CHILD VIOLENCE

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Abstract: *One of the most conspicuous and visible forms of violence in society globally is the violence by young people. All over the world, print and the broadcast media are replete with, almost daily, the violence by gangs, in schools or by young people on the streets. While the perpetrators of such violence are the adolescents and young adults the main victims of such acts are also the same adolescents and young adults. These violence involving young people are responsible to a great extent to the higher numbers of premature death, injury and disability. It harms not only its victims, but also their family, relatives, friends and communities.*

This problem of child violence should not be viewed in isolation from other problem behaviors. Violent young people tend to commit a range of crimes. The other problems displayed by them include dropping out of school, substance abuse, compulsive lying, reckless driving and high rates of sexually transmitted diseases. There are close links between child violence and other forms of violence. Violence in the home or being physically or sexually abused, for instance, may make children or adolescents believe that violence is an acceptable means of resolving problems. Excessive exposure to armed conflicts may also give rise to a culture of terror that increases the incidence of child violence.

Child violence can develop in different ways. Some children may exhibit problem behavior in early childhood that gradually escalates to more aggravated forms of aggression before and during adolescence. Violent behavior and aggression can continue from childhood through adulthood to create a pattern of persistent offending throughout a person's life.

The effects of child violence are seen not only in casualty and disability, but also in the quality of life. It adds greatly to the costs of health and welfare services and generally undermines the fabric of society. However, all violent youths do not have significant problems other than their violence. Generally, youth homicide rates are substantially lower among females than males.

This study is an effort to diagnose the factors that induce and inculcate the violent behavior among children and young adults. Understanding the factors that increase the risk of young people being the victims or perpetrators of violence is essential for developing effective policies and programmes to prevent violence.

Key Words: *Abuse, Child, Crime, Homicide, Triggers, Violence, Youth*

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1. INTRODUCTION

Child violence is one of the commonest visible forms of violent acts in the society all over the world by the young people these days. The greed to earn quick bucks and the desire to fulfill their dreams at the earliest, young people has resorted to unlawful means to achieve them. Child violence can develop in many different ways. The child violence and aggression can continue from childhood to adolescence and from adolescence to adulthood to create a pattern of persistent offending behavior throughout one's life.

Several studies have shown that childhood aggression is a good predictor of violence in adolescence and early adulthood. There is also evidence of continuity in aggressive behavior from adolescence to adulthood. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, 44 per cent of the arrested criminals belong to the age group of 10 to 30 years, which is the' *youth'* (As per the 2011 statistics).

Child Violence How it Starts

Youth violence can develop in different ways. Some children may develop critical behavior in early childhood that gradually progresses into more severe forms of aggressive behavior during adolescence. Between 20% and 45% of boys and 47% and 69% of girls who are serious violent offenders at the age of 16–17 years are on a ''life-course persistent developmental pathway''. The children falling in this category commit the most serious violent offences and usually continue violent behavior into their adulthood.

The Dynamics of Youth Violence

Patterns of behavior, including violence, change over the course of a person's life. The period of adolescence and young adulthood is a time when violence, as well as other types of behaviors, is often given heightened expression. Ascertaining when and under what circumstances violent behavior occurs as a person develops can help in formulating strategy and policies for its prevention.

Risk Behaviors for Youth Violence

Indulging into physical fights, bullying and carrying of weapons are important risk behaviors for youth violence. Involvement in physical fights is very common among school-age children in many parts of the world, with males 2–3 times more likely than females. Bullying is also very common among school-age children. While they are forms of aggressive behavior, bullying and physical fighting can also lead to more serious forms of violence. The

carrying of weapons is both an important risk behavior and a predominantly male activity among young boys of school age.

Among adolescence-limited offenders, certain situational factors may play an important role in causing violent behavior. Situational factors include:

— the motive behind violent behavior;

— place where the behavior occurs;

— whether alcohol or weapons are present;

— whether other actions are involved that could be conducive to violence.

Motives for child violence vary according to the age of the participants. Child violence perpetrators in their teen-age commit about half of violent personal acts motivated by the search for excitement, often with co-offenders. The main motivation, however, switched from being thrill-seeking in the perpetrators' teen-age to utilitarian – involving prior planning, psychological intimidation and the use of weapons – in their twenties. The group fights, although, are on the whole more serious, they often escalate from minor incidents, typically occur in bars or on the street and are more likely to involve weapons, lead to injuries, and involve the police.

Drunkenness is an important immediate situational factor that can precipitate violence. About three-fourth of violent offenders and around half the victims of violence are intoxicated at the time of the incident. Generally, young violent offenders are versatile rather than specialized in the crimes they commit. In fact, violent young people typically commit more non-violent offences than violent offences.

Abuse towards Parent

It's part f human life that parents and young people may disagree and have conflict or arguments at times. But if a young person is abusive or offensive, it is more than conflict. Then it becomes a wishful attempt to control and have power over parent or others in the home. It can happen in families of any culture, religion. A young person may frighten, threaten or hurt elderly ones by swearing, yelling, pushing, hitting, spitting or kicking. They can threaten to run away or harm themselves if you don't give in to them. They might threaten you with knives or other weapons.

Violence or abuse can be a sign that the child-

- has not learnt to control his feelings, especially anger.

- does not value or respect other people.

- sees a parent, often the mother, as weak or think it's o. k. to treat women this way.

- is affected by alcohol or drugs. Some drugs can trigger psychosis.

A child might act aggressively if he has problems with his mental health. He may be anxious and lash out because he may think he can't trust those around him. Young people with a disability can be violent if they are frustrated or have trouble dealing with their feelings. Violence towards parents or other family members is not OK and in some cases can be a crime. Everyone has the right to feel safe and be respected, including parents.

Criminal violation motivated by hate, based on race, national or ethnic origin, language, color, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation or any other similar factor is referred to as Hate crime. All crimes occur within a social context. There are social, economic, family and personal pressures on both the victim and the perpetrator of crime. However, many argue that hate crimes also need to be understood within the context of living in a prejudicial society (Garnetts et al. 1990; Herek et al. 1997; Perry 2002; Willis 2004). This can, therefore, be easily understood that within our society there are people as well as behaviors that are seen as acceptable and "normal" and those that are seen as "different."

2. OBJECTIVES:

The main objectives of this study are summarized as under**:-**

- To find out reasons responsible for violent behavior in a child;

- To find out the fact that the child himself is the perpetrator as well as victim of such violent act;

- Finding out social other factors giving birth to the environment conducive to develop a child into a violent child ;

- To suggest strategies and programs of removing child violence.

3. METHODOLOGY

This study is directed to ascertaining the nature and impact of the Child Violence on the society through library studies and a theoretical research based on secondary data basically through the study of Reports, articles, journals, magazines and the Inter-net. Additionally some parents in the rural and suburbs of Lucknow and some academicians and think-tank

were interviewed through unstructured questionnaire to interrogate deeper insight into the subject matter of the study.

4. LITERATURE REVIEW

Children and adolescents violent behavior may include a wide range of behaviors such as-physical aggression, fighting, threats or attempts to hurt others, use of weapons, cruelty toward animals, fire setting, intentional destruction of property and vandalism.

Child violence must be understood as more than just an expression of aggressive individual behavior. It must be seen as part of a larger cultural phenomenon, which is inextricably woven into the history and social fabric of our society. We must acknowledge that, most often, our society glorifies and is entertained by violence. We may react strongly to child abuse or crimes against the elderly, but in our culture we honor and admire individuals in sports or the military whose capacity for violence enables them to overcome their opponents or trounce their enemies.

Violence is also a learned behavior. It may be consciously and unconsciously reinforced by families through child-rearing practices. It is also promoted by the media and other expressive media. Even our collective response to the threat of violence often manifests itself through some other form of violence like we sanction the killing of killers, and accept the notion that personal safety can be achieved by allowing citizens to be armed. At a visceral level, many of us seek justice for violence through some other form of violence.

Child homicide rates have increased in many parts of the world, especially among youths in the age group of 10–24 year. There are also important differences between the sexes, and between countries and regions. In general, rates of homicides among youths aged 15–24 years increased more than the rate among 10–14-year-olds. Male rates climbed more than female rates, and increases in youth homicide rates were more pronounced in developing countries and economies in transition. Furthermore, the increases in youth homicide rates were generally associated with increases in the use of guns as the method of attack.

Just as rates of violence vary across populations and communities, the norms and values that frame its occurrence vary as well. Hence, the approaches devised to address this problem must:

1) be open to innovation and creative application
2) be tailored to the particular needs of communities and schools

3) involve the participation of the target populations in planning and implementation.

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Violence against Children

According to UNICEF violence against children can be "physical and mental abuse and injury, neglect or negligent treatment, exploitation and sexual abuse. Violence may take place in homes, schools, orphanages, residential care facilities, on the streets, in the workplace, in prisons and in places of detention." Such violence can affect the normal development of a child impairing their mental, physical and social being. In extreme cases abuse of a child can result in death. Child abuse has many forms: physical, emotional, sexual, neglect, and exploitation. Any of these that are potentially or actually harmful to a child's health, survival, dignity and development are abuse. About 43% of girls in India who had ever been the subject of sexual violence said they first experienced it at or before they turned 19.

W.H.O. examined two forms of emotional abuse: humiliation and comparison. Half the children reported facing emotional abuse with 83% of that abuse committed by parents. Girl child neglect was assessed girls comparing themselves to their brothers on factors like attention, food, recreation time, household work, taking care of siblings, etc.

Violence against Parent

Violence towards parents or other family members by young people is more common than many people think. It's not often talked about because parents can feel embarrassed, scared or alone. They can feel as if they have lost control in their own home. It is important not to ignore the violence or other types of abuse. It can help to take action early to prevent or avoid violence. It's normal for parents and young people to disagree and have conflict or arguments at times. However, if a young person is abusive or violent, it is more than conflict. It is an attempt to control and have power over you or others in the home. It can happen in families of any culture, religion or situation in life.

Notice what happens before your young person gets aggressive or abusive. They might lash out when they are stressed or frustrated, when under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or when there is conflict. Help young people find ways to manage their feelings and deal with

stress. They might want to talk with a trusted adult. It is important to take control early. You may not be able to change or stop their behavior, but you can change yours even if you're scared or not feeling confident. Many parents find that acting early helps them feel like the parent again. Dealing with violence in the home is difficult and stressful. Recognize positive changes, even if they are small steps. Taking early action can help you feel more confident as a parent. It sends a clear message that you won't put up with violence.

- If arguments trigger abuse or violence, look at what causes fights. What happens as a fight brews? What are the warning signs?
- When these signs are present, make sure you act early and take space from each other.
- If you need to leave the house, take other children so they are safe.
- If alcohol or drugs contribute to violence, have clear rules about your young person not being in the house when affected by substances.

Child Labor

Child labor is the practice of having children engaged in economic activity, on part or full-time basis. Under extreme economic distress, children are forced to forego educational opportunities and take up jobs which are mostly exploitative as they are usually underpaid and engaged in hazardous conditions. Parents decide to send their child for engaging in a job as a desperate measure due to poor economic conditions. It is, therefore, no wonder that the poor households predominantly send their children to work in early ages of their life. One of the disconcerting aspects of child labor is that children are sent to work at the expense of education. The practice deprives children of their childhood, and is harmful to their physical and mental development. With regard to child labor 50.2% of children work all seven days of the week. 81.16% of the girl child laborers work in domestic households, while 84% of the boy child laborers worked in tea stalls or kiosks. 65.99 % of boys and 67.92% of girls living on the street reported being physically abused by their family members and other people.

5. FINDINGS

Factors affecting the potential for violent behavior at the individual level include biological, psychological and behavioral characteristics. These factors may show signs and appear in

childhood or adolescence, and to varying degrees they may be influenced by the person's family and peers and by other social and cultural influencers.

Biological characteristics

For possible biological factors, there have been studies on injuries and complications related to pregnancy and delivery, because of the suggestion that these might produce neurological damage, which in turn could lead to violence. Research shows that complications during delivery were a predictor for arrests for violence up to the age of 22 years. Pregnancy complications, on the other hand, did not significantly predict violence. Interestingly, delivery complications were strongly associated with future violence when a parent had a history of psychiatric illness. In these cases, 32% of males with significant delivery complications were arrested for violence, compared with 5% of those with only minor or no delivery complications. Low heart rates are associated with sensation-seeking and risk-taking, both characteristics that may predispose boys to aggression and violence in an attempt to increase stimulation and arousal levels. High heart rates, however, especially in infants and young children, are linked to anxiety, fear and inhibitions.

Psychological and behavioral characteristics

The major personality and behavioral factors that may predict child violence is hyperactivity, impulsiveness, and poor behavioral control and attention problems. Nervousness and anxiety, though, are negatively related to violence. Personality factors of constraint and of negative emotionality at the age of 18 years were significantly inversely related with convictions for violence. Hyperactivity, high levels of daring or risk-taking behavior, and poor concentration and attention problems before the age of 13 years all significantly predicted violence into early adulthood. High levels of anxiety and nervousness were inversely related to violence. Low intelligence and low levels of achievement in school have consistently been found to be associated with youth violence. The link between low IQ and violence was strongest among boys from lower socioeconomic groups. Impulsiveness, attention problems, low intelligence and low educational attainment may all be linked to deficiencies in the executive functions of the brain.

Family influences

The most important factor in the development of violent behavior in the children is the Parental behavior and the family environment. Poor monitoring and supervision of children

by parents and the use of harsh, physical punishment to discipline children are strong predictors of violence during adolescence and adulthood. Physical punishment by parents at the age of eight years predicted not only arrests for violence up to the age of 30 years, but also the severity of punishment of their own children and their own histories of spouse abuse. Violence in adolescence and adulthood has also seen strongly linked to parental conflict in early childhood and to poor attachment between parents and children. Other factors include:

- a large number of children in the family,
- a mother who had her first child at an early age, possibly as a teenager, and
- a low level of family bonding.

Many of these factors, in the absence of other social support, can affect children's social and emotional functioning and behavior Family structure is also an important factor for later aggression and violence.. In general, low socioeconomic status of the family is associated with future violence. Given the importance of parental supervision, family structure and economic status in determining the prevalence of youth violence, families disturbed by wars or epidemics, or because of rapid social change are expected to register an increase in violence by children. Peer influences during adolescence are generally considered positive and important in shaping interpersonal relationships.

Community factors

The communities in which young people live are an important influence on their families, the nature of their peer groups, and the way they may be exposed to situations that lead to violence. Generally speaking, boys in urban areas are more likely to be involved in violent behavior than those living in rural areas. Within urban areas, those living in neighborhoods with high levels of crime are more likely to be involved in violent behavior than those living in other neighborhoods. The presence of gangs, guns and drugs in an area is a potent mixture that increases the chance of occurrence of child violence. Drug dealing is responsible for a large proportion of homicides, conflicts and injuries.

Social integration

There are several societal factors that may create conditions conducive to violence among young people. The status of social integration within a community also affects rates of child violence. Young people living in places that lack social capital tend to perform poorly in

school and have a greater probability of dropping out altogether. When community violence occurs, physical mobility in the particular locality is restricted, employment and educational opportunities are reduced, businesses are reluctant to invest in the area and local people are less likely to build new houses, increases the likelihood of violent behavior, especially among young people. A study on the relation between social capital and crime rates in a wide range of countries during the period 1980– 1994, found that the level of trust among community members had a strong effect on the incidence of violent youth crimes.

Demographic changes

Demographic changes in the youth population, modernization, migration, urbanization and changing social policies have all been linked with an increase in youth violence. Poverty has become heavily concentrated in cities experiencing high population growth rates among young people. The tension between a rapidly welling population of young people and a deteriorating infrastructure has resulted in school-based student violence and led to extreme frustration, anger and tensions among youths. Young people, as a result, were more likely to turn to petty crime and violence, particularly under the influence of peers.

Income inequality

Studies have shown relation between economic growth and violence, and between income inequality and violence. The income inequality has a significant and positive effect on the homicide rate. The rate of growth of the GDP also has significantly negative effect on the homicide rate. But this effect in many cases may be offset by rising levels of income inequality.

Political structures

The government and the quality of its administration in a country, both in terms of the legal framework and the policies offering social protection, is an important determinant of violence. In particular, the extent to which a society enforces its existing laws on violence, by arresting and prosecuting offenders can act as a deterrent against violence. Dissatisfaction with the police as principal perpetrators of violence against young people; Police actions – particularly against youth from lower socioeconomic classes – involved physical violence, sexual abuse, rape and bribery; and a sense that justice depended on socioeconomic class was an important factor in the emergence of a culture of violence among marginalized youths .

Cultural influences

Cultural factors can affect the rate of violence in a society – for instance, by endorsing violence as a normal method to resolve conflicts and by teaching young people to adopt norms and values that support violent behavior the society is bound to witness a sharp rise in child violence. Exposure of children to the various forms of the media has increased dramatically in recent years. New forms of media like video games, video tapes and the Internet – have enhanced the opportunities for young people to be exposed to violence. The exposure to violence on television increases the likelihood of immediate aggressive behavior. Cultures which fail to provide non-violent alternatives to resolve conflicts appear to have higher rates of youth violence. They suggest that a culture of violence is fostered at the community level through the growing acceptance of ''easy money'' and of necessary means to obtain it, as well as through corruption in the police, judiciary and local administration. Cultural influences across national boundaries have also been linked to rises in juvenile violence.

6. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Casualties, disabilities and injuries from child violence constitute a major public health problem in many parts of the world. Recognizable variations in the magnitude of this problem exist within and between countries and regions of the world. There is a broad range of viable ways for preventing youth violence. But no single strategy is on its own likely to be sufficient to reduce the health burden of child violence. A multiple concurrent approaches will be required and they will need to be relevant to the particular place where they are implemented. What is successful in preventing youth violence in one region may not necessarily be effective in other. Over the past two decades, a great deal has been learnt about the nature and causes of child violence and how to prevent it. Based on the present state of knowledge, the following recommendations should lead to greater understanding and more effective prevention of child violence.

Preventing Youth Violence

Violent behavior can be prevented to developmental stages, from infancy to early adulthood, where violent behavior or the risks for violent behavior are likely to emerge. The most common interventions against youth violence seek to increase the level of protective factors associated with individual skills, attitudes and beliefs. Social development

programmes to reduce antisocial and aggressive behavior in children and violence among adolescents adopt a variety of strategies. These commonly include improving competency and social skills with peers and generally promoting behavior that is positive, friendly and cooperative. Such programmes can be provided universally or just to high-risk groups. The focus is on one or more of the following:

⸺ managing anger;

⸺ modifying behaviour;

⸺ moral development;

⸺ building social skills;

⸺ solving social problems;

⸺ resolving conflicts.

These social development programmes can be effective in reducing child violence and improving social skills. Programmes that emphasize social and competency skills appear to be one of the most effective among child violence prevention strategies. They also appear to be more effective when delivered to children in preschool and primary school environments rather than to secondary school students. Other interventions targeting individuals that may be effective include the following:

— academic enrichment programmes;

— incentives for youths at high risk for violence to complete secondary schooling and to

pursue courses of higher education;

— vocational training for underprivileged youths and young adults.

— individual counseling;

— probation and parole programmes that include meetings with prison inmates who describe the brutality of prison life;

— trying young offenders in adult courts;

Relationship approaches

This set of prevention strategies address youth violence by trying to influence the type of relations that young people have with others with whom they regularly interact. These programmes address such problems as the lack of emotional relations between parents and

children, powerful pressures brought to bear by peers to engage in violence and the absence of a strong relationship with a caring adult.

Training in parenting

This program aims to improve family relations and child-rearing techniques and thereby to reduce youth violence. Their objectives include improving the emotional bonds between parents and their children, encouraging parents to use consistent child-rearing methods and helping them to develop self-control in bringing up children.

Mentoring programmes

A warm and supportive relationship with a positive adult role model is thought to be a protective factor for youth violence. Mentors can be older classmates, teachers, counselors, police officers or other members of the community. The objectives of such programmes are to help young people to develop skills and to provide a sustained relationship with someone who is their role model and guide.

Community-based efforts

Interventions addressing community factors are those that attempt to modify the environments in which young people interact with each other. A simple example is improving street lighting, where poorly-lit areas may increase the risk of violent assaults occurring. Less is known, unfortunately, about the effectiveness of community-based strategies with regard to youth violence than of those focusing on individual factors or on the relationships that young people have with others.

Extracurricular activities

Extracurricular activities – such as sports and recreation, art, music, drama and producing newsletters – can provide adolescents with opportunities to participate in and gain recognition for constructive group activities. In many communities, though, either such activities are lacking or there are no places where children can safely go outside school hours to practice them. Afterschool programmes provide these facilities for children and young people. Ideally, such programmes should be:

— comprehensive – addressing the whole range of risk factors for youth violence and delinquency;

— developmentally appropriate; and

— of long duration.

Societal approaches

Changing the social and cultural environment to reduce violence is the strategy that is least frequently employed to prevent youth violence. Such an approach seeks to reduce economic or social barriers to development – for instance, by creating job programmes or strengthening the criminal justice system – or to modify the embedded cultural norms and values that stimulate violence. Policies to reduce the concentration of poverty in urban areas may be effective in combating youth violence.

Other approaches Other strategies addressing socioeconomic and cultural factors that might be effective for youth violence prevention, but that have not been adequately evaluated include:

— public information campaigns to change social norms and promote pro-social behaviour;

— efforts to reduce media violence;

— programmes to reduce income inequality;

— activities and policies to mitigate the effects of rapid social change;

— efforts to strengthen and improve police and judicial systems;

— institutional reforms of educational systems.

As youth violence is caused by a complex interaction among multiple factors, and efforts to reduce this problem in a substantial way will need to be multifaceted.

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