2. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE TERMS

2.1 A Brief Description of Child Abuse

Each year, tens of thousands of children are traumatized by physical, sexual, and emotional abusers or by caregivers who neglect them, making child abuse as common as it is shocking. The scars can be deep and long lasting, affecting not just abused children but society.

Child Abuse is actions involving physical or emotional injury to a child as well as neglect of the child’s basic needs. According to Hary (1996:234):

Child abuse is the physical or emotional abuse of a child by a parent, guardian or other person.

The US Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) No. 42U.S.C.A§51106g), defines child abuse and neglect as:

Any recent act or failure to act on the part of parent or caretaker which result in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation. An act or failure to act which presents an immanent risk of serious harm.

In most cases, abuse and neglect in children are perpetrated by parents. Frequently the perpetrator is a young adult in his or her mid-20s without a high school diploma, living at or below the poverty level. However, abusers can come from any social class and background. However, child abuse is more prevalent in families with a
history of domestic violence, substance abuse problems and those living in poverty or facing other socioeconomic disadvantages, such as unemployment and lack of education.

Not all child abuse is deliberate or intended. Several factors in a person's life may combine to cause them to abuse a child:

- Stress, including the stress of caring for children, or the stress of caring for a child with a disability, special needs, or difficult behaviors
- Lack of nurturing qualities necessary for child care
- Immaturity: a disproportionate number of parents who abuse their children are teenagers
- Difficulty controlling anger
- Personal history of being abused
- Isolation from the family or community
- Physical or mental health problems, such as depression and anxiety
- Alcohol or drug abuse
- Personal problems such as marital conflict, unemployment, or financial difficulties.

No one has been able to predict which of these factors will cause someone to abuse a child. A significant factor is that abuse tends to be intergenerational those who were abused as children are more likely to repeat the act when they become parents or caretakers.
2.2 Types and Differences of Child Abuse

It is never a child’s fault when it comes to the issue of child abuse. Many people may confuse abuse with discipline but there is a very fine line between the two. Mentally unstable parents, more likely than not, abuse their children. Child abuse manifests in various forms, including physical abuse, sexual abuse neglect, and emotional abuse or psychological abuse (Widom, 1989)

There are the four primary types of child abuse and It can be seen below::

2.2.1 Physical Abuse

The definition is any physical force or action that results in or may result in a non-accidental injury of a child. Physical abuse may involve striking the child a single time or it may involve a pattern of occurrences. Physical abuse is usually connected to physical punishment or is confused with child discipline.

Such acts of aggression include striking a child with the hand, fist, or foot or with an object; burning the child with a hot object; shaking, pushing, or throwing a child; pinching or biting the child; pulling a child by the hair; cutting off a child’s air. The parent or caretaker may not have intended to hurt the child, the injury is not an accident. It may, however, been the result of over discipline or physical punishment that is inappropriate to the child’s age.

According to Aronson in Health and Safety in Child Care (1991: 184) states that:

*Physical abuse is application of force that produces pain or injury. Spanking, beating, holding hard enough to bruise, cutting, scraping, burning, and tying up a child are forms of physical abuse.*
According to a study done by Newman & Newson (1990) on physical child abuse effects, the highest predictors of involvement in crime and delinquency are: being hit once per week or more at 11 years of age and having a mother, at that age, with strong beliefs in and a commitment to, corporal punishment.

Corporal punishment, the use of physical force with the intent of inflicting bodily pain, but not injury, for the purpose of correction or control, used to be a very common form of discipline: most of us know it as spanking or paddling. And many of us were spanked as children without damage to body or psyche.

Such acts of physical aggression account for between 15 and 20 percent of documented child abuse cases each year such as burns, broken bones, hitting, shaking, human bites, strangulation.

Physical child abuse effects vary from child to child, depending on six factors:

1. severity of the physical abuse
2. frequency of the physical abuse
3. age of the child when physical abuse began
4. child's relationship to the abuser
5. availability of support persons
6. child's ability to cope

Severity of the physical abuse: How hard a child is struck is only one aspect of severity. The implement the child is struck with is also a factor. This does not mean that using an open hand or fist will result in fewer or lesser effects; the harm done to the child is measured both by physical injury and emotional injury.
Age of the child when physical abuse began: The younger the child was at the onset of physical abuse, the greater the imprint, and thus, the greater the impact. This is particularly evident when the abuse continues throughout the child's life.

Child's relationship to the abuser: When a child has a very close relationship with his/her abuser, the feelings of betrayal are that much greater; the very person who is supposed to protect is instead hurting that child.

Signs of physical child abuse include visible marks of maltreatment, such as cuts, bruises, welts, or well-defined burns, and reluctance to go home. If you ask a child about how he or she got hurt and the child talks vaguely or evasively about falling off a fence or spilling a hot dish, think hard before you accept the child’s story at face value.

Children and youth suffer physical pain, trauma, and emotional scars when they are victims of child abuse. The physical child abuse effects also vary depending on the age of the child.

2.2.2 Sexual Abuse

The is an umbrella term describing criminal and civil offenses in which an adult engages in sexual activity with a minor or exploits a minor for the purpose of sexual gratification such as touching of private parts or incest. According to Aronson in Health and Safety in Child Care (1991: 185) states that:

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\text{In the national study, the most common form of sexual abuse was fondling of a child's genital, including a high incidence of penetration with a finger, object, or genital organ.}
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Sexual abuse, which accounts for about 10 percent of child abuse, is any sexual act between an adult and a child. Such acts include as follows:

- **Behavior involving penetration** and for examples: Vaginal or anal intercourse and oral sex
- **Fondling** and for examples: Touching or kissing a child's genitals, making a child fondle an adult's genitals
- **Violations of privacy** and for examples: Forcing a child to undress, spying on a child in the bathroom or bedroom
- **Exposing children to adult sexuality** and for examples: Performing sexual acts in front of a child, exposing genitals, telling "dirty" stories, showing pornography to a child
- **Exploitation** and for examples: Selling a child’s services as a prostitute or a performer in pornography

The adult who sexually abuses a child or adolescent is usually someone the child knows and is supposed to trust: a relative, childcare provider, family friend, neighbor, teacher, coach, or clergy member. More than 80 percent of sex offenders are people the child or adolescent victims know. It’s important to understand that no matter what the adult says in defense of his or her actions, the child did not invite the sexual activity and the adult’s behavior is wrong. Sexual abuse is never the child's fault.

### 2.2.3 Emotional Abuse

Psychological abuse or emotional abuse refers to the humiliation or intimidation of another person, but is also used to refer to the long-term effects of emotional shock.
Emotional abuse is the cornerstone of all the abuses because emotional abuse is always present during physical child abuse, child neglect, and sexual child abuse, and it is the only abuse that can stand on its own. It does not have to accompany any of the other abuses.

Many people including parents, members of the law enforcement community and journalists, think that infants and young children who witness violence are too young to know what happened. They don't take it in. "They won't remember." In fact, infants and young children can be overwhelmed by their exposure to violence, especially--as it is likely to be the case with very young children--when both victims and perpetrators are well known and emotionally important to the child and the violence occurs in or near the child's own home (Osofsky, 1996).

Aronson in *Health and Safety in Child Care* (1991: 185) states that:

> Emotional abuse occurs when adults treat children in developmentally inappropriate ways, damaging their spirit and self-esteem through belittling, verbal abuse, excessive demands.

There are six types of emotional abuse. It can be seen below:

1. **Rejecting**

   Putting down a child or youth's worth or putting down their needs such as constant criticism, name calling, telling child he/she is ugly, yelling or swearing at the child, expressing regret the child wasn't born the opposite sex, etc.
2. Isolating

Keeping a child away from family and friends such as leaving child in room unattended for long periods, not allowing child to have friends, rewarding child for withdrawing from social contact, isolating child in closet, punishing youth for engaging in normal social experiences, etc.

3. Ignoring

Failing to give any response to or interact with a child or youth at all such as no response to infant's spontaneous social behaviors, not accepting the child as an offspring, denying required health care, denying required dental care, failure to engage child in day to day activities, etc.

4. Corrupting

Encouraging a child or youth to do things that are illegal or harmful to themselves such as rewarding child for bullying and harassing behavior, teaching racism and ethnic biases, encouraging violence in sporting activities, inappropriate reinforcement of sexual activity, rewarding child for lying and stealing, etc.

5. Exploiting

Giving a child or youth responsibilities that are far greater than a child/youth that age can handle. It is also using a child for profit such as infants expected not to cry, anger when infant fails to meet a developmental stage, child expected to be 'caregiver' to the parent, young child expected to take care of younger siblings, blaming child or youth for misbehavior of siblings
6. Terrorizing

Causing a child or youth to be terrified by the constant use of threats and/or intimidating behavior. This includes witnessing, which is when a child or youth observes violence, hears violence, or knows that violence is taking place in the home such as with infants and children, excessive teasing, yelling and scaring, unpredictable and extreme responses to child's behavior, extreme verbal threats, raging, alternating with periods of artificial warmth, threatening abandonment, etc.

Emotional child abuse is defined as the constant attack of a child or youth by an adult that negatively affects the child or youth's 6+. It is important to note here the word 'constant'. With emotional abuse, the child/youth receives only negative

Refers to the humiliation or intimidation of another person, but is also used to refer to the long-term effects of emotional shock. Emotional child abuse involves behavior that interferes with a child’s mental health or social development: one website calls it “the systematic tearing down of another human being.

2.2.4 CHILD NEGLECT

The definition as when a caregiver fails to provide those basic human needs that are necessary for a child/ youth to grow into a healthy adult. Children need four specific behaviors from caring adults in order to develop into mature, healthy adults (Mosher, 1994):

- Verbal communication skills
- A safe environment to explore both physically and socially
- Their needs met appropriately according to their developmental stage
• The verbal & non-verbal expression of positive feelings towards them

Aronson in *Health and Safety in Child Care* (1991: 186) states that:

*Neglect is an absence of reasonable care for a child that puts the child at risk for or causes harm. Neglect may be obvious by looking at a child and seeing inappropriate clothing, lack of hygiene, or malnutrition.*

The significance of child neglect should come as no surprise, given that a lack of parental care and nurturance hallmarks of child neglect poses one of the greatest threats to children's healthy growth and well-being (Rutter & Stroufe, 2000; Sameroff, 2000).

There are three basic types of neglect. It can be seen as follows:

2.2.4.1 **Physical Neglect**

1. Failure to provide adequate food, clothing, or hygiene

2. Reckless disregard for the child’s safety, such as inattention to hazards in the home, drunk driving with kids in the car, leaving a baby unattended

3. Refusal to provide or delay in providing necessary health care for the child

4. Abandoning children without providing for their care or expelling children from the home without arranging for their care

2.2.4.2 **Educational Neglect**

1. Failure to enroll a child in school

2. Permitting or causing a child to miss too many days of school

3. Refusal to follow up on obtaining services for a child’s special educational needs

2.2.4.3 **Emotional Neglect**

1. Inadequate nurturing or affection

2. Exposure of the child to spousal abuse
3. Permitting a child to drink alcohol or use recreational drugs
4. Failure to intervene when the child demonstrates antisocial behavior
5. Refusal of or delay in providing necessary psychological care

Some signs of child neglect. They are as follows:

- Clothes that are dirty, ill-fitting, ragged, and/or not suitable for the weather
- Unwashed appearance; offensive body odor
- Indicators of hunger: asking for or stealing food, going through trash for food, eating too fast or too much when food is provided for a group
- Apparent lack of supervision: wandering alone, home alone, left in a car
- Colds, fevers, or rashes left untreated; infected cuts; chronic tiredness
- In schoolchildren, frequent absence or lateness; troublesome, disruptive behavior or its opposite, withdrawal
- In babies, failure to thrive; failure to relate to other people or to surroundings

2.3 Alcohol and Violence

There are many factors that may contribute to the occurrence of child abuse and neglect. Parents may be more likely to maltreat their children if they abuse drugs or alcohol. Child abuse is one of the many types of violence associated with alcohol use and abuse, either as a consequence or as a causative factor. For example, parent alcohol abuse may contribute to the abusive treatment of children.

According to Hornby in Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary of Current English (1974: 21) states:

Alcohol is pure, colourless liquid present in such as beer, wine, brandy, whisky.
Ethyl alcohol (C2H5OH), or ethanol, is the main alcohol used in beverages. It is one of many alcohols produced in nature and in industry by the process of fermentation. Alcohols also occur naturally in the human body, where enzyme systems produce and dispose of them.

The distillation process came along after the discovery of fermentation. It was known to the Greeks and possibly to the scientist of Egypt as early as the beginning of the Christians era but was not introduced into Europe until the 18th century.

Alcohol boils at a lower temperature than water. When fermented liquid is heated, the alcohol vapors are given off first. These can be condensed back to liquid in a cooling coil and collected. The result is a water and alcohol solution contains no solids, minerals, or vitamins. The distilling process can be repeated until the solution is almost pure alcohol. But because of affinity alcohol has for water, a 100 percent alcohol solution cannot be maintained; most commercial alcohol called ‘pure’ alcohol contains about 5 percent water.

The direct action of alcohol on the body, coupled with its ability to relax feelings of self-criticism and inhibition, the produce ‘high’ associated with alcohol use. Empirical investigations have shown that drinking increases in intense situation over which individuals fell they have little or no control. Hafen with Brog in Alcohol Second Edition (1983) states that studies have shown that there is a relationship between alcohol use and increase child abuse. Alcohol plays a part in one-third of all abuse cases.
Child abuse may be physical, emotional, or sexual. Many alcoholic parents realize that they have increased potential for these forms of abuse while intoxicated, and they therefore take more care not to engage in such forms of abuse. By far the most prevalent form of abuse among alcoholic is neglect of children that is erratic and inconsistent parenting. Miller (1997) states that possibly, parental alcohol abuse increases children’s vulnerability to childhood sexual abuse by interfering with the parent’s ability to provide a supportive, nurturing, and protective environment.

Many alcoholic have child rearing problems, most of which fall within the category of inconsistent attention to children. This is not to imply that all alcoholic will, by virtue of their alcoholism beat their spouses, nor that all alcoholics seriously abuse or neglect their children; we do know, however, that many alcoholics do have difficulties in child rearing and in their marriage, leading to the potential for family violence. Aronson in Health and Safety in Child Care (1991: 186) states that:

*Marital difficulties, job problems, and alcohol or chemical abuse are also frequent factors in the abuse of very young children.*