

ABUSE OF CHILDREN AMONG SCHOOL GOING STUDENTS

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Abstract

Child abuse refers to emotional, physical, economic and sexual maltreatment to a person below the age of eighteen. There are four major categories of child abuse: Physical, verbal, psychological/emotional neglect and sexual abuse. The present research is concerned with examining the prevalence and attitude of students towards child abuse in school. This study was based on stratified random sampling. Sample was 40, in which 20 boys students and 20 girls school of Ranchi district students. Samples were considered on class eight students. Child abuse scale was used in this study.

Child Abuse

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Physical Abuse -Physical abuse is striking or beating children with hands or an object and may include assault with a knife, gun or other weapon. It includes such behaviours also as locking someone during sleep, burning, gagging or tying them up etc. Physical abuse of very young may include shaking them on the floor, or throwing them against the wall or other hard object.

Verbal Abuse -Verbal abuse is a form of abusive behaviour involving the use of language It is a form of profanity that can occur with or without the use of expletives While oral communication is the most common form of verbal abuse, it also includes abusive words in written form. It is a pattern of behaviour that can seriously interfere with one's positive emotional development and can also lead to significant detriment to one's self-esteem, emotional well-being, and physical state etc.

Psychological/Emotional Abuse-Psychological abuse / emotional abuse is characterized by a person subjecting or exposing another to behaviour that may result in psychological trauma, including anxiety, depression (Dutton, 1994; Mauro et al, 2000; Thompson and Kaplan , 1993).

Sexual Abuse Sexual abuse refers to inappropriate sexual contact between a child and an adult and someone .Sexual abuse may include verbal remarks or kissing, attempted or completed intercourse.

School Setting -The present research will be limited to school setting i.e. in/ near by schools or on the way from residence to school.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Child abuse has been recorded in literature. Reports of infanticide, mutilation, abandonmen and other forms of violence against children date back to ancient civilizations (Bensel., et.al, 1997). Child abuse first attracted national attention in the United States in 1950s when Denver paediatrician named C.Henry Kempe (1962) published his findings regarding X-ray evidence of international injuries to small children. Kemp's research was followed by numerous investigations on other signs of child abuse and neglect, including learning disorder, malnutrition.

Child abuse in India is often a hidden phenomenon. However, a few researches have been done .Some of these are as follows:

- A survey is carried out by the Advanced Paediatric Centre, PGI in 2004. The sample consisted of 1,500 adolescents of ten government schools located in Chandigarh. The result revealed that the prevalence rate of corporal punishment was 22 percent. (Chandigarh Newline, 21 June, 2007).
- Sharma (2003) found that 39 percent of female high school students of Mumbai complained about "eve teasing," at their school.
- NGO Aapanach conducted a study in 2004 on 350 children selected from public, private, and municipal schools. It was found that over 75 percent children reported being punished at school and nearly 60 percent students revealed that they were punished mostly by caning or hitting with a ruler. It was frequently common for the whole class to be punished (66%) (Cities.expressindia.com, 7 April 2007).

- A study on corporal punishment was conducted on 1,591 children from 41 schools and at home in four States – Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh. In this study it was found that corporal punishment was an accepted way of life in all the schools and communities. (Saath Charitable Trust/Plan International, India, 2006)

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Objectives

- To measure the attitude of students towards child abuse in school setting
- **Hypothesis**

There will be varying in attitude of students towards child abuse in school setting.

The Sample and sampling

The sample of the study was selected by stratified random sample from the class VIII students of Ranchi city and its peripheral areas.

The factor of stratification is:

- Factors of Religion: Christian and sarna
- Factors of Gender: Boys and Girls

Thus there were 40 cases were be selected randomly making a total of 40 cases.

Sample design

s.no	Religion	Christian	Sarna
1	Gender	Boys	Girls
2	No	20	20
3	Class	VIII	VIII

Tools and Material

Child abuse attitude scale was used developed by Research Scholar

Statistical Analysis of Tribal Sarna and Tribal Christian favourable attitude towards Child Abuse

s.no	School students	Verbal abuse	Physical abuse	Sexual abuse	Psychological abuse
1	20 Sarna	62.50%	63.75%	73.75%	53.75%
2	20 Christian	48.75%	60.00%	60.00%	47.50%

Statistical Analysis of Tribal Sarna and Tribal Christian unfavourable attitude towards Child Abuse

s.no	School students	Verbal abuse	Physical abuse	Sexual abuse	Psychological abuse
1	20 Sarna	37.50%	36.25%	26.25%	46.25%
2	20 Christian	51.25%	40.00%	40.00%	52.50%

Results

Attitude towards child abuse in school setting among tribal sarna students

- 62.50% tribal sarna school students had favorable attitude towards verbal abuse in school setting while 37.50% had unfavorable attitude.
- 63.75% tribal sarna school students had favorable attitude towards physical abuse in school setting while 36.25% had unfavourable attitude .
- 73.75% tribal sarna school students had favourable attitude towards sexual abuse in school setting while 26.25% had unfavorable attitude.
- 53.75% tribal sarna students had favorable attitude towards psychological abuse in school setting while 46.25% had unfavorable attitude.

Attitude towards Child Abuse in School Setting among Tribal Christian students

- 48.75% Tribal Christian school students had favorable attitude towards verbal abuse in school setting while 51.25% had unfavorable attitude.
- 60.00% Tribal Christian school students had favorable attitude towards physical abuse in school setting while 40.00% had unfavorable attitude.
- 60.00% Tribal Christian school students had favorable attitude towards sexual abuse in school setting while 40.00% had unfavorable attitude.
- 47.50% Tribal Christian students had favorable attitude towards psychological abuse in school setting while 52.50% had unfavorable attitude.

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