative self-representation, insecure attachments externalizing problems and criminal activity. The plan of the research is to between these two phenomenon has been identified in the literature of the professional discipline and then to discuss way in which conclusion can be drawn about the problem of study.

There are two outstanding themes in this literature. First theme is that various life events and immediate environment including home, school and neighborhood is essential in shaping ones transit from childhood to adolescence to adulthood. The second theme is that identifying such life events is the determining factors of delinquent behavior. In summary the pathway to crime for a child is greatly depend on the social bond that exist in society.

Keywords: *Child Abuse, juvenile Delinquency, Physical Abuse, Negative Self-represent.*

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Introduction :

According to the centers for disease control and prevention (cdf) and (dcf), child abuse is the physical, sexual and emotional mistreatment or/and neglect of a child. They also define child maltreatment as any act of commission or an omission by a parent or other result in harm, potential harm, or threat of harm to a child. A juvenile delinquent is a child or young person not of legal age who is guilty of some offense, act of vandalism antisocial behavior or whose conduct is beyond parental control and who may be brought before a juvenile court. The criminal justice system focuses on policing and together sanction but doesn't address the cause of deviant behavior in these juvenile delinquents. Many juvenile cases involving criminal behavior has been linked to event of abuse occurring in early childhood. This paper focuses on the effects of child abuse on crime, specifically juvenile delinquency. Child abuse is major social problem, and being abused doubles the probability of engaging in criminal behavior.

Some often wonder about child delinquent and some reason behind their particular actions. The behavior of children's can be the result of social environmental and genetic factors. Besides, it can relate to their cognitive, emotional and



physical characteristics. This paper reveals the factors why children become a delinquent. Sometime a child has been abused there are certain outcomes for themes they grow up. With that outcome creates a strong relationship between child abuse and later delinquency.

Researcher found that the prevalence of child abuse was a risk factor for delinquency moderate delinquency and violent delinquency. Such as underage drinking although about 20 percent of abused children go on to become delinquent, the united state department of health and human services has estimate that approximately 3,4 children per 1,000 per year are physically abused.

There are several effects on children involved in child abuse. These effects are so strong that a child may never be able to deal and hope with what they have experienced effects may range from having trouble in relationship with other to not being able to function in work setting.

The social significance of this research is to acknowledge that these children should receive help before they become adults and possibly end up in prison. This issue is only contributing to crime rates. The first step to helping these children is to research them first. Research that is done on child abuse opens doors to resources for abused children. Recognizing the relationship between abused children and child offenders offers a chance to help children before they become deviant criminals

Objective of study :

The specific objective of the present study is.

1. To identify children who experienced abuse in their life
2. To find the circumstances and conditions in which on child who are abuse, become delinquent
3. To increase specific knowledge about the causes, consequences, prevention of child abuse.
4. To increase specific knowledge about the social and cultural factors related with child abuse.

Methodology of the study :

Research methodology is a systematic for solving any research problem. Present study is based on data collected from secondary sources. Secondary data is collected form web sources, newspapers, book and journals.

Limitations of the study :

The specific limitations of the studies are:-

1. Present research is an academic endeavor and is affected by the limitation of time, money and energy.
2. Since the present study is based on secondary data, hence the accuracy and reliability is not comparable with primary data

Discussion :

While there is no single definition of child abuse, the definition from the world health organization is the most comprehensive “child abuse is all forms of physical and / or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent



treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power.”

Approximately 40 million children worldwide are abused each year. Abuse occurs at every socioeconomic level, across all ethnic and cultural lines, within all religions, and at every level of education. In 2008, statistics Canada reported the following

- In 2006, the rate of sexual assault against children and youth reported to police was more than 5 times higher than it was for adults.
- For every 100000 person younger than 18 years of age, 334 were victims of physical or sexual violence by friends or acquaintances, 187 experiences violence at the hands of family members, and 101 were victimizes by strangers.

Research studies suggest that child abuse is a casual contributor to many emotional & behavioral problems, including juvenile delinquents. The long standing effect of child abuse in juvenile has been well documented and previous studies suggest a pattern of abuse and neglect as a pre cursor to later offending behavior in both adolescent and adults. (Crittenden and Ainsworth 1989, Smith and Thornberry 1995, Wisdom 1989).

Studies has also shown that the quality of exchange between caregiver and infant serves as the foundation for the infant's signaling system and influences the child's subsequent mental and physical health, especially the child's capacity to interact with others and the development of neural pathways for language and higher cognitive functions children are more likely to have learning and behavior problems when living with parents who struggle with mental health or substance abuse problems. Maternal depression is a key determinant of poor early child development. It is related to and as important as family functioning, parenting style and engagement.

Young children are highly sensitive to other people's emotions, particularly those of their family members witnessing scenes of verbal or physical violence and discord has direct negative effects with long lasting consequences. Similarly, children who experience parental abuse or neglect are more likely to show negative outcomes that carry forward into adult life, with ongoing problems with emotional regulation, self-concept, social skills, and academic motivation, as well as serious learning and adjustment problems, including academic failure severe depression, difficulties substances abuse, and delinquency.

The most visible factors contributed for child abuse and delinquency :

Child abuse victimization, exposure to domestic violence, parents with poor parental skills, lack of parental bonding availability of drugs and community disorganization. (Hawkins,herrenkohl,farrington berwer,caralano,and haruchi 1998). These factors can be considered as a risk factors the more risk factors the youth or family has higher the likelihood of the youth engaging in delinquency .The way in which children abused are interrelated with juvenile delinquents instances. However studies also highlights that there are the various forms of abuse result in different reactions and behavior. The tendency for person to commit crime will differ based on the specific factors. Experiencing specific abuse by the children can result in the exhibition of the similar types of offending behavior later on (hamilton,



falshow, and browne 2002) for e.g. Those who experienced physical abuse could possibly engaged in this types of activity. Whereas those who experience sexual abuse may later become a sexual abuser unless he or she has experienced some form of sexual trauma in their early life. Sexual abuse victim often engaged later in non-aggressive sexual offenses. Girls who exposed to sexual abused associated with sexually abusive home by running away, thereby exposing themselves to further abuse associations with delinquent peers or survival delinquency.

A more comprehensive understanding of child abuse suggests that those who experience multiple forms of abuse simultaneously are greater risk of delinquent behavior and other negative outcomes.

Severity of Abuse :

The type of abuse is an important risk factor, but the severity of the abuse is also critical in understanding the nexus between child abuse and juvenile delinquency. Findings suggest that more extensively or harshly mistreated youth consistently exhibit higher rates of delinquency; however, there is not a linear relationship between the phenomena (Smith and Thornberry 1995). It is also important to note that youth react differently to abuse. Some are deeply affected by more minor forms, while others seem able to withstand and adapt to more severe forms. Another difficulty in understanding this relationship is attempting to measure the severity of abuse and obtaining the precise amount of severity. In other words, who is to determine how severe abuse is? Clearly, further research is needed. However not all children who are abuse go on to engage in juvenile delinquents and not all juvenile delinquents have histories of child abuse.

Studies on child abuse and delinquency :

Clinical Studies :

The earliest investigations were basically case reports and case series. Most of these studies were conducted by clinicians using psychiatric patients or incarcerated individuals. Eason and Steinhilber examined the histories of eight boys who had committed murder. Five of these eight had been brutalized in childhood. (See Kakar's 1996 review While these clinical studies were insightful, they did not establish a causal link between child maltreatment and delinquency. In addition, given the nature of their study populations, the results of these studies are not generalizable to the general populace.

Observational Studies :

Some observational studies demonstrated that abused children exhibit more problem behaviors at earlier ages than did non-abused children. Abused infants more often ignored or refused maternal distractions. Abused toddlers assaulted their peers and harassed their caregivers more often than did non-abused toddlers. Abused children were found to be more aggressive in their fantasy and play and they were more emotionally maladjusted, especially in the development of their self-concepts. These findings offer support for the hypothesis that violence is a learned behavior passed on from one generation to the next. (See Kakar's 1996 review of Wassermann & Allen 1983, George & Main 1979, Reidy 1977, and Kinard 1980)



Cross-Sectional Survey Design Studies :

A number of researchers began conducting cross-sectional surveys of various groups of youths in the 1980's. Some of these studies considered only adjudicated delinquents, while others investigated youths from the general population. Some of the studies also surveyed the children's parents. All surveys gathered data about the youths' involvement in delinquency and their histories of maltreatment. Many of these studies found significant correlations between abuse and delinquency.

Eighty-six percent of the respondents in Mouzakitis' study of female adjudicated delinquents reported being physically punished with hands, objects or belts. Fifty-one percent recalled bruises, 25% recalled scars and 38% recalled bleeding from those punishments. (See Kakar's 1996 review) Geller and Ford-Somma also found significant abuse among the histories of delinquents. Sixty-six percent reported being beaten with a belt or extension cord; 32% reported repeated beatings; and 20% reported being threatened with a knife or gun. Thirty-three percent reported bruises from the beatings, while 29% reported bleeding and 8% required hospitalization. (See Kakar's 1996 review) Hotalling's general population based study also found that abused children engaged in more violent behavior than did non-abused children. Abused children more frequently assaulted their siblings, their parents and persons outside their families. (See Kakar's 1996 review.

Prevention :

Child neglect is the most common form of maltreatment and, although pervasive and sometimes life threatening, is often difficult to identify. As a society, we have a collective responsibility to prevent children from experiencing neglect. To accomplish this, we must initiate and support services and policies that enhance children's development, health and safety and we must advocate for policies and programs to help meet the basic needs of children and families. We must also promote research, training, and public education to strengthen protective factors that buffer the risk factors (e.g., depression) for neglect, while also directly addressing those risk factors.

Some of the preventive measures can be understand as follows :

1. Raise awareness :

Raising public awareness of serious nature of child abuse is essential in order to bring changes. Children come in contact with different kind of people in their community who can play the vital roles in their development. We need to recognized this and mobilize significant financial & human resources to cope out with the problems.

2. Increasing services to families like home visiting, early childhood educate & parent education :

Child neglect often occurs when parents are mostly overwhelmed with any kind stress, they may be find difficulties of coping with poverty depression and interpersonal violence. Services such as home visiting early childhood education, and parent education provide emotional support, and guidance on how to provide a nurturing environment for children.


3. Providing mental health services to parents :

Many children who are neglected by the parents are due to emotionally unstable or depressed parents. Mental health services, especially at an early phase, can help to come out with this situation and ensure that's neglect is not transmitted to the next generation.

4. School based prevention programmed :

The role of the teachers and other staff such as school counselors, school social workers especial education, on professional and other school personnel have in helping maltreated children, provides the basis for the involvement of educations in combating the problem of child abuse and delinquency. This programs can helps the educators to identify child abuse and neglect reporting and providing support after the reports.

5. Increasing efforts to address social problems such as poverty, substance abuse, and family violence which contribute to neglect :

Child abuse t is often intertwined with social problems, such as poverty, substance abuse, and family violence. It is crucial that greater resources be allocated to reduce these major problems that contribute to abuse. Such efforts must include the prevention of child abuse as an explicit goal.

6. Increasing research effects to improve one understanding of child abuse & delinquency.

A better understanding is essential to policy makers to develop policies and programmed to take the victims. Careful evolution is need to learn what works and to implements the effective programs.

Editor's key points :

1. Child abused is a common problem worldwide, and its physical and psychological effects are felt by abused children, their families and their communities. It has been link to change in victims mental and behavior development throughout their loves, putting them at risk of engaging in potentially dangerous behavior in the future.
2. Family physician have an importance role in identifying cases of child abuse in their practices, reporting such cases to child welfare agencies, preventing further harm to identified children as well as to other children in the families, and providing further ongoing support and education to families.

Conclusion :

This research paper provides a general overview of the association between child abuse, and the development of juvenile delinquency. The information is not consider to be conclusive, it only provides an initial understand of the complexity of this relationship. However, it has been also observed that not all children abused or exposed to violence will engaged in delinquency, while some children who never abused or exposed to violence will develop delinquent behavior.

Although a number of children included in the child welfare system subsequently become involved in the juvenile justice system, statistic alone do not adequately tell the story of the children.

Any programme that effectively reduced abuse and ill-treatment can serve as prevention strategy for juvenile delinquency. A study demonstrated by the ocan and michigan evaluation research, structured decision making represents



a practical and efficient way to improve the nation's child welfare system. By reducing the child abuse and breaking the link between delinquency and abuse.

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