

Community Perceptions and Cultural Issues related to Child Abuse and Neglect

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Abstract

Child abuse and neglect is deep-rooted within the community. Community perception, attitudes, and knowledge influence social problems like child abuse and neglect. Misconceptions and myths held within a community may hinder prevention and even be detrimental for positive development of children and families. Child rearing is influenced by different cultural practices like child marriage, religious myths, and stereotypes. Community-level knowledge and awareness can play a key role in child protection and rehabilitation. The present article is a secondary review paper aiming to understand the role of community perception in child abuse and neglect, and its impact. The article highlights the role of issues like cultural practices, language, and policies that influence community perceptions. Hence the present paper aims to present systematic understanding of literature on role of culture and community perception on child abuse. The paper highlights the need for stronger community-based interventions programs incorporating cultural and community issues.

Key Words: Community, Child Abuse and Neglect, Child Protection

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