

CHAPTER IV

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An individual's development is influenced by both their inherent capabilities and the skills and knowledge acquired from their environment. The individual's surroundings may be categorized into two distinct elements: the physical environment and the social environment. This research has placed significant emphasis on the dynamic interplay between an individual and their surrounding environment. The reciprocal relationship between individuals and their environment results in mutual impact and subsequent modifications throughout the process of interaction.

The fundamental basis of personality development may be traced back to the family unit, which serves as a primary social structure. In its nuclear form, this unit consists of a heterosexual couple and their legally acknowledged offspring. The family has traditionally been seen as the primary educational institution for a kid, with the parent assuming the role of the first educator. This arrangement affords many opportunities for the child's development in alignment with societal expectations and standards. Given the near-exclusive interaction between the family and the infant, the family assumes a substantial role in shaping the behavioral patterns that the child will manifest.

The acquisition of personality is largely influenced by the home environment. The objective of socialization, a developmental process, is to impart moral norms, ethics, and societal behavioral patterns to individuals.

This aspect is prominently emphasized throughout the first stages of education, mostly provided by parents. Parents serve as both the providers of social security and the fulfillers of a kid's socio-genic

requirements.

Consequently, they assume the roles of authoritative figures who are capable of displaying love and enforcing discipline. The child, in turn, identifies with these parental figures. However, it is important to note that parents are also seen as those responsible for enforcing laws and regulations, which might potentially impede a child's pursuit of self-centered gratification.

The development of children's personality is influenced by several socioeconomic variables. Child abuse is a problem that receives extensive media coverage in a range of formats, including news, features, documentaries, and dramas, on an almost daily basis.

The occurrence of abuse often originates inside the domestic setting and manifests in many manifestations, including physical, sexual, psychological, and neglectful forms. India is a geographically extensive nation.

The population of the country reached the milestone of one billion on May 11, 2000. According to current research, the prevalence of child abuse is estimated to affect a population of over 375 million children.

Child abuse is a phenomenon that arises within the intricate interplay of familial, societal, and individual elements.

The repercussions of any kind of adversity experienced throughout infancy have long-lasting effects on an individual, persisting into adulthood.

4.1 Model for understanding child Abuse Family Stresses

Child abuse is a pervasive issue that has gained recognition as a worldwide phenomena, transcending national boundaries. Indeed, it is a prevalent global societal phenomenon. This phenomenon is seen in several contexts, however it is most often observed within the familial domain.

Children have historically and continue to be seen as the possessions of their parents in several cultures. The act of disciplining children has been an integral aspect of human civilization. The

persistence of infanticide, ritual mutilation, physical violence, sexual exploitation, enslavement, and abandonment in contemporary culture is evident to varied extents.

The recognition of child abuse as a significant societal issue is vital in safeguarding the rights of children. From a preventative standpoint, the family has significant importance since a substantial portion of a child's first learning and development occurs inside the familial environment.

It is important to acknowledge the crucial role that parents play in the developmental progress of their children. Nevertheless, it is important to acknowledge that instances of parental abuse against their children do occur.

It is often the case that such behavior is not deliberate, but rather stems from a lack of knowledge and misguided beliefs that dictate that children should be subjected to punishment in the absence of proper discipline.

4.2 Forms of Child Abuse and Neglect

There exists a global variance in the forms of child abuse and neglect. Certain elements are ubiquitous and often seen throughout several nations. Below, we provide an explanation of the aforementioned forms.

4.2.1 Physical Abuse and Neglect

Physical abuse may be specifically delineated as deliberate harm inflicted upon a child by a caregiver, leading to manifestations such as bruises, abrasions, lacerations, scars, burns, fractures, and similar ailments. Physical abuse encompasses a range of unwelcome physical actions directed against a child, including but not limited to acts such as pushing, shoving, hurling things, striking or assaulting, choking, burning, using a weapon, or restricting the kid's freedom of movement. Physical neglect encompasses any intentional harm inflicted upon a child by their caregiver, excluding incidental injuries. Physical abuse may occur when a kid is subjected to excessive corporal punishment that is deemed unsuitable for their age or physical well-being. It also encompasses the provision of fundamental necessities for a kid, including sustenance, attire, housing, healthcare, and oversight.

4.2.2 Emotional Abuse and Neglect

Emotional abuse refers to a persistent pattern of behaviors shown by a caregiver that detrimentally impacts the child's psychological and emotional well-being, hindering the development of a stable and positive personality. Emotional abuse refers to parental behaviors that result in psychological injury rather than physical harm to the kid. In order to comprehensively assess the impact of parental behavior on a kid, it is essential to ascertain both the precise actions shown by the parent and the subsequent tangible injury or emotional disruption experienced by the child.

Emotional neglect refers to the persistent inability of a caregiver to adequately offer a kid with the essential support and love required for the development of a stable and well-adjusted personality. Emotional neglect is characterized by a deliberate lack of nurturing verbal and behavioral acts on the part of a parent, which are essential for the emotional and healthy development of a child.

4.2.3 Non Organic Failure to Thrive (NOFTT)

Non-organic failure to thrive (NOFTT) often manifests when a kid, typically a newborn, has insufficient caloric intake. The mother's potential neglect of adequate feeding may be attributed to her engagement with external demands and responsibilities, as well as her lack of knowledge about acceptable feeding practices. Additionally, drug abuse or a lack of affection towards the infant may contribute to this neglect.

The phenomenon known as failure to thrive is characterized by a newborn or child's inability to attain the anticipated growth standards, as determined via the evaluation of weight and height measurements. The youngster may also have limitations in several aspects of their developmental potential. It may also be characterized as the inability to reach the typical growth potential, which is often associated with inadequate caloric intake and under nutrition. This phenomenon may arise due to inadequate nutrition or the use of atypical diets, such as a vegan diet, by infants or children. Adults may thrive on a rigid vegetarian diet, however infants and young children may not possess the same capacity to thrive under such dietary restrictions.

4. 2.4 Psychological Abuse and Neglect

Psychological abuse and neglect include several forms of maltreatment, such as engaging in behaviors that undermine a kid's motivation, behavior, and emotional well-being, ultimately resulting in adverse psychological outcomes for the child.

4.2.5 Educational Abuse and Neglect

Instances of educational abuse and neglect manifest when parents use coercive measures to prevent their children from attending school, resulting in persistent absenteeism and failure to address certain educational requirements.

Educational neglect refers to the inability of parents or caretakers to ensure that a child is enrolled in and regularly attends school or an appropriate alternative educational environment. Educational neglect is seen as a multifaceted issue with interactive dimensions.

Multiple studies have consistently shown that newborns and early children are often subjected to abuse and neglect. However, as these children grow older, it has been seen that individuals below the age of eighteen continue to experience maltreatment at the hands of their parents and caregivers.

4.2.6 Causes of Child Abuse and Neglect

In contemporary discourse, the term "child abuse and neglect" encompasses a diverse spectrum of behaviors. These behaviors include physical injury, emotional abuse, neglect, sexual mistreatment, and medical or educational neglect. A spectrum of maltreatment exists, ranging from mild to severe, including both persistent issues and sporadic or isolated occurrences. In this discourse, we explore the underlying factors contributing to instances of child abuse and neglect.

1. Factors pertaining to the individual's parents
2. Factors Related to the Family
- 3 Environmental factors refer to the external conditions and influences that impact the natural world. These factors might include physical elements such as climate, geography, and natural resources.

4.2.7 Individual - Parent Factors

Parents who engage in abusive and negligent behaviors do not align

with a specific mental diagnostic group, and often exhibit similarities to the general population. Nevertheless, there are some personality traits that are often seen in parents that engage in maltreatment. Moreover, there are specific instances of abuse or neglect in which parents are afflicted with mental illness. Ultimately, there exist several parenting issues that significantly contribute to instances of abuse and neglect.

4.2.8 Common Personality Characteristics

Parents who engage in maltreatment often suffer a significant decrease in their self-esteem. Individuals may see themselves as lacking value, being unable, or having negative qualities as individuals. Certain parents who exhibit neglectful behavior not only ignore their children, but also fail to prioritize their own well-being. Consequently, these recurring behaviors serve as constant reminders of their perceived lack of value as individuals. When parents engage in abusive behavior towards their children, it is often driven by a desire to exert control and thereby bolster their own sense of well-being. However, this mistreatment also has a detrimental impact as it reinforces their negative self-perceptions of being inherently flawed and without value.

Excessive reliance is identified as another prevalent trait among parents who engage in maltreatment. Parents have significant challenges when faced with the very demanding responsibility of raising children. Parents may have the expectation of receiving care and nurturing from their offspring. Parents prioritize meeting their personal wants while raising their children, sometimes relegating the care of the kid to a secondary position. Consequently, parental neglect may occur when parents are unable to effectively respond to their children's normal or sometimes excessive dependence needs, resulting in parents reacting negatively towards their children.

Certain deficiencies in superego functioning may be seen in certain parents who engage in abusive and negligent behaviors. Individuals may have impulsive tendencies. It is a common phenomenon for individuals to encounter angry and sexual emotions towards those with whom they have intimate relationships. Nevertheless, parents who act on these emotions tend to be impulsive. They have a deficiency in their ability to

regulate or manage their urges and requirements. Consequently, their heightened emotional state may result in a direct act of physical aggression against the kid, or conversely, their impulsive tendencies may hinder their ability to acknowledge and address the child's needs.

Parents that engage in abusive behavior may also have inflexible superego structures. Occasionally, certain parents exert stringent control over their own aggressive and sexual emotions. Parents who possess a strict superego have inflexible beliefs on the appropriate manner in which things should unfold, rendering them incapable of tolerating instances of kid misbehavior or any kind of child interference that contradicts their own desires. As a result, in such instances, parents proceed to administer disciplinary measures or engage in aggressive behavior towards their offspring. Other parents have a distinct challenge, namely a lack of moral awareness, especially when it comes to the mistreatment of their children. The individuals in question exhibit a deficiency in demonstrating a suitable degree of empathy for the kid, while also engaging in a process of justifying abusive actions.

4.2.9 Psychopathy

It is of utmost significance to distinguish the aforementioned parents from those who have psychopathic tendencies. The aforementioned individuals represent a minority of parents that engage in abusive behavior, although children who have such parents are not seen to be at significant danger.

Parents with psychopathic traits have not had the opportunity to receive nurturing and consistent parenting throughout their formative years, which has hindered their ability to effectively address the deficiencies in their own lives. Consequently, individuals do not establish affectionate bonds, but rather cultivate connections based on exploitation. Individuals who have not had the opportunity to get early nurturing experiences may exhibit significant distortions in their super ego. Individuals who have caused damage to a kid often exhibit a lack of genuine sorrow for their actions towards the youngster. The differential diagnosis of genuine psychopathy poses challenges due to the frequent confusion with other underlying causes, as well as the fact that psychopathy constitutes an extreme end of a

continuum within the realm of personality disorders. Parents that engage in maltreatment behavior are more often associated with some psychopathic features rather than actual psychopathy. Psychiatric and/or psychological assessments are often required in order to arrive at a conclusive decision. Working with individuals who exhibit true psychopathic traits poses significant challenges and offers little possibilities for creating a supportive and safe environment for their children.

4.2.10 Depression

Depression¹ is perhaps the most often seen individual element contributing to neglect. Parents who experience depression often exhibit persistent sadness, less emotional expressiveness, few displays of joy, verbalize feelings of being overwhelmed, and may have signs of impaired coping abilities. In instances of heightened severity, individuals may choose to remain bedridden during the day, abstain from consuming meals entirely, or exhibit little concern towards their child's conduct or physical presentation. Distinguishing between parents exhibiting chronic depressed personalities and those experiencing situational depressions and cycle depressive syndromes has significant importance. Distinguishing between the two may be facilitated by considering both the individual's historical functioning and their awareness of current life events.

One should be vigilant for many forms of situational depression, including postpartum depression, as well as depression triggered by the loss of a loved one, the removal of children, or instances of desertion or separation. Situational depressions may be effectively addressed by interventions such as modifying the underlying conditions that contribute to the depression, engaging in short-term therapeutic interventions, accessing community support systems, and considering the use of antidepressant medication. Moreover, medicine is likely to be effective in treating manic-depressive syndrome and severe cycle depressions.

Parents who experience depression may exhibit persistent irritability and display harsh behavior towards their children. Furthermore, it is postulated that melancholy may stem from suppressed rage, leading

¹ Depressive disorder (also known as depression) is a **common mental disorder**. It involves a depressed mood or loss of pleasure or interest in activities for long periods of time.

individuals to sometimes exhibit aggressive behavior and engage in child abuse.

4.2.11 Psychosis

The prevalence of psychosis among parents who engage in child abuse and/or neglect is estimated to be around 5 percent. Nevertheless, this circumstance has the potential to be very perilous for the infant. When a kid is seen as being integrated into the parent's delusional framework, such as being believed to be possessed by malevolent forces or being a potential threat to the parent, there is a significant likelihood of abuse occurring. Neglect may arise when a parent becomes entirely preoccupied with their own internal psychological realm and delusional framework, so rendering them oblivious to the child's existence or need.

4.2.12 Mental Retardation

While individuals with intellectual disabilities may demonstrate loving and caring qualities as parents, they often have challenges in acquiring the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively raise children. Consequently, individuals with restrictions may exhibit abusive or negligent parenting behaviors. In order to determine an individual's capacity to provide care for children, it is often imperative to conduct a psychological assessment. In cases when children have a parent with intellectual disabilities, the provision of actual assistance and the instruction of parenting skills have shown to be very beneficial in ensuring the well-being of these children. However, it is essential that parents demonstrate a willingness to receive assistance and understand their limitations. The provision of ongoing supportive services may be deemed necessary for an extended period of time, since it is often seen as a more favorable option compared to the dissolution of a familial unit characterized by a robust parent-child relationship.

4.2.13 Substance Abuse

Parents who exhibit drug addiction or alcoholism are at a significantly elevated risk for engaging in abusive or neglectful behaviors towards their children. Occasionally, instances of abuse may be attributed to diminished impulse control stemming from substance use, notably alcohol, and may manifest as a manifestation of deep-seated rage. Neglect is a frequent

occurrence among individuals who take drugs and subsequently experience immobilization, semi consciousness, or loss of consciousness, rendering them incapable of carrying out routine activities while under the influence. In all scenarios, there are fundamental aspects contributing to drug addiction, sometimes accompanied by other elements beyond substance abuse that contribute to child abuse or neglect. Nevertheless, prior to assuming responsibility for addressing other challenges, it is imperative for the parent to confront the issue of drug misuse. The implementation of substance abuse treatment programs is a very effective approach for tackling addiction.

4.2.14 Parent's Childrearing Experience

Numerous instances exist when parents who engage in abusive and negligent behaviors towards their children adopt unsuitable childrearing techniques as a result of their own experiences throughout their formative years. When assessing parents, one challenge is to examine cases of early deprivation and ascertain indications of abusive or negligent upbringing. Some examples of deprivation indicators include parental mortality at an early age, frequent or early changes in placement, persistent parental drunkenness or mental illness, and parental rejection. When evaluating the potential history of abuse or neglect experienced by parents throughout their childhood, it is necessary to inquire about the disciplinary methods and child-rearing practices applied by their own parents. This line of questioning is directed at parents who are suspected of engaging in abusive or neglectful behavior towards their own children.

When parental lack of knowledge is a significant factor, parents will exhibit a responsive attitude towards supportive pedagogy. While classroom parent education may be beneficial in some cases, other approaches such as small group experiential learning or one-to-one non-threatening modeling and practice are typically more suitable. These services may be offered by professionals, however there has been a new recognition of the effectiveness of using paraprofessionals and volunteers who come from socio-economic backgrounds comparable to the parents. These individuals are able to help parents in enhancing their abilities.

Parents who exhibit a primary issue of ignorance may be differentiated from those whose personality traits significantly influence their ability to effectively engage with supporting teaching. In cases where the parent's personality is the primary concern, it is important to note that supportive teaching alone may not be sufficient and should be considered as a supplementary approach to treatment.

4.2.15 Social Isolation

Researchers and practitioners in the field of clinical psychology have observed that a significant number of families characterized by abusive and neglectful behaviors exhibit a notable disconnection from their social surroundings. A significant portion of the population lacks access to telecommunication devices and means of transportation. They actively avoid engaging with their neighbors and abstain from participating in communal events. In addition, individuals exhibit resistance towards the interventions and support provided by professional helpers and organizations.

The hypothesis posits that the lack of social connections among individuals results in a lack of continuous reciprocal relationships with friends, neighbors, and relatives, so depriving them of the support necessary to alleviate the daily responsibilities associated with raising children. Furthermore, individuals in this situation lack companions with whom they may confide their concerns and troubles, thus leading to an amplification of their anxieties. During times of crisis, individuals may find themselves devoid of reliable sources of support, hence increasing the likelihood of experiencing instances of abuse and neglect. The clinical results have been used by researchers to investigate them in the context of control groups consisting of families that do not engage in maltreatment.

4.2.16 Family Factors

Child abuse and neglect are phenomena that take place inside the familial setting. Hence, it may be inferred that family dynamics have a significant influence on the outcomes that transpire. Certain aspects, such as child factors, have been thoroughly investigated by scholars in this field.

4.2.17 Parental Collusion in Maltreatment

In instances of abuse or neglect within two-parent households, both parents have a significant part in the dynamics of the maltreatment. Research

findings are inconsistent, although indicate that either the father or the mother is more likely to engage in mistreatment, whereas both parents are less commonly engaged in such

behaviors. Nevertheless, the passive parent often plays a crucial role in facilitating the mistreatment carried out by the active parent.

4.2.18 Scapegoating

Children may also get entangled in parental and familial disputes, so becoming the primary recipients of rage and hostility. In instances of marital discord, it is common for the kid to get entangled in the disagreement, resulting in a blurring of typical generational boundaries. Consequently, the conflict between the married partners is transferred onto the offspring in the form of mistreatment and disregard.

It is been seen that the kid who is made a scapegoat is often labeled as morally deficient when compared to the child who is considered virtuous within the family unit. In some instances, the “good child,” driven by apprehension of mistreatment, actively participates in facilitating the parent’s perception of the scapegoated child as being morally flawed. Family therapy is often considered the preferred remedy in such circumstances.

4.2.19 Stepparents and Reorganized Families

Existing research and clinical evidence indicate that individuals who assume the role of stepparents or live-in partners, but are not biologically related to the children, have a higher propensity for engaging in maltreatment towards these children compared to biological parents. The aforementioned results may be seen rational when viewed through the lens of common sense, since stepparents often exhibit lower levels of attachment towards their stepchildren in comparison to biological parents. It is common for children to experience feelings of anger towards a new spouse, as well as jealousy and competitiveness among all individuals engaged in the situation.

4.2.20 The Extended Family

The interplay between an extended family and a nuclear family significantly influences the overall functioning of the family unit. Throughout history, the extended family has played a crucial role in providing emotional support,

imparting knowledge on childrearing practices, and offering economic assistance during times of adversity. Issues develop when these connections are defective or nonexistent. In instances when abuse and neglect are prevalent within families, it is often seen that a pattern of dysfunctional parent-child contact has been inherited from preceding generations.

In families characterized by negligent parenting, there is an elevated probability of extended family members being missing, either in terms of physical presence or emotional support. This absence further exacerbates the feelings of loneliness and isolation experienced by the parent. Consequently, the absence of extended family support exacerbates the family's stress levels and fails to alleviate the day-to-day responsibilities of parenting via consistent assistance. The study findings indicate that there is no significant correlation between black families and child maltreatment, despite the higher levels of stress experienced by these families compared to white families. This may be attributed to the support and reliance on extended family networks within the black community.

During the therapeutic intervention, efforts are made to engage with this social network in order to enhance their capacity to provide constructive assistance to the family unit, while minimizing their potential for disruption.

4.2.21 Environmental Factors

Previous studies have shown that families experiencing instances of child abuse and neglect have a higher prevalence of stressors and exhibit less capacity to effectively manage these challenges compared to families without such issues. Either one or all of these variables may contribute to the mistreatment of children within these homes. One effective method for classifying the kind of stress experienced by these families is as follows. Chronic stressors, situational stressors, and precipitating stressors are three distinct types of stresses that may impact individuals. Chronic stressors refer to ongoing stressors that persist over an extended period of time, such as long-term financial difficulties or chronic health conditions. Situational stressors, on the other hand.

4.2.22 Chronic Stressors

A chronic stressor refers to a persistent and enduring troublesome state that

necessitates the family's ability to manage and adapt. Individuals that engage in abusive and negligent behaviors may encounter various consequences as a result of their actions. This paper aims to examine a selection of chronic stressors that are often seen, in order to elucidate their effects on the family unit.

4.2.23 Being a Parent

The role of parenthood is often associated with chronic stress, particularly for those who engage in maltreatment of their children. Some individuals may lack the necessary preparedness, knowledge, or maturity to effectively handle newborns who are reliant on others for their needs and are unable to communicate verbally.

Moreover, the issue of parenting sometimes becomes more challenging for those who have several small children in close proximity in terms of age. As previously said, when youngsters encounter certain challenges such as preterm, colic, physical abnormalities, cognitive impairments, or hyperactivity, the circumstances become notably more arduous for their parents. Likewise, the experience of being a single parent gives rise to a state of persistent stress.

4.2.24 Chronic Illness

Experiencing the presence of a family member who suffers from a persistent physical or mental illness, or having a parent who engages in drug misuse, represents an additional kind of enduring stress. The continuous concern and additional attention demanded by this individual may deplete the financial and emotional reserves of the family. Moreover, the one who is experiencing illness, especially if they are a parent, is unable to fulfill their designated familial obligations, necessitating others to assume these tasks. Once again, the persistent stress experienced may generate a state of tension that may manifest in either the mistreatment of children or the inability to adequately address their physical and emotional requirements

4.2.25 Poverty

Poverty is a prevalent factor contributing to the development of chronic stress, which in turn may increase the likelihood of abuse or neglect. Sociologists who have examined the demographic attributes of families in connection to instances of abuse and neglect have seen a significant

association between those who are characterized as abusive or neglectful parents and those who experience poverty.

Moreover, the analysis reveals a significant prevalence of ailments often linked to impoverished circumstances, including substandard housing, recurrent displacement, insufficient access to nourishment, inadequate clothes, frequent illnesses, limited healthcare and dental services, unemployment and underemployment, as well as inadequate educational opportunities. These issues result in a heightened state of familial tension, which has the potential to manifest as instances of child abuse. Furthermore, it is plausible that poverty, rather than parental negligence, may be the underlying factor contributing to the inability of parents to adequately provide dietary and physical care for their children. In some instances, the parent may find themselves incapacitated by their circumstances, rendering them unable to fulfill their parental responsibilities towards their kid.

4.2.26 Situational Stressors

Situational stressors refer to recent alterations in the social conditions of a family. Numerous stresses in various situations are related to economic factors. The termination of parental employment might elicit significant stress and give rise to a state of crisis. This situation becomes more problematic when the spouse experiences job loss, since the legal recognition of male gender is contingent upon employment status. Consequently, the loss of job results in a decline in self-esteem, subsequently leading to increased levels of stress. Moreover, there has been a noticeable increase in the husband's involvement with the children, resulting in a heightened vulnerability to potential abuse during periods of his unemployment. Similarly, a transition in employment may induce stress, even if it is a positive one. The individual who earns a pay must have the ability to adapt to unfamiliar routines within a novel occupational environment.

The act of a woman engaging in employment might potentially introduce several sources of stress within the family unit. Abruptly, she finds herself occupied with dual roles as an employment and a homemaker, often shouldering the burden of household duties with little aid. Furthermore, the act of her attending work has the potential to negatively impact her

husband's sense of self-worth. It might perhaps indicate to the individual his inability to meet his economic responsibilities. This assertion holds especially true in cases when the husband's unemployment serves as a catalyst for the wife's decision to enter the workforce. In such a scenario, the heightened state of stress may prompt either parent to engage in physical aggression against the children. Furthermore, the increase in the wife's employment to two positions instead of one may potentially result in her inability to fulfill her obligations in childrearing.

Various economic issues may contribute to heightened levels of stress within a family that is burdened by debt. For instance, the need to purchase a new automobile or appliance, as well as the presence of medical expenses, can provide significant challenges for the family's ability to effectively manage these financial obligations. The act of relocating or purchasing a residential property is likewise prone to exacerbating familial discord.

Situational stresses may arise from changes in the makeup of a family unit. Occurrences such as the arrival of a newborn, whether desired or undesired, the integration of relatives into the household, or the passing of a family member may provide challenges for the family in terms of their ability to cope and navigate through these circumstances. Instances of abuse have been seen by clinicians in circumstances involving the presence or imminent arrival of in-laws.

Moreover, the act of desertion, separation, or divorce might potentially serve as a significant contributing cause to instances of child abuse. Marital divorce entails the primary child care obligation being assumed by the spouse who has been granted custody of the children. The phenomenon of role overload, along with the resultant strain, might potentially contribute to instances of abuse and neglect.

4.2.27 Precipitating Stressors

Precipitating stresses refer to certain events or circumstances that serve as catalysts for the occurrence of maltreatment. A significant part of stresses that trigger a response are those that parents perceive or anticipate for their children. It is possible for someone to ascribe qualities such as

malice, stubbornness, or belligerence to a newborn. The potential occurrence of misbehavior may lead to the imposition of disciplinary measures that may have significant and enduring consequences due to the vulnerable nature of the infant.

On the other hand, parents may engage in emotional and physical neglect of infants due to their concern that excessive attention and care may lead to the development of spoiled behavior. Moreover, the occurrence of problematic behavior, such as prolonged weeping, excessive activity, bad feeding habits, or lack of cooperation in toilet training, has the potential to contribute to the onset of abuse and neglect.

Maltreatment may be triggered by incidents that are not directly connected to children's behavior. The potential involvement of the malfunctioning of household appliances such as the family vehicle, stove, refrigerator, washing machine, or television may be significant. Similarly, engaging in a conflict with a spouse or another member of the home might potentially lead to instances of abuse and neglect.

4.3 Some Important Personality Determinants

Certain factors contribute significantly to the formation of an individual's personality, exerting their most profound influence on the central aspect of the personality structure, namely the self-concept, as well as certain features associated with it.

4.3.1 Early Experiences

Freud was the first to emphasize the significance of early events in shaping personality development, since he saw that a considerable number of his adult patients had encountered distressing childhood traumas.

Research on the impacts of early experiences has shown that these encounters, together with their associated memories, possess significant influence due to their enduring impact on a child's self-concept, despite their potential vagueness.

4.3.2 Cultural Influences

It has been said that the removal of children from their cultural context does not always result in the eradication of their cultural identity. In any cultural context, individuals are often subjected to societal pressures to cultivate a personality type that aligns with the established norms and

expectations of their own cultures. The cultural group to which children's parents belong serves as the basis for the accepted personality model. By means of both home and school-based programming, it is anticipated that children would internalize this pattern as a paradigm for shaping their own personalities.

4.3.3 Physique

The physical attributes of an individual, particularly in the case of boys, have a direct and indirect impact on their personality. The act of direct determination establishes the parameters of permissible actions and restrictions for children. Indirectly influences the body image perception of youngsters. This phenomenon is, in turn, driven by the perceived level of importance that individuals in their social circles attribute to them.

4.3.4 Attractiveness

At all stages of life, societal views tend to be more favorable towards those who are seen as "attractive" compared to those who are perceived as unattractive or explicitly described as ugly. These judgments may be based on physical attributes, physique, fashionable attire, or attire that aligns with their own style. Moreover, there is an assumption that those who possess attractiveness exhibit more desirable personality traits compared to those who lack attractiveness. This phenomenon serves to strengthen positive societal sentiments towards them.

4.3.5 Intelligence

Parents and educators often have excessively high expectations for exceptionally gifted youngsters. When youngsters internalize these societal expectations, they experience feelings of inadequacy when they fail to meet them. Consequently, many intellectually gifted youngsters have negative self-perceptions.

4.3.6 Emotions

The impact of children's emotions on their self-concepts is heavily contingent upon the manner in which these emotions influence the evaluations and assessments made by others. The phenomenon described may be seen as an indirect influence of emotions on an individual's personality. The direct influence, while often less apparent than the indirect effect, is of significant magnitude and cannot be overlooked.

When emotions reach a level of intensity that results in chaotic behavior, they might have a negative impact on the typical pattern of adjustment in children.

4.3.7 Success and Failure

The self-concept is significantly impacted by one's achievements or lack thereof. While these individuals may be seen as "successful" by others, they personally view themselves as "failures." This implies that an individual who is deemed successful from an objective standpoint may nevertheless be seen as a failure from a subjective one. This discrepancy arises from the individual's accomplishments meeting the anticipated standards of external observers, but failing to meet the individual's own aspirations.

4.3.8 School Influences

The educational institution has a significant impact on the child's evolving personality, including both the development of qualities and the construction of the self-concept. Due to the significant impact that instructors have on the development of individuals' personalities, the importance of teachers' personalities surpasses that of their knowledge or teaching abilities.

4.3.9 Family Influences

Among the several factors that contribute to the development of one's personality, the family has the utmost significance. There are several reasons why the family serves as the primary social group through which a child develops their sense of identity. Firstly, the child typically spends a greater amount of time with their family than with any other social group. This extended exposure to familial interactions occurs during the crucial formative years when the foundations of one's personality are being established. Furthermore, the influence exerted by the family unit encompasses a wider range of factors compared to any other determinant of personality, including the school environment. The impact of the family on the

formation of an individual's personality is contingent, to a certain degree, on the characteristics of the kid in question. A youngster with a predisposition towards nervousness and tension is likely to experience more distress in response to the increased attention directed towards a

newborn sibling within a household, compared to a child with a more phlegmatic temperament. In a like manner, the response of a robust youngster to excessive parental protectiveness and indulgence will vary from that of a fragile, infirm child

4.3.10 Personality Maladjustments

Children who exhibit inadequate personal and social adaptations are sometimes referred to as “maladjusted”. These individuals are sometimes referred to as problem children. Self-rejection is identified as a significant contributing factor to maladjustment. Children that possess a self-rejecting attitude have a strong aversion towards their own selves. Similar to how toddlers refuse to engage with others they detest as playmates or friends, they also reject their own selves when they see a misalignment between their current state and their desired self-image.

These two difficulties are often encountered and have significant implications for the process of self-acceptance. Personality maladjustments are mostly attributed to these factors, which are largely accountable for self-rejection. One common phenomenon seen in youngsters is their inclination to form ideal self-concepts that often surpass their actual abilities.

The second significant barrier to achieving self-acceptance arises from the discontent that arises when youngsters engage in self-comparisons with their peers, or when parents and educators unfavorably compare them to their siblings or classmates.

4.3.11 Conclusion

The role of family factors in child abuse is profound and multifaceted, significantly influencing the personality and development of children. This research, with a special reference to Indian law on child abuse in 2024, focuses on the districts of Southern Rajasthan, including Chittorgarh, Udaipur, Sirohi, Pratapgarh, Banswara, and Dungarpur. Family dynamics, such as parental behavior, socioeconomic status, domestic violence, substance abuse, and emotional neglect, play a crucial role in either mitigating or exacerbating the risk of child abuse. In many cases, children subjected to abuse within their family environments develop deep-seated psychological issues, affecting their emotional stability, self-esteem, and interpersonal relationships. The impact of these adverse experiences often manifests in their

behavior, academic performance, and social interactions, leading to long-term consequences that can persist into adulthood.

In Southern Rajasthan, traditional and cultural factors also interplay with family dynamics, sometimes perpetuating abusive practices under the guise of discipline or control. The lack of awareness and education about children's rights and the legal protections available under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses (POCSO) Act, 2012, further complicates the issue. Families may either be unaware of the legal repercussions of child abuse or reluctant to report such cases due to societal stigma and fear of retribution.

The research aims to unravel how these family factors contribute to the prevalence of child abuse in the specified districts and how they reflect on the personality development of affected children. By examining case studies, legal records, and interviews with victims, their families, and legal professionals, the study provides a comprehensive analysis of the systemic issues within family structures that lead to abuse. It also evaluates the effectiveness of current legal frameworks in addressing these problems and supporting victims.

Moreover, the research explores the role of intervention programs, counseling, and community awareness initiatives in transforming abusive family environments and aiding in the recovery and rehabilitation of affected children. By highlighting the interconnectedness of family factors and child abuse, this study underscores the need for holistic approaches that involve legal measures, psychological support, and community engagement to protect children and foster their healthy development in Southern Rajasthan. The findings aim to inform policymakers, social workers, and educators about the critical areas for intervention and improvement, ensuring that the legal system effectively supports the most vulnerable members of society.

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