

A study on Child Abuse and Role of Teachers in Child Protection in J& K

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Abstract—There are about 40% children representing the population of Jammu and Kashmir. A good number of children representing socially and educationally backward sections of the society are not blessed with adequate educational, healthcare services, nutrition facilities and services in the state. The past studies have highlighted the plight of the children of Jammu and Kashmir over a period of time. The instances of child abuse and violation of child rights are increasing in the state of Jammu and Kashmir which is known for highest number of interrogation and torture centers. Child abuse refers to the intentional, unintentional and perceived maltreatment of the child, whether typical or not, including all forms of physical, emotional, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, bring about actual or potential harm to the child's health & development. There are minimum four types of child abuses or maltreatments. They are physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional and psychological abuse, and child negligence. Teachers understand children's rights as human rights and create such consciousness in the community as well & thus plays a very important role in child protection. This paper is qualitative in nature and focus on Child Abuse and Role of teachers in Child protection in J& K.

Keywords: Children; Child Abuse; Child Protection.

Introduction

The state of Jammu and Kashmir has large number of children who are the worst sufferers of poverty, backwardness, separatist violence, natural calamities and other disadvantages. There are more than 2 lakh children who are the victims of violence in the state. There are a considerable number of children who are affected by child labor, child prostitution, human trafficking, poverty, illiteracy, ill health, malnutrition, fatal diseases and so on. The state does not have a regional commission for child rights protection due to certain inherent constitutional constraints. The state has also failed to protect children from all forms of violence. The school enrollment and out of school children in j&k are quite encouraging. Children are not in the schools due to parental illiteracy and poverty. At present, there are only 40% of children who are enrolled in pre-school and school level educational institutions in the state of J&K. A good number of children representing socially and educationally backward sections of the society are

not blessed with adequate educational, healthcare and nutrition facilities and services in the state.

Methodology: The proposed paper mainly is qualitative in nature. Relevant books, articles and newspapers are used in this paper. Data and evidences are collected from the concern sources as per need to strengthen my research. Explanatory approach has been monitored in this research.

Child Abuse

Child Abuse may be defined as hurting (Whether physically, emotionally or socially), Ill treatment mistreatment, neglect or deprivation of any child. It is not every time easy to identify that a child is being offended or is at hazard, Some form of Protection issues are visible and obvious such as a child begging on the street or child labour or physical abuse at home or substance abuse etc. In such situations child may or may not speak to anybody the abuse but since it is obvious, we can immediately help the child.

Forms of the child abuse:

There are many forms of child abuse and they vary according to cultural and geographical settings however, the following four are the prominent forms of child abuse:

- 1) Physical abuse is causing physical harm upon a child. This may include thrashing, slapping, kicking, beating or otherwise hurting a child.
- 2) Sexual abuse is unsuitable sexual behaviour with a child. It includes fondling a child's genitals, making the child fondle an adult's genitals, sexual assault (intercourse, incest, rape, and sodomy), & Exhibitionism. To be considered child abuse, these acts have to be committed by person responsible for the care of a child or related to the child (for example a baby-sitter, parent, neighbor, relatives, extended family member, peer, older child, friend, stranger, or a day-care provider).
- 3) Emotional abuse (also known as verbal abuse, mental abuse, and psychological maltreatment) includes acts or the failure to act by parents, caretakers, peers and others

that have caused or could cause, serious behavioural, cognitive, emotional, or mental distress/trauma.

- 4) Child neglect is an act of omission or commission leading to the denial of child's basic needs. Neglect can be physical, educational, emotional, or psychological. Physical neglect entails denial of food, clothing, appropriate medical care or supervision. It may include abandonment. Educational neglect includes failure to provide appropriate schooling or special educational needs. Psychological neglect includes lack of emotional support and love.

Role of teachers in Child protection in the Jammu & Kashmir (J& K).

The teachers' duty to protect children does not come to an end once they are out of the school premises. Creating a safe learning environment, identifying pupils who are suffering with problems or at risk and then taking appropriate action, are vital to ensure that children are safe at home and at school. Therefore the teachers have to equip themselves to know more about the children's problems, Child Rights and the mechanisms to protect their rights. The teacher as a leader, as a torchbearer, as a mentor and as a guide must also take on the role of a caretaker, a protector and a catalyst in the protection of Child rights. They should ensure that all children are protected from all forms of exploitation, abuse, neglect, inhuman and degrading treatment. One of the significant topics that should be considered in the teacher education program needs to be the child rights.

- 1) With the knowledge on mechanisms for promotion and protection of Child Rights the school teachers can play a role of mediating agent in Child Rights protection system.
- 2) By taking up suitable measures for care and protection of Children in schools, the teachers can play a vital role in ensuring that all our children live in safe and nurturing environment.
- 3) With knowledge on Legislations for the protection of Child Rights, the teachers will be empowered to assure care and protection to all children in j&k.
- 4) With the Awareness on the government schemes/ Programmes for child welfare provided by the J&k Government school teachers will be able to assist Children in their growth, well-being and development.
- 5) Teachers can provide life skill education of children to enhance their knowledge and capacity to deal with abuse.
- 6) Encourage children's participation in matters that effect their lives.
- 7) Teachers can organize meetings with school authorities.

Conclusion

All children have the right to live in safe and dignity in a defensive environment. But the sufferings and problems of children are huge and widespread. It's evident that children around the world are economically exploited, socially discriminated, educationally deprived and physically mistreated. A Child cannot develop to be responsible and productive member of our society unless an environment which is conducive to his/her social and physical health and protection is assured to him/her. Teachers play a chief role in ensuring that all our children live in safety and dignity in a protective and nurturing environment. Hence it is imperative for every teacher to be aware of the many prevailing social evils which impact adversely on the development of children, and also of the legal provisions which exist and which can help in safeguarding the interests of the child. And thus contribute to the protection of rights of our children.

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