Global Situation of Violence against Children

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Violence remains the hard reality of children around the globe regardless of economic and social circumstances, culture, religion or ethnicity.

Experiences of violence often overlap and come in multiple forms.

Children can be victims, perpetrators and witnesses to violence—all at the same time.

Realities of VAC are far more confounding and multidimensional than any attempts to define, categorize or quantify it.

Remember that...

VISITING EXPERT’S LECTURES
Also remember that...

CYCLE OF VIOLENCE
Children who experience or witness violence are more likely to develop aggressive tendencies and become perpetrators themselves.

10 Facts about Violence against Children

1. Of all homicide victims are children (approx. 95,000)

2. Children are physically punished by caregivers on a regular basis

3. Students involved in one or more physical fights

4. Students experience bullying on a regular basis
10 Facts about Violence against Children

5. Adolescents admit to having bullied others at least once.


7. Girls have been subjected to forced sexual intercourse or other forced sexual acts (approx. 12 million).

8. 1 in 10 girls have been subjected to forced sexual intercourse or other forced sexual acts (approx. 84 million).

9. Adults believe that physical punishment is necessary.

10. Of all girls, half think a husband is sometimes justified in hitting or beating his wife (approx. 126 million).
Common Forms of Violence against Children

PHYSICAL violence

SEXUAL violence

MENTAL violence

NEGLIGENT treatment

- Violent Acts
  - Physical Punishment
    - Torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, physical bullying and hazing
    - Any punishment in which physical force is used and intended to cause discomfort, however light

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PHYSICAL violence

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MENTAL violence

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Common Forms of Violence against Children
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**SEXUAL violence**

- Unlawful or harmful sexual activity
- Commercial sexual exploitation
- Audio or visual images of child sexual abuse
- Child prostitution, sexual slavery, trafficking
- Any sexual activities imposed by an adult on a child against which the child is entitled to protection by criminal law

**MENTAL violence**

- Psychological maltreatment, mental abuse, verbal abuse and emotional abuse
- Scaring, threatening, terrorizing
- Insults and humiliation
- Denying emotional responsiveness
- Exposure to domestic violence
- Physical violence
Common Forms of Violence against Children

NEGLIGENT treatment

- Failure to meet children’s physical and psychological needs and protection from danger
- Lack of provision of basic necessities
- Lack of emotional support and love
- Neglect of child’s physical and mental health
- Educational neglect

Violence against Children In Various Settings

- Home and Family
- School and Educational Settings
- Places of Work
- Community
- Justice Institutions
Violence against Children
In Various Settings: Home and Family

- Age and Sex of the Child
- Socio-Economic Status of the Family
- Culture and Social Norms
- Obstructs Children’s Growth and Development
- Physical and Psychological Violence
- Sexual Violence
- Neglect
- Harmful Traditional Practices
- Causes Mental Disorder
- Further Victimisation

Violence against Children
In Various Settings: School and Educational Settings

- Individual Characteristics of Children
- Lack of Adequate Resilience Building
- Lack of Systematic Response to Violence
- Permanent Physical Disability
- Blocks Development of Social Skills
- Decreased Motivation to Stay in School
- Physical Violence
- Sexual/Gender-based Violence
- Discrimination
- Bullying

Causes
Impacts
Violence against Children
In Various Settings: Places of Work

**Causes:**
- Children are perceived as weak
- Unsafe Working Environment
- Lack of Child Labour Protection Laws

**Impacts:**
- Increased Child Involvement in Illicit Activities
- Beating, Whipping, Shouting, Insulting
- Excessive/Forced Labour, Under-Compensation
- Forced into Drugs Trade/Sexual Exploitation
- Children Held in Bonded Servitude/Slavery

Violence against Children
In Various Settings: Community

**Causes:**
- Alcohol and Other Substance Abuse
- Situations of Unrest and Conflict
- Rapid Urbanisation

**Impacts:**
- Permanent Physical Disability/Death
- Homicide/Physical Violence
- Violence from Intimate and Dating Relationships
- Coerced First Sex
- Trafficking of Children
- Decreased Feelings of Safety toward the Community
“All forms of violence against children, however light, are unacceptable. [...] Frequency, severity of harm and intent to harm are not prerequisites for the definitions of violence. States parties may refer to such factors in intervention strategies in order to allow proportional responses in the best interest of the child, but definitions must in no way erode the child’s absolute right to human dignity and physical and psychological integrity by describing some forms of violence as legally and/or socially acceptable.”

United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, General Comment No.13 on the Convention on the Rights of the Child
Social and Economic Cost of Violence against Children

Impact on Educational Performance and Achievement

- Less likely to anticipate attending college
- Lower grades and IQ test scores
- Suspension
- Absenteeism

Social and Economic Cost of Violence against Children

Economic Impact on Individuals

- Less likely to own assets
- Less likely to be employed
- Reduces a person’s earning potential by $5,000 per year
- In economic terms, women appear to be more severely affected by childhood abuse than men
Social and Economic Cost of Violence against Children

In 2008, the estimated lifetime cost of new cases of child abuse in the US is $124 billion, which included lifetime costs of $210,012 per abuse victim who survived and $1.3 million per abuse victim who died.

It is estimated that the economic cost of child abuse in East Asia and the Pacific will exceed $160 billion.

Economic Impact on Society

Attitudes and Social Norms that Perpetuate Violence against Children

Wife beating is justifiable

Corporal punishment of children is necessary

No internationally comparable data on attitudes towards child sex abuse currently exist
Global Efforts to End Violence against Children

- Turkey: Violence against Children National Strategy drafted by the government, NGOs and children. Training programme for professionals on intervening in violence against children cases.
- India: Launched a social media campaign “Time to Sound the Red Siren” challenging social norms that sanction violence against girls.
- Zimbabwe: Launched the National Girls’ Empowerment Framework to address sexual violence, unintended pregnancies and HIV among adolescent girls.
- Bolivia: The Prosecutor’s Office established child-friendly legal services for child victims of sexual abuse and their families along with the revision of the justice system and the development of protocols to deal with violence against children cases.

Policy Recommendations

- Supporting parents, caregivers and families
- Helping children and adolescents manage risks and challenges
- Changing attitudes and social norms that encourage violence and discrimination
- Implementing laws and policies that protect children
- Providing and promoting support services for children
- Carrying out data collection and research