

## **OP-8: CLINICAL AND SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF VICTIMS OF CHILD ABUSE ADMITTED TO TEACHING HOSPITAL, JAFFNA**

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**Introduction:** Child abuse and neglect, which is a worldwide phenomenon which continues to rise in Sri Lanka as well. There are no reported studies from this part of the country.

**Objectives:** To identify the types of child abuses for which children were seen at Teaching Hospital, Jaffna (THJ) and to determine the socio-demographic background, clinical profile and follow-up measures.

**Methods:** A record based retrospective study was done at the THJ from January to December 2015. Data regarding nature of the abuse, socioeconomic details, characteristics of the perpetrator and follow up measures were extracted from the records maintained at the District Child Development Centre (DCDC) of THJ. Data was coded and analysed using SPSS version 22.

**Results:** A total 172 incidences were reported. Majority (45%) of the children were between 11-15 years. Male Female ratio was 1:3.6. Majority of the children were from Jaffna district (82%). The major form of abuse was sexual (87) followed by neglect (30) teenage marriage (26) and physical abuse (20). Sexual abuse and physical abuse were common in 11-15 years old, neglect was seen in less than 10 years. 95.4% (83) children who were sexually abused lived with their parents and for 92% (80) of the cases, the perpetrator was known to the victim. Thirty eight (22%) cases were pregnant. Sixty (34.9%) children were school dropouts. 65.7% (113) children belong to poor socioeconomic status and seventy three (42.4%) children were from larger families. Seven children (4.1%) had multidisciplinary case conferences and none of the records indicated a follow-up to these children.

**Conclusion:** Sexual abuse was the common form of abuse and the perpetrator was known to the family. Large family size and poor socio-economic status contributed to all forms of abuse. Regular case conferences and follow-up up measures were not mentioned in the records.