

Summary

Child abuse is in fact a worldwide phenomenon and has become a major concern in many countries throughout the world. Child abuse or maltreatment constitute all forms of physical and or emotional ill treatment , sexual abuse, neglect or any other exploitation. Almost 53,000 children died worldwide in 2002 as a result of homicide.

Ecological factors for child abuse include: parental factors, factors related to child, community factors & societal factors.

Many serious consequences are linked with child abuse as cognitive disability, developmental delay and underachievement in school Performance , low self-esteem, depression, Aggression, mental illness - drug-taking , violent Crime, eating disorders & Death.

This study was designed aiming to study the epidemiological features of child abuse in term of time, place and personal characteristics in term of child's behaviour and his emotional problems.

The study was conducted on 330 students of 2 preparatory schools of Banha city out of 11 schools during the academic year 2007/2008. The studied group was drawn from **15 May School** for girls and **Metwali Sharawy School**, they were chosen randomly out of total eleven preparatory schools.

The data was collected from students of Benha preparatory schools by use of semi structured, self administrated questionnaire guided by researcher's instructions . The questionnaire comprised personal data from students, socio-economic score to evaluate the social status, Child

traumatic questionnaire which used for screening for histories of abuse and neglect, Strength and Difficulties questionnaire& Adolescent Wellbeing questionnaire.

Results revealed that The prevalence of abuse among the studied group was (75.8%) . Only 24.2% of the studied group were reported to have no abuse at all.

The highest prevalence rate among abused children was found to be that of combined form abuse 28.4%. The 2nd highest prevalence was emotional abuse 24%.Followed by physical abuse 20.4% then neglect 17.6% and the least prevalence rate was sexual abuse 9.6%.

It was found that higher percentage of male students exposed to combined form abuse, physical & sexual abuse ,while high percentage of female students exposed to emotional abuse and neglect.

Socioeconomic distribution of studied group showed that, 43.4% of students who were belonging to high socioeconomic status weren't exposed to abuse. Emotional abuse and neglect were high among students belonging to low socioeconomic status 25%&23% respectively

The highest percentage of no abuse was among children belonging to married parents 28.5%. Sexual abuse showed its peak 26.6% among children belonging to divorced parents.

This study revealed that the highest percentage 42.3% of absence of abuse was among students belonging to unemployed mothers ,while students belonging to employed mothers showed the least percentage 12.5% of absence of abuse.

This study showed that the highest percentage of absence of abuse was 40.9% among students of old aged parents. The percentage of Physical abuse showed no difference between students belonging to young aged parents and old aged parents.

The majority of the abused children 53.2% were in high need for help and intervention to manage the emotional and behavior problems according to the total difficulties score.

Emotional symptom score screen for emotional problems among children that may result from maltreatment. The majority of the abused children 60% were in high need for treatment. Less than one third of abused children were in some need for intervention.

Hyperactivity problem is a common behavior problem among children. Among the abused children 48.8% were in high need for intervention. Less than one third of abused children were in some need for intervention.

Abused children suffer from abnormal relationships with their friends. Peer problem score screen for that problem. More than half of the abused children were in high need for intervention. One third of the abused children were in some need for intervention.

There was insignificant difference between different types of abused children regarding the conduct problem score.

Depression is an important psychiatric consequences that developed from child abuse. The majority of students who didn't expose to abuse 44.8% weren't depressed. The majority of students who exposed to physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect & combined form abuse was depressed.

More than half of abused children were exposed to abuse outside. Children exposed to abuse at home represented less than one third of all abused children. Neglect and combined form abuse represented high percentage among children abused at school 28.4%&20.8% respectively.

The majority of children 80.4% suffered from abuse for less than one year. While only 19.6% suffered for more than one year . This difference was of no statistical significance .

The risk of severe physical, and psychological complications is more highly associated with women who have undergone Female genital mutilation. Higher percentage of circumcised females was depressed 71% .

The highest percentage of circumcised females 43.4% was in high need for help according to the total difficulties score.