

C O N C L U S I O N S

AND

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S

Child abuse and neglect is a serious condition with relatively high prevalence in school-age population(1.9%).

School staff have no precise idea about child abuse; its nature, manifestations and how to detect, complications and how to handle.

There is no laws in Egyptian legislations that require physicians and school staff to detect and/or report any case of child abuse.

No statistics are available on the extent of the problem in school-children and even in the general populations.

The problem is increasing year after year because of the fore-mentioned defects in detection, reporting and management.

Most school child abuse does not involve injuries severe enough to require hospital reference. The child of physical abuse usually attend school with bruises, welts and occasionally burns but in most cases injuries are not of sufficient severity to necessitate care by a physician. So, many cases are not identified.

Cases were reported from all social classes but the most susceptible groups were children of handicrafts, clerks and those of no specific or constant job.

Illiteracy, especially among females is a main milieu for abuse to flourish, illiteracy should be eradicated. Family problems as financial stress, divorce, separation, death or large family size and unemployment are the major initiators of abuse. Few, if any of families with the previous problems were in contact with or received support from appropriate agencies.

Abused children are victims of not only their parents but also victims of a careless society. There were no interference on behalf of these children by any institution involved in child care.

Psychiatric disturbances are more prevalent among abused children than in school population in general. Aggressiveness, withdrawal, absenteeism led the list of these disturbances. Teachers are the premedactors of abuse. They should be educated and supported in this function.

Medical diseases are more commonly encountered in abused children like iron deficiency anemia, **allergy** & **bronchial asthma**. However, other diseases as rheumatic heart disease, epilepsy, .. have the same distribution in the general population.

The scholastic achievement of abused children is markedly deranged.

Personal and social adjustment of abused children is highly impaired.

The handicrafts, clerks and parents with no constant jobs are the main occupations with high potential to abuse their children.

Death of one or both parents, marital conflicts, addiction to narcotics by the father, chronic parental illness, poverty and large family size are the main factors that initiate abuse among school children.

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S

Establishment of procedures for detection, recording, and reporting child abuse and considering school staff responsible for these procedures.

The problem of child abuse should be explained to school staff as a part of their responsibility in care and education of school children.

There must be a law in the Egyptian legislation that requires physician and school staff to report about any case of abuse among school population.

The balance of social stability should be regained by education of handicrafts, finding a constant job for the unemployed parents, and financial support for the clerks.

Illiteracy is a main cause of abuse and should be eradicated as a first step to solve most of our society problems.

There must be a specialist in child abuse in every city. This specialist should be well qualified for consultation, examination and management of cases of abuse.

Centres specialized in guidance for solution of marital problems as divorce and separation should be established in every district of the city. Sound family relations is a safeguard against child abuse preposi-
tion.

Birth control to keep the number of children in every family as small as possible is one of steps in prevention.

Addiction to narcotics is a damaging habit that should be eradicated from our society.

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