

Abuse in children: Indicator of failure in relationship?

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Abstract

Child abuse is defined as not by chance and repeating physical or psychological impairment of a child due to action or omission. Physical, psychological (emotional) and sexual abuse of children will be described. The cause is most often the parents, sometimes brothers and sisters, relatives or familial supervisors. The right of the child to live, the development and the promotion will be impaired. Physical abuse is defined as action or omission to injure the child. Physical abuse is also found in families, where violence is used to be a basic element of child education.

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Editorial

Violence against children have been found many centuries ago and was found in different cultures. Children have been depressed by war, bad life conditions and alimentation. In old testament many cases of punishment by the father as education were found and accepted. To date, many children must work under hard living and working conditions in agriculture and craft business. Till the period of enlightenment, children and newborn were divided early from their parents. The french doctor Tardieu published the first manuscript about abuse in children and the consequences of this, an interesting work that was not spent much public attention. The first trial at dish was present 1890 in New York. The situation of the violent abuse of a young girl was analyzed according the animal protection law. Sigmund Freud analyzed in the early stage of psychoanalytics, that different neurotic behavioral disturbances in adults could be related as a consequence of childhood abuse.

Coffey and Kempe found in the 1950th, that abuse and repeat of abuse is often found in newborn and toddler age and that abuse of children is found in every social strata. In the last 30 years, especially since 2006, different spectacular cases of abuse in children, a growing interest of public and politics

was found. Nevertheless a great disagreement in public is found, who is all responsible for child abuse. Is it only the parents, who take care for their children or the duty of the country, to secure children from abuse? In which way are pediatricians, teacher, youth offices or other cultural facilities responsible for child abuse? Different institutions have been related to cases of child abuse: pediatricians, general practitioners, pediatric surgeons, youth offices, family law, prosecutor, health office, police and institute of legal medicine. Many other institutions will be involved. The german civil code paragraph 1631 describes, that children have the right for non-violent education. Münchhausen by proxy syndrome describes a form of abuse, where mothers send their children often to a doctor and think their child is ill anywhere. In these cases, the mother is psychological ill and needs treatment.

Each kind of abuse is an indicator of failure in relationship and is described as child hazard. Epidemiological facts 50 years after publication of first abused cases many different numbers of cases in different countries were published. In Germany 2006 334 cases of physical abuse in newborn till 10 years of age were registrated. 2007, 3373 cases of abuse and especially 12772 cases of sexual abuse in

children were found. Taking all these facts into account, 2 per cent of hospital admittance in Germany is based on abuse in children. Different organizations in Germany revealed the fact that nearly 150000 children per year get physical abuse. Concerning USA, Netherlands and other countries, in Germany there is no compulsory registration of abused children. In ambulatory emergency departments in children hospital a number of up to

10 per cent of children abuse less than 10 years is found. 15 per cent of children up to 18 months bone fractures were found due to children abuse.

In conclusion, an early recognition of abuse and the condition of the child can prevent complications in these serious cases. And: Each form of abuse in children is an indicator for failure in relationship.