

TOPIC :-

"CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT"

Child abuse prevention and treatment act (CAPTA) defines child abuse as "any recent act or failures to act on the part of a parent or caregiver which causes death, ^serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation." Most laws consider child abuse and neglect when conducted by parents or caregiver than any other person. WHO declared various forms of child maltreatment

which includes physical, neglect, emotional and sexual abuses.

Physical abuse includes nonaccidental physical harm ranging from minor bruises to bone fractures and death. The injuries in physical abuse can be caused through punching, kicking, hitting, throwing, burning, stabbing, biting, choking and many other means. Physical abused child can be easily identified through specific signs. The most common sign is the presence of bruises, burning, or biting marks on a child. The frightening of children when the parents approached, along with the resistance of children when the time to go home arrived are another signs

of physical abuses. Moreover, there are various detrimental consequences of physical abuse. According to the national survey of child and adolescent wellbeing (NSCAW), one fourth of the children living for more than twelve months in the foster care are at risk of long standing and recurrent diseases. The most common impact of physical abuse is shaking baby syndrome, causes blood in the eye and brain, damage to the spinal cord, neck, rib and bone fractures. Along with, studies shows that some part of the brain fails to develop in these children, leading to the impairment of brain development. Furthermore, research shows that the risk of developing

physical diseases such as asthma, arthritis, high blood pressure and ulcers.

Therefore, there is a dire need for the prevention of physical abuse.

Sexual abuse includes activities in which private body parts are touched without consent. It includes fondlings a child's genitals, incest, rape, sodomy, prostitution and production of pornographic materials. The victim of sexual abuse feels difficulty in sitting and walking. The child suddenly refuses participation in physical activities. Furthermore, there is a sudden change in appetite and the child have unusual sexual knowledge. Sexual abuse is a nightmare for children. The drastic

Consequences leads child towards isolation, fear, low self esteem, inability to trust and relationship difficulties. In addition, the rate of criminal activities rises among these children.

Research studies shows consistently that these children are more likely to be involved in smoking, alcohol abused, taking illicit drugs and have lower academic achievements.

Hence, the prevention of sexual abuse is crucial for the children.

Emotional abuse involves a pattern of behaviour which impairs child emotional development. Emotional abuse is difficult to determine but it is always found with other forms of abuses. The victim of emotional abuse child is

absent from school. Social interaction is also limited in them due to consistent rejection and negligence. The deleterious impacts of psychological abuse includes extreme behaviour, either aggression or passivity, acquire antisocial traits, and violent behaviour.

In a long term research study, 80% of abused children met the criteria of at least one mental disorder at the age of 21. These young adults exhibit anger, anxiety, depression, panic disorders, dissociative disorders and attention deficit issues. Therefore, prevention of emotional abuse is very important to protect our children from personality disorders.

Apart from, there are various preventive measures which can be taken by

Central and local government, community and organizations.

First and the foremost preventive measure is public awareness through public service announcements (PSAs), posters and brochures to develop the parenting skills and child safety.

Secondly, skills based curricula should be introduced in schools to teach children safety and to prevent the anathema of child abuse.

Thirdly, parents education is also very crucial to improve parenting skills and to ensure child development.