RECOGNIZING CHILD ABUSE

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Child abuse is a serious issue in the United State. It was discovered in 1874 but forgotten because people thought that child abuse especially sexual abuse is a rare case. Latest researches indicate that child abuse has been increased so much that nearly five children die a day become of it. It is also reported that about one lac children die every year because of sexual abuse every year wherein 65% cases they are abused by family members. It is important to rediscover the issue because the perpetrators are always an acquaintance that means he can be blood relative, neighbor, caretaker, teacher, parent's friend or step-parent. It is also important to rediscover the issue because it affects the psychological and physical development of the child. Researches indicate that child who becomes a victim of child abuse get more risk of heart disease, lung cancer, anxiety, depression and even suicidal ideation in later life. Therefore, it is important to identify the problem and spread the awareness for the protection of children as they are the future of the nation (*Read “Understanding Child Abuse and Neglect” at NAP.edu*, n.d.).

The basic cause of child abuse is the carelessness of parents or guardian. When parents do not keep their eye on the child, the perpetrator finds the way to please himself by abusing the child emotionally, physically, or sometimes sexually. Physical and emotional abuse can be due to the economic and social condition of the family. When a family faces financial crisis their elders often beat their children or shout on them, and even neglect them without any reason which affects children physically or psychologically. In addition, in the case of a single-parent child often molested or sexually abused by the partner of the parent that is stepfather/stepmother or parent's boyfriend/girlfriend. In short causes of child abuse include; the history of child abuse, depression, anxiety, poverty, lack of parenting skills, personal mental health issue and substance addiction (Zaken, 2016). Child abuse prevention is necessary to reduce the death rate because of it and for the positive physical and psychological development of the children. The first step to prevent child abuse is to spread awareness about the issue. Public information campaign can be helpful so that people can identify the cases of abuse around them. Healthcare providers including the physician, nurses and other staff should acquire knowledge and education related to child abuse. The best way to teach professionals is to add the subject of child abuse within the academic programs. Another way to prevent child abuse is the mandatory reporting code. Healthcare professionals, teachers and parents should report about the case immediately after they discover it (“Child Abuse Prevention Is Still As Important As Ever,” 2016).

People often hide the cases of child abuse because they feel shame to discuss it or to put their children for trial. Therefore, the government has provided rights to the child while facing the courtroom trial so that more people report the cases. Rights include the protection of identity and personal information, non-physical appearance in court, and the use of multi-disciplinary child abuse teams. It means it is not necessary for the child to be present in the courtroom instead; guardian or parents can attend the trial. In addition, their identity remains protected so that people do not hide the issue. In addition, multi-disciplinary child abuse teams consist of the law enforcement officer, doctors, lawyer, therapist and caseworkers who help the family to get justice (“Rights Of Child Victims,” 2015).

In the video one type of child abuse that is sexual abuse has been discussed. The video identifies the characteristics, reasons, and facts of child abuse. The video is helpful to find out the signs of sexual abuse. The video is also important to spread awareness about the issue and to develop confidence in parent to report the case and discuss it with child care providers as the video has discussed in detail how the care provider handles the case and help the child to recover from the problem.

**References**

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