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# Understanding school child abuse across varied contexts: A comparative study

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**Abstract**

Child abuse within educational settings is a concerning issue that demands a comprehensive understanding across diverse conditions. This research deals with the phenomenon of school child abuse and explores its manifestations under various circumstances. The study aims to shed light on the factors that contribute to abusive behavior and the impacts it has on the well-being of affected children.

Through a comparative approach, this investigation analyzes the prevalence of school child abuse in different settings, taking into account varying socio-economic backgrounds, cultural contexts, and geographical locations. By examining these factors, the research aims to identify potential patterns and unique challenges that might emerge in specific conditions.

The population of schoolchildren was sampled using a multi-stage cluster sampling technique. Using the chit method, three randomly selected blocks out of five in the Udupi district were selected. Two villages or cities, two schools (one primary and one higher primary), and two classes from each school were randomly picked from each specified block. As a result, there were 12 schools with 24 courses totaling roughly 30 students. After accounting for precision and dropout rate, the estimated sample size for school-age children was 2,720.The findings of this study are expected to provide valuable insights for policymakers, educators, and child protection agencies. By understanding the nuances of school child abuse in different conditions, tailored prevention and intervention strategies can be developed to ensure the safety and well-being of all students.

It is hoped that this research will contribute to raising awareness about the seriousness of school child abuse and inspire collective efforts to create safe and nurturing learning environments for children worldwide. Through collaborative actions, we can strive to protect the rights and dignity of every child within the educational system, fostering a society that values their well-being and supports their holistic development.

**Keywords:** Policymakers, educators, and child protection agencies, holistic development

## Introduction

Child abuse within the school environment is a distressing and pressing issue that demands our utmost attention and understanding. It is an unfortunate reality that some children experience abuse in their educational settings, causing profound negative effects on their physical, emotional, and psychological well-being. To address this critical concern effectively, it is essential to gain a comprehensive understanding of school child abuse across diverse contexts.

This research paper embarks on a journey to shed light on the multifaceted nature of school child abuse, exploring its various manifestations and underlying factors in different contexts. By examining the phenomenon from a comparative standpoint, we aim to unravel the intricate web of influences that contribute to abusive behaviours within educational environments.

The significance of this study lies in its ability to discern the patterns, similarities, and differences in school child abuse experiences across varied settings. By exploring diverse socio-economic backgrounds, cultural contexts, and geographical locations, we can uncover invaluable insights that inform targeted prevention and intervention strategies.

Our investigation will encompass a wide range of participants, including students, teachers, parents, school administrators, and other relevant stakeholders. Their perspectives and experiences will provide us with a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and strengths in tackling school child abuse within each unique context.

Moreover, by synthesizing existing literature, empirical data, and expert opinions, we aim to compile a rich repository of knowledge that informs evidence-based policies and initiatives. The outcomes of this study will contribute to fostering safer and more nurturing learning environments, where every child's well-being and dignity are upheld.

## Review of literature

It was determined through research which individuals with a history of sexually abusing children suffer from psychological disorders. The study was carried out in 2004–2005 on a national sample of 34000 US citizens over the age of 18 using an interview schedule. The results showed that 75.2% of women and 24.8% of men had sexually molested

children. In addition to suffering from neglect and mistreatment, many CSA members have also experienced physical abuse of children. According to the study's findings (Pérez-Fuentes, *et al.*, 2013) [1], there is a stronger connection between CSA and psychopathology, such as attempts at suicide in adulthood.

A prospective study on the risk factors for child maltreatment among 372 secondary school students in Enugu was carried out. The students' median ages were 15.0 (12-18) years, and their gender distribution was 51.6% girls and 48.4% boys ((2) = 7.74, P=0.38). There was no discernible difference between physical abuse and gender. In a survey conducted by Chinawa, Aronu, Chukwu, and Obu (2014) [2], respondents reported forced sexual activity by 10.2% of them and emotional abuse by 16.8% of them.

114 hospitalised children were the subject of a study on the likelihood of suspected child abuse. Women are more likely to face sexual abuse, the survey claims. According to Ben-Natan, *et al.* (2014) [4], parents were accountable for 50% of the physical abuse and neglect that occurred to children over the age of 10.

According to a thorough analysis, a significant portion of homeless persons in Western countries reported being physically or sexually abused as children. 24 papers with a sample size of 9,730 homeless people (from January 1990 to August 2013) were published in three different countries and were found through searches on Medline, Psych Info, and the Cochrane Library were found. 37% of victims reported experiencing physical abuse, compared to 32% of women and 10% of men who reported sexual assault. Among the homeless, there were more instances of physical and sexual abuse of children. According to Sundin and Baguley (2015) [3], young people were more likely to experience physical violence than sexual abuse.

The Burns Unit at the Medical University of Graz in Austria assessed the epidemiology of paediatric burns through a retrospective review of 25 years that encompassed 1586 cases and looked at 1451 people - of whom 64% were men. Children under the age of five made up the majority (60.6%) of the victims, and 80.2% of the injuries occurred at home. In addition, 65.1% of the children had burn injuries. A considerable percentage of the patients (76.2%) had burns that were less severe than 10% TBSA, and the mortality rate was 0.3% (Trop, *et al.*, 2015) [6].

In a research on child psychological abuse conducted in China, 1,164 parents of kids in grades 1 through 6 at two primary schools completed a self-administered questionnaire. The survey found that 78.1% of parents admitted to abusing their children psychologically, more frequently boys (81.3%) than girls. Risk variables for psychological violence included male children, parents who had been psychologically abused as children, parental tolerance for physical punishment, lack of parental awareness of the consequences of psychological violence, and lower socioeconomic status.

In America, where one in four children are victims of abuse, five children perish as a result of it every day. Burns were the most frequent cause of abuse-related mortality. Making the distinction between burns that were accidental or non-intentional and burns that were purposely induced by abuse or neglect is crucial for managing damaged children. According to Collier, Roughton, and Gottlieb (2017) [7],

alcoholism, drug addiction, burn wound characteristics, and concurrent injuries were warning signals of both purposely induced burns and careless burns.

In Nepal, 5081 children between the ages of 3 and 14 participated in a study on factors associated to corporal punishment utilising a multi-stage, nationally representative stratified cluster sample. The participants were furnished by 13,000 houses. The results show that one in every two kids is subjected to physical punishment. Children who engaged in child work activities and those between the ages of 3 and 8 were subjected to more physical punishment. Children from lower caste homes, where physical punishment of children was considered a form of discipline, also had a higher prevalence of it. Girls and children with older moms had less physical abuse (Kandel, Kunwar, Karki, Kandel, & Lamichhane, 2017) [8].

In the government schools of Lahore, Pakistan, 478 kids between the ages of 11 and 18 participated in a cross-sectional study on abuse and post-traumatic stress disorder from February to June 2016. Simple random sampling techniques were used to select the sample. The Hopkins Symptoms Checklist and the Child Abuse Scale: Adolescent Version were used to collect data for the study. The study found that 27% of males and 21% of women reported abuse. But 23% of the females and 21% of the males said they had been subjected to physical or emotional abuse. In contrast, 29% of females and 21% of males scored higher on the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (p=0.008). According to research by Ashraf, Niazi, there is a strong correlation between post-traumatic stress disorder and child maltreatment.

In Belgaum, Karnataka, 150 children from four juvenile establishments participated in an exploratory study on abuse and its causes. In-depth research was conducted on the majority (148) of the victims of physical abuse, neglect, and multiple abuse. Teachers and probation officers were questioned to acquire information. Abuse was more common among kids who were in institutions. Boys were also more likely than girls to endure physical abuse as well as other types of abuse. According to the study's findings (Saraswati, Hunshal, & Gaonkar, 2009) [9], caste, size, family structure, and having an alcoholic father all had an impact on child abuse.

One further study looked at 1060 adolescent girls from government schools in Delhi's semi-urban area to see what their families were like and whether they were at risk of abuse. Using stratified random sampling, the students, who were enrolled in grades 7 through 12, were selected. The bulk of the kids (70%) who reported abuse included 42.6% who reported physical abuse, 26.6% who reported sexual abuse, 37.9% who claimed emotional abuse, and 40.1% who reported neglect. Although the mother was commonly responsible for physical and emotional abuse, sexual abuse was typically performed by friends, family, or neighbours. Parent-child conflict and a parent's history of abuse were linked to a greater risk of child abuse, but little to no father education was linked to an increased risk of physical and emotional abuse (Daral, Khokhar, & Pradhan, 2016) [11].

900 burnt children took part in a three-year experiment at the Victoria Hospital in Bengaluru (August 2008 to July 2011). The study included 31.1% girls and 68.9% boys. Burn prevalence was reported to be 44.7% in children

between the ages of one and four, with scald burns making up 45.6% of all burns. In addition, thermal burns affected 41.7% of the children while electrical burns affected 10.7% of the children. The study found a surge in the incidence of heat burns caused by child suicide. For the small children, the disorderly environment resulted in burns, whereas for the teenagers, it was intentional (Manjunath Peddi, Segu, & Ramesha, 2014) [10].

A retrospective analysis on 122 paediatric burn patients under the age of 15 was carried out in KLES Belgaum, India, between August 2010 and July 2015. The study's 57% male participants suffered 93% unintentional burns, while 6.5% of them were the consequence of suicide. Children under the age of five are more likely to sustain scales, but older kids are more likely to get thermal and electrical burns. According to Powar, Sudhir, Prabhu, Rajput, and Mallapur (2016), mortality was 13.64% overall.

A thorough review of 96 studies on child sexual abuse (CSA), including 17 RCTs, was out in India between 1984 and 2015 revealed that the management strategy has changed to incorporate trauma-focused and targeted therapy. New psychological procedures like counselling now use integrated therapy modules. In addition to symptom management, these parent-child counselling sessions also included aspects of group therapy, stress inoculation therapy, and family intervention (Choudhary, Satapathy, &Sagar, 2016) [12].

The studies highlight the necessity of focused interventions and preventative actions to successfully address child abuse and ensure the wellbeing of kids and teenagers. The statistics also highlight the significance of ongoing efforts to increase awareness, implement trauma-focused therapy, and promote good parenting techniques in order to combat child abuse and its long-term effects.

## Methodology

For data collection from schoolchildren, a multi-stage cluster sampling technique was employed to ensure a representative sample. Out of the five blocks in the Udupi district - Udupi, Baindoor, Bramhavar, Kundapura - three blocks - Udupi, Karkala, and Bramhavar - were randomly selected using the chit technique. Additionally, two villages or cities were chosen at random from each block, along with two schools (one primary and one higher primary) and two classes from each school. This resulted in a total of 12 schools and 24 classes, with an estimated 30 students in each class.

The sample size was determined based on a dropout rate of 25% and a relative precision of 10%. Considering the design effect, the estimated sample size for school-aged children after accounting for design impact was calculated to be 2,720. The cross-sectional survey's baseline abuse data were also considered while determining the final sample size.

With a critical value (Z) of 1.96 at a 5% level of significance and an expected proportion (P) of 6%, the relevant accuracy was set at 10% of the prevalence with a confidence interval of 95%. The design effect (DE) was calculated to be 2, and the relative precision (RP) was set at 10%. Taking these factors into account, the sample size was adjusted to 720 to account for a 25% dropout rate, aiming to have approximately 30 pupils per class in the final sample.

## Inclusion criteria
### The study included individuals who met the following criteria

- Children between the ages of 6 and 18 attending schools and hospitalized for abuse, burns, poisoning, or any other questionable cases.
- Children aged 6 to 18 who were institutionalized.
- Young adults aged 18 to 24 years old.
- Parents or guardians of specific children.
- All patient records available during the data collection period were utilized.
- Participants who could communicate in Kannada or English.
- Children, parents, and caregivers who willingly agreed to participate in the study.

## Exclusion criteria
The following individuals were excluded from the study:
Children with serious health conditions such as hearing impairment, dumbness, mental retardation, or severe communication issues.

Parents or guardians who did not provide consent for their child's participation in the study.

To analyse the data we have used the descriptive statistics technique as well as Multi Logistic model to analyse the situations.

The multiple logistic model, sometimes referred to as multiple logistic regression, is used to examine the association between several independent variables (predictors), which can be continuous or categorical, and a binary dependent variable (coded as 0 or 1). When the dependent variable is non-normally distributed and there are just two possible results (such as yes/no, success/failure, etc.), the logistic model is acceptable.

## The multiple logistic model's formula is as follows:

$$\text{Logit}(p) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + ... + \beta_i X_i$$

Where
Logit (p) is the log-odds of the dependent variable (p) taking the value 1 (success, positive outcome).
$\beta_0$ is the intercept term, representing the log odds when all independent variables are zero.
$\beta_1$, $\beta_2$, $\beta_i$ are the coefficients (regression weights) associated with each independent variable ($X_1$, $X_2$,...$X_i$), indicating how much the log-odds change for a one-unit change in the corresponding predictor. $X_1$, $X_2$,...$X_i$ are the independent variables or predictors used in the model.
To obtain the predicted probability (p) of the dependent variable taking the value 1, we apply the logistic function (sigmoid function) to the logit (P).

$$p = 1 / (1 + e^{(-\text{logit}(p))})$$

The logistic function transforms the logit (P) to a probability value between 0 and 1, allowing us to make predictions on the likelihood of the binary outcome.
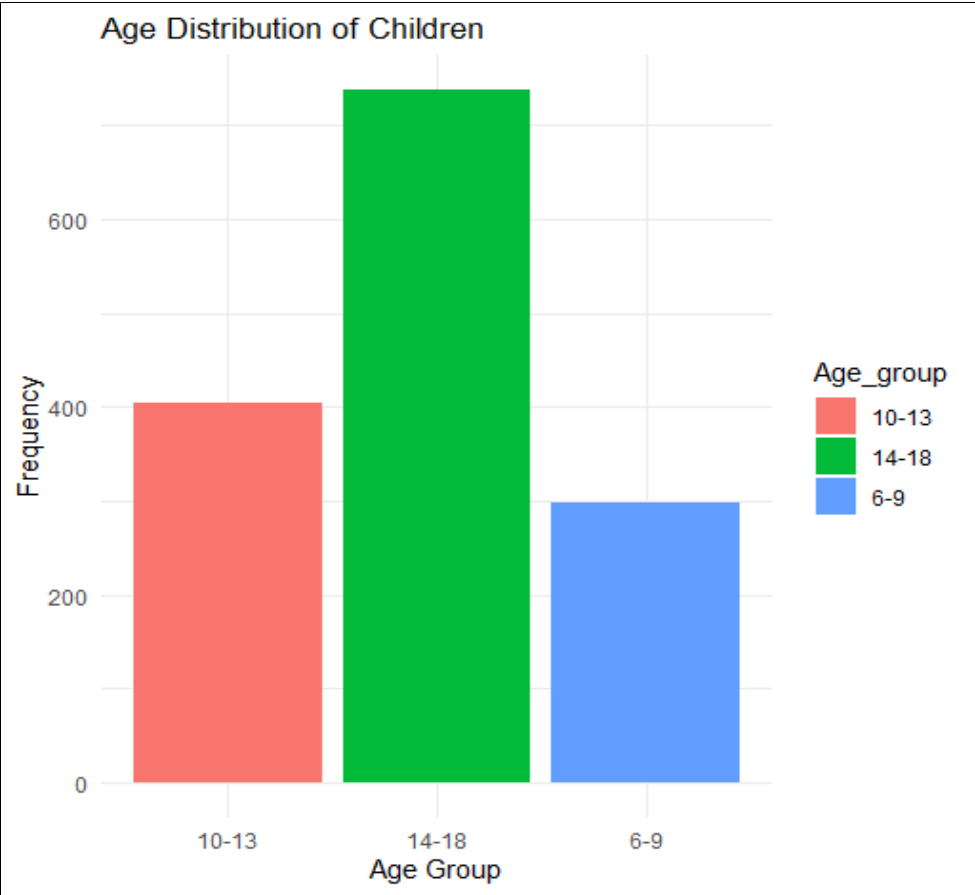
**Analysis and Discussion**



**Fig 1:** Shows the frequency distribution of the demographic character for school-going children
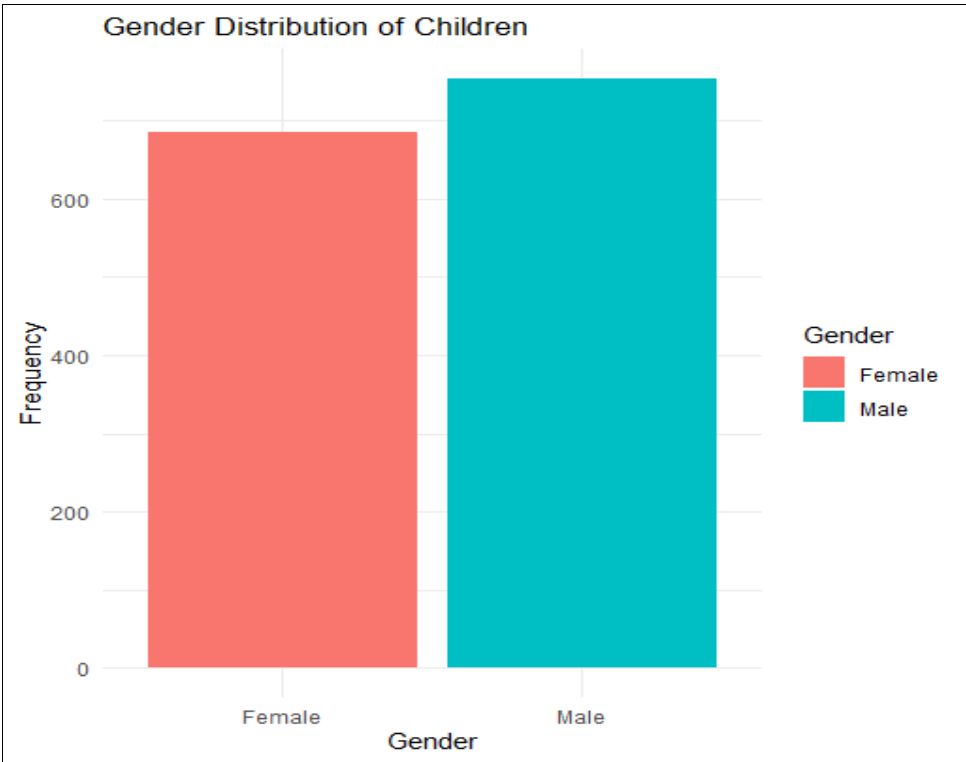


**Fig 2:** Shows the gender-specific frequency distribution of school-going children

**Table 1:** Shows the frequency of the school children and their percentage which was collected for the study

| Description of Sample Characteristics | Frequency (F) N=1440 | Percentage (%) |
|---|---|---|
| **Child characteristics** | | |
| **Age in years** | | |
| 6-9 | 298 | 20.7 |
| 10-13 | 404 | 28.1 |
| 14-18 | 738 | 51.2 |
| **Gender** | | |
| Male | 754 | 52.4 |
| Female | 686 | 47.6 |
| **Religion** | | |
| Hindu | 1192 | 82.8 |
| Muslim | 130 | 9.0 |
| Christian | 118 | 8.2 |
| **Class** | | |
| 1st-3rd | 256 | 17.8 |
| 4th-6th | 302 | 21.0 |
| 7-9th | 452 | 31.4 |
| 10-12th | 430 | 29.9 |
| **Health problems** | | |
| Physical disability | 4 | 0.3 |
| Mental/Behavioral problems | 6 | 0.4 |
| Learning difficulties | 116 | 8.1 |
| Other health problems | 18 | 1.2 |
| No health problems | 1296 | 90.0 |
| **Type of school** | | |
| Government | 814 | 56.5 |
| Private | 626 | 43.5 |
| **Living with/place of stay** | | |
| Both parents | 1230 | 85.4 |
| Mother | 124 | 8.6 |
| Father | 4 | 0.3 |
| Father and stepmother | 4 | 0.3 |
| Mother and step father | 8 | 0.6 |
| Relatives for study purpose | 14 | 1.0 |
| Others –for study purpose | 50 | 3.5 |
| Relatives –parents died | 6 | .4 |
| **Consumptions of intoxicants** | | |
| Alcohol | 4 | 0.3 |
| Alcohol and smoking | 2 | 0.1 |
| Nothing | 1434 | 99.6 |
| **Socio-economic status** | | |
| Upper middle | 102 | 7.1 |
| Lower middle | 920 | 63.9 |
| Poor | 374 | 26.0 |
| Very poor | 44 | 3.1 |

**Table 2:** Shows the distribution of school children abuse and the type of abuse

| Statement | Never F (%) | Once F (%) | Rarely F (%) | Often F (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **During the last six-months, the child was hurt physically by** | | | | |
| Neighbors | 1358(94.3) | 38(2.6) | 34(2.4) | 10(0.7) |
| Strangers | 1426(99) | 14(1.0) | 0 | 0 |
| Friends | 1328(92.2) | 44(3.1) | 60(4.2) | 8(0.6) |
| Father | 1330(92.4) | 28(1.9) | 58(4.0 ) | 24(1.7) |
| Mother | 1402(97.4) | 8(0.6) | 26(1.8 ) | 4 (0.3 ) |
| Uncle/aunty/relative | 1424 (98.9) | 6 (0.4) | 10 (0.7 ) | 0 |
| Brother/sister | 1434(99.6) | 2(0.1) | 4 (0.3 ) | 0 |
| Teacher | 1414 (98.2) | 10 (0.7) | 14(1.0) | 2(0.1) |
| **The method used** | | | | |
| Slap | 1334(92.6) | 48(3.3) | 30(2.1) | 28(1.9) |
| Pushing | 1290(89.6) | 70(4.9) | 64(4.4) | 16 (1.1) |
| Shaking | 1370(95.1) | 34(2.4) | 28(1.9) | 8 (0.6) |
| Touching with a hot object | 1438(99.9) | 2(0.1) | 0 | 0 |
| Biting | 1436(99.7) | 4 (0.3) | 0 | 0 |
| Any other (beating with stick) | 1282 (89.0) | 94(6.5) | 54(3.8) | 10(0.7) |

According to data from Table 2, 7.6% of the children had been physically abused by their father, who beat them as a method of discipline. In addition, 7.9% of the children said that in the six months prior, adults and friends had hurt them. The method involved using a stick to push and beat. The two most common reasons for abuse by hurting among the 132 children who were hurt overall were a disagreement (31.8%) and household rules (28.78%) (Figure 4). 27.27% of the kids among them underwent professional counselling (Figure 6). These kids mentioned their instructors (27.27%) and parents or other caretakers (46.96%) in Figure 5, which was then resolved by conversation (43.93%).

**Table 3:** Shows the sexual abuse, as reported by the school children in frequency and percentage

| Statement | Never f (%) | Once F (%) | Rarely F (%) | Often F (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sexual abuse** | | | | |
| **The children have experienced the following (from anyone)** | | | | |
| Touched the child's body badly | 1400 (97.2 ) | 28(1.9) | 10(0.7) | 2(0.1) |
| Tried to fondle the child | 1410 (97.9 ) | 24(1.7) | 4(0.3) | 2(0.1) |
| Shown dirty pictures to the child | 1422 (98.8 ) | 10(0.7) | 6(0.4) | 2(0.1) |
| Kissed forcefully | 1432 (99.4 ) | 6(0.4) | 0 | 2(0.1) |
| Forced child to touch his private parts | 1438 (99.9 ) | 2(0.1) | 0 | 0 |
| Shown the child his/her private body parts | 1428 (99.2 ) | 10(0.7) | 0 | 2(0.1) |
| Any other– calling dirty names | 1432 (99.4) | 6 (0.4) | 2(0.1) | 0 |

Table 3 statistics show that fondling (2.1%) and inappropriate touching of the body (2.7%) were examples of sexual abuse. Figure 7 shows that the majority of the 28 sexually abused children (42.85%) were victims of strangers and people they met on a daily bus ride (50%) in their local neighbourhood. The perpetrators were older than 25 in 46.42% of the cases (Figure 9). The majority of them (53.57%) kept it hidden and made efforts to stop things from growing worse, although a tiny proportion (Figure 10) informed their friends and parents about it and took preventative measures to avoid it happening again. But 38.46% of the children acknowledged fighting the culprits after the incident.

**Table 4:** Shows the behavioural abuses, as reported by the school children in frequency and percentage.

| Statement | Never F (%) | Once F (%) | Rarely F (%) | Often F (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Behavioral/emotional abuse** | | | | |
| Ever been humiliated by others | 1068 (74.2) | 126(8.8) | 190 (13.2) | 56(3.9) |
| **The person who humiliated the child in the last six months** | | | | |
| Friend | 1304(90.6) | 62(4.3) | 72(5) | 2(0.1) |
| Neighbors | 1330(92.4) | 62(4.3) | 44(3.1) | 4(0.3) |
| Stranger | 1404 (97.5) | 26(1.8) | 10(0.7) | 0 |
| Relative | 1334(92.6) | 50(3.5) | 42(2.9) | 14 (1.0) |
| Father | 1290 (89.6) | 24(1.7 ) | 90(6.2) | 36(2.5) |
| Mother | 1396 (96.9) | 8 (0.6) | 30(2.1) | 6(0.4) |
| Stepfather | 1438 (99.9) | 0 | 0 | 2 (0.1) |
| Teacher | 1416 (98.3) | 20(1.4) | 2 (0.1) | 2 (0.1) |
| **Humiliated by** | | | | |
| Speaking harshly | 1188 (82.5) | 94(6.5) | 108(7.5) | 50(3.5) |
| Ignoring the child badly | 1280 (88.9) | 34(2.4) | 84(5.8) | 42(2.9) |
| Shouting | 1176(81.7) | 96 (6.7) | 104(7.2) | 64(4.4) |
| Use of abusive language | 1284 (89.2) | 66 (4.6 ) | 58(4.0) | 32(2.2) |
| Comparing with the other children | 1288(89.4) | 50(3.5) | 78 (5.4) | 24 (1.7) |
| Rating lower the another children | 1316(91.4) | 60(4.2) | 42(2.9) | 22 (1.5) |
| Teasing | 1274(88.5) | 58(4.0) | 62(4.3) | 46(3.2) |
| Was the child up set on being humiliated | 1094(76) | 108 (7.5) | 126(8.8) | 112(7.8) |
| **The child felt** | | | | |
| Apprehensive when other children cry | 1194 (82.9) | 108(7.5) | 106(7.4) | 32 (2.2) |
| Tried to cover the injury with clothes | 1424 (98.9) | 16 (1.1) | 0 | 0 |
| Not telling the truth about the occurrence of injuries | 1434(99.6) | 6 (0.4) | 0 | 0 |
| Frightened of others | 1252(86.9) | 72(5) | 68(4.7) | 48(3.3) |
| Absenting from school | 1330(92.4) | 30(2.1) | 66(4.6) | 14 (1.0) |
| Reluctant to go home and come early to school. | 1352 (93.9) | 66(4.6) | 18 (1.2) | 4 (0.3) |
| Withdrawing from others | 1254(87.1) | 18(1.2) | 128(8.9) | 40 (2.8) |
| Running away from home/institution | 1416 (98.3) | 14 (1.0) | 8 (0.6) | 2 (0.1) |

According to the findings in Table-3, the father (10.1%) and friends (9.4%) were mostly to blame for the yelling (18.3%), taunting (11.5%), and abusive language (10.8) over the preceding six months. Among the 366 children who had experienced physical or verbal abuse, arguments (45.35%), corporal punishment at home (21.31%), and abuse by an alcoholic father (22.4%; Figure 12) were the main causes of abuse. Figure 13 shows that these kids told their mothers (25.68%) and teachers (28.41%) about the issue, leading to a 41.53% talk-out resolution. However, 28.96% of the kids asked for professional counselling.

**Table 4:** Shows the multiple logistic regression with adjusted odds ratio for variables of physical abuse among school children

| Socio-demographic variables | ß-Coefficient | Adjusted OR | 95%CI | | p-value |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Lower | Upper | |
| Age (Years) | -0.870 | 0.419 | 0.256 | 0.685 | .001 |
| Type of school | -0.080 | 0.923 | 0.513 | 1.660 | .789 |
| Type of family | -0.142 | 0.868 | 0.395 | 1.907 | .724 |
| Violence | -1.728 | 0.178 | 0.072 | 0.436 | < .001 |
| Working mother | -0.188 | 0.829 | 0.508 | 1.352 | .452 |
| Mothers age | 1.204 | 3.334 | 1.607 | 6.920 | .001 |
| Education of mother | 0.285 | 1.330 | 0.764 | 2.314 | .314 |
| Intoxicant by father | -0.532 | 0.587 | 0.351 | 0.982 | .043 |
| Discuss problems with parents | -1.005 | 0.366 | 0.214 | 0.626 | < .001 |
| Male preference | 0.098 | 1.103 | 0.681 | 1.787 | .691 |
| Socio-economic status | -0.259 | 0.771 | 0.445 | 1.338 | .356 |
| Constant | | | 2.448 | | |

Logistic regression model; Log (odds of physical abuse) = 2.448+-0.870 (age of the child) +-1.728 (violence in the family) + 1.204 (Mothers age) + -0.532 (alcoholic father) + -1.005 (discuss problems with parents)
OR: Odds Ratio, CI: Confidence Interval, LL: Lower Limit, UL: Upper Limit: $p = < .05$. Odds ratio adjusted to all other predictors included in the model

According to data in Table 4.10, children under the age of 13 (OR 0.419; CI.256, 685; p =.001), family violence (OR 0.178; CI.072, 0.436; p =.001), young mothers between the ages of 20 and 30 (OR 3.334; CI 1.607, 6.920; p =.001), fathers who are alcoholics (OR 0.587; CI.351.

**Table 5:** Shows the variables of behavioural abuse among school children, multiple Logistic regression with adjusted odds ratio

| Socio-demographic variables | ß-Coefficient | Adjusted OR | 95%CI | | p-value |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Lower | Upper | |
| Age in years | 0.635 | 1.887 | 1.228 | 2.901 | .004 |
| Gender | 0.278 | 1.320 | 0.886 | 1.967 | .172 |
| Type of school | -0.114 | 0.892 | 0.544 | 1.464 | .652 |
| Type of family | 0.079 | 1.082 | 0.515 | 2.274 | .835 |
| Violence | -2.685 | 0.068 | 0.019 | 0.242 | <.001 |
| Working mother | -0.126 | 0.881 | 0.572 | 1.358 | .567 |
| Mothers age | 1.015 | 2.758 | 1.488 | 5.113 | .001 |
| Education of mother | 0.448 | 1.564 | 0.976 | 2.508 | .063 |
| Alcoholic father | -0.544 | 0.580 | 0.366 | 0.920 | .021 |
| Discuss problems with parents | -1.131 | 0.323 | 0.195 | 0.533 | <.001 |
| Male child preference | 0.297 | 1.346 | .870 | 2.082 | .182 |
| Socio-economic status | -0.419 | 0.658 | 0.400 | 1.080 | .098 |
| Constant | | | 0.955 | | |

Logistic regression model: Log (odds of Behavioural abuse) = 0.955+0.635 (child's age) +-2.685 (family violence) +-1.015 (mother's age) +-0.544 (father's alcoholism) +-1.131 (discuss issues with parents) Odds Ratio (OR), Confidence Interval (CI), Lower Limit (LL), and Upper Limit (UL): p=.05, The odds ratio after taking into account all other model-included predictors

Data in Table 4.11 shows that the age of the child between 14 - 18 years (OR 1.887; CI 1.228, 2.901; p =.004), violence in the family (OR 0.068; CI 0.019, 0.242; p = <.001), young mothers aged 20 - 30 years (OR 2.758; CI 1.488, 5.113; p =.001), alcoholic father (OR 0.580; CI 0.366, 0.920; p =.021), children who do not discuss problems with their parents (OR 0.323; CI 0.195, 0.533; p = <.001) were significant variables of behavioural abuse among the school children.

**Table 5:** Shows that multiple logistic regression with adjusted edoddsratioon the variable of sexual abuse among school children

| Socio-demographic variables | ß-Coefficient | Adjusted OR | 95%CI | | p-value |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Lower | Upper | |
| Age in years | -0.695 | 0.499 | 0.207 | 1.206 | 0.123 |
| Gender | -1.188 | 0.305 | 0.126 | 0.738 | 0.009 |
| Working mother | -0.522 | 0.593 | 0.258 | 1.364 | 0.219 |
| Mothers age | 1.370 | 3.934 | 0.505 | 30.620 | 0.191 |
| Discuss problems with parents | -0.935 | 0.393 | 0.164 | 0.939 | 0.036 |
| Constant | 4.780 | | | | |

Logistic regression model
Log (odds of sexual abuse) = 4.780+-1.188 (Gender of the child) +-0.935 (Discuss problems with parents)
OR: Odds Ratio, CI: Confidence Interval, LL: Lower Limit, UL: Upper Limit: $p = <.05$. The odds ratio is adjusted to all other predictors included in the model.

The data in Table-5 shows that age of the child between 14 - 18 years (OR 1.887; CI 1.228, 2.901; p =.004), violence in the family (OR 0.068; CI 0.019, 0.242; p = <.001), young mothers aged 20 - 30 years (OR 2.758; CI 1.488, 5.113; p =.001), alcoholic father (OR 0.580; CI 0.366, 0.920; p =.021), children who do not discuss problems with their parents (OR 0.323; CI 0.195, 0.533; p = <.001) were significant variables of behavioural abuse among the school children.
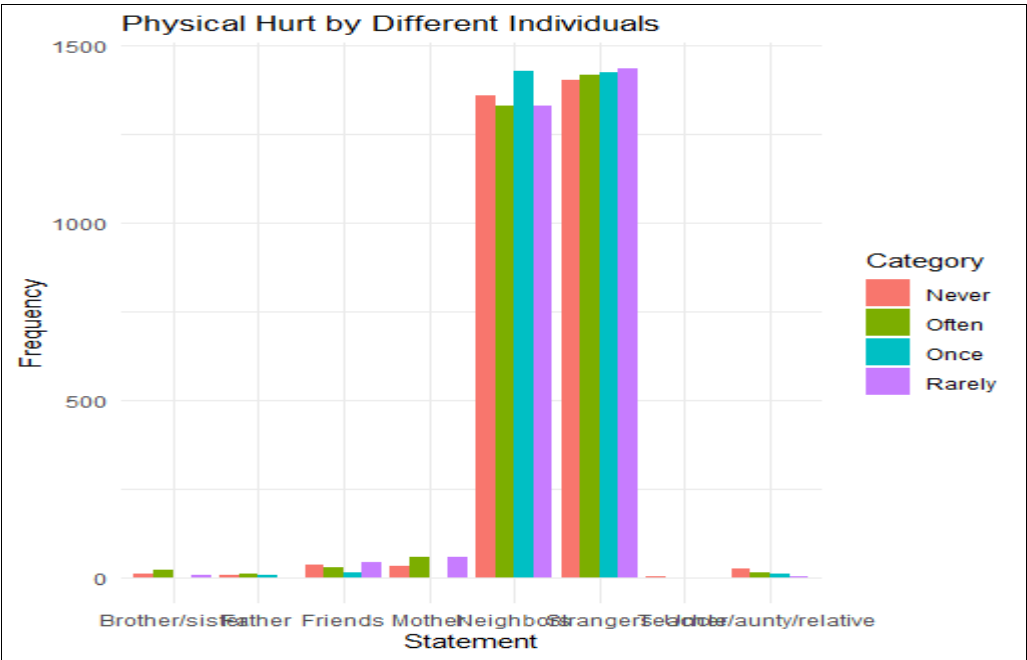


**Fig 4:** Shows the physical hurt by different individuals to the school children
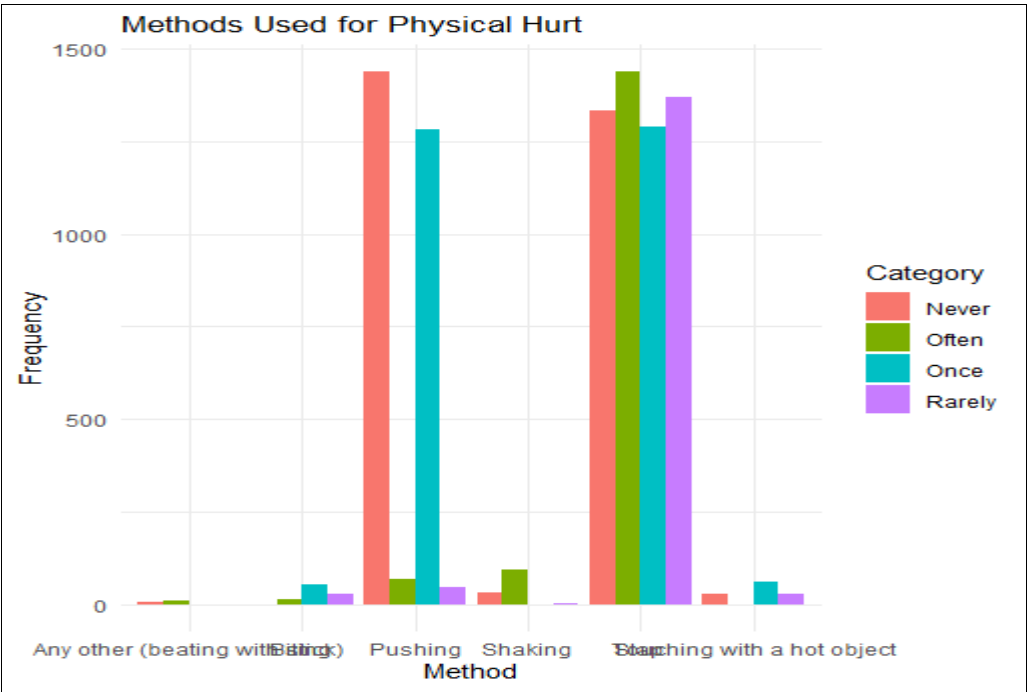


**Fig 6:** Shows the school children abuse by physical hurt
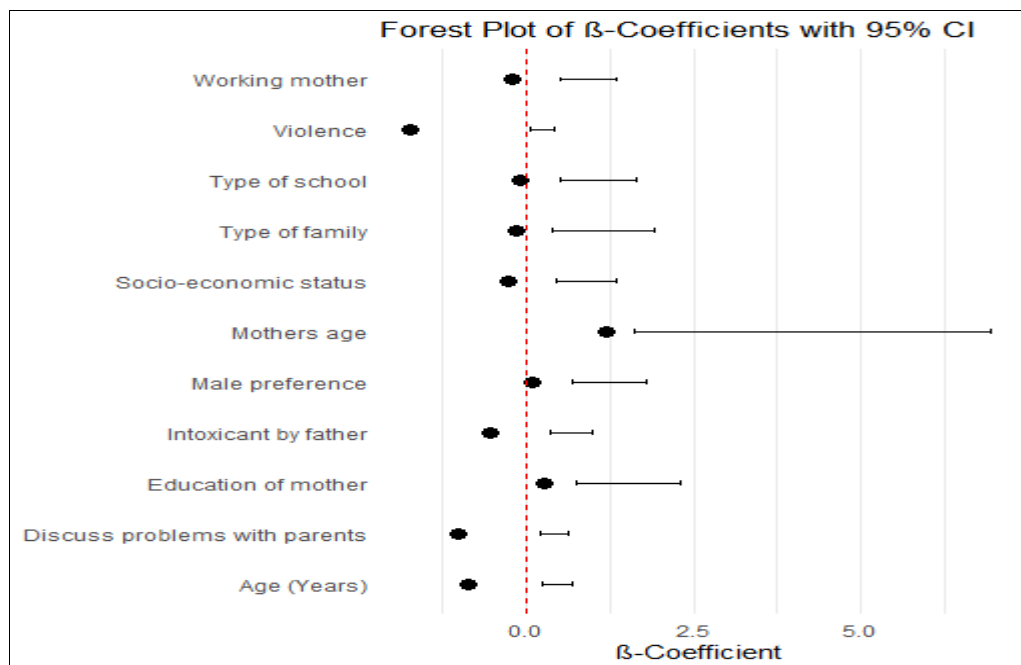
**Fig 7:** Represents the logistic model analysis

## Conclusion

In conclusion, this study focuses on physical, sexual, and Behavioural abuse of school-aged children and gives important light on its incidence and patterns. The results show that a sizeable number of the studied population's children had been abused by a variety of people, including family members, friends, and complete strangers. Physical abuse of the kids, mainly in the form of slapping, pushing, and shaking, was discovered to be a serious problem. Although less frequently reported, sexual abuse still needs to be taken seriously, especially when it involves strangers and people one encounters on a daily basis. The complexity of the issue is further increased by Behavioural abuse that takes the form of emotional humiliation.

Age, family violence, mother's age, father's alcoholism, gender, and parent-child communication were all significant predictors of maltreatment, according to the logistic regression study. These predictors provide essential information on the elements that increase children's susceptibility to various types of maltreatment.

## Future Research Suggestions

Although this study sheds light on the problem of child abuse in schools, there are still a number of topics that need more research, including.

Studies that are conducted over an extended period of time can help researchers better understand how child abuse affects young people's physical, emotional, and psychological health. These investigations can also aid in locating protective elements that might lessen the effects of abuse.

## Conflict of Interest

Not available

## Financial Support

Not available

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