

# An Analysis on Child Abuse and Neglect

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**Abstract** - Child abuse is the most common phenomenon happening in almost every country including developed nations across the world. Child abuse is not only physical damage/injuries made to the child, but also includes situations/scenarios which affects mental thoughts or feelings. The actual ill treatment on child leaves a bigger scar in child's life. As said by Great Tamil poet Thiruvalluvar the physical scar imprinted may last for few years, but the wounds made in their hearts last longer even till their life time. Performing micro care, leaving them unattended or alone, hazardous environment or selling them for the sake of money, or causing them feel useless is also called as child abuse. Mishandled youngsters can't communicate feelings securely. This misuse can battle with unexplained nervousness, unhappiness, or outrage. By getting the issue right on time both the kid and victimizer can get the assistance they need. This paper is an attempt to study the causes and types of child neglect as well as the impact on the child over such abuse and neglect. Also, based on the analysis propose few suggestions which could help in avoiding child abuse, thereby making the next generation happier and safe to live in this world.

**Key Words:** Reason for child abuse, occurrence of abuse - age majority, types of child neglect, avoiding child abuse & neglect.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

For quite a while, child protection is considered as an issue for the experts representing considerable authority in social assistance, wellbeing, psychological wellness, and equity frameworks. Notwithstanding, this issue stays an obligation to all, and all the more so a worry for other social researchers, for example, anthropologists, financial specialists, students of history, organizers, political specialists, sociologists, and humanists (e.g., ethicists, legitimate researchers, political scholars, and scholars) who add to the comprehension of the ideas of and methodologies in youngster protection and the duty regarding grown-ups and foundations with parts in guaranteeing the wellbeing and the sympathetic consideration of kids under their consideration. It is therefore should be the aim of each and every individual to observe, take actions when harm or threat of harm is made to the child. Across the nations, the child abuse is a big problem including the developed nations like United States of America, United Kingdom and many others. Child abuse is not only physical damage/injuries made to the child, but also refers to the stress or mental torture made to the child. It is very well may be sexual maltreatment emerging from exposing the kid to wrong openness to sexual acts or materials or detached utilization of the kid as sexual improvements or potentially real sexual contacts.

The main aim of the study is to analyze the instances/scenarios which makes the child feel insecure, neglected. Also the core aspect of the study is to identify the reasons and come up with remedial measures for avoiding child abuse in the society. The main reason for child abuse would be introduction of nuclear family system. Psychological thought process that would run in the minds of kids in the early stages is assessed and the reasons are jotted down for further expanded study.

## 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

**Spratt et al., (2012)**, a large vary of behaviors supported the sort of neglect they experience like unmet physical or medical issues, poor hygiene, hunger, lack of direction, and/or learning difficulties .

**Sarah (2015)**, In this study which closely examines child abuse and the various types of traumatic experiences that child can undergo.

**Ferrara et al.; Hunt, Slack, & Berger, (2016)**, In this literature review it was found that there exist a direct relationship with childhood ill-treatment on emotional, behavioral and social functioning throughout their childhood and adolescence.

**Adlem, (2017)**, In this article they analyzed the main result of child abuse is from physical injuries, psychological scars, sexual harassment, and neglect.

## 3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- ✓ The main aim of the study is to determine the root cause of child abuse & Neglect among the children of early childhood.
- ✓ To analyze the effect of child maltreatment in the society.
- ✓ To evaluate the personal and health hazards that occurs due to child neglect.
- ✓ To identify the productive time spent by the family / caregivers towards the children.
- ✓ To disclose the various positive opportunities for the avoidance of child abuse and neglect.

## 4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- Population Size: Indefinite
- Sample Size: 102 Respondents
- Sampling Technique: simple random sampling
- Analysis Technique used:
  - Mann-Whitney Test ( U Test )
  - Pearson Correlation analysis

### 4.1 SOURCES OF DATA & SAMPLING METHOD

This study is a form of empirical study in which it depicts the causes and effect of Child Abuse and Neglect. The data's collected were from the sources of Primary and Secondary data.

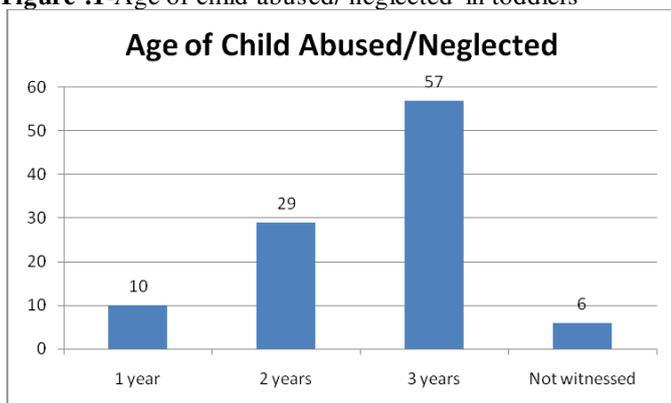
**4.1.1 Primary Data:** Survey technique was utilized to gather the information from the different localities including urban and rural areas utilizing Google structures. The questionnaire framed in this article contains two subdivisions. First part relates to the general information of the respondent and the second part relates to the subjective information.

**4.1.2 Secondary Data:** The optional information was gathered from diaries, magazines, books, articles, research papers and sites.

### 5. CAUSES OF CHILD ABUSE

- Isolation and lack of support — no members of the family, friends, partners or community support to help with the strain of parenting.
- Stress — cash pressures, job worries, medical problems or caring for a beloved with an incapacity.
- Unrealistic expectations — Associate in nursing absence of understanding one or two of child’s biological process stages and behavior.
- Intellectual incapacity or mental illness — folks may even be unable to adequately beware of their child.
- Lack of parenting skills — folks won’t savvy to stress for his or her child or would possibly believe it’s acceptable to use excessive physical force to discipline or punish a baby.
- Addiction of drug, alcohol or gambling problems — might need an impression on a parent’s qualities results in not having any wishes towards their kid.
- Low assurance — folks would possibly doubt their ability to meet their child’s wishes and know it grueling asking for facilitate.
- Past childhood experiences — folks might need toughened abuse as a baby in their own families, which may have caused them to develop Associate in nursing insecure attachment vogue.
- Mental health problems.

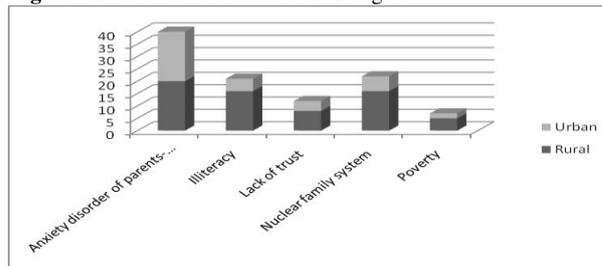
**Figure -1:** Age of child abused/ neglected in toddlers



**Table -1:** Statistics showing reasons across urban & rural areas

REASONS FOR CHILD ABUSE	Rural	Urban	Grand Total
Anxiety disorder of parents-Mental illness	20	20	40
Illiteracy	16	5	21
Lack of trust	8	4	12
Nuclear family system	16	6	22
Poverty	5	2	7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>102</b>

**Figure -2:** Reasons for child abuse / neglect



### 6. TYPES OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

#### Emotional abuse

- Contrary to some people’s beliefs, words will hurt and emotional abuses will severely injure a child’s psychological state or social development. Samples of emotional abuse include:
  - Constant belittling, shaming, and mortifying.
  - Calling names and creating negative comparisons to others.
  - Telling a toddler they’re “no smart,” “worthless,” “bad,” or “a mistake.”
  - Frequent yelling, threatening, or bullying.
  - Ignoring or rejecting a toddler as penalty, giving them the rebuff.
  - Limiting physical contact with a child—no hugs, kisses, or different signs of tenderness.
  - Exposing a toddler to violence against others, whether or not it’s against the opposite parent, a sibling, or maybe a pet.

#### Physical abuse

This involves physical damage or injury to the kid. It should be the results of a deliberate plan to hurt the kid or excessive physical penalty. Several physically abusive oldsters insist that their actions assure varieties of discipline—ways to create youngsters learn to behave. However there’s a giant distinction between exploitation physical penalty to discipline and physical abuse.

Physical abuse, contains the following:

- Unpredictability. The kid is never aware of what’s progressing to set the parent off. There aren’t any clear boundaries or rules. The kid is continually walking on eggshells, remains totally unaware what behavior can trigger a physical assault.
- Lashing comes in anger. Abusive oldsters act out of anger and therefore the need to say management, not the motivation to fondly teach the kid. The angrier the parent, the lot of intense the abuse.
- Using worry to regulate behavior. Abusive oldsters might believe that their youngsters have to be compelled to worry them so as to behave, so that they use physical abuse to “keep their kid in line.”

### 6.1 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

#### Mann-Whitney Test

The U test was developed by Wilcoxon. In this test, the hypothesis is tested either with the ranks assigned to the values of the first sample [R1] or the ranks based on the second sample [R2]. The U statistics is computed with following formula:

$$U1 = n1 + n2 + [n1(n1+1)/2] - R1$$

$$U2 = n1 + n2 + [n1(n1+1)/2] - R2$$

In the above formula,  $n_1, n_2$  are the size of the samples,  $R_1, R_2$  are the rank sums of the corresponding samples.

**Relationship between Literacy level and family violence**

**Hypothesis  $H_0$ :** There is no association between family violence and literacy levels

**Ranks**

	sortofpeople	N	Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks
Family violence	Uneducated	58	52.82	3063.50
	Educated	45	50.94	2292.50
	Total	103		

**Test Statistics (a)**

	Family violence
Mann-Whitney U	1257.500
Wilcoxon W	2292.500
Z	-.345
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	.730

a Grouping Variable: sort of people

**Result:** Since calculated value (0.730) is greater than  $p$  (0.005), the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) is accepted. Therefore it is concluded that there is no impact of literacy level towards the family violence.

**7. WARNING SIGNS OF KID ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

The warning signs that a toddler is being abused or neglected will vary per the kind of abuse inflicted.

**7.1 Warning signs of emotional abuse**

The child may:

- Be too withdrawn, fearful, or anxious concerning doing one thing wrong.
- Not appear to be hooked up to the parent or caregiver.
- Act either not suitably adult (taking care of different children) or not suitably infantile (thumb-sucking, throwing tantrums).

**7.2 Warning signs of physical abuse**

The child may:

- Their injuries could seem to possess a pattern like marks from a hand or belt.
- Be continually watchful and “on alert,” as if looking ahead to one thing dangerous to happen.
- Shy away from bit, flinch at unforeseen movements, or appear afraid to travel home.
- Wear inappropriate covering to hide up injuries, like long-sleeved shirts on hot days.

**7.3 Warning signs of kid neglect**

The child may:

- Wear ill-fitting, filthy, or inappropriate covering for the weather.
- Have systematically dangerous hygiene (unbathed, and unwashed hair, noticeable body odor).
- Have untreated diseases and physical injuries.

- Be of times unsupervised or left alone or allowed to play in unsafe things.
- Be of times late or missing from faculty.

**7.4 Warning signs of statutory offence in youngsters**

The child may:

- Have bother walking or sitting.
- Display information of sexual acts inappropriate for his or her age, or maybe exhibit insidious behavior.
- Make sturdy efforts to avoid a selected person, while not an apparent reason.
- Not wish to alter garments before of others or participate in physical activities.
- Have Associate in Nursing STD or maternity, particularly if they’re beneath the age of fourteen.
- Try to run aloof from home.

**8. AVOIDANCE**

Here are some of the ways through which child abuse can be avoided

- **Age Appropriation:** The most mistake people make in deciding is that what children can handle and at what ages. That is babies cannot sleep without a peep in the bed at night time or brisk toddler cannot be made to sit in one place for an extended time. So, before reacting to the Childs behavior one has to understand the age of the child and expected behavior of the child.
- **Build skills.** One has to learn how to handle kids before even getting into the baby sitting jobs. There are quiet lot of books and seminars available over internet. Also, they can learn from other parents on skills.
- **Take Rest:** There are instances where if people doesn’t get enough sleep or rest their level of interaction will be total different than the normal people. Sleep deprivation usually succumb to anger also adds to moodiness and irritability.
- **Emotional Intelligence:** The most important aspect is to learn the emotions and improve the behaviorism while handling the kids especially. Emotional intelligence is an art through which one can control the flow of emotions from oneself.

**9. ASSISTANCE TO THE ABUSED OR NEGLECTED CHILD**

- **Avoid denial and remain calm.** The primary focus towards assistance on child abuse or neglect is to patiently listen to the concerns of emotionally or physically affected child. Take time and understand the problem child has been undergoing or undergone. Showing unpleasant or shocking reaction to the kid will make it hard and force the child to go deeper into the core shell and remain shy/afraid to express their feelings.
- **Safety first.** There may be instances where any individual who tries to take action against such abuse or the child himself is put to the safety threat. In such cases it is better to involve professionals for getting help/ advice.

- **Comfort the child.** Provide an assurance to the child that actions will be taken against such abuse and make them to feel comfortable.
- **Avoid Questioning.** Allow the child to elaborate the situations/scenarios affecting the child physically or emotionally and do not involve in a question answer mode. Talk with child freely and let them come out of the fear or stress they have been undergoing or underwent. Involving in question and answer mode may lead the child in confused or fluster state.

- ✓ On analyzing the major reason for child abuse and neglect “Literacy level” can be minor impact on this topic.
- ✓ Out of 102 collected samples 71 people are not satisfied with Government policies on the safety of child and the public needs more reforms to eradicate the child abuse.

➤ Sparing valuable time with children and making them mentally and physically strong by self protection will be considered as positive opportunities .( applicable to all ages )

## 9.1 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

### Karl Pearson’s Correlation:

**Karl Pearson's Coefficient of Correlation** is an extensively used mathematical method in which the numerical representation is applied to measure the level of relation between linear related variables.

$$\text{Formula} = \frac{\sum xy}{\sqrt{\sum x^2} \cdot \sqrt{\sum y^2}}$$

### Relationship between Anxiety disorder of parents-Mental illness & Employment

**Hypothesis H<sub>0</sub>:** There is NO association between the Anxiety disorders of parents-Mental illness with their employment

#### Correlations

		Employed	Anxiety
Employed	Pearson Correlation	1	.213(*)
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.032
	N	102	102
Anxiety	Pearson Correlation	.213(*)	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.032	
	N	102	102

\* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

**Result:** This implies that null hypothesis is rejected as the calculated value (.213) is higher than the table value (0.032). Hence, there is an association between Anxiety disorders of parents-Mental illness with their employment. Due to this, Anxiety disorders of parents-Mental illness with their employment child abuse/neglect are made.

## 10. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- The area of the study is restricted only to toddlers.
- Only 102 samples were able to collect through the source of Google sheets.
- Limited factors such as – Anxiety, Poverty, Family violence & Literacy level are only analyzed.

## 11. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- ✓ The root cause of child abuse and neglect has been identified as mental stresses of working parents.

## 11. CONCLUSIONS

As quoted “today’s child will be tomorrow’s leader”. It is not just a quote but it is a true fact as we have seen many achievers who achieved in various fields with their parental cares. From this study it is analyzed that 70’s and 80’s generation we were brought up by caring parents and never underwent any problems. So in this emphasis is on “Parental Care” which indirectly mitigates the abuse and neglect situations faced by the children. Even though the General Public has opined negative impact on Government policies, as an individual, every citizen should start the change from their end.

## 12. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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**BIOGRAPHIES**

*Dr. S. Jayalakshmi* is presently working as Assistant Professor and Head, PG & Research Department of Commerce - Chellammal Womens College. She has published numerous research papers in peer-reviewed journals. She hold Ph D is commerce and has good teaching experience. She attended many national and international conferences, seminars and workshops. She has been assisting many events, seminars, workshops and conferences.



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