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# Major Kinds of Child Abuse and Challenges for Police to Prevent in Adama City Administration

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**Abstract:** This study assessed the majors' kinds of child abuse and its challenges for prevention in Adama police administration. It attempted to identify child abuse that often occurs and identify challenges that hinder the police from preventing child abuse in Adama city police administration. The studies are in Oromia regional state Adama city for the year 2020. Secondary data gathered from Adama city police officer. Also, key informant interviews employed by police officers. Primary data collected through questionnaires and interviews. Descriptive statistics primarily used to analyze the total data collected from the police officers. The thematic analysis is for qualitative data is employed. The findings of the study showed that physical abused, sexual abuse, emotional/ psychological abuse, neglect were the leading kinds of child abuse in Adama city police administration. At the same time, the studies indicate that there are challenges that include no policies, strategies, and organizational plans. The similar times, less commitment to implement the plan of action and scheme effectively, absence of action that taken to create awareness, family interference, lack of education, cultural tendency, legal gap, absence of exposing those who commit child abuse, rural-urban migration, unemployment, and poverty, lack of collaboration between stakeholders in Adama city police administration.

**Keywords:** Child Abuse, Physical Abuse, Psychological Abuse, Restricted Freedom, Sexual Abuse, Child Trafficking, Neglect, Challenges

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## 1. Introduction

Child abuse as "any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caregiver that results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse, or exploitation, or an act or failure to act that presents an imminent risk of serious harm [2]. Overall, child abuse actions may be intentional or unintentional.

Child abuse is a serious crime in the world. It has real physical and psycho-social consequences that adversely effect of health and overall well-being of a child. Child abuse is a violation of the fundamental human rights of a child and an outcome of a set of interrelated familial, social, psychological, and economic factors.[9]

Children, in general, are regarded as needing protection. The family, the community, and the state are expected to provide protection. However, the situation of world children is deteriorating because millions of children lack protection and makes their way through life impoverished, uneducated, and malnourished, discriminated against, neglected, and vulnerable.

For these children, life is a daily struggle to survive, and lacking the protection of family and community, they are often at risk of exploitation and abuse [10].

Mostly, children in Ethiopia are exposing to different emotional ill-treatment, physical, economic and sexual exploitation, as resulting children are led to their actual or potential harm [7]. The child abuse problems would not be an exception in the case of Ethiopia, Oromia region particularly, Adama city

Finally, there is a hypercritical gap of research with regard to the main kinds of child abuse, and its challenges for prevention in Adama city police administration in Oromia are concerned. The research conducted area of the topic were physical and psychological child abuse in Ethiopia [8]. The research has conducted a study on factors affecting child protection systems response to addressing child maltreatment in Arada sub-city of Addis Ababa city administration [12]. However, no research that specifically focused on the major kinds of child abuse and its challenges for prevention in police organizations in Adama city, Oromia National Regional State

has been conducted to uncover the challenges for police to prevent child abuse. This study was, therefore, to identify the kinds of child abuse that often occur and to identify the challenge that hinders the stockholder from preventing child abuse. The following are some operational definitions terms.

Child abuse: - is any behavior or act towards a child who is outside the norms of conduct, and entails a substantial risk of causing physical and psychological or emotional harm [6].

Physical abuse is generally defined as "any non accidental physical injury to the child" and can include striking, kicking, burning, or biting the child, or any action that results in a physical impairment of the child [2].

Sexual abuse: - is inappropriate sexual behavior with a child. It includes fondling a child's genitals, making the child fondles an adult's genitals, sexual assault (intercourse, incest, rape, and sodomy), exhibitionism, and pornography [1]. Additionally Sexual exploitation includes allowing the child to engage in prostitution or in the production of child pornography. The definition of sexual abuse includes human trafficking, including sex trafficking or trafficking of children for sexual purposes [2].

Emotional abuse:- is the production of psychological and social defects is in the growth of a child s a result of behavior such as loud yelling, coarsened rude attitude, intention, harsh criticism, and denigration of the child's personality [5]. In addition injury to the psychological capacity or emotional stability of the child as evidenced by an observable or substantial change in behavior, emotional response, or cognition" and injury as evidenced by "anxiety, depression, withdrawal, or aggressive behavior [2]."

Neglect: - is the failure of most a child's basic needs, including housing, food, clothing, education, and asses to medical care [4].

Generally, The aim of this study depending on the finding to ensure the child is safe and prevent him or her from suffering further harm by supporting the strengths, addressing the vulnerabilities and risk factors and helping meet the child's unmet needs; to promote the child's welfare, health and development; provided it is in the best interests of the child, to support the family and wider family members to safeguard

and promote the welfare of their child; and to solve challenges that hinder the police from prevention of child abuse.

## 2. Methods and Materials

For this study researcher, used a descriptive research design. These data types are from both primary and secondary data sources. The sample size determined by the formula adopted a confidence level of 95%, and the margin of error is, therefore, 5%, which is acceptable in social science research. The sample size determination from a given population is mathematically  $n=N/(1+Ne^2)$ [11].

Where, n=corrected sample size, N=population size, and e=Margin of error (MoE), e=0.05. The researcher sample size is:  $590/(1+590(.052))=590/2.475=238.38\sim 239$ . From the total, 590, Adama city police, questionnaires distributed for 239 police officers and police leaders. Properly returned questionnaires were 223. The rest discarded because properly unfilled, and also 14 numbers of police officers and police leaders interviewed. The data obtained from police statistics is the highest level at which the best and the most reliable information can be secured for challenges for police to prevent child abuse [3]. The police statistics may be incomplete and probably inaccurate but are reliable enough to uncover broad trends. The researcher used a questionnaire and interview guide for tools for data collection. Descriptive statistics were employed to analyze the gathered data. Data analyzed with Frequencies and percentages and presented using tables. Statistical manipulation has some limitations, necessary cautions taken in analyzing data, interpreting findings, and drawing conclusions. The studies are applied thematic analysis for qualitative information. The data systematically compiled to make it ready for analysis.

## 3. Results and Discussions

a) *The major kinds of child abuse that often occur in Adama city administration.*

**Table 1.** The respondents were asked to indicate the major kinds of child abuse that often occur in Adama city administration?

No	5		4		3		2		1		
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	
1	Physical abuse										
	23	10.3	156	70	14	6.3	21	9.4	9	4.0	
2	Psychological abuse										
	22	9.9	145	65.0	13	5.8	34	15.2	9	4.0	
3	Restricted freedom										
	34	15.2	122	54.7	33	14.8	21	9.4	13	5.8	
4	Sexual abuse										
	11	4.9	168	75.3	24	10.8	9	4.0	11	4.9	
5	Child trafficking										
	11	4.9	139	62.3	21	9.4	33	14.8	10	4.5	
6	Neglect & Maltreatment										
	10	4.5	165	74.0	13	5.8	21	9.4	14	6.3	

Source: Own Survey, (2020).

As indicated in the above table 1 on item 1, about physical abuse as in the study area thus, they responded 23 (10.3%)

and 156 (70%) replied Very serious and fair serious, respectively, and 9 (4%) and 21 (9.4%) were replied not very

serious and not at all serious while 14 (6.3%) were they don't know. From the above data collected from respondents' majority of respondents replied fair seriously. Therefore, there were issues of Physical abuse in Adama city.

According to the above table 1, the respondent asked on item 2, about psychological abuse in the study area. Accordingly, 22 (9.9%) were replied very serious, 145 (65%) were replied fairly serious, 9 (4%) were replied they not very serious, 34 (15.2%) reply not at all serious, and 13 (5.8%) replies they don't know. Thus, the majority of respondents replied fair seriously. From this, it can conclude that there was psychological abuse in the study area.

From the above table 1 respondent was asked on item 3, restricted freedom in the study area respondents 34 (15.2%) was replied Very seriously, 122 (54.7%) were responded fairly serious, 13 (5.8%) respond not very serious, 21 (9.4%) responded not serious at all and 33 (14.8%) were responded. Thus they don't know, the majority of respondents replied 49 (54.44%) responded fair serious, and 21 (23.33%) respondents answer very seriously, respectively. From this data, it can conclude that there was restricted freedom in the study area.

According to the above table 1 in particular 4, respondents were asked about sexual abuse, 11 (4.9%) and 168 (75.3%) responded very danger, and fair seriously, respectively, and 11 (4.9%) and 9 (4.0%) were replied not very serious and not at all serious at the same times, 24 (10.8%) were responded they don't know. Thus, the majority of respondents were responding normally about sexual abuse. Similarly, as indicated in the above table 1 in item 5, respondents were asked about child trafficking in every study area 11 (4.9%) and were respond very solemnly and solemnly, respectively. Another 10 (4.5%) and 33 (14.8%) respond not very seriously

and at all serious, while 21 (9.4%) responded don't know. Consequently, the majority of respondents respond fairly solemnly. From the above table, it can conclude that there was trafficking of child abuse has existed in the study area.

As indicated in the above table 1 in item 6, respondents asked about neglect & maltreatment, 10 (4.5%) and 165 (74%) responded very solemnly and fairly solemnly, respectively, and 14 (6.3%) and 21 (9.4%) respond not very serious and at all serious respectively While 13 (5.8%) responded they don't understand.

Interviews respondents asked about the kinds of child abuse committed against children in the study area. The women, child, and youth affairs and police stated that abortion, migrate from rural to urban areas by illegal brokers, abused by different drugs, and withdraw from school are some of the types of child abuse committed in Adama city.

Police departments of women, children, and youth affairs mentioned that the Adama city administration still faces a thoughtful problem from the government and society because many children are losing their lives and damaging their bodies to search for a better existence. As the police department's women, child, and youth affairs said currently, the modus operandi of child abuse is changing from time to time because, in previous times, the unknown person the child is abused. However, now day's family and guardian or caretakers are direct abuse their children.

*b) To identify the challenge that hinders the stakeholder to prevent child abuse*

The respondents asked to indicate that the challenges that hinder the stakeholder for preventing child abuse in Adama city police administration.

1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neutral, 4=agree and 5=strongly agree

**Table 2.** The respondents were asked to identify the challenge that hinders the stakeholder to prevent child abuse in Adama city administration?

No	5		4		3		2		1	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1	Absence of policies, strategies and organization's plan to prevent child abuse									
	18	8.1	163	73.1	12	5.4	21	9.4	9	4.0
2	Officials and stakeholders less commitment to implement policies and strategies effectively.									
	18	8.1	151	67.7	13	5.8	32	14.3	9	4.0
3	Absence of actions that has been taken to create awareness concerning child abuse issues to the community.									
	36	16.1	120	53.8	34	15.2	20	9	13	5.8
4	Family interference are challenges for child abuse prevention									
	10	4.5	171	76.7	24	10.8	9	4	9	4
5	Lack of education concerning child abuse									
	18	8.1	141	63.2	21	9.4	33	14.8	10	4.5
6	Cultural tendency that learned from society									
	8	3.6	167	74.9	14	6.3	20	9.0	14	6.3
7	Legal gap to prevent child abuse									
	10	4.5	157	70.4	12	5.4	22	9.9	22	9.9
8	Absence of exposing those who commit child abuse									
	23	10.3	165	74.0	11	4.9	14	6.3	10	4.5
9	Rural urban migration									
	20	9.0	156	70	13	5.8	27	12.1	7	3.1
10	Unemployment and poverty as challenge									
	18	8.1	172	77.1	3	1.4	21	9.4	9	4
11	Lack of collaboration between stakeholders									
	8	3.6	155	69.5	10	4.5	31	13.9	19	8.5

Source: Own Survey, (2020).

As indicated in the above table 2 respondents were asked on item 1, as the absence of policies, strategies, and organizational plan challenges prevent child abuse for police in the study area. Thus, they responded 18 (8.1%) replied strongly agree, 163 (73.1%) replied agree, 21 (9.4%) replied disagree, 9 (4.0%) replied strongly disagree, and 12 (5.4%) replied neutrally. From the above data collected from respondents' majority of them agreed. These means there were no policies, strategies, and organization's plan challenges for police to prevent child abuse.

According to the above table, respondents asked on item 2, less commitment to implement policies and strategies effectively. Accordingly, 18 (8.1%) replies strongly agree, 151 (67.7%) replied agree, 32 (14.3) answered disagree, and 9 (4.0%) replied strongly disagree, respectively. At the same time, 13 (5.8) respondents replied neutrally. Thus, the majority of respondents replied agree. From this, it can conclude that officials and stakeholders are less committed to implementing policies and strategies effectively are challenges for police to prevent child abuse in the study area.

From the above table, respondents asked on item 3, the absence of actions taken to create awareness concerning child abuse. Respondents 36 (16.1) replied strongly agree, 120 (53.8) responded agree, 20 (9.0) responded disagree, 13 (5.8) responded strongly disagree, and 34 (15.2) responded neutrally. Thus, the majority of respondents replied agree. From this data, it can conclude that there were no consciousness concerning child abuse subject to society is a challenge for the police to prevent child abuse.

According to the above table, item 4, about family interference challenges for preventing child abuse, 10 (4.5) responded strongly agree, 171 (76.7) responded agree, 9 (4.0) replied disagree, 9 (4.0) responded strongly disagree, and 24 (10.8) responded neutrally. Thus, most respondents agreed that to prevent child abuse a family interference is another challenge for police.

Similarly, as indicated in the above table 2 in item 5, respondents were asked that lack of education is challenging for police to prevent child abuse, 18 (8.1%) were respond strongly agree, 141 (63.2%) were respond agreed, 33 (14.8%) were respond disagreed, and 10 (4.5%) respond strongly disagreed. Thus, the majority of respondents are agreeing. So this implies that a lack of education is a challenge for the police to prevent child abuse.

As indicated in the above table on item 6, participants about the cultural tendency are the challenge for the police to prevent child abuse, 8 (3.6%) were reply strongly agree, 167 (74.9%) responds agree, 20 (9.0%), and 14 (6.3% replied disagreeing and strongly disagree respectively while 14 (6.3) responded neutrally. From this, it can conclude that cultural tendency in the community is a challenge for the police to prevent child abuse in the study area.

According to the above table, on item 7, respondents asked about the legal gap is a challenge for preventing child abuse, respondents 10 (4.5%) replied strongly agree 157 (70.4%) are reply agree, 22 (9.9%) respond disagreed, 22 (9.9%) replied

strongly disagreed, and 12 (5.4%) replied neutrally.

Similarly, as indicated in the above table, on item 8, respondents were asked- Absence of exposing those who commit child abuse, and 23 (10.3%) replies strongly agree, 165 (74.0%) replies agree, 14 (6.3%) were replies disagree, and 10 (4.5%) responds strongly disagree While 11 (4.9%) respondents responded neutrally. Thus, from this data based on the respondent's response, there was an absence of exposing those who commit child abuse in the study area were challenges for police to prevent child abuse.

According to the above table, on item 9, respondents were asked rural-urban migration challenge to prevent child abuse, 20 (9.0%) were reply strongly agree, 156 (70%) were replies agree, 27 (12.1%) replies disagree, and 7 (3.1%) replied strongly disagree respectively at the same times, 13 (5.8%) responded neutrally. From this data majority of respondents responded agree. Thus, based on the respondent's majors number stated that rural-urban migration is a challenge for the police to prevent child abuse in the study area.

As indicated in the above table, on item 10, participants were asked- Unemployment and poverty is challenge for the police to prevent child abuse in the study area, 18 (8.1%) were replies strongly agree, 172 (77.1%) replied agree, 21 (9.4%) replies disagree and 9 (4.0%) replied strongly disagree respectively. Again 3 (1.4%) were respond neutrally. So the superior numbers of respondents agreed. From this data, it can conclude that unemployment and poverty were challenges for police to prevent child abuse.

Similarly, according to the above table 2 on item 11, respondents were asked- lack of collaboration between stakeholders, 8 (3.6%) are reply strongly agree, 155 (69.5%) replies agree, 31 (13.9%) responds disagreed, 19 (8.5%) replied strongly disagree, and 10 (4.5%) answers neutrally. From the data above, superior numbers responded agree. Based on this respondent data, lack of collaboration between stakeholders is a challenge for the police to prevent child abuse.

Interviews respondents of the studies asked about the challenge that hinders the police from preventing child abuse. The women, child, and youth affairs police officers stated the great challenge from preventing child abuse is lack of awareness of the problem among the community, victim child and abusers; lack of adequate budget; rural-urban migrating; unemployment, and poverty. The other challenge for the police to preventing child abuse is the lack of finance for creating awareness for concerned bodies; still, many children choose street life as an alternative to poverty, and children live without family. The law enforcement bodies and the majority of the community cannot consider the crime, and the peoples have no willingness to report the case. The local community policing officers haven't taken practical actions to expand child protection strategy in the city according to the laws and regulations. There are no joint planning, monitoring, and evaluation strategies to promote the transparent responsibility of all stakeholders for child abuse prevention.

Additionally, victims of child abuse often do not self-identify as victims because they know that an activity they have engaged in is illegal. In this case, child abuses victims are unlikely to report their victimization to the police. The level of awareness and understanding of the laws, policies, and regulations about the protection of children's rights among the woman, child, and youth affair police officers was low. Nevertheless, few officers were able to mention the constitution of Ethiopia as a framework for the protection of children's rights. Lack of modern's police investigators and only room for interviews of victim's children. The victim child families also answered that lack of establishing coordination committee from professionals/psychiatrists/, social workers, and child community care in every village for children welfare and development control, lack of rehabilitation of victim child's violence. Moreover, the results of the studies indicated that in Adama city, there are challenges for police from preventing child abuse. Those problems were no cooperation between police officers and another concerned body, low level of awareness, poverty, lack of adequate budget, migration from rural to urban, lack of family in death, poor attitude in governmental organs on prevention of child abuse program, lack of skilled police investigators and community policing officers, low level of the police capacity including human resource, logistics, and finances to support efforts of the actors.

#### 4. Conclusion

The studies are entitled to assess major kinds of child abuse and its challenges to prevent child abuse in Adama city police administration. The objectives of this paper are to identify child abuse and to identify challenges for the Police in preventing child abuse in Adama city police administration. The finding of this research is concluding as follows:

Depending on the results, there are different types of child abuse in Adama city police administration, which are child sexual abuse, child physical abuse, child emotional abuse, restrict freedom, child trafficking, and neglect.

Based on the challenges of preventing child abuse in Adama city police administration are; weakness of law enforcement, the absence of cooperation between police officers and other concerned bodies, lack of awareness about child abuse crime between communities, governmental and non- governmental organization, abusers, victim child, and families. The poverty, lack of finance to give awareness, migration from rural to urban, lack of family good welfare, poor attitude in governmental organs on prevention of child

abuse program, absence of special investigation for children less than 18 years, and lack of skilled policewoman and children affairs officer. Police give education for different organs for preventing child abuse. Still, the problems are not solved, and low levels of the police institution's capacity, including human resources, logistics, and finances, were reported to impede efforts of the actors to prevent child abuse. The other challenges for preventing child abuse were victims children are hidden by their exploiters and by others who come in to contact with them and benefit from their exploitation. Additionally, victims of child abuse often do not self-identify as victims because they know that an activity they have engaged in is illegal. In this case, child abuse victims are unlikely to report their victimization to the Police

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