

rich people suffer same as the poor

Child Abuse Transcends Races

By Quin Leggett

There are several categories of abuse. Some categories are more difficult to define and to substantiate than others.

Physical abuse is much easier to recognize than the other forms of abuse. Some of the evidence may be mild, while some of the other forms are very severe. Marks or bruises may be displayed on different parts of the child's body, such as the back, legs, thighs or buttocks.

These marks or bruises may be the results of a severe beating or burns, or may even be teeth marks resulting from the child's having been bitten.

These physical marks are not inflicted intentionally by parents or guardians, but as a result of punishment or too severe discipline. The discipline may be too harsh or not appropriate for the child's age or condition.

Society may be influenced to believe that only the lower class or poverty stricken families are guilty of child abuse. This assumption is usually made simply because lower class or poverty stricken families are expected to deviate from the norms. Therefore, any action or form of behavior these families take or fail to take is brought to the attention of the public.

The poor suffer the same psychological and economical stress as any other social class, but their means of escape are very limited. People of higher socio-economic status can afford professional help and have other alternatives to alleviate stress and pressure.

But without these alternatives, the poor sometimes have a tendency to exhibit their frustrations and anxieties toward their children. This is their only means

of relief.

However, studies have shown that social class, ethnicity, and economic status have no bearing on the presence or absence of child abuse.

Today the state of the economy is affecting all socio-economic classes, which means that all classes of people are feeling the pressure and may be unable to cope. Therefore, a great deal of their frustrations are wielded toward their offspring.

Conditions of poverty, unemployment, alcoholism and broken marriages may also be factors of stress for society and may contribute to the abuse of children.

Studies have shown that regardless of socio-economic class, ethnicity, etc., child abusers possess very typical personality patterns.

The parents' expectations of the child may be too high and the

parents may also expect the child to provide them with comfort, reassurance and love. These traits are commonly expected from the parent to the child, but in reverse it is known as the reverse of the dependency role.

When the child fails to live up to these expectations, the parent may act out with aggressive behavior as the child would ordinarily do. Needless to say, this is very unfortunate for the child. The child is the innocent victim of his parent's aggressive and violent behavior. Usually only one child in a family is abused.

It should also be noted that often child abusers were themselves victims of child abuse. This explains why child abuse is considered to be conditioned behavior. The parents themselves had experienced the same type of treatment from their parents, and this is the only parent model

they are aware of.

There are an equal number of females and males among child abusers. Therefore, there are no sexual discriminations among child abusers.

Sexual abuse of children is also rapidly increasing. This is another category of abuse, but it is sometimes without physical evidence.

Sexual abuse is not necessarily committed only by the parents or guardians themselves. It may be committed by an older child, or friend or relatives of the child or of the family or even by a total stranger. Most reported sexual abuse is committed by a close friend or family member of the victim.

Sexual abuse is not necessarily just sexual intercourse but any interaction between child or adult for sexual stimulation. It could mean touching or fondling.

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