

Systematic review on dimensions of child abuse in India

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ABSTRACT:

Child abuse must be understood and analyzed by variety of dimensions. I conducted a systematic review of quantitative and qualitative studies published in the decade on Child Abuse in India to examine the distribution of the prevalence estimates for both genders, to improve understanding of the determinants and consequences of Child Abuse and identify gaps in the current state of research. It is an attempt and initiative to study and find out causes, consequences of child abuse in India. Also to understand mitigation strategies available for prevention and protection of child abuse in India.

Keywords: Child abuse, India, dimensions

proposed study were developed in consultation with a mentor group of academics from different disciplines participated in the FDP on Academic Writing (Names will include in the acknowledgement) and along the guidelines as per the preferred reporting items for systematic review. I searched electronic literature databases (PubMed, POPLINE and PsyINFO) for articles published in English on dimensions of child abuse in India between period 2012 to 2022 using 16 specific search terms. Data were extracted from published articles only. Searches were conducted through keywords. List of searches is attached (Table No.1). The same search strategy was used across all three databases.

Methods

For the present systematic review I searched electronic literature databases (PubMed, POPLINE and PsyINFO) for articles published in English on dimensions of child abuse in India between 2012 to 2022 using 16 search terms. Data were extracted from published articles only.

Objectives, research questions, inclusion and exclusion criteria, search strategy, search engine, search terms and study protocol for the

Research question

What is child abuse?

What are the types of child abuse?

Which dimensions are covered to study child abuse?

What are the causes of child abuse?

Which consequences are associated with child abuse?

How mitigation and intervention strategies could be made and implemented?

Table No. 1. List of Search terms paired with 'India'

Child abuse	Types of child abuse	Physical abuse
Sexual abuse	Emotional abuse	Mental abuse
Causes of child abuse	Negligence	Maltreatment
Consequences of child abuse	Dimensions of child abuse	Mitigation strategies for child abuse

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

Present systematic review summarizes status of research studies conducted in past decade on dimensions of child abuse in India. Databases have been reviewed to understand child abuse explained that Child abuse is hurting a child. It occurs when a child experiences harm or neglect. Often, the abuser is someone the child knows. It

may be a parent, family member, caregiver or family friend.

Child abuse can come in many forms:

- **Physical:** Slapping, pushing, punching, kicking, shaking or burning a child or not allowing a child to eat, drink or use the bathroom.

- **Emotional:** Frequently verbal, involving insults, constant criticism, harsh demands, threats and yelling.
- **Sexual:** Rape, incest, fondling, indecent exposure, using a child in pornography or exposing a child to pornographic material.

- **Medical:** Intentionally trying to make a child sick or not treating a medical condition.

Dimensions to be covered to study child abuse in India

Dimension means an aspect or nature of situation. It is way to express and explain situation with different angles and circumstances.



Articles reviewed to understand dimensions of child abuse in India clarify the factors in direct, indirect and indirect extended mode. It gives idea of grey shade which is not mostly comes into thought process.

Articles reviewed to understand causes of child abuse in India gives insightful explanations. It includes poverty, negligence of parents or care takers, social acceptance to physical and strict punishments, abuser's behavior and contact, unhealthy and failed relationships among or with parents, domestic violence, declining role of cultural models, role and reach of abusive content, maladjustments by parents and their views, lack of sexual literacy. Maltreatment of children in India was identified as 1) societal abuse, 2) physical maltreatment, 3) sexual abuse, and 4) nonphysical maltreatment.

Articles reviewed to understand consequences of child abuse shows that mental health disorders such as anxiety, attachment, post-traumatic stress and depression disorders, self-harming or suicidal thoughts, learning disorders, including poor language and cognitive development, developmental delay, eating disorders and physical ailments found common.

The analysis focused on stem vignettes, because "consequences" to the child were

problematic. Child prostitution was considered the most serious offense and poor housing conditions the least. Differences were found between professional groups for all areas except child prostitution and sexual abuse. In the Indian sample, the perceive seriousness varied with the nature of the abuse.

CONCLUSION

I conclude with a research agenda calling for quantitative and qualitative studies to explore the causes, consequences and interventions to prevent child abuse in India from a comprehensive approach. This research agenda may be necessary to inform the development of a culturally tailored primary prevention and treatment strategy for child abuse victims in India.

Proper steps have to be taken by the parents and each member of the society as a whole to prevent and reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect. The studies evaluated the understanding and attitude of the professionals, working parents toward physical child abuse, their knowledge on the emotional and psychological neglect, and the steps they are willing to take or have taken to prevent it in order to build a better future for the children.

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