

## The Impact of Domestic Violence on Primary School Children in Beni Suef City

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### Abstract

**Background:** Domestic violence is destructive both at home and in school. Let's be sure we know what we're up against and fight hard for our students' safety. **Aim of the study:** Assess the impact of domestic violence on primary school children at Beni-Suef City. **Research design:** Descriptive research design used to achieve the aim of current study. **Sample:** A convenience sample. **Setting:** Khaled Ibn Al-Walid in Abd El salam Arif and Al Ajami Primary school in Al-Rahba. **Tool:** Two tools used to achieve the aim of this study, First Tool: A Structured interviewing questionnaire which consisted of three parts to assess personnel characteristics of primary school children, general data about family, primary school children's knowledge regarding domestic violence, Second Tool: Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence Scale (CEDV) by Linda Chamberlain, 2016. **Result:** The study showed that, 22.0% of the studied participants had a good level of knowledge regarding the domestic violence, 77.3% of the studied participants had experienced low domestic abuse and 81.3% of the studied participants had a medium impact of domestic violence. **Conclusion:** calculated that was a highly significant positive association between their total abuse score and their impact of violence score which means a negative association between studied participant's knowledge and abuse and impact of domestic violence. **Recommendation:** Further research studies should be undertaken to investigate the domestic violence confounding factors among school students to tailor and implement adequate prevention programs.

**Key Words:** The impact, Domestic Violence, Children, Primary School

### Introduction:

Children who are exposed to domestic violence will often suffer from social, behavioral, and emotional problems, all of which can hinder their educational development. The evidence in this field has a tendency to display the affected children as the 'forgotten victims'. However, does display a wide variety of impacts this exposure can have, these impacts will vary from child to child, but it is undeniable that the effects do hinder their educational progression (Doroudchi et al., 2023).

The term "domestic violence" is taken to include acts of violence or threats of violence against a partner or former partner or a child in which the other partner or the child is harmed or fears harm to him or herself or to his or her property as a consequence of violence. This definition encompasses physical violence, sexual violence, emotional abuse and intimidation, and behaviors designed to control

the other person or take away their freedom. Most often these acts occur within the context of a current or previous intimate or family relationship, extending to where ex-partners are harmed in trying to leave a violent relationship (Vikander & Källström, 2024).

Domestic violence is an abuse of power where one person uses power over another person and it is a violation of a person's human rights. Domestic violence can have long-lasting effects on victims/survivors and children who witness it. Effects of domestic violence negatively impact on parents and children's ability to move forward from separation, and to co-parent without fear and abuse (Lysova et al., 2024).

Primary school-aged children are at a developmental age where they are learning important behaviors, attitudes, and values from family members and peers. It is also known as a 'window of opportunity' for establishing and

promoting health values and behavior. During this stage, children are laying down patterns of behavior which carry through to adolescence and adulthood. It is important to recognize the impacts that exposure to domestic violence may have at this crucial stage, to be able to intervene effectively (Celik, 2024).

Long-term exposure to violence in any form becomes accepted as normal behavior. This implies that these children can become accustomed to aggressive behavior as an acceptable force in resolving conflict. Also, it is known that children have a strong need for explanation, predictability, and control in their environment. Witnessing an act of violence which involves a parent losing control and being victimized takes away the feeling of safety and security children have. They may feel that they are to blame for the violence as inadequate explanation (Lyk-Jensen et al., 2024).

The Effects of Domestic Violence in Schools, Consistent violence and abuse impact every corner of a child's life. It affects mental well-being, prevents them from having a healthy emotional balance, and manifests itself, sometimes, in physical discomfort. Children's stability and mental health play a big part in his or her school life and ability to learn. A compromised school can affect a student's friends, teachers, and class (Winfield et al., 2023).

It's more likely for children who experience domestic violence to have trouble in school, such as getting bad grades and failing to develop their social abilities. They may become a bully or be bullied. They may "act out" in class, have trouble focusing, and fail to create close friendships. As they become teens, they risk developing substance addictions, which present a whole new slew of problems. They may become acutely depressed, miss classes, and even drop out of school all together (Bhuller et al., 2024).

The role of the community health nurse in all schools is to provide training to teachers on how to help kids facing domestic violence, beginning with understanding how to discuss the topic with their students. But stopping

domestic violence doesn't start at school; it starts at home. Strong families make strong students. Schools and teachers still have a great deal of influence over children, however. And teachers and staff should be ever on their guard (Kaysin et al., 2024).

Since teachers spend long hours with their students it's important for them to look out for signs of trauma and seek ways to help, including contacting their parent or guardian. Teachers, you may want to consider keeping a domestic violence hotline stored on your phone for quick access for yourself or your students. And remember, every teacher has the power to create a safe, healthy culture in the classroom, which promotes good conduct and healthy morals (Moyes et al., 2024).

### **Significance of the Study**

Domestic violence or abuse is a significant problem. No one really knows how many children are affected by it, and research is often based on statistics for reported incidents. Furthermore, having a parent who is abused by another increase the risk of child abuse by about 15 times compared to families without a history of domestic violence (Neherta et al., 2024).

5 million children witness domestic violence every year in the United States, and 40 million American adults live in the shadow of domestic violence. Hence, it has been found that children who live in homes suffering from violence are more likely to experience major psychological problems in the short and long term, learning difficulties, lower IQ scores and problems with attention and memory (Shattnawi et al., 2024).

In Egypt, children in homes with violence are physically abused or seriously neglected at a rate 1500% higher than the national average. Those who grow up with domestic violence are 6 times more likely to commit suicide and 50% more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol. If you grow up with domestic violence, you're 74% more likely to commit a violent crime against someone else. Children of domestic violence are 3 times more likely to repeat the cycle in adulthood (Shorey & Baladram 2024).

Therefore, this study was conducted to assess for the impact of domestic violence on primary school children.

### **Aim of the Study**

The aim of the study is to assess for the impact of domestic violence on primary school children in Beni - seuf city through the following:

- 1) Assessing the impact of domestic violence on physical health of primary school children.
- 2) Assessing the impact of domestic violence on psychological and emotional health of primary school children.
- 3) Assessing the impact of domestic violence on social health of primary school children.
- 4) Assessing the knowledge of primary school children about domestic violence.

### **Research question**

To fulfill the study purposes, the following research questions were answered:

- 1) What are the impacts of domestic violence on physical health of primary school children?
- 2) What are the impacts of domestic violence on psychological and emotional health of primary school children?
- 3) What are the impacts of domestic violence on social health of primary school children?
- 4) What is primary school children knowledge about domestic violence?

**The Subjects and methods for this study will portray under the following four designs as follows:**

- I. Technical Design
- II. Administrative Design
- III. Operational Design
- IV. Statistical Design.

### **I. Technical Design**

The technical item includes research items, settings, subjects, and tools for data collection.

#### **Research design:**

A descriptive design was utilized in the current study.

#### **Setting:**

The study was conducted in two schools (Khaled Ibn Al-Walid in Abd El salam Arif and Al Ajami Primary school in Al-Rahba.

#### **Sample type:**

The researcher was using a convenience sample to achieve the aim of the study.

#### **Sample size:**

The researcher took 150 children who were over than 10 years old and accept to participate in the study in the previous study settings. The study sample size represents 25% of the total schools.

#### **Subjects:**

Convenience sample of primary school children who exposed to domestic violence in two primary schools presented in the previous mentioned setting include, children more than 10 years old and accept to participate on the study with assist social specialists, health visitors and care givers.

### **Tools for data collection:**

The following tools were used for the data collection of the study: Three tools were used to collect data:

**First Tool: A Structured interviewing questionnaire:** This tool was developed by the researcher to collect data and consisted of three parts:

**Part I:** included characteristics of primary school children such as (age, education, residence, etc.)

**Part II:** included general data about the family such as (Place of residence, number of family members, and family income)

**Part III:** included data about primary school children's knowledge regarding domestic violence it included 11 MCQ questions such as (Meaning, causes, risk factors, signs and symptoms, etc.).

#### **Scoring system: -**

For each question had a number of correct answers were given, and each participants were asked to select all correct answers, their answers were scored as (0) for don't know, (1) for incomplete correct answer, and (2) for complete correct answers.

The total knowledge score was calculated as the following:

Good knowledge-----> 75.0% of total knowledge score.

Fair knowledge -----60.0%- >75.0% of total knowledge score.

Poor knowledge-----<60.0% of total knowledge score.

### **Second Tool: Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence Scale**

Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence Scale (CEDV) by Linda Chamberlain, 2016. The CEDV is a 35-item, self-administered questionnaire designed for children ages 10 to 16 years old. It takes approximately 30 minutes for participants to complete the questionnaire.

It is used to evaluate the prevalence of domestic violence domains including:

Physical abuse (9 items), emotional (9 items), neglect (6 items), economic (3 items) and sexual (2 items).

Scoring system: -

For each participant, their responses were scored as (2) for Yes and >2 times, (1) for Yes and 1-2 times, and (0) for no responses

The total Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence Scale score was calculated as the following:

No abuse -----0% of total childhood exposure to domestic violence scale score.

Low abuse -----<60% of total childhood exposure to domestic violence scale score.

High abuse-----> 60.0% of total childhood exposure to domestic violence scale score.

### **Third tool: - Impact of Domestic violence assessment tool**

It was developed by the research after reviewing related literature to assess impact of the domestic violence on child wellbeing. It consists of 4 different domains, it is composed of 33 items including, Physical state (10 items), psychological state (11 items), social domain (5

items), and school performance (7 items).

Scoring system: for each item, the participants' responses scored as (0) for not applicable, (1), for light impact, (2) for medium impact, and, (3) for acute impact.

The total scoring was calculated as:

No Impact-----0

Light impact -----1-<33.3% of total impact score.

Medium impact -----33.-66.7%

Acute impact ----- > 66.7%.

### **Tool validity:**

The data collection tools were tested for validity through the face validity technique, where the researcher submitted the tools for review by three professors (2) specialized in community health nursing and one psychiatry health nursing professor.

### **Tools reliability:**

The data collection tools were tested for reliability by the Cronbach alpha test, it was (0.865) for the knowledge tool, (0.896) for the Childhood Exposure to Domestic Violence Scale, and (0.935) for the Impact of Domestic Violence assessment tool.

### **Operational design**

The operational design includes the preparatory phase, pilot study, and fieldwork.

### **Preparatory phase**

The investigator reviewed current and past, local and international related literature and theoretical knowledge of various aspects of the study using books, articles, journals, and the internet to prepare the tools for data collection.

### **Pilot Study**

A pilot study was conducted on 10% (15 students) under study to assess the feasibility of the study as well as the clarity and objectivity of the tools. The needed modifications were

incorporated, and those subjects were not included in the actual study sample.

### Fieldwork:

The purpose of the study was simply explained to the participants who agree to participate in the study before any data collection. The researcher collected data from participants. Data collection was done 2 days/week by the researcher in two schools selected randomly from the educational zone (east and west) in Beni Suf City. An interviewing questionnaire sheet was filled in and completed by the participants, and an observation checklist was filled and completed by the researcher.

### Administrative design:

Approval to carry out this study was obtained from the Dean of the Faculty of Nursing, Beni-Suef University, and official permission will be obtained from the directors of two schools selected randomly from the educational zone (east and west) in Beni-Seuf City for conducting the study.

### Statistical design:

The collected data will be scored, tabulated, and analyzed by personal computer using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) program version 25. Data were presented using descriptive statistics in the form of frequencies and percentages for categorical data, and the arithmetic mean and standard deviation (SD) for quantitative data. Qualitative variables were compared using chi-square test ( $X^2$ ). In addition, the r-test was used to identify the correlation between the study variables. The level of significance was:

Statistically significant  $p < 0.05$

Highly statistically significant  $p < 0.001$

Not significant  $P > 0.05$

### Results:

**Table (1)**, indicates that 42.7% of the studied participants age ranged from 11-<12 years, with mean of  $11.68 \pm 2.59$  years old. 54.7% of them were male, 40.7% of them were at 5<sup>th</sup> grade primary, and 28.7% of them had the third arrangement among their students.

**Table (2)**, Revealed that 100.0% of the studied

lived at urban setting, 51.3% had a detached house, 36.0% of the studied fathers had an intermediate education, 85.3% of their fathers were workers, 32.7% of their mothers had an intermediate education, 69.3% of their mothers were workers, 47.3% of their family had from 3-4 members, 74.7% of their family were nuclear families and 38.6% of them had sufficient and not enough family income.

**Table (3)**, Cleared that 62.7%, 59.3% and 47.3% of the studied participants had a complete correct answers regarding the effect of violence on children, the signs of physical violence and the causes of domestic violence respectively. In addition, 68.7%, 61.3% and 58.6% of the studied participants had incomplete correct answers concerning the social effects of violence against children, factors leading to domestic violence, and types of domestic violence respectively. Moreover 57.3% and 16.7% of the studied participants don't know the Psychological effects of violence against children and stages of domestic violence respectively.

**Figure 1:** Illustrates that 54.0% of the studied participants had a fair level of knowledge regarding the domestic violence, 22.0% of them had a good level of knowledge on the other hand 24.0% of them had a poor level of knowledge.

**Table (4)**, Illustrates that 58.85% of the studied participant experienced the emotional type of domestic violence, 47.00% of them experienced neglect, 30.8% of them had physical abuse , 29.66% of them had an economical abuse and 20.66% of them experienced sexual abuse.

**Figure 2:** indicates that 77.3% of the studied participants had experienced low domestic abuse, 22.7% of them experienced high level of domestic violence abuse and no one of them had experience a domestic violence abuse.

**Table (5)**, indicates that 55.37% of the studied participants added that domestic violence affects their social relationship, 53.42% of them added that domestic violence affects their school performance and 49.8% off them added that that domestic violence affects their physical condition. Moreover 42.82 of them added that that domestic violence affects their psychological status.

**Figure 3:** illustrates that 81.3% of the studied participants had a medium impact of domestic violence, 10.7% of them experienced acute impact of domestic violence, and 8.0% of them

had a light impact of domestic violence.

**Table (6)**, indicates that there was a negative association between studied participant's knowledge and abuse and impact of domestic

violence, and there was a highly significant positive association between their total abuse score and their impact of violence score

**Table (1):** Frequency distribution of personnel characteristics of the studied participants (n= 150).

Variable	Frequency	%
<b>Age in years</b>		
10-<11	39	26.0
11-<12	64	42.7
≥12	47	31.3
<b>Mean ±SD</b>	11.68±2.59	
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	82	54.7
Female	68	45.3
<b>Academic year</b>		
Third Grade Primary	19	12.7
Fourth Grade Primary	20	13.3
Fifth Grade Primary	61	40.7
Sixth Grade Primary	50	33.3
<b>Arrangement of the child among</b>		
First	18	12.0
Second	42	28.0
Third	43	28.7
Fourth	30	20.0
Fifth	17	11.3

The number is not mutually exclusive.

**Table (2):** Frequency distribution of personnel characteristics of the studied participants (n= 150).

Variable	Frequency	%
<b>Residence</b>		
Rural	0	0.0
Urban	150	100.0
<b>Nature of house</b>		
Detached house	77	51.3
Shared house	73	48.7
<b>level of father education</b>		
Reads and writes	23	15.3
Basic education	32	21.3
intermediate education	54	36.0
Secondary	41	27.4
<b>Father's work</b>		
Work	128	85.3
Not work	22	14.7
<b>level of mother education</b>		
Reads and writes	31	20.7
Basic education	46	30.7
intermediate education	49	32.7

Secondary	24	16.0
<b>Mother's work</b>		
Work	104	69.3
Not work	46	30.7
<b>Number of family members</b>		
3-4 members	52	34.7
5-6 members	71	47.3
7-8 members	27	18.0
<b>Type of family</b>		
Nuclear	112	74.7
Extended	38	25.3
<b>Monthly income</b>		
Sufficient and saves	34	22.8
Sufficient only	58	38.6
Not enough	58	38.6

The number is not mutually exclusive.

**Table (3):** Frequency Distribution of studied participants' knowledge regarding domestic violence (n= 150).

Domestic violence knowledge	Complete correct		Incomplete correct		Don't know	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Definition of domestic violence	46	30.7%	85	56.6%	19	12.7%
The types of domestic violence	46	30.7%	88	58.6%	16	10.7%
The motives or causes of domestic violence	71	47.3%	65	43.3%	14	9.3%
Factors leading to domestic violence	49	32.7%	92	61.3%	9	6.0%
The signs of physical violence	89	59.3%	58	38.7%	3	2.0%
The signs of psychological violence	61	40.7%	83	55.3%	6	4.0%
The stages of domestic violence	53	35.3%	72	48.0%	25	16.7%
The effects of violence on children	94	62.7%	53	35.3%	3	2.0%
Psychological effects of violence against children	0	0.0	64	42.7%	86	57.3%
The social effects of violence against children	25	16.7%	103	68.7%	22	14.7%
Methods of prevention of domestic violence	61	40.7%	76	50.6%	13	8.7%

The number is not mutually exclusive.

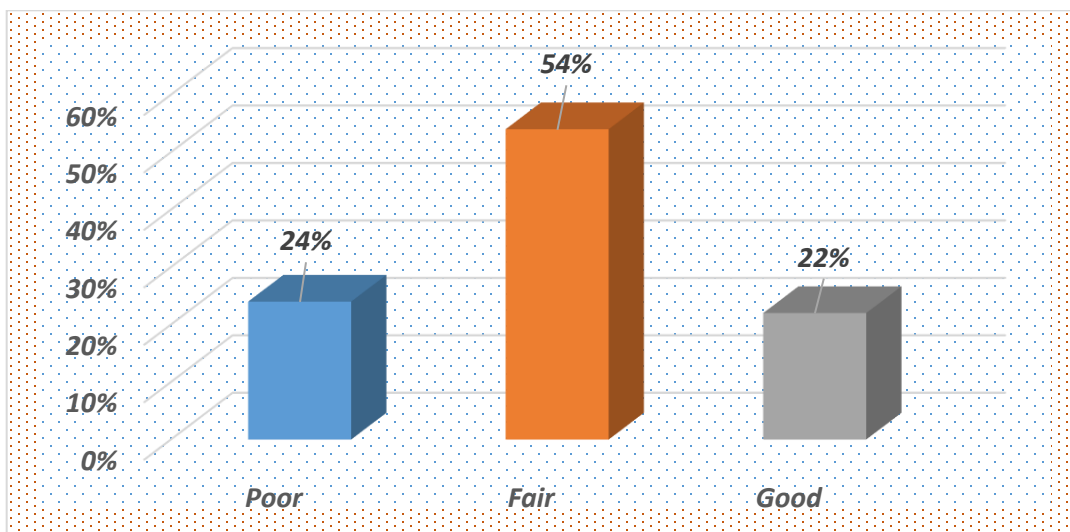


Figure (1): Percentage distribution of total knowledge score among the studied participants.

Table (4): Mean score of domestic violence domains among the studied participants (n= 150).

Variable	Minimum	Maximum	Mean ±SD	% of mean score	Range
Physical abuse	2.00	22.00	9.2400±3.96068	30.8	3
Sexual abuse	.00	5.00	1.2400±1.15090	20.66%	5
Neglect	2.00	12.00	5.6400±2.14345	47.00%	2
Economic abuse	.00	5.00	1.7800±1.33547	29.66%	4
Emotional abuse	4.00	18.00	10.5933±2.84286	58.85%	1
Total abuse score	12.00	50.00	28.4933±8.27606	39.57%	

The number is not mutually exclusive.

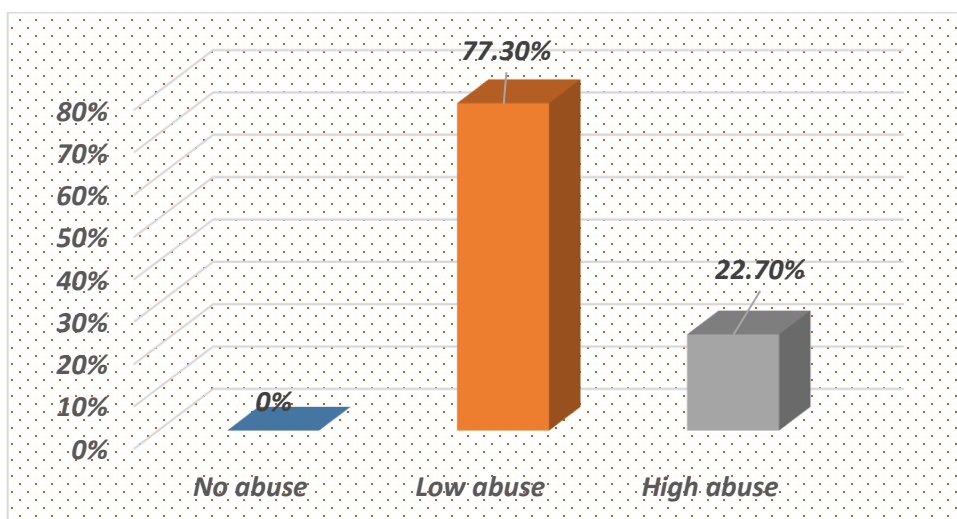


Figure (2): Percentage distribution of total domestic violence abuse score among the studied

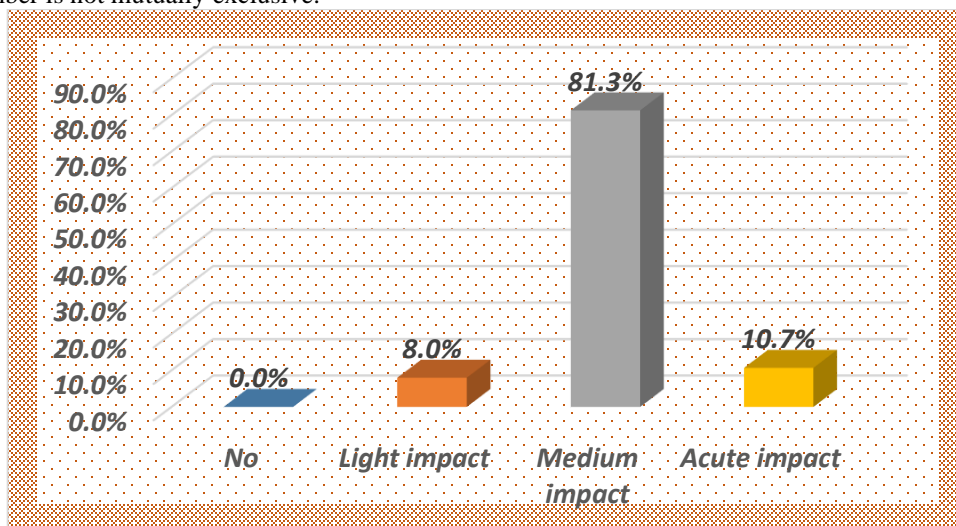


participants.

**Table (5):** Mean score of impact domestic violence on the studied participants (n= 150).

Variable	Minimum	Maximum	Mean $\pm$ SD	% of mean score	Range
Impact on physical condition	5.00	25.00	14.9400 $\pm$ 3.95653	49.8	3
Impact on the psychological status	3.00	27.00	14.1333 $\pm$ 5.08672	42.82	4
Impact on social relationship	1.00	13.00	8.3067 $\pm$ 2.75376	55.37	1
Impact on School Performance	2.00	20.00	11.2200 $\pm$ 4.06304	53.42	2
Total impact score	21.00	75.00	48.6000 $\pm$ 11.55843	49.09	

The number is not mutually exclusive.



**Figure (3):** Percentage distribution of total impact of domestic violence score among the studied participants.

**Table (6) :** Correlation between studied participants' total knowledge, total abuse score and total impact of domestic violence score.

Variables		Knowledge	abuse score	impact of domestic violence score
total knowledge	R	1	-.008	-.112
	P value		>0.05	>0.05
total abuse score	R	-.008	1	.336**
	P value	>0.05		.000
total impact of domestic violence score	R	-.112	.336**	1
	P value	>0.05	.000	

**\*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).****Discussion:**

Families are perceived as protective, nurturing and provide a safe environment for growth and wellbeing of their members, especially school children. Children can be exposed to domestic violence as witnesses, victims or both witness and victim. Domestic violence affects children's experiences at school, causing them to struggle personally, socially and academically leading to delayed learning and increased social and emotional problems as reduced self-esteem, heightened anxiety, and difficult concentration **Njoroge et al., (2023)**. Therefore; this study was conducted to assess the impact of domestic violence on primary school children in Beni-Suef City.

Regarding to age of the studied participants, the results of the current study showed that, more than two fifths of studied participants were aged ranged from 11-<12 years. These results agreed with study performed by **Farnia et al., (2020)**, whose conduct study in Iran (study sample equal 273 subjects) and entitled as " Investigating the prevalence of child abuse in the families with addicted parents in Iran: With emphasis on family risk factors" who stated that, more than one thirds of studied participants were aged ranged from 11-<12 years. While disagreed with **Ezzat, (2020)**, who stated that, less than one thirds of studied participants were aged ranged from 11-<12 years. In my opinion, these results might be due to criteria of selection of sample.

Regarding to gender of the studied participants, the results of the current study revealed that, more than half of studied participants were male. These results agreed with study performed by **Orr et al., (2020)**, whose conduct study in Australia (study sample equal 7957 participants) and entitled as "Exposure to family and domestic violence is associated with increased childhood hospitalizations" who found that, half of studied participants were male. While disagreed with **Kaushik & Danie, (2020)**, who stated that, more than half of studied participants were female.

In my opinion, these results might be due to that parents usually have different expectations regarding the behavior of girls

and boys, and they may react differently to a specific behavior because of these different expectations, so boys are more likely to be physically punished. Also, the parents often use violent approaches to punish the boys, while they use less violent ones for punishing the girls.

Regarding to academic year of the studied participants, the results of the current study revealed that, nearly two fifths of studied participants were at 5th grade primary. These results approved with study performed by **Ahmed et al., (2020)**, whose conduct study in Kafer ElSheikh City (study sample equal 297 children) and entitled as "Physical abuse among primary school children" who found that, more than one third of children were at 5th grade primary.

Regarding to arrangement of the studied participants among their brothers, the results of the current study clarified that, more than one quarter of studied participants had the third arrangement among their brothers. These results agreed with study performed by **AboKresha et al., (2021)**, whose conduct study in Sohag governorate (study sample equal 1118 children) and entitled as "Impact of COVID-19 pandemic and related isolation measures on violence against children in Egypt "who stated that, less than one fifths of studied children had the third birth order. While disagreed with **Ahmed et al., (2020)**, who stated that, more than one quarter of studied participants had the second birth order. In my opinion, these results might be due to that the more the number of children, the more the chances of violence from the elders in the family.

Regarding to residence of studied participants, the results of the current study showed that, all studied participants lived at urban settings. These results were supported by **AboKresha et al., (2021)**, who reported that, majority of studied participants were lived in urban areas. While disagreed with **Adel et al., (2022)**, who stated that, majority of studied participants lived at rural areas. In my opinion, these results might be due to criteria of selection of sample.

Regarding to nature of house of studied participants, the results of the current

study showed that, more than half of studied participants lived in detached house. These results were supported by **Jimoh et al., (2021)**, who studied " Prevalence, Pattern of Child Abuse and Factors Influencing Child Physical Abuse among Working Class Parents in Samaru, Zaria, Kaduna State, Nigeria" in Nigeria (n= 129), who reported that, less than two thirds of studied participants were living in detached houses.

Regarding to level of father education of the studied participants, the results of the current study clarified that, more than one thirds of studied participants' father had intermediate education. These results agreed with study performed by **Hamed et al., (2020)**, whose conduct study in Assiut (study sample equal 100 children) and entitled as "Child abuse in a sample of children and adolescents with externalizing disorders" who stated that, more than one thirds of studied participants' father had intermediate education. While disagreed with **Rafaiee et al., (2021)**, who stated that, one fifths of studied participants' father had middle education. In my opinion, these results might be due to parental education seems to be a protective factor through reforming the beliefs about physical intimacy, attitudes about children and parental improvements and increased resilience, and also development of social communication.

Regarding to father's work of the studied participants, the results of the current study clarified that, majority of fathers of the studied participants had work. These results agreed with study performed by **Tharwat et al., (2020)**, whose conduct study in Suez Canal (study sample equal 1000 participants) and entitled as "Intimate Partner Violence and the Sex of the Firstborn Child among Egyptian Women" who stated that, majority of fathers of the studied participants had work. In my opinion, these results might be due to that worked father did not spend adequate time with their children and in many instances felt embarrassed to engage in certain discussions with their children. In addition, time spent with children is important.

Regarding to level of mother education of the studied participants, the results of the current study clarified that, nearly one thirds of mothers of the studied participants had intermediate education. These

results agreed with study performed by **Tharwat et al., (2020)**, who stated that, more than two fifths of mothers of the studied participants had intermediate education. While disagreed with **Adel et al., (2022)**, who stated that, more than two fifths of mothers had a secondary education. In my opinion, these results might be due to knowledge and better understanding on child physical abuse or other patterns and parenting guidelines as educated beings are more enlightened than the non-educated.

Regarding to mother's work of the studied participants, the results of the current study clarified that, more than two thirds of mothers of the studied participants had work. These results agreed with study performed by **Mohammed et al., (2021)**, whose conduct study in Cairo (study sample equal 100 children) and entitled as "Effect of Media Use on Aggressive Behavior and Family Relation among School Age Children" who stated that, more than two thirds of mothers of the studied participants had work. While disagreed with **Adel et al., (2022)**, who stated that, less than two thirds of mothers of the studied participants were housewives. In my opinion, these results might be due to mothers are the primary caregivers and worked mothers receiving less direct support. Also, existence of psychological problems in the family increased the chance of child abuse.

Regarding to number of family members of the studied participants, the results of the current study clarified that, less than half of studied participants had 5-6 family members. These results agreed with study performed by **Issah et al., (2022)**, whose conduct study in Nigeria (study sample equal 6536 participants) and entitled as "Association between exposure to intimate partner violence and the nutritional status of women and children in Nigeria" who stated that, less than two quarters of studied participants had 5-6 family members. While disagreed with **Fomenko et al., (2022)**, who stated that, minority of studied participants had more than 5 family members. In my opinion, these results might be due to the greater the number of children, the calmness and material resources of the parents are more limited, and the risk of child abuse increases. Also, family resources are diminished as the size of the household grows, which in turn causes negative and

undesirable consequences for the child.

Regarding to type of family of the studied participants, the results of the current study clarified that, nearly three quarters of studied participants had nuclear family. These results agreed with study performed by **Saadi et al., (2021)**, whose conduct study in Iraq (study sample equal 100 participants) and entitled as "Assessment of Child Physical Abuse among Mothers in Mala A Fandi Health Care Centre/Erbil City" who stated that, more than three quarters of studied participants had nuclear family. While disagreed with **Aborisade, (2021)**, who stated that, one thirds of studied participants had extended family. In my opinion, these results might be due to the impact of westernization on marriage system and also with large family are greater responsibilities and expenditures.

Regarding to monthly income of the studied participants, the results of the current study clarified that, less than two fifths of studied participants had not sufficient or enough income. These results agreed with study performed by **Prabhu et al., (2023)**, whose conduct study in India (study sample equal 140 participants) and entitled as "Knowledge of child sexual abuse and attitudes towards reporting it among teachers and parents of children studying in selected primary schools of Udipi Taluk, India" who stated that, more than two fifths of studied participants had low income. While disagreed with **Adel et al., (2022)**, who stated that, less than two fifths of studied participants had enough income. In my opinion, these results might be due to parents with a poor socio-economic status have been experienced distress, not able to nurture their children adequately or meet their basic needs and living needs nowadays are costly and number of people live in poverty continuously increase.

The finding of the current study showed that, less than one thirds of studied participants had complete correct answer regarding definition and types of domestic violence. These results agreed with study performed by **Ishwar et al., (2021)**, who mentioned that, one fifths of studied participants had complete correct answer regarding definition and types of domestic violence. In my opinion, these results might be due to that studied participants were too young as more than two fifths of them were aged

ranged from 11-<12 years.

Concerning to participants' total knowledge regarding domestic violence, the results of the current study illustrated that, more than half of studied participant's had a fair level of knowledge regarding the domestic violence. These results supported with study performed by **Adel et al., (2022)**, who stated that, more than half of studied participant's had an average level of knowledge regarding the domestic violence. While these results was in contrast with **Solehati et al., (2022)**, who stated that, more than half of studied participant's had a good level of knowledge regarding the children abuse. In my opinion, these results might be due to lack of students/parent's awareness, school health team and the community about domestic violence among primary school students and preventive measure. Also, factors and the prevalence of child abuse in society, it is beneficial for individuals working with children to be educated on the signs and symptoms of child abuse.

Regarding to mean score of domestic violence domains of the studied participants, the results of the current study showed that, less than two thirds of studied participants had emotional abuse as the most common type of abuse. These results agreed with study performed by **Shattnawi et al., (2024)**, whose conduct study in Jordan (study sample equal 559 school children) and entitled as "Prevalence of adverse childhood experiences and their relationship with self-esteem among school-age children in Jordan" who mentioned that, nearly two thirds of studied children had emotional abuse as the most commonly reported type of abuse.

While disagreed with **Als Salman et al., (2023)**, whose conduct study in Saudi Arabia (study sample equal 447 participants) and entitled as "Parents' knowledge and perception of child abuse and neglect in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia" who stated that, nearly two fifths of studied participants had neglect as the most commonly reported type of abuse. In my opinion, these results might be due to that emotional and psychological abuse is not visible like the physical abuse, and this abuse is practiced more by verbal means.

Regarding to total domestic violence abuse score of the studied participants, the

results of the current study showed that, more than three quarters of studied participants had experienced low domestic abuse. These results agreed with study performed by **Okafor, (2020)**, whose conduct study in Nigeria (study sample equal 1,280 participants) and entitled as "Influence of Domestic Violence on Girl-Child Academic Performance of Students in Itesiwaju Local Government Area, Oyo State, Nigeria" who mentioned that, less than three quarters of studied participants had experienced low abuse. While disagreed with **AboKresha et al., (2021)**, who stated that, majority of studied participants had experienced high domestic abuse. In my opinion, these results might be due to the studied participants had enough knowledge regarding domestic violence, how to protect themselves against domestic violence and good family relationships.

Regarding to mean score of impact of domestic violence of the studied participants, the results of the current study showed that, more than two fifths of studied participants had impact on physical condition and impact on the psychological status. These results agreed with study performed by **Sharratt et al., (2023)**, whose conduct study in United Kingdom (study sample equal 2813 participants) and entitled as "Childhood abuse and neglect, exposure to domestic violence and sibling violence: profiles and associations with sociodemographic variables and mental health indicators" who mentioned that, half of studied participants had impact on physical and psychological status. In my opinion, these results might be due to the lack of clear legal and clinical guidelines in Arab countries on reporting suspected cases of child abuse.

Regarding to total impact of domestic violence score of the studied participants, the results of the current study showed that, minority of studied participants had experienced acute impact of domestic violence. These results agreed with study performed by **Abo Hamza, (2020)**, who mentioned that, minority of studied participants had experienced acute impact of domestic violence. Also, the results of the present study revealed that, majority of studied participants had experienced medium impact of domestic violence. These results disagreed with study performed by **Pundir et al., (2020)**, who mentioned that, minority of studied

participants had experienced medium impact of domestic violence. In my opinion, these results might be due to the studied participants had enough knowledge regarding domestic violence, how to protect themselves against domestic violence and good family relationships.

Regarding to the correlation between studied participants' total knowledge, total abuse score and total impact of domestic violence score, the results of the present study illustrated that, there was a highly significant positive association between total abuse score and their impact of violence score. These results agreed with study performed by **AboKresha et al., (2021)**, whose conduct study in Egypt (study sample equal 1118 participants) and entitled as "Impact of COVID-19 pandemic and related isolation measures on violence against children in Egypt" who stated that, there was a highly significant positive association between studied participants' total abuse score and their impact of violence score. In my opinion, these results might be due to domestic violence has found great change in behavior and impact children health status.

### **Conclusion:**

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**Based on the current study results, the following can be concluded that:**

More than half of the studied participant had a fair level of knowledge regarding domestic violence. Regarding types of violence that the students exposed the current study indicates that more than half of the studied participant experienced the emotional type of domestic violence, almost half of them experienced neglect, less than two thirds of them had physical abuse, more than two fifths of them had an economical abuse and less than one fifths of them experienced sexual abuse.

As regards to the impact of violence on physical state of the studied children the current study illustrated that more than two fifths and less than one thirds of them had a medium eating, sleeping disorders and digestive problems. Regarding the impact on psychological condition the current study showed that more than one quarters of them had acute low self-esteem, more aggressive

behavior and can't emphasize and care about others.

Concerning the impact on social relationship the result of the current study denoted that less than two fifths of studied children had not control him-self when they were angry and found it difficult to establish positive relationships with their friends at a medium impact. Regarding to the total impact of violence on the studied children the current study noted that minority of studied children had experienced acute impact of domestic violence and majority of them had experienced medium impact.

### Recommendations

**The findings of the present study, suggested the following recommendations:**

- Heath educational program should be provided to all students at educational settings to improve their knowledge regarding domestic violence.
- An educational program should be developed for parents to increase awareness regarding negative effects of violence on their children.
- Establishing a special rehabilitation program to children who affected by violence to overcome children psychosocial problems.
- Provide psychological screening for pupils with depression, pupils who have declining school grades, and those with family dysfunction, those experiencing domestic violence, drug abusers as well as those with previous suicidal attempts. So, particular care and attention to young pupils who are at risk can be provided.
- Strengthen role of school health nurses with respect to violence prevention. Support for violence victims' counseling and referral. School health nurse should advocate for avoidance of harsh disciplinary measures, particularly corporal punishment in schools.
- Incorporating "violence awareness training" as a part of schools' core curriculums to teach students better ways to deal with their anger, frustrations and other ill-feelings.
- Further research studies should be undertaken to investigate the domestic violence confounding factors among school students to tailor and implement adequate prevention programs.
- Further research studies are needed for ongoing assessment of children including large sample for generalization of results.

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