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***Psychological Impact Of Domestic Violence On Children And Its  
Link With Further Victimization And Delinquency***

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***Abstract***

Children raised by a single parent are nonetheless vulnerable to a number of serious and growing challenges. Children who grow up in single-parent households are more likely to drop out of school and become addicted to drugs. Single working parents may miss out on parent-child building since they don't have the time to assist their children. Single-parent children are more likely to have been exposed to a variety of crime-inspiring influences, such as parental conflict and coercion. Single working parents may miss out on parent-child bonding since they don't have enough time to help their children with the intervention of having only one parent there.

The goal of this research is to examine the psychological effects of domestic violence on children, to comprehend the influence it has on them, and to determine how these implications lead to juvenile delinquency. Domestic violence is a worldwide epidemic that leads to deviant and delinquent conduct in children regardless of region, ethnicity, or socioeconomic class. This research intends to investigate the aforementioned phenomena in order to recognise child victimisation and hence prevent delinquent behaviour in order to avoid confrontation with the law and subsequent criminality.

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## **I. Introduction**

Domestic violence whether directly inflicts injury or mere witnessing seriously harms the well being of a child. The concerns of battering of woman have been growing from past few decades however, the talk for child as a victim of domestic violence has raised far less concern as per the gravity of the situation. Previous researches have shown that the children who live in household with domestic violence are greater risk of deviance from societal norm, from the children who does not live in such toxic environment. There is need to ascertain the psychological impact of domestic violence in the household in order to prevent further victimisation or delinquency by the child who has witnessed the domestic violence in his/her household. Violence in the home is one of the most pervasive human rights challenges of our time. It remains a largely hidden problem that few countries, communities or families openly confront. Violence in the home is not limited by geography, ethnicity, or status; it is a global phenomenon which drives child to deviant and delinquent behavior, and thereby it requires immediate attention to recognize child as a victim this domestic violence and link it with juvenile delinquency to curb the juvenile delinquency. The objective of this study to analyse the psychological effect of domestic violence on child and understand the impact it creates on him/her, and how these impacts lead to juvenile delinquency. This study aims to inspect aforementioned phenomenon in order to recognise victimisation of child and thereby prevent delinquent behaviour for preventing child to come in conflict with law and further crime. The scope of this study limited to psychological effect of domestic violence on a child through doctrinal and empirical research to establish a link between the effect the domestic violence on child and juvenile delinquency.

## **II. Domestic Violence and Children Exposure to Domestic Violence**

The term "domestic violence" archetypally refers to violence between adult intimate partners. Domestic violence or intimate partner violence is a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviours including physical, sexual and psychological attacks, as well as economic coercion used by adults or adolescents against their current or former intimate partners.<sup>1</sup> Instances of

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<sup>1</sup> Ellsberg, M. and Heise, L. 'Researching Violence against Women. A Practical Guide for Researchers and Acitivists'. Washington DC, United States: World Health Organization,PATH, 2005.

physical abuse include shaking, slapping, beating with fist or object, kicking burning, strangulation, and threats with a knife.

Sexual abuse includes coerced sex through threats or intimidation or through physical force, forcing unwanted sexual acts, forcing sex in front of others and forcing sex with others.

Psychological abuse involves isolation from others, excessive jealousy, control of his or her activities, verbal aggression, intimidation through destruction of property, harassment or stalking, threats of violence and constant belittling and humiliation.<sup>2</sup>

Domestic violence Act of 2005 has also explained the different categories of abuse as constitution of Domestic Violence, Sec 3 of the Act explains four categories of abuse as domestic violence i.e. physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal and economical abuse.<sup>3</sup>

Legal definition of Domestic Violence varies from scientific (clinical) definition, being a victimologist it is important to understand the other aspects of domestic violence which has not been covered by the legal regime. Earlier, researchers referred the children experiencing or living in the household where domestic violence is present as “witnesses” or “observer” of the violence. However, in the recent decade the terminology used is the “exposure” to the violence, which is much more inclusive in nature and does not only cover a certain specific type of children’s experience to violence.

Exposure to domestic violence by a child includes witnessing visually or hearing violent events between elders, direct involvement in the domestic violence for example saving the mother from battering from father, calling police etc. or experiencing the after effect observing wounds, depression or neglect from mother etc. these all encompasses the domestic violence exposure to child and have severe effect on his/her mental and social development.

Since, children are not considered as direct victim of domestic violence according to the Indian laws, NCRB do not have exact data with regard to child as a victim of domestic violence. We can easily get data on offences against children like kidnapping, sexual offence, trafficking however no data is available for researcher to ascertain the child as victim of domestic

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<sup>2</sup> *ibid*

<sup>3</sup> The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, , <https://indiankanoon.org/doc/542601/> (last visited Mar 21, 2021).

violence. However, in a UNICEF report it has been shown that in India 27.1 to 69 million children are being exposed to domestic violence in a year.<sup>4</sup>

### III. Impact of Domestic Violence on Children:

There are generally two types of exposure which children is been exposed to while living in the toxic household. Firstly, children themselves subjected to abuse this can be for varied reason; either because of pre-natal abuse, when the child is in the womb of the mother and mother is subjected to domestic abuse it not only affect mother but also severally impacts the foetus and leads to several neurological problems after the birth of the child, and also leads to pre-mature birth due to psychological trauma of the mother.<sup>5</sup> We are in this paper concerned with psychological impacts of the exposure to domestic violence on children. The psychological impact is spectrum in nature and varies from children to children and their cognitive abilities. The most common bifurcation done on the psychological impact of domestic violence on children are its short term and long-term effects.

#### A. Short-term effects:

The short-term effects of the domestic violence or immediate effect of domestic violence on children is perceived differently according to the age groups of the child. Even in the earliest stage of development various research shown association between exposure to violence and emotional and behavioural problems in children. Generally, there is a notion that young children do not understand the circumstances and tend to forget toxic atmosphere in house, however, it is an erroneous conception and there is effect of exposure to domestic violence and negative behaviour in all age groups;

**(a) Infant and Toddlers:** During the early phase of child development when they are infant till the toddler stage there is a clear association of violence and emotional and behavioural problem. Infants and toddlers who are being exposed to domestic violence shows excessive irritation, immature and insincere behaviour, disturbance in sleep cycle, distress, fear of being alone, reversion in toileting like bed wetting and language or other speech impediment.

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<sup>4</sup> BehindClosedDoors.pdf, , <https://www.unicef.org/media/files/BehindClosedDoors.pdf> (last visited Mar 19, 2021).

<sup>5</sup> Allan R. De Jong, Domestic Violence, Children, and Toxic Stress, 22 WIDENER L. REV. 201 (2016).

Exposure to domestic violence and leading psychological trauma, breaking of families, create hindrance in child's normal inter-personal relationship development such lack of trust, empathy for others and later exploratory behaviours. In latest developments many psychologists have argued that exposure to domestic violence impact children like post-traumatic stress disorder in adults, which also includes reoccurring re-experiencing of the traumatic event, avoidance, numbing of responsiveness, and increased arousal and irritation. For example, in one study, young children were afraid to be near the scene of the violent event they had witnessed, often were afraid to go to sleep or woke up with nightmares, and showed a limited range of emotion in their play.<sup>6</sup>

**(b) School-Age Children:** the pre-schoolers, school-age children who are exposed to violence are more prone to have sleep disturbances and night terrors, and they become less prone to explore ne environments and play freely. Due to the exposure to domestic violence children of this category are more zealous to master their environment.<sup>7</sup> They suffer from difficulty in concentration and staying focused because they are distracted by intrusive thoughts. At this stage children start understanding and ascertaining the intention behind violence and often stress about what they could have done to prevent or stop it.<sup>8</sup> In extreme exposure to long-lasting and very violent domestic violence, school-age children may also display symptoms similar to post- traumatic stress disorder, similar to the symptoms described for infants and toddlers above.

In a study, reports indicated a significant link between the witnessing of violence and such symptoms as nightmares, fears of leaving their homes, anxiety, and a numbing of affect.<sup>9</sup>

In that particular study twenty to forty percent mothers reported their children fear of being unsafe. Similar proportion of children in the study sample reported the feeling of 'scared' and 'jumpy'. Children who are exposed to domestic violence often show increased frequency of internalizing (withdrawal, anxiety) and externalizing (aggressiveness, delinquency) behaviour

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<sup>6</sup> The Future of Children, Winter, 1999, Vol. 9, No. 3, Domestic Violence and Children (Winter, 1999), pp. 33-49

<sup>7</sup> 3. Osofsky, J.D. The effects of exposure to violence on young children. *American Psychologist* (September 1995) 50:78

<sup>8</sup> Drell, M., Siegel, C., and Gaensbauer, T. Posttraumatic stress disorders. In *Handbook of infant mental health*. C. Zeanah, ed. New York: The Guilford Press, 1999

<sup>9</sup> 5. In the Washington, D.C., study,  $r=.39$ , Richters, J.E., and Martinez, P. The NIMH community violence project: I. Children as victims of and witnesses to violence. *Psychiatry* (1993) 56:7-21; Osofsky, J.D., Wewers, S., Hann, D.M., and Fick, A.C. Chronic community violence: What is happening to our children? *Psychiatry* 1993 56:36-45.

problems in comparison to children from nonviolent families. Varied studies show that the chronic exposure to domestic violence often degrade overall functioning of school going children, their attitudes, social competence and performance in school and academia. In addition, with the increasing age their performance in school decrease gradually, and tend to commit crimes and experience conflicting emotional problems, they indulge in sexual problem such as incest relationships. Also, indulges in alcohol and drug abuse.<sup>10</sup>

**(c) Adolescents:** in contrast to younger children comprehensive research has been done on adolescents than the younger children. In such where adolescent was exposed to violence, particularly chronic in nature tends to show high level of aggression, frustration, “acting out” behaviour, anxiety, problems at school, revenge seeking etc.<sup>11</sup>

Adolescents have severe effects of violence as compared to younger children due to their hormonal changes due to which aggression is induced by the further exposure to violence, another reason can be that the teenager are exposed to more severe violence than the younger children. According to report of united states department of Justice adolescents between the age of twelve and fifteen are victims of crime more than any other age group, and that adolescents of all ages are victims at twice the national average.<sup>12</sup> Such chronically traumatized adolescents often tend to create apathy and deadened to pain, and show restricted emotional development over time.

### ***B. Long-term effects:***

The psychological impact of Domestic violence and trauma also causes long-term effect on a child; it creates a cycle of violence which tends to be repeated by the child when he/she becomes adult. the cycle is repeated by these children as adults by entering into abusive relationships or becoming abusers themselves. For example, a boy child who was exposed to domestic violence and witnessed his mother being abused by his father or intimate partner is ten times more likely to abuse his female intimate partner as an adult. Similarly, A girl who

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<sup>10</sup>Rochester, NY: University of Rochester Press, 1997; National Research Council, Commission on Behavioral

<sup>11</sup> I. Fonagy, P., Target, M., Steele, M., and Steele, H. The development of violence and crime as it relates to security of attachment. In *children in violent society* J. D. Osofsky ed, New York, Guilford Press, 1997

<sup>12</sup> Jenkins, E.J. Violence exposure, psychological distress and risk behaviors in a sample of inner-city youth. In Trends, risks, and interventions: Proceedings of the Third Annual Spring Symposium of the Homicide Working Group. R. Block and C. Block, eds. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Ju

witnessed abuse by her father to her mother is more than six times as likely to be sexually abused in comparison to a girl who grows up in a non-abusive home.<sup>13</sup>

Children who witness or are victims of emotional, physical, or sexual abuse are at higher risk for health problems as adults. These can include mental health conditions, such as depression and anxiety. They may also include diabetes, obesity, heart disease, poor self-esteem, and other problems<sup>14</sup>

We've heard a lot about the impact of abuse on children over the past two decades. This understanding covers the symptoms observed in the developing child as well as the long-term effects seen in people who were raped, abandoned, or exposed to domestic violence as infants. Trauma is chronic and dose-related; the more episodes of trauma endured over time, the more severe the consequences.<sup>15</sup>

We've discovered that trauma in adolescence has long-term effects, and that adversity is closely linked to unhealthy adult lives and inadequate physical and mental wellbeing years later. Drs. Felitti and Anda started a survey of more than 17,000 people, many from the middle class, in the mid-1990s.

These adults showed that Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) can have a major effect on physical and mental health effects in adults. Physical assault, sexual abuse, verbal abuse, physical neglect, emotional neglect, domestic violence in the home, household alcohol abuse, household psychiatric disorder, parental breakup or divorce, and imprisoned household member were all on their record of traumatic childhood experiences in their original and subsequent research. Researchers found that ACEs are common, with approximately two-thirds of their patients had at least one ACE and one-fifth reported three or more ACEs.<sup>16</sup>

Adults who had been exposed to domestic violence as a child were 6 times more likely to have

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<sup>13</sup> Vargas, L. Cataldo, J., Dickson, S. (2005). Domestic Violence and Children. In G.R. Walz & R.K. Yep (Eds.), VISTAS: Compelling Perspectives on Counseling. Alexandria, VA: American Counseling Association; 67-69.

<sup>14</sup> Monnat, S.M., Chandler, R.F. (2015), Long Term Physical Health Consequences of Adverse Childhood Experiences. *The Sociologist Quarterly*; 56(4): 723-752

<sup>15</sup> John Stirling, Jr. et al., Understanding the Behavioral and Emotional Consequences of Child Abuse, 122 PEDIATRICS 667, 668 (2008), <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/122/3/667.full.pdf>.

<sup>16</sup> Shanta R. Dube et al., Childhood Abuse, Household Dysfunction, and the Risk of Attempted Suicide Throughout the Life Span: Findings from the Adverse Childhood Experience Study, 286 JAMA PEDIATRICS 3089, 3090 (2001), <http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=194504>.

also been subjected to mental abuse, 4.8 times more likely to have been subjected to physical abuse, and 2.6 times more likely to have been subjected to sexual abuse.<sup>17</sup> Poor health effects that seem to be less specifically mediated by health risk habits, such as chronic cardiac failure, liver disease, and autoimmune diseases, were less intuitive. Over the past two decades, it has been apparent that the negative health consequences linked to ACEs are caused by a mixture of elevated health-risk habits, chronic stress's impacts on the brain, endocrine system, immune system, and gene function.<sup>18</sup> Adults with traumatic early memories have poorer physical and emotional health. As a result, we must produce healthy children in order to produce healthier people and for that it is crucial to ascertain negative impact of domestic violence on children.

#### IV. Link With Further Victimization And Delinquency:

##### A. *Who's Delinquent...And Why?*

Although it is difficult to define delinquency, it is clear that both delinquency and the stigma of delinquent have detrimental connotations. Although the word "delinquent" is sometimes used in jest, it is seldom used as a term of endearment.

The term delinquency is defined in the Oxford English Dictionary as, "The condition or quality of being a delinquent; failure in or neglect of duty; more generally, violation of duty or right; the condition of being guilty, guilt"<sup>19</sup> This creates the issue of what constitutes a delinquent. "One who fails in duty or obligation, a defaulter; more generally, one guilty of an offence against the law, an offender,"<sup>20</sup> according to the Oxford English Dictionary. It is clear that the discourse of delinquency and risk persists in order to categorise as it passes through

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<sup>17</sup> onathan D. Thackeray et al., Clinical Report-Intimate Partner Violence: The Role ofthe Pediatrician, 125 PEDIATRICS 1094, 1094-95 (2010), <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/125/5/1094>

<sup>18</sup> 9 Vincent J. Felitti et al., Relationships of Childhood Abuse and Household Dysfunction to Many ofthe Leading Causes ofDeath in Adults: The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study, 15 AM. J. PREVENTATIVE MED. 245,251 (1998), [http://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797\(98\)00017-8/pdf](http://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797(98)00017-8/pdf).

<sup>19</sup> OXFORD DICTIONARY OF ENGLISH, (Angus Stevenson ed., 2010), <https://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/acref/9780199571123.001.0001/acref-9780199571123> (last visited Mar 21, 2021).

<sup>20</sup> Ibid, 20



time and history. Not being overdue tends to signify satisfactory accomplishment of a task or obligation, as the concept implies.

Nielsen's study focuses on the history of disabilities and its gross marginalisation, but it is clear that, by today's standards, delinquency is still considered a type of disability, both through formal definitions of special education, for instance, as children with emotional or behavioural problems, and through the practise of a broader school culture that is hostile to those with disabilities. Nielsen brilliantly presents the notion that this debate is about what is right for "us," not "them," as she raises the point of a "capable" citizenry.<sup>21</sup>

Throughout more recent works with a delinquency emphasis, this evolution of delinquency discourse and data collection persisted. Hirschi (1969) defined the three major viewpoints of the time: motivational theories, power theories, and cultural deviance theories. Hirschi clarified that valid expectations that conformity cannot fulfil drive an individual into deviance, according to strain or motivational theories. According to control or bond theory, a person is free to participate in illicit activity when his links to the existing order have been cut. The deviant, according to societal deviance theory, adheres to a collection of values that are not recognised by the broader, more dominant community.<sup>22</sup>

### ***B. Broken family as a result of Domestic Violence and its impact on child delinquency:***

From their family, children develop rudimentary impressions of what is decent and what is not. Family can shape a child's character in both positive and negative intellects. Broken homes are inextricably tied to high levels of delinquency. Other reports have also emphasised the negative aspects of family.<sup>23</sup> According to the study, juveniles that have less household oversight, or who live in poor home environments or in impoverished households, are more likely to welcome involvement in delinquent behaviours. The parents play the most important

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<sup>21</sup> Adam Jordan, *Journal of Thought*, Vol. 51, No. 1-2 (Spring/Summer 2017), pp. 31-46, Caddo Gap Press Stable URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2307/90010894>

<sup>22</sup> Binder, A. (1987). An historical and theoretical approach. In H. C. Quay (Ed.), *Handbook of juvenile delinquency* (pp. 1-32). New York, NY: John Wiley & Sons

<sup>23</sup> World Youth Report 2003 | United Nations For Youth, (2015), <https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/world-youth-report/world-youth-report-2003.html/> (last visited Mar 21, 2021).

role in the household, as demonstrated by fractured marriages, single parent families, divided families, constant parent fighting, lack of trust and assurance among the parents, and unethical parents, to name a few examples. While single-parent children are not as elite as they once were, they are still at risk for a variety of critical and evolving issues. Children from single-parent homes, for example, are more likely to drop out of school and are more prone to alcohol and substance abuse. To better understand how single parenting impacts children and how single parents can handle their children without these road blocks, it's important to recognise the multiple influences that can have a negative impact. The root of the issues is no single parenthood per se, but a mixture of financial stresses, marital variability, and parental conflict. To summarise, a single parent with fair possessions will have a stable home environment in which children thrive almost as much as children with two parents. A single parent, on the other hand, may have children that are at risk for a variety of issues due to a lack of time, vitality, or desire to fulfil parental responsibilities.

Families with just one parent and families with two parents In today's industrialised economies, the formation of a nuclear family has become increasingly smooth. On the other hand, departures from this system have been related to a wide variety of societal concerns, including delinquency. While the mass media and legal analysts fault dysfunctional families for struggling to fulfil their children's needs as ready competitors in a stable social system, this conclusion is far from the facts. Spiritually, physically, and mentally, single parents have an impact on their children. Since they don't have enough time to support their children, single working parents can lose out on parent-child construction. Since they lack enough time to assist their children covenant with the intervention of having only one parent present in the household, single employed parents can miss parent-child building. Children and their illegal activity in single parent households have a prodigious inference. As a result, the children also demonstrate their aggression by engaging in criminal activity. Children in single-parent homes are likely to have been exposed to a lot of crime-inspiring inspiration, such as parental conflict and coercion. Several hypotheses indicate that dysfunctional households generate delinquents. Some people believe that children learn how to become adults from their own sex kin. According to this hypothesis, boys raised without a resident father would be deprived of the necessary association for proper development. As a result, adolescents are accused of exaggerating masculinity by engaging in delinquent conduct. Reports claiming that distinct

delinquents lack the guidance of a parent have bolstered this perspective. This choice was affianced as substantiation friends because of the high incidence of broken homes among restrained youths. Boys in New York State reformatories, for example, were twice as likely to come from dysfunctional families as boys in New York City public schools in the 1920s. Broken homes were also more frequent among stuck delinquents than among unselected people, according to these results. Daniel Moynihan, persuaded that broken families cause violence, proposed in 1965 that crime could be reduced among African Americans by modifying family structure. Despite the advertising's association with the Moynihan Study, analysis has shown that it has little significant connotation. Many aspects associated with family dynamics are overlooked in simple calculations of the proportions of delinquents from dysfunctional families to the proportions of non-delinquents from such homes. Among the perplexing considerations are social status and civilization.

#### **V. Four Paradigms of Family Influences in Delinquent Behaviour:**

It would be great if juvenile delinquency and behaviour challenges could be clarified by a single philosophy or paradigm. Multiple causes and developmental paths are more likely to result in the same outcome. Rolf Loeber and Magda Stouthamer-Loeber<sup>24</sup> has suggested four heuristic paradigms of family functioning to better coordinate our perception of child behaviour problems: abuse, confrontation, deviancy, and disturbance which can be ascertained to understand the influences in delinquent behaviour of child who has been exposed to domestic violence in his/her household.

**1. The Neglect Paradigm:** This paradigm describes a family dynamic in which parents do not spend enough time positively engaging with their children and are often unaware of their children's mischief. Parents may be unconcerned about minor issues like constant shouting, bullying, and minor thefts, and learn of more serious incidents only from neighbours or the police. And then, parents can struggle to keep track of their children's whereabouts, friendships, and activities. This neglect may spread to other siblings, and siblings that do not

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<sup>24</sup> Rolf Loeber and Magda Stouthamer-Loeber, Family Factors as Correlates and Predictors of Juvenile Conduct Problems and Delinquency, *Crime and Justice*, 1986, Vol. 7 (1986), pp. 29-149, The University of Chicago Press; <https://www.jstor.org/stable/1147516>

have sufficient parental oversight may act as role models and motivate one another to participate in problem behaviours. The parents may tend to be "permissive" on the surface. Parents' ability to enforce punishment is significantly restricted because they have limited time together and are unaware of their child's problem habits. The neglect model isn't confined to the presumption that the parents are estranged from their children; the lack of engagement may be reciprocal. As a result, children can "do their own thing," with little to no parental supervision and plenty of opportunities to alienate themselves from their parents.<sup>25</sup>

**2. The Conflict Paradigm:** This paradigm describes a family pattern in which parents and children become entangled in dispute. The tension is often triggered by the child's constant disobedience at home, which will inevitably carry over into circumstances outside the home. The parents are usually mindful of their child's disobedience and conduct issues, but they are reluctant to set boundaries or enforce punishment in a non-aggressive way. Parents who use regular, but unsuccessful, low-level coercive child rearing strategies, such as physical discipline, elicit related habits in their children.<sup>26</sup> The parents are usually mindful of their child's disobedience and conduct issues, but they are reluctant to set boundaries or enforce punishment in a non-aggressive way. Parents who use regular, but unsuccessful, low-level coercive child rearing strategies, such as physical discipline, elicit related habits in their children. Inadequate discipline may have a number of implications. It will not be enough to deter the problem activity from arising in the first place, and it is impossible to prevent it from happening again. For fear of the child's behaviour issues worsening, parents often do not enforce consistent supervision. Parents' attempts to impose controls where none previously existed can result in children being more evasive or downright obnoxious. Furthermore, insufficient discipline may fuel violent fights between siblings, and parents can refuse to interfere until the situation has escalated. In serious cases of poor discipline, the parents can no longer be able to parent the behaviour issue child; the latter takes over as the household's dominant power. Parents and children may begin to treat one another as enemies, have low

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<sup>25</sup> Bronfenbrenner, U. 1970. *Two Worlds of Childhood: U.S. and USSR*. New York: Russell Sage. .. 1974. "The Roots of Alienation." In *Raising Children in Modern America*, edited by N. B. Talbot. Boston: Little Brown.

<sup>26</sup> Sutherland, E. H., and D. R. Cressey. 1960. *Principles of Criminology*. 6th ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott. 1966. *Principles of Criminology*. 7th ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott

expectations of one another, and reject one another. This could lead to more confrontation and disciplinary experiences.

**3. The Deviant Behaviours and Attitudes Paradigm:** Parents can participate in a number of deviant behaviours that specifically impact their children to do so. Parents, for example, may have been involved in delinquent behaviour. Alternatively, parents can genetically predispose their children to delinquency. Alternatively, children can experience or hear about parental lawbreaking and mimic it. While some parents may not engage in deviant behaviour themselves, their attitudes can condone or encourage their children's deviant behaviour. Alternatively, they can ignore severe infant misbehaviour as deviant. Some parents may not accept deviant activity at home but do so outside the home.<sup>27</sup> Parents can, for example, encourage their children to be "tough" and use coercion in social conflicts with peers rather than using nonviolent problem-solving approaches. Deviant views toward other people's land may also be passed on by parents. They could overlook the youngster's taking stolen or dubious-provenance property into the house.<sup>28</sup> When the police or others bring the child's actions to the parents' attention, one would expect them to defend the child. As a result, parents who possess deviant beliefs are more likely to protect their offspring from the negative effects of their misbehaviour and are less likely to attempt to fix the issue than other parents.

The beliefs of the deviant parents are likely to influence all of the family's offspring (although differences may exist for boys and girls). Younger children in these households may learn problem behaviour from their parents' beliefs and older siblings, such as aggressive behaviour, robbery, or drug abuse.

**4. The Disruption Paradigm.** When unusual events interrupt regular family behaviour patterns, it may lead to negligence and confrontation. Chronic tension between partners, as well as the breakdown of a marriage, may have an effect on the children's actions, either directly or indirectly. Family members who are under stress can become irritable and vulnerable to violent outbursts.<sup>29</sup> Children can retaliate or learn to avoid the irritable parent.

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<sup>27</sup> *ibid*

<sup>28</sup> Reid, J. B. 1975. "The Child Who Steals." In *A Social Learning Approach to Family Intervention: The Socially Aggressive Child*, edited by G. R. Patterson, J. B. Reid, R. R. Jones, and R. E. Conger. Eugene, Oreg.: Cas

<sup>29</sup> Patterson, G. P., P. Chamberlain, and J. B. Reid. 1982. "A Comparative Evaluation of Parent Training Programs." *Behavior Therapy* 13:638-5

This trend limits the chances that parents can teach their children healthy social skills or successfully cope with their child's troublesome behaviours. However, after the tension in the parents' lives has been minimised or overcome, the parents' behaviour against their children, as well as the children's conduct issues, can return to the pre-stress stage.

## **VI. Predispositions of Juvenile Delinquency in India:**

The tendencies in India regarding Juvenile Delinquency have always been favourable to minor meeting the international standards. Few changes have been made in criminal justice administration with respect to offences committed by Minor, like bifurcation of offences into petty, serious and heinous. The legal definition of juvenile anguishes how the criminal justice administration of a country indenture with delinquents. According to the international criteria, and also under the Juvenile Justice System in India, a minor or a child cannot be tried as the same as an adult. Even the custody of the children is taken according to juvenile justice system, owing to the reason in mind, children are tried under juvenile justice system, and not under the adult criminal justice system. They shall never be begiven custody or death penalty. Hence, under the Indian legal system<sup>30</sup> the state is required to legislate the lowest age below which a child cannot be booked for any offence committed by him or her under the penal law of India. Age of criminal liability is legislated to be more than 7 years. Child who is below the age of 7 years state cannot invoke penal provision against him for any act or omission done by him which is an criminal offence.<sup>31</sup> Nothing is a felony whether it is committed by a person aged 7 to 12 who lacks the ability to judge the meaning and consequences of their actions and is unaware that what they are doing is wrong (section 83 of IPC, 1860). Juvenile delinquency, on the other hand, has been rising at an unprecedented rate in India's capital city, Delhi, and other areas. The involvement of minors in serious crimes such as homicide, attempted murder, and kidnapping has heightened concerns around the world. Following the December 2012 gang rape in Delhi (also known as the Nirbhaya case), various concerns and considerations arose over the juvenile justice system's forgiving approach to such crimes. It has been identified that youngsters can be almost as harsh as adults,

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<sup>30</sup> (Art. 40 (3) (a) of CRC)

<sup>31</sup> (section 82 of IPC, 1860).

necessitating a re-evaluation of the explanation and treatment of juvenile delinquents in India. Psychiatrists agree the targets of youth and adults are gratifying on par as a result of internet access. The reports from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) specify that youth crimes, especially those between the ages of 16 and 18, are on the rise. Supreme court has also recognised this problem in *Ajay Kumar v. Lata alias Sharuti*<sup>32</sup>, the court held that the Section 12(1) provides that an aggrieved person may present an application to the Magistrate seeking one or more reliefs under the Act. Under the provisions of section 20(1), the magistrate while dealing with an application under sub-section (1) of section 12 is empowered to direct the respondent(s) to pay monetary relief to meet the expenses incurred and losses suffered by the aggrieved person and any child of the aggrieved person as a result of domestic violence. Also, in the case of *Rodriquez v. Zavala*<sup>33</sup>, apex court of USA unequivocally establishes that “exposure to domestic violence harms children and that a parent’s fear of harm for a child comes within the definition of ‘domestic violence’”. Thereby, it is now the need of the our that the state should indulge in the prevention model than the punishment model with respect to the crimes committed by the juveniles. In this last chapter, we will now try to understand the what could be the possible way forward to disrupt the cycle of violence, delinquency in children in order to prevent crime.

## VII. Conclusion And Way Forward:

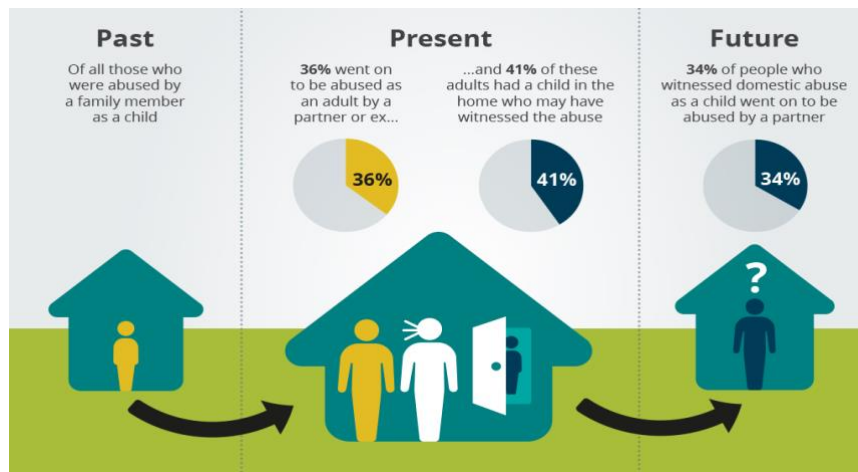
Children who have been exposed to IPV or DV have higher rates of neurological, social, and emotional difficulties. Various articles also shown that the levels of cognitive maturity of children subject to trauma are less than those of the same age group. It is apparent that

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<sup>32</sup> Ajay Kumar vs Lata@ Sharuti on 8 April, 2019, , <https://indiankanoon.org/doc/53354673/> (last visited Mar 21, 2021).

<sup>33</sup> FindLaw’s Supreme Court of Washington case and opinions., , FINDLAW , <https://caselaw.findlaw.com/wa-supreme-court/1866763.html> (last visited Mar 21, 2021).

exposure to violence has a significant effect on children at all developmental stages and around the world. Dysregulation is characterised as the inability to sustain proper functioning. For eg, “deficits in executive functioning: planning, prioritising, and task completion” in cognitive functioning. It has been comprehensively discussed in the above chapters that the children who has been exposed to domestic violence or intimate partner violence has severe moral and psychological rupture with leads to further victimisation and delinquent behaviour as children get caught up in the abusive cycle as shown in the image below<sup>34</sup>: this image cycle showcases the example how the children exposed to domestic violence are more vulnerable to further victimisation and repeating the similar abuse as witnessed by them in early childhood.



(Image)<sup>35</sup>

### **Certain Possessions Of A Single Parent Can Guarantee To Defend Child From These Hazard Factors:**

The following can be the preventive measure taken by the single parents who was separated due to the result of domestic violence in order to shield child from delinquency and other mental health problem.

<sup>34</sup> Joe Traynor, *CSEW: New developments and programme of work* 22.

<sup>35</sup> *Id.*



- (a) Parent should involve in discussion and pay adequate attention to children. Simplify any inequalities that are enthralling.
- (b) Parent should defend their kids from parental fight among themselves. They should not be asked to favour any one parent and take sides between them
- (c) Parents should also pay attention to their own emotional state. As the parents themselves may be uptight with guiltiness and self-loathing because of their marriage or failed relationship. These indirectly affects the mental health of children.
- (d) The primary focus should be given by parent on positive things. Children living in a single-parent household usually take on more restraint, which can also have positive effect of teaching independence. However, parent should assure that they recognize childrens' assistances and be liberal with approbation.
- (e) living in single parent household economic problem creates a major problem for the children leading them towards deviant behaviour that is why parent should make budget rationally and save moneys under restraint. Parents should set expenditure limits to fulfil children's need excluding their wants.
- (f) Usage of public chain has also become very crucial specially in India where very few recognition is given by society to single parent household specially mother as a single parent whether the separation was due to domestic violence or any other reason. The cause was believed to be a vigorous network of social supports. Single parents should not be unable to seek support from extended family members, call other single parents, or seek professional advice from a professional counsellor with assistance from friends or others in the group, as well as religious beliefs. <sup>36</sup>

It is also necessary apart from these prevention techniques by parents. State should also initiate amendments into the Domestic violence act, in order to at least recognise child as a victim of domestic violence pertaining to psychological abuse, until and unless children is recognised as a victim of Domestic Violence it is impossible to formulate victim compensation scheme for them. It is pertinent to note that the Juvenile Justice Act's recognition of child in need of

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<sup>36</sup>Dr. V. Reeta , Dr. Geetika Singh, Broken Families and Impact on Juvenile Delinquency ,  
nternationalJournalofHumanitiesandSocialScienceInvention (IJHSSI) ISSN (Online): 2319 – 7722, ISSN (Print):  
2319 – 7714 www.ijhssi.org ||Volume 9 Issue 5 Ser. IIIhttp://www.ijhssi.org/papers/vol9(5)/Series-  
3/F0905033338.pdf (last visited Mar 20, 2021).

care and protect and the Act itself will not be sufficient to address this problem as the psychological abuse of child in domestic violence often goes unnoticed and child is not considered as a victim of domestic violence many provisions has been included to recognise “women” which even includes girl child as women of all ages, but there no recognition of boy child which are more prone to delinquency as been exposed to domestic violence.

However, no legislative steps can be successful without proper administrative reformation and restructuring. There is a need for reformation of child friendly administration not only on paper but in reality, when dealing with child victims. Under the domestic violence the duty of protection officer should be widened to cover comprehensively the protection and care of child as victim of domestic violence. Accountability of stake holders and administrator dealing child victims should be increased and proper check n balances should be performed to maintain the quality of children homes to decrease the possibility of secondary victimisation and better rehabilitation and reformation outcomes.

Apart from these legislative and administrative response to the psychological abuse towards child in a domestic violence the appropriate measures should be taken by the states to educate parents and aware people in general about the evil effects of psychological abuse and trauma upon a child and how they perceive this trauma and what can be the consequences of these psychological abuse.