

ABSTRACT

This research is primarily based on “Child Abuse cases” in relation to fifty children in the Matara Police Division, under the objective of identifying factors leading to child abuse, with special reference to children under 15 years in the Matara Police Division. It further focuses on multiple conditions under which child abuse cases might occur, i .e. the nature of family, parents’ education, parents’ employment, their addiction to drugs and conditions of houses. This is a quantitative study that was conducted using questionnaires administered among 50 respondents who were victims of child abuse in Deniyaya, Kaburupitiya, Thihagoda and Matara Police areas. In addition to that, 3 respondents were selected using purposive sampling method for the purpose of conducting case studies and in depth interviews. Further, data were also gathered from published books, newspapers, reports from the Matara Police Division, magazines and websites related to the aforesaid topic. The findings brought into perception that alcoholism, lack of parental protection, and lower education and awareness levels of parents have a direct impact on the increase of child abuse cases reported to Matara Police Division. It also revealed that girls are more prone to abusive acts than boys since they are more vulnerable. Further, age, location of the abuse, employment and household conditions of the perpetrator was identified to be immaterial since the data proved that child abuse can take place anytime, anywhere and by anyone. Thus, this study can be considered as an eye-opener to the society as well as relevant authorities to demonstrate the gravity of child abuse thereby encouraging them to take immediate steps to mitigate the issue.