THE ROLE OF SOCIAL WORK GENERAL PRACTICE IN HANDLING PARENTAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN: CONTENT ANALYSIS

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Abstract

Childhood is one of the most important stages of growth and the most effective on human life. Children suffer a lot from problems and difficulties as a result of the multiple social and economic changes. we observe the emergence of new and changing shapes of the problems facing families and communities, including the phenomenon of child abuse. The study aims to determine the causes of parental abuse of sons and forms and the problems arising from it and the role of general practice of social work in dealing with it. The researcher used the descriptive analytical method. The Study concluded that the abuse caused a lot of problems to the children, whether psychological, social, educational, health problems. More forms of abuse used by parents are physical, verbal abuse and neglecting. The most important reasons that lead to abuse may return the child. The reasons may also be due to the family or the prevailing culture in the community.

Keywords: abuse, social work, general practice

1. THE PROBLEM OF THE STUDY

The study of childhood is one of the most important factors that focusing on scientific awareness in the community. It is also considered a part of the interest in present and the future together. Childhood is the hope of the future. Today's children are the youth of tomorrow who will burden the community affairs and carry out his duties and contribute to its construction and progress.

In childhood, the initial sets of the child's personality are put to form the general framework of his character and to have the biggest impact in shaping the personality of the child in the later stages, so there must be a good example to the child (Tawfiq, 1998, 79).

Family is the initial environment which must meet the needs and requirements of the child - care, love, compassion, psychological and social security, as well as instilling traditions and cultural values in his conscience in a way that qualify him to become an adult able to shoulder its responsibilities and consequences and duties in the future (Dakkak, 2004,169).

The process of interaction between the child and his parents is clear in determining the criteria for the reward and punishment for the behavior of the child so he can gain in-depth social experiences of family life to

enable him to achieve social harmony (Al-Jumaili & Abdo 2014, 73).

Children have multiple basic needs including what is psychological like his need for security, love and power, and what is physical such as the need for clothing, food, housing, and what is social such as educational, recreational, health care and the formation of traditions and values, and his outlook on life and meeting these needs through the care they provide to the child (Fahmi, 2000, 3).

The family is the primary institution which bears meeting the psychological, social, mental and educational needs. If these needs are not satisfied, they will turn to problems and then affect the child's personality and behavior as these prevailing relations in the family determine, largely, the personality pattern of the child. The child interacts with family more than any other interaction with the community (Abdullah, 2013, 179).

Children suffer a lot from problems and difficulties, either as a result of their families, reasons related to members of the community, or reasons related to society as a whole as a result of the multiple associated social and economic changes. We observe the emergence of new and changing photos of the problems facing families and communities, including the phenomenon of child abuse.

The children are the biggest victims of abuse. If the attacks are common in some communities, they are often serious because of its consequences on the psychological side of the child. Physical abuse is practiced on the child in the third world by the family, school, employer, and the general public (Naji, 1999, 44).

It is noted that the abuse, aiming children, has become a global, regional and local phenomenon. A survey, conducted in the United States in 1995, confirmed that the 5% of parents beat their children. In Britain, according to a report of the Ministry of Interior, four children are killed weekly by the hands of their parents. Two hundred children die annually due to parents' crimes against their children (UNICEF, 2001, 107).

World Health Organization has estimated that 40 million children less than 15 years old suffer from abuse and neglect and they need care. In India, It is reported that 36% of Indian mothers hit their children, and 10% of them kick their children, 29% hold their children by their hair, 28% beat their children with their hands. According to a survey conducted in Egypt, 37% of children has stated that their parents beat them, in addition, 26% of children reported injuries such as fractures or permanent disability as a result (UNICEF, 2009).

The problems of child abuse and the failure to meet their needs physically, psychologically and their neglect are modern and old problems that have been suffered by a lot of communities. But these problems were not clear or recognized in the past as they are today. The attention to the problem of child abuse did not start, but when social conditions have improved in some communities that have been able to control the degree of its spread by conducting studies to identify the causes and factors associated in order to find appropriate solutions. It is not limited to a certain class of people, but it exists between the rich and the poor, between the educated and uneducated alike, as it appears in all races and religions (Abdullah 2000, 90).

Social work as a humanitarian profession deals with individuals, groups and communities in light of their knowledge base, scientific methods and technical skills through the primary and secondary specialized ways seeking to achieve complementary, therapeutic, preventive and developmental goals. Social work cooperates with a variety of disciplines to lead distinct roles on the human level (Gabal, 2001, 11).

Social work participates with other professions in providing the care for children and their families. It does so as a profession based on humanitarian philosophy that takes into account human dignity and stresses the need to strengthen the strength sides and its development to achieve social and psychological adjustment of the child and his family. Social work also helps the individual, the family and the society in adaptation and interaction and production.

Social work seeks for social justice and the fight against all kinds of oppression and discrimination and contributes to solve and face the problems and to contribute to activities of community development to develop the society and reaffirm the right of everyone to grow through the promotion of social integration and strengthen the links between education, technology and environment (Ali, 2012, 32).

In the context of the great development which social work sciences saw, the concept of general practice appeared and it represented a theoretical and practical framework for social work programs (Solimon et al., 2005, 6).

General practice in social work is a trend that is based on a theoretical basis including many scientific theories derived from the humanities, skillful foundations and values that reflect the distinctive nature of the practice of social work in multiple fields (Ali, 2013, 362).

It is concerned with mutual relations through the content of the overall practice (practice areas) and institutions of Practice (primary social work - and multiple organizations) and social problems of a person in the environment (Habib, 2010, 20).

2. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

The interest in children's issues is a major step in the development of the community to ensure the improvement of their positions and protect their rights, as well as to increase care of children who are at a risk especially abused children from all scientific disciplines at the moment. Children, especially in developing countries, suffer from a massive explosion of the population and represent a high proportion of members of the community and its component of human wealth that need to be addressed and to be provided with all means of care for them.

3. THE OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study aims to determine the causes, forms and the problems arising from parental abuse of the children and the role of general practice of social work.

4. THE QUESTIONS OF THE STUDY

1. What are the causes of parental abuse of the?

2. What are the forms of parental abuse of children?

3. What are the problems arising from parental abuse of children?

4. What is the role general practice of social work in dealing with parental abuse of children?

5. TERMINOLOGY

a) The general practice in social work

The appearance general practice in the social work is due to the first attempts to develop a unified concept of practice social work. It focuses on a holistic view with a focus on the parts that make up the whole to clarify the functional relationship between all the parts and the extent of interdependence (Ali, 2001.129).

It is defined as a style of one-catching practice that focuses on the perspective of relations and common borders. It emphasizes equally on the goals of social justice, formats of humanity and improving the standard of living and welfare (Al-Sanhouri, 2002, 462).

It is a kind of professional practice of social work that depends on the selection of some of the professional models and approaches available to specialists and their use in the professional intervention with the goal format according to the client format and layout problem (Habib, 2009, 27).

b) Parental abuse of the children

The word abuse means to do something wrong to someone or to say something bad or rude (Arabic Language Academy, 2004, 326)

In English (Abuse) means person misuse the right or authority or infringement on others. It is also to curse, abuse and insult with words (Studies & Researches Office and 2004.20). It is a deviation from the use of the right that results in harm to others. This harm requires responsibility (Saleh, 1999, 23).

In the social work, it means a repeated punishment, whether physically or psychologically through the deliberate beatings or physical uncontrolled punishment (Al-Sokkary, 2000, 21).

It means an improper behavior that intends to cause a physical, psychological or economic harm to an individual or group. There are multiple types of abuse: physical, psychological or sexual abuse (Al-Dakhil, 2014, 9).

In this study, Parental abuse means directed abuse from a parent or both parents towards their child that stay with them. This abuse is represented in the physical, verbal abuse and neglect by a parent or both towards their child.

6. TYPE OF STUDY

The current study belongs to descriptive and analytical studies.

7. PREVIOUS STUDIES

(Karpetis, 2010) This case study presents a psychodynamic approach to clinical **social work practice** with the father of a child who suffered from separation anxiety disorder symptoms. The theoretical background of the study is initially presented, followed by a description of the research setting and its participants. The clinician presents his **work** through critical incidents of parent and practitioner narratives during the assessment and intervention process. The effectiveness of the intervention with the father/parents and the resulting reduction in the child's symptoms appeared to be the consequence of the father's improvement in his **role** as both parent and husband, which in turn affected positively the mother's improvement in her parent and wife roles. Support to the father's adult part/strengths and the **handling** of the practitioner's counter-transference feelings were important parameters in evaluating the effectiveness of the intervention.

(Vered, 2016) This study attempts to expand the knowledge base about neglect by comparing the characteristics of **children** and parents involved in termination of **parental** rights proceedings in the Israeli legal system. Cases were classified as neglect (72.7%), **abuse** (19%) or non-child **abuse** or neglect (non-CAN; 8%) and were compared on a range of variables. The results show that neglected **children** have the most developmental problems, and generally come from single-parent families, compared to abused **children**, who suffer the most mental health problems and come from 2-parent families. Finally, neglect is associated with the mother's history of drug **abuse**, and **abuse** is associated with the father's drug **abuse** and criminal record. In non-CAN cases, the courts criticize the Child Protective Service more than in neglect and **abuse** cases. Implications of the findings for **social work practice** as well as future research directions are discussed.

(Deiphine, 2005) Cites a study on the **role** of depression and dissociation in the relationship between childhood sexual **abuse** and later **parental** functioning. Examination of **parental** behaviors; Assessment of mother's perception of the quality of the relationship with her child; Measurement of the history of **abuse** and neglect, depression and dissociation with the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire, the Diagnostic Interview Schedule Simplified and the Dissociative Experiences Scale; Use of the Malowe-Crowne **Social** Desirability Scale to control for respondent bias; Results of dissociation.

(Hunt & other, 2016) This study analysed workers' experiences of supervision following interactions with hostile and intimidating parents. This analysis examined management and organisational responses to worker stress, and assessed the adequacy of support that workers received. An online survey was designed to collect data on workers' experiences and free text responses were qualitatively analysed for references to the supervision they received in response to working with parents. 590 participants responded to the survey. 402 were qualified **social** workers, and 423 worked in child protection. Participants had experienced a range of violent behaviour from parents. The overwhelming theme in responses was the lack of support and supervision workers received, often in stressful and frightening circumstances. Approximately one quarter of participants only used organisational procedures, guidelines or protocols on dealing with hostile parents. Workers reported that mismanaged **parental** hostility affected their **practice** and the quality of protection that **children** received. The violence experienced had a significant negative impact on their personal and professional lives. Organisational responses in the form of supervision and education were often inadequate and resulted in **children** receiving reduced quality of protection. Recommendations for policy and **practice** change are discussed, with the aim of caring for workers and the **children** they protect.

(Clément & Chamberland, 2009) We investigate maternal attitudes toward corporal punishment and the attribution of blame to the child on the basis of data gathered from a population survey of a representative sample of mothers and mother figures. A total of 3,148 women living at least half of the time with a child participated in a telephone survey. The independent variables included in the multivariate model predicting maternal attitudes and attributions include the child's, the mother's and the family's characteristics and **social** support. Results of the multiple regression analysis demonstrate the unique contribution of variables according to the mother's characteristics (mother's sensitivity to the consequences of violence, mother's experience of childhood violence and **parental** stress related to child's temperament). These results partially support the importance of prevention programs that would reduce stress and increase the level of **parental** empathy through the means of **parental** training.

(Wolfe, 1993) For over two decades, child **abuse** interventions have been plagued by poor definitions of what (or who) exactly is being treated, what constitutes 'success', and how services can be delivered in such a way as to minimize the harm to the child and to his/her family. Most recently, intervention/prevention programmes reflect the growing recognition that child maltreatment is the product of the interaction between the Parent's abilities and resources and the child's emerging behavioural and emotional characteristics (i.e.

the parent-child relationship), and place less emphasis on individual psychopathology. Accordingly, ways to strengthen this relationship offer considerably more promise than those aimed at correcting only one component (i.e. the parent) or treating only the visible symptoms of conflict. In an attempt to focus greater effort on prevention and early intervention, this paper reviews prominent risk factors that have been linked to physical **abuse** and neglect of **children** and their consequences. Major intervention targets are identified from this literature and discussed in reference to: (a) problems related to the family context; (b) child treatment needs; and (c) parent/caregiver treatment needs. The paper concludes with a discussion of promising developments in early intervention that are beginning to address problems in the early formation of the parent-child relationship (i.e. the pre-natal and infancy periods of development) and problems associated with **parental** competency and family support. Most notably, preventive efforts have been associated with more positive parenting knowledge, attitudes, skills, and behaviour, as well as fewer child injuries, emergency room visits, and reports to protective agencies among at-risk parents and **children**. Further evaluation and expansion of these programmes appears to be warranted by these data.

(Cheung, 2014) Parental abuse is supposedly objectionable because it is the instigation of the child's delinquency. This instigation is likely to stem from the impairment of **parental** control arising from **parental abuse**, with respect to **social** control theory. For the substantiation of this likelihood, the present study surveyed 229 users of youth **social work** services in Hong Kong, China. Results illuminate the mediating **role** of **parental** control for the instigation of delinquency and delinquent intention by **parental abuse** reported to happen at the age of 11 years. The results imply the importance of curbing **parental abuse** and enhancing or reviving **parental** control after **parental abuse** to prevent delinquent risks and expedite rehabilitation from the risks.

(Byrne, 2012) This study examines how the form of **social** support (informal or formal) and the time frame at which it is provided (at the start or end of the program) influence **parental** outcomes on the "Apoyo Personal y Familiar" (APF) program for at-risk families showing inadequate child-rearing practices. A total of 496 parents participated, 247 parents referred by the municipal **social** services in the Autonomous Community of Castile and Leon (Spain), and 249 non-referred parents. Initial and final levels of use of and satisfaction with informal and formal support were used as predictors of change scores in self-rating measures of beliefs about child development, perceptions of the **parental role** and child-rearing practices, applying hierarchical linear regression analyses. Perceived use of and satisfaction with support explained around 22% to 49% of the change scores in the Nurturist belief as a simple view of child development, Couple agreement on educational matters, Permissive–neglectful practices and Coercion practices, after accounting for the variance due to risk status, financial situation and family structure variables. Informal support always has a positive impact irrespective of when the help is provided, whereas formal support only has a positive impact when applied at the start of the program. The adequate provision of **social** supports can be an efficient way to prevent child maltreatment by promoting changes in **parental** beliefs and practices related to at-risk parenting

RESULTS

A. There are many reasons that lead to abuse. These reasons may return to the child such as his small age, little size or certain diseases. There could be reasons due to the family such as the low of family income, the increasing number of family members; low levels of education, disorders of parental relations, wrong socialization or due to the prevailing culture in the community.

B. The most common forms of abuse used by parents are physical, verbal abuse and neglect.

C. Children abuse causes a lot of problems, whether psychological, social, educational or health problems. Negative self-esteem, anxiety, depression and stress are examples of psychological problems. Withdrawal, reliability, violence and inability to establish sound social relations are examples of social problems. Weak academic achievement and underachievement are examples of educational problems. The inability to mature properly and passing through unhealthy periods are examples of physical diseases in addition to the risk of mental diseases and their dealing with drugs.

D. The role of general practice of social work in dealing with parental abuse of children is represented in:

1. Assisting parents and children to recognize the problem, its nature and the causes of incompatibility between parents and children and helping them to identify the strengths and weaknesses they have and helping them to teach them how to deal with their problems.

2. Assisting parents and their children to improve their performance to their roles and helping them to identify the resources they already have or existing in institutions of society that they can benefit from.

3. Finding a connection between the family and the institutions that provide works and facilitate communication channels between them where families know institutions and works and how to use them. These institutions know the nature of the existing needs of families and how to satisfy them.

4. Making adjustments in the institutions to be more responsive to the needs of individuals, where social work works with the foundation members to help them carry out their functions to the fullest.

5. Improving works through the exchange of experiences between different institutions that work in the field of family care especially those specialized in dealing with abuse problems and establishing a base of information to facilitate identification of different needs and how to deal with them.

6. Assisting parents to determine their illogical ideas in education and also their behaviors that are not acceptable and working to restructure the construction of knowledge they have to allow them to edit their ideas as well as the negative behaviors and interacting positively with their children and all those around them.

7. Developing and improving social welfare policies. This would be the focus of the practice of social work at that level formats that people interact with. Here, the main role is the planning and the development of social welfare policies.

8. Enabling both parents and their children to help them perform their social jobs and develop their abilities to solve and overcome problems facing them to do everyday tasks to the fullest. This would provide a remedy for any defects in their abilities to perform social functions required. They would do these functions for the pursuit of adjustment between each other and between them and the environment where they live.

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