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CHILD ABUSE IN A FAMILY**DARYA TUKHTO, SVIATLANA ASTAPCHUK****Polotsk State University, Belarus**

Child abuse in a family is a serious problem for society in all countries. Parents' desire to "break", to "improve" the child by manipulating, humiliation, threats and physical punishment creates an unsuitable situation for his life in the family. As a rule, domestic child abuse takes place in marginalized families with aggravated social problems.

These are families where parents are alcoholics, drug addicts, religious fanatics, minors, refugees or unemployed with handicaps (deaf, blind), mentally retarded or mentally ill, as well as single-parent families.

Abuse of children by their parents and neglect of their interests can have different kinds and forms. There are 5 main basic forms of violent acts that constitute the nature of domestic abuse. Among the most common and the most recognizable forms of violence we can identify physical and sexual forms of abuse. These forms of domestic child abuse are not exclusive; there is also a psychological and economic violence.

Physical abuse is the infliction to the child by parents or persons who replace them of physical injuries, different kinds of damage. In some families they use different kinds of physical punishment - from flaps and slaps to strapping as a disciplinary measure. Signs of physical abuse are bruises, scratches, scars, burns, abrasions, wounds, fractures, and we can observe changes in child's usual behavior.

Sexual violence is the involvement of a child in sexual activities oriented to bring physical satisfaction to a person who performs abuse or to get profits. Offering or coercion of a child to sexual activity (not depending on the result) are also considered as forms of sexual child abuse, showing of genitals to a child, demonstration of pornography, sexual contact with a child, physical contact with genitals of a child, viewing of child's genitals without physical contact, use of a child for production of child pornography.

Mental violence (verbal insults, blackmail, act of violence regarding children or other persons in order to establish control over the partner, threat of violence to yourself, a partner or other persons, horrification by pets abuse or destruction of items of property, forcing the victim to perform actions that degrading him).

Economic violence (denial of child support, income withholding, sole adoption of the most financial decisions and individual spending of family money).

We can often see such form of violence as the use of the children to take control under adult victims (use of the children as hostages, forcing the children to be engaged in physical and psychological abuse of an adult victim, battle for parental rights using the manipulation of the children, use of granting or deprivation of the possibility of visiting the child to control the adult victim).

If we talk about domestic violence, I would like not to stop at such obvious and recognized by everyone social forms of family interaction as beating with serious bodily injury, but less visible, "simple" and even familiar, and sometimes discouraged.

Mental or physical abuse of the children is first of all the problem of impotence and irresponsibility of adults. Children are very sensitive to the tone with which the adult gives the orders; it is inherent in the nature of a child. If an adult feels internally like an adult and confident person, if he really knows what he really wants from the child and if he is responsible for the result, and all this is heard in his voice – so a child of any age will obey.

There are the so-called "sensitive periods of abuse". These periods correspond to child development periods, when anatomical and physiological, hormonal, emotional and personal and psychosocial changes make him easily injured. First of all these periods are preschool and adolescence. So, more often the victims of physical abuse by the parents become the children from 12 to 17 years, reaching a peak at the age of 15-17 [3].

Adults at this period of time should show maximum of understanding and responsiveness. However, particular immaturity of parental feelings, inability or unwillingness to control their own emotions and neurotic states do not allow developing tolerance and sensitivity towards such changes that occur in children in these age periods. This provokes increase of presence of aggression, rudeness, disobedience of adolescents. Physical punishment provokes again the outbreaks of aggression, brutality, which provokes new punishment in its turn [2].

We have to note the risk factors of children abuse. First of all it is referred to psychological characteristics of parents. Such parents are characterized as impulsive, immature, rigid, parents-tyrants or chronically aggressive persons, dependent and narcissistic, separated from their family and friends and who suffer with marital difficulties.

Unfortunately, most parents who abuse their children were often subjected to physical abuse themselves in their childhood, as well as to rejection, deprivation and neglect by their own parents.

Another risk factor of child abuse is the children themselves. Usually only one child in the family is regarded as the most difficult and burdensome [4].

Children with physical and mental disabilities, children with disabilities, babies born prematurely and with low birth weight are also vulnerable to violence.

At older ages, a child can contribute to physical abuse by his aggressiveness, hyperactivity and impulsive behavior. Such children less willingly comply with the rules that annoy their parents and incline them to violence. In his turn, the child begins to imitate the violent behavior of his parents, in order to prevent abuse in relation to him. As a result there is a vicious cycle of bad behavior and violence [1].

Any kind of child abuse leads to a variety of consequences: low self-esteem, loss of confidence in him, formation of pathological character traits that can lead to violation of socialization, physical injury, damage, acute mental disorders. Children feel fear, alarm. Kids that are subjected to abuse are often behind in height, weight, they begin later to walk, to talk, and they laugh less. Such children often have "bad habits": finger sucking, nail biting, swinging. Older children can have the development of a heavy depression with a sense of inferiority, inadequacy [3].

Children's reactions to emotional abuse can take the form of distancing from the rapist; it can lead to the formation of painful affections, inclinations of victims to blame themselves for violence committed against them, helplessness and passive behavior.

Children suffered from various kinds of violence feel anger that they more often vent to someone weaker: younger children, animals. It often happens when their aggressiveness is manifested in the game; sometimes their flash of anger has no apparent cause. Some of them, on the contrary, are too passive, they can't defend themselves.

Violence of any kind is a severe psychological trauma for the child.

We have to understand that child injury can occur also during the beating of one of the parents (a family member) by another parent (a family member). Parents who execute domestic abuse traumatize children [3]:

- intentionally causing damage to them to influence other members of the family (for example, a child can be maltreated to force the other family members act in accordance with the wishes of the abuser;
- unintentionally causing injuries to children during an attack on another member of the family (a child can be an unwitting participant of a fight and / or get damages when he tries to protect the victim of the attack;
- creating of an environment where children become witness of violence and / or its consequences;
- using children to control other family members who live with the child, or separately, to exercise control over his / their behavior.

We conducted a survey in Polotsk State University. The aim was to identify the level of familiarization of the students with the concept of violence, as well as what kinds of violence were used by their parents towards them when they were children.

Male students identify child abuse as follows: incest (9%), humiliation (8%), destruction of personal belongings (8%), beating (8%), derision (8%), insulting (7%), threat of being left (7%), sexual stimulation (7%), showing / participation in pornography (7%).

As regarding to their future children the male students are not against to use flap (28%), bans (23%), slap (17%), coercion (14%).

When they were kids their parents used: flap (21%), coercion (19%), bans (18%), and beating with a belt (14%).

Female students are sure that child abuse can be considered as follows: beating (10%), show / participation in pornography (9%), sexual stimulation (9%), insults (9%), incest (8%), humiliation (8%), belt (7%), as regarding to their future children the female students are not against to use flap (40%), bans (27%) and coercion (23%).

When they were kids their parents used prohibitions and coercion (both 25%), flap a little less (21%), beating with a belt (7%), insult (7%) towards them when they were children.

Combating children abuse is complicated by several factors. One of them is the fact that most cases of family children abuse for various reasons do not reach the police and social workers. Parents refuse the testimony, besides social responsibility of neighbors, relatives – all these who can see or hear the beating of a child are very low. Even children believe themselves that any family is much better than life in an orphanage.

As a result, it is possible to specify that:

- Family child abuse is a serious problem for society in all countries.
- As a rule, domestic child abuse take place in marginalized families with aggravated social problems.
- In a situation of violence not only the victim of aggression suffers. Everybody suffers from family terror.

- Abusiveness of parents towards their children and neglect of their interests can have different kinds and forms.
- Most parents who abuse their children were themselves in their childhood often subjected to physical abuse.
- Any kind of child abuse leads to a variety of consequences: low self-esteem, loss of confidence in him, formation of pathological character traits, leading to a violation of socialization, physical injury, damage, acute mental disorders.

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PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE AND EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

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Psychological abuse is a form of mistreatment in which there is intent to cause mental or emotional pain or injury. There are many forms of psychological abuse. Victims of psychological abuse can develop a number of symptoms including behavioral changes, stress, and unhappiness. Emotional intelligence has become a world recognized phenomenon. Emotional intelligence includes self-awareness, impulse control, persistence, zeal, self-motivation, empathy and social deftness.

We can face violent actions at any time and in any situation: at work, on vacation, in a public place and at home.

Violence is "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, which either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, or deprivation" [4].

Violence does not allow children to develop well; children who are victims or witnesses of violent acts have a greater predisposition to diseases. They have difficulty in communicating with both children and adults [4].

Domestic abuse – defined as a chronic mistreatment in marriage, families, dating and other intimate relationships – can include emotionally abusive behavior [3].

Around the world, at least one in every three women has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused by a man in her lifetime. More than 20 % of women are reported to have been abused by men with whom they live [5].

Some studies tend to focus on psychological abuse within the workplace. A 1998 study of male college students by Simonelli & Ingram found that men who were emotionally abused by their female partners exhibited higher rates of chronic depression than the general population [4].

There are the following types of violence in our life: sexual, physical, economic, and psychological.

Psychological violence is characterized by the use of various influences on personality. Psychological abuse is a form of abuse characterized by a person subjecting or exposing another to behavior that may result in psychological trauma [4].

Psychological abuse does not always lead to physical abuse, but physical abuse in domestic relationships is nearly always preceded and accompanied by psychological abuse.

It can be inculcation, threatening, tampering, blackmail, intimidation and control. Psychological abuse can lead to psychological injury. Psychological abuse can be found today in many families.

Psychological abuse has much the same intention as physical abuse and threats: to control and dominate. Such pattern of behavior is really often adopted from childhood. A child, who had been abused in childhood, can use the same patterns of behavior in adulthood. Violence can not be tolerated. That's why we need to prevent violence in everyday life.