Determinants of Child Abuse in Pakistani Families: Parental Acceptance-Rejection and Demographic Variables

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Abstract

The present study focused child abuse and neglect in relation to parental patterns of acceptance-rejection towards their children and the influence of demographic variables in Pakistani socio-cultural context. An indigenously developed Child Abuse Scale was used to identify children with different levels and types of abuse and neglect. Urdu version of Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire for father and mother, were used to investigate the patterns of parenting styles along with a demographic questionnaire. The study was carried out with a randomly selected sample of 200 children (100 boys & 100 girls) of age ranging from 8-12 years (M = 10.8, SD = .68). The data were collected from five cities of Punjab. The results indicated that in comparison to mildly abused children, severely abused children perceived their parents more rejecting. Results further indicated that mother's education and family size are significant determinants of child abuse as compare to the socio-economic status and father's education which are non-significant.

Keywords: Parental acceptance-rejection, child abuse, SES, family size

Introduction

Child abuse generically is human originated acts of commission or omission and human created or tolerated conditions to inhibit or preclude the development of inherent potentials of children. Giovannoni (1971) defined abuse as acts of commission that result in harm, and neglect as acts of omission that have negative effects. Abuse is an exploitation of the rights of the parents to control, discipline and punish their children while neglect represents the failure to perform parental duties including those of supervision, nurturance and protection. It is further divided into four major categories i.e., physical abuse, physical neglect, emotional abuse and emotional neglect. Sexual abuse is often subsumed under physical abuse, but it has its unique characteristics that differentiate it from other kinds of maltreatment. Another definition of child abuse is any parental/caretaker act or failure to act resulting in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation; or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm to the child's physical or emotional health and development (National Clearinghouse on Child abuse and Neglect Information, 2006).

The situation in Pakistan in not better than any other developing or developed country but non availability of the statistics at government level regarding the prevailing situation of child abuse makes it more crucial. According to a UNICEF report (2004) approximately 40% of the total child population under the age of 5 years suffered malnutrition, 63% between 6 months to 3 years stunted growth, anemic and underweight and infant mortality rate is 81%. Poor conditions extend to the education sector too, 23 million children in Pakistan had never been to school and 21% were the victim of child marriages. Only one third of all Pakistani children under the age of five are registered at birth.

Children without official identity are more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation (Asia Child Rights, 2005). Another report indicated almost 1,549 cases of sexual abuse were reported in the year 2003; representing a rate of four cases per day and 1, 184 girls were sexually assaulted by the end of 2004 (SPARC, 2006).

Although child abuse has become a focus of concern for government and public sectors for last two decades in Pakistan but still physical abuse as harsh disciplinary and child rearing practices are common in Pakistani society. Physical punishment at home or schools is a necessary part of our daily scenario. Each year, roughly estimated, about 50,000 children with observable injuries severe enough to require hospitalization are not even reported and an estimated 8 million children under age of 15 years out of 30 million of country's population of this age are involved in child labor (Kamal, 1991). Kamran (2004) posed that Pakistan is perhaps offering the worse conditions for children than any other country in South Asia. Nearly 8 million children, or 40% of the total population of children under age of 5, suffer from malnutrition. About 63% of children between 6 months and 3 years have stunted growth and 42% are anemic and underweight. Poor conditions extend to the education sector. About 23 million children in Pakistan have never been to school.

According to the UNICEF, about three million children under the age of 14 and 18 % of children between the ages of 10 and 15 are involved in labor. In 2003 there has been a 30% increase over the previous year in the number of children running away from home. Most of them left home because of child battering by the parents, domestic violence and family financial problems (Edhi Foundation Sources, 2003 as cited in Kamran, 2004). In Pakistan physical abuse or battering is the most common part of the disciplinary training methods employed by the parents (Malik, 2001). Sometimes it is so much torturous that children get severe injuries as a result. Even other authority figures that may physically abuse children include teachers and relatives who may also have a misconceived idea of discipline. The governing officials have now begun to recognize the severity of the problem and Child Protection Bureau has started working at Lahore in 2005 but its performance and vision is still a question. There is still a greater need of establishing such departments all over Pakistan to generate statistical data regarding the prevalence of child abuse and neglect in Pakistan.

Actually, inadequate respect for the interest of children and insensitivity to their needs and emotions is not a new phenomenon as children all over the world have been regarded as the mere possession of their parents. The only difference between modern world and developing countries like Pakistan is that child abuse within the family is quite a visible scene in the developed countries, but in Pakistan it is still invisible being maintained in the name of discipline. Therefore, cultural factors and the personality characteristics of abusing parent and educational level appear to be strongly associated with child abuse (Gelles, 1973; Steele, 1975). The social systems approach to family functioning had also suggested the role of the family characteristics and culture in child abuse (Belsky, 1980; Garbarino, 1977). Rohner, Melendez, and Krimer-Rickaby (2008) posed that parental acceptance, both maternal and paternal, in childhood is associated with parents' adjustment as adults. Being a conservative socio-cultural context the customs of our culture profoundly affect the chances of maltreatment. In societies, like ours, where use of force and violence are viewed as appropriate for the child rearing is just like stage set for child abuse. Warm family relationships, an atmosphere of understanding and compassion foster positive feelings in children that serves basis for the social relationships in their later life. The family usually described in terms of mother, father, and children but it also has more complex factors to determine this relationship like spousal relationships, parenting styles etc. (Belsky, 1981).

The research indicated less pleasant and less supportive interaction between abusive parents and children (Bousha & Twentyman, 1984; Burgess & Conger, 1978; Trickett & Susman, 1988). Such parents are less responsive to child initiatives (Kavanagh, Youngblade, Reid, & Fagot, 1988) and express less affection (Lahey, Conger Atkeson, & Treiber, 1984). Some of the researches have focused the impact of different child rearing styles of the parents. Rohner (1975a; Rohner & Kahlequ, 2005) argues that acceptance being the presence of warmth and affection and rejection the absence of warmth in the life of a child may have a decisive impact on his/her personality development. The accepting parents show their love or affection physically or verbally by fondling, hugging, kissing or caressing a child whereas the rejecting parents dislike and disapprove their children. The parenting behaviors like harsh punishment and emotional rejection had been found to be important risk factors for violent and aggressive behaviors in adolescents (Barnow, Lucht, & Freyberger, 2001).

Various socio-economic stresses might also contribute to child abuse (e.g., Galdston, 1971; Garbarino, 1976; Gil 1971a; Giovannoni & Billingsley, 1970; Sattin & Miller, 1971). Many studies supported the hypothesis that low income and related factors (e.g., inadequate housing, sleeping arrangements and support systems) are associated with higher incidence of abuse and neglect. At the same time, there is evidence that physical abuse occurs at all socio-economic levels (Steele & Pollock, 1968). The use of psychological punishment had been more common in the middle-class families (Feshbach, 1970; Goode, 1974). Steinmetz and Straus (1974) posed that abuse is related to the family size (number of children in a family), due to the greater the number of children parents especially mothers feel frustrated and overwhelmed which might lead to child abuse. Parenting practices and attitudes are of special interest with reference to the child abuse and are integral in the theories of children's socialization in the context of multiple influencing factors such as culture, ethnicity and socio-economic status and available social support, family structure. Greven (1991) argued that the roots for the use of force and violence as a disciplining practice may also be ingrained in the religious and legal institutions. Some distinctive variables that appear to be linked with the issue of child abuse with specific reference to Pakistani society like gender discrimination by the parents. It is a general practice that mothers prefer sons to daughters and fathers show gentle attitude towards daughters.

Despite the recently increasing concern of government and public sector regarding child abuse and consequences associated with it, very limited research has been carried out in this area with specific reference to Pakistani context having its very peculiar child rearing practices style and demands. Hence, the present research has focused the perception of the severely abused children about the parental attitude towards them as accepting or rejection compared to mild and moderately abused groups and demographic variables related to family environment and parental attitude towards children to understand those circumstances that foster child abuse in Pakistani society.

Objectives
The research focused
   1. To determine the difference of perception of parental acceptance-rejection among mild, moderate   and severely abused children (identified with the help of indigenously developed Child Abuse Scale).
  2. To compare gender difference of children in perceptions of parental acceptance rejection and child abuse
  3. To determine the influence of demographic variables on respondents' perceptions of parental   acceptance-rejection and child abuse.

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated based on the objectives:
1. The parents of severely abused children (both mother and father) would show more rejecting attitude towards their children than the parents of mildly and moderately abused children.
2. Girls would perceive mothers, as more rejecting and boys would perceive fathers as more rejecting.
3. The child abuse and perception of parental rejection would be higher in the families with low SES than the middle and upper class families.
4. There would be high child abuse and parental rejecting attitude towards children in the larger families than smaller families.
5. Parental education would determine their attitude and child abuse (both for father and mother).
6. Parental rejection would be higher in the joint families versus nuclear families.

Methodology

Sample
A randomly selected sample of 200 children (100 boys and 100 girls) was drawn from 10 schools (5 private & 5 public) form five major cities of Punjab. Age range of children varied from 8 to 12 years (M =10.8, SD = .68) belonging to the lower, middle and upper class SES groups with the parental educational backgrounds of 10th grade up to professional degrees. They belonged to nuclear verses joint family systems and smaller, medium and large families in terms of number of children in the family.

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Measures

1. Child Abuse Scale (CAS): Screening Device

An indigenously developed Child Abuse Scale (Malik & Shah, 2007) comprised of 34 was used to identify children with different levels of abuse. The four empirically determined subscales were physical abuse (4 items), physical neglect (4 items), emotional abuse (14 items) and emotional neglect (12 items). The responses of the subjects were recorded on a 4-point rating scale with response categories of "Never to Always" with the scoring range of 1 to 4. CAS score was determined as the sum of scores on each item that ranged from 34 to 136. The cut off points determined on the basis of percentile analysis for the CAS were below to 54 as mild, 55 to 65 as moderate and 66 and above as indicative of severe child abuse. The authors reported highly significant reliability coefficient for CAS was ($\alpha = .92$) and for its four subscales ranging from .51 to .90 (Malik & Shah, 2007). Cronbach's alpha computed for the current sample of the study for CAS was highly significant ($\alpha = .88$).

2. Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire (PARQ)

The PARQ (Rohner, Saaverda, & Granum, 1980) measures the way children of age 7-13 years perceive their parents' treatment patterns to them in terms of acceptance-rejection. It comprised of separate forms for mother and father, each consisting of 60 items further divided into four subscales including parental less warmth and affection, parental hostility and aggression, parental neglect and indifference and parental rejection. PARQ is scored on 4-point Likert type scale with response categories of "Almost Always True" (scored as 4) and "Almost Never True" (scored as 1). Total range of score was 60-240, higher the score obtained, more the child perceives his/her parents as rejecting. Urdu version of Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire (Haque, 1981) was used for the current study which was reported as a psychometrically adequate measure with good reliability for the total scale and its four sub scales ranging from .72 to .90 (Haque, 1981; 1987). Cronbach's alpha computed for the current sample of the study for CAS and PARQ were .88 and .93.

3. Demographic Questionnaire

A demographic form was also developed to seek personal information of the respondents like age, gender, birth order, SES, family size, parental education and occupation, family system i.e., joint vs. nuclear family system.

Procedure

After getting approval from IRB data were collected from six major cities of Punjab. Prior permission was sought from the school authorities while explaining them the objectives of the study due to its critical nature. The participating children were approached with the help of their class teachers and were given informed consent before administering the questionnaire comprising of Child abuse Scale, PARQ for mother and father along with a bio-data form. They were instructed to feel free if they had any queries and carefully complete the questionnaire without skipping any of the statements.

Results

The statistical procedures like correlation, regression analysis and between-within ANOVA were employed to determine the relationship of child abuse with different variables under consideration and differences across groups of children with mild, moderate and severe abuse. Children were grouped as mild ($n = 94$, $M = 44.92$, $SD = 5.48$), moderate ($n = 56$, $M = 58.89$, $SD = 2.94$) and severely abused ($n = 38$, $M = 5.04$, $SD = 10.07$) on the basis of their CAS scores. The correlation of the child abuse scale with parental acceptance-rejection-father and mother was highly significant ($r = .60, .57, p < .0001$). Stepwise Regression Analysis indicated abuse groups and PARQ for fathers' and mothers' scores as the most significant predictors of child abuse, $\beta = .880$, $\beta = .237$ & $\beta = .089$ whereas all other demographic variables like child's gender, parental education, SES, family type and family size were excluded (see Table 1).

Insert Table 1about here

To determine the differences of perception across abused groups between-within ANOVA was conducted for gender on CAS total score and its four subscales.

Insert Table 2 about here

The results indicated a non-significant main effect of gender, F (1,198) = .09, p = ns. and a non-significant interaction between gender and four subscales of the CAS, F (3, 594) = 1.93, p = ns. but a highly significant main effect of the four subscales of Child Abuse Scale, F (3, 594) = 1085.69, $p < .0001$.

Mean scores and standard deviations of boys and girls and the total sample are indicated in Figure 1. It shows that mean scores of boys ($M = 6.17$, $SD = 2.74$) was slightly higher than girls ($M = 6.30$, $SD = 2.82$) on the subscale of physical abuse ………….. on emotional abuse is 19.94 ($SD = 4.66$). The mean scores of boys on the subscales of physical neglect and emotional neglect were ($M = 7.17$, $SD = 2.65$) and ($M = 22.51$, $SD = 5.90$) whereas for girls it was 7.24 ($SD = 2.83$) and 23.54 ($SD = 7.88$) respectively. Mean differences across subscales are depicted in Figure I which depicts that for the total sample mean score on the subscale of emotional neglect ($M = 23.05$, $SD = 6.96$) followed by emotional abuse ($M = 19.60$, $SD = 5.07$), physical neglect ($M = 7.20$, $SD = 2.74$) and physical abuse ($M= 6.23$, $SD = 2.77$).

Insert Figure I about here

One Way ANOVA was used to determine the perception differences for parental rejecting or accepting attitude across three abused groups which showed highly significant effects for PRQ-fathers, F (2, 197) = 24.44, $p < .0001$, and mothers, F (2, 197) = 9.41, $p < .0001$. Mean score differences for three abused groups (mild, moderate and severe) of children are also presented in Figure 2.

Insert Figure 2 about here

The data were further broken down to determine gender differences across variables for while computing t-test that showed a non-significant difference in the child abuse scores of boys and girls, t (198) = .30, p = ns., although girls had slightly higher score ($M = 57.05$) than boys ($M = 56.07$) on CAS. Similarly, no gender differences were found on the respondents' scores of PARQ Questionnaire for father, t (198) = .13, p = ns. and mother, t (198) = .44, p = ns.

Insert Table 3 & 4 about here

The results of ANOVA in Table 4 indicated that children from nuclear and joint family systems do not differ regarding their child abuse scores, t (198) = .21, p = ns. as well as for PARQ for fathers, t (198) = .38, p = ns. and mothers, t (198) = .96, p = ns. However, the mean scores of children from nuclear family system were slightly higher than their counter parts from the nuclear families.

Insert Table 5 about here

To determine the differences regarding different demographic variables across three child abuse groups On Way ANOVA was computed which indicated moderately significant effect of family size on the child abuse scores, F (2,197) = 3.62, $p < .05$, with highest mean scores of children from larger families Child Abuse Scale than other two groups ($n = 53$, $M = 60.22$, $SD = 14.1$). Similarly data showed a significant effect of mothers' education on child abuse scores, $F = 4.71$, $p < .01$. Mean CAS score of children from low mothers' education group (below to 10th grade) was the highest ($M = 60.30$, $SD = 15.89$) s compared to other two groups. However a non-significant effect of was depicted for socio-economic status for children's CAS, F (2,197) = 1.48, p = ns

Discussion

The results suggested that severely abused children perceived their parents, both fathers and mothers, more rejecting than other two abuse groups (mild and moderate). This finding of the current study appears to be consistent with researches indicating that abusive parents differ from matched control parents in ways they interact with their children (Starr, 1987; Wolfe, 1985) and hold negative emotional traits like hostility and rejection, detached and unresponsive parenting (Gelfand & Teti, 1990).

The findings regarding the subscales of Child Abuse Scale namely physical abuse, physical neglect, emotional abuse and emotional neglect suggested that children were more emotionally/psychologically abused than physical abuse as the participants obtained the highest mean score on the subscale of emotional abuse followed by emotional neglect, physical neglect and physical abuse. Therefore our hypothesis regarding children having high physical abuse in Pakistani social context was not supported.

Supposedly, it appears that physical abuse is more prevalent our families as parents believe in using physical punishment as an essential disciplinary technique because they had learned it from their own parents. It depicted that that parents in Pakistani households do not take care of the psychological and emotional needs of their children that is more problematic for children. Being unaware of the impacts, parents use abusive language that is hurting for the children; parental negative attitude might produce lower self-esteem and inferiority complex in children as mentioned in prior researches that emotional abuse might occur as a distinct form of abuse e.g., verbal abuse, threats to abandon a child (Navarre, 1987) or in conjunction with other forms of maltreatments (Herrenkohl, 1990) and the effects of emotional abuse might be manifested in the form of helplessness and worthlessness (Hyman, 1987).

Linked to the above finding being emotionally abused, the findings further suggested parental rejection, both by mother and father, as the most significant predictor of child abuse. The research evidence shows that parental rejecting attitude might have negative impact on the personality development of children; in infancy it is resulted from parents' refusal to accept and respond to child's needs for attachment. In early childhood, rejection is associated with excluding the child from family activities. At school age, it is exhibited in the form of communicating a negative sense of identity and in adolescence, rejection is identified by parental refusal to acknowledge the young person's needs for greater autonomy and self determination (Garbarino, Guttman, & Seeley, 1986).

It had also been observed that incidents of parental hostility, rejection and neglect were more common than acceptance, love and trust in the history of adolescents with behavioral problems (Scott, Scott, & McCobe, 1991). Barnow, Lucht, and Freyberger (2001) also argued that family environment and parental abusive attitude was strongly related to aggressive behavior of children in later life. Moreover, it might take the form of negative self-concept, low self-esteem, aggressive behavior, difficulties in relating to peers and adults, impaired capacity to trust others and generalized unhappiness (Ounsted, Oppenheimer, & Lindsey, 1974). The gender related assumption of the abuse being inflicted by parents on the gender basis was also rejected as boys and girls could not be differentiated for their scores on child abuse scale. Although the apparent discriminatory scenario of our cultural context portrays this picture but children's own perception was different. The results further suggested that boys and girls had not shown differential perception of parental acceptance-rejection.

It was also another important assumption of the study that demographic variables would also be contributing to the problem of child abuse and neglect. In Pakistani social set up one finds a sharp contrast in families on the one hand belonging to very high and, on the other hand, belonging to low socio-economic status, whereas middle classes are comparatively similar to each other. Therefore the data were also analyzed to explore the impact of socio-economic status; the findings suggested that the role of socio-economic status was not differential for children facing varying degrees of abuse i.e., mild, moderate and severe. It means that child abuse is equally prevalent in all social classes which are in line with the earlier findings by some researches like Steele & Pollock, (1968).

But these results of the study were contrary to the findings of Hanif (1994) who argued that children belonging to low socio-economic status were more abused as compared to the children from middle and upper socio-economic status in Pakistni context. Similarly, Straus (1994) concluded that after controlling for age and ethnicity of parents, there was no significant relationship between socioeconomic class and use of physical punishment against children.The effect of belonging to a large family on child abuse has never been investigated thoroughly by the researchers, although it was considered that large families are far more common among the poor, socially and culturally deprived families.

When data were analyzed to investigate the differential effect of family size on the phenomenon of child abuse, it proved to exert moderately significant effect suggesting that large number of children in the family is an important contributing factor in child abuse in Pakistani socio-cultural context. Children from families with greater number of children faced more child abuse as compared to children from the families with lesser number of children. This finding of the present study is consistent with research evidence in which abuse was found to be related to the larger family size (Hanif, 1994); the greater the number of children in a family, the more likely the parents, especially, mothers feel frustrated and overwhelmed that may lead to child abuse (Steinmetz & Straus, 1974).

This is interesting to note that children from the families with one to three children have obtained the second highest mean score after large family group. It means that children from larger families face physical abuse and neglect as well as psychological abuse and neglect due to a large number of family members to be taken care of by the parents. On the contrary, children from smaller families with a lesser number of family members also feel abused or neglected. Hence, the reason might be different; it may be argued that mostly educated parents opt for less number of children as per scenario. Such families might have both parents working, sparing less time for the children, facing more professional stress, hence, children face high level of parental neglect. Therefore it was also hypothesized that parental educational level would have been an important contributing factor towards child abuse. The findings suggested that mothers' educational level significantly contributed in child abuse and neglect.

Children from families with highly educated mothers showed least child abuse scores and children with below less educated mothers showed highest child abuse scores suggesting that maternal education playing an important role in determining their maternal attitude towards their children. These findings are in line with Egeland and Brunnquell, (1979); Zuravin and Grief, (1989) who suggested that limited parental education to be associated with physical abuse and neglect of children. Similarly, Najman and colleagues (1994) argued that there is a tendency for working class parents to use corporal punishment for disciplining their children and less educated mothers heavily rely upon corporal punishment. The results have further suggested that fathers' education did not play important role in child abuse implying that fathers in Pakistani cultural context are thought to be authority figures and usually have commanding disposition. They believe that physical punishment is necessary for disciplining the child whether illiterate or highly educated, they show similar attitude towards their children and family (Malik 2002). It had also been noted by Briggs and Hawkins (1996) that by the very nature of adult-child relationship and cultural influences, most adults inflicted emotional abuse on children without realizing it.

The family system in Pakistan is closely intertwined one. A family in Pakistan is different from American or European families in innumerable ways like culture, ways of living, regard and obedience for elders, joint and elaborated family system and stronger contact with each other (Mohsin, 1990). When data were further analyzed to explore the phenomenon of child abuse on the dimension of family system i.e. nuclear and joint family system, children from different family systems did not differ on the measure of child abuse implying that family system does not appear to be a big contributor towards child maltreatment as it was hypothesized for the current study.

Hence, child abuse and neglect were not restricted to any particular SES group rather it was prevalent in all SEs groups. The relationship between the family type and child abuse and neglect was not significant i.e., nuclear and joint families. However, child abuse was found to be more prevalent in larger families i.e. with greater number of children.

As far as parental educational level was concerned mothers' education was proved to be an important contributing factor to child abuse but this is not true for fathers' educational level. Children with highly educated mothers reported less child abuse as compared to the children with less educated mothers.

The results of the current research further indicated that child abuse and parental attitude are in closer association with each other. Therefore, it might be concluded that abused children come from the families with more rejecting parents which is in line with the results by Garbarino, Sebes, and Schellenbach (1984) that families at high risk for child abuse have less parental supportive behavior and high punitiveness.

Implications and Suggestions

The present study has addressed the phenomenon of child abuse and neglect in common families with peculiar reference to Pakistani cultural context while targeting the most neglected and least heard population and focusing prominent assumptions prevailing in the society. The results provided a unique issue for further research in this area but a lot of research yet to be carried out to further strengthen the results.

The findings might help parents to understand the children's perception of parental attitudes and its association with the child abuse. This relationship of parenting style with child abuse and neglect may help the researchers in the field to focus and understand the phenomenon from this perspective. The parental awareness regarding child rearing practices and children's rights is highly important to enhance the quality of family life and to prevent incidence of child abuse and neglect. There is a need to enhance the parental awareness about harms of their inconsistent discipline and abusive behaviors for the personality development of their children. Family related education should be incorporated as an important part of our educational curriculum to foster responsible and caring attitudes and behaviors towards their children on the part of parents. NGOs working in Pakistan in the area of child abuse should understand the gravity of the issue as all types of abuse has its origin in the home environment. So they must focus this issue from this dimension to raise public awareness about serious problem.

Acknowledgement

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Table 1
Predictors of Child Abuse

Variables	B	SE	β	F
Step 1(R = .77, R^2 = .77)				
Abuse Groups	14.862	.570	.880**	679.62
Step 2 (R= .82, R^2= .81)				
Abuse Groups	13.108	.568	.776**	448.04
PARQ_fathers	.119	.017	-.237**	
Step3 (R= .82, R^2= .82)				
Abuse Groups	13.07	.563	.774**	
PARQ_fathers	.089	.022	-.178**	305.97
PARQ_mothers	.118	.054	.89*	

* p <.05. **p <.0001. F (1, 99)

Table 2

Between-within ANOVA for Gender on Child Abuse Scale and its four Subscales

Sources of Variance	SS	df	MS	F
Between Subjects				
Gender	4.50	1	4.50	.09
Error	9727.10	198	49.13	
Within Subjects				
CAS	43945.55	3	14648.52	1085.69*
Gender x Subscales	78.03	3	26.01	1.93
Error	8014.43	594	13.49	
Total		699		

p < .0001.

Figure 1: *Gender wise Comparison of Child Abuse*

Level of Abuse in Boys and Girls
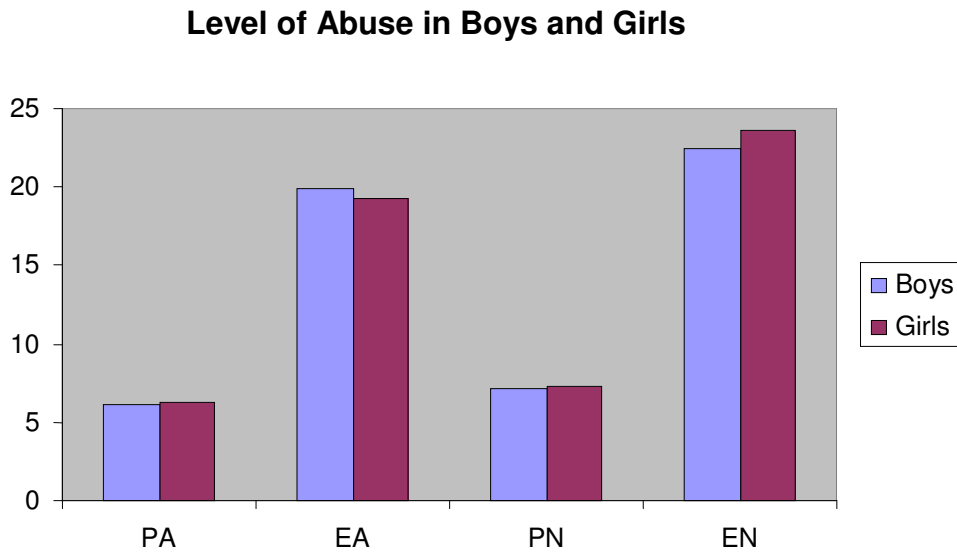
Figure 2: *PARQ Scores for Fathers and Mothers for 3 Groups of Abused Children*
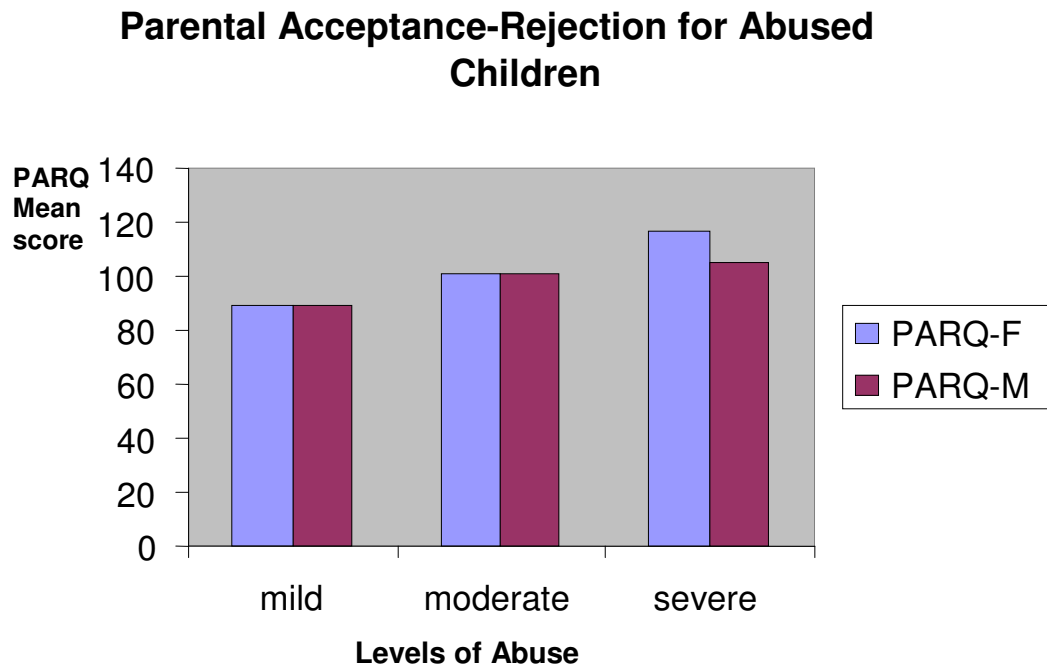
Parental Acceptance-Rejection for Abused Children

Table 3

Means, Standard Deviations and t-values of Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire for Fathers and Mothers for Gender

Measaures	Boys (*n* = 100) M (SD)	Girls (*n* = 100) M (SD)	*t*
CAS	56.07(12.03)	56.66(15.56)	.30
PARQ-Fathers	99.38(22.56)	98.91(27.55)	.13
PARQ-Mothers	96.97(24.27)	95.52(22.47)	.44

df = 198. *p* = ns.

Table 4

Differences for Child Abuse, PARQ-F and PARQ-M Scores of Children from Nuclear and Joint Family Systems

Measures	Comparison Groups		
	Nuclear (*N*= 127) M (SD)	Joint (*N*=73) M (SD)	*t*
CAS	56.51(13.57)	56.09(14.49)	.21
PARQ-F	99.66(24.15)	98.24(26.8)	.38
PARQ-M	97.44(25.18)	94.16(19.73)	.96

df =198. *p* =ns.

Note: CAS = Child Abuse Scale, PARQ-F = Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire for fathers, PARQ-M = Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire for Mothers

Table 5
Demographic Variables across Child Abuse

Measures	Comparison Groups			
	M (SD)	M (SD)	M (SD)	ANOVA
Mothers' Education	Low (*n* = 70) 60.30 (15.89)	Moderate (*n* = 109) 54.59 (11.76)	High (*n* = 21) 52.42 (14.52)	$F(2,197) = 4.71*$
SES	Lower (*n* = 50) 56.80 (14.78)	Middle (*n* = 81) 58 (13.21)	Upper (*n* = 69) 54.13 (13.87)	$F(2,197) = 1.48$
Family Size	Small (*n* = 66) 56.61 (14.26)	Medium (*n* = 81) 53.72 (12.97)	Large (*n* = 53) 60.22 (14.1)	$F(2,197) = 4.62*$
Fathers' Education	Low (*n* = 210 60.38 (16.58)	Moderate (*n* = 134) 56.42 (13.32)	High (*n* = 45) 54.31 (14.2)	$F(2,197) = 1.38$

*$p < .01$.   Note: SES = Socio-economic status.