



## **CHILD ABUSE**

Childhood is the primary stage of life. It knows no worry or anxiety, no good or evil; it is the period of both ignorance and innocence. "God lives in a child." Some people, without understanding the fact that a child is God's gift, abuse them to such an extent that their future is ruined forever. Child abuse is a crime that is committed by individuals who are frustrated by their own lives.

Abusing a child is as serious a crime as killing a person because a child is soft by nature, and any abuse that he or she goes through in the early stages of life leaves a lasting imprint on its mind. However hard the child tries to forget or erase such memories, all he or she ends up with is frustration. Some of the victims of child abuse lose their confidence forever and lead their lives as introverts. Child abuse occurs in various forms. In extreme cases, a girl child is found raped, and some children are beaten up by their parents and, at times, school teachers.

Child labour is also a form of continuous child abuse. At an age when the child should attend school, he or she should be forced to work in factories, at workplaces, and as domestic help in their own homes. If we practise child labor, we are abusing the child.

Childhood includes both physical and verbal abuse; even when a child is not physically abused, there are cases where they are verbally abused on a regular basis.

### ***Things you can do to prevent child abuse***

- Volunteer your time and get involved with other parents in your community.
- Discipline your child thoughtfully.
- Never discipline your child when you are upset.
- Use your actions to show children and other adults that conflicts can be settled without hitting or yelling.
- Simple support for children and parents
- Teach children their rights.
- Support the prevention program.
- Know what child abuse is. Physical and sexual abuse are clearly examples of maltreatment.
- Children can also be emotionally abused when they are rejected, berated, or continuously isolated.
- Unexplained injuries are not the only signs of child abuse.

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