

## **THE INFLUENCE OF CHILD ABUSE IN THE FAMILY**

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*Abstract: In a society where most people pursue only their own interests, that violence of any kind is still considered normal and adherence to the principles of the democracy ahead of respect for the individual as a human being, the child can not find the place would must occupy, both in the family and society. Increasing violence against children is one of the most dramatic social problems facing contemporary society. An abused and neglected child will probably apply a similar treatment to his or her children, generating a vicious circle, which will hardly be able to get out.*

*Keywords: Violence, family, neglected child*

### **Introduction**

Aggressiveness, as a component of human beings, has constituted and is the concern of many specialists from the most diverse fields: psychologists, sociologists, anthropologists, lawyers and others. Aggressiveness is a living and manifestation by which the person responds through a conscious, unconscious, and fantastical assault on the purpose of destroying, degrading or humiliating a being or something invested with meaning that the aggressor feels as such and represents for him a challenge.

### **Theoretical approach**

Quite often, aggression is associated and even confused with violence.

However, the area of aggression is much more extensive than that of violence, as it manifests at both attitudinal, behavioral and pulsational levels. Aggressiveness has several forms of manifestation: excitability, impulsivity, propulsiveness, violence, aberrant behavior, aggressive behavior).

The family carries out important functions in society, among them:

- biological and health care;
- satisfaction of emotional needs;
- a common goal of the family;
- social control over the behavior of family members (especially children);
- pedagogical and moral training of children;
- Cultural continuity through the transmission of cultural heritage;
- Economic training.

For these reasons, the family is a special form of the human community, permanently linked to social reality, which can not be separated from the numerous phenomena and processes that characterize society at a certain moment.

At the social level, the structure of the traditional family in which our parents and grandparents had well-defined places entered the crisis. The structure of the family was based on the affective role of the mother. Women's participation in professional life has generated many social changes within the family, such as family planning and the possibility for women to have other activities outside maternity. Consequently, fathers began to integrate their affective component into their family role, which was not always easy for them.

At present, the couple's relationships go through transformations that influence their balance. Thus, each has a double role: to be simultaneously affective and economic support of the family. Henceforth, the emotional structure of modern culture relies on democratic and interpersonal relationships. It is no longer the merger of two individuals, but the conscious union of two independent people, who decide to have a relationship based on cooperation and understanding. The absolute authority of the father weakens. Despite this change, the mentality has not changed. However, the real improvement of society and of every individual can only be accomplished by a change of values within each being.

The way in which the family fulfills its specific role in a given society is also influenced by a succession of social factors, for example, a totalitarian or democratic system of economic development, general education and education level, social legislation and policies, etc. . There are, however, internal factors such as the legal status of the family, its size, family control, the personality of its members, etc. A family's founding must be a conscious act, a long-awaited act in the family. Among the functions of the family, the most important is the reproductive behavior. When a child appears in the family, the parents' moral, material and social debts change. The family is the place where the individual evolves, where he builds a great deal of relationships, and which determines him, in the first instance, as a social being. The human being spends much of his life in the family.

Whatever its family organization and ethnic, religious or political identity, it presents a dynamic organization that is its own, and through which there is a network of interdictions that ensure continuous mobility. Thanks to this mobility, the family is able to transform and adapt to different circumstances, which allows them to evolve. For this reason, the family is considered the first and most important socialistic "niche" of the individual, due to the permanent cohabitation and inter-relational dynamics of its members. "The family is the first unit with which children have continuous contact and the first context in which the patterns of socialization develop. In the family, basic or primary socialization is achieved. The child learns that individuals have desires, interests and habits that the other needs to be aware of, learn to share limited resources (food, housing, objects, affection), learn how society asks for it to behave, learn how to act to satisfy a goal, a desire.

Socialization within the family is essential for the social integration of children. The failures of family socialization have negative consequences for communities and society. Normally, family socialization is converging with the norms and values promoted by that societal level. There are also situations where family socialization is inconsistent with general social norms and values. "Children socialized in this way will be unintegrated and in a constant conflict with society. In Romania, an important sign of child protection is precisely the first serious research on the situation of abuse and neglect of children in their own families

#### Research dates

The first objective is to identify the risk factors for child abuse that represent a summary of the risks listed from the three major components of the phenomenon: the victim of abuse, the abuser and the circumstances of aggression. To assess the risk factors correlated with the victim, the following aspects will be analyzed and revealed, using the methods and techniques used: age;

gender, ethnicity; -religion;

-the school situation;

- the child's home environment:

- size families of origin;

- parents' occupation,
- parents' tuition level;
- individual characteristics of parents and children that generate abuse and neglect of the child in the family the forms of abuse and neglect of the child in the family.

#### Assumption

Regardless of the type of abuse suffered, child victims still show a common symptomatological picture: faulty relationship: lower school performance (possibly school dropout), aggressive behavior, and aggressive behaviors. The research design included the anamnesis in which the data were obtained by querying parents or other family members, care staff, teaching staff, social work services, family doctor. Children in older age groups could provide some of the information. The information was systematized in a questionnaire.

Consequences of child maltreatment in the family: anxiety; depressive condition; sleep disturbances; social isolation; defective relationship; distrust in himself and in others; ambivalent feelings towards parents; emotional lability; self-blame; impulsivity; aggressive behaviors towards others; poor learning outcomes; school dropout; run repeatedly from home; deviant behavior (theft). These consequences coexist. A psychologically maltreated child, for example, can be characterized by both depressive and distrustful feelings in oneself and others, emotional lability, social isolation, etc. These children move easily from state to state, from inhibition to hyperexcitability, from passivity to aggression. In the long run, abuse involves serious changes in the child's personality structure, with serious consequences over time, found in adult behavior with difficulty in adapting and family integration. The worst thing, which also has consequences on society, is the perpetuation of abusive family models.

The high percentage (60%) of children with aggressive behaviors indicate that in the case of the investigated group, minors adopted the overactive and destructive strategy to survive. One explanation for this might be that in the environments where these children come from, aggressive behaviors are "normal" and even appreciated and encouraged.

From the data obtained from the case studies, it is noted the confirmation of the hypothesis regarding the close link between the ill treatments to which the juveniles are subjected and the material situation of the family from which they come from. It is noted the phenomenon accentuation in families with heavy weight, marked by poverty. The number of families in which one or both parents are alcoholics is also directly proportional to the exposure to illness of the child.

As far as the size of the family is concerned, the possibility of being included in the category of children at risk increases with the number of minors in the family.

Abused and neglected children come from disorganized, reorganized (usually illegitimate - concubinage) or single-parent families, with a reduced social status: low schooling, lack or poor qualification, lack or occasional occupation, lack or insufficient income. The sex of minors seems to be the edifying variable in exposure to abuse and neglect. Girls are more often subjected to ill-treatment.

Ethnic affiliation of abusive families is also an important variable. Family models characteristic of the Roma ethnicity cultivate different forms of ill-treatment, of which the worst seems to be educational neglect and labor exploitation (begging).

With regard to sexual abuse, it can be said that incestuous relationships are usually well hidden, abusive parents forcing the child through, corrupting and threatening, to keep the secret. Even if it happens that her mother finds such a relationship between father and child, she prefers to keep the secret, instead of trying to solve the situation and her family being subjected to public abuse.

Children in families with reduced social status do not enjoy the most basic rights: the right to survival and development, the right to protection from parents and the state, the right to education and training, the right to enjoy social security, the right to protection against violence physical and mental ill-treatment, right to protection against abuse, aggression governed by Romanian law, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which our country has also joined.

Types of psychotherapy:

**Behavioral Therapy:** It is designed to treat symptoms such as phobias, obsessions, eating and sexual disorders, anxiety or mild depression. In the case of an abused child, this aims to release him from guilt, self-indulgence.

**Cognitive Therapy:** The fundamental idea is that the mental state and thoughts can form a vicious circle. Cognitive therapy approaches this vicious circle by analyzing thoughts.

Methods:

- to clarify exactly what is the thought (it does not let it be just a vague negative conviction);
- evidence is being sought for and against the statement of thought;
- looking for other perspectives;
- a conclusion is drawn.

**Group therapy:** Here, the child victim can get support from others who have experienced similar experiences. Meeting with children in the group for a long time can make him talk about his own emotions.

**Crisis intervention:** It provides short-term help to resolve crises and restore patient control capacity.

Supportive psychotherapy

Long-term psychotherapy.

**Structured Family Psychotherapy:** It is very important because it is intended to rehabilitate the child within the family. The family, especially the mother, will have to solve the problems between the victim and the aggressor. Anti-depressant therapies are set up for the mother, she is guided by this to be able to help her baby, to accept what has happened, to protect him.

**Game Therapy:** People who have the greatest psychotherapeutic experience with children are parents. They have the key cards in influencing a child's behavior. These include love, mutually understood channels of communication, justified reward systems, and common knowledge of good and evil. Families that do not have this knowledge are most likely to require the help of specialists.

In game therapy, the child (who can bring friends) and the therapist play with toys that give the child the opportunity to express the most hidden fantasies in words. There are alternative therapies besides the established ones, which are used with the latter, give encouraging results.

As conclusions, the research report found that poverty predisposes most to child abuse and neglect in the family environment. In this context, the state should intervene in improving the economic level of these families through programs for the protection of the unemployed, retraining and integration into the labor market (unemployment being one of the main causes of poverty in current Romania). Alongside poverty, the large number of children in the family and low housing space are two other risk factors in exposing the minor to ill-treatment. For this reason, a support system should be created for these families, and social assistance services should be redirected to them.

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