

# A Comparative Study to Assess the Prevalence of Child Abuse among the Children Residing in Selected Urban and Rural Area in View to Develop an Information Booklet on Internationally Accepted Rights of Children

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## Abstract

Child is defined as human person between the ages of 0 and 19, or between the developmental phases of infancy and puberty.

Abuse means the Abuse is the wrong handling or use of something, frequently done to unfairly or improperly benefit from it.

The physical, emotional, psychological, sexual maltreatment or neglect of a child or children, frequently at the hands of parents or other caretakers, is known as child abuse.

Many factors can contribute the child abuse, including loneliness, lack of support from friends, family, or the community to help with parenting; financial difficulties; worries about one's job; health problems; providing care for a family member who is disabled; a lack of parental experience; low self-esteem; and mental health issues.

In this study to assess the prevalence of child abuse in urban and rural areas. the study was based on the health belief model (Rosen Stoke and Backers health belief model). It study made use of the non-experimental descriptive research design. the study population consisted of children (13-16) who were present in urban and rural areas. A total of 310 samples were taken with the non-probability quota sampling technique.

Descriptive and inferential statistics were used in the data analysis. .the paired t-test

used to assess the prevalence study to assess the prevalence of child abuse among the children residing in selected urban and rural area in view to develop an information booklet on internationally accepted rights of children.

**Result** - In urban group, 43.9% of the children did not have abuse and 56.1% of them had mild child abuse. In rural group, 67.1% of the children did not have abuse and 32.9% of them had mild child abuse.

**Key world** – prevalence, child , child abuse

## INTRODUCTION

*"If we are to teach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children."*

**Mohandas Gandhi**

International Year was observed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with a focus on children's rights. Its primary objectives were to assist children and inform the public about the importance of children, their rights, and their particular needs.

The League of Nations Assembly amended the Geneva Declaration on the Rights of Children in September 1924.

The league lost all power when World War One broke out in 1939. The proclamation was therefore reduced to bits of paper. In 1946, the year the organization was founded, the "Economic and Social Council" of the United Nations received a suggestion for its topic. The Declaration was meant to be examined primarily.

The United Nations General Assembly approved the Universal Declaration of Human Rights' modification in 1948. The Human Rights Declaration had a section on children's rights. It was later realized that amending the Declaration with a single article would not be adequate. It was thought that the Human Rights Declaration's "rights of children" portion should be a distinct declaration because children have special needs.

The UN Social Commission for Economics and Social Council initially prepared a new declaration on children's rights in 1950. The Economic and Social Council's Human Rights Commission made changes to children's rights in 1957. 78 countries from around the world took part in the 1959 redrafting of the Declaration. The United Nations General Assembly subsequently endorsed the "Declaration of Rights of Children". India became the next country to sign this Declaration.

**Children have the following rights:**

- Right to affection, love, and understanding.
- Right to enjoy social security, nutrition, housing and medical care.
- Right to free education.
- Right to full opportunity for play and recreation.
- Right to name and nationality.
- Right to special care, if handicapped.
- Right to be among the first to receive relief at the time of disaster.
- Right to learn to be a useful member of the society and develop individual abilities.
- Right to be brought up in the spirit of understanding, tolerance, peace and universal brotherhood.
- Right to enjoy these rights regardless of race, color, sex, religion, nation and social origin.

There were 1,28,531 recorded crimes against minors in 2020, down 13.2% from the previous year. 1,48,090 occurrences). The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (38.8%), which covers child rape, and kidnapping and abduction (42.6%) constituted the two primary crime categories under "Crime Against Children" in 2020. In 2020, there were 28.9 documented offenses per 1 lakh children, down from 33.2 in 2019.- 2020 Crime in India.

**NEED FOR THE STUDY**

**“Childhood should be carefree, playing in the sun, not living a nightmare in the darkness of the soul.”**  
— Dave Pelzer

A child abuse study is required to avoid child abuse, such as physical, psychological, sexual, and neglect.

It is a must to lessen both the prevalence and incidence of child abuse in both urban and rural area.

Developing successful preventative and intervention measures requires an understanding of the frequency of child abuse in both urban and rural regions. The following justifies why it's critical to look at this matter in both situations.

**DIFFERENCE IN SOCIAL STRUCTURE** The social structures, community dynamics, and degrees of social support in urban and rural settings are frequently dissimilar. It is possible to customize interventions to meet particular needs in each context by having an understanding of how these factors affect the prevalence of child abuse.

**ACCESS TO SERVICE** The availability of social services, mental health care, and other resources might differ significantly between rural and urban locations. Disparities in access can push for better services in underserved

areas and guarantee that children in urban and rural environments get the assistance they require.

**CULTURAL AND SOCIETAL FACTORS** Urban and rural areas may have different cultural norms and societal views regarding child welfare, discipline, and parenting. Analyzing these variables can shed light on the underlying causes of child abuse and help develop culturally competent preventative strategies.

**RISK FACTORS** Risk factors for child maltreatment, such as poverty, substance misuse, isolation, and communal violence, may differ in urban and rural settings. Comprehending these risk factors can facilitate the identification of susceptible groups and the creation of focused interventions aimed at alleviating them.

**PROTECTIVE FACTORS** In a similar vein, certain protective variables that ward off child abuse—like robust social networks, cohesive communities, and easy access to resources—may exist in urban and rural areas. It is possible to support children and families in developing resilience by recognizing and enhancing these protective characteristics.

## **METHODOLOGY**

the current research study was designed to **a comparative study to assess the prevalence of child abuse among the children residing in selected urban and rural area in view to develop an information booklet on internationally accepted rights of children.**

The study used a Quantitative research strategy as its research methodology. Non-experimental descriptive research design was chosen for the study. In this study sample size 310 children who was selected in urban and rural areas. along with the demographic information ,the tool contain the self-prepared questionnaires and assess the prevalence between the urban and rural areas.

The research was used to document the result. In the data analysis, both descriptive and inferential statistics have been used. a comparative study to assess the prevalence of child abuse among the children residing in selected urban and rural area in view to develop an information booklet on internationally accepted rights of children. The fishers exact test foe the association between child abuse and selected demographic variable in urban and rural area.

## **RESULT-**

### **SECTION I – Description of sample based on demographic on their demographic characteristic.**

In urban area group 14.2% of the child were of the age 13-14%, 31% were of 14 15 years old and 54.8% were of 15-16 years of age. In the rural group, 7.1% of the children were of 13-14 years ,26.5% of them had age 14-15 years and 66.5% of them has age 15-16 years. In urban group 57.4% of them were males and 42.6% were female. In rural group 47. %were males and 52.9% of them were females. In urban group 6.5% of them were not educated, 19.4%of them had secured primary education ,45.2% of them secured secondary education, 22.6 %of them had done graduation and 6.5%of them had completed post-graduation. In rural group 7.1%of them are not educated 67.1% of them had primary education, 20%of them secondary education ,3.9% of them had graduation and 1.9% of them had post graduation.in urban group 39.4% of them had only nuclear family ,52.3% of them had only joint family,77.7 % of them had them m single parent family of them had single parent family and 0.6% of them had extended family. In rural group, 51.6% of them had nuclear family, 36.1% of them had joint family, 4.5% of them had single parent family and 7.7% of them had extended family. In urban group, 6.5% of them were from 7th standard, 11.6% of them were from 8th standard, 16.8% of them were from 9th standard and 65.2% of them were from 10th standard. In rural group, 0.6% of them were from 7th standard, 1.3% of them were from 8th standard, 42.6% of them were from 9th standard and 55.5% of them were from 10th standard. In urban group, 5.8% of the parents were unemployed, 25.2% of them were self-employed, 41.9% of them had private service and 27.1% of them had some other occupation. In rural group, 38.1% of the parents were unemployed, 20.6% of them were self-employed, 27.7% of them had private service and 13.5% of them had some other occupation. In urban group, 49% of them had mother as care taker, 43.2% of them had father as care taker, 1.3% of them had joined day care and 6.5% of them had some other person as caretaker. In rural group, 60% of them had mother as care taker, 33.5% of them had father as care taker, 3.9% of them had joined day care and 2.6% of them had some other person as caretaker. In urban group, 32.9% of them were first child, 49% of them were second child, 15.5% of them were

third child and 2.6% of them were fourth or later child. in rural group, 41.9% of them were first child, 41.9% of them were second child, 11% of them were third child and 5.2% of them were fourth or later child.

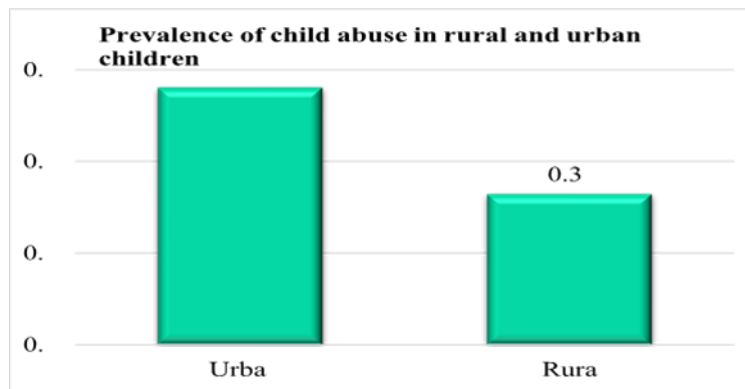
**SECTION II - Analysis of data related to the prevalence of child abuse in selected urban and rural areas**

the children in the urban group, 56.1% suffered mild child maltreatment and 43.9% had no abuse at all. In the rural group, 32.9% of the children suffered minor child abuse and 67.1% of the children had no maltreatment at all.

**SECTION III- Analysis of data tot the comparison of the prevalence of child abuse in selected urban and rural areas.**

**Table No -5 Comparison of the prevalence rate of child abuse in selected urban and rural area.**

Group	Prevalence	Z	p-value
Urban	0.56	4.11	<0.001
Rural	0.33		



**Table- 5 Bar diagram showing Comparison of the prevalence rate of child abuse in selected urban and rural area**

Researcher applied z-test for comparison of two proportions. Prevalence of child abuse in urban children was 0.56 which was 0.33 in rural children. Z-value for this test was 4.11. Corresponding p-value was small (less than 0.05), the null hypothesis is rejected. It is evident that the prevalence of child abuse in urban children was significantly higher than that in rural children.

**Table 6: Comparison of child abuse score in urban and rural area**

	Mean	SD	Z	df	p-value
Urban	2.46	3.35	3.49	308	<0.001
Rural	1.27	2.62			

**Table No – 6 Table showing comparison of child abuse score in urban and rural area n=155, 155**

Researcher applied z-test for comparison average abuse scores in urban and rural children. Average child abuse score in urban group was 2.46 which was 1.27 for rural children. Z-value for this test was 3.08. Corresponding p-value was small (less than 0.05), the null hypothesis is rejected. It is evident that the child abuse in urban children was significantly more than that in rural children.

Table 7: Physical abuse -Item analysis

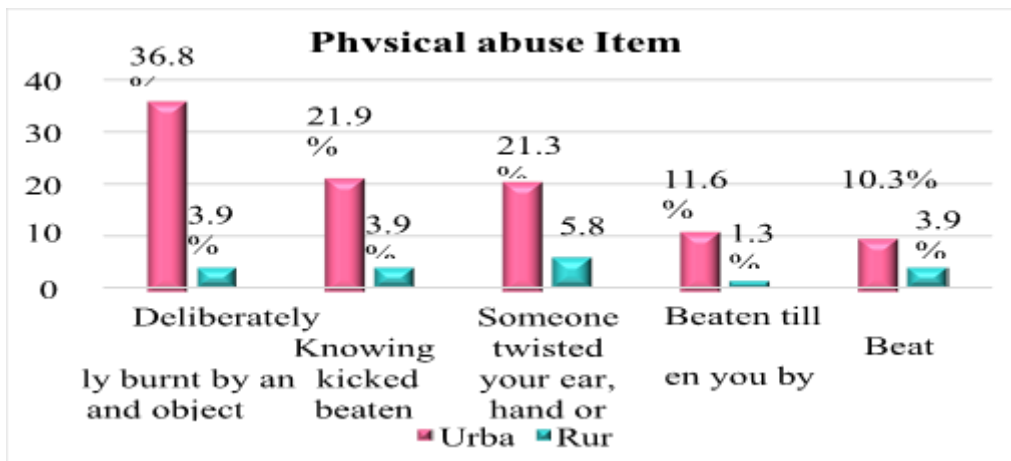


Table No- 7.1 Table showing the analysis of Physical abuse n=155,155

In urban group 36.8% and in rural group, 3.9% of them were deliberately burnt by an object. In urban group, 21.9% of them and in rural group 3.9% of them were knowingly kicked and beaten. In urban group 21.3% of them and in rural group 5.8% of them had someone twisted their ear, hand and neck. In urban group 11.6% of them and in rural group, 1.3% of them were beaten till fractured. In urban group 10.3% of them and in rural group 3.9% of them were beaten by pulling their hair.

Social abuse - Item analysis

Table No- 7.2 Table showing the analysis of Social abuse n=155, 155

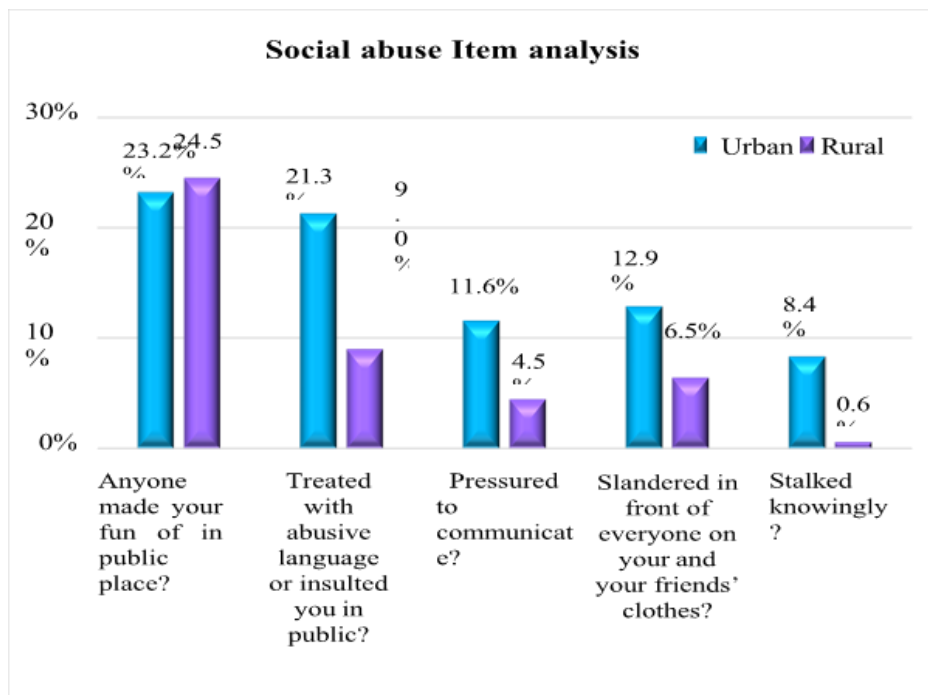
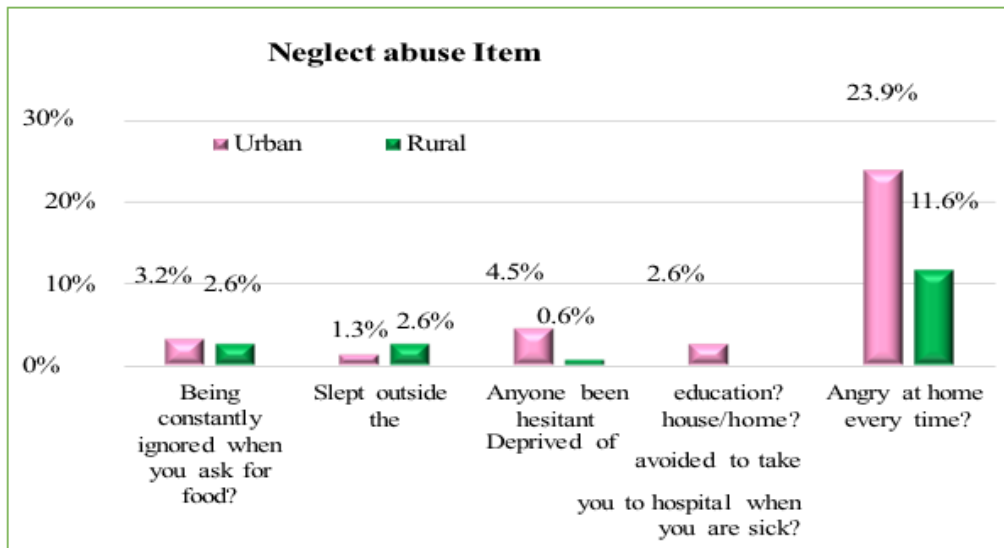


Table 7.2 Bar diagram showing the analysis of social abuse

In urban group to 23.2% of them and in rural group, to 24.5% of them were made fun in public area. 21.3% of them in urban group and 9% of them in rural group were treated with abusive language or insulted in public. 11.6% of them in urban area and 4.5% of them in rural group were pressured to communicate. 12.9% of them in urban group and 6.5% of them in rural group were slandered in front of everyone on them and their friends' clothes. 8.4% of them in urban group and 0.6% of them rural group were stalked knowingly.

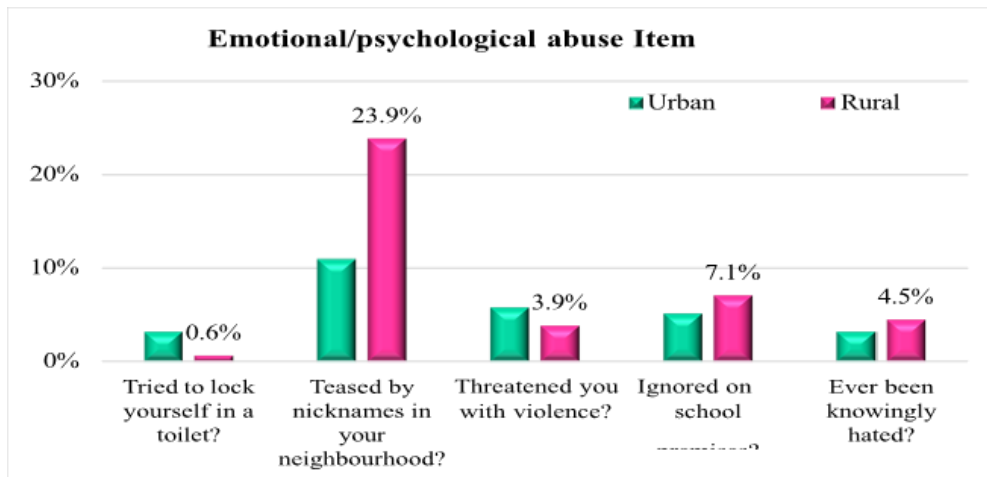
**Table : Neglect abuse - Item analysis**



**Table No-7.3 table showing the analysis of Neglect abuse n=155,155**

In urban group, 3.2% of them and in rural group 2.6% of them were constantly ignored when they asked for food. 1.3% of them in urban group and 2.6% of them in rural group slept outside the house/home. 4.5% of them in urban group and 0.6% of them in rural group were heisted/avoided to take them to hospital when they are sick. 2.6% of them in urban group and none of them in rural group were deprived of education. 23.9% of them in urban group and 11.6% of them in rural group got angry at home every time.

**Table 7.3 Bar diagram showing the analysis of neglect abuse**



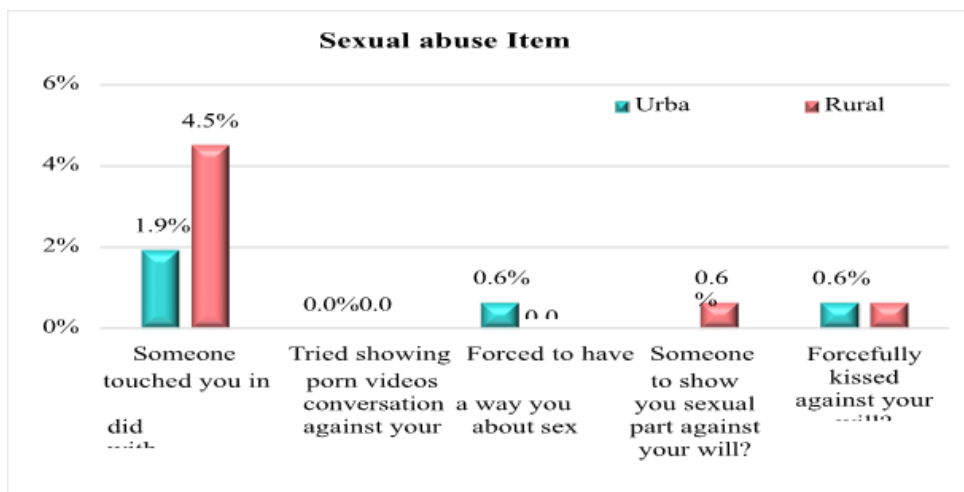
**Table No 7.4 – Table showing the analysis of Emotional /Psychological abuse**

**n=155, 155**

**Table 7.2 bar diagram showing the analysis of emotional abuse**

In urban group, 3.2% of them and in rural group 2.6% of them were constantly ignored when they asked for food. 1.3% of them in urban group and 2.6% of them in rural group slept outside the house/home. 4.5% of them in urban group and 0.6% of them in rural group were heisted/avoided to take them to hospital when they are sick. 2.6% of them in urban group and none of them in rural group were deprived of education. 23.9% of them in urban group and 11.6% of them in rural group got angry at home every time.

**Table : Sexual abuse -Item analysis**



**Table No 5.5 table showing the analysis of Sexual abuse n=155, 155**

**Table 7. 5 Bar diagram showing the analysis of sexual abuse**

1.9% in the urban group and 4.5% of them in rural group were touched by someone in a way they did not like. None of them tried showing porn videos against their will. 0.6% of them in urban group and none of them in rural group were forced to have conversation about sex with them. None of them in urban group and 0.6% of them in rural group were shown by someone the sexual part against their will. 0.6% of them in urban and rural group were forcefully kissed against their will.

**SECTION IV**

**Analysis of data related to association between child abuse and selected demographic variable**

**Fisher’s exact test for the association between child abuse and selected demographic variable in urban group n =155**

Since p-values corresponding to age, gender and education of child were small (less than 0.05), the demographic variables age, gender and education of child were found to have significant association with the child abuse among urban children.

**Fisher’s exact test for the association between child abuse and selected demographic variable in rural group n=155**

Since p-values corresponding to gender was small (less than 0.05), the demographic variable gender was found to have significant association with the child abuse among rural children.

**DISCUSSION**

Any research study can be considered complete till the research findings have been propagated among concerned fraternity and other significant people. This chapter deals with a brief summary of findings, discussion, conclusion, implications and recommendations of the study. The aim of the study was to assess the prevalence of child abuse in urban and rural areas. the study was based on the health belief model (Rosen Stoke and Backers health belief model). It study made use of the non-experimental descriptive research design. the study population consisted of children (13-16) who were present in urban and rural areas. A total of 310 samples were taken with the non-probability quota sampling technique. For generating necessary data. content validation was done by 21 experts form different filed. Data was collected from 310 samples from selected urban and rural areas of the city. Findings were recorded according to the tool. The data was gathered using descriptive and inferential statistics.

**CONCLUSION**

The aim of the study was to assess the prevalence of child abuse in urban and rural areas. the study was based on the health belief model (Rosen Stoke and Backers health belief model). It study made use of the non-experimental



descriptive research design. the study population consisted of children (13-16) who were present in urban and rural areas. A total of 310 samples were taken with the non-probability quota sampling technique. For generating necessary data. content validation was done by 21 experts form different filed. The data was collected from 23/12/2023 to 13/01/2024 At the start of the session survey was done of the selected urban and rural areas to find the prevalence of child abuse. Sample were selected according to the inclusion criteria and exclusion criteria thus parents were introduced by the investigator.

Explained the purpose of the study and assured about the confidentiality of the information between the investigator and the respondent. Before Data Collection consent was taken from the parent. Data was collected from 310 samples from selected urban and rural areas of the city. Findings were recorded according to the tool. The data was gathered using descriptive and inferential statistics. Fisher's exact test for the association between child abuse and selected demographic variables in urban group

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**Conflict of interest** – There are no conflict of interest.

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