

CHILD PROTECTION BULLETIN

STATE CHILD
PROTECTION
SOCIETY, ASSAM

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF ACTIVITIES CONCERNING CHILD PROTECTION IN ASSAM

EDITORIAL

Child abuse is any action by another person – adult or child – that causes significant harm to a child. It can be physical, sexual or emotional, but can just as often be about a lack of love, care and attention. We know that neglect, whatever form it takes, can be just as damaging to a child as physical abuse.

An abused child will often experience more than one type of abuse, as well as other difficulties in their lives. It often happens over a period of time, rather than being a one-off event.

The mark that is created by child abuse is often an indelible mark or impression created in the mind of a child which might take a different turn in the child's future life.

Neglect is a silent type of abuse which cuts short the confidence level of a child. The child who is neglected may be emotionally or mentally affected. Therefore due care and protection should be provided to children while growing up.

This month's Bulletin focuses mainly on Neglect. Hope this article will be an interesting reading and help in identifying the cases of neglect. Let us give due attention to our children and build up their confidence level.

Editorial Board,
State Child Protection Society, Assam

What is neglect?

Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs and is the most common form of child abuse. A child may be left hungry or dirty, without adequate clothing, shelter, supervision, medical or health care. A child may be put in danger or not protected from physical or emotional harm. They may not get the love, care and attention they need from their parents. A child who's neglected will often suffer from other abuse as well. Neglect is dangerous and can cause serious, long-term damage - even death.

Signs, indicators and effects

Neglect can have serious and long-lasting effects. It can be anything from leaving a child home alone to the very worst cases where a child dies from malnutrition or being denied the care they need. In some cases it can cause permanent disabilities. Neglect can be really difficult to identify, making it hard for professionals to take early action to protect a child. Having one of the signs or symptoms below doesn't necessarily mean that a child is being neglected. But if you notice multiple, or persistent, signs then it could indicate there's a serious problem.

Children who are neglected may have : Poor appearance and hygiene

They may :

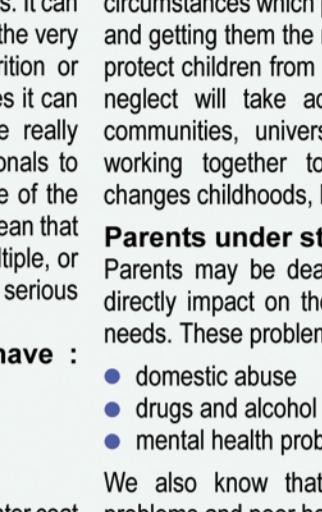
- be smelly or dirty
- have unwashed clothes
- have inadequate clothing, e.g. not having a winter coat
- seem hungry or turn up to school without having breakfast or any lunch money
- have frequent and untreated nappy rash in infants.

Health and developmental Problems

They may have:

- untreated injuries, medical and dental issues
- repeated accidental injuries caused by lack of supervision
- recurring illnesses or infections
- not been given appropriate medicines
- missed medical appointments such as vaccinations
- poor muscle tone or prominent joints
- skin sores, rashes, flea bites, scabies or ringworm

NEGLECT



- thin or swollen tummy
- anaemia
- tiredness
- faltering weight or growth and not reaching developmental milestones (known as failure to thrive)
- poor language, communication or social skills.

Housing and Family issues

They may be :

- living in an unsuitable home environment for example dog mess being left or not having any heating
- left alone for a long time
- taking on the role of carer for other family members.

Preventing child neglect

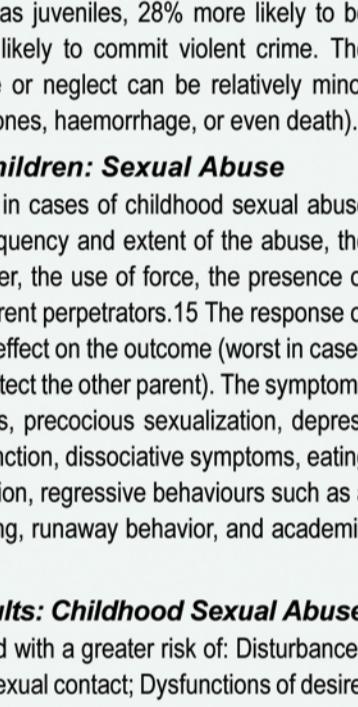
Together we can prevent child neglect. By identifying circumstances which put parents or carers under stress, and getting them the right help at the right time, we can protect children from possible neglect. Preventing child neglect will take action from everyone – parents, communities, universal services and government – working together to help children thrive. Neglect changes childhoods, but so can we.

Parents under stress

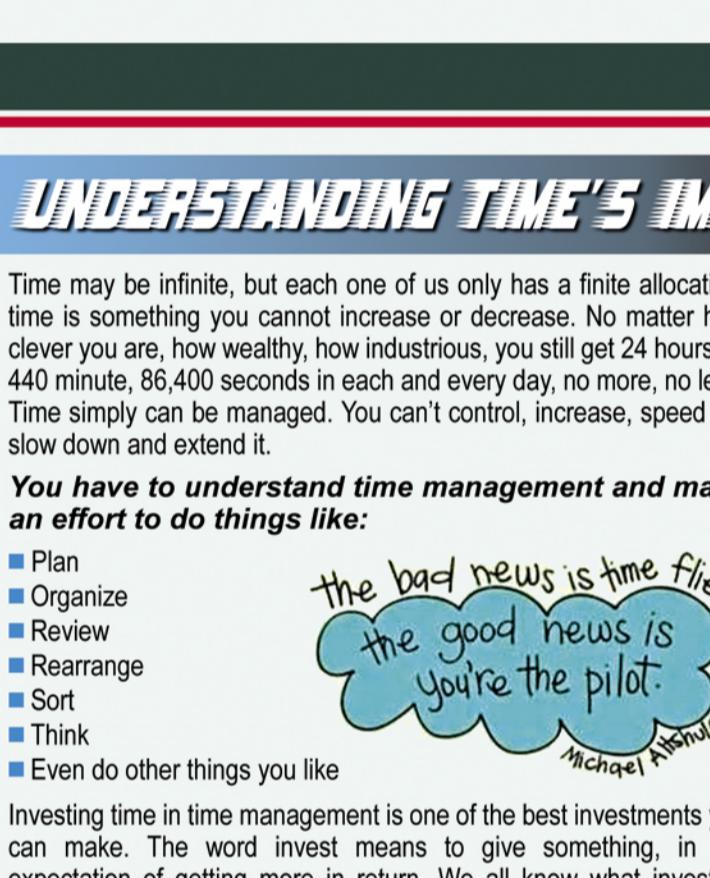
Parents may be dealing with complex problems that directly impact on their ability to meet their children's needs. These problems include:

- domestic abuse
- drugs and alcohol misuse
- mental health problems.

We also know that external factors, like financial problems and poor housing or homelessness can make it more difficult for parents' to meet their children's needs.



Neglected children are made to feel invisible



the child's experience at home.

TYPES OF NEGLECT

Physical neglect

Failing to provide for a child's basic needs such as food, clothing or shelter. Failing to adequately supervise a child, or provide for their safety.

Educational neglect

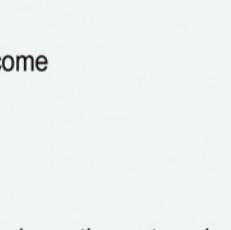
Failing to ensure a child receives an education.

Emotional neglect

Failing to meet a child's needs for nurture and stimulation, perhaps by ignoring, humiliating, intimidating, or isolating them. It's often the most difficult to prove.

Medical neglect

Failing to provide appropriate health care, including dental care and refusal of care or ignoring medical recommendations.



Physical effects:

Children who are physically abused are likely to receive bone fractures, particularly rib fractures, and may have a higher risk of developing cancer. Children who experience child abuse & neglect are 59% more likely to be arrested as juveniles, 28% more likely to be arrested as adults, and 30% more likely to commit violent crime. The immediate physical effects of abuse or neglect can be relatively minor (bruises or cuts) or severe (broken bones, haemorrhage, or even death).

Effects of Child Abuse on Children: Sexual Abuse

Factors that influence the outcomes in cases of childhood sexual abuse include the age of the victim, the frequency and extent of the abuse, the relationship of the victim to the abuser, the use of force, the presence of severe injury, and the number of different perpetrators.¹⁵ The response of the victim's family has a tremendous effect on the outcome (worst in cases of incest where one parent tries to protect the other parent). The symptoms can include post-traumatic symptoms, precocious sexualization, depression, anxiety, guilt, fear, sexual dysfunction, dissociative symptoms, eating disorders, substance abuse, prostitution, regressive behaviours such as a return to thumb-sucking or bed-wetting, runaway behavior, and academic and behavior problems.

Effects of Child Abuse on Adults: Childhood Sexual Abuse

Childhood sexual abuse is associated with a greater risk of: Disturbances in sexual interest; Difficulties during sexual contact; Dysfunctions of desire, arousal or orgasm; Seductive behaviours, compulsive activity and prostitution; Precocious sexual behavior; Confusion of sexuality; Sexually transmitted diseases; Unintended pregnancy; Eating disorders; Excessive weight gain; Depression; Anxiety; Self-destructive behavior; Alcoholism; Drug abuse; Panic attacks; Insomnia; Relationship problems; Revictimization; Suicide; Increased risk for sexually transmitted disease; Identity disturbances; and Involvement in physically abusive relationships as adults.

"We have for a long time neglected our children. They are our richest treasure. We must give them time, attention and the love of our pure, unselfish hearts."

- Dada Vaswani

2

PERSONALITY MALADJUSTMENT

The level of adjustment children achieve is greatly influenced by the social acceptance they receive from people who play significant role in their lives. To be happy children must make good personal as well as social adjustments. There are certain patterns of behaviour which are associated with well adjusted children and certain patterns with poorly adjusted people. Children who are well-adjusted behave in a manner that leads to social acceptance. They are able and willing to assume responsibilities appropriate to their age. In making good personal adjustment, well adjusted children have harmonious relationships with the people with whom they are associated. Children who make poor personal adjustments are labeled "maladjusted". They are also called problem children. They deviate from socially acceptable paths and fail to accept themselves and are not happy and contented. They develop behaviour which may be satisfying to the child but its socially unacceptable. One of the major cause of maladjustment is self-rejection. These children feel inferior and reject people they dislike as much as they reject themselves. Maladjustment may lead to greater and greater with the passage of time.

Effects of abuse on children:

Psychological effects:

Children with a history of neglect or physical abuse are at risk of developing psychiatric problems, or a disorganized attachment style. Disorganized attachment is associated with a number of developmental problems, including dissociative symptoms, as well as anxiety, depressive, and acting out symptoms. A study found that 80% of abused and maltreated infants exhibited symptoms of disorganized attachment. When some of these children become parents, especially if they suffer from PTSD, dissociative symptoms, and other sequelae of child abuse, they may encounter difficulty when faced with their infant and young children's needs and normative distress, which may in turn lead to adverse consequences for their child's social-emotional development.

Physical effects:

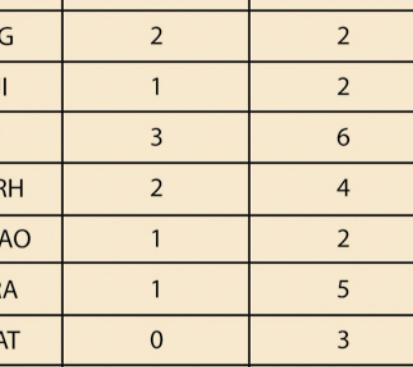
Children who are physically abused are likely to receive bone fractures, particularly rib fractures, and may have a higher risk of developing cancer. Children who experience child abuse & neglect are 59% more likely to be arrested as juveniles, 28% more likely to be arrested as adults, and 30% more likely to commit violent crime. The immediate physical effects of abuse or neglect can be relatively minor (bruises or cuts) or severe (broken bones, haemorrhage, or even death).

Effects of Child Abuse on Children: Sexual Abuse

Factors that influence the outcomes in cases of childhood sexual abuse include the age of the victim, the frequency and extent of the abuse, the relationship of the victim to the abuser, the use of force, the presence of severe injury, and the number of different perpetrators.¹⁵ The response of the victim's family has a tremendous effect on the outcome (worst in cases of incest where one parent tries to protect the other parent). The symptoms can include post-traumatic symptoms, precocious sexualization, depression, anxiety, guilt, fear, sexual dysfunction, dissociative symptoms, eating disorders, substance abuse, prostitution, regressive behaviours such as a return to thumb-sucking or bed-wetting, runaway behavior, and academic and behavior problems.

Effects of Child Abuse on Adults: Childhood Sexual Abuse

Childhood sexual abuse is associated with a greater risk of: Disturbances in sexual interest; Difficulties during sexual contact; Dysfunctions of desire, arousal or orgasm; Seductive behaviours, compulsive activity and prostitution; Precocious sexual behavior; Confusion of sexuality; Sexually transmitted diseases; Unintended pregnancy; Eating disorders; Excessive weight gain; Depression; Anxiety; Self-destructive behavior; Alcoholism; Drug abuse; Panic attacks; Insomnia; Relationship problems; Revictimization; Suicide; Increased risk for sexually transmitted disease; Identity disturbances; and Involvement in physically abusive relationships as adults.



"It is vital that when educating our children's brain that we do not neglect to educate their heart." - Dalai Lama

For any feedback, write to :
Chairperson, Editorial Board,
State Child Protection Society, Assam

46, Survey Bus Stop, Beltola, Guwahati-781028, Phone: 0361-2229275, Email: scpsassam@gmail.com, Website: assam-scps.com/termsfuse.php

DSW, Government of Assam

Liberate Press, Guwahati

Status Report on the functioning of the Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees in Assam for the month of April 2017

Sl. No.	Districts	Juvenile Justice Boards			Child Welfare Committees		
		No. of cases instituted	No. of cases disposed	Total cases pending	No. of cases instituted	No. of cases disposed	Total cases pending
1	BAKSA	Cases are jointly dealt with Nalbari JJBB		4	4		0
2	BONGAIGAON	0	0	10	4	4	16
3	BARPETA	12	0	140	10	2	73
4	CACHAR	2	1	30	6	6	8
5	CHIRANG	4	4	26	0	8	8
6	DARRANG	2	2	67	4	6	14
7	DHEMAJI	1	2	21	15	5	14
8	DHUBRI	3	6	104	1	3	11
9	DIBRUGARH	2	4	31	13	12	6
10	DIMA HASAO	1	2	18	0	0	6
11	GOALPARA	1	5	69	14	12	24
12	GOLAGHAT	0	3	15	2	0	11
13	HAILAKANDI	6	4	28	1	0	6
14	JORHAT	1	12	51	5	4	7
15	KAMRUP (M)	7	4	44	107	104	72
16	KAMRUP (R)	2	0	50	29	26	49
17	KARBI ANGLONG	3	0	62	1	0	6
18	KARIMGANJ	0	3	50	2	0	50
19	KOKRAJHAR	5	1	137	12	7	19
20	LAKHIMPUR	1	0	16	5	8	9
21	MORIGAON	3	5	16	5	2	13
22	NAGAON	6	13	167	15	35	10
23	NALBARI	2	0	27	14	3	73
24	SONITPUR	5	8	87	5	4	27
25	SIBSAGAR	5	1	22	17	14	22
26	TINSUKIA	7	4	40	6	12	55
27	UDALGURI	4	1	32	20	7	54
Total		85	85	1360	317	288	663

Setting goals is something that surprisingly few people do. Setting goals can help -

- Increase your motivation
- Raise your self-confidence when you achieve them
- Help you achieve more
- Help to decide what to do with your time
- Improve your performance
- Increase your personal satisfaction when you achieve them
- Tend to improve your concentration

Principle of setting goals -

- Set positive goals
- Set specific goals
- Set realistic goals
- Set goals at the right level
- Set goals for performance, not for outcome
- Keep goals small
- Write goals down
- Give goals prioritize