

Parental Conflict and Role of Child Protection & Welfare Bureau on Children's Life

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Abstract

The study is based on parental conflict and the role of the Child Protection & Welfare Bureau (CP&WB) on children's life. Parental disharmony and friction can have a devastating effect on children and their mental growth. Besides posing a serious impediment to their change as they grow, the parental difference may lead to damaging lifelong effects on the children's well-being. Kids may feel anxiety, depression, shame, or other similar issues when parental relationships result in impaired parenting practices arising out of conflict. The research was conducted at CP&WB in Bahawalpur. The study aimed to investigate the role of the Bureau for the betterment of the children. The methodology of the research was explanatory and the methods used for the research were interviews and observation. It was found that the bureau generally provided love, care, and met the basic need of the children for their social betterment and mental growth.

Key Words: Parent's Conflict, Child Protection, Child Neglect, Child Abuse, Child Integration

Introduction

Birth of a newborn is one of the most important events in one's married life and it is a natural phenomenon that has no parallel. Babies mature as they grow, acquire good health and safety with the affection and support of their families. Babies, as they grow, should live free from any kind of fear, safe from the callous attitude of the elders and shielded from mishandling and abuse. A child becomes solid and gains a sure health with the love and backing of their parents. The fundamental protection starts from their homes.

Shaping children's growth is a delicate part of the various phases of his life and this growing experience helps in developing their mental faculties. The first school from where they begin to learn is their home where they get mother's love and care. Once they grow into young adults, their problems increase and start confronting numerous issues and this can be observed both in poor and advanced nations. [Hornby \(2005\)](#) states that 'the general well-being bliss and security of an individual, a creature or a gathering'.

All youngsters have the benefit to be given sustenance, ensure, preparing, prosperity from their families. Children relied on their oldsters. They feel protected within the company of oldsters. As noted, 'family is a group of members that provides support to their children' ([Roberts & Wallander, 2013](#)). In the period of childhood, children learn different norms and ethics from their families to become part of society. The children, who grow in the shade of families, often have some advantage over the children who are without a family and find it difficult to make any headway in life.

Family structure dearly matters for the kids and consequently, the family system helps children the most in regulating their lives. However, children in single-parent homes, children born to divorced mothers, and children in stepfamilies or cohabiting relationships experience higher risks of harmful results than do children in the entire well set up households led by two biological parents. When the children lack the care at home and find no one to hold their hands at an early age then socialization for the kids becomes extremely difficult as he grows.

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Children were victims of neglect because their 'parents and other family members failed to provide basic needs to the child' as discussed in (Petersen, et al., 2014). The disagreement between parents is part and parcel of the separation process, particularly during the period directly preceding and after the real divorce. Children often see over the struggle between their parents a particularly confusing event because they tend to like both parents and are mostly pulled in their allegiance to each of them.

The tense environment at home gradually leads them to develop an isolated mindset that may nurture criminal tendencies. Criminal attitudes in children can be generally found in those children who have illegal parents or they are ignored by the parents from the start. No matter how bad the family situation is no parent or elder would like to see their offspring turn into a criminal. When the families fail to provide safety and a good environment to their children, then at governmental organizations are activated and step in to make the take over the children and provide them a safe and congenial environment.

If the families failed to provide a better future to the children, then the foster care comes into motion. Remnison (2001) defines that "child development refers to the sequence of physical, language, thought and emotional changes that occur in a child from birth to the beginning of adulthood". The child is dependent on his family especially his parents. Edgcumbe (2002) expresses "complex development of the child's relationships and the myriad developments in other areas of the child's functioning which depend on the child's relationships with his parents".

Foster care is the temporary assistance offered by the state for kids who may not stay with their families. Foster care may also relate to placement settings like set houses, residential care facilities, emergency shelters, and supervised individual people. Foster care is about including home foster aid, kinship care, management foster care, and another group. Kids may be put in foster care with the help of society for the child's security, voluntarily by their parents or caregivers, or by authority's order.

Global Perspective

According to [Child Welfare Committee Operational Guidelines, et al., \(2009\)](#) "an estimated 90% of those killed in conflicts around the world have been civilians, and 80% of those have been women and children." The world is celebrating children's day to protect children from abuse and neglect. Children's day is a unique occasion to cultivate respect to ensure children's around the globe.

As [Fayyazuddin, et al., \(1998\)](#) explains that 'on November 20, 1953, the IUCW supported the Universal Children's day. 40 nations partook in the event of Universal Children's day. From that point forward this day is commended each year everywhere throughout the world by engaging kids and featured their issues with the assistance of UNICEF'. In 1993, President Clinton on the universal day of children declared that 'America's youngsters are our most valuable national asset and it is our most profound duty to give them much needed respect' ([Garfinkel, et al., 2001](#)).

A great many America's kids experience childhood in steady and cherishing families. Unfortunately, an alarmingly high number of our childhood does not have the advantage of such security; many grow up ravenous, disregarded, or manhandled by the vicious few. There was a 19th conference held under the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) on the topic of child abuse and negligence in Turkey. This was the 'first conference in which they gathered experts from all around the world. In the conference, experts shared their experiences' ([ISPCAN, 2012](#)).

They aimed to search out the areas that required progress and also make out the recommendations for future researches. The theme of the workshop centered on crimes against children. Numerous International Organizations are working on the rights of the child. To save the rights of the child from being exploited the vested interests 'the general assembly of the United Nations gave new authority to UNESCO to work for human rights with widespread instruction' ([UNESCO, 1995](#)).

With the neglect and abuse, children are also pushed to forced labor from along with their families or kinship. [Cullen \(2007\)](#) puts in plain words that in May 2006; the universal work association gave its second worldwide report on kids' work as a component of the subsequent procedure to 'the 1998 announcement of basic standards and rights at work. The youngster work diminished since the production of the past worldwide report in 2002'.

Regional Perspective

In 2004, Asian countries were badly affected by the tsunami. This gave the idea to 'CRC on child rights that they should do some kind of work on this so that the sudden deaths of children and people can be prevented in the future' (UNICEF, 2007). To achieve this purpose, CRC promoted partnerships with different countries about the "provision of early warning systems, poverty reduction, and eco-sensitive coastal development" (ibid).

According to the UNICEF report 'the refugee camps in Bangladesh, 720,000 children were living wage across the border' (UNICEF, 2017). UNICEF delivered "US\$8 million in emergency supplies to Rohingya refugees" (ibid). In India 'MWCD has defined an umbrella plan called Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) to give shelter and secure condition for the general advancement of kids who need care and insurance just as youngsters in strife with law, remembering kids in troublesome conditions' ([Chowdhury & Kumar, 2008](#)).

ICPS established in '2009 to make a defensive situation for powerless kids in troublesome conditions' ([Desai, 2019](#)). China has adopted a one-child policy in which the parents were strictly instructed to have one child (boy or girl) only. China applied 'one youngster for each couple strategy since the late 1970s and childrearing is in this manner a unique issue in current china' ([Goh, 2011](#)). China adopted a one-child policy to 'make another age of solid, rich, keen, and canny youngsters to lead the country's ascent to worldwide unmistakable quality' ([Greenhalgh, 2008](#)).

Because of the one-child policy, the parents put all their attention towards their only son or daughter. Sri Lanka does some work in the field of child protection. The government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) "turned into an individual from ILO-IPEC in 1996" ([Cheney, 2004](#)). The government also realizes the rights of children and launched 'Realizing Child Rights which is a generally new Thematic Program Plan (TPP) at Save the Children' ([Seneviratne & Silva, 2009](#)).

The general target of the RCR program is to 'improve observing and acknowledgment of youngster rights in Sri Lanka by March 2011, profiting in any event 110,000 kids' (ibid).

Pakistan

According to [Hindman & Hindman \(2014\)](#) 'Pakistani government set up three recovery centers in Multan, Alipur and Rahim Yar Khan where the greater part of the kid's begun'.

CP&WB is one of the leading organizations in Pakistan to save the abused and neglected children from the evil eyes of society. CP&WB, UNICEF and the Government of the United Arab Emirates 'consented to an arrangement to help return and re-coordinate under-age camel racers in their home networks. 331 previous camel racers have been repatriated, 325 of whom have been brought together with their families through CP&WB' ([Government of Pakistan, 2009](#)).

Other governmental and non-governmental organizations are working for the rights of children. Pakistani government established "a child and gender cell in May 2014" ([Drolet, 2019](#)). The point of GCC is 'to build comprehension of youngster assurance' ([Costa, 2016](#)). Gender Child Cell (GCC) is working on 'two significant key territories of youngster assurance during calamities and sex mainstreaming in catastrophe the board and reaction' ([Rahman, Khan, & Shaw, 2015](#)).

GCC is working under the NDMA which is working 'freely on alleviating and overseeing debacles' ([Srivastava, et al., 2013](#)). NDMA was 'hence settled in 2007. The point of NDMA is to actualizing, planning, and observing body for debacle the board at the national level' ([NDMP, 2012](#)). For child protection and safety, the Government of Punjab established the 'Child Protection and Welfare Bureau' in 2005 (Shujaat, 2015).

The ultimate goal of child protection organizations is to give security and safety to neglected children. The purpose of CP&WB is to 'shield these children from criminals. This foundation gives sustenance and spot of security just as gives preparing and aptitudes to these adolescents to make them significant nationals' (CP&WB, 2015-2016).

Review of Literature

Scheper-Hughes, Family plays an important part in child growth and his development in the whole life cycle especially at the crucial stage of childhood. Family is the bonding between two people or group and this bonding

is related by blood. Haviland, et al., (2008) express 'in the anthropological family is a gathering of at least two individuals related by blood, marriage, or reception. Marriage is a lawfully restricting relationship between one man and one lady'.

[Chaudhry, et al., \(2015\)](#) illustrate that 'the idea of family is needy upon marriage'. Marriage is a 'bond between a female and a male who start living respectively, having sex, and social closeness and offer business to carry on with a real existence' (ibid). [Saeed, et al., \(2012\)](#) characterize that 'parental connections assume a significant job in deciding the confidence of youngsters. At the point when guardians are in strife, kids are incredibly influenced'.

As indicated by [Juang and Taylor \(2012\)](#) 'family struggle in outsider families should catch both regularizing each day issues just as strife unequivocally identified with contrasts in social qualities among guardians and kids'. [Beach and his colleagues \(2012\)](#) describe that 'conjugal clash and strife are increasingly huge to youngster maladjustment'.

Youngster's negative results have included externalizing, disguising issues just as social slaughters portrayed frequently by threatening vibe and kin and companion social issues' (ibid). Neglect takes numerous shapes like a few kids didn't discover enough nourishment from their folks, a few youngsters don't discover love and care from their moms, a few kids do not discover other fundamental essential needs.

Disregard is the 'inability to give necessities to the kid that may result in harm to the physical, passionate, or scholarly improvement, and prosperity of the youngster' ([Starr and Wolfe, 1991](#)). Parental conflicts cause many psychosocial problems within the children. They cannot know where to go and whom to contact. [Kapur \(2011\)](#) clarifies that 'example of youngster parent correspondence of tension and distraction with body indications in the family might be significant in the comprehension and treatment of this issue'.

Concurring one of the investigations of [Alamoudi \(2016\)](#) 'the principal impact of guardian's contentions on kids is physical impact. One of the most physical impacts is brutal lead'. At the point when 'guardians contend without control, they may turn to aggression. By utilizing harsh words, shouting, or pushing one another, guardians will hurt themselves as well as their kids' (ibid). When parents abuse and shout at each other in front of their children that causes a long term effect on the children.

[Bhukuth & Ballet \(2015\)](#) illustrate that 'kids move onto the road all alone activity because of their unacceptable living conditions at home. Family viciousness and kids disregard are along these lines significant elements'. As indicated by [WHO \(2018\)](#) 'road youngsters are the setbacks of monetary development, war, neediness, loss of conventional qualities, abusive behavior at home, physical and mental maltreatment.

Materials and Methods

Methodology

The methodology of the study was explanatory. By taking the help of explanatory methodology, the researcher drew arguments on the previous work done on the topic. Explanatory methodology highlights the issue that how someone accepts or rejects something without knowing its meaning deeply. It raised questions like why and how of a certain situation. For example, why society is bent upon adopting cruelty to other humans? Why the parents are so irresponsible towards their children? Why is there a need for a child protection welfare model to work for the latter's care and safety?

Methods

For data collection, survey forms were administered to the respondents. The survey is a basic research method. [Mwania \(2015\)](#) described that 'it gives an accurate picture of what's going to happen in the field'. It provides a precise picture of the field area. Through the survey method, the researcher makes up his mind that for further planning and the research work he has in mind. The survey is used in the first phase of the research study.

Locale

The researcher's study locale is in the city of Bahawalpur. Bahawalpur is situated in Punjab and is an important city in south Punjab. [Khalid & Gilani \(2010\)](#) state that 'in 1739, Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan I laid the

foundation of city Bahawalpur.' According to one of the journals, "Bahawalpur was one of the thirty-six princely states under Punjab government. Two-thirds of the state comprised a desert called the Cholistan" ([Hashmi, 2018](#)).

Sample

A socio-economic survey form was conducted from 40 children at the bureau.

Discussion

The research objective was to probe and investigate the effects of parent's conflict and the role of CP&WB on children's life. The bureau comprised of 40 children. Sometimes, these children were rescued by the rescue team or sometimes the parents/relatives left them in the bureau on their own. Before there were 83 children in the bureau but now the number has reduced to a mere 40. Some have left voluntarily; some children were brought back by their parents and some ran away from the bureau.

The number of children is varied because in most cases the family members and relatives bring their children back to the Bureau. The approximate ages of the children who lived in the Bureau were 6 to 18 years. Children are the most important part and parcel of society. Without them, a country cannot think to develop and progress because they would become future pillars of the country and serve to the best of their ability. When we speak so highly about the positive role of the children, we must hold them in the highest respect and give proper care and train them as good citizens.

But undesirable and personality damaging elements exist with the result that in every country, children are an object of abuse and neglect because they are an easy target for the adults and parents. Some parents punish kids to stop them from improper activities. The children who witness brawls of parents at home remain devoid of love and care so they seek solace in the outside world. Most of them get into bad company and are seen involved in nefarious activities. Abuse and neglect give rise to many kinds of psychological symptoms like aggression and anxiety.

The marks of physical abuse may vanish with time, but the mental scars stay for the whole of their lives. The social organizations built foster care homes in different cities to develop the life of neglected children. It's the responsibility of the government that they provide welfare facilities for the neglected children. These organizations inspect the streets and rescue the children from the wicked environment commonly prevalent. The children expect safety and care from their family members but when they face neglect from their own homes, they seek help from outside.

The children run away from their homes in search of love and care. But in absence of any external check, they fall into the wrong environment and people, where they are compelled to carry out tasks that are immoral and illegal and sinful. At this point, foster care provides children safety and care in natural settings. This bureau cannot give love and affection like parents but they do provide much-needed safety and healthy environment to the children.

The researcher observed and found that the welfare bureau did provide shelter to the neglected children and the staff who took care of the children. The bureau rescued the children and brought them to the bureau. If someone claimed their child, then the bureau carried out the legal process and handed over the child to their parents or relatives. But if no one claimed the child then the bureau took responsibility for the children.

The bureau provided safety and protection but after analyzing the data from different sources, the researcher concluded that sometimes circumstances showed that children's safety and protection posed lots of challenges. After collecting the data, the researcher concluded that parents neglected the children because of poverty, remarriage of parents, death of parents, and a high number of children. The children had a poor family background and therefore, the families could not afford the expenditures of the children.

The families could not fulfill the wish of their children and focused on increasing the number of children. Poor and neglected children easily become victims of inferiority and feel that their parents had no interest in them. They escaped from their homes because they were fed up from the hostile home environment. The parents were found to be disinterested in their children or their upbringing and had no concern to provide good nutritional care to their children.

As their number swelled and they found themselves abandoned these children became a burden on the household economy. It was not difficult to visualize that these deserted children gradually drifted towards aberrant behavior once they entered adolescence. These delinquents and their carefree behavior led to a felony. Poverty negatively impacted children's development because the resources were insufficient to take proper care of the children.

Every single child who was present in the bureau had seven to ten siblings. The researcher thought that there is a race between poor people to produce more children per year. The parents had no source of income that led to the creation of stress between the parents and the children. The researcher observed that if only one person earned money for ten to twelve people then this created stress for all. Since daily earning was not enough to fulfill their basic needs, the social environment remained tense.

According to the researcher's observation children left their homes because of violence and negligence. Because of poor parenting skills, the children become the victim of neglect and child abuse. Child abuse is not only in the shape of a beating but also improper usage of the natural resources, not providing proper education to children, not providing the medical facilities, and not fulfilling the educational needs. The researcher observed that poor parents focused on giving birth to more children.

The parents had more children than they could afford. When the children saw that other parents fulfilled the basic needs of their children, then they would tend to keep a distance from their parents. The bureau provided a better quality of life to the neglected children. The bureau provides food, clothes, education, shelter, and safety. It also provided food three times a day, along with open playgrounds for physical activities like sports and other functions.

The children were also provided religious education along with technical and academic education. The bureau was established two years ago and is located in Yazman. There was no facility of technical education in the Bureau but the other branches of the bureau in other cities provided technical education. The education level was till five classes and the school inside the Bureau was not registered.

Lahore branch (main office) took care of all the work related to the education of this bureau. The bureau provided safety, protection, well-being, and quality of life which helped children to survive in society. There must be programs held by the government and different agencies to facilitate them and by making different interventions guided them on how to groom their children. Controlling the fertility rate was one vital intervention. This was also important for the betterment of the children.

So, they would properly use the recourses. After the guidance, the parents learned how to give love and affection to their children. They also learned to cope up with their stress. The relationships became healthy and worked for positive outcomes. The children got an education and their learning skills improved. Their health became better and positive changes occurred in their behavior. After vital inputs in the children, the healthy society came into being. Had the society made a healthy environment and then there was no need for the welfare system anymore.

There was a constant emphasis on the role and responsibility of the children and their contribution to society in a peaceful manner. Healthy children could afford basic needs and spend a fully satisfying life. Statistics: Poverty showed a negative impact on child development. With bare minimum to eat suggested that the resources were fewer, and this had a harsh effect on the physical development of the children.

According to the researcher's observation, every single child who was present in the Bureau belonged to a large family, creating a socially annoying situation for the parents. This situation of scarcity of food left no choice for the children to find alternative sources for feeding their hungry stomachs and turn to the Bureau for shelter and food. The parents could not afford to spend enough on feeding their children due to the dearth of income.

The remarriage of the parents badly affected the children and they became absconders. Most of them were found on roads wondering to find some kind of care. If the children had seen and experienced a good environment in their homes, then there was no need for them to be at the Bureaus. Among the many reasons why these children approached the Bureau the foremost was the prevailing poor economic condition.

The economic situation was very harsh, and its persistence compelled the young children to rebel and find a better substitute. Their parents had too many children. The parents had the responsibility to take care of a large

number of children so sometimes they neglected their children. They could not afford their expenses of treatment, schooling, and food, as they were neglected and landed in the Bureaus.

There is a host of evidence that a poor childhood will lead to poor outcomes in adulthood coupled with lower educational attainment, fewer employment outcomes, less happy outcomes in their relationships with partners, and turn their children would have a higher risk of poverty as well. The parents could not fully meet the basic needs of the children and they neglected all the children and the effect of this was long-lasting. The poor parenting style which lacked any effective remedy made a negative effect on the child's psyche.

This effect was permanent in nature because those experiences which children faced in childhood could never be lost from children's memory. The welfare system had the work to guide the parents on parenting skills. There must be programs and training sessions from the government and different agencies to facilitate them and there should be different interventions that guide them about how to groom their children.

The Bahawalpur CP&WB aimed to protect these kinds of children who were ignored and abused by their families. Kids also provided all the facilities in CP&WB by the professionals. They had the services of qualified staff members who provided basic needs and educational facilities to the neglected children. The children at the CP&WB were not only the ones who were victims of neglect and abuse but also those whose parents could not afford their basic needs. This bureau helped them to overcome their hurdles and become healthy and decent human beings of society.

** Statistics were calculated in IBM SPSS.*

***The tables for these are given in annexes I and II respectively.*

Conclusion

Established According to different reports of child abuse and neglect, no country was safe from menaces of child abuse and neglect. Children were targets of physical and sexual abuse along with emotional abuse. Physical and sexual abuse left a strong impact on the children's psyche which they repented their entire life. The psychological impact is considered the most dangerous situation for children because it developed an inclination towards different criminal activities.

To stop this dangerous situation, the government established child protection and welfare bureaus in every prominent city. Their purpose was to work round the clock to find out neglected and abused children and protect their basic rights by teaching how to remain positive in life. The Bahawalpur CP&WB aimed to protect these kinds of children who were ignored by their families. The rescue team was immediately activated and rescue children from a particular place.

They had a system in which people easily lodged complaints within 24 hours and immediate action was taken against the complaint. Then after completing the legal process, kids were handed over to the CPI manager. Kids were also provided the psychological facilities in CP&WB by the professionals. They had the services of qualified staff members who provided basic needs and educational facilities to the neglected children.

The kids also received technical education along with Islamic education. The children at the CP&WB were not only the ones who were victims of neglect and abuse but also those whose parents could not afford their basic needs and had no choice but to leave them at the Bureau. This bureau helped them to overcome their hurdles and transform them into healthy and decent human beings of society.

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Parent Relationship * Reason of leaving children at CP&WB Cross Tabulation

Count		Reason of leaving children at CP&WB								Total
		Poverty	Can't afford	Because of mother death	Because of father remarried	Because of mother remarried	Wondering on the roads	Others	Total	
Parent Relationship	Good	0	4	0	2	0	3	0	9	
	Harsh	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	3	
	Co-operative	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	
	Abusive	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	
	Physical Abuse	0	4	1	0	0	1	0	6	
	Loving & caring	0	7	0	2	1	1	0	11	
	Moderate	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	Normal	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	3	
	Others	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	
	Total		1	18	1	6	1	9	4	40

Respondent wants to Live at CP&WB * Reason Crosstabulation

Count		Reason								Total
		Needs are fulfilling	Family can't bear the expense	Comfortable at	Safe here	No one is waiting for me at home	No one beats here	Not go to home	Others	Total
Respondent wants to Live at CP&WB	Yes	7	4	7	1	1	3	1	1	25
	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
	Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	11
Total		7	4	7	1	1	3	1	16	40