EPIDEMIOLOGICAL FEATURES OF CHILD ABUSE
AMONG A SAMPLE OF PREPARATORY SCHOOL CHILDREN IN BENHA CITY

Introduction: Child abuse is in fact a worldwide phenomenon and has become a major concern in many countries throughout the world. Child abusers are found mostly in the ranks of the unemployed, the blue-collar worker, the white-collar worker, and some other professionals. Child abuse or maltreatment constitute all forms of physical, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect and any other exploitation. 

Objective: The current objective is to assess the epidemiological feature of child abuse among a sample of preparatory school children in Benha. 

Methods: The present study is a cross-sectional study. It is conducted on students of 2 preparatory schools in Benha city during the academic year 2006/2007. Three hundred and thirty students were selected by systematic random method from the chosen schools. The studied group included 1st, 2nd and remnants of the previous 3rd preparatory year.

Results: It was estimated that 75.8% of the studied group were exposed to abuse. Only 24.2% of the studied group wasn't exposed to abuse. This difference was of statistical significance, P <0.05. Approximately twenty-eight percentage of the abused group were exposed to combined forms of abuse, while for emotional abuse was 24%, that for physical abuse was 20.4% and for the percentage of neglect was 17.6%. The least percentage for abuse was encountered among sexually abused students 9.6%. 

Conclusion: It could be concluded that child abuse and neglect is a big problem among preparatory school children and it has its adverse effects on their emotions and behaviour. The majority of the abused children 53.2% were in high need for help and intervention to manage the emotional and behavior problems. One third of the abused children were in some need for intervention according to the total difficulties score.