**NAME: EFFANGA, BASSEY EFANGA**

**DEPT: COMPUTER SCIENCE**

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**ESSAY ON CHILD ABUSE, ITS EFFECTS AND ITS PREVENTIONS**

Child abuse is one of the major issues that bring the attention of entire nation. Several organizations formed because it is not just an individual problem. In modern society, it takes different forms and includes psychological and physical abusing treatment of children. Child abuse is when a parent or a nanny, whether through action or failing to act, cause injury, death, emotional harm or risk of serious harm to a child. Child abuse comes in different forms. Children are abused either through neglect, physical, sexual, exploitation, and/or emotional abuse. Child abuse is a lot more than bruises and broken bones.

The most common child abuse is Neglect. According to longman dictionary “neglect is pay insufficient attention to, or ignore”. It means parents or caregivers fail to provide the important needs for their children. Neglecting the child can be noticed if the child lacks of hygiene, put on clothes which is dirty, old, and inappropriate for age and weather, frequently absents from school. Neglects has three forms which are physical neglects, emotional neglects, and educational neglects. Physical neglects can be seen in many ways for example if the parent does not provide supervision, sluttling of child from one household to another for a day or week at a time, not providing adequate food for their children. Emotional neglects include inattention to child’s need of affection and emotional support, permitting the child to use hard drugs and drink alcohol. Educational neglects can be if the parent refuses to enroll the child in school, failure to provide the essential learning needs and allow frequent absence from school.

The second type of child abuse is the Physical abuse which is the most cleared and has a huge physical effect on the child. “Physical abuse should always be suspected when there is an injury that cannot be explained, or when the history provided is incongruous with the physical findings or the child’s developmental level. Suspicion should also be aroused when the caregiver claims the injury was self-inflected, inflected by a sibling or when there is a delay in seeking medical services”.

The third type of child abuse is emotional abuse. Among all different child abuse, emotional abuse is the hardest type to identify. ‘Emotional abuse of a child is commonly defined as “a pattern of behavior by parents or caregivers that can seriously interfere with child’s cognitive, emotional, psychological, or social development”. Emotional abuse occurs when parents ignoring and humiliating the child, isolating the child from the family, verbally assaulting the child, threatening the child, rejecting child’s value and request, putting higher expectation on the child and exposing the child to family or community violence.

The last type of child abuse is sexual abuse which is the least frequently reported of child abuse. “Sexual abuse is defined as exploitive sexual act(s) imposed on a child who lacks the emotional, cognitive, or maturational development to deal with the actions. Sexual abuse can be in different ways which are pressuring the child genitals, sexual contact with the child, incident exposure of genitals, and physical contact to child genitals. Everybody believes that the girls are more often abused sexually, but the fact that both girls and boys are sexually abused.

The very best way for preventing child sexual abuse and future abuser is by the practice of good parenting or guardianship. Children with responsible and loving guardians are less likely to be abused because their guardians are cautious and protective of them. A child with these circumstances are also vastly less likely to abuse as they get older because they are brought up in a proper environment with good role models to follow. Another reason why it is so important that prevention of child abuse starts in the home by the guardians is because 70% of reported sexual assaults are carried out on individuals seventeen and younger. The reason for this of course is that kids under this age are vulnerable and less aware of the dangers people may pose. They also have a harder time understanding why something like could be happening to them.

For children to have responsible and protective guardians would be to live in a perfect world and this is unfortunately impossible. Sometimes a good environment at home is unrealistic, and extra preventative measures must be taken to stop or at least correct a sexually abusive situation. Society as a whole must come together to create an environment with no helpful recourses or information available to them, they stand no chance. That is why it is crucial for places such as schools, hospitals, religious places, or wherever else it may be, to educate children what is right and wrong as far as how they should be treated.