

Child Emotional Abuse: A Study Among School Students (2016)

***Salini C S, **Dr. K A Sebastian**

¹**Research scholar in Psychology, Kerala University Library, Palayam, TVM*

²*Head and Professor, Dept of Psychology, Fathima Matha National College , Kollam (Rtd)*

*Corresponding Author: *Salini C S,*

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I. INTRODUCTION

Child abuse is a phenomenon that has existed as long as families have existed. Studies of the earliest human settlement cultures and civilizations reveal evidence of child sacrifice and discriminatory practices resulting in neglect, abuse and even death of infants and children as also of initialize rights that come close to acts of cold blooded cruelty (Bhan, d- 1991)

The world health organization (WHO) defines child abuse and child maltreatment as whole as all forms of physical and/or psychological ill treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relation of responsibility, trust or power.

The world health organization (WHO) distinguishes four types of child maltreatment: Physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional and psychological abuse and neglect.

1. Emotional / psychological abuse: Emotional abuse refers to the psychological and social aspects of child abuse. It is the most common form of child abuse.
2. There are multiple definitions of child emotional abuse:
3. In 2013, the American psychological association (APA) added child psychological/ emotional abuse to the DSM – 5 describing it as “Non-accidental verbal or symbolic acts by a child's parent or caregivers that result or have reasonable potential to result in significant psychological harm to the child”.
4. Emotional and psychological abuse in children is defined as behaviors, speech, and actions of parents, caregivers, or other significant figures in a child's life that have a negative mental impact on the child.
5. Emotional abuse is the ongoing emotional maltreatment or emotional neglect of a child. It's sometimes called psychological abuse and can seriously damage a child's emotional health and development. Emotional abuse can involve deliberately trying to scare or humiliate a child or isolating or ignoring them.

Many parent are emotionally abusive without being violent or sexually abusive, however, emotional abuse invariably accompanies physical and sexual abuse. Some parents who are emotionally abusive parent practice forms of child rearing that are oriented towards fulfilling their own needs and goals, rather than those of their children. Their parenting style may be characterized by over aggression towards their children including shouting and intimidation, or they may manipulate their children using more suitable means such as emotional blackmail. Emotional abuse does not only occur in the home. Children can be emotionally abused by teachers and other adults in position of powers over the child. Children can also be emotionally abused by other children in the form of “bullying” chronic emotional abuse in schools is a serious cause of harm to victimized children and warrants ongoing active intervention.

II. EMOTIONAL ABUSE- INCLUDE

1. Humiliating or constantly criticizing a child
2. Threatening, shouting at a child or calling them names
3. Making the child the subject of jokes, or using sarcasm to hurt a child
4. Blaming
5. Making a child perform degrading acts
6. Not recognizing a child's own individuality, trying to control their lives
7. Pushing a child too hard or not recognizing their limitations
8. Exposing a child to distressing events or interactions such as domestic abuse or drug taking
9. Failing to promote a child's social development
10. Not allowing them to have friends
11. Persistently ignoring them

12. Being absent
13. Manipulating a child
14. Never saying anything kind, expressing positive feelings or congratulating a child on successes
15. Never showing any emotions in interactions with a child, also known as emotional neglect.

III. TYPES OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE

3.1 Passive Emotional Abuse: When a parent or caregiver denies their child the love and care they need in order to be healthy and happy. It's known as "passive" abuse.

It's just as damaging, but it can be harder to spot than "active" abuse. The definitions for passive emotional abuse and emotional neglect are very similar.

Five categories of passive emotional abuse have been identified:

Emotional unavailability:

Where a parent or caregiver is not connected with the child and cannot give them the love that they deserve and need

3.2 Negative attitudes:

1. Such as having a low opinion of the child and not offering any praise or encouragement
2. Developmentally inappropriate interaction with the child:
3. Either expecting the child to perform tasks that they are not emotionally mature enough to do or speaking and acting in an inappropriate way in front of a child
4. Failure to recognize a child's individuality:
5. This can mean an adult relying on a child to fulfill their emotional needs and not recognizing that the child has needs
6. Failure to promote social adaptation:
7. Not encouraging a child to make friends and mix among their own social peers.

IV. ACTIVE EMOTIONAL ABUSE

When someone intentionally scares, demeans or verbally abuses a child it's known as "active" abuse. This requires a premeditated intention to harm a child.

Active emotional abuse has been defined as:

Spurning (rejecting), terrorizing, isolating, exploiting or corrupting.

V. WHY EMOTIONAL ABUSE HAPPENS

Periods of high stress and tension, such as money worries or unemployment, can take a parent's or caregiver's focus away from providing the emotional love and support that a child needs.

They may:

1. Be emotionally unavailable, because they're not around or too tired
2. Forget to offer praise and encouragement
3. Expect a child to take on too much responsibility for their age, for example caring for other family members
4. Be over-protective, limiting opportunities to explore, learn and make friends
5. Expect a child to meet their own emotional needs
6. Take out their anger and frustration on their child.

VI. NEED FOR THE STUDY

No violence against the children is justifiable; all violence against children is preventable. There can be no compromise in challenging violence against children. Every society, no matter its culture, economic or social background, can and must stop violence against children. We can understand that lots of problems faced by emotionally/psychologically abused children in comparison with other children. This represents the importance and relevance of this study. So present study trying to find out the psychological factors affecting the emotionally abused children and to invite the special worldwide attention to their alarming problem. So, we protect them from abusers. Save them for new generation.

All these factors reveals that the emotional abuse affect a major problem in children. Parents are may or may not involved in emotional abuse. The attitude of the parents towards the children will badly affect their character and behavior. So this area of research is very useful that to understand the parents attitude and the after effect of children in their whole life.

VII. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The title of the present study stated as "Child Emotional Abuse: A study among School Students" .

VIII. AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the present investigation is to find out the extent to which psychological factors like anxiety is affecting the emotionally abused children.

IX. HYPOTHESIS

There will not be any significant difference between emotionally abused children and non-emotionally abused children in the variable anxiety

Methodology in brief

X. SAMPLE

The sample of the present study was among 96 school students including both emotionally abused (N=48), Non-Emotionally abused (N=48) in VHSS Njekkadu, Varkala, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala state.

XI. SUITABLE INSTRUMENT

The tools used for collecting data from the sample were anxiety scale (CS Salini & Dr. K A Sebastian 2015) and abuse screening questionnaire. The questionnaire was standardized through the method split half reliability and construct validity.

XII. STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES

The statistical technique used in the study is correlation

XIII. RESULTS

The result of correlation shows that there exists a significant difference between emotionally abused and Non-Emotionally abused students on anxiety

Table showing the correlation of emotionally abused children

		Emotionally Abused	Non Emotionally Abused
Emotionally Abused	Pearson Correlation	1	.992**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000
	N	48	48
Non Emotionally Abused	Pearson Correlation	.992**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.
	N	48	48

**Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2 -tailed)

The study revealed that in comparison with non emotionally abused children, the anxiety and misbehavior among emotionally abused children is above the normal level. It can be concluded that emotional growth can bring changes in the level of anxiety in the growth of a child.

So the hypnosis is rejected.

XIV. CONCLUSION

Children generally have fewer rights than adults and are classed as not able to make serious decision and legally must always be under the care of responsible adults. It has to be seriously considered that a small word or action from the side of parents is going to make a huge impact in the emotional growth of the child, both positive and negative. So, great care is essential even in the minute dealing with the child. To save the future of a child and thereby of one society, we have to build up children who are emotionally strong and healthy

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