

Cause and Impact of Child Abuse

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Introduction

Violence is an action intended to hurt or injure someone both physically and mentally. Its impact can be seen, in various forms, in all parts of the world. Overall, violence is among the leading causes of death worldwide for people aged 15–44 years.

In a family there are two types of parenting :

1. Authoritative Parenting
2. Authoritarian Parenting

Authoritative parenting is characterized by parents who demand their children to obey the rules that they apply in the family. They are responsive and tend to adjust their expectations to the needs of the child. They listen to their children’s arguments, although they may not change their minds. Most importantly, they try to balance the responsibility of the child to conform to the needs and demands of others with the rights of the child to be respected and have their own needs met.

Authoritarian parenting is characterized by parents who demands their children to follow a strict set of rules and expectations, but are not responsive. They allow for little open dialogue between parent and child, and usually rely on punishment to demand obedience or teach a lesson.

The difference between authoritative parenting and authoritarian parenting, is that authoritative parenting still allows communication between parent and child, they still listen to their children’s argument, and they may consider the argument. Meanwhile, authoritarian parenting relies on punishment to show assertiveness, and this type of parenting is the one that usually leads to violence in the family.

Violence is divided into 2 types :

1. Verbal/Mental Violence
2. Physical Violence

Verbal violence is an action that results in fear, loss of self-confidence, loss of ability to act, feeling helpless, and / or severe psychological suffering to someone. It can manifest itself as a language that demeans other people, that we use to attack our interlocutor and/or to support our own argument. Sometimes we may unconsciously use that language in daily conversations.

Physical violence is a form of violence that involves direct contact, and is meant to intimidate, inflict injury and any other types of physical harm to the victim. A few examples are hitting, kicking, slapping, etc.

Problem

What causes child violence? The first cause is that the child is problematic, and that triggers the parent to hurt the child because he/she doesn’t fulfill the parent’s expectations. The second cause is personality factors, or work pressure, the economy, or other family problems.

What are the impacts of violence to a child’s psychology or mental health? It can form the child’s way of thinking that he/she deserves to always be the victim. It can traumatize the child, and shape him/her into a bully in his/her social environment.

Research Method

This research was conducted by interviewing our guidance and counseling teacher and the people who have experienced child violence. We also took some additional informations from the internet that we filtered and revised to fit our paper.

Result and Analysis

We interviewed four different interviewees about their experience as victims of child violence.

First case : Parents of girl X forbade their daughter who wanted to go to ABC Senior High School. And suppose that she is accepted, X would still be forbidden to attend any after school activities, so that she could go home on time. In reality when X was accepted, she still wasn’t allowed to continue her study there. And when X was accepted in another school, she did a subtle rebellion by going to a lot of after school activities there, so that she didn’t have to hurry home.

Second case : Boy Y has a father whose character is a perfectionist, and likes to blame other people, including his wife and son. Resulting in Y being reluctant to relate too closely to his father, even under normal circumstances.

Third case : Girl Z has a father whose mood changes easily, and a mother, if emotional becomes

violent to her children. Those effects are buried within Z, until a moment when her father was blaming her. The emotions that were long buried finally bursted out. Her impingement was when they were out together she tried to leave her family and disappear. Luckily before she left the place completely, she was found.

Fourth case : Girl Q has a father who is violent (temperamental), and a mother who spoils her. As a result, Q is confused, apathetic, and becomes someone who doesn't have enthusiasm or hope.

Fifth case : A mother who serves as the backbone of the family, and has a perfectionist character, judges everything based on its success or materially. She's verbally harsh to one of her son that she considered less successful. The son that harbors annoyance towards his mother, finally got pressured after a long time. Because on one side he loves his mother deeply, but he also doesn't accept the pressure that is given by his mother. Making that boy depressed.

Conclusion

Child violence is not only physically, but also mentally too, that sometimes not even realized by parents. Which of course raises different consequences. Children who experienced physical violence, can grow up becoming perpetrators of physical violence. Same goes for childrens who went through mental violence, they can become perpetrators of mental violence, for example; a bully in their social environment.

Violence that is experienced by a child, whether it be mentally or physically, is not impossible to cause psychological disorders in the future.

Results of violence also depend on the victim's mentality. If the victim has a strong mentality, the result tends to lead to rebellion. But if the victim has a weak mentality, usually the victim becomes apathetic and has psychological disorders.

References

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