

Changes on Behaviour in Primary Caregivers towards Children in Lebanon 2021-2022

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Chapter No. 3 – Methodology

In order to complete the research in reasonably effective manner, the methods adopted in the research papers possess great role to play. It is also said that appropriate selection of research methodology lead to accurate track in accordance with the alignment of research with its aim and objective (Bell, Bryman, & Harley, 2022). Due to this reason, a number of research papers have stressed on choosing the right methodology in the study so that aim of the study can be achieved. It is also found that methodology of the study signifies the methods and philosophies that are underpinned in the research papers. As per Sahay (2016), methodology of the study are the systematic plan of the research mainly. Using the well-known and widely acknowledged research onion, suggested by Saunders et al., (2015), the aspects of methodology are being unfolded. The third chapter of the research holds great significance though it do not directly contributes in answering the research question of providing the results of the study (Allen, 2017). This chapter deals with research approach and research context along with shedding light on the decision that are made throughout the study. In this chapter of the research, philosophy is discussed followed by approach of the research. In the latter part of this methodology, research design is being discussed which entailed research strategy and research approach. At the end, the data analysis approach has also been discussed. The research reviewed a wide range of relevant literature and identified the key variables. LR is conducted through books, journals, papers, websites, etc. The literature review shows that there is ample data to point out and recognise the main factors, challenges, and barriers that have a major impact on the topic: “Changes on behaviour in primary caregivers towards children in Lebanon 2020 - 2021”.

The research embraced the quantitative research methodology where quantitative data collection techniques and analysis procedures were used. The quantitative data was collected using close-ended questionnaires addressing the objectives of the research. The quantitative data analysis was conducted using the SPSS analysis approach which is a type of statistical analysis.

Keywords were used in order to retrieve research papers to support and build arguments for this research. In this way, the objectives exploring research papers and studying the behavioral change among primary caregivers towards children in Lebanon can be achieved. However, for achieving the objectives of determining extent of change and aspects of change, the research has collected data from the surveys. For this reason, survey is scheduled among participants in order to ask them about challenges they encountered during the lockdown period and stress of unemployment stimulate change in behaviour towards their children.

Research Philosophy

Bell, Bryman, & Harley, (2022) have mentioned in the book that research philosophy implies to the meaning of author’s belief in terms of way through which a research collects and analyses the data for conducting the study. For this reason, most of the research philosophies falls under the umbrella of two majors term namely, epistemology and doxology. From the definition, epistemology is the branch of philosophy that entails elements, which are identified to be true. On the contrary, doxology is the branch of philosophy that entails elements, which are comprehended to be true. For are research conducted in the context of primary research, it mainly possesses the prime purpose of transforming the elements from understood to recognized. Essentially, the shift to epistemology from doxology. In this manner, this research is also, essentially, aims to illustrate this shift.

For this reason, two of the famous research philosophies are accessible that can be adopted for the completion of the research. Positivism is the philosophy wherein author has a belief that truth is steady and have the capability of being described from the objective standpoint (Melnikovas, 2018). If the scholars undertake this research philosophy, they refute that their

topic should be requisitioned to develop in-depth explanation. In this manner, this research study has ruled out the philosophy of positivism. Additionally, it is also recognized that “Positivism has a long and rich historical tradition. It is so embedded in our society that knowledge claims not grounded in positivist thought are simply dismissed as a scientific and therefore invalid” (Hirschheim, 1985; p.33 cited in Aliyu et al., 2015).

Contrastingly, interpretivism philosophy is based on the philosophical believe that links with interpreting subjectively within natural environment (Leavy, 2017). Although, it also requires the element of acknowledgment regarding the subject topic that it is affected by scientist. Precisely, researchers, who adopt this philosophy of research believe that interpretation of reality can be done in several ways however, focus on such interpretation that are accessible and possess a share of the systematic study. For this reason, the adopted research philosophy of this research papers is interpretivism.

Research Approach

The second phase in the research onion is of research approach which of three types (abduction, deduction, and induction). These are commonly adopted approaches that are found in the literature. The approach of deduction is relied on deductive reasoning implying that research will conclude the findings that are derived from reasoning (Melnikovas, 2018). Whereas, the research approach of induction methods also entails the element of reasoning but with the involvement of probability. In this manner, when truth and facts are scrutinized under detailed consideration, it is deduction approach and when inferring to the generalized conclusion from the specific cases are built, it is induction approach. There is also a third approach that can be taken into the consideration which suggests that major evidence is obvious despite the fact that minor evidence and conclusion of the research are only probable. As the aim of this study is to base the research on making implications relied on prior studies, this research has adopted the approach of deductive philosophy.

Research Strategy

Research strategy, as defined in the books, is known to be the complete plan with respect to how a research will conduct the study along with how data will be collected (Iovino & Tsitsianis, 2020). In simpler words, a strategy of the research help the researcher to plan, implement, and monitor the entire research. As per the Saunders et al., (2015) **research onion**, there are many types of research strategies which include surveys, interviews, case studies, observations, experiments, and many others. To conduct this research, the author has selected to observe and make account of information gathered by means of previously conducted research papers on the related subject matter.

Qualitative vs. Quantitative Research

There are two types of research papers either based on qualitative data or based on quantitative data. The research that is based on descriptive data and aims at exploring the answer to the research question in depth, the authors are more likely to choose qualitative research. On the other hand, quantitative research is based statistical data that is easy to predict trend and answer the research question very precisely. When the aim of the study is to answer direct and precise instead of going in-depth, the author chose quantitative research.

Among two approaches that are employed commonly in order to carry out a research study i.e. qualitative or quantitative research approaches. In qualitative research approach, the answer to the research questions are found descriptively while in quantitative research, the findings of the study is mainly based on statistical evaluation. The approach that is used in this research paper is a quantitative one, as it is a prevalence study. A quantitative approach, specifically a descriptive non-experimental approach, is used in the study to see if there has been a change in behaviour children in the Lebanese population throughout the years of 2021 and 2022, as well as investigating associations between various identifiable risk factors and change in behaviours. This approach has been selected for the reason that study relies on data that is

observed and measured to examine the change of behaviour towards children in Lebanon between 2021 and 2022 (Allen, 2017). It is done through posting the questionnaires on various social media platforms and giving all possible participants (parents with children below 18 years old) the option to participate in the study.

Research Methodology Layout



Research Context

The study is based on the context of Lebanon; it has targeted Lebanese families with children of the ages up to 18 years. A representative sample is recruited and it includes the parents of children. A non-probable convenient sampling is chosen as the parents have the choice to take part in the questionnaire. The research is analysing the following aspects: the family structure, living conditions, material and financial status of the family, existence/ lack of conflicts in the family and their type, substance abuse, the behaviour of the parents towards the child (care, emotional behaviour, communication, supervision, spending time with the child, behaviours to punish the child, child exploitation), traumatic experience of the parents in their childhood. The aim of this research is to study the changes in behaviour of primary caregivers towards children in Lebanon during the years 2021 and 2022, during which many environmental stressors were added to Lebanese families such as the COVID-19 pandemic and an economic crisis. The information will be used to understand the factors influencing the change in behaviour towards children as well as what are possible steps that can be taken to help families and children undergoing any kind of stress. This study is being done by Marianne Khlal supervised by Dr. Sareen Hagopian from the University of Balamand.

Data Collection

Sampling

In order to collect data, there are certain sampling techniques that are adopted as the criteria for selecting or including the participants and relevant studied. Survey sampling is a statistical process that involves selecting and surveying individuals from a particular population. The population you choose to survey could be based on a range of attributes. In the qualitative approach i.e. review of literature, the sample of research studies were based on two major

criteria i.e. the year of publications and reflecting upon how change in external environment lead change in the attitudes of primary caregivers towards children. Simple random sampling is the most basic form of probability sampling. It involves just one step, and each survey subject is selected independently from the other members of the population or sample frame. Thus, for the surveys, the method of random sampling has been chosen in order to eliminate any kind of biases from the research. Considering the situation of COVID – 19, conducting online surveys using google forms was the most sufficient method.

Questionnaire for Parents

The questionnaire that is to be filled out by the parents has been developed and written by Save the Children Romania (see Appendix A). The questionnaire consists of 42 items consisting of nominal and ordinal measuring scales and takes around 10-15 minutes. This questionnaire was made in the way that it measures the possible existence of abusive behaviour, screens for any possible type of risk factor and serves as a demographic questionnaire as well. Consequently, the questionnaire assesses the family structure, living conditions, material and financial status of the family, existence of conflicts in family, substance abuse, behaviour of parents towards the children (e.g., care, emotional, behaviour, communication, supervision), and traumatic experiences.

For the primary research question, the prevalence found in the collected sample is investigated whether maltreatment towards children is present or not. Question 34 in Appendix A is the main question investigating a change of behaviour towards children in the last year. The question is scored on a scale of 0-10 with a cut-off of four. If participants score a 4 or below (they answer “yes” to less than 4 questions) then it is scored as no maltreatment, however, any score higher than 4 (they answer “no” to more than 4 questions) is scored as there may be a possibility of maltreatment. The score to this question may either confirm or reject a presence of maltreatment during the period in which there was a major historical health and economic crisis. The questionnaire is adapted to the Arabic language through a translation back-translation procedure (International Test Commission, 2017) to ensure maximum understanding to all the participants. Once adapted to the Arabic language, the questionnaire was re-translated to English to ensure that the questionnaire fits the cultural context without having to modify the initial questionnaire as this may play a role in the validity and reliability of the questionnaire. There has been no study done to test the validity and reliability of the questionnaire however, the study that was done by Save the Children Romania proved the validity and reliability of the test as well as the questionnaire being approved by the **Government Decision no. 49/2011**. To ensure that the translation-back translation fits the cultural context, a pilot study of a maximum of 10 participants was also done to make sure that the Lebanese population can fill out the questionnaire. Once the pilot study has been done and confirmed, both versions were posted on all social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram), as well as preferably shared to NGO’s and schools for them to share on their social media platforms to ensure a wide variety of participants.

Data Analysis

For the primary research question, the prevalence found in the collected sample is investigated whether maltreatment is present or not. For the secondary research question, various simple and multiple linear regressions have been conducted using SPSS version 26 to evaluate the impact of the selected risk factors on the frequency and severity of abusive behaviours towards children. Additionally, each mentioned risk factor in the research question has a minimum of one question that can be scored and correlated to question 34. Socio-economic status is given through the answers for questions 5, 7 and 8.

Ethical Considerations

Due to the sensitive nature of the study, several ethical principles has been highlighted in this section. Before starting the online questionnaire, the participants were given a consent

form, a basic introduction to the study, as well as assurance of anonymity. The consent form includes participant consent. The participants were fully debriefed about the aims of the study and were ensured that there will be no way that the researcher is able to link their responses to the participant. Additionally, confidentiality and anonymity are vital ethical principles therefore; it was ensured that researcher has use anonymous identification numbers assigned to each participant by the software used for the questionnaire. Finally, another important ethical principle to address is avoiding or minimising psychological harm and discomfort to participants. Since the current study may include sensitive, anxiety-provoking questions, participants were given the choice to drop out of the study at any time they would like to, if they feel the need to. The anonymity of the questionnaire limits what can be done if abuse is found in any subject. After getting in contact with the resilience program manager, at Himaya, Ms. Rose Habchi, it was definite that the only solution that will work with an anonymous questionnaire is having a detailed page of encouragement for parents. It act as the bridge for parents to seek help and all the needed contact information that will be put at the beginning of the questionnaire as it is believed to have a greater impact. Ms. Habchi and I have written the said paragraph and it is provided in the appendix.

Ethical considerations in research are a set of principles that guide your research designs and practices. These principles include voluntary participation, informed consent, anonymity, confidentiality, potential for harm, and results communication. It is very important for the researcher to conduct the research in an ethical manner, keeping all concerns in mind while conducting surveys, interviews or even collecting data from previous literature. Proper credits should be given to the sources and permission should be taken for publishing the points of view of survey participants. A few things to consider when conducting a research in an ethical manner can be described as follows:

1. When collecting information through questionnaires the professional approach is to present a written format and use clear language to avoid any confusion. The survey questions should be devised in a simple yet understandable language.
2. It is not recommended to use hurtful or vague statements that may lead to misconception and confusion. Since the research topic deals with serious social issues, the researcher has ensured not to use confusing language that may hurt the sentiments of participants. To ensure that the interview questions and survey points are valid and abide by the ethical boundaries, both these documents went through many revisions and validations.
3. It is imperative to make sure that the research environment is suitable for the research participants. To avoid any issues related to Covid restrictions, the questionnaire was converted to digital form using MS Forms. The link to this survey questionnaire was sent to the participants on emails and mobile numbers for ease and convenience.
4. While considering the ethics in case of a research it is essential for the participants to participate voluntarily and more important to not ask any questions that seek hypersensitive information. It is important to have mutual consent of both the parties to ensure reliable and unbiased results. It is also important to allow participants to leave the research at any point if they feel uncomfortable or not wish to be a part of the research based on their judgements.
5. One of the major concerns in research based projects is the confidentiality of the participants. As a part of research formalities the Ethical Approval: student's application form by Department of Social, Therapeutic and Community Studies has been submitted which clearly identifies that main experimental procedures have been explained to participants in advance and at the end of the research participants will be given a brief explanation of the study.

Reliability and Validity of the Study

The purpose of establishing reliability and validity in research is essentially to ensure that data are sound and replicable, and the results are accurate. The evidence of validity and reliability

are prerequisites to assure the integrity and quality of research methodology. The target audience chosen to participate in this research all have experience of dealing with migrants and are well aware of the issues faced by this particular hence will be able to provide the researcher with authentic and valid results.

Conclusion of the Chapter

In this chapter, it has been understood that research is statistical and quantitative with the support of literature (qualitative) thereby results are based on qualitative research as well as quantitative research. The quantitative data is gathered by means survey questionnaire and qualitative data has been gathered by means of scholarly journals. All the question for survey has been devised while considering the research questions and objective in mind. The research adopted the quantitative research methodology whereby numerical primary data was collected by conducting web-based surveys on google forms. The qualitative data analysis used the thematic analysis which is a type of Narrative analysis addressing the 3 objectives of the research. The design script for the in-depth semi-structured interview was described in detail and is shown in Appendix A. The analysis and findings relevant to the in-depth semi-structured interviews (qualitative data) are illustrated in depth in chapters 'IV'

Chapter No. 4 – Results and Discussion

Participation Rate:

| Informed Consent | | |
|------------------|---------|--------|
| N | Valid | 93 |
| | Missing | 0 |
| | | N |
| I agree | | 93 |
| | | % |
| I agree | | 100.0% |

Table 1: Participation Rate

Participation rate remained 100% in the survey as none of the participant step back. All 93 participants agreed to take part in the research study; hence the results generated in the upcoming sections are based on the input of all 93 participants.

Demographics

Age

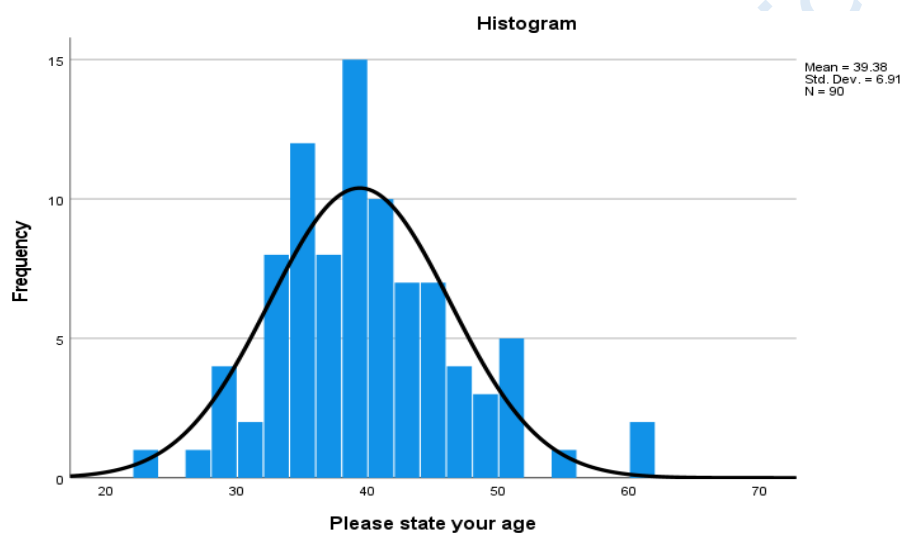


Figure 1: Age of Participants

From the above Figure no. 1, it is reflected that average of the participants is 39.38 years with 6.91 standard deviation against 90 samples; as three of the participants refrained from stating their age.

Gender

| | N | % |
|-------------------|----|-------|
| Female | 81 | 87.1% |
| Male | 11 | 11.8% |
| Prefer not to say | 1 | 1.1% |

Table 2: Gender of Participants

Majority of the participants i.e. 87.1% - as shown in the table no. 2, are female in the survey conducted while only 11.8% of them were males. Only one of the participants chose not to disclose their gender.

Residence

| | N | % |
|----------|----|-------|
| Akkar | 3 | 3.2% |
| Beirut | 19 | 20.4% |
| Bekaa | 1 | 1.1% |
| Chekka | 1 | 1.1% |
| Keserwan | 1 | 1.1% |

| | | |
|---------------------------|----|-------|
| Lebanon Mountain | 6 | 6.5% |
| Mount Lebanon | 35 | 37.6% |
| North Lebanon | 22 | 23.7% |
| Outside of Lebanon | 2 | 2.2% |
| South Lebanon | 3 | 3.2% |

Table 3: Residence of Participants

The above table no. 3 showing demography of the participant that participants from Mount Lebanon were the most in the survey as 37.6 percent the sample size belong to Mount Lebanon whereas participants belonging to the residence region like Chekka, Keserwan, and Bekaa could only comprise 1.1 percent of the sample size each. It can be said that most of the participants, who took part in survey, were from Beirut (20.4%), North Lebanon (23.7%), and Mount Lebanon (37.6 percent).

Education

| | N | % |
|---|----------|----------|
| Missing | 2 | 2.2% |
| College | 7 | 7.5% |
| High-school | 9 | 9.7% |
| None of the Above | 2 | 2.2% |
| Post-Graduation (Masters or PhD) | 37 | 39.8% |
| University | 36 | 38.7% |

Table 4: Education of Participants

37 out of 91 participants (2 of the participants did not answer) have completed their post-graduations while 36 out of the remaining 54 participants have completed graduation. It can be said that more than 75% of the participants where highly education while only 9 or 7 of them had high-school or college degree respectively.

Civil Status

| | N | % |
|----------------------|----------|----------|
| Missing | 2 | 2.2% |
| Divorced | 5 | 5.4% |
| Married | 82 | 88.2% |
| Single Parent | 2 | 2.2% |
| Widow/Widower | 2 | 2.2% |

Table 5: Civil Status of Participants

As per the table no. 5, majority of the participants belong to the civil status of being married. 83 respondents out of 91 (2 of the respondents did not answer) were married while 5 of the remaining respondents were divorced. Two of them were widow/widower and two of them were single parent. It can be said that majority of the responses in the survey are portraying the reflection of married people.

Profession

| | N | % |
|---|----------|----------|
| Missing | 1 | 1.1% |
| Entrepreneur/Employer | 6 | 6.5% |
| Housewife | 13 | 14.0% |
| Student | 1 | 1.1% |
| Unemployed for less than 12 months | 4 | 4.3% |
| Unemployed for more than 12 months | 4 | 4.3% |
| Working for the private sector | 55 | 59.1% |
| Working for the public sector | 9 | 9.7% |

Table 6: Profession of Participants

The table no. 6 shown above illustrates that majority of the participants in the survey i.e. more than 59 percent of them were working for the private sector while only 8 of the were unemployed. The factor of employment tend to greatly impact the violent behaviour of care giver towards children, as shown in the research papers (De Cao & Sanders, 2020; Raissian, 2015), if the following results have indicated lesser extent of violence and neglect behaviour among caregiver towards their children; it is more likely to prove that unemployed parents or caregiver have more tendency of neglecting their child or maltreating them as compared to parents or caregivers who are employed. The representation of housewives in the survey is also more than 10 percent of the sample size.

Family Demography

Family Income

How do you think your current family income is compared to the necessities?

| | N | % |
|--|----|-------|
| Missing | 1 | 1.1% |
| It is enough for the everyday life, but cannot afford to buy other goods | 5 | 5.4% |
| It is enough only for the basic needs | 14 | 15.1% |
| It is enough to buy everything necessary, without restrictions | 26 | 28.0% |
| It is enough to buy other goods, but with restrictions | 30 | 32.3% |
| It is not enough for the basic needs | 17 | 18.3% |

Table 7: Family Income of participants

As the literature has shown that income within the family tend to have potential impact or influence on how children are treated in that family (Straus & Smith, 2017). Therefore, this particular question has been asked to related the later findings and prove or disprove if there is any link between income of the family and maltreatment with children. The table no. 7 presented above has shown that more than 30 percent of the participants think that their family income is enough to buy other goods, but with restrictions; whereas further 28 percent of the participants think that their family income is enough to buy everything necessary, without restrictions. The proportion of participants who think that their family income is not enough for their basic needs was 18.3 percent, i.e., 17 participants out of 92 (1 participant chose to not answer this question). Although the proportion is not the highest but it tends to have impact the later results in terms of assessing maltreatment among children.

No. of People in Household

How many people live in your household (including you)?

| | N | % |
|----|----|-------|
| 3 | 16 | 17.2% |
| 4 | 38 | 40.9% |
| 5 | 20 | 21.5% |
| 6 | 14 | 15.1% |
| 7 | 2 | 2.2% |
| 9 | 1 | 1.1% |
| 31 | 2 | 2.2% |

Table 8: No. of People in Household of participants

Just like family income, the number of people in the household – as one of the demographic aspects of the family – also influence how parents or caregiver treat children. As per the research papers explored in the second chapter of this dissertation (such as Assink et al., 2019),

it is shown that families having more number of members are likely have children maltreatment while families with less number of people tend to offer good treatment and support to children. As per the table no. 8 shown above, the average number of people in the households of participants lies between 3 to 6 people. More than 40 percent of the participants have 4 family members including them in their household which means the later result may likely to reflect lesser extent of violence and neglect behaviour among children from their parents or caregivers. There were merely 2 percent of the participants who have family members more than 31. The histogram given below in the figure no. 2 shows the mean and standard deviation.

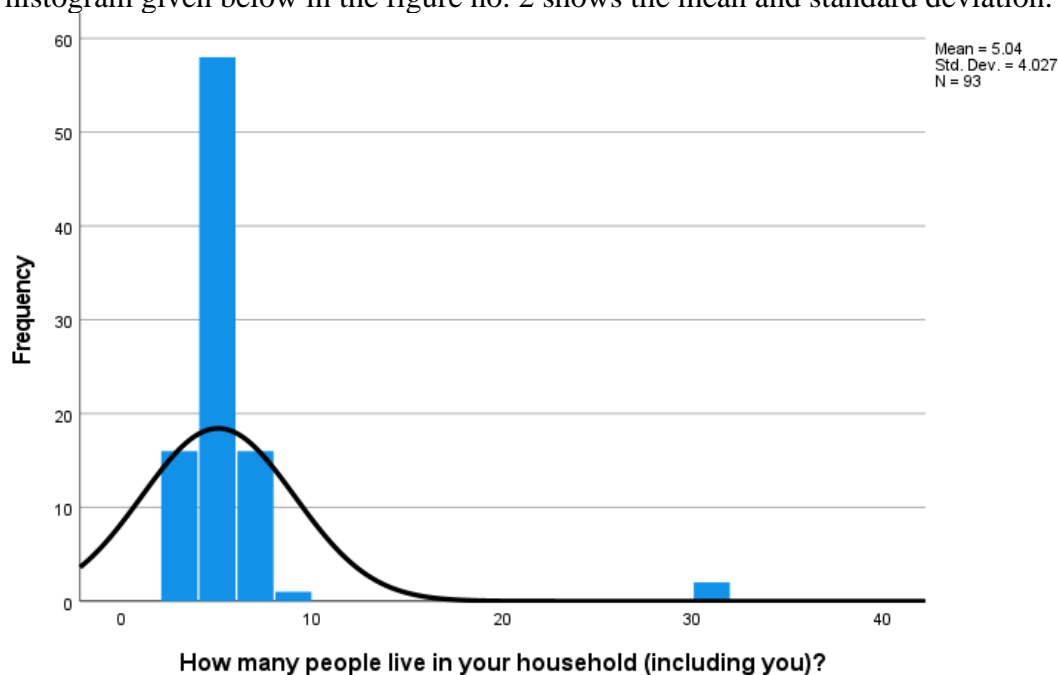


Figure 2: No. of People in Household of participants

No. of Minors in Household

How many minors live with you? (below 18 years old)

| | N | % |
|---|----|-------|
| 0 | 1 | 1.1% |
| 1 | 22 | 23.7% |
| 2 | 52 | 55.9% |
| 3 | 15 | 16.1% |
| 4 | 2 | 2.2% |
| 6 | 1 | 1.1% |

Table 9: No. of Minors in Household of participants

In reference to last question, this question regarding family demographic tend to develop additional understanding of minors in the family since they are more vulnerable to the violence and maltreatment of parents or caregivers. From the results shown in table no. 9, it is revealed that majority of the participants have one to three minors in their households; 55.9 percent of the participants have 2 minors followed by 23.7 percent of the participants having 1 minor and 16.1 percent of the participants having 3 minors.

No. of Minors living elsewhere

If you have children (below 18 years of age) who live somewhere else, where are they staying?

| | N | % |
|---------|---|-------|
| Missing | 9 | 9.57% |

| | | |
|----------------------|----|-------|
| Not applicable | 80 | 86.0% |
| With Grandparents | 3 | 3.3% |
| With Other Relatives | 1 | 1.1% |

Table 10: No. of Minors living elsewhere

According to what reflected in table no. 10, it can be said that more than 85 percent of the participants have their children living with them while only 3 of the participant have children living with their grandparents while only one participant had children living with other relatives.

Ever Been to Jail

Since your first child was born, have you or somebody in your family been to jail?

| | N | % |
|-------------------------------|----|-------|
| No | 85 | 91.4% |
| Yes | 4 | 4.3% |
| Yes, somebody in the family | 2 | 2.2% |
| Yes, the other parent/partner | 2 | 2.2% |

Table 11: Ever Been to Jail

The history of parent have greater tendency of influencing how they are going to treat their children. As highlighted in the literature as well, parents with trauma or any criminal background are prone to maltreat their children (Miles & Condry, 2015). Taking the results of this question into the consideration, table no. 11 reflects that 91 of the participants never been to the jail which means the result in the later section may likely to show lesser extent of the violence – if in line with the literature’s findings. Four of the participants have been to jail, which means it may be possible that maltreatment among children would also been displayed by these participants.

Heavy Drinker

Is anybody in your family a heavy drinker?

| | N | % |
|-------------------------------|----|-------|
| No | 85 | 91.4% |
| Yes | 6 | 6.5% |
| Yes, somebody in the family | 1 | 1.1% |
| Yes, the other parent/partner | 1 | 1.1% |

Table 12: Heavy Drinker Participants or family member

As research papers in the past have argued that drinkers and alcoholic individuals are more likely to adapt violent behaviours in household as compared to those individuals who are non-drinkers (Rossow et al., 2016). Therefore, this question in the survey aimed to assess if this link is valid in the current times as well or not. As per the results shown in the table no. 12. More than 90 percent of the participants have no one in the family –including them – as a heavy drinker while rest of the participants mentioned that there are some people in the family member that are heavy drinker. As per these statistics, it can be expected that almost 10 percent of the participants would be found maltreating minors or children within the family due to the impact of heavy drinking.

Heavy Smoker

Is anybody in your family a heavy smoker (more than one pack per day)?

| | N | % |
|--------------------------|----|-------|
| No | 68 | 73.1% |
| Yes | 15 | 16.1% |
| Yes, one of the children | 1 | 1.1% |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|------|
| Yes, somebody in the family | 6 | 6.5% |
| Yes, the other parent/partner | 3 | 3.2% |

Table 13: Heavy Smoker Participants or family member

Similar to heavy drinking, heavy smokers are also prone to adapt violent behaviour. From the results of table no. 13, it is shown that over 73 percent of the participants are non-smokers while one of the participants' child is a smoker. Collectively, there are almost 9 participants who have someone as smoker in the family. While the proportion is more than drinkers; it is still not that alarming rate that could be linked with extreme violence and maltreatment among children at large.

Drugs

Is anybody in your family using drugs?

| | N | % |
|-------------------------------|----|-------|
| No | 89 | 95.7% |
| Yes, somebody in the family | 3 | 3.2% |
| Yes, the other parent/partner | 1 | 1.1% |

Table 14: Drug usage of Participants

Just like previously two explored aspects, drugs usage among parents or caregivers is likely to impact devastatingly on how children are treated in the surrounding. More severe to drinking, drug intake is proven to produce alarming rate of violence and neglect among children from their parents or caregivers (Lipari & Van Horn, 2017). Hence the table no. 14 is showing that more than 95 percent of the participants do not use any drug while only 3 of them have someone in the family who use drug and one among them whose partner use drug. Thereby, it can be projected that most of the responses in the latter part of survey would not have severe instances of violence and neglect among children from their parents or caregivers.

Family Environment and Mind-set

In order to understand the dynamics of family environment of each of the participants, the below given questions have been asked. The aspects that are explored in this section include the frequency of argument between parents, fight between parents in front of children, and hitting partner. Although these questions are not directly related to abuse on children or violent behaviour with them, the impacts of such behaviour in higher frequency are likely to bring about maltreatment among children and young ones from parent's or caregiver's end.

How often do you argue with your partner?

| | N | % |
|------------------------------|----|-------|
| Not Applicable (I am single) | 7 | 7.5% |
| Not so often | 30 | 32.3% |
| Often | 16 | 17.2% |
| Rarely | 40 | 43.0% |

Table 15: Arguing with Partner

The first question regarding this aspect include inquiring the frequency of argument between parents or caregivers. As essentially understood from the literature review, increase in parents' argument lead of neglect the needs and care of children (Straus & Smith, 2017). The table no. 15 above shows that 43 percent of the partner argue rarely with their partners while 17 percent of the partner often argue with their partners. The number of participants who not so often argue with their partners was 30, i.e. 32.3 percent of the participants.

When you fight with your partner, do you usually fight in front of the children?

| | N | % |
|----------------|----|-------|
| No | 55 | 59.1% |
| Not Applicable | 11 | 11.8% |
| Yes | 27 | 29.0% |

Table 16: Fighting with partner in front of the children

The next question, in this regard, inquired about the frequency of fight with their partner in front of children. The impact of fight between parents or caregivers do not limits to parents only but it also negatively impact the mental peace and wellbeing of children along with the probability of getting the anger out on children too. As per the table no.16 statistical representation, 29 percent of the participants found to be fighting with their partners usually in front of children.

Have you ever hit your partner?

| | N | % |
|-----|----|-------|
| No | 83 | 89.2% |
| Yes | 10 | 10.8% |

Table 17: Hitting your partner

Lastly, this question specifically target physical abuse among parents since it is likely to turn into physical abuse among children. The result of this question is shown in table no. 17 wherein 10 percent of the participants found to be hitting their partners while rest of them answered in denial. This means, the results in latter sections is likely to be influences by only 10 percent if the violence among children is found common.

Child – Parent Relationship

In the neglect and violent behaviour toward children, the role of relationship between parent and children plays a vital role. Parents who are less likely to spent time with their children are more likely to neglect the care and wellbeing needs of their children. In the similar manner, parents, who believe in beating children for their mistakes rather than counselling them, are more likely to abuse the children. Hence, following sections are looking into the child-parent relationship:

Loving Parents Fulfil Child's Wishes

Fulfilling the wish of children is the aim of every parent, however, the degree to which parents are willing to fulfil their children wish varies greatly. As per the recommendations in the literature, parents are suggested to maintain a balance between loving children and fulfilling child's wish. As shown in the histogram below, majority of the participants agree that if a parent loves his/her child, he/she must fulfil all the child's wishes. While maximum number of participants – 20 out of 92 participants – marked between completely agree and completely disagree scale, 14 of the participants were completely disagreed too. The response to this question reflects mixed opinion of the participants since the frequency line in the below given histogram lies in the mid of the scale. The mean of responses lie in the quadrant near completely agree with the standard deviation of 2.487

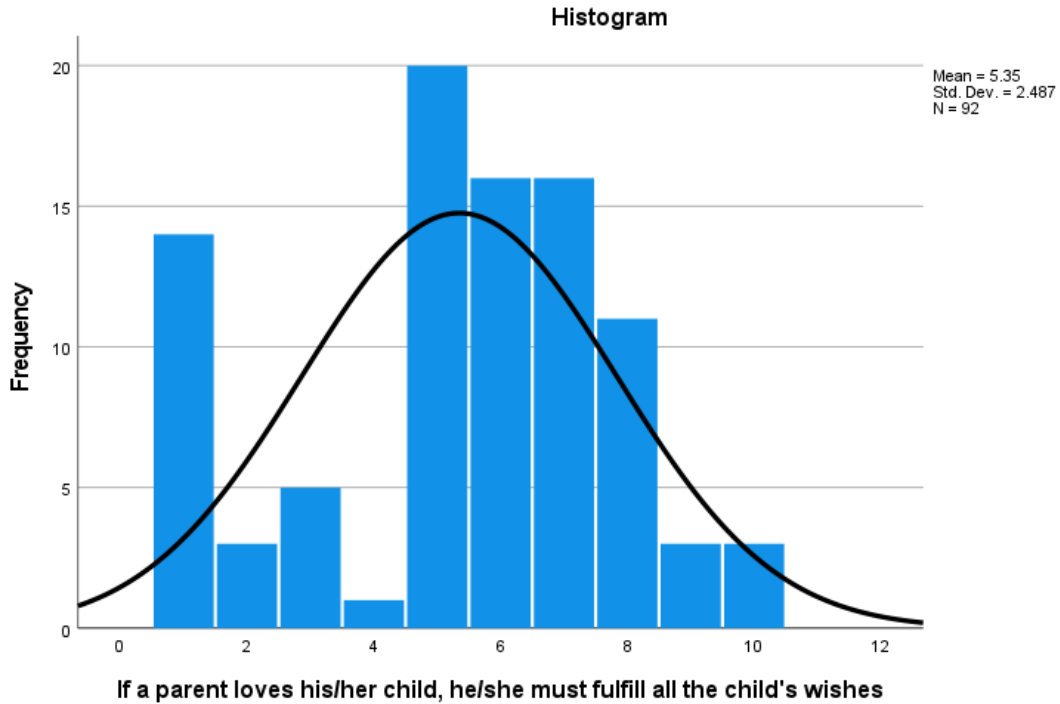


Figure 3: Child's wished and parent's love

Disciplining Child via punishing them

The next question was linked with analysing the view on punishing the child that may infer the tendency of parents to abuse their children or adopt violent behaviour with them. The trend line in the below histogram reflects that majority of the opinion also lies between the centre of completely agree and completely disagree with more than 22 percent of the participants being completely disagree but 5 percent of them being completely agree. The mean of the responses lie near the quadrant of completely disagree with the standard deviation of 2.736.

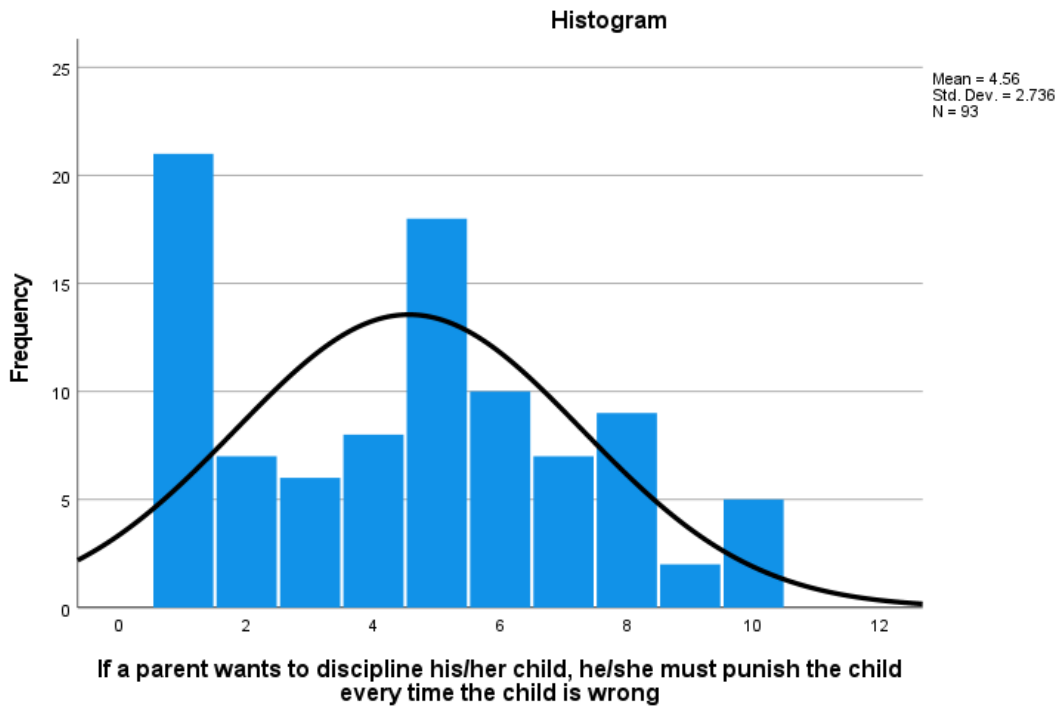


Figure 4: Disciplining child and punishing them

Good Child Listening to Parents

This question in assessing the relation between parents and children asked participants if they consider that a good child is one who always listens to his/her parents. The results in the histogram showed that mean of responses lie near the scale of completely agree with the mean score of 5.37 and standard deviation of 2.706. 21 of the participants were found to be placed right at the middle of completely agree and completely disagree, while 17 of the participants being completely disagree and 4.3 of them being completely disagree.

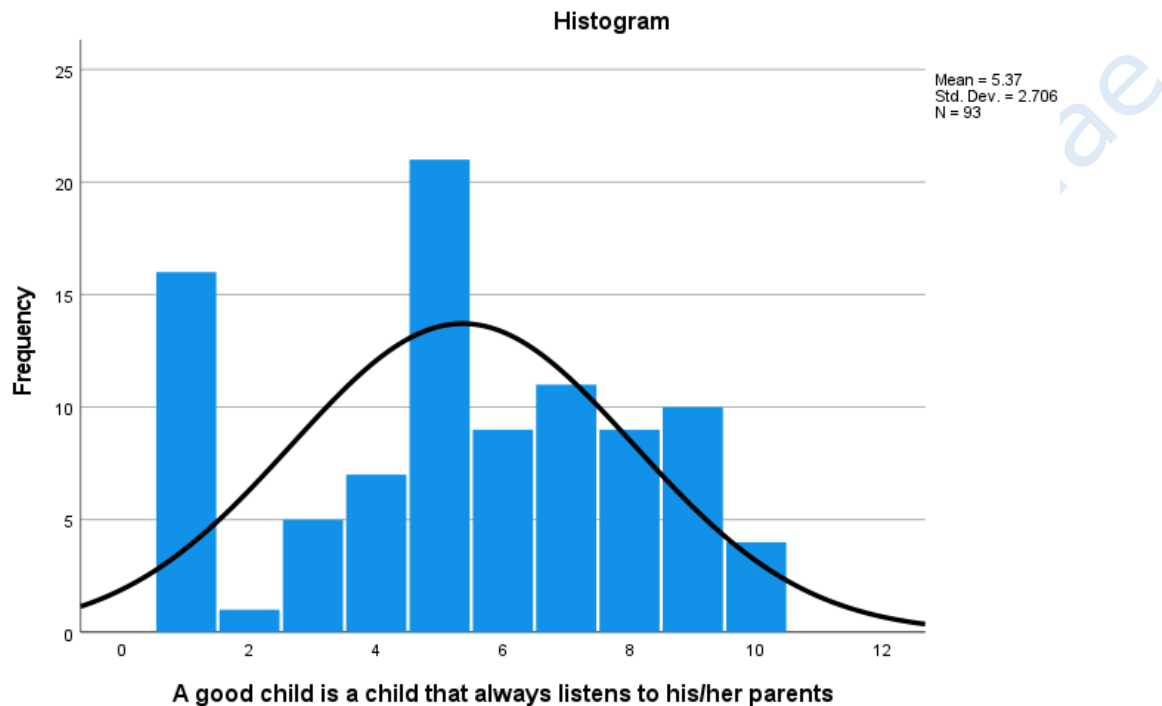


Figure 5: good child always listen to his/her parents

Spending time with Children under 10 years

If you have children under the age of 10 years, how much do you spend, in average per day, playing with your child/children?

| | N | % |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|
| Between 1 and 2 hour | 4 | 4.3% |
| Between 1 and 2 hours | 18 | 19.4% |
| Less than 1 hour | 26 | 28.0% |
| Not Applicable | 17 | 18.3% |
| Not at all | 5 | 5.4% |
| Over 2 hours | 23 | 24.7% |

Table 18: Time spend in playing with children

The table no. 18 given above shows that how much the participants spend time with their children below the age of 10 years on daily basis? 28 percent of the participants, i.e., 26 respondents spend less than one hour with their children while 23 of the participants spend more than 2 hours in playing. There were only 5 of the respondents who do not spend time at all with their children.

If you have children under the age of 10 years, how much do you spend, in average per day, playing with your child/children?

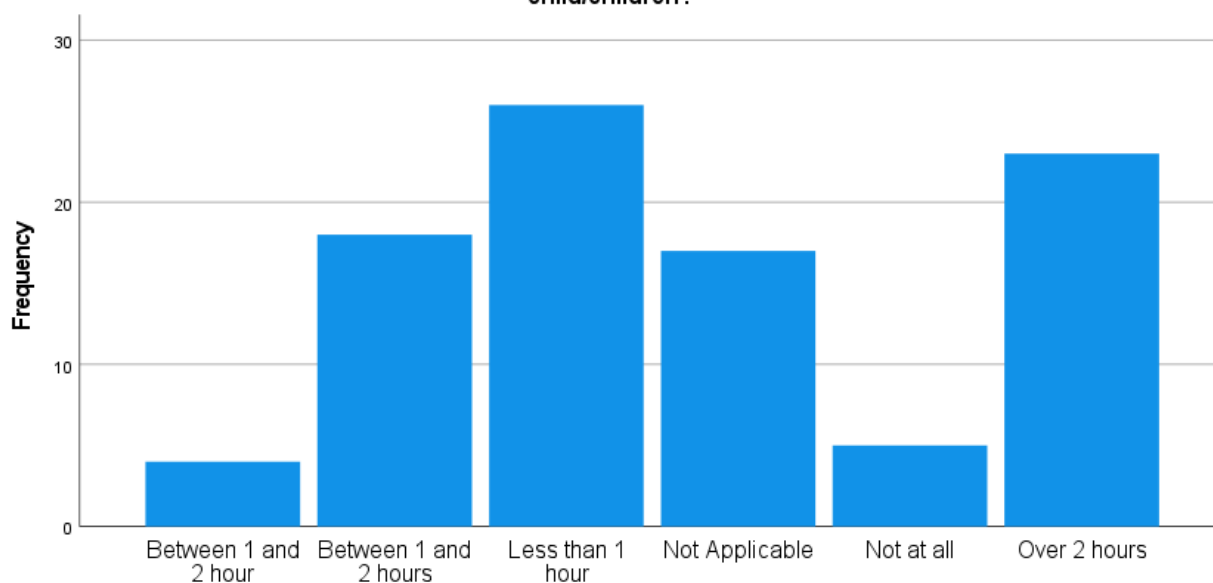


Figure 6: Spending time with children

Spending time with Children between 10 to 18 years

If you have children between the ages of 10-18 years old, how much do you spend, on average per day, with your child/children (E.g. TV, games, restaurants, cinema, discussions ...)

| | N | % |
|-----------------------|----|-------|
| Missing | 2 | 2.2% |
| Between 1 and 2 hours | 15 | 16.1% |
| Less than 1 hour | 14 | 15.1% |
| Not Applicable | 36 | 38.7% |
| Not at all | 1 | 1.1% |
| Over 2 hours | 25 | 26.9% |

Table 19: Spending time with Children between 10 to 18 years

In relation to above question, this question specifically inquired about the time spent with children between the ages of 10 to 18 years. As per the table 19 shows, 25 of the participants out of 55 participants (at whom this question is applicable) stated that they spend more than two hours daily with their children. Only one of the participant mentioned that he/she spend no time with children.

This section summarise that while the bond between parents and children is not ideal for participants, it is far away from the worst case scenarios. The time and mind-set towards children treatment is under the acceptable parameters of parenting. Thus it can be approximate that results of this survey may not involve instances of violence and neglect among children in high frequency.

Children and School

Although link between school and children do not directly provide any information related to abuse and neglect children suffer; the performance at school may likely to provide the indication of violence to children. Therefore, this section is aimed at exploring the performance of child in school along with its related aspects.

Attendance

Does your child/children attend school regularly?

| | N | % |
|----|---|------|
| No | 3 | 3.2% |

| | | |
|--|----|-------|
| No child/children in school | 6 | 6.5% |
| Some of them yes, others no or not yet | 2 | 2.2% |
| Yes | 82 | 88.2% |

Table 20: Attending School

Attendance at school significantly show if children are treated properly at home or not. More than 88 percent of the participants, i.e., 82 out of 93 participants answered that yes, their children attend school regularly while only three of the participants stated that their children do not attend school regularly – as shown in table no. 20.

Reason for not attending school

If you answered NO (to the above), why?

| | N | % |
|---|----|-------|
| Not applicable | 87 | 93.5% |
| School does not provide them with a future | 1 | 1.1% |
| The child/children does not want to go to school | 2 | 2.2% |
| They are at work to help with the financial situation | 2 | 2.2% |
| They are needed for house chores | 1 | 1.1% |

Table 21: Reason for not attending school

The reason why children of participants do not go to school include their unwillingness to go to school (can be associated with abuse and violence at home) and they need to work and help with financials at home (can be associated with poor living standards).

Been to School asking about the Child

In the last academic year (2019-2020), how often have you been to school to ask about your child/children?

| | N | % |
|-----------------------|----|-------|
| Missing | 1 | 1.1% |
| Never | 10 | 10.8% |
| No child in school | 10 | 10.8% |
| Once a month | 21 | 22.6% |
| Once a quarter | 13 | 14.0% |
| Once every six months | 8 | 8.6% |
| Once Every Six Months | 2 | 2.2% |
| Only at meetings | 18 | 19.4% |
| Only when I am called | 10 | 10.8% |

Table 22: Been to school asking about the child

When school respectively call parents or parents have to repeatedly visit school; there are some issues with child that need to be addressed – mainly those issues are the outcome of violence and neglect at home (Ekstrand, 2015). Therefore, this question in the survey aimed at asking how often participants have been to school to ask about their child/children, in the last academic year (2019-2020). The table no 22 above shows that almost 21 of the participants (maximum proportion) visit school once every month to ask about their child/children while 18 of the other participants mentioned that they visit school only at meetings or when they are called.

Child's Homework

Who helps the child/children with the homework/ checks the homework the most?

| | N | % |
|---------------------------------------|----|-------|
| Missing | 3 | 3.2% |
| Both parents | 18 | 19.4% |
| Both Parents | 4 | 4.3% |
| Father | 2 | 2.2% |
| Grandparents | 3 | 3.2% |
| Mother | 43 | 46.2% |
| No child in school | 7 | 7.5% |
| No one helps, they do it on their own | 3 | 3.2% |
| Older siblings | 1 | 1.1% |
| They do the homework at school | 2 | 2.2% |
| Tutor | 7 | 7.5% |

Table 23: Child's Homework

Table no. 23 reflect the frequencies of people who helped children in completing or checking the homework. Since some of the children were living with their grandparents, the results have shown that they check their work while majority of the participants mentioned that mother check or help children in completing the homework mostly.

Academic work of the Child

How do you consider your child/children academic work to be?

| | N | % |
|--------------------|----|-------|
| Average | 12 | 12.9% |
| Good | 36 | 38.7% |
| No child in school | 7 | 7.5% |
| Poor | 2 | 2.2% |
| Very Good | 36 | 38.8% |

Table 24: Academic work of child

If the child is at peace at home, it is most likely that he or she will perform exceptionally well in academics. The table no. 24 given above shown if the participants think their children are good in academics or not. As per the table, more than 38 percent of the participants consider their children good in academic work while further 38 percent of the participants think that their children are very good in academic work. Only 2 percent of the participants think that their children are poor in academic work and almost 13 percent of the participants think that their children are average in academic work. Given the fact that majority of the participants consider the academic work of their children good and very good, it can be said that they are neither neglected at home nor they are being maltreated.

With whom child spends spare time?

Do you usually know where and with whom your child spends his/her spare time?

| | N | % |
|---|---|------|
| He/she doesn't tell me and I don't check with whom he/she spends his/her spare time | 3 | 3.2% |

| | | |
|--|----|-------|
| He/she tells me where they go and with whom, but I don't check | 5 | 5.4% |
| I always know where and with whom my child plays/spends his/her spare time | 85 | 91.4% |

Table 25: child spending spare time

If parents are not neglecting their children, it is probable that they always know where they are and with whom they spend time or play. The above table no. 25 shows that more than 90 percent of the participants, i.e., 85 out of 93, always know where and with whom their child plays/spends his/her spare time. While 5 of them mentioned that their child tells them where they go and with whom, but they don't check and rest of the three participants mentioned that their children do not tell them and they do not also check with whom their child is spending time. Thus, the latter two categories are more prone to neglecting their child or tend to create a gap in the relation between parent and child.

Children ever gone missing from home or run away from home

Has your child or any of your children ever gone missing from home or run away from home without you knowing where he/she is?

| | N | % |
|-----|----|-------|
| No | 90 | 96.8% |
| Yes | 3 | 3.2% |

Table 26: Children ever gone missing from home or run away from home

If a child ever gone missing from home or run away from home, it is probably because he or she does not feel safe or want to get rid of circumstances take place within the home. As shown in table no. 26 above. 90 participants out of 93 participants mentioned that their child never gone missing from home or run away from home. However, there were three participants in the survey who mentioned that yes, their child has gone missing from home or run away from home which infers that these three participants may have children at home who are exposed to violence or maltreatment.

Risk Factors negatively affecting caregiver Behaviour – T Tests & Cross Tabulation

There are several risk factors that come into play when we talk about maltreatment among children. Especially during the pandemic, certain parameters like care or listening to children have great influence on showing if the behaviour of caregiver is changed or shifted towards maltreatment or not.

Caressing the child linked with Praising the Child

| | | How often does the following happen in the household? [To praise the child] | | | | | Total |
|---|-------------|---|-------|--------|------------|-------------|-------|
| | | No Response | Often | Rarely | Very Often | Very Rarely | |
| How often does the following happen in the household? [To caress the child] | No Response | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Often | 1 | 21 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 33 |
| | Rarely | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| | Very Often | 0 | 13 | 0 | 38 | 0 | 51 |
| | Very Rarely | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Total | | 2 | 38 | 8 | 43 | 2 | 93 |

Table 27: Caressing the child linked with praising the Child

Praising the child is linked with caressing the child directly. Looking at the responses from table no. 27, it is shown that parents who marked that they often caress the child, they have also marked that they often praise the child. On the other hand, the number of participants who marked that they caress the child very rarely in their household and the number of participants who marked that they praise the child very rarely in their household and the number of participants are not similar. That is, two participant mentioned that they caress the child very rarely while only 2 marked that they praise the child very rarely. Taking the example of sum of participants who caress the child rarely versus who praises the child rarely. Upon receiving cumulative responses, it is revealed that five participants mentioned that they rarely caress the child in their household while eight of the participants stated that they rarely praises their child in their household. Although the numbers are not exact, but there is a close resemblance in terms of frequency. For instance, the number of participant who marked that they very often caress their child in their household is 51 so the number of participants who marked that they very often praises their child too very often is also close to that number, i.e., 43. Hence, it can be said that caress the child and praising the child is linked with each other and parents who have been doing is less often, i.e. rarely or very rarely, might adopt to maltreatment in future. Nonetheless, the ratio of participants who have been caressing or praising their children rarely or very rarely is comparatively very low.

Spending time with children linked with Listening to Children

| | | How often does the following happen in the household? [To listen to the child if they want to say something] | | | | | Total |
|---|---|--|-------|--------|------------|-------------|-------|
| | | No Response | Often | Rarely | Very Often | Very Rarely | |
| Do you usually know where and with whom your child spends his/her spare time? | He/she doesn't tell me and I don't check with whom he/she spends his/her spare time | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| | He/she tells me where they go and with whom, but I don't check | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| | I always know where and with whom my child plays/spends his/her spare time | 1 | 24 | 3 | 56 | 1 | 85 |
| Total | | 1 | 25 | 6 | 57 | 4 | 93 |

Table 28: Spending time with children linked with Listening to Children

Listening to child is linked directly with knowing where the child is spending his/her spare time. Looking at the responses from table no. 28, it is shown that parents who marked that they often listen to the child, they have also marked that they often know where and with whom their child plays/spends his/her spare time. That is, the number of participants marked that they often listen to the child is 25 while the number of participants who have marked that they often know where and with whom their child plays/spends his/her spare time is 24. On the other hand, the number of participants who marked that they rarely listen to their child and the number of participants who marked that their child does not tell them is more or less similar. 6 participants in total mentioned that they rarely listen to child if they want to say something while 3 participants in total mentioned that their children do not tell them about where they are spending their time. Taking the example of sum of participants who listen to their child very often when they have to say something versus who very often know where and with whom their child plays/spends his/her spare time; it is revealed that 56 participants mentioned they listen to their child very often when they have to say something while 85 of the participants mentioned that they very often know where and with whom their child plays/spends his/her spare time. Although the numbers are not exact, but there is a close resemblance in terms of frequency. Nonetheless, the ratio of participants between who have been listening to their child and knowing where their children are spending time often or very often is comparatively very high.

Caring a child linked with Child gone missing or run away

| | | How often does the following happen in the household? [To caress the child] | | | | | Total |
|---|-----|---|-------|--------|------------|-------------|-------|
| | | No Response | Often | Rarely | Very Often | Very Rarely | |
| Has your child or any of your children ever gone missing from home or run away from home without you knowing where he/she is? | No | 1 | 32 | 3 | 51 | 3 | 90 |
| | Yes | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Total | | 1 | 33 | 5 | 51 | 3 | 93 |

Table 29: Caring a child linked with Child gone missing or run away

Caring child is linked directly with intention of the child to stay at home or running away. Looking at the responses from table no. 29, it is shown that parents who caress their child very often has less incidents of their child gone missing or run away. Looking at the responses from table no. 29, it is shown that parents who marked that they very often care their child, have no child who ever gone missing from home or run away from home. That is, the number of participants marked that they very often caress their child is closest to the number of participants who marked that their child or any of your children never gone missing from home or run away from home. On the other hand, the number of parents who marked that their child or any of your children have ever gone missing from home or run away from home was three and out of those two of the participants stated that they rarely caress their child. Therefore, it can be said that caressing the child is also highly influential on the decision of the child to leave the house or run away. The total number of parents who never have their child or any of their children gone missing from home or run away from was 90 out of 93 and the total number of parents who caress their child often or very often was 84. Although the numbers are not exact, but there is a close resemblance in terms of frequency. Nonetheless, the ratio of participants between who have been caressing their child and never had any child gone missing or run away from home is comparatively very high.

Spending time with children under 10 years of age and involving their opinions in decision making process

| How often does the following happen in the household? [To ask for the child's opinion when important decisions are to be taken] | | | | | | Total |
|---|-------------|-------|--------|------------|-------------|-------|
| Never | No Response | Often | Rarely | Very Often | Very Rarely | |
| | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|---|---|----|----|----|---|----|
| If you have children under the age of 10 years, how much do you spend, in average per day, playing with your child/children? | Between 1 and 2 hours | 0 | 0 | 10 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 22 |
| | Less than 1 hour | 0 | 0 | 12 | 3 | 10 | 1 | 26 |
| | Not Applicable | 1 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 17 |
| | Not at all | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 5 |
| | Over 2 hours | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 14 | 2 | 23 |
| Total | | 2 | 1 | 37 | 11 | 35 | 7 | 93 |

Table 30: Spending time with children under 10 years of age and involving their opinions in decision making process

Spending time with children under the age of 10 years is linked directly with valuing them and developing the sense that their opinions are considered when taking important decisions. Those parents who either did not spend much time with their children under 10 years or do not ask for the child's opinion when important decisions are to be taken are more prone to adapt neglect behaviour towards children. Looking at the responses from table no. 30, it is shown that total number of participants who are spending less than an hour with their kids in playing is 26 participants out of 93 while the number of participants, who never listen to their child's opinion when taking important decision, is 2. However, those who not at all spend their time with children under the age of 10 are those parents who never or, rarely or very rarely ask for the child's opinion when important decisions are to be taken. Those, who ask for the child's opinion when important decisions are to be taken, are the same participants who spend some time with their children. Moreover, the number of participants, who very often ask for the child's opinion when important decisions are to be taken, is 35. Among those 35 participants, 14 participants are those who spend more than 2 hours in average per day, playing with their child/children who are under the age of 10 years.

Spending time with children between 10 and 18 years of age and involving their opinions in decision making process

| How often does the following happen in the household? [To ask for the child's opinion when important decisions are to be taken] | | | | | | Total |
|---|-------------|-------|--------|------------|-------------|-------|
| Never | No Response | Often | Rarely | Very Often | Very Rarely | |
| | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|---|---|----|----|----|---|----|
| If you have children between the ages of 10-18 years old, how much do you spend, on average per day, with your child/children (E.g. TV, games, restaurants, cinema, discussions ...) | Missing | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| | Between 1 and 2 hours | 0 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 15 |
| | Less than 1 hour | 2 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 14 |
| | Not Applicable | 0 | 0 | 16 | 4 | 15 | 1 | 36 |
| | Not at all | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Over 2 hours | 0 | 0 | 8 | 2 | 14 | 1 | 25 |
| Total | | 2 | 1 | 37 | 11 | 35 | 7 | 93 |

Table 31: Spending time with children between 10 and 18 years of age and involving their opinions in decision making process

Spending time with children between the ages of 10-18 years is also linked directly with valuing them and developing the sense that their opinions are considered when taking important decisions. Those parents who either did not spend much time with their children between the ages of 10-18 years or do not ask for the child's opinion when important decisions are to be taken are more prone to adapt neglect behaviour towards children. Looking at the responses from table no. 31, it is shown that total number of participants who are spending less than an hour with their kids between the ages of 10-18 years in playing is 14 participants out of 93 while the number of participants, who never listen to their child's opinion when taking important decision, is 2. However, those who not at all spend their time with children between the ages of 10-18 years are those parents who never or, rarely ask for the child's opinion when important decisions are to be taken. Those, who often ask for the child's opinion when important decisions are to be taken, are the same participants who spend some time with their children. Moreover, the number of participants, who very often ask for the child's opinion when important decisions are to be taken, is 35. Among those 35 participants, 14 participants are those who spend more than 2 hours in average per day, playing with their child/children who are between the ages of 10-18 years.

Caressing a Child and celebrating the birthday

| How often does the following happen in the household? [To celebrate the child's birthday] | | | | Total |
|---|-------|------------|-------------|-------|
| No Response | Often | Very Often | Very Rarely | |

| | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|---|----|----|---|----|
| How often does the following happen in the household? [To caress the child] | No Response | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| | Often | 0 | 13 | 20 | 0 | 33 |
| | Rarely | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| | Very Often | 1 | 6 | 44 | 0 | 51 |
| | Very Rarely | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Total | | 1 | 22 | 69 | 1 | 93 |

Table 32: Caressing a Child and celebrating the birthday

Maltreatment among children is greatly associated with the risk factors of not caressing the child or not celebrating major events of their child's life. Therefore, this cross-tabulation is linked with analysing the maltreatment among children is prevalent or have the probability of getting prevalent. Looking at the table no. 32, it is exhibited that those who often caress the child in total is 33. Among those, 20 are those who very often celebrate their birthday while 13 were those who often celebrate their child's birthday. In the similar manner, those who very rarely caress the child were 3. Among those, the participants were either very often, very often, or very rarely celebrate the birthday of their child. The maximum number of participants mentioned that they very often caress the child i.e., 51 participants. Among them, 44 participants were those who very often celebrate their child's birthday.

Correlation between asking children's opinion and listening to them

| | | How often does the following happen in the household? [To listen to the child if they want to say something] | | | | | Total |
|---|-------------|--|-------|--------|------------|-------------|-------|
| | | No Response | Often | Rarely | Very Often | Very Rarely | |
| How often does the following happen in the household? [To ask for the child's opinion when important decisions are to be taken] | Never | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| | No Response | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Often | 0 | 16 | 0 | 21 | 0 | 37 |
| | Rarely | 0 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 11 |
| | Very Often | 1 | 1 | 0 | 33 | 0 | 35 |
| | Very Rarely | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 7 |
| Total | | 1 | 25 | 6 | 57 | 4 | 93 |

Table 33: Correlation between asking children's opinion and listening to them

Maltreatment among children can also be recognised by the fact or frequency among parents in listening to their child and asking their opinion in taking important decisions. If the results of above table no. 33 showed that majority of parent rarely or very rarely listen to their child and do not ask their child's opinion in taking important decisions, maltreatment in Lebanon could be high. Looking at the table no. 33, it is shown that those parents who very rarely ask for the child's opinion when important decisions are to be taken are 7 out of 93 in total among which the frequency of parents who very rarely listen to their child is highest i.e. 3. On the other hand, the table has also shown that the total number of participants, who very often listen to their child if they want to say something is 57 – the highest among all in which, 33 of the participants were those who very often ask for the child's opinion when important decisions are to be taken and 21 were those who often ask for the child's opinion when important decisions are to be taken. Therefore, the study's results shown that children were not maltreated in Lebanon to great extent as majority of the responses shown good behaviour towards them.

Personal Trauma Links with Demographic Factors

As the results and literature has previously indicated that personal trauma of parents are likely to influence abusive behaviour among them towards children directly or towards their partners which indirectly turned into neglect or abuse towards children. Parents who had severe trauma, stresses in childhood more likely to have kids with behavioural health problems (Martin et al., 2016). A new study finds that severe childhood trauma and stresses early in parents' lives are linked to higher rates of behavioural health problems in their own children (Klevens et al., 2016). Henceforth, this section of results and analysis is aimed at providing primary evidence in the validity of this link.

Residence cross tabulation with personal experience of the above situations

| | | Where do you reside? | | | | | | | | | | Total |
|--|---------|----------------------|--------|-------|--------|----------|------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|-------|
| | | Akkar | Beirut | Bekaa | Chekka | Keserwan | Lebanon Mountain | Mount Lebanon | North Lebanon | Outside of Lebanon | South Lebanon | |
| Have you personally (as a child) experienced any of the above situations | Missing | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| | No | 1 | 18 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 31 | 15 | 2 | 2 | 77 |
| | Yes | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 13 |
| Total | | 3 | 19 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 35 | 22 | 2 | 3 | 93 |

Table 34: Residence cross tabulation with personal experience of the above situations

As per the above table no 34, the link is created between the residence of the parent and its impact on their negative experiences as the child. While the place where people live have major impact in how kids should be treated; the above table shows that people living in North Lebanon, South Lebanon, Mount Lebanon, and Beirut have experienced such events of abuse or violence including sending child to work instead of school, children begging for money, beaten up, attacked, beaten up by family members, sexually assaulted, witnessing violence in the family, seeing adults having sex, running away from home or living in the streets. On the other hand, majority of the participants i.e. 77 out of 91 mentioned that they have not experienced any such event in their childhood which can be linked with the fact that the proportion of abuse and violence against children from parents or caregivers is very low. 18 respondents living in Beirut stated that they have not personally experienced any of these situations where they had been to work instead of going to schools, had begged for money, got beaten up, attacked, beaten up by family members, sexually assaulted, witnessed violence in the family, seen adults having sex, run away from home or lived in the streets. 15 respondents from North Lebanon, 31 respondents from Mount Lebanon, 6 respondents from Lebanon Mountain, 2 from south Lebanon and outside Lebanon each with 1 respondent from Akkar, Bekka, and Keserwan each has mentioned the same. From the survey response, the link between residence and abuse experience tend of be invalid. There is no significant level of relationship formed between place of residence and experience of trauma in this survey.

Family income cross-tabulation with personal experience of the above situations

| | | How do you think your current family income is compared to the necessities? | | | | | Total | |
|--|---------|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|-------|--------------------------------------|
| | | Missing | It is enough for the everyday life, but cannot afford to buy other goods | It is enough only for the basic needs | It is enough to buy everything necessary, without restrictions | It is enough to buy other goods, but with restrictions | | It is not enough for the basic needs |
| Have you personally (as a child) experienced any of the above situations | Missing | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| | No | 1 | 4 | 9 | 21 | 28 | 14 | 77 |
| | Yes | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 13 |
| Total | | 1 | 5 | 14 | 26 | 30 | 17 | 93 |

Table 35: Family income cross-tabulation with personal experience of the above situations

The next table no. 35 shown above is aimed exploring the relationship between the income of the family with the traumatic experience of parents. While we have already seen that family income of the most of the participants were enough to buy good though there were some limitations but basic needs were getting fulfilled easily with the income in hand. Ideally, to build a link between these two aspects, the participants who had personally (as a child) experienced any of the above situations should be those who have at least some extent of limitations in family income.

Looking at the table above, the participants who had personally experienced those situations were those who either had family income enough only for basic needs or enough to buy everything necessary, without restrictions – contradictory to ideal expectation about the link between both of the variables. According to the estimation, the people who had income not enough for the basic needs would have mostly experienced the above situations. Although relation has been constructed between these two variables was not major but it hints towards the probability that lack of fulfilment of basic needs may lead to abuse and maltreatment of children.

Correlations for Change in Behaviour

The correlations for change in behaviour have been conducted in order to shed light on how relationship between certain aspects are influencing the behaviour of parents or caregivers towards children. As a thumb of rule, correlation that is close to 0 is indicating no linear relationship between variables. If the sign of coefficient is positive (directly proportional), it means there is positive relationship while if the sign is negative, there is negative (inversely proportional) relationship. Therefore, when both the correlated variables tend to decrease or increase together, the coefficient is positive and an upward going straight line is shown on the graph. Whereas if the downward going straight line appears on the graph, one correlated variable tend to increase with the decrease of other correlated variable and vice versa.

If both variables tend to increase or decrease together, the coefficient is positive, and the line that represents the correlation slopes upward.

Correlation between no. of households and treating children

| | | Correlations | |
|---|---------------------|--|--|
| | | How many people live in your household (including you)? | How often does the following happen in the household? [To celebrate the child's birthday] |
| How many people live in your household (including you)? | Pearson Correlation | 1 | -.205* |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | | .048 |
| | N | 93 | 93 |
| How often does the following happen in the household? [To celebrate the child's birthday] | Pearson Correlation | -.205* | 1 |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .048 | |
| | N | 93 | 93 |

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table 36: Correlation between no. of households and treating children

The table no. 36 is exploring the correlation between number of people living in the household and treatment towards children. As we had already discussed in the earlier sections that higher number of people in the household likely to influence maltreatment which means if number of people

increase in the household, the extent of good treatment with children decreases. This table is exploring the treatment with respect of measuring if there is any change or impact taken place on the celebration of child's birthday. It shows from the table that we got a negative correlation of .205 between "celebrating child's birthday" and "number of people in household". It means as the number of people increased in the household, the instances of celebrating child's birthday (treating children well) decreases. This relationship was statistically significant at the .048 level. On other words, it meant that children are treated well when there are lesser number of people in the household.

Correlation between fulfilling child's wishes and giving importance of child's opinion in important decisions

Correlations

| | | If a parent loves his/her child, he/she must fulfill all the child's wishes | How often does the following happen in the household? [To ask for the child's opinion when important decisions are to be taken] |
|---|---------------------|---|---|
| If a parent loves his/her child, he/she must fulfill all the child's wishes | Pearson Correlation | 1 | .028 |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | | .788 |
| | N | 92 | 92 |
| How often does the following happen in the household? [To ask for the child's opinion when important decisions are to be taken] | Pearson Correlation | .028 | 1 |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .788 | |
| | N | 92 | 93 |

Table 37: Correlation between fulfilling child's wishes and giving importance of child's opinion in important decisions

The table no. 37 is exploring the correlation between fulfilling child's wishes and giving importance of child's opinion in important decisions. It shows from the table that we got a positive correlation of .028 between "fulfilling child's wishes" and "giving importance of child's opinion in important decisions". It means as the parents' focus on fulfilling child's wish increases, the importance to child's opinion in important decisions also increases. This relationship was statistically significant at the .788 level. On other words, it meant that child's opinion are given importance when parents fulfil all their wishes in the act of loving them wholeheartedly.

Correlation between loving a child and listening to child

Correlations

| | | If a parent loves his/her child, he/she must fulfil all the child's wishes | How often does the following happen in the household? [To listen to the child if they want to say something] |
|--|---------------------|--|--|
| If a parent loves his/her child, he/she must fulfil all the child's wishes | Pearson Correlation | 1 | -.083 |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | | .432 |
| | N | 92 | 92 |
| How often does the following happen in the household? [To listen to the child if they want to say something] | Pearson Correlation | -.083 | 1 |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .432 | |
| | N | 92 | 93 |

Table 38: Correlation between loving a child and listening to child

The table no. 38 is exploring the correlation between loving a child and listening to child if they want to say something. It shows from the table that we got a negative correlation of .083 between “fulfilling child’s wishes” and “listening to the child if they want to say something”. It means as the parents’ focus on fulfilling child’s wish increases, the tendency of parents to listen to their child decreases. This relationship was statistically significant at the .432 level. On other words, it meant that children are less likely to be heard when parents fulfil all their wishes without evaluating the consequences of their wishes.

Correlation between disciplining child and involving them in important decision of the house

Correlations

| | | If a parent wants to discipline his/her child, he/she must punish the child every time the child is wrong | How often does the following happen in the household? [To ask for the child's opinion when important decisions are to be taken] |
|---|---------------------|---|---|
| If a parent wants to discipline his/her child, he/she must punish the child every time the child is wrong | Pearson Correlation | 1 | .102 |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | | .331 |
| | N | 93 | 93 |
| How often does the following happen in the | Pearson Correlation | .102 | 1 |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .331 | |

| | | | |
|--|---|----|----|
| household? [To ask for the child's opinion when important decisions are to be taken] | N | 93 | 93 |
|--|---|----|----|

Table 39: Correlation between disciplining child and involving them in important decision of the house

The table no. 39 is exploring the correlation between disciplining child and involving them in important decision of the house. It shows from the table that we got a positive correlation of .102 between “disciplining child” and “involving children in important decision of the house”. It means as the discipline their child more, the tendency of parents to involve children in important decision of the house also increases. This relationship was statistically significant at the .331 level. On other words, it meant that children are more likely to be part of important house decision if their parents punish them for disciplining.

Final Verdict: Change of behaviour towards children

In the last year, were there situations when you or your partner ... [Used threats to convince the child to listen]

| | N | % |
|---------|----|-------|
| Missing | 4 | 4.3% |
| No | 37 | 39.8% |
| Yes | 52 | 55.9% |

Table 40: Used threats to convince the child to listen

The first aspects explored in this question that is aimed at analysing the extent of maltreatment among children in Lebanon is liked with the use of threats from parents or caregivers end in order to convince their child to listen. As the result is shown in table no.40 above, more than 55 percent of the participants mentioned that they have used threats to convince their child while less than 40 percent of the parents mentioned that they did not use threats to convince their child to listen. At the generalise level, it can be said threatening the children to convince them to listen is prevalent in Lebanon thus this aspect of maltreatment is present.

In the last year, were there situations when you or your partner ... [Told harsh words to the child]

| | N | % |
|---------|----|-------|
| Missing | 2 | 2.2% |
| No | 64 | 68.8% |
| Yes | 27 | 29.0% |

Table 41: Told harsh words to the child

The second aspects explored in this question that is aimed at analysing the extent of maltreatment among children in Lebanon is liked with telling harsh words to the child. As the result is shown in table no. 41 above, contrary to the last question, more than 68% of the participants mentioned that they don't use harsh words to child as the answer while only 29 percent of them mentioned yes. Generalising this, it can be said that telling harsh work is not very commonly used in Lebanon thus this expect of maltreatment is not commonly present but it exists.

In the last year, were there situations when you or your partner ... [Cursed the child / used indecent language]

| | N | % |
|---------|----|-------|
| Missing | 3 | 3.2% |
| No | 77 | 82.8% |
| Yes | 13 | 14.0% |

Table 42: Cursed the child / used indecent language

The third aspects explored in this question that is aimed at analysing the extent of maltreatment among children in Lebanon is liked with cursing the child or using indecent language. As the result is shown in table no. 42 above, similar to last results, more than 82 percent of the participants state that they do not curse their child or use indecent language while only 14 percent of them stated that they cruse the child and use indecent language. Generalising this, it can be said that Parents in Lebanon do not curse their child at large or use indecent language. Therefore, it can be said that this aspect of maltreatment is minimal.

**In the last year, were there situations when you or your partner ...
[Isolated the child when they made a mistake]**

| | N | % |
|---------|----|-------|
| Missing | 2 | 2.2% |
| No | 66 | 71.0% |
| Yes | 25 | 26.9% |

Table 43: Isolated the child when they made a mistake

The fourth aspects explored in this question that is aimed at analysing the extent of maltreatment among children in Lebanon is liked with isolating the child when they make a mistake. As the result is shown in table no. 43 above, similar to last results, 71 percent of the participants state that they do not isolate the child when they make a mistake while more than 26 percent of them stated that they isolate the child when they make a mistake. Looking these results are generalise level, it can be said that Parents in Lebanon do not isolate the child when they make a mistake at large. However, it can be said that this aspect of maltreatment can be emerging.

**In the last year, were there situations when you or your partner ...
[Made a fool of the child in front of others]**

| | N | % |
|---------|----|-------|
| Missing | 3 | 3.2% |
| No | 80 | 86.0% |
| Yes | 10 | 10.8% |

Table 44: Made a fool of the child in front of others

The fifth aspects explored in this question that is aimed at analysing the extent of maltreatment among children in Lebanon is liked with making a fool of the child in front of others. As the result is shown in table no. 44 above, similar to last results, 86 percent of the participants state that they do not make a fool of the child in front of others while less than 10 percent of them stated that they make a fool of the child in front of others. Looking these results are generalise level, it can be said that Parents in Lebanon do not make a fool of the child in front of others at large. Thus, it can be said that this aspect of maltreatment can be negligible.

**In the last year, were there situations when you or your partner ...
[Used ear-pulling, or slap the child without leaving any marks]**

| | N | % |
|---------|----|-------|
| Missing | 2 | 2.2% |
| No | 68 | 73.1% |
| Yes | 23 | 24.7% |

Table 45: Used ear-pulling, or slap the child without leaving any marks

The sixth aspects explored in this question that is aimed at analysing the extent of maltreatment among children in Lebanon is liked with using ear-pulling, or slapping the child without leaving any marks. As the result is shown in table no.45 above, similar to last results, more than 73 percent of the participants state that they do not use ear-pulling, or slap the child without leaving any marks while less than 25 percent of them stated that they use ear-pulling, or slap the child without leaving any marks. Looking these results are generalise level, it can be said that Parents in Lebanon do not use ear-pulling, or slap the child without leaving any marks at large. However, the proportion of parents who are using ear-pulling, or slapping the child without leaving any marks is also not minimal thus it can be an nascent aspect of maltreatment among parents towards children.

**In the last year, were there situations when you or your partner ...
[Marked the child due to a beating]**

| | N | % |
|---------|----|-------|
| Missing | 2 | 2.2% |
| No | 88 | 94.6% |
| Yes | 3 | 3.2% |

Table 46: Marked the child due to a beating

The seventh aspects explored in this question that is aimed at analysing the extent of maltreatment among children in Lebanon is liked with marking the child due to a beating. As the result is shown in table no. 46 above, similar to last results, more than 94 percent of the participants state that they do not mark the child due to a beating while less than 4 percent of them stated that they mark the child due to a beating. Looking these results are generalise level, it can be said that Parents in Lebanon do not mark the child due to a beating at large. Given the fact that the proportion of parents who are marking the child due to a beating is very minimal, it can be said that this aspect of maltreatment is almost non-existing there.

**In the last year, were there situations when you or your partner ...
[Beat the child using an object (belt, stick)]**

| | N | % |
|---------|----|-------|
| Missing | 2 | 2.2% |
| No | 87 | 93.5% |
| Yes | 4 | 4.3% |

Table 47: Beat the child using an object

The eight aspects explored in this question that is aimed at analysing the extent of maltreatment among children in Lebanon is liked with beating the child using an object. As the result is shown in table no. 47 above, similar to last results, almost 94 percent of the participants state that they do not beat the child using an object while less than 5 percent of them stated that they beat the child using an object. Looking these results are generalise level, it can be said that Parents in Lebanon do not beat the child using an object at large. Given the fact that the proportion of parents who are beating the child using an object is very minimal, it can be said that this aspect of maltreatment is also almost non-existing there.

**In the last year, were there situations when you or your partner ...
[Tied the child so that they can't leave]**

| | N | % |
|---------|----|-------|
| Missing | 2 | 2.2% |
| No | 89 | 95.7% |
| Yes | 2 | 2.2% |

Table 48: Tied the child so that they can't leave

The ninth aspects explored in this question that is aimed at analysing the extent of maltreatment among children in Lebanon is liked with tying the child so that they can't leave. As the result is shown in table no.48 above, similar to last results, almost 96 percent of the participants state that they do not tie the child so that they can't leave while less than 3 percent of them stated that they tie the child so that they can't leave. Looking these results are generalise level, it can be said that Parents in Lebanon do not tie the child so that they can't leave at large. Given the fact that the proportion of parents who are tying the child so that they can't leave is very minimal, it can be said that this aspect of maltreatment is also almost non-existing there. So far this is the least prevalent abuse or aspect of maltreatment among children in Lebanon found.

**In the last year, were there situations when you or your partner ...
[Kicked the child out of the house]**

| | N | % |
|---------|----|-------|
| Missing | 2 | 2.2% |
| No | 89 | 95.7% |
| Yes | 2 | 2.2% |

Table 49: Kicked the child out of the house

The tenth aspects explored in this question that is aimed at analysing the extent of maltreatment among children in Lebanon is linked with kicking the child out of the house. As the result is shown in table no. 49 above, similar to last results, almost 96 percent of the participants state that they do not kicked the child out of the house while less than 3 percent of them stated that they kicked the child out of the house. Looking these results are generalise level, it can be said that Parents in Lebanon do not kicked the child out of the house at large. Given the fact that the proportion of parents who are kicking the child out of the house is very minimal, it can be said that this aspect of maltreatment is also almost non-existing there. So far this is also the least prevalent abuse or aspect of maltreatment among children in Lebanon found.

Chapter No. 5 – Discussion

Many studies have concluded that the aggressive or affected behaviours in adults are the reflection of the experiences they faced during childhood, especially maltreatment. Thus it is a global well-being issue for children who are subjected to violence of any sort and its impact in the long run. Poor psychological stability was a result of children being subjected to violence in childhood as per the analyses of the data of 3000 children in the US for 15 years (Jonson-Reid et al., 2012). A study showed that behavioural issues and poor mental health including substance and alcohol consumption were the reason caused by some sort of abuse be it physical, mental, or sexual the children faced the data was focused on 300 children and their life till the age of 30 (Skinner et al., 2016).

As per several studies conducted, it is concluded that during the time of catastrophes such as economic recession or natural disasters the rate of child maltreatment increase drastically. The research illustrated that distressing brain injury in the initial year of life was the most common form of child abuse which surged by five times in the initial months when the hurricane hit the US and remained the same in many unaffected areas (Keenan et al., 2004). In the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sierra Leone, when the Ebola virus spread the maltreatment of females was high as per the situational pieces of evidence collected from past disasters (Fraser, 2020). Similarly during the Great Recession of 2007-2009, the percentage of child maltreatment increased significantly. As per Berger et.al during the phase of recession, the abusive head trauma in kids (below five years) was much higher than the ones during the pre-recession phase (Berger et al., 2011). It was further concluded that during the great recession the associated child abuse was based on individual economic difficulties and mental instability during such phase as per the panel data of families in 20 U.S. cities which compared the situations for pre-recession, during and post-recession (Schneider et al., 2017).

Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council have studied various risk factors that are aiding child neglect and abuse. The most common and key aspect is the parents themselves who were also subjected to the same abuse in their childhood. For example, parental health was the main reason for child abuse when data was examined from 332 low-income families in the U.S. who were observed over a decade (Dubowitz et al., 2011). The data of more than 600 people illustrated that their subjection to neglect and abuse in their childhood created a risk of the same neglect and cruelty to their kid's abuse (Widom et al., 2015). Apart from that, another factor that leads to child abuse is the case of the single-parent family as per the study of Coulton et al (data collected from 1990-2010) (Coulton et al., 2018). Moreover a study by Ahmadabadi et al. showed, that females who were victims of the mistreatment by their male significant, and their children were supposedly more likely to encounter maltreatment (data collected on 2064 mothers in Australia) (Ahmadabadi et al., 2018).

The other factors for such mistreatment on the societal level are poverty and a high rate of unemployment. As per the statistics from 1999-2014 in the US, it was stated that with high poverty rather counties faced a much higher ratio of child abuse victims as compared to countries with lower poverty rates (Farrell et al., 2017). A study between 2011 and 2014 illustrated that poverty was related to child abuse while unemployment was associated with child neglect (Morris et al., 2019). Some studies were based on analysing the abuse based on gender-based unemployment, and as per a study men aged 20-34 who faced lower job opportunities during the years 1998-2012 were tend to have behavioural issues and it was significantly related to maltreatment of children (Cherry & Wang, 2016). In the year 1998-2012 in the US, a study showed that maltreatment of children reduced at a quicker pace as male employment increased, while it raised when the employment of female opportunities increased (Lindo et al., 2018).

During COVID-19 which has impacted each soul on an individual and Global level, the cases of the risk factors of child abuse have worsened. Concerning the worldwide lockdown, many

individuals lost their jobs and stable incomes increasing the rate of unemployed individuals, this harmed the economy and mental health of people. An analysis of 600 parents in Hong Kong depicted that income cut downs and unemployment caused the severe risk of child maltreatment (Wong et al., 2021). A survey data of 283 adults in the US showed, a rise in COVID social isolation and employment decline caused by verbal aggression and negligence towards their kids (Lee et al., 2021). Research in regards to COVID was not much; however media and reports from government organizations clearly stated that the instances of partner violence increased the risk of child abuse during the course of the pandemic. For instance, in China Family, violence cases surged during the pandemic (Zhang, 2020). As per a news article, the number of women casualties from violence doubled during the county-wide lockdowns in the UK (Donagh, 2020). In regards to COVID, in-depth research was conducted to analyse if the cases of child abuse have increased in the Republic of Korea and whether unemployment was the main cause of it, and as per regression analysis unemployment was not a significant cause of an increase in the reporting of child abuse in the Republic of Korea.

Violence, neglect, and abuse can happen to any individual but it is more likely to occur in children specifically under 18 kids who are considered to be more vulnerable to such things. This mistreatment can happen at any place even in their own homes by their parents and families. Households are considered a safe place and the parents must ensure that a safe environment is given to their kids to grow up as stable individuals, however since the pandemic caused severe disruptions; certain homes have become miserable places to live in. and people are struggling to find financial security, food, health, and well-being and in such circumstances, the factors associated with the risk of neglect or mistreatment of children is becoming common. Many children living in countries with lockdowns are struggling with quality education, social life, and care from their parents. Apart from that in such circumstances where alcohol and substance abuse has become common for adults the children are struggling to get care from their parents. Unemployment and difficult life has badly impacted adults and this can harm their children in terms of aggressive behaviour which can have serious harm to their offspring. The caregivers who were associated with the better upbringing of the children such as schools and institutions being shifted to an online mode have further caused a higher risk of childhood neglect and abuse. Further neglect takes place when an unexpected death occurs in a family which is very common during the times of COVID. However not only do children face abuse in the household but they are vulnerable to outside dangers as well with not being able to protect themselves the chances of physical or sexual violence against children have increased significantly over the past many years. Especially young girls are the most vulnerable to being subjected to sexual abuse it is a recurring happening that can occur within their household or in the outside world.

All such instances indicate that the child abuse rate has taken an upward shift indicating that many children in current times are facing abuse in some way or another, the rate of sexual abuse of all gender kids is also becoming a major issue and must be dealt it utmost urgency. While the percentage of mental, emotional, and physical abuse must be stopped on the immediate grounds to safeguard children and prevent them to become monsters in the future with the same level of mental instability as the current adult abusers.

Chapter No. 6 – Conclusion

It can be concluded that it is not the first time when people faced macro-environmental crises; however, it can be said that COVID-19 challenges were unprecedented. Out of these challenges, the child rights crisis was the most evident one, which had been acclaimed by national unions and media coverage as well. Violence, neglect, and abuse are the risk factors that are on rising for children under containment. It can be concluded that COVID-19 prevention had an impact on the children in a great way; their well-being lacked support and positive relationship, which put them in the hands of misery either by family members, caretakers, community, and school. In this way, children's rights in terms of safety and protection were at stake, which had been identified by Children Rights Conventions. The report followed four types of violence, i.e. sexual, physical, emotional, or psychological violence and neglect. Throughout Europe, report claims the sexual abuse prevalence rate is higher for women as compared to men. Also, it can be concluded that physical abuse prevalence is about 50%; however, the prevalence of physical and neglect abuse had no limit in terms of its regular extensiveness.

Findings showed that there is very limited research and no prevention programs have been conducted when it comes to child violence in Lebanon. It can be said that there is a vast need for research to provide measures that update violence prevention programs so that victims can be helped more efficiently and timely because evidence-based practices (EBP) regarding violence against children in middle and low-income areas are not enough to provide them with particular prevention. It is needed because EBP can help in designing the law, legislation, and policies to respond to violence, setting baselines, monitoring progress, and advocating. Thus, reliable data is essential. In conclusion, it is important to highlight that Lebanon has been facing economic crises since the civil war, in which people got affected by inflation, layoffs which affected their well-being and livelihood of minorities, and those who were considered to be the most disadvantaged people (working class). The country that was already at stake got much more affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Beirut 04 August Beirut blast. This unstable time in Lebanon affected the mental and physical health of children due to the anxiety and stress they faced. Children are the most vulnerable demographics which had been affected hard by the pandemic in Lebanon. COVID-19 brought social disconnection and wreaked havoc on society's economic progress, which led to child maltreatment.

Domestic violence is associated with monetary problems in the family, which leads to stress and poor mental health. Thus, COVID-19 brought these concerns in an exacerbated manner which was the result of economic and societal consequences faced by the pandemic. COVID-19 had created a social gap between caretakers and students due to lockdown and closure, due to which cyberbullying and online abuse of children had increased. The caretakers paid less attention to notice and report cases of child maltreatment because the interaction of caretakers with children was almost at the end. Findings showed that children under the age of 18 are influenced by their parents they are dependent on them. The four types of violence and child maltreatment did not merely impact children's adulthood but also impacted the families with long-term negative consequences. In conclusion, it can be said that it is not the financial status that negatively impacts children, but it is the parenting quality that influences the risk of negative behaviour. The aim of the study to assess the nature of change provided a conclusion that it can be historical change like societal attitude towards family privacy, or it can be some current issues like poverty or maybe some cultural problems like tolerance of violence or might be some situational issues like crying episode which can contribute in negativity in children these days. Child characteristics like crying episodes or difficult temperament might play a role in bringing negativity to children. On the other side, it has been apparent that Lebanon is facing all these crises, especially economic health. In Lebanon, the deaths of intimate relations brought stress among family members, and on the other side, the government imposed

restrictions, increased the burdens on households, brought worries, and affected their mental health. Thus, the behaviour of parents had changed towards their children, especially who lived in the minority in Lebanon.

Children felt anxiety and stress when they felt that their family's life and their own health were in danger; overwhelming feelings about their economic conditions and beloved ones brought grief and worry to them during COVID-19 (2020-2021). Also, digital platforms played a role in adding up worries by providing a variety of news and information with some spice which resulted in anxiety in children below 18. This is because they don't know that these news and social platforms are not informationally authentic and might contain some interest in spreading specific news. On the other hand, children were unable to go out, attend school, play, or interact and talk freely, which made the situation most exacerbated. Those who were completely isolated faced an increased risk of violence. The role of parents and caretakers is to provide complete freedom to their children in terms of promoting an environment that can grow and develop their potential, along with fun and safety, and health precautions. Active listening to children, allowing them to express themselves in terms of thoughts and feelings, and allowing them to ask questions as per their curiosity are some measures that every caretaker needs to initiate.

In concluding the study regarding Changes in Behaviour in Primary Caregivers towards Children in Lebanon 2021-2022, it can be said that identification of risk factors that are contributing to negative change among caregivers toward children is necessary. In this respect, the findings of the study, in conclusion, can be highlighted that these risk factors can be claimed to be a single element. The risk factor might depend on the situation, person, or fact, as well as the type of violence that had brought changes among primary takers during the pandemic. Types of violence might be physical, psychological, sexual, and emotional. Here came the concept of typology, which defined violence in their ways, i.e., self-directed in which children harm themselves, interpersonal are those in which family and community get involved, and collective in which social, political, and economic factors get involved in bringing positive and negative change among caretakers and children to change of behaviour.

In concluding the violence in adolescence, it can be said that in ancient days, reports contained massive records of neglected, weak, and malnourished children contained who had been abandoned by their families and faced sexual abuse. Despite charitable organizations' concerns about this issue, still, the subject has not gotten wider attention either by society or practitioners. In the contemporary world, nations are facing an increased prevalence of child abuse which has become a global issue these days, and after the pandemic, the issue has boosted its roots. Mostly, western industrialized countries are the victims where light corporal punishment in education is an accepted means under certain constellations. On the other side, scientist shows that this measure is no longer undisputed in education. Parents use physical violence as a measure of their growth and development. This has become normal, and no restrictions have been imposed on these parents at the state level. However, UN conventions on children's rights have brought little change in the behaviour of parents in practising child abuse. Still, there are many cases found by scientific studies that could be frightening evidence of maltreatment towards children today.

When it comes to talking about abuse towards children in COVID-19, it can be concluded that unemployment rates, widespread school district closures, and stay-at-home directives have upheaved the daily lives of young children and their families. The most affected sector was the health care institutions. The pandemic made a forced delay of the ontology and acute surgical conditions at stake and was ignored and delayed during COVID-19. It was strictly prohibited to visit the hospital during menstruation. Thus, access to health care was shirked, and people with non-COVID-19 diseases were ignored; they then decided not to visit the hospital because the access to them was out of reach, and some believed that going to the hospital could intense

their pre-diseases and thus avoided asking cares. Due to less access to care centres, a lower number of child abuse recorded their hospitalizations but with more severe injuries. This provided encouragement to incidences of abuse because they go unreported and unnoticed. In COVID-19, lack of social support leads to alcohol misuse, which is considered to be domestic violence. This trend of intoxication was the result of a sequence of stressful events. Stressful events like disruptions in employment, food insecurity, perceived risks, and fear of the virus, as well as overcrowding at home due to the lockdowns, were the most important problems when concluding what brought a negative change of behaviour towards children in Lebanon during COVID-19.

In conclusion, it can be highlighted that, in Lebanon, maltreatment of children starts with two points. One is from official statistics people, who capture the reality of family violence in fractions, and the other is the use of surveys on available statistics. In concluding these two points, it is important to highlight that unreported cases are estimated to be relatively high because it is expected that only a small percentage of the actual assaults committed are reported. It has been manifested by the reports that in order to combat COVID-19 affectedly, the impact fell on children that brought negative consequences in terms of maltreatment. Approx. One hundred forty-seven million children lost their academic careers in just two years; out of them, many had been removed from school enrolment due to their parent's decision not to continue their school. This decision might be hard for them, but unemployment at the local level due to the pandemic made them take hard decisions, mostly in underdeveloped countries. Among these, Lebanon contained the rank for experiencing severe educational crises in 2021. Even though the problem had risen to such an extent that in Lebanon, children were at risk of never returning to school. Also, the incident in Beirut on 01 April in Lebanon brought social crises and contributed a severe part in turning educational catastrophe. Protestors and civilians also played a negative role in becoming contributors of "Fear" and affected their actions by not removing the admission of their children from schools due to their safety in Lebanon. There was a strike in concepts of caretakers and civilians. The caregivers and parents behaved in a certain way by giving priority over education. These changes were taking root in children's cognition and thus impacted their self-discipline, self-esteem, poor emotional development, and ambition; children were shaped according to how their parents' self-destructive behaviours, poor decision-making capabilities, and poor establishment of self-identity that are beyond childhood. This manifested neglect behaviour of caretakers and poor care provided to their children at an early age during a pandemic leads to developmental issues in children that not merely result in increasing the prevalence of depression, anxiety, and further mental health problems but also in the prevalence of coronary heart disease, heart-related diseases, lung, and kidney issues as well.

Out of four children violence in this study, the emotional violence (psychological and mental health well-being) of adolescents during COVID-19 was in jeopardy, which manifested the high records of psychological distress (anxiety, sadness) as compared to pre-pandemic years. If children are witnessing violence at home or if they are the target of the violence, it causes trauma and distress and may lead to disruptive behaviour. Which was arose due to reading, watching, listening, and discussing too much news regarding COVID-19, which persuaded them to think and fear happenings. In sum, the conclusion of anxiety in children of Lebanon during the pandemic manifested that if someone was sick in the family/ childcare institution and had been taken to hospital, or if there had been a death, children experienced added anxiety and demanded specialized help. This is because adolescents and children under 18 demand emotional needs because they are considered to be vulnerable in terms of emotions and easily become victims of emotional violence and maltreatment. It is because there is a weak support system and emotional disability at the mass level. COVID-19 in Lebanon adolescence brought the fear of increased sense of insecurity which had not cursed their present but can impact the

mental health issue if measures do not take into account in the future. Concluding the fact that there is a number of young children who do not contain parental care backgrounds and have been brought up in childcare settings. Among them, Street connected children, migrants, and children from the NGOs are also included. Reports showed a high prevalence of Declined in mental health among these minority populations. This is because these minority populations mostly belong to the low class and the COVID-19 economic brought crisis hit the non-affluent countries badly with poorer communities and households.

While concluding the increased risk of violence through the lens of criminological theories, it can be stated that there might be multiple variables that can contribute to child abuse and contains the reason behind the greater risk of violence in a critical situation. The criminology theories put light on violence to be transmitted from generation to generation and given it a name called “violence begets violence”. Negligence and childhood experiences increase the risk of perpetrating violence later in a person’s life. Social learning theories embrace the study of intergenerational transmission. In conclusion, neurobiological studies revealed that chronic stress impact appears due to abusive childhood. In addition to this, it can be concluded that stress may be the reason behind neurobiological deregulation. Epigenetic and trait inheritance of parents’ violent behaviour towards their children might be the reason behind violent children. The violent behaviour of parents that influences genetics might be changed by environmental conditions. In this sense, ecological factors require attention to address to conduct a comprehensive analysis. Theories play an important role in learning the reason behind specific behaviour. The environmental theory explains what the victim is going through by understanding what is going on in his environment and what is leading an individual to behave in a certain way. According to social disorganization theory, characteristics in the neighbourhood can be understood, which can help in understanding the vulnerability of children and the most conducive contexts to violence, for instance, population density, poverty, overcrowding, residential mobility, community cohesion, or urban blight hinder. Past experiences can also be understood using situational theory, which can open the truth of culprits against sufferers because of mobility limitations and confinement. General strain theory might serve to treat child abuse and family violence because the theory emphasizes the negative impact of emotions like frustration, anger, or bitterness on the succeeding violent activities.

Concluding the increased risk of violence in the sight of the socio-ecological model, it can be stated that covid-19 had both direct and indirect impacts on disrupting the social ecologies. The maltreated child is an interactional phenomenon that was affected due to the pandemic. Thus, a series of risk factors came up in neglect and child abuse associated with the traits of caregiver and child, dynamics of family, and their wider cultural and social environment that has been now changed as compared to pre-pandemic. The socio-cognitive approach might be helpful in understanding the changes in the environment and their influence on the incidences of abuse among children. Parents during COVID-19 got worried about their children because of suffering from uncertainty and stress during the pandemic, which as a result, created havoc and roused their problems and triggered the mental health of these caretakers. In sum, to conclude the consequences to caretakers due to COVID 19, it can be said that children who had special education needs were also at a higher risk of mental and behavioural health issues because they got frustrated due to the disturbance in their day-to-day routine and their social ecology had been disturbed. It is evident with the stamen of Patwardhan et al. (2017) that the environment of the home, where stress levels are high, becomes a major contributor to neglect and physical abuse of children. The environment at home was worsening due to the use of intoxication by caretakers to manage tension and stress leading to a lack of concentration among children. Also, no physical activities and entertainment activities were left over, which made it hard for parents to keep them busy at home along with managing work from home too, which disturbed their normal functioning a home. The fights and conflicts among parents and caretakers during

the pandemic had impacted children, while in the light of Guedes et al. (2016), the parents sometimes target children too due to frustration arising out of economic conditions.

Another key risk factor for violence against children during COVID-19 is linked with the attitudes and culture toward children and their rights. Children were not the main drivers of the pandemic, but in many countries, they were accused of being vectors of virus transmission. As a result, adolescence faces intrinsic social elimination. Moreover, even after coming back to the normal routine, schools, playgrounds, and childcare centres were closed for a very long. Implementing core ideologies of the risk-need responsivity model can help prevent children from victimization. Because keep knowledge can be needed to understand the causes behind increased incidents of abuse and neglect so to reduce and prevent the extent of abuse, violence, and neglect against children.

While talking about the risk of Lebanon children never returning to school, it can be concluded that the education crisis in Lebanon is at risk. This is because of governmental failure in providing funds to deprived families that strived hard economically during the pandemic and failed to fill the gap in access to quality learning among the poor Children of Lebanon. In conclusion to the consequences, it can be said that childhood maltreatment and abuse have increased the prevalence of heart-related issues, cardiovascular diseases, and type 2 disabilities which has a great effect on the future as well.

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