Types and Determinants of Child Abuse in Sri Lanka

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Abstract - **This study examines types and determinants of child abuse in Sri Lanka. Further, the study provides the demographic and social characteristics of victims who are aged below 18 years as well as their family background in Sri Lanka. There is an increasing trend of different types of child abuses globally as well as nationally. In Sri Lankan context, child sexual abuse reveals study mainly based on the secondary data and the main source of data was the National Child Protection Authority of Sri Lanka. Sample size includes all the complaints on child abuse from 2015-2020 to the NCPA Sri Lanka. The analysis of determinants of child abuse in Sri Lanka reveals as to who are the most vulnerable group for child abuse in Sri Lanka and what are the associated factors to be a child victim. Reporting child abuses have highly determined with the school vacation period and seasonal variation has affected by Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. Migration of parents has a negative impact on a child victim for abuse. Especially, the family background is a primarily determined factor to be a child victim. The nearest relatives to the family have been the major abuser of the children. Types of child abuse have analyzed based on the Penal Code and other child right related acts and regulations in Sri Lanka. Majority of the child abuses reported are related with the Penal Code and its amendments. Child right violation is at the highest level and the trend has shown a slightly declining pattern of child abuse but, still the number of abuses is at a higher level. However, the awareness programmes should be improved from school level and the knowledge on sexual and reproductive health also have to be improved to prevent child abuse in Sri Lanka.**

Keywords: **Child Abuse, Child Right Violation, Penal Code**

I. INTRODUCTION

The child abuse is the most common types of child maltreatment which impact on child well-being in a country. World Health Organization (2020) indicates that child maltreatment is the abuse and neglect of children, less than 18 years of age. It includes all types of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect and commercial or other exploitation, which affects in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development, or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power. The United Nations defines violence against children, as all forms of physical or mental violence, injury and abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, of children including sexual abuse (UNICEF, 2014).

Children are the most vulnerable group in every society, and they are the supreme assets for future generation of the world. Hence, every child has a right to protection, education, and to secure better health and shelter with love and care. Every society, country, culture need to provide children with a quality of life and need to expand the opportunities in life, despite any circumstances of the sex, culture, country, religion, appearance, and race to which they are born (Silva, 2020).

Abuse is any form of behavior or act that is intentional to have authority over, intimidate, force, or hurt another person. It is a mishandling of an authority which uses the connections of closeness, faith and reliance to make the sufferer vulnerable. Abuse can be affective, mental, monetary, sexual, and bodily, but abuse is not restricted to any one of these. Any exploitation, mishandling, or misuse of control for the intention of conniving the behaviors, events, opinions, or thoughts of another person is abuse (Fayaz, 2019).

Child abuse is any action, behavior and gestures by another person adult or child that causes considerable damage to a child. It can be physical, sexual, or emotional, but can be just a lack of affection, care and attention. WHO (2002) defines child abuse and neglect, or child maltreatment, as all forms of physical or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or neglectful action, or commercial or other mistreatment ensuing in definite or possible harm to the child's health, continued existence, growth or self-esteem in the circumstance of a relationship of accountability, trust or authority (WHO, 2002).

The abuse of children by adults was mostly reported in Sri Lanka during 1930-1940 (De Soyza, 2002) but the Sri Lankan society did not pay any attention to that period. Even during the following years, the crimes against children in Sri Lanka have increased tremendously within a short period of time whilst each incident was discerned more shocking than the previous one. Thus, the brutality on child, sexual harassment, grave sexual abuses and neglect on child are reported as the most prevalent crimes against children (Madhubhashini, 2020).

In 2015, the number of child abuse cases was reported as of 10,739 through the complaint modes whilst when it comes

to the year 2020, those cases have declined to 8,327 (National Child Protection Authority, 2021). Although, the number of cases on child abuse decreased, still there are a considerable number of children who have been abused but those were perhaps not reported well, due to lack of awareness of reporting or providing misinformation about child abuse or no responsible person to report the incidence or concern to privacy etc. Thus, considering the past trend and the incidence of child abuse cases being reported to the regional Police Stations, it is evident that there is an increasing trend of child abuse in Sri Lanka. Hence, the main focus of the issue concerned for this study is to find what are the determinants of increase in child abuse in Sri Lanka? Thus, it is imperative to explore the types and the determinants of Child abuse in Sri Lanka to allow academics, researchers and especially policy makers to be aware of the profound impacts on child wellbeing and formulate better policies and take remedial actions to purge the child abuse cases.

Considering all the above factors into account, the remainder of the Paper is organized as follows. The next two sections provide an overview of some of the studies on child abuse conducted in Sri Lanka and the objective, data and methods used in this Paper. Thereafter, the types of child abuse existing in Sri Lanka are described. An analysis of the determinants of child abuse is presented to understand what major factors are leading to increase the child abuse in Sri Lanka. Finally, policy implications and remedial action to be considered by the policy makers are discussed.

II. SELECTED PREVIOUS STUDIES ON CHILD ABUSE: AN OVERVIEW

Child abuse has been recorded for a long time in literature, art and science in many parts of the world. The reports of infanticide, mutilation, abandonment and other forms of violence against children date back to ancient civilizations (Bensel, Ten, Rheinberger, & Radbill, 1997). However, four decades later, there is clear evidence that the child abuse is a global problem. It occurs in a variety of forms and is deeply rooted in cultural, economic and social practices. Solving this global problem, however, requires a far better understanding of its occurrence in a range of settings, as well as of its causes and consequences in these settings (WHO, 2018).

A study on "Management of victims of child abuse in Sri Lanka: The view of a Child Psychiatrist" using some clinical examples (a case study) where systems have deviated from expected standards and recommendations in management in a multi-sectoral approach in 2014 have revealed that there are many difficulties faced by the stake holders when managing victims of abuse at ground level due to various reasons such as limited awareness among stakeholders, limited resources and limited implication of action plans by responsible authorities (Hettiarachchi, 2020). However, this study focused on limited area of the management of victims of child abuse.

The study on the repetition of sexual assault in relation to the sex of the victim have found that almost one third of the sample were abused more than once may reflect poor communication between parents and the child, a fear of being accused as guilty, stigma and a lack of knowledge regarding the abuse (Pabasari, Sampath, Ferdinan, & Anuradha, 2018). Further, this study found that there was also a statistically significant difference between the males and females with regard to the repeated abuse. However, this study focused on measures to identify the child abuse problem to prevent the consequences of child abuse in Sri Lanka, but the types and the geographical distribution of child abuse have not been focused here.

As clearly revealed from a qualitative study on "Child Abuse and Neglect in Sri Lanka" the child sexual abuse, neglect, and corporal punishment are the most commonly prevailing child protection issues in the country (Silva (2020). Moreover, findings revealed that poverty is the main root cause for the majority of child prostitution and child sex tourism, and all other forms of child abuse and neglect problems (Silva, 2020).

Thus, most of the research and studies have focused on selected area or district and national level studies are rare in literature. Although there are several studies, surveys, the data and information on child abuse in Sri Lanka, the lack of literature illustrates the most vulnerable age group been abused, the types of child abuse and regional variations. The main purpose of this paper is to examine the types of child abuses frequently observed and the determinants of child abuse in Sri Lanka. Finally, the study aims to discuss the necessary policies, legislations and services that need to improve the quality of child protection and welfare in Sri Lanka.

III. DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The collection and analysis of data are focused towards under 18 years old abused children. This study is mostly based on secondary data which are drawn from the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) for the period of 2015-2020 through the child helpline, by presence, via email, fax, website, video recording unit, cyber watch and also via Media, President's Office and through case conference received complaints. The NCPA is the prime source for this study since it has mostly national coverage and validity of data produced by a government owned organization which was established under the National Child Protection Authority Act No. 50 of 1998, aiming to protect the children in the country and also to prevent the child abuses in Sri Lanka.

When the complaints were reviewed through the above methods, NCPA collect the data in detail by using a datasheet which include date, nature of offence, background details of child or children, parent's background and their marital status, details on abuser, and the informant together with the expected alleviation form NCPA. Detail on the

complaint includes the demographic and socio characteristics of the victim and informant. If there are victims more than one, NCPA has collected only the age and sex of 2nd and 3rd victim without more detail.

Other details related to the 1st child victim. In addition to the main data source, secondary data will be obtained from the Department of Census and Statistics, Department of Police and Hospital records. The study used basically descriptive cross-sectional analysis. While to study the extent of child abuse and the background characteristics of the victims and their family background, the univariate and bivariate analysis using descriptive statistics, cross tabulations and chi-square test are used, the determinant factors on child abuse are examined through multivariate analysis using principal component-based factor analysis.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to the data from the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) the number of child abuse cases were reported over 55,400 during 2015-2020 whilst the proportion of abused cases has gradually decreased from 19.4 per cent in 2015 to 14.9 per cent in 2020 (Table I).

TABLE I NUMBER OF CHILD ABUSE CASES AND RATE (PER10, 000), 2015-2020

Year	No. of Cases	Percent	Child abuse rate[1] (per 10,000)
2015	10,739	19.4	16.17
2016	9,363	16.9	14.63
2017	9,016	16.3	13.27
2018	9,515	17.2	13.86
2019	8,558	15.4	12.39
2020	8,237	14.9	11.86
Total	55,428	100.0	-

[1]Child Abuse Rate =
Total Number of Child Abuses under
18 children Population in particular year x 10,000
Total Number of aged under 18 child
Population in particular year

Source: National Child Protection Authority -Yearly Statistics, Department of Census and Statistics, estimated child population, 2015-2020

The child abuse rate (per 10,000 population under 18 years) also shows a decreasing trend from 16.7 in 2015 to 11.86 in 2020. However, though the proportion of child abuse cases and the child abuse rates have discerned, the number of reported cases to NCPA only in absolute terms are high as of an average 9,237 cases per year during the period 2015-2020.

A study of seasonal patterns also provides further evidence of the gravity of child abuse incidences during last six years in Sri Lanka. These seasonality patterns of child abuse by monthly variations of a year clearly depict that during some months the reporting child abuse cases are higher and certain months are lower due to social and environmental factors. Thus, except 2020, the reported child abuse cases are higher in the beginning of the year up to March especially in Urban districts whilst those reported cases are lower during the months of April, August and December which are the periods having school vacation that parents and guardians are mostly look after their children (Figure 1).

Contradict to this fact, in 2020 the pattern of child abuse has decreased from the beginning of the year until April whilst it has increased its peak in September and decreased again in the following months. The reason for this fact could be due to the Covid-19 pandemic situation in Sri Lanka in 2020 because school vacation period was prolonged from March to May and only the grade 11 and 13 students could attend school period. Throughout the month of June, the schools were opened for students of grade 5, 10 and 12 as well. Then all the students attended school until the month of October due to Advanced Level Examination in October.
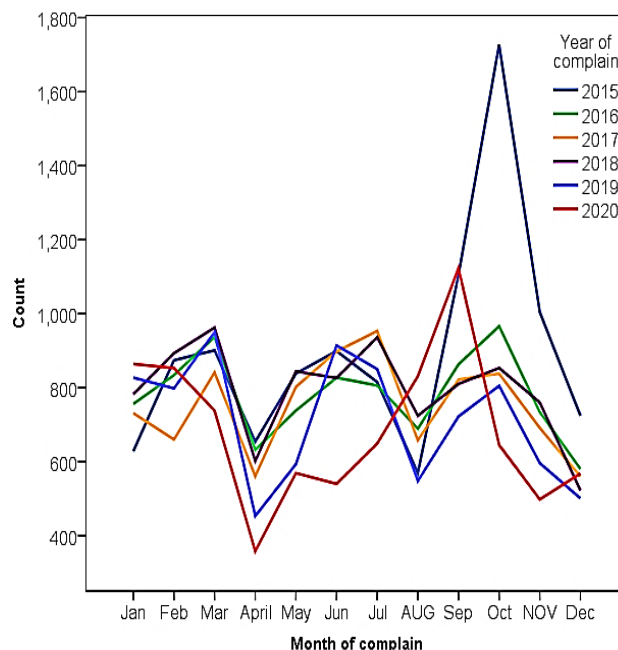
Source: National Child Protection Authority -Yearly Statistics

Fig. 1 Number of monthly reported cases in different years, 2015-2020

The magnitude of the vulnerability of child abuse was revealed through the demographic and social background characteristics of child victims and parental behavior and activities. As seen in Figure 2 (a), the mean age of the child victims is between age 8 and 13 years and the mean age of the first child victim and the second child victim is approximately 13-year-and approximately 8 and 9 years old respectively.

Further, it could be expected that the age of second and third child victims are younger than the first child victim (Figure 2 (a)).
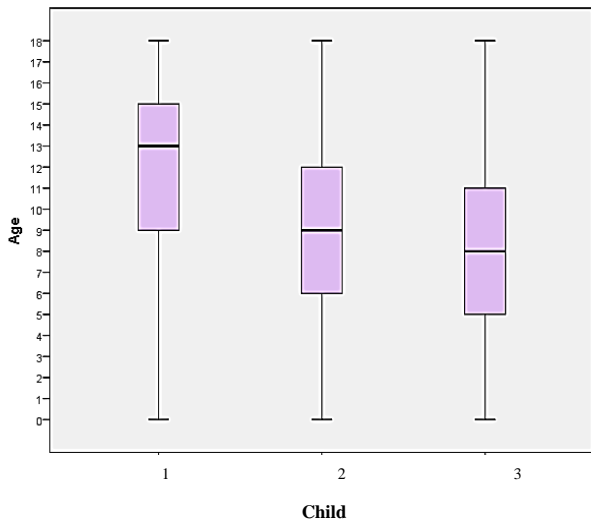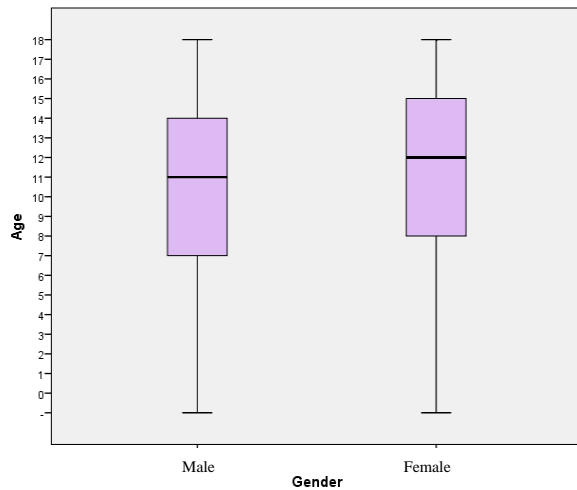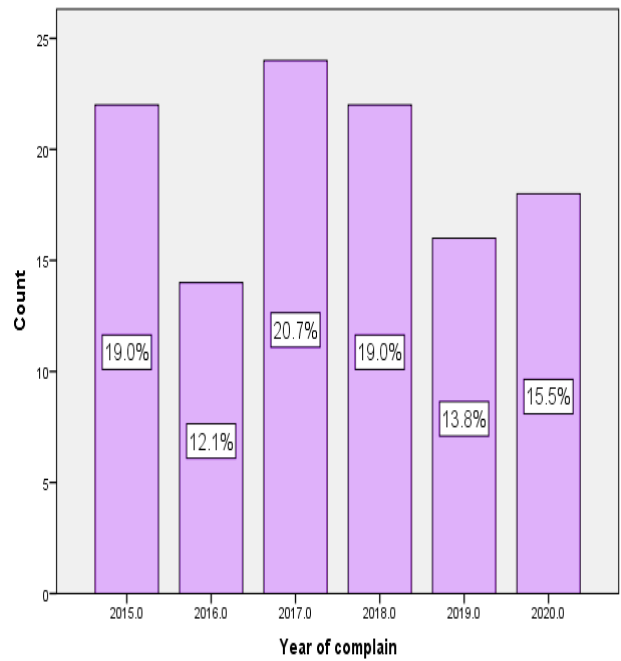
Fig. 2 (a) Child Victims by Age, 2015-2020

Source: National Child Protection Authority -Yearly Statistics

Fig. 2 (b) Child Victims by Sex2015-2020

Source: National Child Protection Authority -Yearly Statistics

Fig. 3 Reported Child Victim Cases by Parent Divorced Families, 2015-2020

Source: National Child Protection Authority -Yearly Statistics

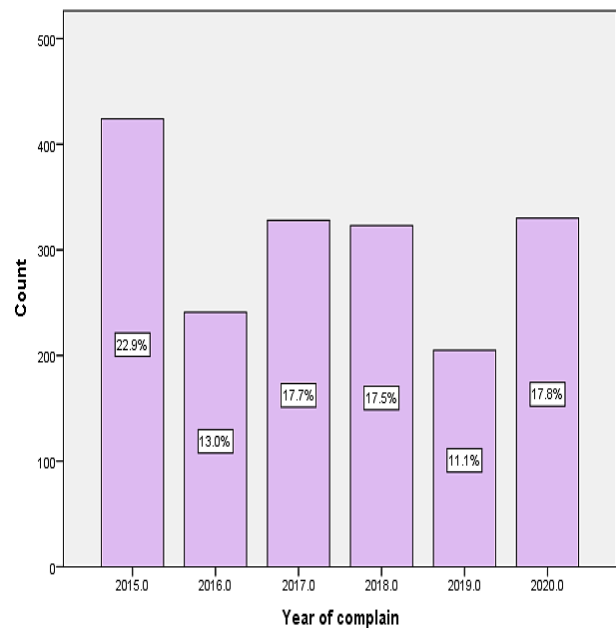Fig. 4 Reported Child Victim Cases by Parent Separated Families, 2015-2020

It is evident from the reported cases that migration of parents has a negative impact on a child victim for abuse due to lack of child protection. When mother migrates, children are left behind with their fathers or close relatives whose physical and mental care level is lower than the migrated mothers. These children are easily vulnerable to child abuse issues in the absence of their mothers. In majority of child abuse cases, fathers or other care givers had failed to give protection, love and safety for children in the absence of their mothers.

As revealed from the parental characteristics of abused child cases, there are more victims have been reported among 3 percent of divorced parents roughly and 4 percent of separated parents which disclose the fact that marital disruption of parents are positively related with a high vulnerability of child abuse due to lack of ignorance, protection and necessary care of the parents (Figure 3).

Guardian of the child is a salient fact with the protection and shelter of child. From the total cases, 3.5 percent of child victims are living with a single parent or with another guardian. Compatible to the reported cases from 2015 to 2020, majority of the child abusers are the nearest family relatives (Figure 5).

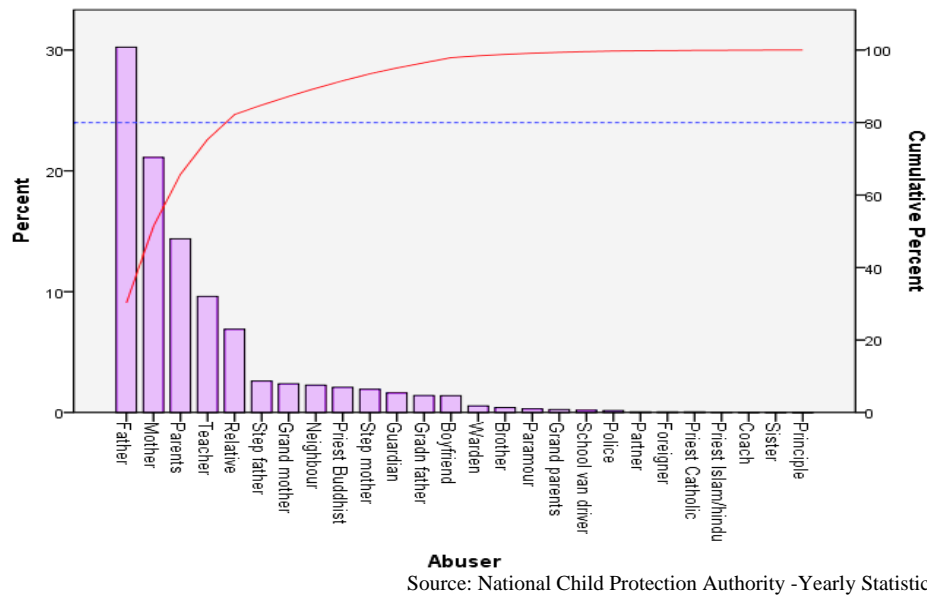Source: National Child Protection Authority -Yearly Statistics

Fig. 5 Number Of child Abusers, 2015-2020

Concurring the above Pareto chart, 80 percent of the abusers are closest relatives (father, mother, parents, teacher, relative) of the child (Figure 5). Unfortunately, the highest number of child abuses has been created by fathers followed by mother. Parents, teacher and family relative are roughly the vital few of child abuses and they are the most responsible persons for child abuse in Sri Lanka during last six years.

Moreover, it could be observed that the majority of the father headed children are safer and more protected than the other guardian headed children. While the children are more protected under the father's protection, father has been the main abuser of child abuses reported in Sri Lanka. This should be more considerate within families and in the whole society (Figure 5).

A. *Types of Child Abuse and their Trends and Patterns*

Types of child abuse have been analyzed based on the Penal Code and other child right related Acts and Regulations in Sri Lanka. Penal Code Act extends the duty to prevent and report child abuse and made debt bondage, serfdom, forced or compulsory labour, slavery and recruitment of children to be used in armed conflict a punishable offence.

As revealed from the reported cases from 2015 to 2020, it could be well identified that the most of the cases were complaints involving Penal Code and its amendments (Act No 22 of 1995) and it was 45.6 percent followed by the complaints linking to violation of rights of children (Figure 6).

1. CA1: Complaints relating to Penal Code and amendments.
2. CA2: Employment of Women Young Persons and Children Act.

3. CA3: Children and Young Person's Ordinance.
4. CA4: Complaints relating to Compulsory Education Act.
5. CA5: Complaints relating to violation of other rights of children.
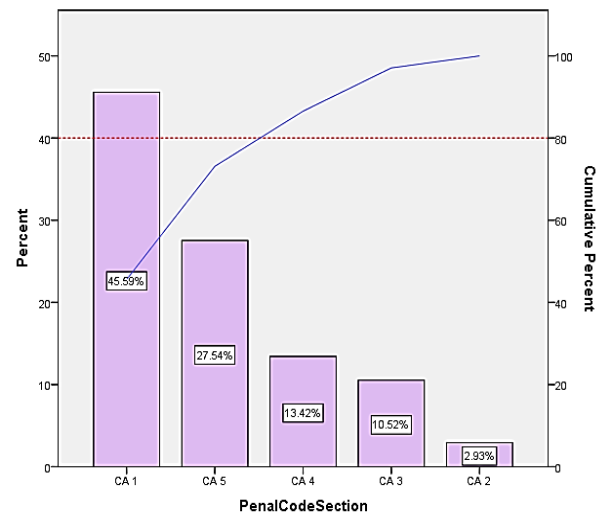
Source: National Child Protection Authority -Yearly Statistics

Fig. 6 Child Abuse Cases by Penal Code Sections, 2015-2020

In view of the above Pareto chart, nearly 75 percent of the child abuse associated with Child Abuse types CA1 and CA5 in Sri Lanka during the last six years (Figure 6). Trends and patterns of reporting child abuses by year should be deliberated to identify the changes of child abuse in Sri Lanka during single years and throughout the last six years. It is very essential to identify the child abuse by Penal Code Acts by time when reducing the child abuse in Sri Lanka.

The United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) is an internationally accepted document that sets out

the rights that all children have. Almost every country in the world including Sri Lanka accepts and indicates that the CRC will be the basis for the way, they treat children. Although it is the governments of the world that have signed the CRC, it is important that all citizens should know and, understand these rights. As depicted in Figure 7, the complains on child right violation shows a significant highest level. 14.7 percent of female children's child rights have despoiled by abusers. Children between age group 11-15 are the most considerable vulnerable group for all types of child abuses.
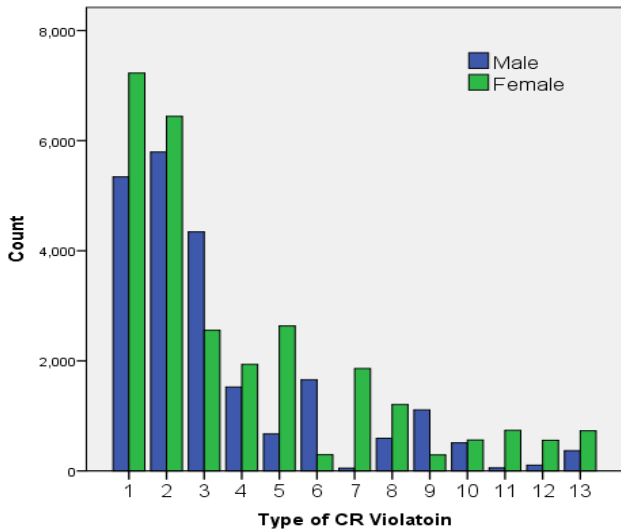
Source: National Child Protection Authority - Yearly Statistics

Fig. 7 Number of Child Right Violations by Sex, 2015-2020

1. Complains of other Child right violation
2. Cruelty to children
3. Violation of right to Education
4. Neglect of children
5. Sexual abuse
6. Juvenile delinquency

7. Rape
8. Grave sexual abuse
9. Child labour
10. Begging and trafficking
11. Abduction from legal guardianship
12. Trafficking
13. Other offences

According to the National Child Protection Authority, Child Abuses (CA) include the following child right violations.

1. CA 1 includes the child penal code right violations 2,5,7,8,10,11,12 and 13.
2. CA 2 includes the child labour right violation 9.
3. CA 3 includes the child care and protection right violation 4,6.
4. CA 4 includes the child education right violation 3.
5. CA 5 includes the child other right violation 1.

The harshness to children* has become the second highest category of child abuse in Sri Lanka whilst the female children in the age 11-15 years reporting the majority. The higher number of male victims have abused under the types of Violation of right to Education (3), Juvenile delinquency (6), Child labour (9) than female children. Unfortunately, the children under 5years age group have abused by the type of begging and trafficking (10) and the most target group for begging and trafficking were the small kids of child abusers in Sri Lanka during the last six years.

(*Whoever, having the custody, charge or care of any person under eighteen years of age, willfully assaults, ill-treats, neglects, or abandons such person or causes or procures such person to be assaulted, ill-treated, neglected, or abandoned in a manner likely to cause him suffering or injury to health (including injury to, or loss of sight of hearing, or limo or organ of the body or any mental derangement), commits the offence of cruelty to children).

TABLE II BIVARIATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NO. OF CHILD ABUSE CASES AND SELECTED VARIABLES

S. No.	Variable Name	Number of Categories	Degrees of Freedom	X^2 value	Percent Of Cells <Expected Count >	P-Value*
1	Age	4	12	3848.484	0.0	.000
2	Sex	2	4	2808.372	0.0	.000
3	Month of complain	12	44	715.642	0.0	.083
4	Year of complain	6	20	822.876	0.0	.000
5	Child right violation	13	48	218419.977	0.0	.000
6	Parent migration	3	8	25.074	20.0	.002
7	Abuser	26	100	6229.591	36.9	.105
8	Separated parent	2	4	289.475	0.0	.000
9	Divorced parent	2	4	16.517	10.0	.002
10	No. of victims	4	16	1581.306	0.0	.000
11	Mode of complain	11	40	2339.021	36.4	.982

*95percent confidence interval

Source: National Child Protection Authority -Yearly Statistics

B. Bivariate Analysis

To examine the relationship between the different types of child abuse and their related factors, the bivariate analysis was used with exploring chi-square text (Table III). Accordingly, the p-value associated with the different types of child abuse based on Penal Code and determined characteristics of first child victim could be detected. There are eight variables which have an association between child abuse and Penal Code Acts.

According to the Table III chi-square value of variable age, sex, year of complain, child right violation, parent migration, marital status of parent and number of victims show an association with the types of child abuse of Penal Code Acts (CA 1 to CA5).

The chi square test provides that the age of first child victims and Penal Code are significantly associated with each other (p<0.05) level (Table III). Moreover, Table III indicates that sex and Penal Code Act are also significantly associated with each other and sex of first child determined the type of child abuse in Penal Code acts at 95% confidence level (p<0.05).

The statistically signification association between child abuse and other penal code related variables of year of complain, child right violation, Parent migration, separated parent, divorced parent, number of victims are also identified as the p-value of those variables are less than 0.05 which indicates the rejection of H_0. It concludes that the Penal Code Act violations vary with these eight variables.

TABLE III MAJOR FACTORS ON CHILD ABUSE CASES, 2015-2020

| Total Variance Explained						
Component	Initial Eigen Values			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	Percent of Variance	Cumulative Percent	Total	Percent of Variance	Cumulative percent
1	1.739	21.734	21.734	1.739	21.734	21.734
2	1.524	19.054	40.787	1.524	19.054	40.787
3	1.379	17.240	58.027	1.379	17.240	58.027
4	1.010	12.630	70.658	1.010	12.630	70.658
5	.959	11.982	82.639	.959	11.982	82.639
6	.579	7.241	89.880	.579	7.241	89.880
7	.425	5.315	95.196	.425	5.315	95.196
8	.384	4.804	100.00	.384	4.804	100.000
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis						

C. Multivariate Analysis: Factor Analysis

In order to find out the main factors behind the child abuse, the principal component-based factor analysis as a method of data reduction was used in this study. Analyzing statistically significant influence of confounding and interrelated factors on child abuse, factor analysis output shows that the selected major factors and their percentage of variance to determine the amount of variance which explains the main factors (Table IV).

Approximately 80 percent of variance of child abuses explained the first four variables month of complain, parent's migration, guardian and marital status of parent respectively. The highest percent of variance of child abuses explained by month of complain and it is the major factor to determine the child abuse in Sri Lanka during 2015-2020.

The scree plot orders the eigen values form largest to smallest (Figure 8). The factors before the first bend of straight line of the steep curve are the major factors of variance to cause the increase in the child abuse in Sri Lanka.
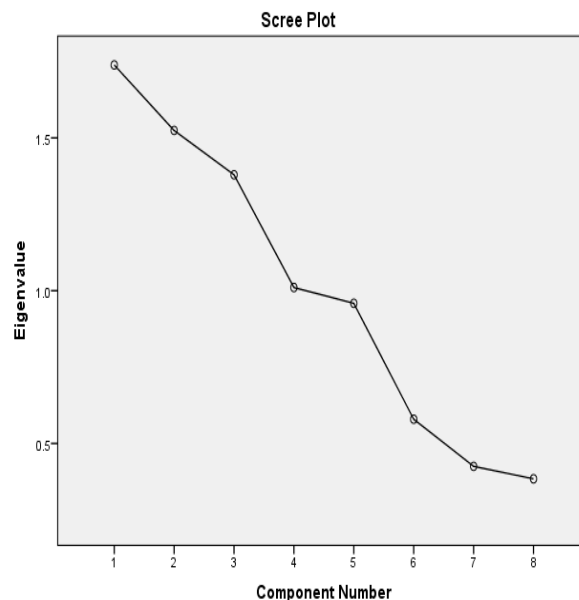
Source: National Child Protection Authority -Yearly Statistics

Fig. 8 Pattern of Factors (Eigen Values) For Child Abuse

Components

1. Month of complain
2. Parent's migration
3. Guardian
4. Marital Status of Parents
5. Sex of first child victim
6. Age group of first child victim
7. District
8. Abuser

These results reveal the unrotated factor loadings for all the factors using the principal components method of extraction. The first four factors have variances (eigen values) that are greater than 1. Therefore, 5-8 factors appear to explain most of the variability in the data. The scree plot shows that the first four factors month of complain, parent's migration, guardian and marital status of parents account for most of the total variability in the data. The remaining factors account for small proportion of the variability and are likely to be insignificant.

The result of component matrix shows the effectiveness of the selected eight factors for child abuse in Sri Lanka. Each item has a loading, corresponding to each of the eight components. In accord to the Table V, district and age of first victim are the major factors affect for first component of these variables. District $(0.725)^2 = 0.5256$ or 52.5 percent of its variance is explained by the first component.

TABLE IV COMPONENT MATRIX

Component Matrix[a]								
	Component							
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**
Month of complain	-.449	.096	-.105	.135	.838	-.168	.122	.114
Parents' migration	-.350	.637	-.418	.194	-.124	.389	.266	-.146
Guardian	-.261	-.747	-.251	.126	.108	.488	-.167	.131
Marital Status of Parent	-.383	-.139	.734	.288	-.251	.038	.295	.246
Sex 1	.352	.441	.300	.678	.128	.108	-.321	.022
Age group 1	.694	-.394	.255	.130	.291	.148	.291	-.298
District	.725	.036	-.510	.135	-.063	-.042	.190	.391
Abuser	.260	.424	.419	-.600	.245	.353	-.037	.172
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis								
a. 8 components extracted								

According to the factor analysis, it may be possible to recognize the month of complain (affected by school study term and school vacation period) and parents' status and family background (parents' migration, guardian, marital status of parents) of victim highly influence on the increase in the child abuse in Sri Lanka.

The data shows what are the major determinants and factors for child abuse in Sri Lanka. Demographic, Social, Geographical and time factors also determine the child abuse incidences. However, the family background of children has a remarkably impact on the child abuse especially the protection and care of parent as the guardian of children. The dissolution of marriage of parent also determines the child abuse as it disrupts the family bond and the children will expose to physical and mental risk.

As a summary, child abuse cases are highly determined by the parents' status (marital status and migration) and family background of children rather than the type of abuser. Always, children are safer and protected under the family and parents' shelter. Even the children who are out of home for any errand or even for education may not be safe in Sir Lanka.

D. Policy Implications

Rather than using a uniform set of interventions for the whole country, it is better to formulate necessary policies and strategies to design interventions for different segments of the society considering the education level, economic status, religious and cultural norms of the people in those social segments.

The government should take more remedial measures such as strong and steady enactment of laws of child abuse and also impose more severe punishments for abusers and relevant persons. Expand supervision and have more vigorous probation and protection of child activities which would be more advantageous. Awareness programmes on the value of children and their health should be improved by the government and other related authorities, the institutions. Child protection and child probationary care should be expanded at rural level. On the other hand, there should be adequate Officers and staff to work for child protection at Child Protection Authorities and they should be given incentives to supervise and monitor to maintain continued progress of child protection. Law Enforcement Officers need to be trained at national, district and

divisional level. In addition, a victim-friendly complaint mechanism is needed to report the cases of exploitation.

E. Way Forward for Further Studies

If there could be more surveys to collect socio-economic and demographic factors on child abuse in Sir Lanka, the researcher would be able to explore more on the nature and the strength of alleviating child abuse in Sir Lanka. Educational status and economic background of child victims do not exist with the data similarly the socio-economic background and the characteristics of guardian and abuser are also required to identify the most vulnerable group for child abuse and recognize the hidden characters who abuse these innocent lives within the society for further studies.

V. CONCLUSION

National Child Protection Authority is the main authority to create a child friendly and protective environment for children in Sir Lanka since 1998 and reporting complaints to the NCPA have increased after introducing Child Helpline "1929". However, according to the data, child abuses disclose a slightly decreasing trend from 2015 but still it depicts annually a higher number of child abuse cases up to 2020. According to the background characteristics of child victims, in 2015 the highest number of child abuse cases was reported and it reveals a slight decline with fluctuations by the time up to 2020. Children were victimized more during school period than school vacations and majority of them were female children. Migrated and martially disrupted (divorced and separated) parents have affected mostly the child abuses cases in Sri Lanka. The nearest relative to the child has become the abuser of these children. Majority of cases are received to the NCPA through child helpline and highest number of cases related to the Penal Code and amendments. Complaints related to the child right violation report in a highest level and majority from female children. Children of age group 11-15 are the most considerable vulnerable group for all types of child abuses. As revealed from the results of the Factor Analysis, the first four factors of month of complain, parent's migration, guardian and marital status of parents account for most of the total variability in the child abuse while the remaining factors account for small proportion of the variability and are likely unimportant in Sri Lanka.

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