

Standard Journal of Education and Essay Vol 1(2) pp. 29- 34, February 2013

Available online <http://standresjournals.org/journals/SJEF/index.html>

Copyright ©2013 Standard Research Journals

Accepted 21 February, 2013

Research Article

Protecting the child from sexual abuse

Fatma Fawzy Abd El Atty^{1*} and Ashraf Shaaban Konbar²

¹Foundations of Education, College of Education, Tanta University,

²College of Education, Tanta University,

*Corresponding author. Email: attaff0333@hotmail.com

Abstract

When we deal with children, we have two things, either to maintain the existing and available values or to develop them. Hence, we can develop mental and physical abilities and also what enables children to live efficiently, and to complement the educational role we have to leave some sides without prejudice. This includes children's innocence which refers to the negligence of children to recognize sexual feelings and desires that simmer in the hearts of adults. We can leave them anonymous until they reach this perception of their minds. This is the essence of the protection of violation. In other words, we should not alert children to this aspect as long as they do not realize it. When we alert children to sexual feelings and desires, they may seek sexual insatiability, and hence the child may commit wrong deeds which oppose religion and social traditions in order to satisfy his needs. If this happens, the child will harm his mind and damage his health. There are a lot of regional, local and international conventions that criminalize sexual abuse of children. One of these conventions is the convention of the Rights of the Child which deals with selling children and using them for prostitution and pornography. This convention was adopted in May 2000, and entered into force in January 2002. This convention activates child's rights to protect him from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or detrimental to the child's health or education. The writers of this protocol expressed great concern about sex tourism; where it is to encourage the exploitation of children in prostitution and pornography" Also it is protocol bans using children from sexual activities for remuneration or any form of supply." On the international level, there is a convention which prevents all forms of child labor and it includes all immediate procedures to eliminate it in 1999. It defines the child as a person who is under the age of eighteen years old. There is a gap between protecting the child from sexual abuse and the practices that are found in fact. The recent study tries to identify the causes of child sexual abuse in order to find a suitable cure which suits our culture.

Key words: Sexual abuse, Islam, Child abuse

INTRODUCTION

When we deal with children, we have two things, either to maintain the existing and available values or to develop them. Hence, we can develop mental and physical abilities and also what enables children to live efficiently, and to complement the educational role we have to leave some sides without prejudice. This includes children's innocence which refers to the negligence of children to recognize sexual feelings and desires that simmer in the hearts of adults. We can leave them anonymous until they reach this perception of their minds. This is the essence of the protection of violation. In other words, we should not alert children to this aspect as long as they do not realize it.

The study problem

When we alert children to sexual feelings and desires, they may seek sexual insatiability, and hence the child may commit wrong deeds which oppose religion and social traditions in order to satisfy his needs. If this happens, the child will harm his mind and damage his health.

There are a lot of regional, local and international conventions that criminalize sexual abuse of children. One of these conventions is the convention of the Rights of the Child which deals with selling children and using them for prostitution and pornography. This convention was adopted in May 2000, and entered into force in January 2002.

This convention activates child's rights to protect him from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or detrimental to the child's health or education. The writers of this protocol expressed great concern about sex tourism; where it is to encourage the exploitation of children in prostitution and pornography" (Basuori, 2003). Also it is protocol bans using children from sexual activities for remuneration or any form of supply (Basuori, 2003).

On the international level, there is a convention which prevents all forms of child labor and it includes all immediate procedures to eliminate it in 1999. It defines the child as a person who is under the age of eighteen years old (Basuori, 2003).

There is a gap between protecting the child from sexual abuse and the practices that are found in fact.

The recent study tries to identify the causes of child sexual abuse in order to find a suitable cure which suits our culture.

The main inquiry of the study

What is the best way to face the problem of child sexual abuse?

In order to find an answer to this question, there are also some other questions that help in finding the answer to the main question which are:

- (a) What are the reasons for sexual abuse in the Arab novels?
- (b) What is the interpretation of this sexual abuse?
- (c) What is the cure for sexual abuse?

METHODOLOGY AND TOOLS OF THE STUDY

The study has adopted the descriptive methodology to describe the problem and analyze its aspects.

The study has also adopted the tool of content analysis to reveal the content of some Arab novels which have dealt with sexual abuse.

The main questions that this study has answered during the analysis are:

1. Who is the violator?
2. Who is the victim?
3. What are the circumstances of the assault?
4. What is the effect of sexual abuse on the child's future life?

The study literature

The Arabic literature

The rate of child's sexual abuse and its long-term effects on a sample of male children (Gedian, 2001): The study has researched the rate of sexual abuse for a sample of Jordanian students and also the relation between sexual abuse in childhood and the psychological health for adults.

The study has showed that 27% of the student sample have previous experiences during childhood before the age of 14 and these victims have suffered from psychological health problems as a result of this sexual abuse.

The Egyptian organization for women's rights study (2008): The study has researched sexual harassment and it used a sample survey in Cairo, Giza and Al Qalubia. The study has showed that verbal harassment was common and it reached 67.9%.

The foreign literature

Prospective analysis of the relationship between childhood sexual victimization and perpetration of dating violence and sexual assault in adulthood (Loh and Gidyez, 2006): The present study seeks to improve on previous research by prospectively investigating the relationship between childhood sexual assault and subsequent perpetration of dating violence in adulthood in men. Although there is a significant relationship between childhood sexual abuse and history of sexual assault perpetration at baseline, prospective analyses indicate that Childhood sexual assault is not predictive of perpetration during the follow-up period. The role of family factors, including parental Conflict resolution, is implicated in subsequent sexual aggression. These results are supportive of the idea that the effects of childhood sexual abuse may be mediated by a variety of factors.

The construction of the sexually aggressive child. An interpretive interactionist investigation (Cromie, 2004): This study is based on the researcher's experiences as a agency psychotherapist who saw wards of the State of Illinois, twelve-years-of-age and younger, referred by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS) for assessment and treatment of "sexual aggression". It explores the questions: How does the private trouble of a child's sexual (mis)behavior become a public issue? How do wards of the State, twelve- years-of-age and younger, become identified as sexually aggressive?

This qualitative exploration employs Denzin's methodology of interpretive interactionism. It is particularly suited for the study of relationships between personal troubles (example, sexual behavior problems) and public institutions and policies created to address these troubles. The researcher situated the study in the natural world: the institution of IDCFS. The researched explore the story of IDCFS in historical documents. He also used field notes and interviews with 12 informants who provided personal accounts about their clinical experiences with children who expressed sexualized behavior.

The researcher employed the insights of social problems construction, viewing theories about sexually aggressive children, and models advanced to address the problem, as claims-making practices, intended to persuade powerful interest groups that the problem of child sexual aggression exists and requires a solution.

Cultural values, institutional and professional interests, legislative forces, ideologies, and historical contexts mediate the concept of the sexually aggressive child. IDCFS is historically embedded within the powerful meta-narrative of child abuse. Definitions of child abuse have expanded from their original meaning in Kempe's seminal paper on "the battered child." Organizational practices that actualized reports of child abuse correspondingly changed when laws required greater numbers of professionals and nonprofessionals to report more kinds of abuse.

This exploration found that the designation of a ward as "sexually aggressive" was frequently faulty, lacking in clarity and at times politically determined. Often, IDCFS did not follow its own official procedure. On a broader scale, the findings suggested that a more careful look at the use of systems of classification and labeling is in order. This exploration maintains that representations of children as sexually aggressive are social transactions and constructions created within interpretive communities who have differing values and world views. The social work principle of the primacy of context means being cognizant of the clients' and the interpretive frames.

SEXUAL ABUSE IN THE ARABIC NOVEL

Emaret Yacoubian (Jacoub Block of Flats) (El Aswany, 2002)

The violator: Edris, the servant, who wears a baggy white gown with a red wide belt. He is tall, well-built, with a dark face.

The victim: Hatem Rasheed, a nine year-old boy. His parents are always busy so he lost their love and affection.

The circumstances of the assault: Edris treated Hatem in a friendly way. Hatem needs this kind treatment as he feels lonely and this has helped Edris to abuse Hatem. The writer says "Although Edris has a strong lust yet he abused Hatem without violence. He entered Hatem's body carefully and asked him to tell Edris if he felt any pain". This way succeeded and Hatem got used to this abuse.

The effect of sexual abuse on the victim: When Hatem's father died, his mother had to cut down their expenses so she fired Edris and some other servants. This has a great impact on Hatem so he had low grades at school and kept looking for someone who looks like Edris. Later Hatem grew up and became a journalist who kept looking for a man like Edris until he met Abd Rabo and practiced homosexuality with him. But Abd Rabo decided to end this relationship because it is prohibited religiously and the story ends with Hatem's murder.

Tawk Tahara (A means of purification) (Alharz, 2005):

The violator: The teacher of activities who invites the child to take part in singing anthems.

The victim: The child Hassan a smart, shy, quiet and exciting child.

The circumstances of the assault: The teacher and the child were alone in the activity room and before the party that the school was giving the teacher began harassment. He put his hand on the child's buttock strongly but the child got confused and ran away.

The effect of sexual abuse on the victim: The family dealt with the matter quietly and wisely. The father reported to the police and the teacher was fired but this sexual abuse left negative psychological effects on Hassan. When he grew up, he practiced sex with a lot of women in order to pure himself from feeling that he is a homosexual.

Hanna Mena: Ahera Wa Nesf Magnoon (A prostitute and half crazy) (Mena, 2008):

The violator: Bedour, a lesbian rich woman who is married but her husband rarely visits her.

The victim: The child Leorance Sha'lol. She is a poor, 12 year-old girl. She lives with her family in the same room. She is used to listening to her parents during their sexual intercourse. She hates men because of her father's bad treatment to her mother.

The circumstances of the assault: Leorance was walking one day in the street. She was semi-naked. Bedour met her and offered that Leorance could work for her. Leorance accepted and went to work at her house. Bedour began to abuse her. When Leorance grew up, she asked Bedour to allow her to complete her studies at the university. The lady agreed on condition that their relationship would continue.

The effect of sexual abuse on the victim: Leorance herself because a lesbian woman. She became a famous writer who published men's scandals and remained lesbian who made the best use of her body and regarded it her wealth.

Saba El Harz: Al Akharon (The others) (El Harz, 2005):

The violator: Belquis, a student at the university, mathematics department.

The victim: A 12-year old girl who suffers from social isolation, She is also weak at mathematics.

The circumstances of the assault: Belquis began to help the victim with her mathematics problem she was her tutor, when the girl got a good mark in the mathematics exam, Belquis kissed her and their sexual relationship began. They both were lesbians. The girl addicted this relationship with Belquis.

The Effect of sexual abuse on the victim: Belquis began to identify the reasons for being lesbian on the internet. She hated her body. She was bathing while wearing her underwear clothes in order not to touch her sexual organs.

Factors of sexual abuse

The biological factors

Genetic influence means that the child may be born with genetic readiness to a particular behaviour, however, this behaviour needs some other environmental factors.

In some cases estrogenic hormone affects the development of the brain, Hence, the fetus brain tends to estrogenic formation and this reflects on the psychological characteristics of the male and therefore, he feels that he is a female (Sasfi 2007).

Moreover, a strong influence of genetic factors has been demonstrated in relation to the repetition of physical abuse, emphasizing further the weight of the fate. However, in the field of human behaviour, biological factors do not generally act alone, but in interaction with environmental factors (Bouvier, 2003).

The social factors

The family is responsible for providing the child with the sound atmosphere to grow up properly. It is also responsible for protecting the child.

In some cases, the child may confront sexual violence at an early age. Strangely, this violence has been shown from people who care for the child. Children aged 1 to 5 years may face this danger at any time without the family's observance (Musa and Al A'ish, 2004).

Also, the increase in the family member numbers in small houses may lead to sexual abuse, the absence of parents and cruel treatment may lead to sexual abuse and the decline of the psychological structure of the child.

The role of family factors, including parental conflict resolution, is implicated in subsequent sexual aggression. These results are supportive of the idea that the effects of childhood sexual abuse may be mediated by a variety of factors (Loh and Gidyez, 2006).

The society, also, plays an important role in forming sex culture. In Western countries, the problem is that these countries consider homosexuality as a normal choice and that the family has acceptable forms (father and mother, father and father, mother and mother) and these forms are socially accepted

Moreover children and adolescents live in a sex-saturated culture rife with images of sexual aggression and abuse (New York Times, 2010).

As for Arab societies, the problem lies in lack of awareness and letting children mix with the other gender a lot at the age of 5-12 and preventing them from mixing at the age of adolescence.

Moreover, homeless children, all over the world face sexual abuse, this is clear in developing countries and especially, Egypt.

In British Colombia there are 98% of homeless girls who have become victims of sexual abuse (Beauvias et al., 2001).

The Behavioral factors

Alcohol abuse is common in men who commit both rape and child molesting. Heavy drinking and the anticipation of alcohol effects such as sexual enhancement, arousal and aggression may facilitate sexual aggression in offenders with antisocial personality disorder (Aromaki and Lindman, 2001).

There are some gender attitudes, pornography use, and alcohol abuse that are significant predictors of perpetration of sexual violence (Carr et al., 2004).

Mental and psychological factors

Psychopathy and locus causal attributions accounted for 50% of the variance in severity of sexual aggression in molesters, with anger indicated a trend in the model (Di Francisco, 2006).

Moreover, the main reason for sexual abuse may be psychological in most cases as the male may reject himself as a male and also the female may reject herself as a female and this rejection begins in the early childhood.

Cultural and technological factors

No doubt that culture invasion and modern technology play a part in child sexual abuse. The internet, for example, has a lot of pornography that arouses the child's and adult's lusts. If a child watches a pornographic shot, he may try to practice it with another child.

Finally, the researchers think all or some of these five factors are the main ones that cause child sexual abuse.

Protecting the child from sexual abuse

Islam has guided us to protect our children from sexual abuse and there are some common behaviors also.

Some of religious guidelines for protecting children from sexual abuse are:

1. The best choice of the mother/the wife. The prophet Muhammad (pbuh) warned muslims of getting married to a pretty women in bad surroundings.

2. Training children to speak well. We can teach our children to name sexual organs with using their Arabic names for example, (Farg and Thakar).
3. Children must not take off their clothes and be naked in front of other children or adults.
4. Making a bed for every child and if it is not possible, every child can use his own covering.
5. Taking parents' permission before entering their room as Allah (Glory be to Him) ordered us in the Holy Quran to do so. This is to prevent the children from seeing their parents during their sexual intercourse.
6. Adhering to prayers and fasting: It is important to train our children to adhere to prayers and fasting as fasting limits the developing lust of the youth.
7. Parents must teach their children that it is forbidden to allow anyone to touch their sexual organs and if this happens. They should go away at once and complain to their parents.

References

- Alaa El Aswany (2002) *Jacoub block of flats*, Madbouly bookshop, Cairo
- Amgad Adnan Gedian (2001). The rate of child's sexual abuse and its long term effects on a sample of male children, the world health organization, Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal. volume 7. No. 3 On: <http://www.emro.who.int/publications/embj/0703/longterm.htm>.
- Aosam Sasfi (2007). *Cure of love-Revealing facts of Homosexuality, Reseaons, Cure and Prevention*. Pp. 76-77.
- Beauvias C, Mckay L, Seddon A(2001). A literature review on youth and citizenship. Candian Policy Research Network Discussion. Paper No. CPR N. 102, 50, 2001, p. 62. on [http://www.child-abuse-effects.com/sexual abuse effects.html](http://www.child-abuse-effects.com/sexual%20abuse%20effects.html). access on 13/11/2012.
- Bouvier Paul (2003). Child sexual abuse: vicious circles of fate or paths to resilience, *Lancet*. 361(9356):446-452.
- Carr Joetta, Van Deusen J, Karen M (2004). Risk actors for male sexual aggression on collage campuses, *J. family violence*. 19(5): 279-289. 11p. 6 charts.
- Cromie Thetis (2004). PhD. Dissertation, United States. Illinois: Institute for Clinical Social Work (Chicago).
- Di Francisco Maria (2006) *psychopathy; Negative emotions of anger and depression and causal attributions related to sexual aggression*, PhD. United States, Pennsylvania: Drexel University.
- Hanna Mena (2008). *A prostitute and half crazy*, El Adah publisher, Beriut. Pp 15-19.
- Loh Catherine, Gidyez Christine (2006). A Prospective analysis of relationship between child sexual victimization and perpetration of Dating violence and sexual assault in adulthood, *J. Interpersonal Violence*. 21(6):732-747.
- Mahmoud Sherif Basuori (2003). *International conventions of Human Rights*, Al-Shronk Publisher, Cairo, Pp. 901.
- Rasad Ali Abd Aziz Musa, Zeinab Bint Muhammad Zain Al A'ish (2004). *The psychology of violence against children*, Cairo, Pp. 211.
- Saba Alharz (2005). *A means of purification*, Alsaqi publisher, Lebanon. Pp 7-15.
- Saba El Harz (2005). *The others*, Al Saqqi publisher, Lebanon. Pp 5-8.
- School Sex Attacks: A cultural problem, *New York Times*, 6/16/2010, Pp. 30.
- The Egyptian Organization for women's rights study on sexual harassment in Egypt, Cairo, 2008. On: <http://www.anhri.net/egypt/ecwr/2008/pr6722.shtml>.