

Child Abuse in India – A Review¹Adeeba Saleem, Senior lecturer, Department of Public of Health Dentistry, Manav Rachna Dental College, Faridabad²Divya Srivastava, Private clinician, Department of Public of Health Dentistry, Gorakhpur³Henna Mir, Private clinician, Department of Public of Health Dentistry, Kashmir⁴Chetna Joshi, Senior lecturer, Department of Oral Medicine Diagnosis and Radiology, Seema Dental College, Rishikesh⁵Darakshan Saifi, Private clinician, Department of Prosthodontics and Crown & Bridge, Bareilly⁶Anushtha Kush, Post graduate, Department of Public of Health Dentistry, Institute of Dental Sciences, Bareilly**Corresponding Author:** Adeeba Saleem, Senior lecturer, Department of Public of Health Dentistry, Manav Rachna Dental College, Faridabad**Citation of this Article:** Adeeba Saleem, Divya Srivastava, Henna Mir, Chetna Joshi, Darakshan Saifi, Anushtha Kush, “Effect of smoking on oral-mucosa - A Review”, IJDSIR- January - 2023, Volume –6, Issue - 1, P. No. 39 – 44.**Copyright:** © 2023, Dr. Attarde Rucha, et al. This is an open access journal and article distributed under the terms of the creative commons’ attribution non-commercial License. Which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.**Type of Publication:** Review Article**Conflicts of Interest:** Nil**Abstract****Objectives:** The previous year's studies on child abuse in India were systematically reviewed. My study aims to determine the prevalence of child abuse in males and females.**Methodology:** we have done a literature review of research papers on the prevalence of child abuse in India. Only original articles published from 2010 to 2019 are taken. The literature search was done using an electronic database. A total of 27 published articles were screened, and only 6 studies were included in the review.**Results:** The child abuse prevalence rate in India ranged from 40-89.9%. The prevalence was comparatively higher in females as compared to males respectively.**Conclusion:** The study revealed the increased prevalence of child abuse among girls in India. So there

is an urgent need of reporting child abuse that needs to be addressed.

Keywords: Child abuse, Prevalence, India.**Introduction**

Child abuse is a very serious global problem and a cause of concern in India. It is mainly of 4type’sphysical, sexual, emotional, or just neglect.¹The World Health Organization (WHO) has defined 'Child Abuse' as a violation of the basic human rights of a child, constituting all forms of physical, emotional ill-treatment, sexual harm, neglect, commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual harm or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power.²World Health Organisation has reported that 20% of women and 5–10% of men reported being sexually abused as children, while 25–50% of children

mainly reported being physically abused. This mainly causes long-term effects on the health of children. As a result of child abuse, the children have weakened physical and mental health, poor school performance, and difficulties in jobs and relationships. So it is noticed significantly child abuse has reduced the country's economy and social development.³The children are also exposed to various forms of harmful childhood experiences. The various harmful childhood experiences are neglect and maltreatment.⁴Researchers in earlier studies have also stated that a teenager, being single, and of a low socioeconomic group is highly susceptible to child abuse. The researchers also stated that abuse is more easily found in a low socio-economic group of people, as well as people of high socio-economic groups have a better ability to hide it, or might be exposed to emotional abuse rather than physical abuse.⁵Child maltreatment in a child's home, or in the organizations, schools, or communities with which the child is familiar. In western countries, it is a cause of high concern and it is considered a priority so detailed laws and policies are made to solve the issue of child abuse.⁶

In India, due to the paucity of literature, it has been unaddressed. WHO, determined that child abuse varies differently depending on the country, it depends on the form of child abuse determined, the scope of quality of surveys including reports obtained from victims, parents, and caregivers. The report of International studies explains that mostly all adults reported physical abuse in childhood. 1 out of 5 women and 1 out of 13 men reported sexual abuse in childhood. Psychological abuse is also commonly reported.⁷The investigators have not yet been able to find out the actual phenomenon of abuse, neglect, and deprivation.⁸

A review study was also done in previous years on child abuse and neglect which states Adults abuse or neglect

children at all children, but most of the cases commonly occur in young children. The review study of 2018 on the impact of child abuse and neglect on children states that child abuse causes stress due to trauma which mainly affects homeostasis and causes immediate and long-term endocrine changes in metabolism and neurophysiology and it also triggers acute stress in victims due to which there is a high risk of developmental problems mainly in childhood and adolescence. In previous studies, researchers have not yet established the prevalence of child abuse due to a paucity of literature. Since child abuse is harmful to the child and hence needs to be addressed, this review aims to study the prevalence rate of child abuse found in India and to analyse the gaps in the current state of research.

Material and Methods

This study is based on a review of various articles on the prevalence of child abuse in the Indian population from 2010-2019. Only original articles were used for this review. An electronic database such as [PUBMED, Google Scholar] was used for searching articles published in English. There were overall 6 studies included in this review, which were identified using the keywords "child abuse", "prevalence" and "India" in the last 10 years. Data available for child abuse were deeply reviewed for each study.

Inclusion Criteria

1. Research Studies related to prevalence of child abuse in India.
2. Last 10 years only.

Exclusion Criteria

1. Studies of outside India
2. Case reports, review articles

Figure 1: PRISMA flow diagram for inclusion of studies

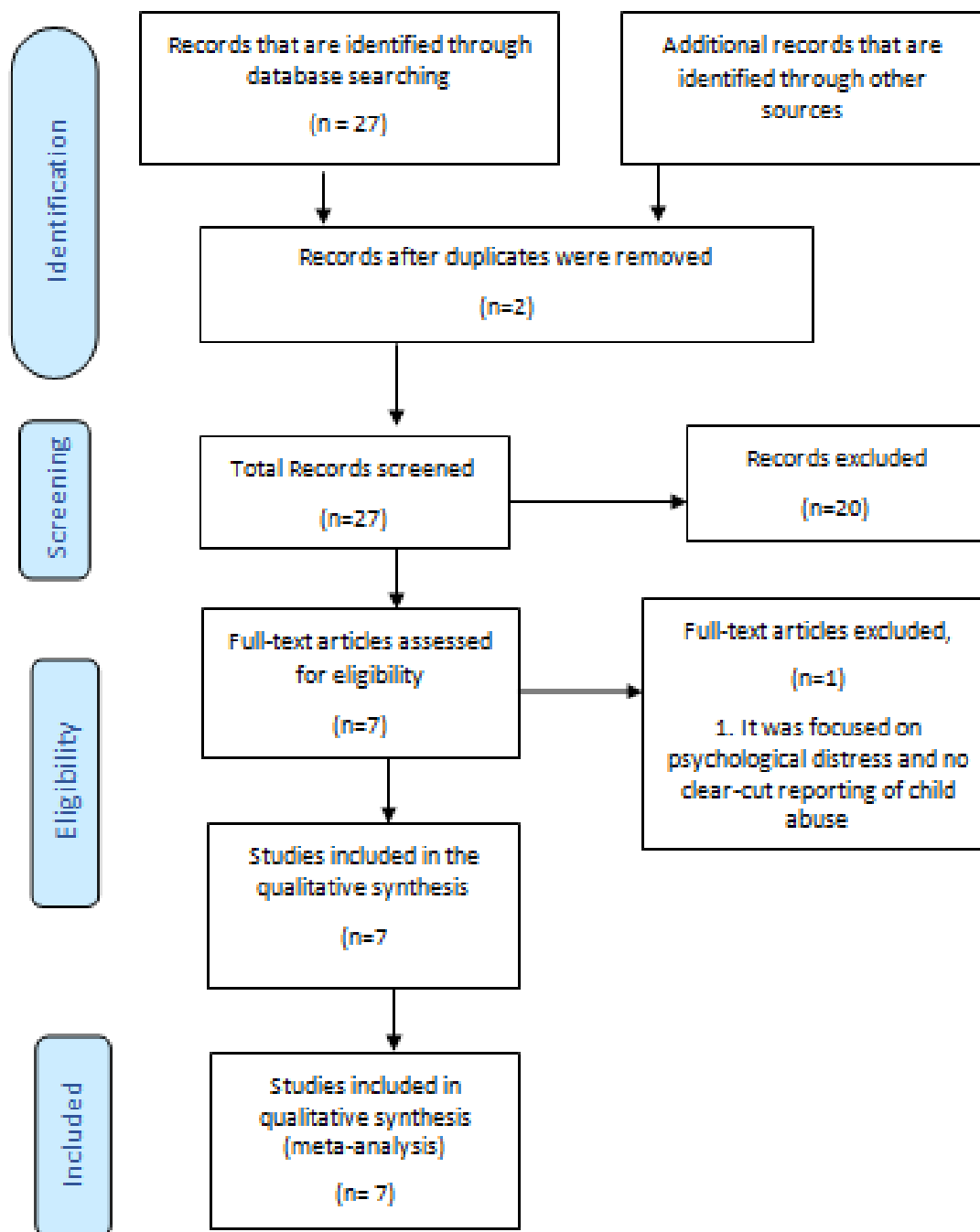


Table 1: Characteristics of included studies

Author	state	Study setting	Sample size	Study design	Age years	Effects of abuse	Prevalence	Period of prevalence	Abuse by
SG Ramya et al ⁹ [2010]	Uttar Pradesh	School	500	Cross-sectional	18-14	Headache, Depression	60.40%	childhood	Students
Kumar MT et al ¹⁰ [2019]	Tamil Nadu	School	6957	Cross-sectional	10-18	depression	89.90%	childhood	Father
P Krishna Kumar et al ¹¹ [2013]	Tamil Nadu	School	1614	Cross-sectional	15-18	depression	42%	childhood	Mother
Bharat DP et al ¹² [2012]	New Delhi	Runway adolescents	119	Cross-sectional	11-18	depression	72%	Experience of childhood abuse	Industry men
ManmohanSingh et al ¹³ [2015]	Punjab	School	542	Cross-sectional	13-18	Suicidal thoughts	40%	Childhood	Father
Shailaja et al ¹⁴ [2015]	New Delhi	School	1060	Cross-sectional	12-18	Physical impairment	70%	childhood	Mother and friends

Table 2: Type and cause of abuse reported in selected studies

Author	Instrument used	Cause of abuse	Type of abuse			Gender	
Ramya SG et al ⁹ [2010]	Pretested questionnaire	bullying	Physical 39%	sexual	emotional	Male 315[63%]	Female 185[37%]
Kumar MT et al ¹⁰ [2019]	Self-report instrument	Alcohol abuse		19.90%	-	2071[30.1%]	4810[69.9%]
Krishna kumar P et al ¹¹ [2013]	Self-report survey	Physical punishment	72%	35%	-	688[36%]	926[35%]
Bharat DP et al ¹² [2012]	Screening	Child labor	72%	35%	-	103[87%]	Not included
ManmohanSingh et al ¹³ [2015]	Patient Health Questionnaire	Alcohol Abuse, smoking	32.50%	-	-	303[55.9%]	239[44.09%]
Shailaja Daral et al ¹⁴ 2016]	Pretested Questionnaire	Hitting, slapping	42%	26.60%	37.90%	Not included	748[70.6%]

Result

PubMed and Google Scholar (Electronic Database) were used for searching studies on child abuse and after reviewing the title; abstract and full articles only 6

research studies were included. The prevalence of child abuse in India ranges from 40 to 89.9% respectively. SGR amyaet al⁹ found the prevalence rate of child abuse as 60.40% in school-going children. Kumar MT et al¹⁰

reported the highest prevalence of child abuse in school-going children which is 89.90% in Tamil Nadu. Krishna kumar P et al¹¹ reported the prevalence of child abuse as 42% amongst the school children of Tamil Nadu. Bharat DP et al¹² have conducted a study on one hundred nineteen runaway adolescents including only boys reported an overall incidence of child abuse as 72%. ManmohanSingh et al¹³ have conducted a study on the prevalence of depressive disorders and associated factors in school adolescents in government and private schools in Chandigarh, India. The prevalence was found to be 40%. It was seen that boys reported a significantly higher risk of child abuse than girls.¹³ ShailajaDaralet al¹⁴ assessed the prevalence rate of maltreatment in-school adolescent girls in New Delhi and reported a prevalence rate of 42 %. Kumar MT et al¹⁰ and Manmohan et al¹³ reported alcohol consumption as the main cause of sexual and physical abuse. Shailaja Daral et al¹⁴ reported hitting and slapping as the main cause of child abuse. In the majority of the studies, reviewed parents are reported as the perpetrator of child abuse.

Discussion

This study aimed to systematically study the literature available on the prevalence of child abuse in India. Only six studies that met my inclusion criteria are included.

After reviewing the studies on the prevalence of child abuse according to gender, it was analysed that girls were more susceptible to child abuse than boys. While Manmohanetal¹³ reported that child abuse was more in boys than in girls respectively. Contradictory to this, Shailaja et al and Bharat DP et al reported no such difference in gender. This can be due to variation in sample size and can be used for the evaluation of child abuse.^{12,14} The most common effect of abuse reported was depression in most of the studies. This may be due to their parents who are responsible for physical or

emotional abuse at home. Kumar KP et al¹¹ reported prevalence of child abuse is high in both genders.

Conclusion

In this review, we found a high prevalence of child abuse in India. Further, the majority of studies reported more child abuse in girls as compared to boys. Because of this, we suggest creating more awareness programs for children and their parents so that it could help in the reduction of child abuse in India. Therefore communities would be informed to be more sensitive towards the children and work for implementation of the protection of their rights and prevent their exploitation.¹⁶

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