

THE PREVALENCE OF PHYSICAL ABUSE ON BOYS AND GIRLS ACROSS SOCIO ECONOMIC STATUS

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ABSTRACT

Physical Abuse is one of the most common forms of child abuse. Physical abuse in children can be in the form of hitting, kicking, throwing, strangulation, hitting with objects, burning or other methods. Physical discipline, such as spanking or paddling, is not considered abuse as long as it is appropriate and does not cause any physical injury to the child. (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2008). The present study aims at assessing the prevalence of physical abuse on boys and girls across socio economic groups. A total of sample of 300 children in the age group of 7-12 years. 150 boys and 150 girls, out of which, 50 each belonging to lower, middle and upper socio economic group were selected using stratified random sampling technique for the study. Socio Economic Status scale by Kuppuswamy (1962) revised by Gururaj and Maheshwaran (2014) was used to ascertain the socioeconomic status of the selected respondents. To assess the physical abuse a self made questionnaire was administered on the selected children. The study revealed that respondents from lower socio economic group face higher level of physical abuse as compare their counterparts from middle and upper socio economic group. The study also revealed that socioeconomic status has a significant influence on the physical abuse of the respondents.

KEYWORDS: *Child Abuse, Physical Abuse, Maltreatment and Socioeconomic Status*

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