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SELF-HARMING BEHAVIORS AND PSYCHOPATHY TRAITS IN ABUSED CHILDREN

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to explore child abuse and neglect in relation to psychopathy and self-harming behaviors. A cross-sectional correlational research design was used to carry out the research. A sample of 100 children (50 boys & 50 girls) was selected at age ranging from 12-18 years through purposive sampling. The data was collected from two NGOs in Lahore through purposive sampling. An adapted and translated Child Abuse Screening Tool was used to identify children with different levels and types of abuse and neglect. Urdu version of the Youth Psychopathy Inventory was used to find out psychopathy traits. The deliberate Self-Harm Inventory was translated into Urdu for the purpose of assessing self-harm behavior in participants along with a demographic questionnaire. Pearson product-moment correlation showed there was no significant relationship between psychopathy and child abuse. It was identified that there were no significant gender differences between psychopathy traits and self-harming behaviors in abused children. The current study is significant because it addresses the pressing public issue prevailing in the country day by day, and it has a negative impact on the victim's survival. The findings revealed that child abuse leads victims towards self-harm and can develop psychopathic traits. On the basis of results, further study is needed to be conducted on these variables, as self-harm was more reported in abused children as compared to psychopathic traits. The variables used in this study needed to be addressed broadly to evaluate the clear impact of abuse in this study, the limitation was the availability of limited data due to the sensitivity of the topic or legal issues that could be addressed in future studies.

Keywords: Child Abuse; Psychopathy traits; Self-harm behaviors.

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INTRODUCTION

Children are the assets of society, and the way society treats them directs the future of any nation. It is the mutual liability of the whole society to raise healthy children, but nations are failing miserably in this respect. Similarly, in Pakistan, children experience lots of problems, i.e., childhood employment, teased physical, molestation, psychological torture, and being neglected. These problems are increasing day by day among children. Child abuse is common because they easily become victims. Significantly, sexual abuse is the most serious issue in societies. Despite the large number of reports, this issue still has not received any legal or social notice in Pakistan. This act is shameful for the children, and in response, they start to hide from their parents under the pressure of molesters and society. In Pakistani culture, this topic is considered taboo, and no one likes to talk about sexual activities because of religious sensitivity. Whenever these issues take place, no one tries to stand up against them. Especially in the case of females, this topic is considered disrespectful. These cultural differences play a negative role in the sense of a lack of guidance or education regarding sexual activities. So as a result, children are unaware of this crime, and they become easily victimized. According to study "Youth violence in Latin America: A framework for action" conducted by Maddeleno et al. (2006) showed that society's silence and no action against abuse developed

psychological, physical and social consequences in victims' lives. There is a need to break the silence against it and harsh rules should be formed in order to prevent abuse from society. Some other types of abuse, including physical, neglect and emotional are also harmful forms of abuse that lead to physical and emotional injuries and death.

Physical punishment to children is a common way to teach disciplinary training in Pakistani culture. Not only parent but also other family members, teachers and guardians felt to have rights to beat children. As a result, children get severely injured. The government started to pay attention on the severity of the problem and institutions developed to protect abuse and neglect i.e. Child Protection Bureau (2005) but still there is need to gain more attention on establishing such departments all over the Pakistan (Malik, 2001). Due to this maltreatment, children tried to harm themselves and as consequences large number of deaths reported. Up to 79% of individuals who self-injure report physical and/or sexual abuse during his or her childhood. Effects are seen for both suicidal and non-suicidal self-injury; the specifics of this relationship are inconsistent within the current scientific research (Flemming & Aronson, 2016).

In Pakistan this is common in children to harm themselves in different ways, i.e., cut and burned their bodies. In the same contexts children also tried to harm others under the influence of revenge. So, they developed criminal tendencies in their lives. That plays a leading role in developing their personalities either sadistic/worthless or psychopathic later in their lives. So it is very vital to inspect the problem of abuse in order to avoid such cases and find ways to help victims. Additionally, present study intended to recognize the presence of behavioral or emotional problems after being abuse and neglect and its effect on their later life. The findings of the study helped to inform future interventions to improve identification and reporting of this in the broad setting.

Rationale of the Study

Child abuse is one of the major burning issues all over the world. The current study is also aimed at finding out the consequences of abuse on children. Self-harm has not been assessed before on this sample, so this research has another aim of examining relationships between psychopathy traits and self-harming behavior among both genders. The objective of this study was to add further knowledge to previous research by assessing psychopathy traits and self-harm in abused children. Specifically, it was observed that differential relationships of the abuse and its effects on the mind and behavior affected individuals differently and they also perceived this trauma in various ways. Furthermore, these factors were evaluated together in order to better understand the exclusive and collective contributions of abuse in the development of psychopathy and self-harm.

Objective of the Study

The current study aimed to fulfill the following objectives:

1. To assess the role of child abuse in developing self-harm behaviors and Psychopathy traits in abused children.
2. To find out the gender differences in developing self-harming behavior and psychopathy traits in abused children.

Hypotheses

1. There will be a significant positive relationship between youth psychopathy inventory and child Abuse.
2. There will be a significant positive relationship between sub-scales of psychopathy and sub-scales of child abuse screening tools.
3. Female will be having more abuse than male.
4. Female will have more self-harming behaviors than male.
5. Male will have more psychopathy traits than female.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Historical Background of Abuse and Neglect in Children

Children have been abused by their parents or other adults since life began. There were no laws formed to defend children from abuse. In America, children were considered the property of their fathers under rule of colonists in 16th and 17th centuries. According to English law, children were the possession of their fathers and women were the assets of their husbands till the late 1800s (Goldman et al., 2003). Asia, the largest continent of the world by its population, is also suffering from the evil phenomenon of child abuse. Sen (1990) reported that according to previous data, millions of women were missing in China that highlights terrible case of inequality and neglect in the country. Coale (1991) advanced Sen's argument by reviewing the number of missing females in certain Asian societies. He drew attention on high sex ratios at birth and their mortality rates in the early years of life. His research findings revealed that high female mortality has been observed. Especially, in China and India this insane act has been practiced throughout history (Jillani, 1989). In Pakistan, although child-rearing practices are quite better however, since 1947 the issue of child abuses and protection is still present in the country. Child maltreatment existed before the partition. Although historical records are not available but, facts about violence on children have been reported from time of partition, and ever since, wars, natural disasters (floods and earthquakes) and parental conflicts have been experienced by Pakistani children. Moreover, disputes among people and their internal displacement due to cruel conflicts in their areas (Swat) played a role in developing emotional abuse.

Some other cases of camel jockeys, juvenile justice and commercial sexual exploitation of children as well as female children are a victim of dangerous traditions such as vani/swara (females exchange for the settlement of disputes), honour killings; and forced or early marriages has been reported by recent situational analyses or rapid appraisals of various child protection issues in Pakistani culture. According to UNICEF from 2000-2009, in urban 16% and 29 % of rural Pakistani women were married before the age of 18 years.

Child Abuse

Large number of children became the victim of abuse every day around the world which indicated a nasty violation of children's rights. Malekapor (2004) presented a review on child abuse aimed to highlight the importance of different aspects of abuse involved like its definition, types, risk factors, negative consequences, and its preventive strategies. He reported that many risk factors are connected with the occurrence of child abuse. Also, he suggested that early identification of risk factors helped to prevent or to minimize the long-term consequences of abuse. Hence, he tried to review current literature in order to decrease the problem for the protection of children's rights.

Reporting of apprehensive abusive cases of children is a susceptible issue that is mostly hindered by societies due to insecurity regarding its reporting. A cross-sectional study was done in UAE on "Reporting of child abuse cases by dentists working in the United Arab Emirates". The intention of the study was to identify the experiences of dentists in recognition of child abuse. 350 dentists were selected and closed ended self-administered questionnaires were administered on them. Analysis of the results showed that 25% of dentists encountering at least one apprehensive case in their career. 32% dentists reported that their fear of making the wrong diagnosis was the most frequent challenge which hindered the reporting. Whereas, some of dentists expressed that they are not trained enough but rather require more training with regard to sexual abuse before they could diagnose it. The majority of dentists stated that they did not report their suspicious cases to their authorities (Al-Amad et al., 2016).

Child Abuse and Psychopathy

Cook (2010) examined childhood physical and sexual abuse in subtypes of psychopathy. Model-based cluster analysis was used to determine the difference between subtypes of psychopathy with physical or

sexual abuse. The results supported variety of psychopathy traits in relation to abuse which led towards some serious behavioral problems. These findings would help improve abilities of managing and treating individuals by giving insight regarding psychopathy and child abuse. Present paper targeted psychopathy in relation to criminal behavior. The researcher reviewed the contributions to the term and modern perceptions emphasizing on the Psychopathy Checklist and its revisions. The researcher criticized the current tools which have been used to measure psychopathy. He aimed to recognize the limitations of these tools. He compared psychopathy and criminality to enlighten the contributions of these concepts. The paper highlighted the need to investigate psychopathy more closely (Theodorakis, 2013).

Child Abuse and Self-Harm

Glassman et al. (2007) had done research on “child maltreatment and non-suicidal self-injury”. A sample of 86 adolescents were gathered to complete the instruments of child maltreatment, self-criticism, perceived criticism, depression, and non-suicidal self-injury. Findings discovered a considerable positive association between specific forms of child maltreatment with self-injurious behaviors. Children, who experience any form of abuse like physical, neglect, emotional and sexual abuse also has history of NSSI. Especially emotional and sexual abuse had a strong relationship with self-injury. Moreover, self-criticism led to emotional abuse which further engaged a child in NSSI. Including above finding, results revealed that numerous forms of childhood mistreatment are positively linked with non-suicidal self-injury. More researches needed to carry out on same variables aimed to explore other causes of indulging in self-destructive behaviors.

Gomez et al. (2015) explored the difference between gender and child abuse in relation to self-harm. They conducted a concise description on “Predicting Self-Harm: Is It Gender or Abuse that Matters”. To predict self-harm through gender difference always remained unclear. Having abuse is also appropriate factor to explore the relationship among both gender and self-harm. The current study aimed to study both by generating hypothesis that being abused and gender would predict self-harm. For this, 397 undergraduate students were selected and a self-report survey was done. The self-report inventory evaluated abuse history self-harm and suicide attempts. The results recommended that having experience of abuse became a main cause of self-injury and suicides.

Junker et al. (2017) presented a 15 years' research follow up on adolescent health and subsequent risk of self-harm hospitalization. He made the hypothesis that self-harm increased the suicide risk and became a main challenge for the mental health care in adolescent. So in this study, researcher examined the relationship among different aspects of adolescent mental health and risk of self-harm. Information was gathered from n = 8965 participants from age 13 to 19 years old at the Norwegian Young HUNT. After 15 years of follow up, record of the patients related to self-harm hospitalization was reviewed. The results showed that 71% female were admitted in hospital due to self-harm. 81 % female used self-poisoning method. Mental and somatic health problems including anxiety, depression, loneliness, being bullied, epilepsy, migraine was closely related to the increased risk of self-harm hospitalization.

Indigenous Researches

This paper focuses on importance of child abuse and its presence in Pakistan, along with evaluating its reasons and effects by describing the details of childhood abuse. The frequency of reported cases in Pakistan is discussed with support of recent figures obtained from child welfare and protection NGOs such as Sahil. A significant evaluation was done which observed various reasons and sound effects of child abuse by clarifying the influence of abuse on individual as well as on a society level. Lastly, the paper suggested different recommendations to handle the threat of this issue in Pakistan. These suggestions involved treatment and preventive procedures. Modification of these findings can help the country in resolving the burning issue of child abuse and can provide a harmless and protected atmosphere to the children (Soomro et al., 2012).

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) is one of main public health problems that occur worldwide. The term abuse has been used for a long time since human civilizations occurred in world. For studying CSA with regard to Pakistan, Logical Framework Analysis (LFA) was established to make development in community health situations for health prevention, awareness, and health preservation of the people existing in the community. Child Sexual Abuse, issue was recognized after thorough evaluation of community which showed that CSA was predominant in population but was unreported. LFA method was used to discover the complications through root origin examination and determine some of the applicable policies to resolve recognized problems. In conclusion, there is a strong need of alertness about child sexual abuse to stop this problem worldwide (Meghani et al., 2014).

Another research highlighted that child sexual abuse led to psychological and emotional disorders. The purpose of current paper was to discover the influence of sexual abuse on physical and emotional health. Sexual abuse triggered mental disorders including PTSD, anxiety, panic attack, depressive symptoms, low self-esteem and use of drugs. Even though sexual abuse in children was an aggressive act in Pakistan, but it was typically unreported in the society. In 2012 to 2013 around 3,861 and 1,204 cases of CSA were reported in the country. A series of present cases regarding abuse had occurred but they failed to draw attention. Child sexual abuse disturbs not only the individual but also the family members, relatives and humanities on huge scale. Hence, a combined technique concentrating on the parents, teachers and medical experts can be planned to stop this matter. In this regard present paper suggested that anticipation programs such as parental education, home visiting programs, community education, and training-based conferences should be conducted. By combined efforts of relatives and societies, a voice against CSA will rise and this will eventually decrease mental harms in the world (Ali & Ali, 2014).

METHODOLOGY

Research design

Cross sectional correlation design was used to determine the relationship between psychopathy traits and self-harming behavior among abused children.

Participants of the study

The total sample was comprised of (N=100) both 50 males and 50 females under the age range of 12 to 18 years. Purposive sampling strategy was used for data collection. Sample was recruited from Save Our Souls (SOS) and Child Protection Bureau, Lahore. Only male and female participants under the age range of 12-18 years were included in the study. Children with any physical disability and psychological disorders were excluded from the research.

Instruments

Child abuse screening tool was used to measure the 4 types of child abuse that is neglect, physical, emotional and sexual abuse. It comprised of two sections such as home victimization and school or work victimization. The age range of scale was 11- 18 years and consisted on 52 items. It was comprised of five subscales namely home violence, psychological abuse, neglect, verbal and physical abuse. Cronbach's alpha reliability of child abuse screening tool is .89. The scale was translated in Urdu and adapted by Tariq and Iftikhar in 2014 and the alpha reliability was found as being very high that is .94.

Deliberate self-harm inventory is a self-report questionnaire developed by Gratz (2001). It was used to assess self-harm in children. It consists of behaviorally based 17 main items, each of item contains 5 sub questions that evaluate the diverse features of self-harm, including occurrence of the behaviors, severity, duration, and its types. Each 17 items contains two options yes or no. The participant who did answer yes get 1 mark and other participants who do not answer "yes" to any of the DSHI items were assigned a score of "0". Cronbach's alpha was .82 that indicated that the DSHI had high internal consistency. This was translated and adapted by Batool and Ijaz in 2017 and alpha reliability was found high.727.

Youth psychopathy trait inventory was a self-report measure which was developed by Andershed, Kerr, Stattin and Leavender, in 2002 and translated by Ijaz and Kiran in 2013. It was based on was psychopathy checklist revised, which was developed by Hare. This inventory was used as a diagnostic tool and for screening the psychopathic traits among youth. The age range of this inventory was 12-18 years. It consisted of 50 items and was rated on 4-point Likert Scale with 1 (not applicable) to 4 (strongly applicable). It comprised of four factors namely grandiose manipulation, impulsive and irresponsible, thrill-seeking behavior and callous unemotional. Its reliability ranges are 0.7-0.8 which is highly significant. The concurrent validity ranges from .05- 0.6.

Procedure

In this study, for data collection of research tools was selected and taken with the permission of their authors. Permission was also obtained from institutions' authorities to collect the data. In the first step of data collection, consent form and demographic form were given to the children. Information about the research procedure, protocol, confidentiality of their information and aspects of the study was explained to the children. All students were provided questioner and instructions were also given. After the completion of data, it was entered on SPSS Version 21 and analyzed by using both descriptive and inferential statistics. Informed consent, confidentiality anonymity of participants was ensured. Permissions form NGOs were taken from their authorities and for using all the scales in this research were obtained from authors. The participants were also given the right to withdraw from the research at any point without facing any hesitation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

These results comprised of descriptive and inferential analysis. In the descriptive analysis, frequencies and percentages were computed for categorical demographic variables and mean was calculated from the continuous variables.

Descriptive Analysis

Table 1. Mean, standard deviation, frequencies and percentages of demographic variables.

Demographics	M	SD	f(%)
Age	14.65	1.806	
Gender			
Male			50 (50.0)
Female			50 (50.0)
Education			
Primary			58(58)
Middle			22(22)
Secondary			20(20)
No of siblings			
1-3			27(27)
4-7			64(64)
8 and above			9(9)
Birth order			
1			25(25)
2			28(28)
3			20(20)
4			10(10)
5			8(8)
6			3(3)
7			4(4)
8			2(2)
Religion			
Muslims			98(98.0)

Non-Muslims	2(2.0)
Contact with family	
Yes	30(30.0)
No	70(70.0)

Note: f = frequency; P= Percentage; M= Mean; SD= Standard Deviation.

Table 1 indicated comprehensive demographic description of sample. Findings illustrate that majority of the sample lies between the ages of children as compare to adolescents. The education level shows that majority of children fall in primary education as compare to middle or matric. Many of children have two to three siblings. For the variable of religion two categories Muslim and non-Muslim shows only two participants are not Muslims. Most of the participants have no contact with family only few participants have contact with their parents.

Table 2. Frequency and category of deliberate self harm inventory.

DSHI	f (%)
Category 1	54 (54)
Category 2	46 (46)

Table 2 shows that participants have self-harm behaviors as all of them scored on self-harm questions. 54% participants have scores on less than 3 items where as 46% have scores on more than 3 items.

Table 3. Participants' -harm behaviors scored on self-harm behaviors.

Deliberate Self-Harm Inventory	Male	Female
Items	f (%)	f (%)
Cutting	28(28)	32(32)
Burning with cigarette	4(4)	9(9)
Burning with lighter or match	2(2)	1(1)
Carving words into skin	11(11)	9(9)
Carving pictures into skin	1(1)	0
Severe scratching	4(4)	7(7)
Biting	14(14)	20(20)
Rubbing sandpaper on skin	2(2)	1(1)
Dripping acid on skin	5(5)	6(6)
Using bleach or oven cleaner to scrub skin	0(0)	2(2)
Sticking pins, needles, staples into skin	5(5)	4(4)
Rubbing glass into skin	7(7)	17(17)
Breaking bones	5(5)	3(3)
Banging head	8(8)	18(18)
Punching self	0(0)	6
Interference with wound healing	8(8)	6(6)
Other forms of self-harm	3(3)	3(3)

Table 3 shows the Participants' harm behaviors scored on self-harm behaviors. Although these frequencies are not significantly associated with the gender of a participant the frequencies and percentage of female and male participants shows slight differences from one another. In regard to the difference of gender,

some of items showed difference in prevalence of self-harm behavior respectively (32% & 28%) in cutting behavior found more frequent in women than men. Similarly, female have more rubbing glass into skin, banging head and biting behaviors as compare to male.

3.2 Reliability Analysis

Table 4. Reliability analysis of deliberate self-harm inventory, youth psychopathy inventory and child abuse screening tool (N = 100).

Scale	k	A	M (SD)
DSHI	17	.727	2.51 (1.977)
YPI	50	.882	138.94 (21.024)
CAST	36	.843	43.96 (16.787)

Note: DSHI= Deliberate Self Harm Inventory; YPI = Youth Psychopathy Inventory; CAST = Child Abuse Screening Tool, k= no of items, A= Alpha value.

Table 4 shows that all the tools used in the present research were reliable. Youth psychopathy inventory was highly reliable as the alpha value was .882. Whereas child abuse screening tool was also highly reliable with alpha value of .882. While Deliberate Self Harm Inventory's alpha value was .727 which was also reliable. This indicated that reliability of all the measures were within the appropriate range that enables to carry out further study.

Hypothesis Testing

To find the relationship between Child Abuse Screening Tool and Youth Psychopathy Inventory Pearson product moment correlation was analyzed.

Table 5 showed that there was non-significant relationship was found between child abuse and psychopathy inventory which indicated that those who are abused may not have psychopathy traits such as manipulative, impulsive, thrill-seeking behaviors and callous unemotional.

Table 5. Correlation of child abuse and psychopathy behavior in abused children (N=100).

Variables	1	2	M	SD
YPI	-	.169	138.94	21.024
CAST	-	-	43.96	16.787

Note: CAST= Child Abuse Screening Tool, YPI= Youth Psychopathy Inventory, M = Mean, SD = Standard Deviation.

To examine the relationship between subscales of youth psychopathy inventory and subscales of child abuse screening tool Pearson product moment correlation analysis was used.

Table 6 revealed that there were non-significant relationships among subscales of youth psychopathy inventory that was Impulsive and Irresponsible, Callous Unemotional and child abuse screening tool that was physical abuse, neglect abuse, sexual abuse. Whereas significant positive relationship was found in home violence (subscale of CAST) with grandiose manipulation (subscale of YPI), thrill seeking behavior (subscale of CAST) with psychological abuse (subscale of YPI). Which showed physically abused children engaged in thrill seeking behaviors and those who have experience of home violence are prone to involve in grandiosity and manipulative behaviors.

Table 6. Correlations on subscales of youth psychopathy inventory and child abuse screening tool among abused children (N=100).

Variables	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	M	SD
YPI											
1.GM	-	.579**	.478**	.675**	.275**	.168	.001	.174	.035	30.73	8.048
2.I&I		-	.385**	.564**	.100	.115	-.014	.123	.068	30.82	5.529
3.TSB			-	.503**	.182	.208*	-.020	.086	-.154	26.13	4.216
4.CU				-	.176	.048	.062	.021	.097	22.77	4.175
CAST											
5.HV					-	.400**	-.005	.265*	.019	6.69	5.393
6.PA						-	-.005	.519*	.094	11.02	5.995
8.NA							-	.301*	.096	8.19	5.043
9.PA								-	.205*	21.64	5.027
10.SA									-	5.46	5.266

Note: GM = Grandiose Manipulation, II = Impulsive and Irresponsible, TSB = Thrill Seeking Behavior, CU = Callous Unemotional, HV= Home Violence, PA = Psychological Abuse, PA= Physical Abuse, NA = Neglect Abuse, SA = Sexual Abuse; **p< .01; *p< .05.

To find out gender differences among male and female over self-harm behavior with child abuse t-test was carried out.

Table 7. Gender differences over self harm and child abuse in abused children (N = 100).

Variables	Male (n = 50)		Female (n = 50)		t (58)	p	95% C.I		Cohen's d
	M	S.D	M	S.D			LL	UL	
DSHI	1.38	.490	1.54	.503	-1.61	.149	-.357	.037	0.4965
CAST	41.86	16.041	46.06	17.408	-1.255	.544	-10.843	2.443	16.73

Note: CI= Confidence Interval; LL = Lower Limit; UL = Upper Limit; DSHI= Deliberate Self Harm Inventory; CAST= Child Abuse Screening Tool.

Table 7 indicates that there were no gender differences between child abuse and self -harm. This showed that abused male and female both have equal chance of self- harm.

To find out gender differences among male and female over self -harm behavior with psychopathy inventory t-test was carried out.

Table 8. Gender Differences over self harm and psychopathy traits in abused children (N = 100).

Variables	Male (n = 50)		Female (n = 50)		t (58)	p	95% C.I		Cohen's d
	M	S.D	M	S.D			LL	UL	
DSHI	1.38	.490	1.54	.503	-1.61	.149	-.357	.037	16.73
YPI	139.10	20.072	138.78	22.138	.076	.540	-8.066	8.706	21.13

Note: CI= Confidence Interval; LL= Lower Limit; UL= Upper Limit; DSHI= Deliberate Self Harm Inventory; YPI= Youth Psychopathy Inventory.

Table 8 showed that there were no gender differences between child deliberate self-harm and psychopathy traits. Male and female have equal level of deliberate self-harm and psychopathy traits.

Discussion

Result of hypothesis 1 showed there was no psychopathy traits in abused children. This finding was contradicting to previous researches. Although, previous studies indicated that childhood abuse played an important role in developing psychopathy traits in adults. A case study was conducted by Higgs (2012) on "Jeffrey Dahmer: Psychopathy and Neglect". Jeffrey was a serial killer, who killed many adolescents by torturing and abusing them. Researcher wanted to find out Jeffrey's Childhood neglect in relation to his fascination with death and its influence on his adult psychopathic behavior along with studying long term impacts of this abuse and neglect experienced by him. Information was gathered from a range of government and private organizations, interviews were conducted, searching websites and journal articles were studied. After analysis of information, it was concluded that abuse and neglect had a significant impact on Jeffrey's life which later were responsible for formation of psychopathic behaviors, like sexually tormenting and killing others. This might have been because of that fact that an unhealthy attachment with parental figures prevented Jeffrey from development of proper social skills that were necessary for understanding feelings of others as per social learning theory and made him vulnerable for developing psychopathic traits.

However, results of current study didn't show a connection between abuse and psychopathy which might have been due to sensitivity of the sample. As the reporting of abuse cases are not discussed openly in Pakistani culture. That's why sample size was limited. And maybe due to cultural differences, manifestation of abuse might have been different in Pakistani culture as compared to in other cultures.

Further, results of hypothesis 2 revealed that no relationship was found among neglect, physical, psychological, home violence and sexual abuse and (grandiose manipulation, impulsive & irresponsible, Thrill-Seeking Behavior and Callous Unemotional). However, results also revealed that home violence led to impulsive as well as irresponsible behaviors in children. This was supported by research conducted by Bartol and Bartol (2011) in which it was shown that abuse affected individuals from all ages, races, and socioeconomic class. Also, violence was a form of abuse which was defined as physical attack, bullying, battery, sexual assault, or any criminal offense on a child usually committed by those who lived in the same house or may be a relative. Finkelhor et al. (2009) explained that individuals who suffered abuse in adolescent would continue this cycle of violence and would demonstrate violent behavior towards others for taking revenge. Usually, this type of behavior was practiced by other family members of the individual. So those individuals who were abused got impulsive and violent towards others with time which is features of psychopathy.

According to results of hypothesis 3 self-harm wasn't related to child abuse. However, researches had shown that self-harm was reported in children. Further, childhood was also found to cause self-harm or suicide especially in sexual abuse victims. Another research also found that all forms of abuse increased the likelihood of bodily self-harm except neglect abuse. While in some individuals it was also observed that direct experience of physical abuse may precede consequent bodily self-injury (Wiederman et al., 1999). So may be children in current study were experiencing neglect abuse due to which they didn't engage in bodily self-harm.

It had also been observed from results that no difference in psychopathy along genders was observed. Previously researches on gender difference related to psychopathy had mainly focused on male populations (Cima & Raine, 2009; Hicks et al., 2010). Also, distinction made by males and females with respect to abuse being experienced due to psychopathology traits wasn't accurate. Further, in our Pakistani culture boys were viewed as being more prone to engaging in psychopathic behaviors, however, an individual's self-perfectionism varied along surrounding environment (Salekin et al., 1998). So even though boys were thought to possess greater psychopathy traits but they might not perceive themselves as having

it which might in turn affect how often these traits were expressed. Results also revealed that being male or female had no effect on sex related postulation of abuse that were being inflicted by psychopathy traits. This may be because that as our cultural portrays boys as being more prone to engage in psychopathic behaviors. However, children's own perception greatly varies across environment (Salekin et al., 1998). Hence, expression of gender related assumption of abuse may not depend on whether a person is male or female but rather on how he/she perceived the level of psychopathology he/she is experiencing.

Similarly, it was also observed from results that female was more involved in self-harm behaviors as compare to male. This hypothesis was supported by literature which suggested that women are likely to experience self-harm than men (Boudewyn & Liem, 1995). In findings of present study self-harm was not considerably linked with sex of participants but rather by frequencies which indicated that self-harm was more frequently reported in females as compare to male (32% and 28%, respectively) participants. Although this was not a significant difference but it depicted that it might have been found significant if there were availability of large sample. Gratz (2001) findings on self-harm with regard on the impact of gender to particular forms of self-harm suggested that no primary gender distinction in choice of self-harm behaviors have seen.

Also, there may be factors which affected discrepancy which might also have led to no difference along gender with respect to self-destruction and psychopathy traits. The data was collected from the participants who lived in same place. Their environment was same, as they lived in houses under NGOs. Many of them might have started doing self-harm to themselves by observing other fellows as well as might have showed impulsive and attention seeking behaviors under the influence of peers. Hence, due to this no significant difference was found along both male and female with respect to psychopathy. Further, a theoretical research review was done to assess effects of peer influence on self-harm in adolescence. It suggested that adolescents have greater chances to engage in Non-Suicidal Self Injury when they observed in contrast to their close friends or other peers engaging in similar behaviors (Heilbron & Prinstein, 2008). Psychopathy behaviors might also be learned behaviors. According to social learning three main aspects named definitions, differential association, and differential reinforcement to determine influenced on individual's level of psychopathy. This theory stated that criminal behaviors usually traced back to individual's own environment (Henderson, 2015).

Another factor explaining how psychopathology developed in individuals was their environment. Although, participants were provided all facilities and positive environment at their residence but they missed their homes, families and became emotionally disturbed. In short, history of abuse and above-mentioned factors led children towards self-harm and other attention seeking behaviors. Also, these findings are in line with "The National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence (NatSCEV)" conducted by Finkelhor et.al (2009). A focus of this survey was to assess multiple and cumulative exposures to violence. Survey examined the previous and lifetime exposure to physical and emotional violence by observing or interviewing eyewitnesses that included both direct victimization and indirect exposure to violence. A large number of children were surveyed revealed that about 38.7 % experience more than one type of direct victimization in past years. Results showed children who have exposure of only one type of violent behavior had more prone to experience other types of violence as well. Such as child who physically assaulted in previous year have greater chances to have been sexually victimized and more than four times likely to have been maltreated during that period.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The current study has concentrated on the incident of child abuse and neglect in relation to psychopathy traits and self-harm. After examining literature, it had found that childhood abuse and neglect had great impact on individual's mental and physical health. So to assessing the after-effects of child abused, current research was carried out. Although, results findings were not found significant but self-harm and psychopathy traits were reported and observed in data. The results provided a unique issue for further

research in this area because self-harm has not previously been studied in this population. Moreover, current research has pointed out a need to carry out a lot of researches on its results for further understanding the concept of psychopathy. The findings might help future researchers to understand the children's perception and attitudes with respect to these variables with the association of child abuse. In this research data was too limited because of the sensitivity of the topic. Child abuse is not reported openly in Pakistani cultural context many victims' family suppress this issue. Due to legal reasons many NGOs and institutes didn't allow to share their data. Due to these limitations large sample was not taken but further studies needed to conduct on this topic to enhance the generalized ability of the present study.

Way Forward

The suggested way forward after concluding the study is that there is a dire need to enhance awareness on topic of child nurturing practices and rights of children is very important in order to improve the family life to further prevent cases of abuse. Parental awareness is needed to improve regarding their conflicts and abusive behaviors for making their children a good human being.

Furthermore, Family related education regarding caring attitudes and behaviors by family members should be incorporated.

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