

## Relationship among Childhood Abuse, Trauma and Perceived Social Support in Children and Adolescents with Psychiatric Disorder

NIRMALA KUMARI AHIRWAR\* & MANISHA KIRAN RINPAS, Ranchi, India

E-mail: nirmalakumariahirwar@gmail.com

### INTRODUCTION

- Adolescence is frequently described as a period of development during which dramatic life changes and transitions occur.
- Trauma is defined as a physical or psychological threat or assault to a child's physical integrity, sense of self, safety or survival or to the physical safety of another person significant to the child.
- Childhood trauma and family adversity can increase vulnerability to serious mental health problems.
- Social support has been hypothesized to be one of the protective factors that buffer children from the impact of these negative early experiences(Heller et al., 1999)
- However literature has focused on the role of social support as a buffer of risk for child abuse (Caliso & Milner,1994), rather than as a buffer of consequences of child abuse.

### OBJECTIVES

- The present study is to examine the relationship among childhood abuse, trauma, and social support in the population of children and adolescents with psychiatric disorder

### HYPOTHESIS

There was no significant relationship between childhood abuse, trauma, and social support in the population of Children and Adolescents with Severe Mental Disorders.

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- **Place:** Outpatient Department, RINPAS, Ranchi
- **Study Design:** Cross-sectional hospital based single contact study
- **Sampling technique:** Purposive sampling
- **Sample size:** 30 children and adolescents inpatients with diagnosis of psychiatric disorder as per the ICD-10-DCR (WHO, 1992).
- Children and adolescents diagnosed with Severe Mental Disorders (Psychosis & Neurosis) as per ICD-10 DCR were included, both sex taken & age range were of respondent 6-18 years.
- Childhood trauma questionnaire (Bernstein and Fink, 1998) & Perceived Availability of Social Support Questionnaire(Vedder et al,2005) were applied in children & adolescents.

## RESULT

*Table-1 & 1.1 -Socio-demographic background of Children and Adolescents with Severe Mental Disorders  
Table 2 Relationship of childhood trauma and Student Perceived Availability of Social Support Questionnaire*

Variables		Samples= 30	
		Frequency	%
Gender	Male	19	63.3
	Female	11	36.7
Religion	Hindu	26	86.7
	Muslim	04	13.3
Family Income	<5000	16	53.3
	>5001	14	46.7
Type of family	Joint	10	33.3
	Nuclear	20	66.7
Domicile	Rural	02	6.7
	Urban	21	70.0
	Semi urban	07	23.3
Past History of Psychiatry	Present	10	33.3
	Absent	20	66.7
Family History of Psychiatry	Present	07	23.3
	Absent	23	76.7
Variables		Samples -30	
		Mean ± SD	
Age of the children and adolescents (year)		13.16 ± 3.09	
Education of the children and adolescents		6.76 ± 2.96	

### DISCUSSION

- First systematic research which has taken up the relationship between childhood abuse, trauma and social support in inpatient population of Children and Adolescents with psychiatric disorder in India.
- Majority of respondents were belonged to nuclear families with urban background and Hindu religion. The mean age of the respondents was  $15.31 \pm 1.29$  years.
- However, it is evident that children and adolescents with severe mental disorder do get adequate social support from their parents and peers.
- Results indicate that children and adolescent are having good support from teacher so; they might be perceived higher level of trauma in the domains of physical neglect and emotional neglect.
- At the same time finding also indicate that fair level of social support from parents had to protective factors of trauma.

### CONCLUSION, LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Finding suggest that Children and adolescent having social support from teachers showed more childhood trauma and at the same time if receiving social support from parents showed lower level of childhood trauma.
- The sample size is small and the design is cross-sectional
- Correlation among childhood trauma, social support, life events and socio demographic variables and clinical scale can also provide more robust interpretation of data
- In future large scale cross cultural and longitudinal study can be initiated to get a comprehensive picture about this issue

Domains of Childhood trauma questionnaire	Domains of social Support Questionnaire		
	Parents	Teachers	Peers
Physical Neglect	.216	.681**	-.123
Physical abuse	-.209	.289	.064
Emotional neglect	.011	.423*	.175
Emotional abuse	-.049*	.482	.161
Sexual Abuse	.112	-.286	.169