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## **Breaking the cycle of child abuse in Sri Lankan households**

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**Background:** Child abuse, a significant social issue in Sri Lanka, severely impacts the physical and psychological well-being of children, particularly within households. The cycle of abuse persists across generations due to cultural beliefs, limited awareness, economic challenges, and ineffective law enforcement. This study explores the prevalence and forms of child abuse in Sri Lanka, identify the key factors contributing to the perpetuation of this cycle, and propose effective strategies to break the cycle within Sri Lankan households.

**Method:** Through a qualitative research method, the study used secondary data for analytical purposes. In this research, two specific research articles were used. Through this method, themes such as prevalence of child abuse, and sociocultural, psychological and economic impact on victims are discussed.

**Results:** The results show that poverty, poor parenting, domestic violence, and the societal acceptance of physical punishment are some initiatives which provoke the prominence of child abuse. A significant prevalence of child abuse in Sri Lanka with the impact of age and gender are noted in this research. This study reveals several types of abuses namely sexual, physical and emotional abuses and fabrication of illness whereas some children experienced multiple types of abuse. Furthermore, this paper indicates that child abuse was more prevalent in dysfunctional families.

**Conclusion:** In conclusion, this study addresses the major issues of child abuse in Sri Lanka through a multidisciplinary approach. The findings indicate the socio-cultural factors and family dysfunction in perpetuating abuse. Disrupting this cycle lacks intentional educational initiatives, and potent psychosocial interference. It is crucial to inform the community on empowering families with assistance and fostering collaboration among healthcare and social sectors. This study emphasizes child protection as a collective responsibility, ensuring the safety, and well-being of every child in Sri Lanka.

**Keywords:** Child abuse, family dysfunction, households, education.