

# A Criminological Study of the Impact of Domestic Violence on Child Abuse

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**Abstract:** *There is a close relationship between domestic violence and child abuse. Although many children are victims of domestic violence, very few of them are reported to legal institutions. The main reason for this is that the abuser is a family member. However, the harm caused to children by domestic violence cannot be underestimated. This study was conducted on children in Sri Lanka who are victims of domestic violence, and specifically studied the factors that affect the victimisation of domestic violence and the effects it has on children. The economic and social status of the families of children who are victims of domestic violence was also discussed. A sample of 40 children who were victims of domestic violence was used for the study. Accordingly, the main objective of conducting this research is to study the factors that affect the victimisation of children in the family and the abuse situations that children face. Accordingly, the % of direct problems with the child alone is 47%. 53% of children have experienced violence due to disputes between their parents. It was also revealed that 90% of the siblings of the children who have been victims of violence have also been subjected to violence. Parents in the 26-33 and 34-40 age groups are primarily involved in domestic violence. Accordingly, this study revealed that in families with young and underage parents in this country, family disputes are more common, and children are primarily affected. The father's drug use, the family's economic problems, the low education of the parents, poor interpersonal relationships between the parents, living in a single-parent family, and various weaknesses of the children are the main factors that affect domestic violence against children.*

**Keywords:** Child, Child Abuse, Domestic Violence, Family Dysfunction, Victimization

**Abbreviations:**

UNICEF: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

## I. INTRODUCTION

The concept of violence is also the subject of much discussion in the discourses on crime. From the beginning of human civilisation to the present, violence has been practised in various ways among humans, animals, and the natural world. Acts of violence committed by humans have been rejected in every country in the world, and criminal responsibility has been attributed to them. Accordingly, these acts of violence, which are rejected by the whole world, can be called crimes.

Therefore, the concept of violence can be widely examined in criminology.

When examining the various forms of violence, domestic violence has been a topic of much discussion in recent times. Domestic violence can be studied as criminal behaviour in the field of criminology because it is a physical or psychological abuse of a person or a violation of a fundamental human right. Women and children are the most affected by domestic violence in the world. Many countries have focused more on investigating women who are oppressed by domestic violence. However, it is the children living in those families who are directly and indirectly affected by domestic violence. Accordingly, children are directly affected when domestic violence is unleashed on them and indirectly affected when violence is inflicted on another person in the household. It can be recognised that domestic violence and its consequences are linked to children and child abuse.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Harassment of children due to domestic violence can be identified as child abuse or criminal behaviour. Domestic violence also has a substantial impact on family disintegration and the socialisation process of children. Accordingly, domestic violence against children has become a current social problem in Sri Lanka and the whole world. Therefore, countries around the world are showing a special interest in studying domestic violence and related issues.

Each year, between 3.3 million and 10 million children worldwide are victims of domestic violence in their homes. According to several studies on the prevalence of child abuse, the United States Department of Health and Human Services reported in 2006 that 90,000 children were identified as abusers by their parents or other adults [1]. Worldwide, about three-quarters (300 million) of children aged two to four years are subject to discipline that involves violence. These children are subject to physical punishment and emotional abuse. Six in ten children are also subjected to physical punishment by their parents or other adults in the family. One-quarter (176 million) of children under the age of five worldwide live with their mother alone due to violence by a close family member. According to data obtained from a study by UNICEF in thirty countries around the world, about half of children from the age of twelve have been subjected to physical punishment and verbal abuse at home for 23 months [2]. The following are the reported statistics on children who have been victims of domestic violence in several countries around the world.

Manuscript received on 03 March 2025 | First Revised Manuscript received on 14 March 2025 | Second Revised Manuscript received on 21 May 2025 | Manuscript Accepted on 15 June 2025 | Manuscript published on 30 June 2025.

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## A Criminological Study of the Impact of Domestic Violence on Child Abuse

**Table- I: Number of Children Abused Due to Domestic Violence in the World's Countries – 2006**

Region of the Countries	Country	Estimated Number of Children Abused Due to Domestic Violence
United Kingdom	United Kingdom	240000-963000
	Ireland	8000-42000
America	Canada	85000-362000
	Mexico	1.6-8.5 million
	United States	3390000-2-7 million
Europe, the Middle East and Africa	Austria	82000
	Belgium	26000-170000
	Denmark	22000
	Finland	61000
	France	240000-802000
	Germany	1 million
	Greece	45000
	Holland	237000-431000
	Iceland	2000
	Italy	385000-1 million
	Kuwait	28000
	Norway	38000-68000
	Portugal	44000-168000
	Romania	300000
	Saudi Arabia	1 million
	South Africa	50000-1.3 million
	Spain	188000
	Sweden	46000
	Switzerland	8000-76000
	Turkey	2-6.2 million
Asia Pacific region	Australia	75000-640000
	Hong Kong	75000-82000
	Japan	427000-875000
	Korea	1.2 million
	Malaysia	951000
	New Zealand	18000-35000
	Philippines	1.8-3.2 million
	Thailand	903000-2.6 million
	India	27.1-69 million
	Pakistan	6.1 million

According to the above table, it is seen that among the countries of the world, India, Pakistan, Thailand, the Philippines, Turkey, and the United States of America have the highest incidence of child abuse due to domestic

violence. The United Nations Millennium Development Project has also estimated the number of children exposed to domestic violence by region of the world. The following table shows the estimated figures.

**Table- II: Number of Children Affected by Domestic Violence by Region of the World - Millennium Development Project 2006**

Region	Estimated Number of Children Exposed to Domestic Violence
Global situation	133-275 million
Developed countries	4-5-11-3 million
Commonwealth countries	900000-3-6 million
North African countries	Not estimated
Sub-Saharan African countries	34.0-38.2 million
Latin American and Caribbean countries	11.3-25.5 million
Southeast Asian countries	Not estimated
South Asian countries	40.7-88 million
East Asian countries	19.8-61.4 million
West Asian countries	7.2-15.9 million
Oceania countries	548000-657000

Accordingly, the above statistics indicate that many children in the world are victims of domestic violence and suffer various physical and psychological abuses. It should be especially remembered that when women are victims of domestic violence in the family, children living in those families are also often exposed to domestic violence. Currently, various research institutions and researchers seem to be particularly interested in studying domestic violence against children. Most domestic violence studies have focused on women, while few have examined children.

Studies conducted worldwide on this issue can provide insight into its international nature.

A study of children's exposure to domestic violence in New Zealand found that in 55% of families. According to a survey of sixty-two women who had experienced violence in Ireland, 64% of them stated that their children were exposed to victimisation because of domestic violence in the family. Children in families with marital domestic violence are more



likely to experience psychological and behavioural problems such as anxiety, depression, poor school performance, disobedience, low self-esteem, nightmares, and other physical health problems [3].

Where domestic violence occurred, the father was the perpetrator. In 28% of cases, both parents were involved, and in 16% of cases, only the mother was involved. Of the children exposed to violence, 90% had witnessed violence between their parents. In addition, 80% of children had experienced violence before the age of 11 [4]. The New Zealand study found that many children living with their biological parents were victims of domestic violence. In addition, most children experienced domestic violence at an early age.

The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and Kaiser Permanente in the United States of America studied more than 17,000 people from 1995 to 1997 to examine the impact of early childhood experiences on current health and behaviour. Accordingly, the study found that children who are exposed to more physical and emotional abuse at home are more likely to develop health problems and may become a significant cause of death in adulthood [5].

A study was conducted in Spain to examine the impact of violence against mothers by their husbands on children. Accordingly, this study investigated the psychosocial profile of children aged 6-17 years living with their mothers in their respective homes. Exposure to domestic violence by mothers has affected their parenting skills. This study found that the better the parents are, the lower the rate of behavioural problems in children. This study shows that the exposure of mothers to violence in the home has a psychological and behavioural impact on the children living there [6].

A study was conducted in Japan on women who were victims of domestic violence and were placed in orphanages due to psychological stress. Accordingly, the study was conducted using 340 women who had been abused in 83 orphanages as a sample. 80% of the women in the sample indicated that the reason for staying in orphanages was that they were subjected to domestic violence by their husbands. As a result, their children were also abused. It was also found that 40% of these women were victims of abuse during childhood due to domestic violence. This study seems to be interested in explaining the relationship between domestic violence and child abuse. Accordingly, the study identified that 42% of women had faced both child abuse and domestic violence [6].

According to the above research studies conducted in several countries around the world on domestic violence against children, much attention has been paid to studying the nature of a family that is subjected to domestic violence and the problems that children face as a result.

Domestic violence has become a major problem in Sri Lanka. Not only women but also children have been affected by this. It is no secret that most children in Sri Lanka are affected by domestic violence. However, the reporting of information regarding this crime is very minimal. Since the violence faced by children is suppressed within the home itself, many domestic crimes committed by children have become hidden crimes. These problems are resolved within the family itself. However, the harm

caused to children by this is not insignificant. The effects of domestic violence have adverse short-term and long-term consequences on the child's life. The failure to correctly identify or report domestic abuse against children in Sri Lanka has jeopardised the future well-being of children in the country.

Violence against children is mainly reported to the Sri Lanka Police Department and the National Child Protection Authority. The Sri Lanka Police Department receives a very low number of complaints annually regarding domestic violence against children. The average number of complaints reported annually is about five. However, it must be said that children in this country are victims of violence primarily due to domestic violence against women. Psychological abuse of children in this country due to domestic violence or for other reasons is almost unreported. Even if it is reported, the number is minimal. Most complaints regarding domestic violence go unreported, and most are reported as physical abuse and cruelty against children. It must be said that a significant number of such violations are due to domestic violence itself. Also, children are mostly subjected to psychological abuse within the family, which often occurs as a result of domestic violence. However, in many cases, the victimisation of children due to domestic violence remains a silent crime. To conduct a more formal study on this, a comprehensive and in-depth study should be conducted on the complaints received at police stations regarding domestic violence against women in this country, child cruelty, physical injuries, psychological abuse, and family disputes.

The National Child Protection Authority is the primary statutory body in the country responsible for protecting children. Complaints regarding children being affected by domestic violence are reported to the National Child Protection Authority. The complaints regarding domestic violence reported to the authority from 2015 to 2024 are shown in the table below [7].

**Table- III: Domestic Violence Against Children in Sri Lanka**

Year	Number
2015	106
2016	64
2017	80
2018	104
2019	79
2020	50
2021	97
2022	82
2023	46
2024	34

Compared to the complaints received by police stations in Sri Lanka, the National Child Protection Authority has received more reports regarding domestic violence against children. However, the reporting of domestic violence against children can be described as a crime that goes beyond the iceberg concept discussed in crime reporting in criminology.

Accordingly, although children in Sri Lanka are victims of abuse due to domestic violence, there is minimal discussion or research on this issue in this country. Most of the attention in this country has been focused on studying women who suffer from domestic violence.



However, it seems that some discussions have been formed about children who suffer from domestic violence in these studies.

A research report published by the Department of Sociology at the University of Kelaniya shows how domestic violence affects family disorganisation. The study shows that children living in families where mothers are subjected to domestic violence are likely to suffer from psychological abuse, educational failure, and socialisation problems. This study was conducted on fifty families randomly selected in the Opanayake Divisional Secretariat [8].

Claudia Katani and her team conducted a study on the psychological impact of family violence, war, and natural disasters on children in Sri Lanka, using 296 children from Tamil schools in the North Eastern Province. They also identified parental alcohol and drug use as the leading cause of domestic violence. 46.9% of the victims said that their fathers drank alcohol, and 69.6% said that they used other drugs. Also, 48.7% of the mothers said that they used alcohol or other drugs. Accordingly, this study indicates that parental alcohol and drug use has become a significant factor in the occurrence of violence in the family [9].

A study on the behavioural problems of children exposed to domestic violence living in rural areas was conducted by Subramaniam Jeevasuthan & Ahmad Hatta in the village of Piren Pattu in the Chankanai Divisional Secretariat of the Jaffna District. Accordingly, fifty married women with children were taken as a sample. The sample was divided into two main groups, violent families and non-violent families, and a comparative study was conducted. Here, 68% of mothers in violent families stated that the father's use of alcohol and drugs had contributed to domestic violence in the family. Similarly, 44% of mothers in violent families stated that economic difficulties had contributed to the problems. 52% of these women indicated that their children cry and wail during arguments at home. 24% indicated that their children hide out of fear during arguments. These responses from children demonstrate the negative effects of domestic violence [10].

Kennedy Jeevaratnam conducted a case study on children facing domestic violence and their future in the Eravur Divisional Secretariat Division of Batticaloa District, Sri Lanka, in 2017. The data contributors for this survey were Grama Niladhari, Child Rights Promotion Officers, District Child Protection Unit officers, and families of victims of violence. Accordingly, this study has paid more attention to the violence that women suffer from their husbands and the resulting violence that children suffer. Also, economic poverty in the family and the father's alcoholism have contributed to the increase in domestic problems. The response of mothers to this leads to an increase in domestic violence. This study has shown that children who are taken into the care of their fathers due to their mothers going abroad as an alternative to economic problems have become victims of domestic violence [11].

Claudia Katani and her colleagues conducted a study on domestic violence in Sri Lanka and Afghanistan [12]. This study compares the two countries using a sample of 286 children aged 9-15 in the Vadamarachchi education division of Sri Lanka, which was affected by the war and faced the

tsunami disaster.[13], and a sample of 287 children between the ages of 7-14 in Kabul, Afghanistan, which is affected by the war [14]. On average, 3/4 of Afghan children and 2/5 of Sri Lankan children are confirmed to have experienced or witnessed domestic violence at home. The Afghan sample found that 59.9% of mothers, 41.6% of fathers, and 63.2% of older sisters had beaten children in the house. This situation is confirmed to be higher in Sri Lanka, where 76.5% of mothers, 67.6% of fathers, and 63.2% of older siblings have beaten children in the home. Domestic violence against children has been identified as a persistent problem in both countries. Poverty and fathers' alcohol and drug use have been identified as significant risk factors for domestic violence in both countries.

Accordingly, only a few research studies have been conducted in Sri Lanka on children affected by domestic violence and abuse. Therefore, it is of current importance to study the impact of domestic violence on child abuse by paying special attention to it. Accordingly, the objectives of this research are:

- To study the causal factors affecting the victimisation of domestic violence
- To investigate the social and economic status of the families of the victimised children
- To identify the abuse and other problems faced by children due to violence
- To identify measures that can be taken to control and prevent the abuse and problems faced by children due to domestic violence

### III. METHODOLOGY

This study aims to identify the factors that cause children to become victims of domestic violence and to investigate the types of violence that children face as a result. The sample of this study was 40 children who were victims of domestic violence. The number of complaints reported to the National Child Protection Authority regarding domestic violence during 2022-2024 was 162, out of which 40 were selected through the random sampling method. Only children above the age of five were chosen for the sample. This sample represents both rural and urban areas of Sri Lanka. A structured interview schedule was used to collect data. Quantitative analysis was performed, and Microsoft Excel software was used to create tables, graphs, etc. Both primary and secondary sources were used for this research. Data obtained from field research were used as primary sources, and books, research papers, online information, and other relevant documents and information related to this topic were used as secondary sources.

### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Although children in this country are subjected to many abuses due to domestic violence, very few cases have been reported to the country's legal institutions. Especially since these issues are often hidden within the family and resolved within the family, children have lost the ability to stand up against them. Also, the attention of researchers on domestic violence against children in Sri Lanka has





been very minimal. The few studies conducted have been mentioned in the above literature review. This study examines the factors that cause children in Sri Lanka to be victims of domestic violence, the economic and social background of the children's families, the effects of domestic violence against children, and the factors that affect the prevention of domestic violence.

When examining some basic biographical data of children who have been victims of domestic violence, most of the victims are boys. Accordingly, 55% of boys and 45% of girls have been subjected to domestic violence. When examining the age of the children who have been subjected to domestic violence, children aged 9-11 have been the most victims of domestic violence. That percentage is 53%. In the 12-14 age group, 20%; in the 6-8 age group, 18%; and in the 15-17 age group, 10% have been subjected to domestic violence. According to the above data, most domestic violence has been committed against children in middle age. This study shows that children in the early and Middle Ages are the least likely to experience domestic violence.

Next, it is essential to examine the economic and social status of the family. The financial and social factors of the family have a significant impact on the victims of domestic violence. When examining who the victimised children live with, the majority live with their parents. That percentage is 65%. However, 35% live in a single-parent family or under the care of another guardian. Accordingly, 20% live with their mother only, 10% live with their father only, and 5% live under another guardian. The percentage of children who have lost their mother is 15%, and the study found that several factors have influenced the loss of their mother. Of the total sample, 2.5% of mothers have emigrated. 2.5% of mothers have died. Also, 7.5% of mothers have left their families. When examining the status of fathers, 25% of children have lost their fathers due to various reasons. More than 20% of fathers have left their families. 5% of fathers have died. Accordingly, having to live in a single-parent family or with another caregiver has a significant impact on children's exposure to domestic violence.

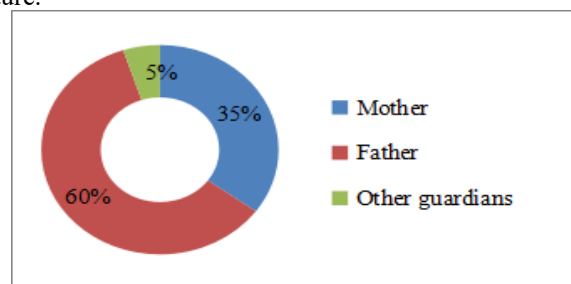
The low education of parents also directly affects the occurrence of domestic violence in those families. 10% of mothers have not attended school, and the percentage of those who have received education up to grades 1-5 is 15%. Accordingly, the percentage of mothers who have never attended school and have received an education below grade 10 is 58%. 35% have appeared for the O/L examination, and the percentage of those who have passed the O/L is 8%. When examining fathers' educational level, the percentage of fathers who have never attended school is 10%. 15% have received education up to grades 1-5. The total percentage of those who have received an education below grade 10 is 63%. 30% have appeared for the O/L examination. The percentage of those who have passed the O/L examination is 8%. In general, when paying attention to the educational level of the mother and father, it is often found that they have received a low education, which has been a major cause of family disputes.

Another major factor that has influenced the occurrence and growth of domestic violence in families is the economic weakness of the family. When examining the families used for the study, the monthly income of each family should be reviewed. 15% of the families where the victimized children live have a monthly income of less than

Rs. 15,000. The percentage of families receiving a monthly income between 15,001 and 25,000 is 25%. 30% have a monthly income between 25,001 and 35,000. Accordingly, the total number of families receiving a monthly income of less than 35,000 is 64%. In the face of the country's economic crisis, it is challenging for even the smallest family to live for a month on an amount of thirty-five thousand rupees. Accordingly, they must go into debt and face such problems for a while, which is the basis for conflicts. Similarly, the fathers of those families also spend money on alcohol and drugs, which affects the intensification of the problems. According to research data, 18% of families receive a significant income. The monthly income of these families exceeds Rs. 45,000. However, the number of members living in these families determines whether the income is sufficient. 95% of the families have stated that they do not have any other additional source of income. Additionally, 78% of the families are in debt to meet various needs. Approximately 32% of families receive some form of government subsidy. The above data shows that most families under study are in a weak economic situation. This directly affects family disputes and child abuse in the home.

Some problematic situations of children also affect the occurrence of conflict situations in families and the development of domestic violence. Factors such as children engaging in misbehaviour, not going to school, and not being interested in educational activities are among the factors that affect this. Accordingly, it has been confirmed that 13% of the children in this study do not go to school. They have stopped their school journey halfway. Additionally, the percentage of children who attend school intermittently is 35%. Accordingly, the rate of children who do not attend school and attend school intermittently is 48%. It can be considered a typical situation for these children to be victims of violence in families with domestic violence. They do not seem to be interested in educational activities. Only 15% participate in private tutoring classes. Also, only 30% of children attend Sunday school. Due to the problematic situations in their families, the educational activities of children living in these families have been hindered. However, children's lack of interest in educational activities has led to punishment or violence from their parents.

Some other key information related to children's exposure to domestic violence can help you further understand its nature.



[Fig.1: The Person Who Causes Violence in the Home]

Fathers are the primary perpetrators of violence in most homes. That is 60% of the time. According to this study, 35% of mothers are the primary perpetrators of violence in the home, and 5% of children have been victims of violence by other caregivers. In this sample, 26 children live with both their mother and father, and

## A Criminological Study of the Impact of Domestic Violence on Child Abuse

fathers are responsible for most of the violence in those families. That is 58%. Mothers are the primary perpetrators in only 42% of cases.

Here, attention has also been paid to the period during which domestic violence occurs within the home.

**Table- IV: Duration of Domestic Violence in the Home**

Period	Percentage
Several times a week	63%
Several times a fortnight	25%
Several times a month	8%
Once every three months	2%
Rarely	2%
Total	100%

Accordingly, many children are victims of violence at home several times a week. The fact that 63% are victims of violence several times a week is a situation that deserves more attention, and the abuse that occurs to those children is suppressed within the families themselves. This is a very tragic situation for children in this country. Also, it can be stated that 96% of all children are victims of violence at home at least once a month, which is a serious situation.

The economic and social factors of families that affect domestic violence have been discussed separately above, and the table below shows the most common reasons cited by children for domestic violence.

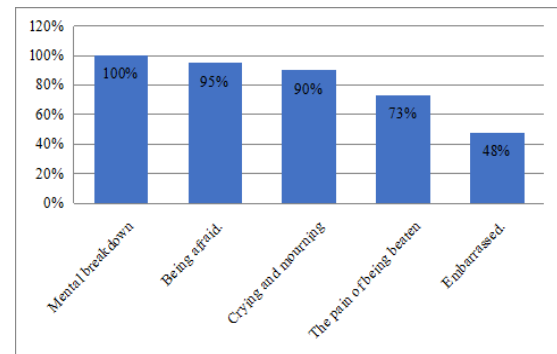
**Table- V: Causes of Domestic Violence in the Family**

Reasons	Percentage
Fathers' alcohol and drug use	68%
Frequent arguments and conflicts between parents	40%
Lack of proper interaction between mother and father	38%
Financial problems and other deprivations at home	38%
Low education of parents	36%
Children's problematic situations	30%
Parents' extramarital affairs	20%
The father becomes furious.	15%

The leading cause of domestic violence is the father's use of alcohol and drugs, which the victimised children indicate. It was found that most fathers living in urban areas use drugs, and fathers in rural areas drink more alcohol. However, regardless of its purpose, it has been a major cause of family conflicts. Also, frequent verbal arguments between parents have escalated into domestic violence. Children also see the lack of a close relationship between the mother and father as a significant factor in family problems. It has been widely generalised that low education levels contribute to many conflicts. 30% have stated that children's problematic situations cause family conflicts. When parents discuss children's problems in the family, it can escalate into domestic violence. 20% state that the illicit relationships of both parents have contributed to conflicts in the family. Also, 15% of children say that their father's unusual anger contributes to domestic violence.

The study also found out what parents expected from their children by abusing them. 53% of children were abused by intervening in conflicts between parents. By abusing their children, 20% of parents expected their children to do well in their studies and continue to go to school. Additionally, 10% of parents expected their

children to do household chores. 5% expected them to engage in economic activities and care for young children.



**[Fig.2: Children's Reactions to Domestic Violence]**

All children who have experienced domestic violence have suffered psychological trauma at the time. Also, the percentage of children who have been frightened by the violence is 95%. This shows the highly violent nature of domestic violence. 90% of the children who have been victims have cried at the time, and 73% of the children have been in pain after being beaten. 48% have been ashamed. Children who are close to the age of 18 have faced the most shame.

**Table- VI: The Effects and Problems of Domestic Violence on Children**

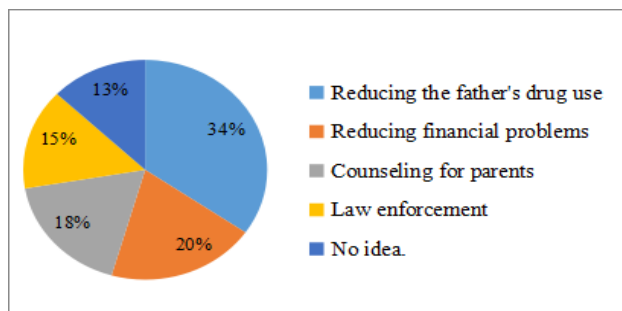
Effects	Percentage
Mental effects	100%
Neglect	70%
Physical effects	65%
Social issues	28%
Use of child labour	20%

The study found that every child who is a victim of domestic violence suffers from a mental health problem or trauma. Additionally, 70% of the children have been neglected, meaning they have not received the necessary food, clothing, education, and love and care. Domestic violence victims report physical abuse in 65% of cases. Only 28% of the youngest children, unaware of the social impacts, report experiencing them. Also, 20% of the children have been used as labourers. Some children are responsible for caring for the younger children in the house and participating in household economic activities.

This study also found that because of domestic violence, some children resort to various wrongdoings and become victims of other crimes and inconveniences. Accordingly, the percentage of individuals who have stopped attending school permanently or temporarily is 60%. The rate of those who have become victims of various abuses is 30%. Also, the rate of those who have become victims of other crimes is 10%. 18% of children have been hospitalised and received treatment due to physical and mental problems.

Some victims have had to seek legal assistance to escape domestic violence. Accordingly, 60% have sought police assistance, and 20% have sought judicial intervention. Child victims also offer several suggestions for controlling and preventing domestic violence.





[Fig.3: Suggestions to Control and Prevent Domestic Violence]

The suggestion of the majority of child victims to control and prevent domestic violence in the home is to prevent fathers from using alcohol and drugs. 35% of the victims express this idea. Also, the absence of economic problems in the family, providing advice to parents to lead a good family life by referring them to counselling, and enforcing the law against the person who causes domestic violence are the leading suggestions presented by child victims. 13% of the children state that they have no opinion.

Overall, the above data analysis of the research provides a comprehensive understanding of the basic information of children who are victims of domestic violence, their family's economic and social information, the factors that influence domestic violence, the various cases of abuse children face due to domestic violence, and the suggestions children make to prevent domestic violence.

## V. RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

It seems that many children in this country are suffering due to domestic violence. This remains a hidden crime and is an area that receives little attention and discussion, as evident from the literature review of this study. However, the impact on children is not insignificant, as is apparent from the problems they face. Boys are the most victims of domestic violence, and they may have become more victims due to the aggressive and unruly behavioural characteristics of boys compared to girls. This is made more evident by the fact that children who represent the middle age are more likely to be victims of violence. However, this does not mean that the behavioural weaknesses of children alone have affected them in becoming victims of violence. Although most children live with their parents, many have lived in single-parent families or under other guardians. This situation may also be a significant factor in frequent domestic violence. Accordingly, there is a high likelihood of domestic violence against children who have to live in families where the mother has emigrated, the mother or father has died, or the mother or father has left the family. However, twice as many children living in single-parent families, and children in families with both parents, have been victims of domestic violence. This study found a close relationship between the low educational level of the parents and family disputes. Low education does not provide a good social status and deprives them of good job opportunities. This also causes economic problems. Accordingly, it is not possible to live a good family life and have to live with constant family conflicts. There is a direct relationship between the economic weaknesses of the family and

domestic violence. According to the study, many families earn a low monthly income. Additionally, most families are in debt and lack alternative sources of revenue. Accordingly, such families often lack the financial resources to meet their household needs, which can lead to conflicts within the family. Children living in such families usually face such conflicts. Also, conflicts in some families do not arise due to problems with the mother or father. Domestic violence has occurred due to specific behavioural weaknesses of children in such families, such as not going to school, poor learning, and a lack of interest.

The father mainly causes domestic violence—the weaknesses of the father's behaviour support this. In particular, the father's use of alcohol and drugs is the leading cause of domestic violence, and it also affects the severity of the violence. According to this study, there is a close relationship between a father's use of alcohol and drugs and domestic violence. One of the leading suggestions made by children for the control and prevention of domestic violence is that fathers' use of alcohol and drugs should be prevented. Arguments between parents have escalated and turned into violent acts. Additionally, the lack of mutual understanding between parents has led to increased conflicts. Accordingly, the problematic situations between parents have had a significant impact on the occurrence of violence against children. Children often become victims of domestic violence because they interfere in the problems between their parents. In summary, it can be pointed out that any problematic family situation or broken family background leads to domestic violence against children.

It can be pointed out that children are exposed to many abusive situations due to domestic violence. It can be identified that the children who were subjected to this study have faced physical, mental, and social problems as a result. Domestic violence has also affected the violation of several children's rights. Accordingly, the study shows that there is a direct relationship between the effects of domestic violence and the violation of children's rights. Being good parents is the main factor in building a strong family environment, and it is also the only factor that prevents children from being abused in the home.

## DECLARATION STATEMENT

I must verify the accuracy of the following information as the article's author.

- **Conflicts of Interest/ Competing Interests:** Based on my understanding, this article has no conflicts of interest.
- **Funding Support:** This article has not been funded by any organisations or agencies. This independence ensures that the research is conducted objectively and without external influence.
- **Ethical Approval and Consent to Participate:** The content of this article does not necessitate ethical approval or consent to participate with supporting documentation.
- **Data Access Statement and Material Availability:** The



adequate resources of this article are publicly accessible.

- **Author's Contributions:** The authorship of this article is contributed solely.

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