International Conference on
Child Protection 2025

Broadening Perspectives on Protecting Children

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

CONFERENCE : 26th - 27th July 2025

**AT THE FACULTY OF COMPUTING & TECHNOLOGY,
UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA, SRI LANKA**

International Conference on Child Protection 2025

ABSTRACT PROCEEDINGS

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Contents

Message from the Guest of Honor

Hon. Harshana Nanayakkara
Attorney-at-Law

Minister of Justice, Sri Lanka

It is a great honour to address the International Conference on Child Protection 2025. I extend my sincere appreciation to the Centre for Gender Studies at the University of Kelaniya, the National Child Protection Authority, and UNICEF Sri Lanka for organizing this important event. I also acknowledge the generous support of the European Union through the JURE programme, and thank all international and national partners for making this gathering possible.

The theme, *"Broadening Perspectives on Protecting Children,"* is both timely and essential. Child protection is not the responsibility of a single sector—it requires a multidisciplinary, inclusive, and coordinated approach. Our government has prioritized this issue through the "Safe World for Children" pillar of our national policy framework *A Thriving Nation, A Beautiful Life*. We have made international pledges, including the banning of corporal punishment, establishing a continuum of care for child victims, strengthening the social service workforce, and reforming school systems to address violence.

Legislative progress is underway, including the gazetting of a bill to prohibit corporal punishment and the development of a new Child Protection and Justice law. These efforts are being led in collaboration with the Ministries of Women and Child Affairs and Education.

This conference plays a vital role in supporting these national commitments by fostering collaboration between academia, practitioners, and policymakers. It highlights the importance of research and evidence-based strategies in shaping effective child protection systems.

Despite progress, children in Sri Lanka continue to face serious threats—abuse, exploitation, online harm, and institutional violence. These are systemic issues that require urgent, honest, and sustained action. We must ensure our systems are responsive, inclusive, and child-centred. I commend the University of Kelaniya and the Centre for Gender Studies for their leadership in advancing this dialogue. Your work is transformative, bridging research and policy, and helping us design interventions that are both effective and sustainable.

As Minister of Justice, I reaffirm my full commitment to leading transformative change in addressing violence against children. But this is a shared responsibility. We need your expertise, your passion, and your partnership. Let us work together to ensure that every child in Sri Lanka grows up in a safe, nurturing, and empowering environment.

I wish you all a productive and inspiring conference.

Thank you.

Message from the Chief Guest

Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Wickramaratne, M.P.

Speaker of Parliment

It is with great honor and a deep sense of responsibility that I extend my warmest greetings to all participants of the International Conference on Child Protection. I commend the Centre for Gender Studies at the University of Kelaniya, the National Child Protection Authority, and UNICEF Sri Lanka for their collaborative efforts in organizing this important event. I also acknowledge the invaluable support of the European Union and the JURE project, whose commitment to improving access to justice—particularly for children—demonstrates the power of international cooperation.

Protecting our children is one of the most fundamental responsibilities of any society. It is the foundation upon which we build a just, compassionate, and prosperous nation. Sri Lanka remains steadfast in its commitment to strengthening the legal and institutional frameworks that safeguard every child. This includes updating key legislation, ensuring adequate budget allocations, and implementing evidence-based policies.

Our government's dedication to ending violence against children was reaffirmed on the global stage at the Global Ministerial Conference in Bogotá, where we pledged concrete, time-bound actions. These include the landmark banning of corporal punishment and the establishment of a continuum of care for child victims.

This conference exemplifies the kind of multi-stakeholder collaboration needed to drive meaningful change. The insights and evidence generated here will be instrumental in shaping effective policies. As Speaker of Parliament, I assure you that your recommendations will be brought before the relevant parliamentary committees to inform our legislative process.

Let this research symposium serve as a catalyst for renewed commitment and collective action. Together, let us work towards a Sri Lanka where every child can grow up in safety, dignity, and with the opportunity to reach their full potential.

I wish you a productive and impactful conference.

Thank you.

Message from the Vice Chancellor of the University of Kelaniya

Senior Professor Nilanthi De Silva
MBBS (Colombo), MSc (London), MD (Colombo)

Vice Chancellor, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

It is with great pleasure that I extend my heartiest greetings to all participants of ICCP '25; International Conference on Child Protection, organized by the Centre for Gender Studies, University of Kelaniya, in collaboration with the National Child Protection Authority, UNICEF Sri Lanka, and the JURE Project. Sri Lanka's first conference dedicated to children's concerns, ICCP '25 themed "Broadening Perspectives on Protecting Children".

This conference aspires to be a vigorous platform for all stakeholders to collaborate and engage in vigorous discourse on critically significant concepts which center directly and indirectly on child welfare. The conference lays its main focuses on child welfare, protection and rights. I truly hope that the conference serves to facilitate and capture the highly productive intellectual discourse that will lead to the creation of novel ideas, change, and innovative experiences that can guarantee transform in areas where change is warranted. Therefore, ICCP '25 seeks to evaluate existing approaches and, from a multidisciplinary perspective, encourage more applicable innovations that address contemporary issues in child protection.

In child protection, Sri Lanka has made remarkable progress; having entered into the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1991, through landmark legislation such as the National Child Protection Authority Act and amendments to the Children and Young Persons Ordinance which now provides protection to all persons below the age of eighteen and bans corporal punishment. However, there are still enduring challenges such as fighting child abuse and exploitation, the economic vulnerability of children, and coordination among many bodies. The growing problem of cybercrime aimed at children also requires prompt proactive action. This event is also important in responding to these persistent evolving challenges and supporting national commitment to our children.

This conference directly supports the strategic aim of the University of Kelaniya, which stands for the advancement of scholarly learning alongside tangible social benefit and change. With prominent figures and specialists from the world of academia, public institutions, and civil society organizations, ICCP '25 guarantees that all participants will receive a thorough and enlightening discourse.

Allow me to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Conference Organizing Committee for their tireless work in assembling a comprehensive conference that aligns with the collective hopes of all participants. I wish that every delegate will leave with new knowledge, enhanced professional connections, and a lasting inspiration towards their responsibility in child protection.

Message from the NCPA

Ms. Preethi Inoka Ranasinghe

Chairperson, National Child Protection Authority, Sri Lanka

I am honored to welcome all distinguished participants to ICCP'25, the International Conference on Child Protection. This landmark event, themed "Broadening Perspectives on Protecting Children," is the first of its kind in Sri Lanka, organized by the Centre for Gender Studies, University of Kelaniya, in collaboration with the National Child Protection Authority, UNICEF Sri Lanka, and the JURE Project.

This conference comes at a crucial time. As Sri Lanka rebuilds from recent socio-economic challenges, safeguarding children must be central to national development. Reports and data from the NCPA and media highlight the growing urgency of addressing violence, abuse, and neglect.

Technology, while transformative, has exposed children to new risks; online exploitation, trafficking, pornography, and screen addiction. To address these threats, we need advanced, data-driven protection mechanisms aligned with global trends and realities. Comprehensive and sustainable child protection programs are vital. Policies must be rooted in scientific research and tailored to current needs, ensuring long-term impact and evidence-based care.

This conference is a powerful platform for academics, professionals, and child welfare advocates to collaborate. I am grateful to all contributors for sharing their expertise and driving national momentum toward a safer, more nurturing environment for every child. My heartfelt thanks to the organizing committee, researchers, and stakeholders for their commitment. I wish you continued strength and success in advancing child protection in Sri Lanka and beyond.

UNICEF Deputy Representative

Begona Arellano
Deputy Representative, UNICEF Sri Lanka

Begoña Arellano has worked with UNICEF for over 15 years in program management and child protection in Low- and Middle-Income Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. From 2016 to the present, Begoña was the Deputy Representative in UNICEF El Salvador, leading the development and implementation of programs to achieve children's rights, including health, nutrition, WASH, child protection, education, and inclusive social policies, also in emergencies, building alliances with government, civil society, and private sector.

From 2012 to 2016, Begoña was the Program Manager at UNICEF Cuba. Leading the development of programs and partnerships to support the country in health, child protection, education, and adolescent development and to respond to the emergency caused by hurricane Sandy in 2012.

Begoña was Child Protection Specialist from 2007 to 2012 at the UNICEF Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, supporting Country Offices to advocate and develop programs to prevent and respond to violence, exploitation, and abuse, and promoting birth registration, supporting collaboration with regional institutions and the UN. Begoña initiated her career at the UN in UNICEF Dominican Republic in 2003, supporting the implementation of the local development initiative Child-Friendly Municipalities. She has been Officer of the UN Volunteers Programs for the Dominican Republic and Haiti in 2005 and 2006.

Begoña is a national of Spain. She has a Master's Degree in Humanitarian Assistance from the Network of Humanitarian Assistance (N.O.H.A) from the University of Deusto in Spain andthe University Colleague of Dublin. Begoña has a University Degree in English Philology from the Universidad Complutense of Madrid.

Message from the UNICEF Deputy Representative

On behalf of the Center for Gender Studies at the University of Kelaniya, the National Child Protection Authority, and UNICEF, I extend our deepest gratitude to our distinguished guests, keynote speaker, academic contributors, and institutional partners who have made this conference possible.

This gathering reinforces Sri Lanka's renewed commitment to ending all forms of violence against children. This commitment is especially significant in light of the pledges made at the first-ever Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children, held in Bogotá, Colombia, in November 2024.

Ahead of that global conference, and with the endorsement of the current Prime Minister, the Government of Sri Lanka made four key pledges:

1. *To prohibit corporal punishment;*
2. *To establish a framework for a continuum of child-sensitive services for victims of violence;*
3. *To strengthen the social service workforce to respond effectively to violence against children;*
4. *To address violence in schools through comprehensive reforms.*

At the beginning of this year, the Government of Sri Lanka included many of these commitments into the National Policy Framework, where the section on Safe World for Children encapsulates key priorities in child protection. Now is the time to translate these international pledges and national policy priorities into action.

This symposium exemplifies the power of strong partnerships needed for achieving ambitious goals between academia, national authorities, international organizations, and development partners to collectively address violence against children and child protection challenges. These partnerships have the potential to be truly transformative, including for more than 2,500 children whose abuse cases were reported to the National Child Protection Authority this year.
I wish to express our sincere thanks to the Honourable Speaker of Parliament, Dr. Jagath Wickramaratne and Honourable Minister of Justice, Dr. Harshana Nanayakkara, for your participation and leadership. I would like to also acknowledge the leadership of the Minister of Women and Child Affairs whose leadership is shaping the future of the child protection system in the country.

A special word of thanks to Her Excellency Carmen Moreno, Ambassador of the European Union to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, for gracing this occasion. We deeply appreciate the EU's continued commitment to justice and child protection, both in Sri Lanka and globally, including for children affected by armed conflict.

I would like to express our appreciation to our keynote speaker, Dr. Asvini Fernando for your insightful and thought-provoking address, and to Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid, the UN Special Representative on Violence Against Children, for her global leadership and steadfast support of Sri Lanka's efforts.

Our sincere thanks go to the University of Kelaniya and the Vice Chancellor Senior Professor Nilanthi De Silva, for your exceptional leadership. The National Child Protection Authority remains a valued and long-standing partner of UNICEF during this symposium and beyond.

Finally, warm congratulations to Senior Professor Anuruddhi and the entire organizing committee for your vision, dedication, and tireless work in bringing this symposium to life. Let us move forward with open minds, critical thinking, and a shared purpose—to protect every child, everywhere, and ensure that every child lives free from violence. Violence against children is never acceptable, and is always preventable.

Message from the Conference Chair

Professor P. Anuruddhi S. Edirisinghe
MBBS (NCMC), MD (For Med. Colombo), DLM (Colombo),
DMJ (London), FFFLM (UK)

Senior Professor, Cadre Chair, Department of Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya
Director, Centre for Gender Studies, University of Kelaniya

It is with great pleasure and pride I write this message as the Conference Chair of the International Conference of Child Protection 2025 and the 3rd International Conference of Centre for Gender Studies, the first of its kind in Sri Lanka. This conference will bring researchers, academics, practitioners, postgraduate and undergraduate students of medicine, science, social sciences, information technology, humanities, law, and law enforcement to come together to share their experiences, new knowledge on child protection and gender studies. At a time where country is recovering from a financial crisis, I consider this to be a pinnacle event to showcase work relating to child protection in Sri Lanka. This has been evident considering the submission of over 375 abstracts for the conference.

Holistic child protection includes three responses: criminal justice, health and psychosocial management. Therefore, muti and interdisciplinary services and inter sectoral service providers such as police, scientists (forensic medicine & science), judiciary as well as health service providers such as pediatric, psychiatry, psychology, gynecology, venerology, counseling, probation and social survives have to get-together to provide a truly holistic service. Furthermore, this international congress will pave the way to share the challenges, strengths and weaknesses from several corners of the world and provide an opportunity to learn from each other.

Most importantly, this conference gives us a platform for different agencies to work together. Pre-congress activities included workshops on abstract writing, ethical media reporting and multi-disciplinary/multisectoral management of child abuse which enriched practitioners while providing academics with linkages to understand issues related to their services. Further, collaborating with UNICEF, alongside their financial support and technical expertise was a learning curve for the Centre for Gender Studies of the University of Kelaniya, as well as National Child Protection Authority.

Finally, it's my duty to express my deep appreciation to the organizing committee and all other subcommittees for their hard work and commitment. Finally, I invite both national and international participants to engage in a vibrant academic experience at the International Conference on Child Protection 2025 Sri Lanka.

Editor Note

Dr. Sanika Sulochani Ramanayake
BA (Kelaniya), MA (SMU, S. Korea), PhD (SNU, S. Korea)

Senior Lecturer, Department of Social Statistics, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Kelaniya
Deputy Director, Centre for Gender Studies, University of Kelaniya

It is with immense pleasure that we present this collection of abstracts from the International Conference on Child Protection (ICCP) 2025. This volume represents the culmination of dedicated efforts and groundbreaking research in the critical field of child protection and welfare. ICCP 2025, was organized by the Centre for Gender Studies, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the National Child Protection Authority, UNICEF Sri Lanka, and the JURE project with funding from the European Union. Further, this stands as Sri Lanka's first conference solely dedicated to Child Protection. Under the theme, "Broadening Perspectives on Protecting Children", this conference has aspired to be a vigorous platform for all stakeholders to collaborate and engage in discourse on critically significant concepts centered on child welfare, protection, and rights.

Our goal has been to assemble a volume that enhances inclusivity within the scholarly community and fosters more applicable innovation that addresses contemporary problems in child protection. Consequently, this collection reflects a multidisciplinary approach to understanding and responding to the enduring challenges in child protection, such as combating child abuse and exploitation, addressing the economic vulnerability of children, improving coordination among various official bodies, and addressing the growing problem of cybercrime aimed at children. We truly hope that the intellectual discourse fostered here will lead to the creation of novel ideas and innovative experiences that can guarantee transformation where change is necessary.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Vice Chancellor of the University of Kelaniya for her invaluable support and innumerable guidance. Our sincere thanks also go to the prominent figures and specialists from academia, public institutions, and civil society organizations who contributed their expertise. Moreover, a heartfelt thanks is extended to all the abstract reviewers for selecting, commenting, and revising abstracts by supporting the expansion of academic knowledge. Finally, we express our heartfelt appreciation and congratulations to the Conference Organizing Committee for their tireless efforts and several sleepless nights in assembling a comprehensive conference that aligns with the collective hopes of all participants.

We truly believe that every delegate will depart with new knowledge, enhanced professional connections, and a lasting inspiration towards their responsibility in child protection to create a better and safer environment for our children.

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Program

26th July, 2025

8:30 to 9:00am	Inauguration
9:00 to 10:30am	International Symposium I
11:00 to 1:00pm	Free Paper Session 01/Poster Presentation/Snapshot Presentation
1:45 to 3:45pm	Free Paper Session 02/Poster Presentation/Snapshot Presentation
3:45 to 5:30pm	Debate: *"News reporting related to children in Sri Lanka can be elevated to a higher standard through an ethical approach."*
6:00 to 7:00pm	Keynote speech of 3rd International Conference of the Centre for Gender Studies, University of Kelaniya *"Human Rights Violation of Women in India: A Journey from Womb-to-Tomb from a Forensic Perspective"* by Prof. (Dr.) Adarsh Kumar
7:00 to 8:00pm	Cultural Show and Fellowship

27th July, 2025

8:30 to 9:30am	Free Paper Session 03/Poster Presentation/Snapshot Presentation
9:30 to 10:30am	4th Oration of the Centre for Gender Studies of the University of Kelaniya *"A Promethean Moment: Technology Facilitated Gender Based Violence and Coded Bias"* by Prof. Rangita De Silva De Alwis
11:00 to 12:30pm	Panel Discussion *"Ending Violence Against Children; Sri Lanka's Pledges to Action"*
12:30 to 2:00pm	Closing Ceremony

Keynote Speech of the 1ˢᵗ International Conference on Child Protection by Dr. Asvini Fernando

Dr. Asvini Fernando
MBBS (Colombo), MD (Pead) (Colombo), FRCP (London)

Associate Professor in Pediatrics (Rtd)
Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya

Dr. Fernando is a pediatrician with special clinical and research interest in Violence against Children and Child Protection. She served as an Associate Professor at the Department of Pediatrics, University of Kelaniya until her retirement in 2021. Dr. Fernando gained experience in the field of child protection initially in UK & then in Sri Lanka over the past 40 years and, has been involved in collaborative research with the Universities of Cambridge and Sydney. She served on the Board of the National Child Protection Authority for two terms, a member of the Sectoral Oversight Committee of Parliament on women and gender (2017-2019). She was the President of the Sri Lanka College of Pediatricians (SLCP) in 2011/2012 and was appointed as the chairperson of the Child Protection Committee of the SLCP in 2011 which post she holds to date.

She was able to gather national level stakeholders to develop a National Guideline for the Management of Child Abuse and neglect (2013) and was instrumental in establishing a child protection unit (Lama Piyasa) at the Colombo North Teaching Hospital, Ragama in 2015.

She was a member of the committee on adolescent health, of the International Pediatric Association (2014 - 2017). The World Health Organization appointed her as a member of the group for development of Core Competencies in Adolescent Health & Development (2013), as a member of the guideline development group on Health Sector Response to Child Maltreatment (2016) and for the Response to Sexual Abuse of Children and Adolescents (2016). She was appointed a member of the advisory group of the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (UNICEF & Human Reproductive Program) for research priorities for Violence against Children and Violence against Women intersections (2021). She was one of the 10 members appointed by the then Hon. President of Sri Lanka to Study and make Recommendations for the Protection of Children in 2023 and a committee to Monitor the Implementation of Child Protection Measures in 2024. This year the Hon, Prime Minister appointed her as the Chairperson of a 3-member Committee to formulate an effective mechanism for the Prevention of and Response to Violence against Children in Sri Lanka She ardently pursues advocacy for the rights of children.

Delivery of Child Protection Services in Sri Lanka: Broadening Perspectives
Dr. Asvini D. Fernando

Child protection involves measures and systems designed to prevent and respond in a holistic manner to Violence against Children (VAC). VAC, includes all forms of violence against those aged 0-18 years and, may be perpetrated by parents, other care givers, peers, romantic partners or strangers. Categories of VAC include: Child Abuse & Neglect, Bullying, Youth Violence, Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, Psychological Violence and witnessing Violence *(WHO 2016).*

Out of a 2.4 billion global child population, violence affects up to 1 billion children *(UNICEF 2021).* Data from Women's & Children's Bureau, Sri Lanka Police, reveals 6434 reported incidents of VAC in 2024. This is only the reported incidents. For each of these there are many more that go unreported. Sri Lanka has shown commitment towards protecting the most vulnerable group of its society by taking great strides over the past decades as demonstrated by: establishment of the Women's & Children's Bureau of Sri Lanka Police (1979), signing of United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (1991) and establishment of National Child Protection Authority (1998).

Despite these steps, even to date, across all sectors services are not sufficiently child centered, lacks professionalism, there is inadequate coordination between sectors and the problems are compounded by inordinate legal delays. This leaves a negative public perception, resulting in hesitancy of seeking services to the detriment of children, families, society and the nation. Each sector should look inwards and identify the gaps with a view to bridging them and broadening perspectives. There should be an umbrella body that monitors all services provided with a view to improving responsibility and accountability of stakeholders. That body should indeed be the NCPA, which should be elevated to the position it was in, when established. Being placed under that Presidential Secretariat the Authority had stature and power. Other Police stations were answerable to the NCPA Police.

As regards the prevention of VAC identification of risk factors is important. Dysfunctional families, unsafe use of Information Communication Technology, and the menace of illicit drugs are wreaking havoc in the lives of children. In addition, deep rooted cultural beliefs are hindering the delivery of Comprehensive Sexuality Education to children. It is time to wake up, bridge the gaps and broaden perspectives if we are to invest in the future of our beautiful nation.

Keynote Speech of the 3rd International Conference of the Centre for Gender Studies, University of Kelaniya 2025

Date: 26th July, 2025 from 5:30 to 6:30pm
Venue: Auditorium, Faculty of Computing and Technology, University of Kelaniya

Crimes Against Women in India; a Journey from Womb-to-Tomb: A Medico-legal Perspective

Professor (Dr.) Adarsh Kumar
BSc, MBBS, MD, PGCHM, FIAMLE, FISCA, FIST, FIAFM

Double Commonwealth Fellow, Scotland, UK
Fellow Royal Society of Medicine, UK, FIAMLE, FISCA
Forensic Medicine and Toxicology
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India
Hony. Medicolegal Expert to National Human Rights Commission
& Central Bureau of Investigation, India

Prof. Adarsh Kumar, is currently a Professor, Forensic Medicine & Toxicology at AIIMS, New Delhi and has been awarded the Commonwealth Fellowship in the UK, twice, in 2011 and 2015. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, London, IAMLE (2014), the International Science Congress Association (2015), the Indian Society of Toxicology (2016) and the Indian Academy of Forensic Medicine (2020). He is honorary medicolegal Expert to the National Human Rights Commission and the Central Bureau of Investigation, the topmost agency for criminal investigation in India. He has handled over a thousand complicated, high-profile cases. He has close to 30 years of teaching experience and medicolegal field work, both nationally and internationally (UK and Ukraine). He has published around a hundred papers, organized 15 National and International conferences, written 10 chapters in various textbooks, and has spoken at more than 100 lectures and delivered orations at various scientific conferences, locally and internationally. He is currently the Hony. President of Indian Academy of Medicolegal Experts (IAMLE). He has been honored by the National Human Rights Commission in 2014 and awarded with the Education Award for Excellence by the Indo-US Global Foundation in 2016, the International Cooperation Medal by the Government of Ukraine in 2020 and the Forensic Excellence Award in 2023.

Abstract by Professor (Dr.) Adarsh Kumar

As per the latest available National Crime Records Bureau Statistics, in India**,** 51 cases of crime against women occur every hour. The data disclosed a staggering 4,45,256 cases of crime against women in 2022; 4,28,278 cases in 2021 and 2020 reported 3,71,503 cases. The majority of crimes against women were categorized as cruelty by the victim's husband or his relatives (31.4%), followed by kidnapping and abduction (19.2%), assault with intent to outrage modesty (18.7%), and rape (7.1%). Crime against women in India has been steadily rising which can be attested by the fact that 3.37 lakhs of such incidents that occurred in 2014 in comparison to 2.28 lakhs which occurred in 2011. These figures are definitely alarming for a cultured and democratic country like India. No doubt, there has been a gradual degradation of moral values in our society because of multifactorial reasons over the centuries leading to increasing incidences of violation of human rights especially against females. Several penal acts have been in place for a long time and are also being added now and then to take care of various human rights violation issues against females.

Sexual Offences, Dowry deaths, Female feticides, and Vitriolage have been specifically dealt with stringent punishments since quite some time. The Domestic Violence Act and Sexual harassment against females at work place have been added during the last decade. POCSO i.e. prevention of sexual offences against children has been introduced in 2012 to take care of the growing menace of Child sexual abuse. In the aftermath of the December 2012 rape incident when a whole nation voiced deep concern and revolutionized the existing rape laws; Criminal Amendment Act 2013 was passed. This tried to plug the existing lacunae in a legal set up and included many other types of sexual offences like Stalking. Now, as of the 1st of July, 2024 we have revamped the entire penal system by way of introducing Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) in place of IPC, BNSS in place of CrPC and BSA replacing IEA.

Recently it has also been observed that there is a growing misuse of these by females as a weapon against males. With the introduction of these acts, there have been many changes in the way these victims of such offences need be examined.

From time immemorial, woman has been subjected to various types of crimes violating their human rights right from birth (sex selective abortions) to death of elderly females (geronticide or senicide). This talk will give a brief overview of crime against women in India from a medicolegal perspective through a "journey from womb to tomb" and examine the steps taken by the government to tackle this menace in recent times. Last year we witnessed a case of brutal sexual assault against a female doctor inside her hospital premises, where she worked, which shook the conscience of the nation. During investigations, so many complicated questions arose which were handled scientifically. The discussion will also explore role of forensic medicine and other forensic science experts in the scientific investigation of such cases brought for medicolegal opinion.

Keywords: Crime Against Women, Rape, Female Feticide, Sexual Offence, POCSO, Forensic

The 4th Oration of the Centre for Gender Studies, University of Kelaniya 2025

Cyber Violence and Tech Facilitating Gender-based Violence

Professor Rangita De Silva De Alwis
LLB (Colombo) LLM(Harvard) SJD (Harvard)

Prof. Rangita de Silva de Alwis serves as Distinguished Faculty on Law and Global Leadership at the University of Pennsylvania Law School and Wharton Business School. She is a globally recognized scholar on international human rights, women peace and security and has published in leading law reviews, including at Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Penn, Berkeley, Duke, Georgetown, UCLA, Oxford and Cambridge.

She is also visiting faculty at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a Senior Fellow of the Harvard Law School Center for the Legal Profession. She is a Hillary Rodham Clinton Distinguished Global Fellow on Gender Equity at the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security. She is a Visiting Fellow at Oxford University for from 2023 to 2025. She is a member of the UN treaty body to the CEDAW, where she serves as the Chair of individual complaints and Co- Chair of Women, Peace and Security.

She is the Vice Chair of the International Bar Association's Human Rights Council where she serves with some of the world's leading international lawyers. She is also on the advisory council to the President of the UN General Assembly and Co-chair of the high-level working group on Global Gender Justice.

She is a graduate of the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo and received her Master of Law and Doctorate in Law from Harvard Law School where she was recognized recently as a "Woman of Inspiration."

A Promethean Moment: Technology Facilitated Gender Based Violence and Coded Bias
Policy Imperatives for Sri Lanka

Rangita de Silva de Alwis

Thank you, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Anuruddhi Edirishinghe, and Prof. Maithree Wickremesinghe.

Prologue

I cannot think of a better way to pay tribute to this assembly of learned minds across multiple disciplines than by starting with the story of my borrowed gown and cape. They are both symbols of the power of borrowing ideas across disciplinary divides and geographic boundaries and a metaphor for transnational cross-fertilizing of ideas. My MIT cape belongs to Prof. Daniela Ross, Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and the Head of the Artificial Intelligence Lab at MIT. Daniela is a MacArthur Genius Awardee. At MIT, her role is to lead the invention of the future of intelligent machines. My Berkeley gown belongs to Dr. Gita Swamy and her husband Sanjay Sarma, MIT professor, better known as the "father of the Internet of Things (IoT)." Gita drafts laws on AI regulation. Together, they epitomize the promise and the peril of AI. My own discipline is the discipline of international law which crosscuts geographies of humanitarian challenges, human rights and the humanities. That is why I have borrowed my academic regalia to epitomize the power of idea sharing.

While I harness the spirit of these leaders who drive the innovation of technology, I also harness Shakespeare's prose in Twelfth Night: "*I can no other answer make, but thanks, and thanks, and ever thanks,*" to Vice Chancellor Savitri Goonesekere, who delivered the first oration and whose path I follow in more ways than one. And to former teachers, Radhika Coomaraswamy, and Martha Minow, former Dean and 300th Anniversary Professor at Harvard Law, in the words of Marcel Proust, the "*gardeners who make our "minds" blossom.*"

Introduction: Global Snapshots

The age of AI has been likened to the Greek myth of Prometheus who stole fire from the Gods. The theft of fire symbolizes the acquisition of knowledge, or technology for the benefit of humanity, but it also has the power to burn and destroy humanity. AI like the gift of fire is a double-edged sword.

In 2023, I was invited by the South Korean Constitutional Court to present a keynote at its 35th anniversary. I spoke of the policy lessons I had learned from the South Korean case of the Nth Room where young women were lured to chat rooms on telegraph and blackmailed to create sexually explicit videos that were then disseminated online.

Today, "Cyber Hell" is a new Netflix documentary that dramatizes this case of illicit seduction of young women and girls — some of them middle-school age — who were coerced into uploading sexually explicit photos and videos of themselves to Telegram, which were then sold and shared in chat rooms with up to tens of thousands of users. If they didn't comply, the chat room operators threatened to release their explicit content to their families and — in the case of minors — their schools. The sheer scale and lurid nature of the content were staggering.

At the South Korean Constitutional Court, I noted that the first social media platform, Facebook, itself grew out of a history of misogyny. The genesis of Facebook, "Facemash" was to rate young women's sexual appeal at Harvard. [1]

I argue that around the world, online misogyny is a mirror image of offline misogyny and that while offline misogyny bleeds into online misogyny the lines between the two are often blurred. Digital violence is ubiquitous because unlike physical violence digital violence is omnipresent. I will share a few snapshots of my dialogues with governments at the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) with you.

As one of the world's most advanced digital societies, South Korea has witnessed a dizzying rise in cyber sexual crimes targeting girls and adolescents.

When **South Korea** came before the UN CEDAW Committee in 2024, as Country Rapporteur for South Korea, in my constructive dialogue, I said to South Korea:

"*the significant rise of anti-feminist rhetoric offline, parallels a culture of anti-feminism rapidly proliferating among young men online.*"

Further, in the Concluding Observations, I emphasized the government's obligation to develop a regulatory framework to address: "*The increasing use of new digital technologies for online gender-based violence, including cyberstalking, harassment, doxing and the non-consensual sharing of intimate images, the proliferation of artificial intelligence-generated sexually explicit media, deepfake videos, synthetic media, slut-shaming, trolling, cyber-flashing, gendered hate speech, disinformation, misinformation, cyber smear campaigns, and online pornography which commodify and objectify women's bodies.*"

Last month, as Country Rapporteur to, **Thailand**, I said the same to Thailand which is poised to build South East Asia's Silicon Valley and called upon the State to combat:

"*the rising misogyny in the online and offline "manosphere" through policymaking;*" and to replace the culture of misogyny with a culture of respect and to:
"*To exercise due diligence in the private sector, particularly in the innovation economy; and adopt safeguards to address AI-aided accounts that amplify and magnify hate speech, misinformation and fake news.*"

I was also the Country Rapporteur to **Tuvalu** – which is facing a climate emergency because of rising waters and has created the world's first digital twin even as the country disappears into the sea. This digital state exists on meta and can create its own challenges: "Develop a framework for digital governance and cybersecurity that protects the rights of women and girls, including their right to privacy on metaverse;"
Digital governance is integral to good governance and the rule of law. The weaponizing of technology will make conflict more lethal—AI-enabled cyber-attacks can destroy networks and AI-enabled decision-making can transform conflict and warfare tactics. Moreover, cyberspace is a new battlefield for nation-states in conflict and crisis.

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[1] This presentation relies on some of my current and upcoming publications, including: A Rapidly Shifting Landscape : Why Digitized Violence is the Newest Category of Gender-Based Violence (University of Pennsylvania Law School), "GENDERING THE NEW INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON CYBERCRIMES AND NEW NORM" by Rangita de Silva de Alwis (Washington Journal of Law, Technology and Arts), The U.N. Cybercrime Convention Is a Promethean Moment | The Regulatory Review (University of Pennsylvania Law School), "Equitable Ecosystem: A Two-Pronged Approach to Equity in Artificial I" by Rangita de Silva de Alwis (Michigan Journal of Law and Technology) and the forthcoming publication and research at Oxford's Internet Institute, " We Take Our Values to War."

[2] I have replaced "souls" with "minds."

In **Fiji** at the constructive dialogue, I referenced the deplatforming of women as a threat to deliberative democracy. I asked the government, *"Given that several women public leaders have been targeted, would you consider specific provisions criminalizing the sharing of nonconsensual intimate partner images?"* I said, *"The consequences are dire. Online abuse deplatforms women in leadership creating a chilling effect on women in political office and public life and violating women's democratic deliberations and information integrity."* Further, I asked, *"With the rapid pace of technology development, and the dizzying changes in AI, what specific ways are you working with platform providers like Tik Tok and meta to address gendered hate speech, disinformation, and misinformation?"*

Referring to the recent online bullying of women in leadership, including a recent complaint by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Fiji a former UN Special Rapporteur, I emphasized that:

"Image-based abuse or revenge porn is pervasive and destructive, disrupting women's lives and public careers in Fiji. Women and girls experience ten times more online violence than men in Fiji."

I am glad to acknowledge Dinesha Samararatne, a legal scholar and a member of the Constitutional Commission here.

Echoing the online threats against women in public life in Fiji, the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka in its submission to the UN CEDAW Committee earlier in the year expressed its grave concern with respect to the alarming number of incidents of abuse, harassment, and defamation directed at women politicians and political activists on social media platforms.

The Commission underscored this trend of targeting women in the public sphere, threatening their safety, dignity, and rights to privacy and equality.

Highlighting the case studies of two women parliamentarians, Hon. Nilanthi Kottahachchi and Hon. Kaushalya Ariyarathne, the Commission illustrated the automated disinformation which magnifies and amplifies the attacks on women in public leadership and the assault on their personal and professional lives.

Further, the Commission exposed the augmented impact of online harassment, ranging from cyberbullying and 'doxing' to non-consensual sharing of personal content, and how it has created a hostile digital environment for women, discouraging women's active participation in the public, professional, and personal spheres.

In its submission to the UN CEDAW, the Commission examined the way such online behavior is punishable under Sri Lanka's Section 345 of the Penal Code provides that causing sexual annoyance or harassment through words or actions amounts to an offence and violates the Women Empowerment Act, of 2024, which enshrines legal protections and institutional support for women.

The Human Rights Commission argued that harm mitigation should include, removing harmful content, engagement of all academic institutions and fostering a culture of respect and accountability in online spaces. Furthermore, the Commission called for adequate resources

for the effective implementation of the Women Empowerment Act, and the establishment of the Women's Commission.

Gendered forms of online hate speech have indirectly resulted in a chilling effect on the online public square and the shrinking of civic space and the erasure of women in public life. Women have sometimes left public office or have been discouraged from running for political or public office due to potential online threats to them and their families. As mentioned by the Human Rights Commission, women parliamentarians, women in political life and decision-making, women journalists, and women human rights defenders may be doubly attacked creating a chilling effect on democratic deliberations. The de-platforming women's voices undermine equal access to the digital public space and erodes women's freedom of expression.

My next section on comparative and supranational efforts to address cybercrimes, provides policy imperatives to the Sri Lankan legislative, justice and academic ecosystems.

In November 2024, Diego "N," a student in **Mexico City** was accused of using AI to alter photographs of female classmates for sexual exploitation. This trial is the first in Latin America involving digital violence with the use of AI and is expected to be the first sentence in the world in this type of case.

Diego "N' was allegedly selling over 20,000 photos of his minor age classmates in Telegram groups. These photographs were allegedly taken from the victims' social networks and then altered using AI.

Diego 'N' also faces charges of human trafficking in the form of child pornography. The use of AI in illicit activities against minors is becoming more common. With the use of AI even a harmless video of a child can become images from which an algorithm can generate sexual material.

Olimpia Coral, authored the **Olimpia Law,** a set of legislative reforms in Mexico City that aim to punish crimes that violate sexual intimacy through digital means.

Olimpia was 18 when a private video she had filmed with her long-term boyfriend began to circulate via WhatsApp. Faced with abuse online and in person, Olimpia didn't leave her house for eight months and attempted suicide multiple times.

The **Olimpia Law** specific to Mexico City, safeguards individuals from the creation and dissemination of intimate images without their consent.

Our Human Rights Commission's recommendations for engagement of academic institutions finds resonance with the **South African** government's National Strategic Plan on Gender Based Violence and Femicide in 2024 which announced plans to collaborate with academic institutions to conduct research studies on the impact of online violence against women.

The justice system is key to combating cyber violence. The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) has addressed digital violence, particularly technology-facilitated gender-based violence in a very recent case, *M. Ș. D. v. Romania*, where the judgment was given in March of 2025

The ECtHR found that the Romanian state failed to adequately protect a woman from online violence perpetrated by her ex-boyfriend, who posted intimate images of her on escort websites and shared them with her family. V.C,A, the ex- boyfriend had made four fake Facebook accounts and had used them to disseminate the applicant's photographs publicly with the aim of denigrating the applicant and affecting her rights to dignity and to her own image. The

applicant, who was eighteen years of age at that time, met V.C.A., on the Facebook social media platform. The Court was of the view that V.C.A.'s acts, were criminal in nature and an infringement on both the public interest and the infringement on the victims physical or psychological integrity.

Similarly, *Volodina v. Russia* involved the non-consensual dissemination of intimate images, where fake social media accounts in Volodina's name emerged on Instagram. In its analysis, the European Court of Human Rights drew on multiple international sources, to define "revenge porn" as an assault on physical and psychological integrity.

In both cases, the European Court of Human Rights held that online violence, or "cyberviolence", is closely linked with offline, or "real-life", gender- based violence.

In September 2023, the **UK adopted the Online Safety Act,** one of the most wide-ranging efforts by a Western democracy to oversee digital discourse, with a specific focus on safeguarding children and addressing their mental health challenges including the potential to self-harm and suicide. The bill defines "primary priority content that is harmful to children " as " content which encourages, promotes or provides instructions " for " suicide, " "suicidal ideation" " an act of deliberate self-injury, " and " an eating disorder. "

These are policy imperatives for Sri Lanka's National Child Protection Authority and its cybercrime division which expands cybercrimes to cover, physical or mental harm, or loss, to the victim directly or indirectly.

I have argued that although the direct physical act of sexual violence is different from online violence, there are also similarities. First, both acts share the structural gender and intersectional inequities that lie at the root of such conduct. Second, paralleling the defense that women and girls are free to leave an abusive relationship, the defense that women and girls are free to leave an abusive online environment denies their right to assembly and expression in the online public square.

On December 24, 2024, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a treaty entitled **"Countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes."** The treaty is also known as the **Cybercrime Convention**. The Cybercrime Convention is the first international criminal justice treaty of the 21st century and was supported by Sri Lanka.

The treaty illustrates four specific gendered crimes:

1. **Online Grooming**: Although not defined in the Convention, Grooming is a part of a chilling sexual abuse that involves gaining access to the child through sequential relationship forming. Experts have sometimes distinguished between "contact" groomers and ""fantasy" groomers. Fantasy groomers simply use their sexualized conversations with children as material for auto-erotic gratification. The Convention calls upon domestic law to address "intentionally communicating, soliciting, grooming, or making any arrangement through IT technology systems for the purpose of committing a sexual offence against a child."

Approximately 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 20 boys are victims of such abuse in the world. **In Sri Lanka, a 2021 study by "Save the Children" on online violence in urban and semi-urban settlements in Sri Lanka found that over 28% of the child participants had experienced some kind of online violence with girls constituting a higher proportion of violence.**

2. **Cyber-Trafficking**: Over the last few decades, social media platforms such as Facebook, Snapchat, WhatsApp, and Xbox Live have also been used to recruit victims, largely women and children, through either direct messaging or "catfishing." Cyberspace can also serve as a platform for cybercrimes to target, harass, and traffic women and girls for terrorist purposes. For example, ISIS and Boko Haram used cyberspace—including through videos, blogs, and social media messaging—to recruit young girls.

3. **The Nonconsensual Distribution of Intimate Images**: A University of Exeter study shows that females disproportionately suffer intimate image abuse, otherwise known as "revenge porn."

A MIT study reveals that more than 90 percent of deepfake victims are women who experience online sexual harassment and nonconsensual deepfake porn.

4. **Cyber Scams:** According to the Sri Lanka Computer Emergency Readiness Team, in 2024, approximately 9,500 cybercrime cases were reported in Sri Lanka in the first 10 months of the past year. Cyber scams also target women and impact them differently. Cybercrimes are exploiting AI to engage in identity theft scams, which poses a threat to personal and financial security. Cyberattacks that target women include malware, ransomware, Trojan horses, and denial-of-service attacks. As a result of these attacks, women can lose access to critical information that ensures their personal safety, both in and outside the intimate sphere,

Data breaches may also carry differentiated gendered effects. In cases where medical data is exposed, for example, revealing the personal information of women—such as in relation to reproductive care—might have harmful gendered consequences.

For example, in July 2016, São Paulo, Brazil was crippled by a data breach exposing the personal data of an estimated 650,000 patients in the Brazilian public health system. This breach exposed critical information on reproductive care. Information and data on women's health—including menstrual cycles, pregnancy, and birth control—are increasingly vulnerable to cybersecurity risks, especially when leaked data can enable personal information to be used against women offline.

The gendered silences in the UN Convention must be filled by national legislation drafted in compliance with the new Convention. The hope is that cybercrime will be recognized as a form of economic and structural violence with gendered implications and will be included as a new category of gender-based violence in Sri Lanka's policy framework.

AI: The Promise and the Peril

Exponential advances in AI are already transforming how we live, learn, and fear.

Pornographic deepfakes reinforce a culture that commodifies and objectifies women's bodies. Pornographic deepfakes have become the new sites for gender-based violence against women and technology-facilitated abuse. MIT research suggests that more than ninety-five percent of deepfake videos on the Internet in 2019 were pornographic and that 99 percent of those targeted are women or girls.

AI-powered "undressing" or "nudification" apps generate sexually explicit deepfakes from real images without consent, spawning fear of image-based sexual abuse. These fears have inspired a number of child safety advocates and national organizations to publish parental advisories and other warnings about the dangers associated with undressing apps used to target young

girls" The nudification apps are where capable of "undressing" images of women because the AI models that power these platforms are primarily trained on data limited to the bodies and body parts most commonly associated with women. In fact, the marketing language in one such nudification app, advertises the app as the "male gaze on female bodies."

Technology-facilitated gender-based violence, like other forms of gender-based violence against women, is about power, and power imbalances. The AI revolution, including large language models and generative AI, reproduces old power disparities and creates new ones both online and offline.

Data is not inherently neutral; data control itself is a form of power. Large language models (LLMs) are trained on vast amounts of text data. The bias in the training data is baked into algorithms leading to algorithmic bias and automated bias.

It has also never been so easy to produce false videos, audio, and text through content that deep-learning AI has generated and synthesized. MIT researchers have also concluded that "falsehood diffuses significantly farther, faster, deeper, and more broadly than the truth, in all categories of information, and in many cases by an order of magnitude." They found specifically that falsehoods travels six times faster than truths.

Tech companies must comply with international human rights standards, including CEDAW's human rights guarantees. One solution, for instance, would be to consider deepfakes as a violation of consent and to require developers to remove deepfake content from their data training. In June of this year, Meta filed a law suit against CrushAI, the nudification app and pledged to taking other steps to clamp down on nudification apps.

The anonymity provided by the digital realm facilitates violence, and the automation capabilities offered by technology amplify the scope and impact of abusive behavior. Moreover, geographic distance emboldens the pile-on effect in the online space, where multiple offenders from disparate locations can join forces in harassing and bullying a single woman, shaping a culture of sexism and misogyny.

The UN CEDAW Committee has also discerned the burgeoning and unanticipated challenges of AI development and is applying a human rights approach to hold State parties and the private sector accountable to due diligence obligations to address gendered harm through risk prevention, harm reduction, and risk mitigation based on the CEDAW's accountability principles.

Technology's Double-Edged Sword

The UN CEDAW Committee's GR 40 acknowledges that frontier of technology offers unprecedented opportunities to women as long as women are at the forefront driving AI's promise and the promise of parity. As Professor Daniela Ross, the woman who leads MIT's AI Lab and whose academic robe I wear like a magic cape today, has said, "AI has the potential to surpass human capabilities…." In a time of quantum leaps in technology, it is time to harness AI to solve humanities greatest challenges. Daniela invites us to join her in inventing a future where "computational approaches for designing robots are made out of a wide range of materials – including silicone, paper, even food – and their brains enable new applications." She writes:

Among these applications are robots that swim like fish and move like turtles, and that enable incision-free surgeries.

AI has demonstrated transformative potential in the Global South. From disaster relief in Nepal, to AI-guided drones to deliver essential medical supplies to remote clinics in Rwanda, to telemedicine in Pakistan, AI has played a significant role in health care.

However, the promise of AI is often stalked by a shadow of doubt about fairness, trust, and explainability. Chief among them is that women hold significantly fewer roles of power and influence in decision making in the 100 top AI corporations in the world. Men lead 90 percent of them.

Second is that data points are snapshots of the world we live in, reflecting real-world biases and the large data gaps we see are partly due to the gender digital divide. No industry illustrates this better than in health care. As Prof. Anuruddhi Edirisinghe, the indefatigable medical scientist may know this well; men and male bodies have long been the standard for medical testing. Scholars have highlighted the garbage in- garbage out problem in training data sets for AI, showing how the lack of diversity in the data sets can result in inaccurate diagnosis in the health care system. For example, an AI algorithm that learns from historical electronic health record data may not, for example, recommend testing for cardiac ischemia for women, delaying potentially lifesaving treatment. Apart from de biasing the data sets, transparency and diversity in the selected data sets may increase the level of accuracy in AI- enabled medical devices and thus avoid an institutional or structural form of violence against women.

The large gender data gaps we see are partly due to the gender digital divide. Many institutions make decisions based on AI systems using machine learning, whereby a series of algorithms learn from massive amounts of data to find patterns and make predictions.

In keeping with the UN CEDAW's emerging General Recommendation no. 41, we are concerned that stereotypes as structural forms of biases are embedded in code and can accumulate to create significant obstacles and barriers to the advancement of women, especially women of intersectional identity.

Categories of Violence: A Cascade Effect and the Rise of the "Manosphere"

Additionally, there is a concerning trend of AI-powered chatbots and online forums providing spaces for abusers to share tactics and strategies for further harming their virtual partners. This is increasingly being referred to as the manosphere.

The emergence of large language models (LLMs), and machine learning continues to create power disparities. **Writing recently, MIT's Noam Chomsky, one of the world's leading linguists, warns us: "machine learning...will degrade our science and debase our ethics by incorporating into our technology a fundamentally flawed conception of language and knowledge**. "

While the #MeToo movement was a key inflection point that galvanized a new era of digital feminist activism, this moment of generative AI is sparking fresh concerns about synthetic media and deepfakes. Digital sexual violence is rapidly changing with the dizzying changes in AI. These online spaces offer a dystopian forum that can amplify inequality and magnify violence against women. Technology has outpaced legal reform, and even our ability to envision new forms of online harms and digital violence in social media sites and online games.

I present three elements of harm. Firstly, a notable characteristic is the ability for offenders to remain anonymous to their victims. This veil of anonymity provided by the digital realm not only enables their actions but also emboldens them in their abusive behavior. Secondly, the geographical distance facilitated by online platforms allows offenders to engage in abusive conduct from afar, without the need for physical proximity or even being in the same country

as their victims. This geographical detachment provides a sense of impunity for the offenders. Thirdly, the automation capabilities offered by technology amplify the scope and impact of abusive behavior. Offenders can exploit technological tools to perpetrate their abuse more efficiently and with minimal effort. Moreover, the pile-on effect is a significant concern in the online space, where multiple offenders can join forces in harassing and bullying a sole individual.

Technology-driven violence has a shape-shifting quality. It has the effect of blurring the lines between the real and the virtual worlds of violence against women and girls in a way that these parallel worlds collide and explode.

Postscript: Warfare and AI

The next great challenge is AI-driven lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS). The U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres has maintained that LAWS are "morally repugnant" and that LAWS propel humanity to a "knife's edge." In a recent report, the SG has called for a legally binding instrument by 2026 to prohibit LAWS that function without human control and violate international humanitarian law and human rights.

Sri Lanka co – sponsored the GA resolution 78/241 on lethal autonomous weapons systems, where the UN Secretary-General sought the views of Member States and observer States on lethal autonomous weapons systems, inter alia, on ways to address the related challenges and concerns that they raised from humanitarian, legal, security, technological and ethical perspectives and on the role of humans in the use of force.

Artificial intelligence is set to transform military operations across various domains, from autonomous weapon systems to cyber warfare capabilities. These advancements promise greater precision, reduced human casualties, and improved strategic decision-making. However, they also raise critical questions about the future of warfare and the development of LAWS and drone warfare has led to a series of moral, ethical and legal conundrums regarding these systems' potential violation of international humanitarian law in action.

The integration of new technologies in warfare also risks potentially magnifying the gendered biases already embedded in the data. Ireland's submission on LAWS to the Secretary General called for alignment of LAWS in compliance with IHL) and also gender considerations, including intersectional gender considerations.

Ireland stated:

"The consequences of bias in machine learning are amplified in a military context, Women of colour may be misrecognized at a higher rate leaving them exposed to differential risks."

Fiji has asserted: "*Algorithmic bias in autonomous weapons systems is a major concern, especially for historically marginalized populations. These systems could perpetuate racial, gender and other biases, leading to disproportionate harm to some groups. The reliance on data from sensors to apply force can embed systemic prejudices into the decision-making processes."*

While algorithms are only as reliable as the data used to train them, AI systems require massive datasets, and numerous studies have unmasked gender biases in both the data and the gender asymmetry among those designing the systems.

Machine learning systems may rely on biased data leading to the mis-categorization of targets. These risks include the misidentification of women and other civilians. The systemic and historic gender biases embedded in the design of algorithms can be baked into autonomous weapons. The consequences of encoded bias are heightened in military applications and run the risk of exposing women to differential risks.

"We Take our Values to War"

My current study at Oxford borrows its name, "We Take our Values to War" from the 2017 testimony to the US Senate Armed Services Committee, by then-Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Paul Selva. He stated, …*"because we take our values to war .... I do not think it is reasonable for us to put robots in charge of whether or not we take a human life.*"

Technological advancement is ushering in a new global order in relation to warfare, raising questions at the intersection of the law and war. In current and future disputes, machines do and will continue to make life-and-death decisions without the help of human decision-making.

In both present and foreseeable conflicts, machines are increasingly poised to make autonomous decisions with lethal consequences, raising profound legal, ethical, and humanitarian concerns. Particularly concerning the **Principles of Distinction, Proportionality and Precaution under International Humanitarian Law (IHL).**

The principle of distinction requires parties to an armed conflict to distinguish between combatants and civilians, as well as between military and civilian objects. A cardinal rule of IHL is that civilians must be distinguished from combatants. The principle of proportionality functions as a limiting factor and prohibits attacks against otherwise legitimate military objectives where the impact of the attack in terms of death or injury to civilians and/or damage to civilian objects is expected to be excessive compared to the military gain sought.

As artificial intelligence becomes increasingly integrated into decision-making systems, including those used in Israel's and other military operations, we must apply these fundamental principles of International Humanitarian Law, especially the Martens Clause **or the principle of humanity which functions as a norm of customary international law to ensure that "dictates of public conscience" govern all decisions in conflict.**

The concerns of historic gender and other intersectional bias in AI can no longer be elided. Contrary to the assumption that removing human decision-makers and relying on algorithmic systems diminishes bias, empirical evidence suggests that such reliance may magnify and amplify existing forms of discrimination.

If AI is taught—either through explicit instruction or learned patterns—to associate certain demographic characteristics with negative outcomes, it will replicate and reinforce those biases. In fact, machine learning has the capability to adapt its performance by analyzing data patterns through complex algorithms and statistical models which can manifest new forms of digitized bias.

These biases manifest in what is often referred to as the "black box" nature of AI: the internal processes of algorithmic decision-making are frequently opaque, making it difficult to discern how particular inputs yield specific outputs. Inputs are shaped by human programmers whose decisions reflect both conscious and unconscious biases. Consequently, when these biased inputs are fed into machine learning systems, they can result in prejudiced outcomes.

Compounding this is the phenomenon where AI systems "learn" to discriminate by identifying and replicating patterns found in historical data—patterns that may reflect longstanding societal inequities.

This is a centerpiece of the advanced addendum to the UN CEDAW GR 30 that I have been invited to draft to mark the 25th Anniversary of the UN Women Peace and Security Agenda. In today's talk, I have peeled back one small layer of the Addendum for you.

The Algorithmic Divide

Beyond issues of bias, a new and widening chasm—the algorithmic divide—threatens global equity in AI deployment. Analogous to the earlier digital divide, the algorithmic divide refers to disparities in access to algorithm-enhanced technologies. Individuals and communities lacking access to AI systems are excluded from the economic, educational, and social opportunities these technologies afford.

This divide is particularly acute in the Global South, where algorithmic infrastructure, digital literacy, and computational resources are limited.

At a minimum, a human-centric approach to LAWS preserves human judgment and maintains human accountability in decisions involving the use of force. Ultimately, the challenge is not to build more ethical AI systems to be used in conflict, but to ensure that AI is harnessed equitably to prevent conflict and human suffering.

Now for the final epilogue.

In my previous scholarship, I have discussed the marriage of law and critical information theory. Prof. Maithree Wickremesinghe has urged me to examine another layer of complexity, the emerging theory of "Post human critical theory." Post human critical theory does not imply that it can "automatically undo power relations based on class, gender, race, sexuality, age or disability." In fact, Ross Braidotti, Distinguished Professor at Utrecht University argues that the posthuman realm differs in "location, power, accountability, and potestas." In the final analysis, we come together at an inflection point in the AI revolution and the confluence of global challenges to multilateralism, the global rules-based order, gender equality, and to academic independence at leading US academic institutions. At this moment in time, I congratulate the Centre for Gender Studies for its continuum of research across different realms, questioning power and potestas from a feminist lens, for its history as a forerunner in institutionalizing principles of gender equity and equality within the Sri Lankan higher education ecosystem, and for informing the next generation of scholars across disciplines to elevate the full potential of our collective humanity.

Satya Nadella, the head of Microsoft, often quotes the Nobel prize winning poet, T.S. Eliot's "Little Gidding":

We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started

ICCP '25 Symposium

Child Abuse Management: Challenges and Successes; Lessons from Different Countries

Child Abuse Management Challenges and Successes - Lessons from Australia

Dr. John A.M. Gall
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The management of child abuse (incorporating sexual and physical abuse, and neglect) in Australia and the UK, despite its prevalence and adverse effect upon the child, is not necessarily optimal. Management presents many challenges especially as it often involves multiple practitioners and agencies. Not all practitioners have the necessary training and the involved agencies do not always work with optimal cooperation both internally and externally. The outcome is a fragmented system that results in some children either remaining under abusive guardians or being removed from guardians who were not abusive in the first place. Too frequently, failings adversely affect the child and disrupt the family, and may result in unnecessary deaths. An optimal system of managing child abuse and neglect should be one that is outcome based and not process based. To address some of these issues and to ensure optimal medical outcomes, a hospital-based unit was established in Melbourne in 2006. This unit, the Victorian Forensic Pediatric Medical Service, services a population of 6.7 million people (one third of the population of Sri Lanka) located in an area three times that of Sri Lanka. Based at the Royal Children's Hospital and Monash Children's Hospital, it functions on a 'hub and spoke' model where the spokes are the regional hospitals. The service has evolved into a center of excellence for child abuse and forensic pediatric medicine providing direct benefits to the patients, their families and the judicial system, and provides an ideal template for quality Pediatric medical services. The establishment of similar specialist units would be a crucial step toward addressing the current deficiencies in service provision in jurisdictions around the world.

Child Abuse Management Challenges and Successes - Lessons from Thailand

Dr. Anirut Worawat
MD, MSc (Health Science Education)

Deputy Director of Strategy & Planning, Phrapokklao Hospital, Thailand

This presentation examines the intricate landscape of child abuse management in Thailand, focusing on both the successes achieved and the persistent challenges encountered when assisting victims of violence. Drawing upon relevant data and practical experiences within the Thai context, the discussion illuminates the operational framework of victim support, particularly through the multidisciplinary approach adopted by agencies like the One Stop Crisis Center (OSCC). We will analyze trends in reported sexual assault cases, highlighting the significant proportion involving child victims.

A key focus will be the interaction between victim assistance efforts and the legal system. The presentation will discuss the application of relevant Thai legal frameworks, including the Criminal Code, the Child Protection Act, and the Domestic Violence Victim Protection Act. Furthermore, it will critically address the challenges inherent in criminal procedural processes and their impact on case progression and attrition rates. Difficulties in data collection and analysis, as well as specific issues within reporting procedures, such as the requirements for filing reports and limitations on mandatory reporting for sexual offenses, will be explored in detail.

By sharing lessons learned from the Thai experience, this presentation seeks to foster a deeper understanding of the complexities involved in supporting victims of violence and to stimulate dialogue on effective strategies for overcoming existing obstacles and enhancing protective measures for children.

Child Abuse Management Challenges and Successes - Lessons from India

Professor (Dr.) Adarsh Kumar
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Child abuse or maltreatment constitutes all forms of physical and/or emotional ill treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there were an estimated 57, 000 deaths attributed to homicide among children under 15 years of age within the year 2000. Also, statistics provided by WHO (2018) indicates that one out of four adults have been abused during their childhood. Globally, it is estimated that up to 1 billion children aged 2–17 years, have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence or neglect as reported by WHO (2021). It is a fact that child abuse can happen to any family, no matter what their race, religion or socioeconomic background is.

India which has now got the dubious distinction of being the most populous country in the world also has the largest population of children in the world. As per current statistics India has a population of 444 million children below the age of 18 and almost one-fourth i.e., 360 million of India's population is in the age group of 0-14 years. Protection of children by the state is guaranteed under Article 21 of the Indian constitution, and mandated since India's is signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Child sexual abuse laws in India have been enacted as part of the nation's child protection policies. The Parliament of India enacted 'Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences Act' (POCSO) in 2012. The number of cases registered for child abuse raised from 8,904 in the year 2014 to 14,913 in the year 2015, under the POCSO Act. In the year 2020, there were 47,221 POCSO cases out of 1,28,531 cases of crime against children and 47,335 of 1,48,185 such cases in 2019. As per the latest NCRB report in 2019, 1,48,185 crimes against children were reported which means that each day over 400 such crimes are committed in the country.

The age of the child has also been defined under different acts as different, for example, Indian Factories Act as 14 years, Juvenile Justice Act as 16 years earlier and 18 years since 2000. Under the POCSO act age of child has been defined as 18 years further making it a gender-neutral offence which is distinct from Rape. Younger children are at a greater risk of abuse than older children. Early diagnosis is most important for further prevention of all kinds of abuse. Evaluation of a child with suspected abuse by a multidisciplinary team comprising of a Pediatrician, Child psychiatrist, Forensic Medicine Expert, Medical Social Service Officers/Workers is the need of the hour which has given rise to the concept of placing a "One Stop Help Centre". In case of the suspected death of a child, the role of forensic medicine

experts become even more crucial in unearthing various evidences. We have seen cases registered against 12-years old boys with victims as young as 17 years girls, as well as a minor girl getting pregnant, delivering a baby and then getting married with the accused individual itself, making it even more complex to deal with. The talk will dwell deeper into these medico-socio-legal aspects and they share the experiences of handling a variety of such interesting cases.

Child Abuse Management Challenges and Successes - Lessons from Sri Lanka

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Senior Professor, Cadre Chair, Department of Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya

Although child abuse has been reported in Sri Lanka, a systematic multi-disciplinary management came to be highlighted in the 1990s. Sri Lanka ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1991. However, with the establishment of the National Child Protection Authority in 1998, the topic of child protection has become a buzz word. The rights and laws of children gained prominence and one of the key achievements was the elimination of child labor, especially using children in domestic work.

Responding to and the management of children subjected to violence needs multi-faceted coordination and services from health, law enforcement, criminal justice as well as social services. Although pediatricians, with the support from specialists of forensic medicine and psychiatrists, have initiated a multidisciplinary management of child abuse/maltreatment initiation from the health sector, ever since the early 2000s, the services were not equal within the country. In this journey, the release of two national guidelines in 2014 was a key milestone in the success journey. One guideline is titled as 'Guideline on management of child abuse and neglect' by the Sri Lanka College of Pediatricians and the other is titled 'National Guideline on examination, reporting and management of sexually abused survivors for medico-legal purpose' published by the College of Forensic Pathologists of Sri Lanka. Even though both guidelines were piloted, and training was given to initiate the multidisciplinary management of child abuse/maltreatment from within the health sector, ever since the early 2000s, services are not equal throughout the country even after 25 years, especially within the other sectors. The Essential Service Package for Women and Girls Subjected to Violence was released in 2018 by the WHO which also helped define minimum standards for all sectors.

The infrastructure development was a slow-moving process, due to financial constraints; yet there have been considerable developments over the past 25 years especially in the provision of forensic medical services to children. Recently the Sri Lanka Police underwent several improvements where separate child friendly units were created for services specifically to children. Although several NGOs run child care centers, especially for abused children who are pregnant or don't have parents/caregivers, services are not available throughout the country. One of the most remarkable achievements in the management of child abuse in recent years is the conversion guidelines to the SOP 8 years after its implementation. The Ministry of Health released the 'Standard Operational Procedure (SOP) to be used in Sri Lanka's Government Hospitals for the Management of Children who have faced violence in 2023. Further, country law has been additionally strengthened with the newly amended act 'Assistance to and

Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses 2023' where rights of the victims including health and psychosocial care are assured. However, the first safe house named 'Lama piyasa' which provides survivor centered care, which was initiated by the health sector commenced its work in 2015, and the 2nd establishment will start operations in 2025 in the Southern province. Although several safe houses were initiated under various projects prior to 2015, the sustainability was poor.

In the meantime, the training of police officers and probation officers regarding the management of abused children has strengthened. Child friendly spaces within Women's and Children's desks in police stations have ensured better service together with improved training. Incorporating training on guidelines and the SOP into the medical curricula has improved the care provided within Sri Lanka since 2015. Developing separate subspecialities such as community pediatrics and child and adolescent psychiatry positively responds to the journey. Even though several positive steps have been taken for a better system, one of the most problematic areas in Sri Lanka is the judicial response, highlighting the delays. Research have shown it takes 6-14 years to finalize a judgement. Thus, the biggest challenge is the justice delayed, thus denying justice altogether. Psychosocial management of children and social care is lagging. Allocating a specialized unit to investigate into violence against children and women in Sri Lanka Police is still a challenge while quality social care services including probation officers lack the expected standards.

Presently, the quality service of child abuse management is based on how enthusiastic the relevant management team is. Therefore, the biggest challenge is to develop a positive attitude towards the multidisciplinary management of an abused child where the relevant group of experts work together for the betterment of the abused child. Hindrance also comes from within because many professionals are trained to work within their boxes where services are delivered when the needy come to them. Therefore, these services need to be more victim-centered rather than caregiver-centered. Thus, the services of institutions such as one-stop-crisis centers/safe homes, where all stake holders give services under one-roof, needs to be promoted.

Victim-centered services where law enforcement, health and social services come hand in hand will be a big challenge in a country like Sri Lanka where patriarchal and power-structured systems are prevalent. Therefore, if we were to bring changes, we need to unlearn some of these attitudes and beliefs while re-learning to work together. Thus, a developing country like ours should invest in professional training while also attending to the development of infrastructure. Any service improvement is not possible unless regular review processes are implemented. Therefore, regular audits and the implementation of quality assured systems is the way forward.

Panel Discussion

Ending Violence Against Children - Sri Lanka's Pledges to Action

Moderators

- **Mihlar Mohammad Abdul Malik**, Child Protection Officer, UNICEF Sri Lanka

Mihlar Mohamed Abdul Malik serves as a Child Protection Officer at UNICEF Sri Lanka, where he plays a pivotal role in advancing child rights and driving social development initiatives. With over 20 years of experience in child protection and community development, Mihlar has made significant contributions at both national and regional levels. In Sri Lanka, he has been instrumental in leading comprehensive alternative care reforms, including the development and provincial rollout the National Alternative Care Policy. Mihlar has also played a key role in strengthening the child protection system, with a strong emphasis on violence prevention and systemic capacity building. He holds a Master's degree in Sociology and a Bachelor's degree in Business Management, combining academic insight with practical expertise.

- **Buddhini Withana**, Senior Technical Advisor, Child Protection and Child Rights in Business Save the Children Sri Lanka

Buddhini Withana is the Senior Technical Advisor – Child Protection at Save the Children Sri Lanka. She holds a Master's Degree in Childhood Studies from the University of Edinburgh. She is a NCFE UK certified leading edge child protection practitioner with over 15 years of experience in child protection. At global level, Buddhini is a member of Save the Children's Technical Leadership Group on Child Protection. She is also a final year PhD candidate at the School of Health in Social Sciences at the University of Edinburgh, UK.

Discussion Topics

o "Ending Violence Against Children: Sri Lanka's Legal & Policy Pledges"

o "The Lifelong Impact of Violence: From Childhood Corporal Punishment to Adolescent Mental Health"

o "Creating Safe Schools: Implementing the Ban on Corporal Punishment & Promoting Positive Discipline"

o "Building a Continuum of CM and Child Sensitive Services for Survivors"

o "Investing in Protection: Child Protection and Gender Budgeting in Sri Lanka"

Panel Participants

Ayesha Jinasena
PC, Secretary to the Ministry of Justice and National Integration

K.D.R. Olga
Secretary to the Minister of Women and Child Affairs

Mrs. K.D.R. Olga   is the Secretary to the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs. Before assuming the duty as the Secretary Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, she was the Additional Secretary of the Ministry Labour and Foreign Employment of Sri Lanka. Previously she held the post of Secretary to the Ministry of Energy Sri Lanka from August 2020 to April 2022. Until she has been appointed as the Secretary to the Ministry of Energy Sri Lanka in August 2020, Mrs. K.D.R. Olga held different senior positions in the General Treasury of Sri Lanka, including as the Director General, Department of Treasury Operation and Director General of Department of State Accounts.

Her experience in the General Treasury is more than 17 years and her service was more preciously in the fields of financial management, budgeting and public procurement. Also she has obtained foreign exposure in the relevant areas participating the various international training programmes, workshops and seminars. She holds a Master (MA) Degree in Financial Economics (University of Colombo, Sri Lanka) and a Bachelor of Science (BSc) (Special) Degree in Business Administration (University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka). She is an associate member of Chartered Public Finance Accountant (CPFA) of the Public Sector wing of Chartered Institute of Sri Lanka and Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountancy (CIPFA) - UK

Teona Aslanishvili
Chief, Child Protection UNICEF Sri Lanka

Ms. Teona Aslanishvili has been serving as the Chief of Child Protection with UNICEF Sri Lanka since July 2024. She brings 18 years of professional experience in a range of child protection issues, violence, alternative care, legislative reforms, access to justice, social services workforce strengthening, child protection system strengthening, mental health, migration and displacement programming. Prior to joining UNICEF Sri Lanka, Ms. Aslanishvili was heading UNICEF's large-scale emergency child protection programme for the Ukrainian refugees in Slovakia. Between 2019 and 2022, she served as UNICEF's Regional Child Protection Specialist in Middle East and North Africa Region, and as the Child Protection Specialist with UNICEF in Myanmar (2014-2019) and in Georgia (2011 to 2013). Prior to joining UNICEF, she has consulted governments, think tanks and civil society organizations on child protection, youth engagement and youth labour force participation issues. In these different roles Ms. Aslanishvili has worked in her native country Georgia, as well as in Middle East, North Africa, Southeast Asia and Europe. Ms. Aslanishvili holds two masters' degrees – in Human Rights and in psychology.

Preethika Sakalasuriya
Director, Legal, National Child Protection Authority Sri Lanka

Suhada Gamlath
PC, Chairperson, National Victim and Witness Protection Authority

Gayani Wijesinghe
National Commissioner, Department of Probation Commissioner

The Commissioner of Probation and Child Care Services at the central government. With extensive experience in child rights and welfare, Ms. Gayani Kaushalya leads nationwide efforts to protect vulnerable children, develop policies, and ensure the implementation of child protection initiatives across all levels. A dedicated advocate for children's rights, Ms. Gayani Kaushalya oversees strategic planning, staff training, and resource coordination to uphold and promote the welfare and development of children in need.

Prof. Miyuru Chandradasa

Miyuru Chandradasa is a Professor in Psychiatry, a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist and the Head of the Department of Psychiatry, University of Kelaniya.

He has published 113 peer-reviewed journal articles, including 83 Scopus-indexed publications over the last decade.

He was previously a Senior Lecturer at Monash University in Australia and the President of the Sri Lanka College of Child & Adolescent Psychiatrists.

Chandima Rathnayake
(Deputy Director of Education) from Co-Curricular Branch,
Ministry of Education, Higher Education & Vocational
Education

Sudarshana De Silva Director, National Budget Department,
Ministry of Finance

Debate - *"News reporting related to children in Sri Lanka can be elevated to a higher standard through an ethical approach"*

Evaluators

Professor Indira Kitulwatte
Department of Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya

Dr. Anusha Edirisinghe
Dean, Faculty of Criminal Justice, General Sir John Kotalawela Defense University

Hon. Nawarathna Marasinghe
High Court Judge at Judiciary

Mediator

Mr. Ashoka Dias

Director, MTV/MBC
MTV Channel Private Limited
MBC Network Private Limited

Debate Teams

Team A - යෝජක පිල	**Team B -** ප්‍රතියෝජක පිල
Topic - මෙරට ළමයින් සම්බන්ධ ප්‍රවෘත්ති වාර්තාකරණය ප්‍රශස්ත මට්ටමකට ගෙන ආ හැක්කේ ආචාරධර්මීය ප්‍රවේශයකිනි. *(News Reporting Related to Children in this Country can be Elevated to a Higher Standard through an Ethical Approach)* *Leader - Duminda Lakmal* • Duminda Lakmal • Lakshika Menikbowa • Sudesh Abeynayaka • Indusha Ashinsani • Mohomad Nafflan	**Topic -** මෙරට ළමයින් සම්බන්ධ ප්‍රවෘත්ති වාර්තාකරණය ප්‍රශස්ත මට්ටමකට ගෙන ආ හැක්කේ ආචාරධර්මීය ප්‍රවේශයකින් නොවේ. *(News Reporting Related to Children in this Country cannot be Elevated to a Higher Standard Through an Ethical Approach)* *Leader - Dhanushka Senarathna* • Sithumini Gunaweera • Dhanushka Senarathna • Harshana Gunawardana • Asinsala Perera • W.A. Shashini Nawodya

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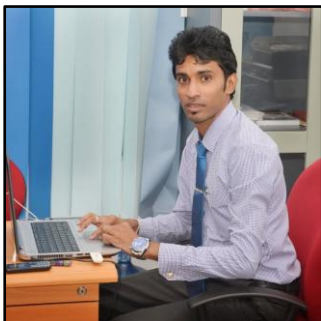*University of Kelaniya*

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ICCP '25 - Pre-Conference Workshops

Pre-Conference Workshop 1

"Multidisciplinary Approaches to Ethical Reporting on Child Protection"

30th June & 1st July, 2025

Day 1

Day 2

Pre-Conference Workshop 2

7th July, 2025

Pre-Conference Workshop 3

July 22nd, 2025

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ICCP '25 - ABSTRACTS

Free Paper Session 1 - Oral Presentation
26th of July, 2025

Room 1 - Child Protection & Health

ICCP/FR/OP/011

Medico-legal issues related to child sexual abuse cases in India: A qualitative review

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Background: The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, is a pivotal legal framework in India aimed at protecting children from sexual abuse. Despite its comprehensive scope, the medico-legal implementation of the Act presents several challenges for healthcare providers, law enforcement, and the judiciary, especially in ensuring sensitive yet legally sound handling of child survivors. Objectives were to analyze key medico-legal challenges in the implementation of POCSO, with a focus on forensic examination, evidence collection, consent, mandatory reporting, and the role of medical professionals in legal proceedings.

Method: A qualitative review of secondary data was conducted using statutory provisions of the POCSO Act, government-issued medico-legal guidelines, peer-reviewed journals, judicial decisions, and policy reports from organizations such as Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Govt. of India, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and HAQ: Centre for Child Rights during January to June 2024. Thematic analysis was used to identify core issues.

Results: Five major themes emerged from the analysis: Training Deficiencies – Medical professionals often lacked formal training in child-sensitive forensic procedures under POCSO. Consent and Confidentiality Challenges – Ethical dilemmas were frequent regarding assent, parental consent, and mandatory reporting. Documentation and Evidence Integrity – Poor-quality medico-legal documentation compromised evidentiary value in court. Infrastructure Gaps – Most facilities lacked child-friendly spaces and essential forensic equipment. Legal Preparedness – Doctors were inadequately oriented for courtroom roles, affecting the quality of expert testimony.

Conclusion: Effective implementation of POCSO's medico-legal provisions requires improved training, intersectoral coordination, standardized protocols, and infrastructure development. Bridging the gap between medical ethics and legal obligations is essential to ensure justice while preserving the dignity and rights of child survivors.

Keywords: POCSO, child sexual abuse, Medico-legal, Forensic Examination, Mandatory Reporting.

ICCP/SL/OP/042

Adolescent sexual and reproductive health knowledge, attitudes and safeguarding practices of school counsellors in Batticaloa District, Sri Lanka

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Background: Adolescents in Batticaloa District face challenges like substance abuse, sexual abuse, and teenage pregnancy. Student counselling service providers (SCSPs) play a key role in adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH) education. This study aimed to assess SCSPs' knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) on ASRH.

Method: A cross-sectional study using total population sampling was conducted with a self-administered questionnaire assessing KAP on sexuality, contraception, STIs, safeguarding policies, and current practices. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze sociodemographic data.

Results: Of 194 SCSPs, 183 (94.3%) participated. Males (51%), females (41%), those <35 years (55%), Hindus (43%), Islam (57%), Christians (40%), and SCSPs with a university degree (46%) scored above the median knowledge score (62.5%). Most answered correctly on cyber-safety (82%), domestic violence (75%), adolescent mental health (74%), and abuse survivor care (77%), but only 38% answered correctly on adolescent contraception. Among those who scored above the median attitude score (64%) were, >35 years (52%), Hindus (45%), Islam (30%), and Christians (55%). Negative attitudes included disagreement with non-heterosexual acceptance (39%), reluctance to discuss emergency contraception (81%), and viewing forced marriage as a cultural issue (70%). SCSPs frequently educated students on substance abuse risks (90%) and consent (69%), but only 30% and 37% discussed contraception and STIs annually. Only 25% reported school sexual harassment policies, and 31% faced community barriers in protection services.

Conclusion: Cultural factors and policy gaps impact safeguarding practices. Targeted trainings on sexuality, contraception, and sexual health protection are needed, alongside a review of school protection services and referral pathways.

Keywords: Student counselling, adolescent sexual health, comprehensive sex education.

ICCP/SL/OP/290

Electrocution of a child via a kite thread: A case report highlighting child safety

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Background: This study reports a unique and tragic death of a nine-year-old child, caused by transmission of electricity through a kite thread made of nylon; a phenomenon unreported in global literature.

Case study: The retrospective history was obtained by the child's grandfather, an eye witness of the incident. The victim was flying a kite attached to a nylon thread, in proximity to a main highway road, under the supervision of his grandparent. The thread is entangled in a high voltage power transmission unit, transmitting an alternate current of 33,000 V. The free end of the nylon thread was still in contact with the child's right hand. The victim suddenly became unconscious and was rushed to the emergency unit of a base hospital, where he was pronounced dead on admission. Post mortem examination revealed burn injuries on the back of the thumb and index finger of the right hand. These burn injuries were consistent with an entry wound caused by electrocution. There were no similar injuries elsewhere on the body. Nylon is generally known to be an insulator, which questions the mode of conduction. Further inquiry revealed that the child was having hyperhidrosis, especially on the palms. This had allowed the thread to be coated in sweat while being released, making it a conductor of electricity, leading to a fatal electrocution.

Conclusion: Even under close supervision by parents, children are still vulnerable to injuries. Flying kites is a common childhood activity and electrocution is an unforeseen risk of it, particularly in urban areas with unprotected overhead power lines. Kids with hyperhidrosis should be warned and given special attention when handling household electric devices.

Keywords: Accidental electrocution, child, electric injury.

ICCP/SL/OP/337

Statutory rape of girl children in the Ratnapura Police division: A retrospective analysis (2019–2023)

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Background: Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a critical issue in Sri Lanka, with significant socio-legal implications. Understanding the risk factors, socio-economic conditions, and offender demographics is essential for targeted prevention. This study examines cases indicated as statutory rape reported in Ratnapura Police Division (2019–2023), focusing on parental employment, caregiving structures, and perpetrator characteristics. Objectives of this study are to analyze socio-economic determinants, caregiving arrangements, and offender profiles in CSA cases and identify key risk factors.

Method: A retrospective quantitative analysis of 85 CSA cases was conducted using secondary police data.

Results: Among the 85 cases, 63% (n=54) had working mothers, including 10% (n=8) employed abroad. 18% (n=15) had fathers who were deceased or had abandoned them. Of the 70 girls with living fathers, 96% (n=67) had employed fathers. Notably, in 53% (n=45) of cases, both parents were employed. When analyzing the Caregiver arrangements during maternal absence 58% (n=28) by grandparents, 19% (n=9) by siblings, 10% (n=5) by relatives, 6% (n=3) by family friends. Perpetrator-victim relationships showed a high incidence of cases involved boyfriends 85% (n=72), 7% (n=6) stepfathers, 5% (n=4) relatives/friends, 3% (n=3) biological fathers/grandfathers. Perpetrator age groups showed 64% (n=54) aged 20–29, 14% (n=12) aged 15–19, 9% (n=8) aged 40–49, 8% (n=7) aged 30–39, 5% (n=4) over 50.

Conclusions: Findings reveal parental employment, inadequate supervision, and adolescent relationships as major CSA risk factors. The high incidence of boyfriend-perpetrated abuse (85%) emphasizes the need for adolescent education, consent awareness, and parental guidance. Strengthening child protection systems and community-based interventions is essential for mitigating CSA prevalence.

Keywords: Statutory rape, child sexual abuse, Sri Lanka.

ICCP/FR/OP/112

Forensic expert's role in pediatric emergency: Differentiating child abuse from accidental injuries; A case series

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Background: Child abuse remains a significant global concern, with alarming statistics reported annually. In 2022, the United States recorded 558,889 cases of child abuse, with neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse being the most common forms. In India, crimes against children increased by 8.7% between 2021 and 2022, with kidnapping and sexual offenses accounting for over 85% of the reported cases. Differentiating between accidental injuries and those resulting from abuse remains a major challenge in pediatric emergency care.

Method: This report presents two clinical cases referred to forensic experts by pediatricians for evaluation.
Case 1 involved a 7-month-old male infant with an abdominal firearm injury, initially suspected to be a homicidal attempt.

Case 2 concerned a 4-year-old girl presenting with genital and abdominal injuries and a reported history of a fall; the case initially raised suspicion of sexual abuse. Both cases underwent detailed clinical examinations, forensic assessments, and reviews of investigative findings.

Results: In **Case 1**, a circular firearm entry wound measuring 5 mm in diameter with an abraded collar was noted in the left hypochondriac region. Although the pellet could not be retrieved surgically, it was later recovered from the faeces and identified as a .22 calibre. Based on scene photographs, police investigation, and forensic evaluation, the injury was concluded to be accidental.

In **Case 2**, examination revealed blunt trauma contusions on the labia majora and the right hypochondriac region along with minor abrasion on lower limbs. The labia minora and hymen were intact, and the injuries were found to be consistent with the reported history of a fall.

Conclusions: These cases illustrate the complexity of distinguishing child abuse from accidental trauma. Early forensic involvement and a multidisciplinary approach are vital in ensuring accurate diagnosis and appropriate legal action. Structured protocols in tertiary care settings can support better outcomes in child protection and medico-legal reporting.

Keywords: Child abuse, clinical cases, child protection.

ICCP/SL/OP/343

Age inappropriate sexualized behavior in a child victim of sexual abuse: A case report on Uncle-Niece Incest

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Background: Childhood sexual abuse can lead to significant psychological consequences. Victims often exhibit a range of complex symptoms, including low self-esteem, age-inappropriate sexualized behaviors, promiscuity, anxiety, depression, conduct disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder & self-harm. In cases of incestuous abuse, it is unfortunate that many families conceal the incident to avoid familial disruption, often disregarding the profound psychological impact on the child. However, early reporting and interventions are essential to provide adequate psychological support, conduct necessary medical evaluations, and implement legal measures for the safety and well-being of the child.

Case study: A 9-year-old girl was raised by her grandmother and uncle since infancy due to her parents' financial difficulties. Eventually, the parents discovered that the child had been ill-treated and physically abused by them on multiple occasions. Despite objections from her grandparents, the parents brought the child home. At home, they noticed she was withdrawn and often preferred to be alone. After persistent questioning, the child revealed that she had been repeatedly sexually abused by her uncle. She later expressed a desire to visit her grandparents' home and see her uncle, which alarmed the parents & led to the initiation of medico-legal investigation. External genital examination revealed a symmetrical attenuation of the hymen, compatible with the given history of repeated finger penetrations. The child was referred to a Consultant Psychiatrist, where age-inappropriate sexualized behavior was diagnosed. This behavior was linked to the child's unhealthy association of the abuse with gratification, as evidenced by her desire to return to the abuser. Continued follow-up at the clinic was arranged.

Conclusions: This case emphasizes the importance of careful observation and monitoring of sexually abused children, as the psychological consequences like age inappropriate sexualized behaviors can significantly impact their psychosocial development and overall well-being. Prompt psychiatric intervention is essential to address these concerns and support the child's recovery.

Keywords: Child abuse, age inappropriate sexualized behaviors, Incest.

ICCP/SL/OP/105

From trust to trauma: Analyzing child sexual grooming: A case series

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Background: Child sexual grooming, a manipulative process perpetrators use to prepare children for sexual exploitation, is difficult to quantify due to its insidious nature. Its prevalence is likely underestimated. Understanding this process is crucial for effective prevention, detection, and intervention. The following cases highlight common grooming tactics and contributing vulnerabilities.

Case study:
Case 1: Thirteen-year-old Ms. A, living with her grandmother after her parents' separation, was groomed and sexually abused by a 60-year-old neighbor. He targeted her when her grandmother was absent, demonstrating calculated manipulation and exploitation of a vulnerable situation.

Case 2: Seven-year-old Master N, whose father struggled with heroin dependence and whose parents were separated, was sexually abused by a bakery worker. The perpetrator established a relationship with the child over several months, offering incentives to gain trust. The child subsequently developed secondary nocturnal enuresis, a common sign of trauma.
Case 3: Fifteen-year-old Ms. C was groomed and abused by her school bus driver. He cultivated a trusting relationship before the abuse occurred. Her parents' overprotective and authoritarian parenting style may have inadvertently hindered open communication and disclosure.
All three children displayed psychological signs of trauma. Two also had specific learning difficulties, suggesting potential additional vulnerabilities.

Conclusion: These cases illustrate the complex interplay of psychological manipulation, targeted selection tactics, and the perpetrator's overwhelming influence. Family disruptions and environmental factors, such as those present in these cases, contribute significantly to a child's vulnerability. Children who have experienced the trauma of grooming require ongoing, specialized therapeutic support to address the profound and long-lasting psychological damage.

Keywords: Child sexual grooming, trauma, sexual abuse.

ICCP/SL/OP/335

Mental health sequelae following child sexual abuse managed at "Lamapiyasa" in Colombo North Teaching Hospital, Ragama, Sri Lanka

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Background: Childhood sexual abuse (CSA) is a profoundly traumatic experience that can result in lasting psychological consequences. This study was conducted to assess the prevalence of psychological consequences among CSA survivors and to assess the associations between abuse related factors and subsequent psychological consequences.

Method: A retrospective descriptive study on 448 cases of CSA (0–18 years) managed at "Lamapiyasa", Colombo North Teaching Hospital, Ragama, Sri Lanka from 2015 to 2022. Data was extracted from case files and Bed-Head Tickets using a standardized proforma, with the mental disorder diagnoses established according to accepted psychiatric criteria. Comparative analysis was performed using SPSS version 26.

Results: About 15.8% (n=71) of children were diagnosed with at least one psychological consequence, comprising post-traumatic stress disorder (4.9%; n=22), anxiety/acute stress disorder (3.13%; n=14), depression (4%; n=18), hypersexual behaviour (5.13%; n=23) and phobia (0.22%; n=1) with some children receiving multiple diagnoses. There was no significant association between the victim's age and the presence of psychological consequences. Notably, a larger victim–perpetrator age gap (exceeding three years) nearly doubled the risk of having psychological consequences, with 16.86% (n=30) for a 3–10-year gap and 16.41% (n=32) for gaps >10 years compared to 8.57% (n=3) for gaps <3 years. Children presenting with neurodevelopmental challenges, specifically disabilities, low IQ, or learning disorders were significantly less likely to be diagnosed to have psychological consequences (P=0.021). No significant differences in the presence of psychological consequences were observed between penetrative (15.38%) and non-penetrative abuse (16.25%; P=0.9) or across perpetrator types (boyfriends 18.86%, incest 16.66%, neighbours 10.2%, strangers 18.5%; P=0.4).

Conclusion: A pronounced victim–perpetrator age gap (>3 years) emerged as a pivotal factor, nearly doubling the risk of prevalence of psychological consequences. In contrast, the unexpectedly lower diagnostic rates observed in children with neurodevelopmental challenges raise critical questions about symptom recognition and diagnostic practices in this subgroup emphasizing the need for more effective clinical strategies and policymaking for vulnerable populations.

Keywords: Child sexual abuse, psychological consequences, depression, anxiety, safe home, risk factors.

ICCP/SL/OP/156

A psychological approach on addressing domestic violence and promoting child welfare: A case study from Kandy, Sri Lanka

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Background: Domestic violence against women and children is a critical social problem that profoundly effects individual lives, family dynamics, and public health worldwide. In this case study examines an intervention in Kandy, Sri Lanka, where a home faced domestic violence, economic instability, and mental health issues.

Case Study: The husband was an alcoholic who physically, verbally and emotionally abused his wife, leading her to deteriorating mental health. She exhibited paranoid delusions accusing her husband infidelity. Their children a slow-learning daughter and an Advanced Level student son also were affected by traumatized and deprived. A psychological approach was applied to solve the issues. The mother was hospitalized with her son's support and the local women's police unit. Their daughter was sent to a special school to acquire life skills. The son's strong determination to succeed academically prompted the extended family to provide support with food and care. With assistance from the local government and the temple, basic living conditions were significantly improved. It presented considerable challenges to treat the alcoholism of the husband. Professional counselling services, along with guidance from a temple monk through Buddhist counselling, were utilized to support his recovery. Regular weekly follow-ups were conducted during 6 months to monitor progress, resulting in gradual behavioral improvements and increased stability within the household. The intervention was successful and result positive outcomes. The son sat for advance level examination and obtained two 'S' passes then joined a hotel training school. The daughter pursued vocational training in sewing. Family stability was consequences of the improved home environment.

Conclusion: This case emphasizes the need for holistic psychological interventions including integrating counselling, social support, and community involvement. A multi-sectorial approach is crucial in addressing domestic violence, mental health challenges, and rehabilitation, promoting long-term recovery and resilience.

Keywords: Domestic violence, psychological intervention, resilience, addiction counselling, social support.

ICCP/SL/OP/006

Measuring intangible costs of child abuse: A socio-fuzzy consensus approach for psychosocial services

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Background: In the first quarter of 2024, thirty categories of child abuse recorded 4380 victims. There are several Psychosocial Services (PSS) such as counselling, video evidence recording, child helpline service direct complaints etc. Nevertheless, the physical effects caused by abuses like abduction, trafficking, sexual harassment, neglect, incest etc. can be mitigated, but the causation of emotional despair cannot be easily remedied. In this psychosocial backdrop, the emotional loss to children cannot be accurately calculated, classified, measured, quantified or determined. Therefore, the success of PSS is uncertain and vague because the sentimental loss, harm and damages upon children is not clearly defined nor calculated. Furthermore, 55% of PSS are not fully achieved due to un-remedied intangible costs incurred by the victims during the process of emotional recovery. The study aimed to categorically identify the intangible factors of victims caused by child abuse in real vulnerability settings from a systematic literature review. Next the study objective facilitated the development of a framework to measure the extents to which sentimental factors are remedied in the PSS. As a secondary phase the study monitored the post-effects and whether the victims are normalized with the psychosocial spheres in their communities.

Method: Mixed method was utilized to obtain quantitative and qualitative data. The study administered a survey among 12 child probation officers in Colombo and 3 interviews to collect and analyze data. Data was validated through site triangulation of 2 respondents in Galle center. It was a novel socio fuzzy approach were the perceptions of experts were analyzed through belief plausibility simulations and sentiment analysis. Plausibility means the probability that experts believe that the children are actually harmed.

Result: Findings revealed that fatigue, ill-will, anxiety, mental depression, nervous and tensed moods are long-term, unquantifiable. These can be remedied at 5=very high, 4=high, 3=moderate, 2=low, 1=very low variances underpinned by nine socio-fuzzy rules. The sentimental factors have an increasing negative relationship with PSS. All most all experts agreed that victims can be fully, partially or never integrated to previous settings.

Conclusion: It is concluded that effectiveness of PSS can be augmented when sentimental aspects are considered. Utility value of PSS desires measurability of social integration programs for the new government and ministerial regimes is recommended.

Keywords: Sentimental loss, socio-fuzzy, PSS, sentiment analysis, intangible costs.

Room 2 - Child Protection & Services

ICCP/SL/OP/116

Reforming Sri Lanka's child protection workforce: Lessons from global models of coordinated division of labor

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Background: Child protection requires a cooperative division of labor to ensure children's safety and well-being are sustained. Sri Lanka's child protection workforce, however, suffers from issues such as role conflict, poor training, and lacking inter-agency collaboration, creating delay and risk accumulation for children. This investigation examines these within Sri Lanka's child protection system and contrasts them with international best practice in division of workforce.

Method: This qualitative study is based on a document review of Sri Lankan child protection reports, legislation, and policies from 2014 to 2024. Additionally, child protection frameworks in Canada, Sweden, Australia, and the UK were reviewed. Thematic analysis was used to explore the roles of health services, police, and social services in safeguarding children.

Results: The study identifies several gaps in Sri Lanka's child protection system, including unclear role definitions and limited specialist training. In comparison, countries such as the UK, Australia, and Sweden have established effective systems including multi-disciplinary teams, case-linked management, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Child Protection Information Management Systems (CPIMS), risk assessment tools, helplines/hotlines, and robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. These tools support timely and coordinated responses to child protection concerns. Sri Lanka's system currently lacks such integrated tools and referral pathways, which hinders effective collaboration among stakeholders.

Conclusions: The Sri Lankan child protection system must be supported by clearer roles, professional capacity-building and better inter-agency coordination. Utilizing best global practice, such as integrated case management and multi-disciplinary teams, can help strengthen Sri Lanka's system through the timely response and enhanced child protection.

Keywords: Child protection, division of labour, workforce roles, document analysis.

ICCP/SL/OP/127

Institutional challenges and gaps in child protection interventions in Sri Lanka: A case study analysis

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Background: In Sri Lanka, child protection is a fundamental responsibility of the government, involving multiple agencies such as the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA), the Department of Probation and Child Care Services, and law enforcement. The aim is to explore challenges faced by institutions in child protection interventions, for example, bureaucratic inertia, failure in coordination, duplication of roles, and policy vacuums.

Case study: This study examined a case of a six-year-old girl who was abused under legal guardianship, separation from her mother, living with a mentally challenged father, and cruelty by the class teacher. The data drawn from case management and legal files. supplemented by data obtained from principal officers via interviews, with the application of content analysis to unveil themes pertaining to institutional responses, intervention effectiveness, and systemic obstacles. The results mirror both weaknesses and strengths in Sri Lanka's child protection system. Although some measures proved effective in securing children's immediate safety, difficulties such as coordination problems between agencies, unclear role definitions, procedural delays, and policy implementation shortcomings detracted from the overall effectiveness of protection work. Systemic weaknesses and institutional inefficiencies were the reasons for delays in safeguarding children's best interests, and the necessity for improved service delivery and better interagency working is highlighted.

Conclusion: The case study emphasized the lack of coordinated response that is needed for a complex case of this nature. Inter-agency coordination, policy framework improvement, a child-centered approach, and institutional professionalism are required to improve intervention effectiveness.

Keywords: Child protection, social work, policy analysis, institutional challenges.

ICCP/SL/OP/194

Challenges in rehabilitation of child abuse survivors: A case series

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Background: Child abuse (CA) in Sri Lanka remains a significant public health and social issue, often leading to long-term psychological and developmental consequences. Effective rehabilitation is crucial for the well-being of survivors and includes several aspects such as counselling & psychological support, cognitive & educational support, medical care, family & community support, and social reintegration & protection. In the local setup, multiple challenges are encountered that occasionally hinder this process. This case series mainly highlights the difficulties faced in ensuring a safe environment for CA survivors in Sri Lanka.

Case study: Six cases involving child sexual abuse and physical abuse will be discussed. These cases address issues such as teenage pregnancy, special needs, psychiatric illness, re-admission while under probationary care and ethical & legal complexities in parenting. These cases aim to highlight gaps and grey areas in the local setup, particularly regarding the availability and adequacy of temporary and long-term safe placements for vulnerable children.

Conclusions: Many children remain in unsafe or unstable living conditions, increasing their vulnerability to further abuse. A safe environment is a key factor in preventing such incidents, as children who continue to live in unsafe settings remain at high risk for re-victimization. Furthermore, limited availability of protective placements for children with special needs, as well as lack of interim care between medical treatment and discharge, remain gaps in the Sri Lankan system that require urgent attention. Without proper protective measures, other aspects of rehabilitation such as psychological support and educational interventions, are likely to fail. Therefore, ensuring secure protective placements and fostering a safe environment must be prioritized in the rehabilitation process.

Keywords: Child abuse, safe environment, re-victimization.

ICCP/SL/OP/175

Analysis of child protection cases reported to the National Child Protection Authority of Sri Lanka in 2023

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Background: Child protection remains a critical concern, with various forms of abuse and neglect affecting children globally. This study purposes to analyze the most and least reported child protection cases to the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) in 2023. Understanding these trends will provide insight into reporting behaviors, prevalence rates and potential gaps in child welfare intervention.

Method: The study employs a quantitative analysis of secondary data obtained from the NCAP's statical records for the year 2023. Reported cases were categorized and ranked based on frequency. Descriptive statistics, including percentage distributions and trend analysis, were used to identify the most and least prevalent case.

Results: A line graph was utilized to visually represent trends in case reporting across different months in 2023. The most reported case in 2023 was related to children in need of care and protection (1657 cases). Then cruelty towards children (1481 cases). This finding suggests persistent challenges in certifying child safety and preventing abuse. Conversely, the least reported case included offenses related to adoption (3 cases). Then incest (5 cases). The low number of cases may indicate underreporting due to stigma and lack of awareness. The line graph analysis revealed fluctuations in case reporting, with peak months for abuse cases aligning with school holidays and major social events. The analysis highlights the urgent need for stronger intervention programs targeting high-risk areas such as child abuse and education enforcement. Additionally, awareness campaigns and policy reforms are necessary to address the underreporting of sensitive cases. Strengthening child protection mechanisms and community engagement will be essential to ensuring the safety and well-being of them.

Conclusion: In 2023, the most reported child protection cases were related to care and protection needs and cruelty, while adoption-related offenses and incest were least reported, likely due to underreporting. Trends showed spikes during school holidays and major events. These findings highlight the need for targeted interventions, awareness programs, and stronger reporting systems to enhance child safety.

Keywords: Children, child protection, abuse trends.

ICCP/SL/OP/227

Psychological maladjustment in children living in alternative care settings in Western Province, Sri Lanka

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Background: For children deprived of suitable family care, the State has the responsibility for ensuring appropriate alternative care. In the National Alternative Care Policy for Children in Sri Lanka (DPCS, 2019), alternative care is classified as family-based or family-like, where all residential options are considered as family-like care.

Method: In this study, we explored the psychological maladjustment of children aged 10-18 years living in alternative care. The Sinhala-validated version and the Tamil translation of the Personality Assessment Questionnaire (PAQ) were used. The PAQ is a globally used 42-item self-administered questionnaire assessing young people's psychological functioning. Data collection was conducted by trained data collectors. Ethical approval was obtained by the SLCP ethics review committee.

Results: Two hundred sixty-eight children responded to survey. The majority were females (60.4%, n=162) and in the 10-14 year age group (59.32%; n=159). Children were residing in different alternative care settings, including "Fit person care", NGO-based foster families, child development centres, approved or certified schools and remand homes. Of the 268 children in the study, 192 (71.6%) had a score at or above the PAQs' cut-off of 89 (M=97.1; SD=14). Children under "Fit-person care" had the lowest maladjusted percentage (50%; n=6), while children in remand homes showed the highest maladjustment rates (93.3%; n=14). Children who were abused by a family member, encountered domestic violence or were in conflict with the law demonstrate a higher percentage of maladjustment, although there was no statistically significant association.

Conclusions: These results reveal a higher percentage of psychological maladjustment in children aged 10-18 living in alternative care settings in Sri Lanka. Further, psychological maladjustment was lowest in children living with fit persons, which is a setting closer to family structure. This study highlights the importance of trauma-informed care and supporting the psychological needs of children in alternative care, making these institutions more "family-like".

Keywords: Children, alternative care settings, psychological needs.

ICCP/FR/OP/296

POCSO act in India: Overcoming hurdles in reporting child sexual abuse cases

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Background: The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, was enacted in India to safeguard children from sexual abuse and exploitation. While the Act provides a strong legal framework for reporting, investigating, and prosecuting such offenses, its implementation faces significant challenges. This study examines socio-cultural, systemic, and procedural barriers that hinder the effective application of the POCSO Act and suggests solutions to bridge the gap between policy and practice.

Method: A qualitative analysis of literature, case studies, expert opinions and about 10 awareness programme was conducted between the various stakeholders to identify key challenges in reporting child sexual abuse cases. The study also explores best practices from various jurisdictions at Deoghar, Jharkhand.

Results: Findings indicate that a lack of awareness among victims, families, and professionals leads to underreporting, especially in rural and tribal areas. Cultural stigma, victim-blaming, and fear of social consequences discourage families from seeking legal recourse. Additionally, insufficient training for law enforcement and healthcare professionals, along with a lack of child-friendly investigative procedures, results in the mishandling of cases. Prolonged judicial processes further deter victims from pursuing justice.

Conclusions: Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive awareness campaigns, specialized training for professionals, improved inter-agency coordination, and the establishment of child-friendly reporting mechanisms. Leveraging technology, such as anonymous online reporting portals and mobile apps, can enhance accessibility and confidentiality. Strengthening these measures are crucial for the POCSO Act to fulfil its intended role in protecting children and ensuring justice.

Keywords: POCSO Act, child sexual abuse, legal barriers, reporting mechanisms, law enforcement training.

ICCP/SL/OP/020

Trends and regional disparities in child protection reporting in Sri Lanka (2010–2023): A GIS-based analysis

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Background: Child protection issues in Sri Lanka have shown significant fluctuations between 2010 and 2023, with regional disparities strongly influenced by socio-economic, cultural, and political factors. This study investigates the trends and patterns of reported child protection incidents across Sri Lanka, using data from the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA). By examining district-level variations, this analysis highlights how reporting mechanisms, regional challenges, and national policies have affected the reporting and response to child protection issues.

Method: This study employed secondary data from the National Child Protection Authority (2010–2023) to examine district-level trends in reported child protection cases. ArcGIS was used for spatial mapping, with choropleth maps created to visualize the distribution and intensity of child protection cases across districts. Statistical analyses identified patterns and disparities, while district comparisons were made in relation to demographic and socio-economic indicators. This approach enabled evidence-based insights into regional vulnerabilities, providing a foundation for the development of targeted interventions and responsive child protection strategies.

Results: The analysis reveals a significant increase in reported child protection cases from 3,788 in 2010 to 11,694 in 2015, particularly in urban districts like Colombo (720 cases in 2010 to 1,477 in 2013) and Gampaha (524 cases in 2010 to 1,169 in 2014). This surge was driven by improved awareness and reporting mechanisms. However, from 2016, cases began declining, with 9,086 reported in 2019, suggesting possible underreporting. The most concerning drop occurred in 2023, with a 17.7% decrease, from 11,177 in 2022 to 9,200 in 2023, particularly in districts like Kilinochchi (44 cases) and Mullaitivu (67 cases), indicating barriers such as economic hardship, cultural stigma, and lack of trust in the system.

Conclusion: It is crucial to expand reporting mechanisms, including mobile units and anonymous channels, in areas with low reporting rates. Targeted awareness campaigns should focus on regions like Mannar (40 cases) to break down cultural barriers. Additionally, socio-economic support programs should be enhanced to help vulnerable families and reduce child exploitation. Strengthening law enforcement and social services, especially in high-risk areas like Colombo (1,014 cases) and Gampaha (764 cases), is also essential. These actions will help ensure that all children, regardless of location, are properly protected from abuse and neglect.

Keywords: Awareness campaigns, barriers to reporting, child protection, district-level variation, socio-economic support.

ICCP/SL/OP/198

Impact of USAID fund restrictions on gender equality initiatives for developing countries

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Background: The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is a pioneering institution that has worked to promote gender equality in developing countries since the 1980s. This study examined the detrimental effects of USAID cuts in 2025 on the advancement of gender equality in these nations. The primary objective of the present study was to identify the impacts of these fund reductions on gender equality improvements in developing countries.

Method: This research employed a qualitative approach, in terms of secondary data, utilizing case study analysis and documentary analysis for data collection. This includes: the historical funding trends and strategic priority documents from USAID regarding reproductive health and USAID's foreign aid explorer and gender equality policy documents (as well as the Guttmacher Institute research concerning the implications of U.S. foreign assistance restrictions on reproductive health services, the World Bank Gender Data Portal for comparative gender development indicators, and UN Women reports on global progress towards gender equality. Additionally, the collected primary data, including USAID and US government reports, were analyzed using thematic analysis and theoretical analysis, adopting Constructivism as the main theoretical framework.

Results: The case studies of Serbia, Colombia, Peru, Sri Lanka, and Guatemala revealed that the aid provided to developing countries was not used transparently, resulting in socio-economic and domestic political instabilities. Many global indicators related to economic growth consider gender equality as a key determinant, and aid cuts will impact the economic development status of many developing countries, as well as exacerbate the increasing disparities related to gender. The study also showed that a sudden reduction in ongoing USAID-funded projects directly undermines the development sector, cooperation issues, and escalates gender-based violence due to a lack of advocacy. Moreover, funding reductions will slow the achievement of the SDGs by 2030.

Conclusion: These policy changes heighten geopolitical tensions and challenge the normative objective of gender equality. Consequently, developing countries can transcend dependency on donor involvement, enabling them to discover smarter alternatives to address core development issues, particularly gender equality.

Keywords: Developing countries, gender equality, USAID.

ICCP/SL/OP/033

Mediation in gender specific conflict scenarios: Success stories and failures in organizational setting

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Background: This study addressed a significant and timely research problem, how gender-specific conflicts, driven by systemic inequities, stereotypes, and power imbalances, hinder workplace harmony and productivity. While mediation is widely used as a conflict resolution tool, its effectiveness in addressing gender-related disputes remained underexplored, particularly in the context of organizational culture and gender sensitivity. This gap justified the need for a focused examination of gender-sensitive mediation practices.

Method: The qualitative research design involved a case study analysis supported by stakeholder interviews. Several organizations across industries in apparel had provided data through semi-structured interviews with mediators or counselors, Human Resource professionals like HR Manager (top level), managers in middle level, and employees in cutting, ironing, sewing and packing section also incorporated organizational documents related to mediation records and conflict resolution policies. A purposive sampling strategy was used to ensure diversity in participants' profiles. Thematic coding, using qualitative analysis software, highlighted patterns that contributed to the success of mediation.

Results: Preliminary findings highlighted the critical role of mediator training in addressing implicit biases and power imbalances. They also reported that organizations with structured support systems and follow-up mechanisms achieved higher resolution rates. In contrast, mediation often failed in cases where cultural sensitivity was lacking or power dynamics undermined equitable participation. Preliminary data indicated that organizations implementing gender-sensitive mediation strategies experienced a 30–40% increase in effectiveness in conflict resolution.

Conclusion: This study highlights gender –sensitive mediation training and supportive polices, which can help sustain resolutions. These include specialized training of mediators, creating an inclusive culture and institutionalizing post-mediation follow-ups that would help refine the framework of mediation, create equitable workplaces, and bring better outcomes of conflict resolution in gender-specific disputes.

Keywords: Mediation, gender-specific conflict, conflict resolution, organizational equity.

ICCP/SL/OP/206

Significance of a scene visit in an alleged clinical child sexual abuse case: A case study

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Background: Performing scene visits in clinical forensic medical cases are relatively rare. This case report is on a child who was chronically sexually abused by several people.

Case history: A 13-year-old girl was admitted to a local hospital complaining of chest pain. No physical cause was identified for the chest pain. With further questioning, she revealed a history of chronic sexual abuse by several people, including her brother, a policeman, and two other people. She was transferred to a tertiary care hospital due to child protection concerns. As the child was afraid to reveal the truth, it was a challenge to obtain the complete history. The history was obtained after talking with her several times. Psychiatry referral was done. Since one of the accused was a policeman in her area, it was requested to conduct the investigation by another police station. A case conference was held. Following many rounds of preparations, the child was accompanied by the ward staff and the medico legal team for a scene visit, with the police. Subsequently, a court order was obtained to transfer the child to a specialized rehabilitation center for long term management.

Conclusion: Scene examination of the alleged sites of abusive incidents is an important part of investigation in these types of clinical cases. Considering her safety, emotional impact during the procedure and the importance of a scene examination, the child was accompanied by the hospital staff for the scene visit. This helped in assessing the credibility of a child's statement. Documentation of this scene visit will be immense help for the future court case. This will ensure that justice is served and that the welfare of the child is prioritize throughout the legal proceedings.

Key words: Child sexual abuse, scene visit, child protection concerns.

Room 3 - Child and Women's Rights, Justice, Law and Health

ICCP/SL/OP/124

Factors associated with child labour in Sri Lanka

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Background: Child labour remains a significant socio-economic challenge in the developing world and it continues as an issue in Sri Lanka as well. Many children are forced to work to support their families, especially in sectors such as domestic work, construction sites, tea plantations, street vendors and small-scale industries. This study aimed to identify the root causes of child labour in Sri Lanka.

Method: This research followed a qualitative approach. The data was collected through secondary data. The government and non-government reports, web sites, academic journals, research articles and other online sources were used for data collection. The terms have used for the literature search such as child labor in Sri Lanka, factors affecting child labour, child rights, child policy. The study was conducted in 2024, by reviewing secondary data from 2016 to 2023. The data was analyzed using thematic analysis.

Results: The study reveals that poverty, family economic burdens, low parental literacy, lack of decent work for adults, lack of opportunities for education and social exclusion are the primary factors of child labour. Additionally, gaps in law enforcement and social protection mechanisms contribute to the persistence of child labour. The study recommends enforcing the child labour policies, developing alternative support systems for vulnerable families, providing affordable childcare services, strengthening access to formal education and vocational training opportunities, enhancing social protection mechanisms and raising awareness of safety and rights are crucial in addressing child labour.

Conclusion: As the children must be protected for the future, the study also reveals it cannot be done only through the government and the support of all parties including community, to end the cycle of child exploitation and ensure child's right to safety, education, and a respectable future is essential.

Keywords: Child labour, child rights, policy interventions, socio-economic factors.

ICCP/SL/OP/361

Eloping behavior among a dolescents in the Gampaha District: A statistical analysis

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Background: Eloping among adolescents is a critical issue in Sri Lanka, often linked to family dysfunction, psychological distress, and peer pressure. This study analyzed elopement cases reported in the Gampaha district using data from the database of child protection unit. The study aims to provide insights into the factors influencing adolescent elopement and its consequences.

Method: A retrospective quantitative analysis was conducted on 67 cases of adolescent elopement recorded in the child protection unit in Gampaha District, Sri Lanka from October 2021 to January 2025. The data included age at the time of elopement, caretaker at the time of elopement, duration of elopement, family background, status of schooling, partner characteristics, substance use, concurrent types of maltreatment and post-elopement outcome. Descriptive statistics were used to identify trends and risk factors.

Results: The commonest age group involved with elopements was aged 14–15 years (83.6%; n= 56). The stay with the partner varied from a maximum stay of 1 year to less than a week in 47.8% (n=32). Sexual abuse involved almost all the occasions and psychological distress, including depression and disturbed behavior accounting for 14.9% (n=10). Intimate partner violence was experienced by 4.5% (n=3) of them. The risk factors identified among the cohort included caretakers at the time of elopement. The analysis showed caretakers as parents (59.7%; n=40), mother (20.9%; n=14), father (10.4%; n=7), grandmother (4.5%; n=3), aunt (3%; n=2) or grandparents (1.5%; n=1) respectively. Among the adolescents 10.4% of them were not schooling before the incident. Post-elopement interventions included institutional case conferences taking decisions regarding safe guardianship, placement, psychological rehabilitation and re-establishment of the schoolwork.

Conclusions: Adolescent elopement is frequently associated with sexual abuse and identified risk factors involved dysfunctional families. The findings highlight the need for targeted legal frameworks, awareness programs, and stronger intervention strategies to protect vulnerable adolescents.

Keywords: Adolescent elopement, sexual abuse, dysfunctional family, psychological distress, child protection.

ICCP/SL/OP/193

Medical futility and the best interests of the child: A comparative legal analysis of withholding and withdrawing life-sustaining medical treatments

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Background: Withholding and withdrawing life-sustaining medical treatment (LST) in pediatric cases presents complex legal and ethical challenges. Central to these decisions is the *best interests of the child*—a principle that prioritizes the child's physical, emotional, and developmental needs alongside medical prognosis. While jurisdictions such as the United Kingdom and Australia offer structured legal frameworks for such decisions, Sri Lanka lacks statutory guidance, resulting in inconsistent practices. This study aims to analyze how different legal systems regulate pediatric LST decisions and to propose policy recommendations tailored to the Sri Lankan context.

Method: This study employs a comparative legal analysis method. It reviews legislation, judicial decisions, and medical guidelines relating to withholding and withdrawing LST in the UK, Australia, and Sri Lanka. The research also examines judicial reasoning, ethical principles, and the role of medical institutions, focusing on how these elements contribute to best interests' assessments in pediatric care.

Results: Findings indicate that both the UK and Australia implement clear legal standards emphasizing the best interests of the child, supported by ethical frameworks and judicial oversight. Medical futility is assessed with reference to quality of life, not just biological survival. In contrast, Sri Lanka lacks statutory provisions, leading to ad hoc decision-making and potential conflicts between healthcare providers, parents, and the state.

Conclusion: There is an urgent need for a structured legal and ethical framework in Sri Lanka to guide end-of-life decisions for children. The study recommends adopting a best interests-based legal approach incorporating judicial oversight, parental involvement, and medical expertise. Such a framework would ensure transparent, consistent, and ethically grounded decision-making that protects children's rights in end-of-life care.

Keywords: Pediatric end-of-life decisions, life-sustaining treatment, best interests of the child, medical futility, withholding and withdrawing treatment, legal framework.

ICCP/LK/OP/341

A case of sexual assault within a marital relationship: Should marital rape be criminalized in Sri Lanka?

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Background: In Sri Lanka, marital rape; forceful penetrative sex by the legal partner, is not criminalized under the country's legal framework. This has been a subject of significant debate, with human rights and women's rights groups arguing that this stance violates women's fundamental rights, as outlined in the Constitution of Sri Lanka and international laws related to violence against women. However, in a patriarchal society with deeply rooted cultural and religious beliefs, criminalizing marital rape remains controversial.

Case study: A 31-year-old woman, married for five years and mother of two children, was admitted to the hospital following an assault by her husband. She reported being a victim of intimate partner violence for the past two years, involving physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, although she had not previously sought help. In the most recent incident, she was physically assaulted and forced into vaginal and oral intercourse, as well as fisting, at their home over the course of a day. Examination revealed contusions and abrasions at various stages of healing, primarily over parasexual organs. Further, there were tender areas and contusions on the external genitalia and vaginal walls, consistent with her history of forceful penetrative sex. She expressed her intention to take legal action against her husband.

Conclusion: Even though there is clear evidence of forceful penetrative sex within their marital relationship, there is no possibility of charging the husband for 'marital rape' according to the current law. Thus, this case highlights the urgent need for legal reforms and wider public awareness to address marital rape, which remains unrecognized in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Legal framework, sexual assault, violence against women.

ICCP/LK/OP/253

Safeguarding childhood in the digital age: Legal and social responses to online child exploitation in Sri Lanka

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Background: As Sri Lanka's digital growth continues to increase at a rapid rate, the online child exploitation threat compounds in the form of new dangers and opportunities. Legislative frameworks and preventive measures, however, the effectiveness of deliberate interventions enhancing child online safety is still not certain. This study will attempt to discuss legal interventions and the response from society towards online child exploitation in Sri Lanka. It measures the application of protective strategies, the effectiveness of their application, and the gaps between policy and practice.

Methods: A qualitative approach was used for comparative case study analysis. The data were sourced from primary sources of national child protection laws and secondary sources such as UNICEF reports, scholarly articles, and briefings of INTERPOL. The study used content analysis and process tracing methods to measure the legal enforcement processes, institutional interactions, and social ramifications of digital threats to children.

Results: The results point to the gap between prevailing laws and enforceability capacity. Despite the legal existence of protection against online abuse, there are notable obstacles which include a lack of training for authorities, low public awareness, and technological constraints. Parents complained about a challenge in tracking children's internet activities, given the prevalence of social media platforms. From the case analyses, it was possible to realize how the enforcement agencies find it difficult to detect and prosecute cyberbullying, grooming, and content exploitation offenders. Public watchdogs raised concerns about digital surveillance and privacy in reaction to the new cybersecurity regulation.

Conclusions: Even though there are legal mechanisms to protect children online in Sri Lanka, the operational deficiencies limit the impact in Sri Lanka. Greater collaboration between legal, technical, and community experts is needed to promote effective child digital safety. Further investigation into enforcement practices and technological droughts is needed to guide future preventive policies.

Keywords: Digital age, children, legal, social.

ICCP/SL/OP/120

Impact of the prison environment on children residing with incarcerated mothers with special reference to the female ward at the Welikada Prison, Sri Lanka

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Background: Sri Lankan prisons have separate accommodation for women offenders with the concerns of special care as a vulnerable group. In the Sri Lankan prison system, most prisons have separately functioning female wards depending on the number of women offenders. In some instances, women offenders are imprisoned with their breastfeeding children according to the stipulated provisions of the Prison Ordinance No. 16 of 1877. This research focuses on the impact of the prison environment on children residing with incarcerated mothers in the female ward of Welikada Prison, Sri Lanka. The objective was to explore the physical, mental, emotional, and developmental consequences of such an environment on these children.

Method: A qualitative research approach was applied, focusing on semi-structured interviews with 18 purposely selected incarcerated mothers residing with their children in the Welikada Prison female ward. The gathered data were analyzed using the thematic analysis method to determine the impact of the prison environment on children, mainly focusing on sub-themes such as physical and environmental impact, psychological and emotional impact, and educational and social development.

Results: Findings indicated that these children face significant challenges including a limited environment, lack of nutrition, lack of early childhood education, lack of socialization, and a fixed daily routine.

Conclusion: This study emphasizes the urgent need for new policy interventions to address the issues experienced by children in prison environments to uplift their well-being. It is recommended that child care facilities be improved, early childhood development programs be implemented, and psychological services be provided for both incarcerated mothers and their children.

Keywords: Prison environment, incarcerated mothers, female ward, breastfeeding, policy intervention**.**

ICCP/SL/OP/334

A retrospective study of child sexual abuse and judicial outcomes in cases reported to Kelaniya Police Division, Sri Lanka

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Background: Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a grave crime with severe physical and psychological consequences for victims. Efficient judicial processing is essential to ensure justice, yet Sri Lanka's legal system often experiences significant delays. This study examined the progression of CSA cases in courts under the Kelaniya police division from 2012 to 2022, identifying key bottlenecks in case resolution and judicial outcomes.

Method: A retrospective descriptive study was conducted using case records from 13 police stations in the Kelaniya division. A total of 145 complete cases were collected using a structured proforma. Data analysis was done using Microsoft Excel.

Results: Findings revealed that 86.9% (n=126) of victims were female, with 83% (n=120) aged 10-16 years. The majority of offenders (99%; n=144) were male, with 57% (n=83) of cases committed by a boyfriend. Case reporting was swift, with 97.9% (n=142) reported within 24 hours. However, major delays were noted in later stages where Attorney General's Department recommendations took 1-6 years, and court trials extended for 6-10 years. Trial proceedings remain pending for 63% (n=91) of cases, with only 17% (n=25) reaching a verdict. Charge filing took 1-6 years, and witness evidence collection was significantly delayed, with the first witness calling pending in 67% (n=94) of cases.

Conclusion: The study revealed significant delays in the judicial handling of CSA cases, especially during the prosecution and trial phases. While initial reporting and investigations are prompt, prolonged AG recommendations and court proceedings hinder timely justice.

Keywords: Child sexual abuse, court case progression, justice.

ICCP/SL/OP/306

Medico legal aspects related to the gender incongruence

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Background: Transgender individuals have a gender identity, expression, or behavior that differs from the socio-culturally accepted or legally assigned sex at birth. In Sri Lanka, transgender persons over 16 years can obtain a gender recognition certificate after assessment by a consultant psychiatrist. However, inconsistencies in sex and gender recognition create challenges, particularly in medico-legal contexts. Such challenges are discussed in this paper.

Case report: A 31-year-old transwoman was subjected to an autopsy. Cohabiting partner provided a national identity card with her gender as female. However, in the absence of a gender recognition certificate, biological sex was determined as a male through scientific examination and recorded in the Medico-Legal Autopsy Notification Form. Subsequently there was a complaint to the Human Rights Commission, disputing the assigned gender in the autopsy report and to the hospital director as inquiring gender details during autopsy is inappropriate.

Results: Legal gender recognition in Sri Lanka remains binary, creating conflicts when an individual's gender identity does not align with biological sex or official documentation. Further, transgender identities with or without medical transition may create ethical and legal issues in shared spaces where sex-based admission policies apply. Additionally, legal ambiguities raise concerns about personation in criminal cases, marriage, and inheritance disputes, particularly when gender transition is undisclosed. The law of cheating by personation is applicable in divorce, without disclosing the transgender state to the partner in marriage. The Vagrants Ordinance and Penal Code may also be interpreted to criminalize transgender identities in specific contexts, such as indecent behavior and gross indecency between persons considering redressing and homosexuality. The validity of transgender marriages remains untested in Sri Lankan courts.

Conclusion: Standardized policies are needed to address medico-legal conflicts surrounding gender recognition. Recognizing both transgender rights and the rights of involved parties is essential for ensuring justice and equal protection under the law.

Keywords: Transgender, gender incongruence, medico legal aspects.

ICCP/SL/OP/338

Sexual crime victimization of females of reproductive age in Peliyagoda Police area, Sri Lanka

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Background: The prevalence of sexual crimes against young women in Sri Lanka continues to rise despite the establishment of organizations and legal measures aimed at prevention. The study aimed to scrutinize sexual crime dynamics in Peliyagoda police area to devise better prevention strategies.

Methods: A retrospective descriptive study was conducted. Data was gathered from the records and reports of the Peliyagoda Police Station Women's Bureau, and supplemented by print and digital media.

Results: Of 221 sexual crimes reported during the years 2018-2023, alarmingly, the highest number (n=44) was reported in 2023. Sexual crimes were prevalent among females of 15-24 years of age (46%, n=102), of which a significant number were adolescents; likewise, it is noteworthy that 17% of victims were actually children below 15 years of age. Crimes usually occurred at home (64%) and at night (34%). Perpetrators were usually known to victims, with romantic partners making up 61%, and 25% being relatives. Only 2% of perpetrators were strangers. Majority (42%) of suspects were 25-40 years of age and had only been educated up to O/Ls (55%). In fact, 22% were only educated up to Grade 5. Most suspects were employed in the private sector (45%), and 21% only had daily wage jobs. It is, however, commendable on the part of law enforcement that 99% of suspects had ultimately been apprehended.

Conclusions: This study confirms that of crimes committed against females, children and adolescents are the most vulnerable population. Often, these crimes are committed in familiar environments by familiar people, contrary to popular belief, which underscores the importance of devising enhanced law enforcement oversight of domestic environments. The Sri Lankan landscape of opportunities for education and stable jobs must likewise be further refined in order to curtail the occurrence of offenders.

Keywords: Sexual crimes, young women, domestic environments, perpetrators.

ICCP/SL/OP/291

How child-oriented is the use of judicial discretion in juvenile transfer in India? implications for child protection practice

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Background: The retributive nature of juvenile transfer laws, in India and elsewhere, have prompted debates on the often-conflicting agendas of child rights and protection versus public safety. Currently, the only scientific, large-scale effort to explore the implementation of juvenile transfer laws, in South Asia, this study is of global significance as it moves beyond judicial application of statutory criteria, to identifying specific factors that impinge upon decision-making in the context of juvenile transfer. Given the varied systems of juvenile transfer prevalent across Asian contexts, this study is critical to developing an understanding of the impact of these punitive mechanisms on statutory protections for child offenders in criminal justice systems.

Method: This study utilised a vignette-based survey questionnaire (wherein the questionnaire was divided by thematic 'domains' of inquiry) and univariate and multivariate Poisson regression analysis to: (i) explore factors that influence judicial decision-making on issues of juvenile transfer; and (ii) examine the extent to which judicial personnel integrate child-oriented perspectives in transfer decision-making, informed by risk factors, socio-economic and psychosocial vulnerability, and rehabilitative action, as stipulated by India's 2015 Juvenile Justice Act.

Results: The results indicate that the extent of child-orientation in judicial personnel is influenced by the nature and type of the offence, a paucity of understanding of adolescent mental capacities and neurodevelopment, and an adult-centric application of *mens rea*. Non-child-oriented responses, across types of offences/vignettes, are found to be positively associated with decisions in favour of juvenile transfer.

Conclusion: Reflecting that child protection practice continues to use an adult criminal justice lens, as opposed to the child-oriented disposition of juvenile justice systems, the present study makes a strong case for the employment of transdisciplinary approaches, in the adjudication of offences by children; as well as the imperative for standardisation of judicial decision-making frameworks and judicial education initiatives.

Keywords: Juvenile justice, juvenile transfer, judicial decision-making, child rights.

Room 4 - Child Abuse, Forensic Medicine and Humanities

ICCP/FR/OP/065

Sacred suffering: Unmasking religious and cultural child abuse in India

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Background: India has the world's largest child population, with 41% under eighteen. Deeply rooted cultural and religious traditions have led to practices that harm children, often under the guise of faith and devotion. The objective of this study is to highlight several such harmful religious and cultural practices and to propose strategies to curb these practices under the available statutes and suggest policy reforms.

Method: We adopted a qualitative descriptive design using publicly accessible digital sources. The data collection process involved an internet-based search of Indian and international newspaper reports, online blogs, academic publications, government advisories, and publicly shared case reports. The search was conducted using predefined keywords including "child abuse," "religion," "faith," "customs," "superstition," and "traditional practices in India." Google and academic databases were used for the initial screening of content. After the initial selection, deep content searches were performed to extract detailed information about each practice, including regional prevalence, cultural justification, and associated health or legal consequences.

Results: It was observed that child abuse in name of faith is quite rampant in India. Some of these practices are described herewith. The Devadasi system, though legally banned, continues in some regions where young girls are dedicated to temples, often resulting in lifelong exploitation. Khatna (female genital mutilation), practiced within specific communities, inflicts physical and psychological trauma. Branding rituals involve burning marks onto children to 'cure' ailments, causing severe injuries. Child tossing rituals persist in certain temples or mosques, where infants are dropped from heights to seek divine blessings. Shulum Kuthu in Kerala involves piercing children's cheeks or tongues, inflicting unnecessary pain. Other harmful practices include immersion in boiling liquids, Doodh Peeti (milk drowning), cow dung dipping, and burial in sandpits during solar eclipses, all based on superstition. The Sumangali scheme exploits adolescent girls under deceptive employment conditions, while Nikah Mutah (contract marriages) in Hyderabad force minors into temporary unions with foreign nationals.

Conclusion: Despite laws like the POCSO Act, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, and laws against superstitious practices, enforcement remains inconsistent due to cultural acceptance, lack of awareness and social complicity. This study attempts to shed light on these abuses and underscores the need for strict legal enforcement, policy reforms, and community education to protect children's rights and well-being.

Keyword: Child abuse, religion, faith, superstition, culture, harmful traditions.

ICCP/SL/OP/025

Parental neglect in child sexual abuse: A case report

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Background: Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a severe violation of human rights with long-lasting psychological and physical consequences. Parental neglect in such cases can lead to prolonged victimization and mental health deterioration. Despite legal mandates for child protection, some parents fail to report abuse due to personal reasons, including family reputation and ego. This case highlights the impact of prolonged sexual abuse and parental neglect on a child's psychological well-being, emphasizing the medico-legal and forensic responsibilities in CSA cases.

Case study A 13-year-old girl was referred to a child psychiatrist with a three-month history of disturbed behavior, including aggression, social withdrawal, and sleep disturbances. A detailed evaluation revealed a history of chronic sexual abuse by her maternal uncle, which had been ongoing since she was nine years old. Shockingly, the parents were aware of the abuse but failed to report it due to personal ego and concerns about family reputation. Forensic medical examination confirmed past sexual abuse, while psychological assessment diagnosed post-traumatic stress disorder and depression. The case was subsequently reported to child protection authorities. The delay in intervention led to significant emotional distress, highlighting the consequences of parental neglect in CSA cases.

Conclusion: This case illustrates the severe impact of CSA when coupled with parental neglect. Failure to report abuse not only prolongs the victim's suffering but also obstructs legal action against the perpetrator. Healthcare professionals have a crucial role in educating the public regarding the CSA and its long-term consequences and the need for timely reporting and intervention. Strengthening awareness, enforcing mandatory reporting laws, and multidisciplinary collaboration are essential to safeguard the vulnerable children. Addressing cultural and societal barriers that hinder reporting is critical in preventing further abuse and ensuring justice for victims.

Keywords: Child sexual abuse, parental neglect, child psychology.

ICCP/SL/OP/067

Addressing the impact of teenage pregnancies due to sexual abuse: A case series

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Background: The national statistics encompassed 16,708 teenage pregnancies in 2019 in Sri Lanka. Adolescent pregnancy due to child sexual abuse is a global phenomenon with clearly known causes and serious health, social, and economic consequences. Police data reported 1,254 cases of sexual abuse, with 214 pregnancies in 2024 in Sri Lanka.

Case study:
Case 1: A 16-year-old child who was sexually abused by a relative of hers presented at 18 weeks of gestation; *Case 2:* 15-year-old child who was living together with her boyfriend presented at 10 weeks gestation following unanimous information to police for statutory rape; *Case 3:* A 15-year-old child who was sexually abused by her brother-in-law presented at the gestation of 23 weeks and *Case 4:* A 12-year-old mentally retarded child who was sexually abused by an unknown person presented at 19 weeks of gestation. These cass studies highlights instances of teenage pregnancies resulting from rape and incest in Matale, Sri Lanka. They were from the low socio-economic class. All of the adolescents faced significant social consequences, including financial hardship, disrupted educational opportunities, and intense social stigma. Teenage pregnancies can significantly limit adolescents' future opportunities and overall well-being, affecting their prospects for education, employment, and stable family life. These young mothers are also at increased risk of domestic violence, abuse, and exploitation. Moreover, teenage pregnancies are associated with adverse health outcomes for both the mother and the child, underscoring the importance of timely referral to appropriate healthcare services. In Sri Lanka, where abortion in cases of rape is illegal, adolescent pregnancies resulting from sexual violence may lead to unsafe abortion practices. According to the Ministry of Health, unsafe abortions account for approximately 25% of maternal deaths, highlighting a serious public health concern.

Conclusions: This situation highlights several deficiencies in Sri Lanka's healthcare and legal services. Considering provisions for legal abortion in cases of rape and incest, improving sexual health knowledge among adolescents including family planning methods and emergency contraception, will improve the situation.

Keywords: Abortion law, rape, sexual health education, teenage pregnancy.

ICCP/SL/OP/176

Buddhist meditation as a therapeutic tool in trauma recovery: A literature-based analysis of its role in healing child abuse survivors

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Background: Child abuse is a widespread issue affecting millions of children worldwide. It can take the form of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse and often leads to lasting psychological harm. Addressing the emotional and mental health needs of survivors is crucial for their long-term well-being. This study explores how Buddhist meditation can help promote psychological healing and resilience in those affected by child abuse. Further, the child abuse, encompassing physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, often leads to long-term psychological distress, including anxiety, depression, and impaired emotional regulation. This study aimed to examine the psychological impacts of child abuse and explore the therapeutic potential of Buddhist meditation in promoting healing and resilience among survivors.

Method: This research employed a qualitative methodology based on an extensive literature review. Academic databases such as PubMed, PsycINFO, Google Scholar, and JSTOR were searched using keywords including: child abuse, psychological distress, trauma recovery, mindfulness, loving-kindness meditation, and emotional regulation. The literature review focused on peer-reviewed publications from 2000 to 2024.

Results: The findings revealed that Buddhist meditation practices especially mindfulness and loving-kindness (*mettā*) had been shown in multiple studies to foster emotional regulation, reduce symptoms of post-traumatic stress, and enhance self-compassion in survivors of trauma. Survivors who engaged in these practices were better able to confront painful memories non-judgmentally, demonstrating improved psychological resilience. These results were consistently observed across the studies reviewed.

Conclusion: Buddhist meditation, particularly mindfulness and loving-kindness practices, plays a valuable role in trauma recovery for survivors of child abuse. By promoting emotional balance, present-moment awareness, and self-compassion, these practices support long-term psychological healing. The study recommends integrating Buddhist meditation techniques into trauma recovery programs and mental health interventions, given the consistent support from existing literature.

Keywords: Buddhist meditation, child abuse, trauma recovery, mindfulness.

ICCP/SL/OP/207

Exploring the impacts of cultural superstitions on child welfare: From the lens of Iphigenia's Myth to the Sri Lankan context

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Background: Iphigenia can be regarded as one of the pivotal female figures during the fifth century BCE, who was the daughter of King Agamemnon and queen Clytemnestra of Mycenae, Greece. She was sacrificed by her father as a tribute for the goddess Artemis to ensure favorable winds for the Greek fleet. Thus, this paper examines how these negative superstitions emphasize the significance of protecting children from such beliefs in the modern context.

Method: This study is based on a qualitative approach by following mythological narratives from both Greece and Sri Lanka to reflect the negative impacts of superstitious beliefs.

Results: In the Sri Lankan context, superstitious beliefs have existed since the dawn of civilization. Sri Lankan tribes have their own superstitious beliefs according to their socio cultural background. In parallel, the tale of Vihara Mahadevi can be taken as a prominent example for this scenario. Vihara Mahadevi was a Sri Lankan princess who was the daughter of King Kelanitissa. She was sacrificed to the sea to stop the raging waves of the ocean when it flooded the inland because of a curse due to a sin committed by her father, which was accidentally murdering a Buddhist monk. It unveils the recurring nature of these incidents even in the modern context. It emphasizes the need for broadening the educational system and public awareness programs while challenging detrimental cultural superstitious beliefs by stimulating rational thinking as well as rational decision making.

Conclusion: Hence, this study shows how superstitious beliefs endanger children while broadening the perspectives on child welfare and the necessity to empower child protection.

Keywords: Iphigenia, vihara mahadevi, superstitious beliefs, child vulnerability, child welfare.

ICCP/FR/OP/054

Role of forensic expert in identifying and preventing child trafficking

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Background: Child trafficking is a significant global concern that infringes upon the rights and welfare of children, subjecting them to exploitation, abuse, and neglect. Forensic medicine (FM) is distinctly equipped to aid in the identification, investigation, and prevention of child trafficking; yet, its practical applications in this domain necessitate enhanced emphasis and clarity. This study aims to (1) clearly define the role of forensic medicine in child trafficking cases, (2) detail specific forensic methods and their impact on victim identification and legal processes, and (3) highlight multidisciplinary strategies for prevention and intervention.

Method: A comprehensive literature review was performed utilizing PubMed, Web of Science, and Google Scholar. The review concentrated on current advancements and case studies demonstrating the application of forensic medicine—encompassing clinical forensic examination, forensic odontology, DNA profiling, and digital forensics—in the identification and prevention of child trafficking.

Results: Clinical Forensic Examination: Forensic medics meticulously record physical injuries, starvation, indicators of neglect, and psychological trauma, furnishing essential evidence for the identification of trafficking victims. **Forensic Odontology:** Dental age estimation and bite mark analysis aid in verifying the age and identity of minors, particularly in the absence of formal documentation. **DNA Profiling:** Rapid DNA analysis is crucial for reuniting trafficking children with their families, clarifying contested identities, and aiding criminal investigations. **Digital Forensics:** Analysis of digital devices and online communication facilitates the identification of trafficking networks and the monitoring of victim movements. **Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** An effective reaction necessitates collaboration among forensic specialists, law enforcement agencies, social services, and legal authorities.

Conclusions: Forensic medicine is crucial for a strong, evidence-based approach to child trafficking. Forensic professionals utilize specific medical, dental, genetic, and digital skills to improve victim identification, assist legal proceedings, and aid in preventative measures. Continuous training, ethical conduct, and technical advancement are essential for optimizing the efficacy of forensic medicine in child protection.

Keywords: Forensic medicine, child trafficking, victim identification, forensic odontology, DNA profiling, digital forensics, multidisciplinary approach.

ICCO/SL/OP/209

The consequences of irrational adult choices: Reinterpreting "Oedipus Rex" for modern child welfare in Sri Lanka

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Background: Oedipus was a Greek mythological figure who was the son of King Laius and Queen Jocasta of Thebes, Greece. He was left to perish by his own parents as soon as he was born because of a prophetic curse that declared one day he would kill his own father, marry his mother and bear children. Hence, the objective of this paper is to examine how irrational adult decisions and choices lead to negative consequences of the lives of children.

Method: This research is based on a qualitative research methodology followed by a comparative method and a historic method.

Result: In the Sri Lankan context, irrational adult choices have negatively impacted children due to the typical traditional nature of Sri Lankan culture. In parallel to the Sri Lankan context, Prince Pandukabhaya, son to Queen Chitra and Deega Gamini, was also subjected to a similar fate just like Oedipus. As soon as he was born, his mother exchanged him for a girl and gave him away as it was prophesied that later on he would kill his own uncles who were next in line for the throne. Hence, this analysis suggests that although in both of these accounts the adults intended to protect their child from a fate they believed was uncontrollable, it led to a much more tragic outcome. This underscores the idea that adults' decisions, no matter how well-intended, can have unintended and far-reaching consequences, especially when driven by irrational beliefs, fears or societal pressure. The research focuses on observance of the current undergoing of the world which makes awareness on the necessity of child protection despite the intricacies of adult decisions.

Conclusion: In conclusion, it is essential that adults should be more responsible both morally and legally in the decision-making process in order to enhance child welfare within the community.

Keywords: Adults, child welfare, irrational decisions, Oedipus, Prince Pandukabhaya.

ICCP/SL/OP/151

An inquiry into male preference and gender roles in classical Athens: legal, social, and family dynamics

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Background: In Classical Athens (5th–4th century BCE), the value of male children was deeply embedded in legal, social, and economic structures, significantly shaping gender expectations and family responsibilities. Sons were seen as the primary heirs, protectors, and caregivers of aging parents, while daughters were largely confined to domestic roles. This study examined how Athenian laws, particularly Solon's reforms, reinforced the obligation of sons to care for their parents, linking filial duty to inheritance rights.

Method: This study employed a historical and qualitative approach, analyzing primary sources (*Plutarch, Life of Solon; Xenophon, Oeconomicus*) alongside archaeological evidence (funerary and legal inscriptions). Gender roles and family responsibilities were examined through a thematic analysis of legal texts, literary sources, and epigraphic evidence, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of societal attitudes toward male and female children.

Results: The analysis revealed that Athenian laws and customs consistently prioritized male children, with sons guaranteed inheritance and responsible for parental care, while daughters were largely excluded. The study found that these legal and cultural norms reinforced a gender hierarchy, where women's social value was tied to their ability to produce male heirs.

Conclusions: By exploring the connection between law, family structure, and gender roles, the study contributes to a broader understanding of how ancient Greek attitudes toward male children have shaped long-term gendered family obligations.

Keywords: Children, classical Athens, gender roles, male, family.

ICCP/SL/OR/026

Domestic violence and mental health: A case report

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Background: A 42-year-old mother of three was admitted to the psychiatry ward of the National Hospital of Sri Lanka (NHSL) on January 25, 2025, presenting with dissociative symptoms and severe depression. Her condition is attributed to longstanding intimate partner violence (IPV). Her husband, with a history of morbid jealousy, alcohol and substance abuse, has been physically abusive since early in the marriage. The patient has had multiple hospital admissions, including treatment for a head injury in 2010, seizure episodes, and a suicide attempt in 2024 via Amitriptyline and Metformin overdose.

Case study: A comprehensive medico-legal and psychiatric evaluation was conducted. Social support services were engaged to ensure the patient's safety and initiate legal protection. Referrals were made to Women in Need, the Children and Women Bureau, and "Mitura Piyasa." An interim/restraining order was requested under the Domestic Violence Act No. 34 of 2005. The patient and her eldest daughter were educated on available emergency resources, including the national 1938 hotline. A family intervention session was held involving the abusive partner.

Results: The patient exhibited ongoing suicidal ideation and poor treatment compliance. The family intervention led to the husband agreeing to seek treatment. However, due to her vulnerability and history of poor follow-up, legal action and continuous monitoring were emphasized. Despite previous medico-legal and social interventions, the risk to her safety persists.

Conclusion: This case highlights the grave and enduring impact of domestic violence on women's mental health. It underscores the importance of early legal intervention, sustained psychiatric care, and robust multidisciplinary collaboration. Immediate legal protection, strict enforcement of the Domestic Violence Act, continuous psychiatric monitoring, and community-based support are critical to ensuring long-term safety and recovery.

Keywords: Domestic violence, intimate partner violence, depression, medico-legal, restraining order.

ICCP/SL/OP/037

Reinterpreting the Roman '*Alimenta*': expanding modern perspective on state responsibility in child welfare

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Background: The Roman '*alimenta*' introduced by the Emperor Trajan around 98-117 CE was a state sponsored welfare program which provided public funds to poor children and orphans living in Italian cities. This program which provided such children with financial aid and the basic necessities such as food and clothing, was funded through the granting of agricultural loans to Italian landowners. This not only granted a steady income to support the *alimenta*, but also boosted Rome's agricultural economy by supporting small farmers. While majority of the existing scholarly interpretation of the program is that on the *alimenta* being an economic mechanism to drive the agricultural development of Rome, this study aims to add a novel perspective by situating it within the broader discourse on state responsibility in child welfare.

Method: Accordingly, this study employs a qualitative research methodology by taking into analyses primary sources and archaeological evidence including the works of Pliny the Younger's letters and inscriptions from Roman municipalities, alongside secondary literature on welfare economics and public policy. Under this approach, this study will also follow an eclectic method by examining modern welfare models from various states to contextualize the relevance of *alimenta* in contemporary policy discussions.

Results: The *alimenta* did undoubtedly have an impact on the social welfare as epigraphic evidence suggests that thousands of children benefited from the program. Accordingly, 16 to 20 sestertii; Roman coins were provided monthly per child. The *alimenta* is thus a timeless reminder that state-sponsored child welfare is a fundamental social responsibility, not just a temporary solution to poverty.

Conclusions: It stands as a true testament of a sustainable funding model, prompting a rethink on alternative funding mechanisms for child welfare that reduce financial strain on government budgets today.

Keywords: *Alimenta*, Rome, state, child, welfare.

Room 5 – Protection of Children with Disabilities, War, Conflicts; Rights, Legal Aspects and Services

ICCP/FR/OP/038

Enhancing child protection for children with disabilities in Sri Lanka: Aligning with the UNCRPD

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Background: Amid global shifts from institutional to family-centric models in child protection systems, children with disabilities (CWD) remain marginalized from social systems. Despite the existence of legislative and policy initiatives, fragmented implementation and social stigma continue to leave CWD behind. This study investigated the policy and practical disparities hindering CWD inclusion in Sri Lanka and explored rights-based strategies aligned with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

Method: This study consists of two linked articles: a scoping review and an expert interview analysis, contributing to policy recommendations. The review examined 242 academic and policy documents to assess Sri Lanka's alignment with the UNCRPD and included a comparison with international practices. The second article involved semistructured interviews with 11 experts from NGOs, government entities, and institutions. Thematic analysis of the interviews identified key challenges and practical suggestions across policy and implementation.

Results: The scoping review revealed major gaps in accessibility, inter-agency coordination, public awareness, legal infrastructure, and data availability. Expert interviews confirmed these gaps and highlighted cultural stigma, incoherent services, and the absence of a cohesive regulatory system. Compared to global standards, Sri Lanka continues to face challenges in establishing a unified, disability-inclusive child protection model with measurable outcomes.

Conclusions: To strengthen CWD protection in Sri Lanka, actionable strategies aligned with the UNCRPD are vital. Recommendations include reinforcing legal frameworks, enhancing stakeholder coordination, launching national awareness campaigns, and promoting legal literacy. This study emphasizes the urgent need for a comprehensive regulatory structure to protect CWD rights and address societal attitudes toward disability, ensuring effective policy implementation.

Keywords: Disability, child protection, UNCRPD.

ICCP/FR/OP/292

Addressing protection concerns in children with disability: Through the sexuality and abuse lens

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Background: With increasing awareness and reporting of incidents of child sexual abuse (CSA) incidents, issues of child protection are assuming heightened importance LMICs. While all children are vulnerable, children with disabilities, also a frequently invisible sub-group, are particularly at risk of abuse and exploitation. Given the deficits in various developmental areas, particularly in socio-cognitive and speech and language domains making it challenging for them to comprehend, recognize or report abuse. Additionally, they rely heavily on adults for physical care, therapy, and treatments, exposing them to frequent contact with institutions and care providers which place them at increased risk of CSA.

Method: This paper describes the work developed by way of interventions that can be implemented by child mental health service providers and child protection functionaries, to address protection concerns with children with disability. These interventions are developed based on risk and vulnerability frameworks as relevant in the context of CSA, as well as to normative child development theory.

Results: Further to the (above-mentioned) frameworks, creative and participatory approaches have been applied to devise activity-based methods to include themes of body awareness, safety, privacy, and boundaries. Such methods, introduced in a gradual and incremental manner, in accordance with children's developmental abilities, allow for children with disability, specifically those with mild cognitive deficits, to develop personal safety awareness.

Conclusions: Given the imperative to integrate child protection interventions into programs for children with disabilities, the activity-based methods rooted in vulnerability-informed frameworks provide a way forward for child service providers in addressing the existing gaps in child protection interventions for children with disabilities, ensuring both their safety and well-being.

Key Words: Child sexual abuse, disability, personal safety awareness, child protection, interventions.

ICCP/SL/OP/286

Teaching-learning support for students with learning disabilities in mainstream secondary education: A study from Sri Lanka

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Background: Students with learning disabilities frequently encounter challenges such as low attention spans, reduced concentration, limited comprehension, and memory retention issues, impacting their academic performance in mainstream classrooms. If left unaddressed, these challenges can lead to negative social behaviors and hinder overall personality development. This study was conducted to investigate the socio-economic backgrounds, intellectual abilities, literacy levels, learning styles, and behavioral issues of three students with learning disabilities.

Method: A single center study was conducted by selecting Dharmaraja College, Kandy, Sri Lanka. Three students were initially referred to the inclusive education support unit for learning support upon entering grade 6, based on their inability to read or write, presence of behavioral issues, and noticeably low attention spans in the classroom. They consistently scored within the lowest 20% across all subjects over the years and were kept under continuous observation. These students were identified with learning disabilities, where the conditions included dyslexia, hyperactivity, and personality disorder. An in-depth analysis was performed, considering their socio-economic backgrounds, educational goals, and individual strengths and weaknesses. Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) were then developed, tailored to their current abilities in behavior, learning capacity, and language skills, including reading, writing, listening, and comprehension. The students' progress was continuously monitored to evaluate the effectiveness of the intervention.

Results: The findings reveal significant improvements in the students' personalities, social interactions, language skills, and academic goal-setting abilities. Enhanced behavioral discipline and a more positive approach to the learning process were also observed. These outcomes indicate the effectiveness of personalized educational strategies in supporting students with learning disabilities.

Conclusions: This action research highlights the necessity of innovative and individualized lesson plans for students with learning disabilities to enhance their academic and social skills. The findings suggest that customized teaching approaches can significantly improve learning outcomes. Furthermore, this model can be extended to mainstream classrooms using student clustering techniques, enabling differentiated lesson plans that cater to diverse learning needs.

Keywords: Learning disabilities, behavioral problems, IEPs, inclusive education.

ICCP/SL/OP/228

Education and future dreams: Are we excluding children in alternative care?

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Background: Education is a right of every child, according to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Education allows children to shape and dream about their future. The objective of this study is to describe access, perceptions of education and perspectives on future of children aged 10-18 years residing in alternative care settings in Western province.

Method: This was a mixed-method study as part of a larger study conducted on alternative care policy in the Western province from May to July 2023. Direct observations of the 20 alternative care institutions were carried out using an observation checklist. Qualitative data was collected from 04 focus groups and 12 in-depth interviews of children aged 10-18 years in 11 alternative care settings. Ethical approval was obtained by the SLCP ethics review committee.

Results: Alternative care settings studied included remand homes, approved/ certified schools, child development centres and NGO-based family-like settings. Three out of 20 settings had mandatory school-aged children who were not attending school. Two of these settings had some informal arrangements for education. However, 18 institutions communicated with the educational teams to monitor the progress of the children. All 20 had a library facility, while only 15 had a computer facility. Qualitative data revealed themes regarding their education and aspirations for the future. In various settings, children's perceptions of their education were diverse. There was mixed enthusiasm for education, with most wishing to complete at least the ordinary-level examination to secure a reasonable future. They felt that additional support for learning and IT facilities was inadequate. Students expressed different dreams for their future. Majority held very modest goals, likely influenced by their backgrounds. They often lack the encouragement from society that their peers receive to achieve their dreams.

Conclusions: This data shows that children in alternative care settings do not have equitable access to educational opportunities. As a result, their perspectives on the future are limited, hindering their ability to dream.

Keywords: Alternative care, education, future.

ICCP/SL/OP/053

Child protection in conflict zones: The role of UNICEF in protecting refugee children in the Gaza Crisis

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Background: The Gaza War between Israel and Palestine has been ongoing for ages, resulting in an impact on many lives, especially children. The conflict has resulted in loss of lives, mass destruction, and deep psychological trauma within the community. Among all the international organizations, in dealing with the crisis in Gaza, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) stands out because of its continuous provision of services in various fields to children of the ongoing Gaza war. This study explored the gravity of the existence of this organization, combing through its historical context and operational framework that approached the areas of education, health care, emergency responses, social services and infrastructure development to fulfil the needs of the children.

Method: The main research method is the qualitative research method, as this study investigates the depth and humanitarian efforts of UNICEF's role in protecting refugee children in Gaza. The primary data of this study was collected through official UNICEF reports between 2019 and 2024. Secondary data was collected through peer-reviewed journal articles, academic research papers, and news sources relevant to humanitarian responses in Gaza.

Results: This study reveals how the war has impacted the refugee children psychologically and physically. UNICEF has implemented child protection measures in education, health care, psychological support, clean water, sanitation and support for children's rights within international legal frameworks. Despite having challenges in such vulnerable zones, UNICEF continues to prioritise the protection and well-being of these children. The child refugee community can join the fast-developing world without much problem because UNICEF has been providing them with all and sundry assistance.

Conclusion: This study concludes that UNICEF plays a major role in keeping the refugee children safe during the Gaza war. Despite the challenges, the efforts of UNICEF in health, education, legal advocacy and psychological support contribute to the wellbeing of these children.

Keywords: Child protection, conflict zone, Gaza, refugee children, UNICEF.

ICCP/SL/OP/099

Social work interventions for families of disabled children in child protection systems

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Background: Disabled children are particularly susceptible to neglect, abuse, and exploitation, necessitating targeted child protection measures. Families of these children frequently encounter compounding challenges such as financial strain, social marginalization, and limited access to support services. This study aims to investigate the role of social work interventions in protecting disabled children, enhancing family resilience, and improving access to child protection services within the Sri Lankan context.

Method: A qualitative research design was adopted in 2024, focusing on the Matale District of Sri Lanka. Data were collected through purposive sampling of 20 families with disabled children, along with 5 social workers and 5 child welfare professionals. Key informant interviews and non-participant observations were conducted, with narrative analysis applied using ecological systems theory and the strengths-based approach as guiding frameworks.

Results: The findings highlight the central role of social workers in child protection through personalized case planning, emotional support, and policy advocacy. Families reported significant challenges, including emotional burnout, societal stigma, and difficulty navigating institutional processes. Social work interventions, particularly service coordination and psychosocial support, helped mitigate these issues. However, major barriers included limited resources, inadequate disability-specific training, and fragmented service systems. Notably, interventions grounded in family strengths, cultural competence, and inter-agency collaboration yielded more successful outcomes.

Conclusions: The study concludes that social workers are indispensable in protecting disabled children by delivering holistic and tailored interventions. Recommendations include expanding professional training, fostering cross-sectoral partnerships, and implementing inclusive policy reforms to enhance the efficacy and sustainability of child protection systems in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Child protection, social work, disability, family support, intervention strategies.

ICCP/SL/OP/160

Binding AI for differently abled child protection through a multimodal approach to early abuse detection and intervention in Sri Lanka: 'Rekawarana'

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Background: Child abuse remains a critical concern in Sri Lanka, with statistics from the National Child Protection Authority indicating over 10,000 reported cases annually over the past decade. Children with disabilities are among the most at risk, often facing significant barriers in communicating experiences of abuse due to physical, cognitive, or social challenges. Despite the presence of support systems, underreporting and delayed detection remain persistent issues, particularly within these vulnerable groups.

Method: To address this gap, the study introduces 'Rekawarana', an AI-powered mobile application to detect and monitor signs of abuse in children with disabilities through multimodal data analysis. The research problem focuses on improving early detection and timely intervention using advanced technological methods tailored for inclusivity and accessibility. The system integrates Natural Language Processing (NLP) to analyze text messages, social media interactions, and voice inputs for signs of distress or abusive language. Computer vision algorithms process images and video footage to detect physical indicators such as bruises or scars. Additionally, behavioural data from wearable devices-such as heart rate and stress levels-are analyzed to identify patterns of emotional distress. A hybrid AI model, combining supervised and unsupervised learning, ensures adaptability and improved accuracy over time.

Results: During beta testing with simulated scenarios and anonymized datasets, 'Rekawarana' demonstrated promising performance, achieving approximately 70% accuracy in identifying indicators of abuse. The system effectively flagged behavioral anomalies-such as social withdrawal and abrupt changes-with high sensitivity. Its integration into simulated response workflows significantly enhanced the speed of case prioritization and intervention.

Conclusions: 'Rekawarana' presents a novel approach to child protection by integrating AI with social welfare goals. It addresses a significant gap in traditional detection systems, offering a scalable, real-time solution for identifying abuse. Ethical considerations-including privacy, algorithmic fairness, and dataset inclusivity-are carefully acknowledged, with future efforts aimed at broader deployment and strengthened collaboration with child welfare stakeholders.

Keywords: Handicapped children, artificial intelligence (AI), Rekawarana, multimodal data analysis, real-time abuse detection.

ICCP/SL/OP/101

The effect of parenting style on the protection of the child: A survey based on Sri Lankan parents

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Background: In Sri Lanka, parenting style is conditioned by broader societal and cultural factors but no proper and systematic training is given. In most cases, parenting styles are affected by the customs of the previous generations, yet a significant gap prevails regarding effective parenting approaches. This study examined the practiced parenting styles in different socio-demographic conditions and the awareness of parents' parenting styles.

Method: A structured questionnaire was administered to a sample of 103 parents with multiple characteristics including age, level of education and occupation. Four main parenting approaches; authoritarian, authoritative, permissive and uninvolved were tested and analyzed through SPSS.

Results: The research emphasized that most parents adopt a mixed parenting style with a higher concentration of authoritative and permissive styles. The study found that 56.3% (n=??) of parents possess an authoritative style whereas an uninvolved parenting style is the least common. The mean values for authoritarian and uninvolved parenting styles were close to zero, and the standard deviation was relatively high, indicating little variance within the same category. Notably, the awareness of parenting styles was significantly low at 2.9%. Moreover, 6.8% demonstrated an awareness of the legal background of child rights in the country and 35.9% were unaware of the existence of international covenants and conventions regarding child protection. Statistical analysis revealed that there is no significant relationship between the awareness of legal background and the related parenting style ($P > 0.05$). Despite the low awareness of parenting styles, parents with the GCE A/L and above practice an authoritative approach. Contrary, parents who have been educated up to GCE O/L tend to follow an authoritarian style.

Conclusion: This study suggests that all Sri Lankan parents should be given parenting style education irrespective of their differences.

Keywords: Child protection, systems theory, parenting styles.

ICCP/FR/OP/232

Syrian refugee children's participation rights: From war to resettlement in the United States of America

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Background: The Syrian war started over a decade ago. Yet there is a lack of research on the participation rights of displaced Syrian children as they migrate to, and resettle in, the United States of America (US). This paper addresses the gap by presenting a qualitative study on this topic. In accordance with Article 12 of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)*, which demands States to consider children's views in decision-making processes, this study uses data obtained from professionals who work with refugees in Washington to explore the implementation of child participation rights in US immigration systems. As the US is the only country that has not ratified the CRC, the findings will help to elucidate the significance of ratification of the treaty into domestic law.

Method: An exploratory design was incorporated to gain a deeper understanding of the phenomenon. This involved conducting semi-structured in-depth interviews with nine professionals who were asked to speak about their work with Syrian children, any barriers to hearing the children's views, and ways to enhance child participation. Applying the principles of grounded theory, the transcripts were analysed using an inductive, methodical coding process.

Results: The results found that unaccompanied children have opportunities to express their views. Conversely, many barriers prevent accompanied children from having a voice. This included Syrian perceptions on the role of women and children, lack of resources and training, and lack of legal representation.

Conclusions: Resources provided by the US Government are insufficient to meet the needs of refugee children. The government and civil society can better promote Syrian children's participation rights by aligning domestic policies with international standards, increasing access to legal representation, developing child-focused programs, and improving staff training.

Keywords: Child Refugee Rights, Child Participation, Syrian Refugees, International Refugee Laws, Resettlement in United States of America.

ICCP/FR/OP/019

Empowering differently abled children through music education: A study of the Savika Foundation initiative

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Background: The Savika Foundation is dedicated to fostering inclusivity and empowerment for differently abled children, particularly those with autism, Downs syndrome, and other developmental challenges, through structured music education. This study examined the role of music as a therapeutic and developmental tool, focusing on its impact on cognitive, emotional, and social growth.

Method: A mixed-method approach was utilized, involving 28 children aged 6–13 with autism spectrum disorder, Downs syndrome, and developmental delays. Weekly structured music sessions included singing, rhythm-based exercises, movement, and instrumental play. Data collection included pre- and post-intervention assessments using adapted behavioral checklists, engagement scales, and caregiver interviews. Quantitative results were statistically analyzed using paired t-tests to measure developmental change.

Results: Quantitative analysis revealed statistically significant improvements in several developmental domains. For instance, attention span scores increased by an average of 32% ($P < 0.01$), and memory retention improved by 27% ($P < 0.05$). Non-verbal children showed a 40% increase in responsive gestures to musical prompts. Emotional regulation improved in 75% of participants, with caregivers reporting reduced tantrums and anxiety. Group sessions promoted peer interaction, and 68% of children were noted to initiate or respond to social cues during music-based activities up from 39% at baseline.

Conclusion: The findings underscore the transformative potential of music education in special needs interventions. Structured music sessions not only support emotional and cognitive growth but also enhance social integration. This study advocates for incorporating music therapy into inclusive education policy and training educators in music-based approaches. Further longitudinal studies are recommended to evaluate sustained developmental impact and program scalability.

Keywords: Music education, autism, differently abled children, emotional regulation, inclusive learning, cognitive development.

Room 6 - Women's and Gender Studies

ICCP/SL/OP/49

Barriers to workplace economic mobility of women in Sri Lanka; Insights from World Bank gender statistics

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Background: Women as an indispensable part of the global economy record only a quarter or less of labor participation in South Asian region to the labor market. Thus, this study aimed to investigate the barriers impacting the economic mobility of women in Sri Lanka.

Method: This study employed the quantitative research approach based on secondary data from World Bank Gender Statistics (1971-2023). Descriptive and trend analysis were used to determine the gender gap through the ratio of women to men in the labor force as well as a detailed analysis of women in labor force participation.

Results: It was found that there is a persistent gender gap as the ratio of women to men labor force participation declined from 53.2 % in 1991 to 44.6% in 2023, while the female labor force participation rate fluctuated between 32% and 35%. Key findings from the secondary qualitative data revealed that women in Sri Lanka face systemic barriers such as restrictions on night work, industrial employment, unequal remuneration, disparities in pension benefits at retirement age, and inability to administrate 100 %t of maternity leave by the government. Notably, Sri Lankan laws lacked gender-based credit access and employment discrimination provisions. Especially, there was no law on sexual harassment in employment and no criminal penalties or civil remedies existed for sexual harassment in employment until the introduction of section 345 of the Penal Code (Amendment) Act No.22 of 1995 against sexual harassment.

Conclusions: The study underscores the need for gender-inclusive policies and legal reforms from time to time for both the corporate and government sectors to address institutional barriers to enhance women's economic mobility in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Economic mobility, gender gap, women, workplace.

ICCP/SL/OP/310

Women's attitudes towards Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in public libraries in Sri Lanka: Perceptions and challenges

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Background: This study explores the attitudes of women working in Sri Lanka's public libraries regarding gender-based violence (GBV). With 87% of the 1,102 public library workforces being women, understanding their workplace experiences is crucial.

Method: The research examines their perceptions, awareness, and responses to GBV within library environments. A sample of 64 women from five districts—Kandy, Anuradhapura, Kurunegala, Kegalle, and Badulla was selected, representing four provinces. The participants included 12.76% librarians, 26.15% library attendants, 41.25% library assistants, and 19.84% assistant librarians. Data collection involved a two-step approach: an initial survey via Google Forms followed by structured interviews for in-depth insights. A mixed-methods analysis was used to summarize findings through frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations.

Results: The respondents were asked about their opinion on gender-based violence in the workplace, 79.3% stated that it should be considered a crime and punished accordingly. Others viewed it as a reason to dissatisfaction and losing interest in the job, while no one considered it normal behavior. The findings that 83.5% believe women should be treated equally, 7.7% advocate for a special place for women in the workplace, 5.2% emphasize reducing excessive workloads for women, and 3.6% support special consideration and respect for women. 50% of women reported experiencing verbal violence, including bullying, tugging, harsh speech, and slander. Additionally, 41.7% faced physical violence, such as denial of promotions, abuse of power, and exposure to inappropriate behavior. Furthermore, 8.1% of women encountered mental violence, with 30% of such incidents involving high-ranking officials and 20% involving colleagues at the same level. 75% of victims did not properly report violence, and none approached the police due to workplace stigma.

Conclusion: Respondents highlighted management's lack of seriousness, unclear definitions, and absence of policies. They proposed anonymous reporting, victim protection, and staff training to effectively address and prevent violence in public libraries.

Keywords: Gender-based violence, public libraries.

ICCP/SL/OP/051

Artificial intelligence-based sentiment analysis of social media on Gender-based Violence in Sri Lanka

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Background: Sri Lanka has been experiencing rising cases of domestic violence and workplace and online harassment, making Gender Based Violence (GBV) a major social problem. This study aimed at exploring the representation of GBV on social media and the various perceptions that people have concerning the violation of the rights of base on gender in the society using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Natural Language Processing (NLP).

Method: A quantitative, AI-driven approach was used to analyze the sentiment of about 24,500 posts and comments from Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Tok-tok over the period from June 2023 to November 2024. In the data preprocessing stage, the data was converted into words, stop words were removed, words were stemmed, and lemmatization was done. The sentimental analysis of the data was carried out using Transformer-based deep learning models (BERT, RoBERTa) which were trained with a labeled dataset of GBV in Sri Lanka. Latent Dirichlet Allocation was used in the study to explore the topics of the discussions embedded in the data. Statistical analyses such as the Pearson correlation analysis was used to determine the relationship between the sentiment trends and the GBV incident reports from the police and Non-Government Organizations. The analysis was performed using R and Python.

Results: The results of the online discussions showed that 47.8% (n=24,500) of the posts were supportive of victims of GBV, while 33.2% (n=24,500) had negative sentiments and 19.0% (n=24,500) had neutral sentiments. The results of the topic model revealed that the most discussed topics were legal justice, victim-blaming, social stigma, and policy reforms. There was a statistically significant correlation ($r = 0.71$; $P < 0.01$) between increases in dismissive sentiment and actual GBV cases. The deep learning models had an F1-score of 89.2 which showed that the models were very accurate in sentiment classification.

Conclusions: This study establishes that social media discourse affects the perceptions of GBV in the society in Sri Lanka. The result of this study also showed that there is the existence of a dismissive attitude which calls for awareness campaigns and policy changes to change the notion of the society. Furthermore, the results presented herein suggest that AI-driven sentiment monitoring tools can be effectively used for the early identification of GBV incidents. Future work may involve expanding the dataset for multilingual sentiment analysis and further exploring the impact of media framing on GBV discourse.

Keywords: Sentiment analysis, gender-based violence, natural language processing, social media, artificial intelligence.

ICCP/SL/OP/117

Exploring gender disparities in classroom participation during English Lectures: A case study from University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

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Background: In Sri Lankan tertiary-level education, Information Technology (IT) or Computing and Technology faculties are predominantly male, significantly influencing classroom participation dynamics in English-medium instruction. This study examined gender disparities in participation patterns among first-year Technology undergraduates during English lectures while analyzing the underlying factors contributing to these disparities and suggesting pedagogical strategies to promote an inclusive learning environment.

Method: This study employs a mixed-methods approach, utilizing 6 weeks from January to mid-February 2025. Classroom observations and questionnaire data were collected from a purposive sample of 80 first-year undergraduates (52 males and 28 females) from the Faculty of Computing and Technology, University of Kelaniya. The participants were from the intermediate English proficiency level group, as determined by their scores on the English placement test conducted at the beginning of the semester. The quantitative data were processed using SPSS and qualitative data were analyzed thematically.

Results: The findings revealed that first-year female undergraduates exhibit lower verbal participation in male-majority classrooms. Specifically, 75% of female students (n=21) reported high language anxiety, 67.8% (n=19) avoided speaking due to fear of grammatical errors or peer judgment and 60.7% (n=17) were pressured to be "perfect" before speaking in English. In contrast, 80.7% of male undergraduates (n=42) expressed a willingness to engage in spoken English despite occasional linguistic inaccuracies, compared to only 35.7% (n=10) of female students. Thematic analysis of classroom observations supported the trends, including female undergraduates speaking less frequently and appearing more reluctant to contribute, often showing signs of language anxiety and self-consciousness, while male students were more assertive and frequently engaged in classroom interactions. Additionally, English lecturers may inadvertently allocate more speaking opportunities to male undergraduates due to their proactive classroom behavior, further reinforcing the participation gap. Seating arrangements and peer group dynamics also influence interaction patterns, with female undergraduates tending to sit in same-gender clusters, further restricting their engagement in class-wide discussions and reducing opportunities for integrated peer interaction. To address gender disparities in English-medium instruction, it is essential to implement pedagogical strategies that foster equitable participation through structured speaking activities, balanced lecturer engagement and informal English interaction.

Conclusion: The study highlights the subtle yet impactful ways in which classroom dynamics and emotional and cognitive factors of the students shape verbal participation in English-medium settings. Rather than focusing solely on language proficiency, educators must consider the social and emotional dimensions of classroom interaction.

Keywords: Gender disparities, classroom participation, English lectures.

ICCP/SL/OP/126

Maternal migration impacts children: Exploring the underlying factors and pathways for policy reform in Sri Lanka

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Background: Maternal migration in Sri Lanka, driven by economic necessity, poses risks to child protection and development. The 2013 Family Background Report (FBR) policy introduced in Sri Lanka restricted mothers' migration to safeguard children. Although the policy intended to protect children, it was criticized for violating women's rights and lacking evidence of effectiveness. Amid economic difficulty, the policy was partially reversed in 2022 reigniting concerns about children's well-being. This study explores how maternal migration affects children, identifies root causes that must be addressed to strengthen child protection without unfairly restricting women's rights, and uniquely contributes to existing literature by highlighting gendered policy gaps and proposing actionable, locally grounded reforms.

Method: A narrative synthesis review was conducted using Popay et al.'s (2006) framework. Seven qualitative studies were selected from databases such as PubMed, EBSCOhost, and Google Scholar. Studies were chosen based on their relevance to maternal migration and its effects on children in similar socio-economic contexts.

Results: Three key themes emerged: (1) Traditional gender norms restricting paternal caregiving; (2) Inadequate alternative caregiving arrangements during maternal migration; and (3) Economic and structural pressures that drive maternal migration. These factors cause emotional distress, neglect, and poor developmental outcomes for left-behind children underscoring the necessity for laws supporting children's well-being.

Conclusion: Findings highlight the need for child-focused comprehensive policy reforms addressing root causes of negative impacts of maternal migration on children. Recommendations include promoting shared caregiving by empowering fathers, investing in government-funded childcare facilities, mandating migrating parents to prove adequate childcare for their children's safety, introducing mandatory state welfare monitoring for children of migrating parents, and addressing root economic causes of migration through targeted support and poverty reduction initiatives. These measures aim to protect children's rights while promoting gender equity in migration policies.

Keywords: Migration, children, gender, caregiving.

ICCP/SL/OP/326

Domestic violence against married women in Kurunegala Police Division, Sri Lanka

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Background: Domestic violence remains a critical public health and human rights issue disproportionately affecting married women. This study was conducted to evaluate the patterns, contributing factors of domestic violence and its consequences for victims and their families in order to suggest targeted interventions and policy recommendations.

Method: A retrospective descriptive analysis was conducted using official police records from the Kurunegala Police Division. Data on demographic characteristics, forms of violence, contributing factors, and outcomes were extracted and analyzed. The study categorized violence into physical, emotional, sexual and economic abuse while also examining the role of substance abuse, financial stress and marital dynamics in domestic violence incidents. Descriptive statistical analysis was performed.

Results: The findings revealed that physical abuse was the most frequently reported form of violence, occurring in 40% (n=20) of cases. Key contributing factors included financial problems in 22% (n=11), extramarital affairs in 20% (n=10), and substance abuse in 16% (n=8). The impact extended beyond the victims, with 34% (n=17) of cases reporting harm to children, 20% (n=10) indicating financial hardship, and 16% (n=8) affecting victims' employment. Among them, 12% (n=6) were reportedly managed for psychological consequences, including suicidal ideation, by a consultant psychiatrist.

Conclusion: Domestic violence against married women in the Kurunegala Police Division is a multifaceted issue with severe physical, psychological and socio-economic repercussions. Addressing this crisis requires comprehensive support systems, including medical care, psychological counseling, legal aid and economic empowerment initiatives. Strengthening law enforcement responses, community education, and policy interventions is essential to mitigate violence and improve the well-being of affected women and their families.

Keywords: Domestic violence, married women, physical abuse, substance abuse.

ICCP/SL/OP/274

Gender based violence in schools: Addressing inequality and harm

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Background: Gender-based violence (GBV) in schools is a serious issue that undermines student safety and reinforces gender inequalities. It includes physical, psychological, and sexual abuse, as well as bullying and discrimination based on gender identity or expression. Although schools are intended to be safe spaces, they often become environments where harmful gender norms are reproduced.

Method: This study adopts a deductive approach and uses a qualitative methodology to explore students' lived experiences of GBV in school contexts. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews and case study reviews from a purposive sample of 20 middle school students (10 girls, 8 boys, and 2 LGBTQ+ students) from government, semi-government, national, and international schools. The data were analyzed using thematic analysis, identifying recurring patterns and themes.

Results: Findings reveal that girls frequently face verbal and sexual harassment, boys are commonly subjected to physical violence and bullying, and LGBTQ+ students experience exclusion and stigmatization. Many students are reluctant to report incidents due to fear of victim-blaming and lack of trust in school authorities. Teachers often lack proper training to respond to GBV, and school policies sometimes reinforce gender stereotypes, making students feel unsafe.

Conclusions: The study highlights the urgent need for comprehensive sex education, gender-sensitive school policies, teacher training, and safe reporting mechanisms. Promoting a respectful, inclusive school culture is essential to ensuring that all students can learn and grow without fear of violence or discrimination.

Keywords: Gender-Based Violence (GBV), school-related gender-based violence, bullying, discrimination.

ICCP/SL/OP/158

Gender and stage fear in English communication: A study based on the first year commerce undergraduates in selected private and state Universities in Colombo District, Sri Lanka

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Background: Stage fear is a common challenge in English communication, influenced by psychological, social, and cultural factors. With English proficiency playing a crucial role in academic and professional success, it is a requisite to understand the factors that contribute to speaking anxiety. However, the extent to which it varies by gender remains unexplored, as men and women may differ in verbal confidence and cultural expectations. This study aimed to investigate whether stage fear in English communication is a gender-specific issue among Commerce undergraduates from selected private and state universities in the Colombo district by examining its underlying causes.

Method: A mixed-method research design was employed with a sample of 150 first-year undergraduates from the Faculty of Commerce at one state university and two private universities in the Colombo district. The data was collected using speaking tests, observations, and semi-structured interviews and analyzed using SPSS and thematic analysis.

Results: The quantitative results revealed that only one private university, with a 0.001 p-value, had a significant gender-based difference in performance, where male students outperformed their female counterparts. In contrast, the differences in scores between female and male students were not statistically significant in the remaining private and state universities, as the analysis carried P values of 0.579 and 0.381. However, the qualitative data indicated that several factors, such as fear of judgement and performance anxiety, self-confidence and self-esteem differences across genders, and social expectations of males versus females in public speaking, cultural conditioning, and gender roles in communication, impact English communication.

Conclusion: Gender-inclusive approaches can help ensure equal opportunities in English communication, while further studies should explore the relationship between gender, confidence, and linguistic anxiety to refine training methods.

Keywords: Stage fear, gender differences, English communication, linguistic anxiety.

ICCP/SL/OP/189

Challenges encountered by elected women leaders in local governments in Sri Lanka

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Background: The local government election of Sri Lanka held in February 2018 marked a historic milestone for female political representation with the 25% quota for women in local government under the Local Authorities Elections (Amendment) Act, No.16 of 2017. However, these elected women leaders (EWLs) have limited experience in political leadership and advocacy to their constituents, face issues due to patriarchal social structure and traditional gender roles and may encounter harassment from their male counterparts and other men in communities. Hence, the aim of this study was to explore the challenges faced by EWLs in selected local governments in Sri Lanka

Method: The study was conducted in Ampara, Badulla, Jaffna and Kurunegala districts. Qualitative research method was used for primary data collection. A total of 47 semi-structured interviews were conducted via telephone interviews during May/June 2020. This included six EWLs from each district (a total of 24) and two Civil Society Organizations'(CSO) leaders from each district (a total of 08), 11 district level activists and four national level activists. The interview transcripts were prepared in English, and they were coded under common themes using thematic analysis method.

Results: It was found that the EWLs are confronted with structural and agency barriers. Balancing their traditional gender roles in the private sphere and duties as political leaders in the public sphere, maintaining their 'good name' as respectable wives and mothers due to their involvement in politics, financial hardships and disrespect felt in carrying out duties in local governments were identified as structural barriers. Not being aware of and less involved in gender sensitive decision making and lack of skills and knowledge in the Act and other laws and regulations of the local council were agency barriers that they faced.

Conclusion: In conclusion, EWLs were unable to actively participate in and influence the decision-making process in their local governments due to their gender roles and gender power relations in society.

Keywords: Elected women leaders, local governments, challenges.

ICCP/SL/OP/239

Awareness on sexual health and the use of pornography among undergraduates of the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

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Background: Awareness on sexual health has been a topic of controversy in Sri Lanka. With the increasing use of the internet among university students it is important to find whether pornography consumption has a link to filling the gap in awareness.

Method: A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted among 426 undergraduates representing all six faculties of the University of Kelaniya in November 2024. A self-directed questionnaire including the Sexual Health Awareness Scale (SHAS) and Consumption of Pornography Scale – General (COPS - G) was used.

Results: The mean awareness score using SHAS for 426 students was 166.13. More than half of students (51.2%, n=218) had less than the mean score. Although high level of sexual health awareness has been considered as a score between 177 and 240, only 14.8% (n=63) of students have scored above 177. Faculty of Medicine students had the highest mean awareness score of 173.58 while the lowest was recorded from Faculty of Computing and Technology as 158.00. Pornography consumption with COPS – G, resulted highest mean in the Faculty of Computing and Technology (36.54), followed by Faculty of Science (29.86). Pornography consumption mean scores of males and females were 37.26 and 13.63 respectively. A statistically significant association (P=0.006) was found between having lower sexual health awareness and higher consumption of pornography.

Conclusions: Sexual health awareness among university students indicates that the majority (85.2%, n=363) have average knowledge. Although pornography consumption is common among students, its impact on awareness and attitudes on sexual health is complex. The study highlights the need of further exploration of this area.

Keywords: Sexual health education, university students, phonography consumption, Sri Lanka

Room 7 - Child Protection, Technology and Multimedia

ICCP/SL/OP/044

Building digital resilience: Protecting children from online threats and promoting safe internet use in Sri Lanka

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Background: The pervasive integration of digital technology into daily life has significantly increased children's exposure to various online risks such as cyberbullying, grooming, explicit content, privacy breaches, and digital addiction. In Sri Lanka, the absence of comprehensive legal safeguards and the inadequacy of digital literacy initiatives intensify these vulnerabilities. The primary objective of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of existing legal and institutional frameworks in Sri Lanka concerning online child protection and to propose strategic interventions based on comparative analysis with international best practices.

Method: This study adopts a qualitative and comparative legal analysis methodology. It examines Sri Lankan and international legal frameworks on online child protection, supported by case studies of child exploitation incidents, policy reviews, and stakeholder analysis involving government entities, educational institutions, and technology companies. Data sources include legislative documents, scholarly literature, and reports from the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) and cybersecurity organizations.

Results: The analysis indicates that Sri Lanka's current legal provisions lack specificity in addressing digital threats faced by children. The legal framework remains outdated, with limited capacity to combat issues such as social media exploitation, dark web activities, and online grooming. The research highlights effective global strategies including AI-powered content moderation, blockchain-based identity management, and targeted parental education. However, the lack of public awareness and insufficient accountability mechanisms among tech companies pose significant barriers to successful implementation.

Conclusions: Creating a safer digital space for children necessitates a coordinated, multi-stakeholder approach. This includes revising and updating national laws, incorporating AI-driven safety technologies, and promoting digital literacy among parents and children. The study recommends comprehensive policy reforms, stronger regulatory oversight, international collaboration, and sustained public awareness campaigns to enhance child protection in digital environments.

Key words: Online child protection, cyberbullying, digital literacy, AI safety tools, social media regulation,

ICCP/SL/OP/013

The role of cinema in promoting child protection awareness: A case study of 'Slumdog Millionaire' movie

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Background: This study explores the role of cinema in promoting child protection awareness using 'Slumdog Millionaire' as a case study. The film's portrayal of child exploitation and resilience provides an opportunity to assess how cinema influences viewers' attitudes toward child protection.

Method: A quantitative research design was employed, with a structured questionnaire administered to 15 undergraduate film students at the University of Kelaniya using purposive sampling. The questionnaire focused on emotional responses, increased awareness of child exploitation, and the likelihood of engaging in advocacy.

Results: The results revealed that 64.3% (n=9) of participants felt empathy for exploited children, while 71.4% (n=10) were emotionally impacted by the film's depiction of exploitation. Additionally, 85.7% (n=12) reported an increased awareness of child exploitation, and 71.4% (n=10) recognized the vulnerability of children to exploitation. In terms of advocacy intentions, 78.6% (n=11) expressed a likelihood to support child protection initiatives, while 64.3% (n=9) indicated they would share information about child exploitation with others after viewing the film.

Conclusion: The study concluded that 'Slumdog Millionaire' effectively raised awareness and prompted advocacy actions, emphasizing the potential of cinema to influence social change. The emotional and narrative elements of the film significantly impacted viewers' attitudes, resulting in increased empathy, awareness, and a greater willingness to take action. These findings highlight the capacity of cinema to engage audiences emotionally, increase awareness, and inspire action on pressing social issues such as child exploitation, suggesting that film can serve as a powerful tool for promoting social change and advocacy.

Keywords: Child protection awareness, Slumdog Millionaire, child exploitation, social change

ICCP/SL/OP/047

Generative AI and child sexual abuse material (CSAM): A novel risk to the Sri Lankan community

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Background: The rapid growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has made online child sexual abuse an emerging social problem. Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) is being produced using AI and includes stripping images of children, using text prompts to generate CSAM, and creating pedophile manuals. Though prior research has focused on online child sexual abuse, little attention is paid to the interplay between Generative AI and CSAM, especially in developing countries. Hence, the objective of this study was to analyze the potential risk Sri Lanka has on AI-generated CSAM and suggest working solutions based on the international response.

Method: Adhering to qualitative research design, a systematic review was conducted on papers concerning online child sexual abuse, local legislation, and eight British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) reports (Feb 2024 – Feb 2025) on AI-generated CSAM. Simultaneously, thematic analysis was performed to recognize the local risk and viable solutions.

Results: The study identified three risk factors for AI-generated CSAM in Sri Lanka, including the non-regulated use of Generative AI, lack of awareness, and increased amount of child sexual abuse in the post-pandemic period. Meanwhile, two international responses were identified concerning this issue. This includes the pledge from tech giants to crack down this via Safety by Design principles, and the UK's decision to outlaw AI-generated CSAM. Other than provisions on obscene publications, and child sexual abuse, no specific local provisions on AI-generated CSAM were identified. However, Sri Lanka's National Strategy on AI was found to be a foundation for extending specific solutions on demand.

Conclusions: Incorporating this concept into national policies on children and AI will foresee the danger ahead. While updating legislation, including the Penal Code and Computer Crime Act, with specific provisions for AI-generated CSAM, the regulation of Generative AI is recommended. Hence, promoting responsible digital usage will create a safer digital space for children.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, child sexual abuse material, generative AI.

ICCP/SL/OP/046

Lost childhoods and the intersection of trauma, care, and ethnic conflict in 'Punchi Suranganavi'

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Background: Children remain the most vulnerable in a world shaped by neglect, conflict, and division. Punchi Suranganavi (Little Angel), directed by Somaratne Dissanayake, provides a poignant exploration of child protection and gendered caregiving set against the backdrop of ethnic tensions in Sri Lanka. This study investigates how trauma, care, and ethnic conflict intersect to shape the psychological experiences of children, using the film as a case study.

Method: A qualitative film analysis is employed, drawing on trauma studies, child psychology, and gender theory to analyze the portrayal of childhood trauma, cross-cultural caregiving, and gendered dynamics in Punchi Suranganavi.

Results: The film depicts the psychological toll of ethnic conflict on children through Sampath, a young boy experiencing emotional trauma and parental separation, and Sathya, a Tamil girl who loses her father during the 1983 Sinhala-Tamil conflict. It highlights the healing potential of cross-cultural caregiving, as Sathya's bond with Sampath fosters emotional warmth and stability, demonstrating the role of empathy in overcoming cultural divides. The analysis also reveals the gendered nature of caregiving and its impact on emotional security and child development.

Conclusions: Punchi Suranganavi underscores the importance of emotional well-being, language, and care in supporting children affected by conflict. The study advocates for inclusive social structures that prioritize protection, empathy, and cross-cultural understanding to help children heal from trauma and build resilience.

Keywords: Child production, trauma and resilience, ethnic conflict, gendered caregiving.

ICCP/FR/OP/052

Digital forensics and online child exploitation: Safeguarding children in the era of digital technology

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Background: The rise of digital technology has transformed how children engage with the world but has also exposed them to online exploitation. Crimes such as child sexual abuse material (CSAM), grooming, cyberbullying, and trafficking have increased, making digital forensics essential in child protection. This presentation examines how forensic medicine and digital forensics aid in identifying, investigating, and preventing these crimes. The research objectives examine the roles of forensic medicine and digital forensics in identifying, investigating, and preventing online child exploitation, and highlight emerging forensic technologies and multidisciplinary approaches to enhance child safety.

Method: A comprehensive literature review was conducted using PubMed, Web of Science, and Google Scholar, focusing on publications from 2015 to 2024. Search terms included "digital forensics," "child sexual abuse," "cyberbullying," "AI in forensic investigations," and "forensic medicine in child protection." Studies were included if they addressed forensic methods for detecting, investigating, or preventing online child exploitation.

Results: Experts in digital forensics use cutting-edge technologies like blockchain analysis to track illegal financial transactions, automated AI-based systems for identifying and classifying exploitative content, dark web investigations to track encrypted communications, and metadata analysis to reveal hidden information in digital files. Contributions from forensic medicine specialists include assisting with victim identification, recording physical and psychological evidence of abuse, and working with digital forensic teams to conduct thorough case evaluations. The effectiveness of prevention and intervention initiatives is increased when forensic experts, law enforcement, and child protection organizations work together interdisciplinary.

Conclusion: Strengthening digital forensic capabilities and promoting child-centered ethical practices are essential to minimize and prevent the growing threat of online child exploitation. Ongoing research, innovation, and policy development will be crucial to safeguarding the rights and wellbeing of children in the era of digital technology.

Keywords: Digital forensics, online child exploitation, Forensic Medicine, child protection, AI in forensic investigations.

ICCP/SL/OP/045

An analysis of the educational and developmental impact of children's cinema: A content study of '*Ho Gaana Pokuna*'

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Background: Cinema for children has long been recognized as a powerful medium for education, creativity, emotions, social skills, cognitive development and overcoming challenges and opportunities, providing an engaging platform for child audiences to learn. This study is qualitative analysis of the genre of Sri Lankan films for children. Accordingly, as a case study, Ho Gaana Pokuna (2015), a Sinhala film produced for Sri Lanka for Sri Lankan kids was deeply analyzed, problematizing its effectiveness on educational and developmental fronts of the children. The research explores how the film's narrative, themes, characters and visual storytelling contribute to children's moral, social and intellectual development.

Method: In a qualitative approach, content analysis has been used in this study and narrative analysis, and psychoanalytic techniques have been primarily used. The film's depiction of a group of schoolchildren overcoming challenges to achieve their goal promotes themes of resilience, collective effort, and the importance of dreams, which were critiqued accordingly.

Results: This study identifies key educational elements embedded in the film, such as teamwork, perseverance, and the value of education, and assesses their potential a high impact on child viewers. The film's emphasis on providing children with practical education, using teamwork and creativity to solve challenges and conflicts, and perseverance, has a direct impact on child development. In addition, the research evaluates the film's ability to develop critical thinking, creativity, and emotional intelligence in children through cinematic techniques and storytelling strategies.

Conclusion: It explores the role of children's cinema in shaping cognitive and moral perspectives, reinforcing its importance as a supplementary educational tool. In conclusion, this study underscores the significance of cinema for children as an educational and developmental tool, advocating for greater recognition of its role in fostering holistic child development.

Keywords: Children's cinema, Ho Gaana Pokuna, education, child development, film as a learning tool

ICCP/SL/OP/170

Digital safety for children: A literature review on tackling online gender-based violence and exploitation

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Background: The rapid expansion of digital technologies has dramatically altered the lives of children, offering many opportunities while at the same time bringing grave risks. Of all the critical issues in this digital era, online gender-based violence and exploitation stand out. This literature review aimed to overview existing research on children's safety in digital contexts, focusing on the gendered dimensions of online abuse.

Method: This study utilizes a qualitative synthesis of peer-reviewed articles, reports policy documents from 2015 to 2024. It is being conducted in global and South Asian settings, specifically Sri Lanka, and focuses on online gender-based violence, digital exploitation, and child protection. Case studies relevant to this were thematically coded to ascertain trends, gaps, and the role of gender stereotypes in perpetuating online abuse. Sources were accessed from search databases like Google Scholar and JSTOR, and child protection reports.

Results: Literature indicates that girls are more exposed to internet gender violence like exploitation and harassment, especially on social media. Gender stereotypes deter reporting and trigger victim-blaming. Most countries' legal systems, including Sri Lanka, are patriarchal and archaic in responding to digital abuse. Inability of children, parents, and teachers to be digitally literate further generates exposure. While technologies like ML and AI have promises in detecting abuse, their use is circumscribed. Overall, the results underscore the need for collective action among policymakers, educators, tech developers, and communities to establish a safer digital world for children.

Conclusion: The study finds that while AI and ML help identify online exploitation, current protections remain insufficient especially for girls. A safer online world requires joint action from policymakers, educators, tech developers, and communities.

Keywords: e-safety, gender-based violence, exploitation, online protection measures, media literacy, legal frameworks.

ICCP/SL/OP/180

Cinematic portrayals of child abuse and harassment: A qualitative analysis of selected Indian films

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Background: Child abuse and harassment remain pressing societal issues, often under-addressed due to limited public awareness and inadequate systemic response. Cinema as a powerful medium of mass communication extends beyond entertainment to influence public consciousness and catalyze dialogue and policy reform. Therefore, this study critically analyzed how the selected Indian films portray child abuse and harassment, through their narrative structures and cinematic techniques, while exploring how these portrayals potentially influence public awareness and systematic reforms.

Method: A Qualitative research design was implemented in the study, and purposive sampling was used to collect the samples. Considering the thematic depth and critical reception from the audience, *Chiththa (2023), Ponmagal Vandhal (2020), Penguine (2020), and Ratsasan (2018)* films were selected. The focus of the selected films ranges from psychological trauma to systematic failures regarding child abuse and harassment. Film discourse analysis was used to analyze the collected data. Under film discourse analysis, narrative structures, character development, and cinematic techniques were studied.

Results: The findings of the study revealed that the films have addressed the topics of child abuse and harassment through emotional, psychological, investigative, and legal narrative structures. The narratives highlight the need for ethical storytelling while securing victim dignity and sharing sensitive evidence. *Chiththa* and *Ponmagal Vandhal* revealed the vacuum in the legal system in addressing the issues regarding child abuse and harassment. All the selected films have ignited the need for crucial discussions and social intervention as individuals and as a community in creating a secure place for children.

Conclusion: This study shows that the diverse narrative approaches within the same discourse can create an impact on the audience. Further, comparative studies can be conducted to identify the different roles of different media discourses in shaping public awareness of child abuse and harassment.

Keywords: Child abuse, cinema, harassment, Indian films.

ICCP/SL/OP/187

Child exploitation through online gaming platforms: Parental perspectives

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Background: With more children spending time on online gaming platforms, the risks they face such as exposure to predators, cyberbullying, and inappropriate content are becoming a growing concern. Many parents, however, may not fully understand these dangers or know how to protect their children, making it important to hear directly from them about their views and awareness. This study aims to understand how parents perceive the risks of child exploitation in online gaming and how aware they are of the potential threats their children might encounter.

Method: This qualitative study used a phenomenological approach to explore parental perspectives on child exploitation risks in online gaming. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 15 purposively selected parents from Batticaloa District, whose children aged 8–16 years regularly play online games. Data collection focused on the use of parental control tools, family communication about gaming, and the usefulness of digital safety resources. The study is not island-wide and reflects an urban context. Interviews were audio-recorded, transcribed verbatim and analyzed using thematic analysis. An inductive coding method was used to identify emerging themes, offering insights into parental awareness and protective strategies.

Results: This study found that many parents in Batticaloa District are not fully aware of the risks in online gaming and feel unprepared to manage them. While some use parental controls, many lack knowledge of potential threats. Parents also struggle to discuss online safety with their children, highlighting the need for better education and resources to support digital parenting.

Conclusions: It suggests that parents, teachers, and gaming platforms should work together to keep children safe online. The study also offers advice on how to help parents get more involved, improve digital knowledge, and make online spaces safer for children.

Keywords: Child exploitation, online gaming, parental perspectives, digital safety.

ICCP/FR/OP/210

Leveraging AI for child protection: Enhancing early detection and intervention strategies

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Background: The surge in digital platform usage has exposed children to escalating online risks, including cyberbullying, grooming, and exploitation. Conventional child protection approaches often fall short in addressing these dynamic threats. Artificial Intelligence (AI) emerges as a powerful tool, offering early detection and intervention capabilities through sophisticated data analysis and predictive modeling. This review integrates insights from academic studies, industry reports, and practical case studies on AI applications in child protection.

Method: It examines the use of machine learning, natural language processing (NLP), and computer vision to identify online threats, drawing from diverse sources like social media analytics and child welfare system data.

Results: Findings reveal AI's effectiveness in enhancing child safety, with NLP successfully flagging grooming patterns in text communications and computer vision detecting harmful visual content. These technologies improve detection speed and accuracy. However, limitations such as data privacy risks, potential biases in algorithms, and the necessity for multi-disciplinary collaboration pose significant challenges to widespread adoption.

Conclusion: AI holds transformative potential for child protection by enabling proactive interventions and strengthening early warning systems. Its success, however, depends on overcoming ethical hurdles and fostering partnerships among technologists, child welfare professionals, and policymakers. Future efforts should prioritize developing unbiased, privacy-conscious AI tools and establishing global guidelines to ensure child-centric digital safety.

Keywords: AI in child protection, online safety, ethical AI, digital well-being.

Room 8 - Child Abuse, Child Rights, Law and Legal Framework and Services

ICCP/SL/OP/056

Understanding juvenile delinquency: Sociological insights and preventive strategies for child abuse

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Background: Juvenile delinquency exists in Sri Lanka, though the term is not commonly used in the medical field. This case report presents an example of juvenile delinquency and examines it through well-known theoretical perspectives. The scope of the authors' examination was limited to the five-year-old victim. Nevertheless, the authors broadened their social analysis to encompass the alleged assailant, a minor.

Case study: A five-year-old girl (examined by the authors) was abducted from her home while she was sleeping alongside her father in the living room, coming through the unsafe window. The abductor, who was a 16-year-old boy, forcefully closed her mouth while sleeping. Because of the parents' shout, the abductor fled away, suggesting a possible disruption of his intended action of sexual abuse. The child was found at the nearby paddy field unharmed. This case is a near-miss incident, reminiscent of the Seya Sadewmi case. Since the accused was a 16-year-old boy, the concept of juvenile delinquency came into play. Several well-established theories attempt to explain such behaviors, ranging from classic sociological perspectives to modern psychological insights. These include Anomie (Strain) Theory, Differential Association Theory, Social Control Theory, Labeling Theory, Subculture Theory, Rational Choice Theory, Psychodynamic Theory, Cognitive Theory, and General Strain Theory. While earlier theories emphasize societal structures and limited opportunities, contemporary approaches consider a broader spectrum of influences, such as individual psychological factors and social interactions. hence it is not rational emphasize only on social theories without focusing on the mental state of the boy. However, that part is beyond the authority of the authors as they only investigate the victim.

Conclusion: Juvenile delinquency exists in Sri Lanka too. This case demands a deeper look into its causes. A 16-year-old boy planned to abduct a sleeping five-year-old girl and what caused such a mindset? Beyond legal action, psychosocial insight is vital for social progress.

Keywords: Juvenile delinquency, child abuse prevention, sociological theories.

ICCP/SL/OP/061

Strengthening child protection through legal reform: Governing alternative care in Sri Lanka in the best interest of the child

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Background: Alternative care serves as a crucial mechanism for safeguarding the welfare of children who are unable to remain with their biological families. In Sri Lanka, the legal framework governing alternative care is rooted in a combination of statutory provisions, judicial interpretations, and international human rights obligations. However, challenges persist in ensuring that these laws adequately address the evolving needs of children and align with the principle of the "best interest of the child," a cornerstone of international child rights law.

Method: This paper through a qualitative study examines the legal framework governing alternative care in Sri Lanka through the lens of the best interests of the child principle. It explores key legislative instruments such as the Children's Ordinance No. 48 of 1939 (as amended) and the Adoption of Children Ordinance No. 24 of 1941, alongside relevant international conventions like the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Results: The analysis finds that the existing laws are fragmented, outdated, and insufficiently aligned with international standards such as the UNCRC and the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children. The system continues to favor institutional care over family-based alternatives, despite global calls for deinstitutionalization. The paper further provides a comparative analysis with India concerning the alternative care system adopted in its jurisdictions with robust child protection mechanisms, offering insights into potential reforms.

Conclusion: The study highlights the urgent need for an integrated, child-centered legislative reform that prioritizes family-based care and ensures meaningful child participation. By addressing these issues, the legal system can be developed to better serve the best interests of children in alternative care, ensuring their safety, well-being, and opportunities for a brighter future. This study aims to contribute to the ongoing discourse on child welfare and advocate for a more holistic, rights-based approach to alternative care in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Child rights, alternative care, best interest of the child.

ICCP/SL/OP/035

Child protection in the digital age: A policy analysis of Sri Lanka's cybersecurity measures and legal frameworks

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Background: The rapid digitalization of Sri Lankan society has resulted in excessive access to online platforms by children for education, socialization, and recreation. While this connectivity brings numerous benefits, it simultaneously exposes children to a wide spectrum of cyber threats including cyberbullying, online grooming, sextortion, exposure to inappropriate content, and privacy violations. These risks underscore the urgent need for robust cybersecurity policies specifically designed to safeguard children's rights and well-being in the digital environment.

Method: This study provides a comprehensive policy analysis of Sri Lanka's cybersecurity and legal frameworks aimed at child protection. It examines key legislative instruments such as the Computer Crimes Act No. 24 of 2007, amendments to the Penal Code relating to cyber offenses, and the Personal Data Protection Act No. 9 of 2022. The study also reviews policy initiatives including the National Cyber Security Strategy 2020–2025 to assess their adequacy in addressing child-specific online safety challenges. The research integrates qualitative document analysis with semi-structured interviews of key stakeholders from institutions such as the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA), Sri Lanka Computer Emergency Readiness Team Coordination Centre (CERT|CC), and the Police Cyber Crime Unit. These engagements reveal practical enforcement challenges, institutional capacity constraints, and the current state of inter-agency coordination.

Results: Findings highlight critical gaps such as the limited inclusion of child-specific protections within existing cyber laws, fragmented institutional responses, and a lack of comprehensive digital literacy and awareness programs tailored for children, parents, and educators. The study further benchmarks Sri Lanka's legal and policy frameworks against international conventions including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the Council of Europe's Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, identifying areas for legislative harmonization and policy strengthening.

Conclusion: This analysis concludes in strategic recommendations to enhance integrating child-specific protections into cyber laws, strengthening institutional collaboration, improving digital literacy at school and community levels, and building enforcement capacity. As digital risks continue to evolve, ensuring child safety online must become a core part of Sri Lanka's national security and public policy agenda.

Keywords: Child protection, online safety, legal framework, policy analysis, digital risk.

ICCP/SL/OP/041

Legal and ethical implications of corporal punishment leading to the death of a child in Sri Lanka: Case report

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Background: Corporal punishment in Sri Lankan schools remains a critical issue despite evidence of its harmful effects on children's physical and psychological well-being. This case report examined the tragic death of a student following corporal punishment, highlighting the complex legal, medical, and ethical implications. It highlighted the urgent need for legislative reform to protect children's rights and prevent such incidents in the future.

Case study: A 16-year-old female student was subjected to corporal punishment by a teacher, involving physical blows that caused significant distress. Hours later, she collapsed and was hospitalized, where neuroimaging revealed a leaking posterior cerebral aneurysm, a pre-existing condition likely ruptured due to the acute stress response from the incident. Despite medical intervention, the student died three months later due to complications related to the aneurysm. The case presented a legal challenge in establishing causation, as the corporal punishment did not directly cause traumatic injury but seemingly triggered the aneurysmal rupture. Medical discussions focused on how stress-induced surges in catecholamines could lead to transient hypertension and increased intracranial pressure, precipitating rupture in vulnerable individuals. The legal implications revolved around principles of factual and legal causation, criminal liability, and civil claims, with considerations of the "eggshell skull" rule regarding pre-existing conditions.

Conclusion: This case reflects the potentially fatal consequences of corporal punishment, especially in individuals with underlying vulnerabilities. While legal complexities around causation may challenge criminal proceedings, the ethical breach is clear. The case emphasizes the need for comprehensive legislative reform in Sri Lanka to totally ban corporal punishment in all educational settings, establish non-violent disciplinary practices, and ensure accountability. By learning from global examples, Sri Lanka can protect children's rights, dignity, and lives, fostering a safer educational environment.

Keywords: Corporal punishment, child protection, legal implications, causal link.

ICCP/SL/OP/064

Impact of tourism development on child abuse and neglect in Weligama Divisional Secretariat

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Background: The rapid growth of the tourism industry in the Weligama Divisional Secretariat Division has created economic opportunities but also increased cases of child abuse and neglect. Children in tourist-heavy areas face heightened risks due to frequent interactions with outsiders, exploitation, and inadequate monitoring mechanisms. Forms of abuse include sexual exploitation, child labor, and emotional neglect, often exacerbated by the lack of supervision in high tourism zones. This study explores the relationship between tourism growth and child protection challenges in Weligama.

Method: The research was conducted in Weligama using a mixed-method approach. Surveys were administered to 300 children and 150 caregivers in high-tourist-density areas. Qualitative insights were gathered through interviews with social workers, law enforcement officers, local government officials, and community leaders. Reports from the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) and local NGOs were analyzed. Quantitative data were processed using SPSS, and qualitative data were analyzed thematically.

Results: A 45% increase in reported child abuse cases was observed over the past five years in tourist-heavy areas. Interviews revealed that 68% of caregivers were concerned about children's safety, citing increased exposure to tourists as a risk factor. Social workers pointed to insufficient child protection policies and resource constraints. Only 35% of families were aware of how to report abuse, indicating a significant gap in outreach.

Conclusions: While tourism offers economic benefits, it also exposes children to significant risks in Weligama. Strengthening child protection mechanisms, increasing community awareness, and enforcing stricter tourism regulations are crucial. Collaborative efforts between local authorities, law enforcement, schools, and NGOs are necessary to mitigate these risks and ensure child safety.

Keywords: Tourism development, child abuse, child protection, community safety, protection mechanisms.

ICCP/SL/OP/182

Impact of education in preventing child marriage among girls in South Asia: A qualitative study

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Background: Child marriage is a serious human rights violation that disproportionately affects girls, harming their health, rights, and future opportunities. This study focuses on five South Asian countries—Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives—to explore the link between education and the prevention of child marriage. It aims to analyze current trends in child marriage and the challenges girls face in accessing education in the region.

Method: Based on quantitative methodology, using secondary data from UNICEF, Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), and the World Bank data from 2006-2023, the study conducted descriptive and comparative analyses of Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives. This identifies trends, patterns, and correlations between the female child marriage rate as the dependent variable and the female lower secondary education completion rate as the independent variable.

Results: Between 2006 and 2023, a declining trend in child marriage rates was observed across five selected South Asian countries: Bangladesh (65% to 51%), India (45% to 22%), Nepal (50% to 35%), Sri Lanka (13% to 10%), and the Maldives (4% to 2%) respectively. In this region, Bangladesh continues to report the highest child marriage rate, while the Maldives reports the lowest, Sri Lanka ranked as the second-lowest. During the same period, female lower secondary education completion rates increased in all five countries. However, negative relationship identified between education levels and child marriage. Moreover, in Maldives, the highest female education completion rate identified (100.9%), and the lowest child marriage rate was (2%). In contrast, Bangladesh (91%) and Nepal (103%) show higher education rates but still report high child marriage rates (51% and 35%). This indicated that factors beyond education, such as socio-cultural influences, may contribute to early marriage.

Conclusion: The findings revealed that education plays a crucial role in reducing child marriage. However, addressing socio-cultural barriers, especially in countries like Bangladesh and Nepal, is crucial. Key obstacles to girls' education in the region include poverty, inadequate infrastructure, gender inequality, political instability, and unsafe school environments.

Keywords: Child marriage, Level of education, socio-cultural barriers, South Asia.

ICCP/LK/OP/255

Implementing comprehensive sexuality education in Sri Lanka: A Bird's eye view from a forensic practitioner

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Background: Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) gives young people accurate, age-appropriate information about sexuality and their sexual and reproductive health, which is critical for their health and survival. Teenage pregnancies and unintended pregnancies can be avoided by implementing CSE.

Case study: *Case 1:* An 11-year-old girl was admitted to the hospital with nonspecific abdominal pain. The child was treated for functional constipation and discharged again; she was admitted with the same kind of pain. During her second admission, she underwent an abdominal scan and was found to have an intrauterine pregnancy. The child revealed that she knew that her uncle behaved inappropriately, but she was not aware of the consequences of that. *Case 2:* A 15-year-old girl came to a maternity hospital as her abdominal size was increasing. In the hospital, she was found to be 21 weeks pregnant. She was sexually abused by her biological brother. Following the abuse, she did not have her menstruation. So, she went to a pharmacy where the child was asked to check urine, and the child was reassured there that there was nothing to worry about. *Case 3:* A 17-year-old girl consented to sex at school with the same class 3 batchmates, including her boyfriend, but she insisted on using a condom. At the time, the boyfriend told her that all three of them had male contraceptive pills, so there was no need for additional contraception. Finally, she ended up with a pregnancy and decided to discontinue her advanced-level studies. In Sri Lanka, due to cultural restraints, discussing sex is limited.

Conclusion: These cases highlighted the early implementation of CSE in the study curriculum so that all children would acquire knowledge.

Keywords: Comprehensive sexuality education, teenage pregnancies, reproductive health.

ICCP/SL/OP/147

Impacts of socio-economic statuses on youth crime in Sri Lanka

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Background: Sri Lanka is a developing country, and the contribution of its youth plays a crucial role in the nation's progress. However, increased youth involvement in crime has a negative impact on the country in various ways. An increasing number of youth crimes significantly affects the country and the safety of the people, and this has become a huge issue related to the socioeconomic status of young people engaging in criminal activities. Therefore, the primary objective of this study was to identify the impacts of socioeconomic statuses on youth crime in Sri Lanka.

Method: A mixed-method approach was used for this analysis, based on primary data. The rationale for applying mixed methods is the complicated and multifaceted nature of youth crimes, which cannot be obtained only through figures or statistics. As a sample, 100 convicted male young prisoners between the ages of 18 to 29 were selected through simple random sampling, and the sample size was defined by the Yamane method. Data was collected using survey questionnaire methods. Descriptive analysis, chi-square analysis, and binary logistic regression analysis were used to analyze data.

Results: The key findings indicated significant association ($0.05 > P > 0.000$) between youth criminal behavior and socioeconomic statuses, including the variables of residence, family income, school education level, peer influence, and substance (drugs or alcohol) influence. Furthermore, a descriptive analysis also revealed that 42% of young prisoners committed their first offense between the ages of 12-18.

Conclusion: The study focuses on the impacts of socioeconomic statuses on youth crime. Accordingly, five socioeconomic statuses associated with youth crime were identified. Furthermore, this study contributes to understanding the need for youth crime prevention, the current state of youth crime, and the socioeconomic statuses associated with it.

Keywords: Youth crime, socio-economic status, criminal behavior, male prisoner.

ICCP/SL/OP/300

Sex education for preventing unexpected pregnancies among Undergraduates: An experimental awareness program by students, for students at University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

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Background: In Sri Lanka, societal discomfort around openly discussing sex education leads to limited awareness, increasing the risk of unintended pregnancies and STDs. Parents often avoid these conversations, leaving children vulnerable to unhealthy decisions. The Medical Centre of the University of Kelaniya (UOK) has recognized this issue, particularly among undergraduates, prompting an investigation. This program was implemented "by the students for the students", to identify the risks and other issues, as a community development practice. The objective of the program is to increase sex education awareness and prevent unexpected pregnancies among UOK undergraduates through a student-driven program.

Method: The methodology consisted of two stages: initial survey and program implementation. The initial survey has been done using 28 level 1 Geography (Honors) undergraduates of UOK.

Results: The preliminary survey resulted in 73.3% of the sample completely unaware about unexpected pregnancies while 16.7% partially aware. Additionally, about 40% of the sample was not completely aware of pregnancy control methods, and 43.3% were only partially aware. Another significant finding is that approximately 83.3% of the sample has a basic understanding of the menstruation process, while 16.7% are completely unaware of it. Additionally, 26.7% of the sample is not aware of sexually transmitted diseases, and 50% have only heard of them. The program, conducted exclusively for over 200 undergraduate students of UOK, aimed at enhancing awareness of contraceptive methods, STDs, and sexual health resources. Post-program surveys revealed a substantial improvement in knowledge levels, with scores surging from 60% to potentially 100%. Participants demonstrated increased understanding across various topics, indicating the program's success in meeting its objectives. Recognizing its significance, the team plans to sustain the initiative through social media platforms.

Conclusion: This underscores the importance of such initiatives in addressing critical health issues among university students and advocates for their integration into broader university orientation programs to enhance awareness among incoming freshmen.

Keywords: Sex education, unexpected pregnancies, awareness, student-driven program.

ICCP/SL/OP/087

Knowledge and practices on food and nutrition among preschool teachers in Mannar, Sri Lanka

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Background: Early childhood nutrition is crucial for the overall development of children. However, previous studies indicate that many preschool educators in Sri Lanka possess only basic nutrition knowledge. This study aimed to assess the knowledge and practices of preschool teachers regarding nutrition in their preschools.

Methods: A cross-sectional survey was conducted on 2024 through a nutrition education program using a pretested, structured, self-administered questionnaire. The questionnaire was administered to a selected sample of 60 preschool teachers from the Mannar Divisional Secretariat in the Mannar District. The responses were analyzed using SPSS 16.0 version.

Results: Among the participants, 98.4%(n=59) were female and 1.6%(n=1) were male. The religious composition of the sample included 70.5%(n=43) Christians, 11.5%(n=7) Hindus, and 18% (n=11) Muslims. A majority (73.8%) (n= 45) had completed a diploma in early childhood education, while only 6.5%(n=4) hold a degree. More than half of the teachers had participated in nutrition-related awareness seminars. Regarding knowledge of the Food-Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDG) of Sri Lanka, 83.6%(n=50) of teachers had heard of it; however, only 39.3% (n=23) correctly identified nutrient groups, while 11.5%(n=7) provided incomplete information. When asked about key nutritional problems in preschool children, 41%(n=24) identified low weight and growth retardation as major concerns, and 13.1%(n=8) observed that children bring nutrient-deficient food. In terms of nutritional practices, 85.2% (n=51) of teachers reported following a food chart in preschool. However, 54.1%(n=33) noted that children do not adhere to the chart, with 57.5%(n=35) citing the current economic crisis as the primary reason for non-adherence. Only 9 (n=5) mentioned that the preschool prepares healthy meals. Additionally, 70.5%(n=42) of teachers reported that their preschools lacked well-equipped eating spaces, and 32.7%(n=19) stated they had no access to clean drinking water. Regarding food brought from home, 57.4%(n=34) teachers observed that children primarily brought legume-based foods as mid-day meal.

Conclusion: Teachers also identified several reasons for meal omission, including lack of variety and appeal in food, repetitive cooking methods, and the presence of unhealthy snacks. These findings underscore the need to integrate nutrition education into teacher training programs, create supportive preschool environments, and implement effective monitoring and evaluation strategies to improve preschoolers' nutritional well-being.

Keywords: Knowledge, nutrition, preschool.

Room 9 - Miscellaneous (Children/Gender/Law/Services)

ICCP/SL/OP/369

Visual pleasure and the gaze with reference to Asoka Hadagama's 'Alborada' film

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Background: Alborada is based on an incident in Pablo Neruda's life in colonial Ceylon. In his memoir, he has described how he forced himself on a woman who cleaned his latrine. The film draws on this incident and other biographical accounts of Neruda's life. This study examined the visual pleasures and the gender dynamics of Ashoka Handagama's film 'Alborada' (2021) and to analyze the sexual objectification of women in Ashoka Hadagam's film, examining closely how the cinematic narrative constructs fantasies about women.

Method: This case study of the "film gaze" employed qualitative research techniques, and thematic and visual analysis (Analytical) was used for data analysis. This approach contributed to the broader understanding of how films reflect and shape our subjective experiences. The text was subjected to careful thematic and visual analysis, and the findings of this paper are that Alborada stages a persecutory gaze that is a signature of Handagama's cinema.

Conclusion: This study concluded that sexual and sexualized fantasies about women displace the real inequalities that shape the realities of the characters in the film, and that the persecutory gaze was directed at the two women, Josie and the unnamed woman from a lower caste, where were subjected to punishment and violence by Neruda. The study also explored the politics of the gaze within the film in the larger context of Handagama's oeuvre.

Keywords: Sri Lankan cinema, gaze, female body, visual pleasure.

ICCP/SL/OP/340

Rural parental awareness and perceptions of corporal punishment laws: A study among selected parents of school students in Kurunegala District

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Background: Corporal Punishment remains a significant concern within Sri Lankan schools. Although the Ministry of Education established laws in Sri Lanka, Corporal Punishment is persisting in Rural areas of Sri Lanka may be due to the lack of Awareness and Perceptions of people about these legal frameworks. This study aimed to evaluate the Awareness and Perceptions regarding the legal frameworks established around Corporal Punishment focusing on Rural Parents of Kurunegala District, Sri Lanka.

Method: This study employed a structured questionnaire as a data collection tool to evaluate the awareness of parents. primary data through a survey of the questionnaire was directed to 50 randomly selected rural parents of school students in Kurunegala District to assess their awareness and perceptions and perceptions of regarding the laws governing corporal punishment. Secondary sources were also employed in this study to establish and to establish the context and to strengthen the analysis with previous studies on Sri Lankan laws and international laws. regarding corporal punishment and parental awareness.

Results: According to the questionnaire, only 22% of parents were aware that corporal punishment is illegal, 68% thought it was still suitable and 10% were not sure. Furthermore, 80% had never received instruction on children's rights in a legal setting. Parents frequently get their information from word-of-mouth or personal experience. Lack of community involvement, inadequate government agency communication and restricted access to legal information are major challenges. Initial findings of the study indicate that few parents have a basic awareness of the rules while they have many misconceptions regarding the legitimacy of corporal punishment. rural parents asserted that limited access to legal education, weak communication between government institutions and the absence of community engagement initiatives caused the lack of awareness among them regarding the corporal punishment laws. To comprehend the relationship between societal norms, legal awareness and behavioral results the study is structured using the social learning theory and the legal socialization theory. Therefore, this study emphasizes the significance of enhancing Awareness and shaping Perceptions in an informed manner among rural parents in Sri Lanka based on the Kurunegala District through crucial mechanisms. Further, effective legal education campaigns and community-based awareness programs are essential to combat misconceptions among Rural Parents and encourage non-violent disciplinary methods. In order to increase the effectiveness of law enforcement and strategies for enhancing parental involvement in protecting their children's rights this study attempts to address knowledge gaps.

Conclusion: The study concludes that due to a lack of legal information and inadequate institutional communication, rural parents in Kurunegala are mainly unaware of the laws regarding corporal punishment. It highlights the necessity of community involvement and focused legal education to encourage non-violent parenting and safeguard children's rights in rural Sri Lanka to have a safe world for children.

Keywords: Awareness, Corporal Punishment Laws, Rural Parents.

ICCP/SL/OP/003

Machine translation omissions on child protection in negligence law: A study based on "Pasalata, *ḷamayinṭa hā guruvarunṭa balapāna no sǣlakilla"*

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Background: This research investigates the impact of machine translation (MT) omissions on the interpretation of child protection laws in negligence law, focusing on the Sinhala legal treatise "Pasalata*, ḷamayinṭa hā guruvarunṭa balapāna no sǣlakilla piḷibaňdnītiya*. It aims to explore how omissions in machine-translated Tamil texts affect the understanding and enforcement of negligence laws, potentially compromising child safety in schools.

Method: Data was collected through a comparative analysis of machine-generated and human translations, using a qualitative methodology to identify linguistic challenges. The findings reveal that MT tools often omit or distort complex legal terms and concepts, leading to misinterpretations that could hinder the enforcement of child protection laws.

Conclusion: Recommendations include improving MT tools by incorporating legal and cultural nuances and emphasizing the importance of human post-editing to ensure accuracy. This study underscores the necessity of precise and culturally aware translation practices in the legal domain to safeguard child welfare.

Keywords: Child protection, legal translation, machine translation, negligence law, post-editing.

ICCP/SL/OP/272

Codifying adoption under a unified legal framework: A necessity for safeguarding children's rights

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Background: The law that governs adoption in Sri Lanka is the Adoption of Children Ordinance No. 24 of 1941; together with that, the fact that there is no a single legal framework has resulted in variations in child protection laws. The presence of a few legislative bodies leads to differences in the procedures for adoption as well as in the rights of inheritance and other post-adoption safeguards. To secure the best interests of children, it is desirable to consolidate all adoption laws in a unified, standard, legal framework.

Method: This research is a legal analysis of the adoption laws in Sri Lanka and the international best techniques are also compared. According to the investigations, the lacunas and the usefulness of a codified adoption law to the children and the clearness of the law were assessed.

Results: The study displays the unsystematic nature of the legal mechanisms, the results of which include the creation of legal uncertainty, the undermining of the post-adoption monitoring system and unequal protection of the needs of the children. In contrast, countries such as India and the United States have enacted laws to allow adoption that are transparent and provide clear conditions under which the welfare of the children is upheld. A uniform approach in Sri Lanka will result in the resolution of all of the discrepancies and in securing the enhancement of all child rights.

Conclusions: Profound protection of children's rights, Sri Lanka must establish a single adoption law that guarantees sameness in the way of working, legality, and support after adoption. And aligning the adoption laws with international conventions such as the UNCRC. A statutory regulation for adoption will protect children's rights, offer them a stable family setting, and will be a pledge for Sri Lanka to promote child welfare.

Keywords: Adoption, children's rights, legal framework, adoption law.

ICCP/SL/OP/305

Knowledge of sexual health influence the attitude toward premarital Sexual activities: A cohort study using a sample of young adults

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Background: Early, age-appropriate discussions on sex and bodies help prevent child victimization, while lack of knowledge may contribute to sexualized attitudes and increased risk. This study evaluated sexual health knowledge and attitudes toward premarital sex among the undergraduates of the University of Kelaniya to identify the gaps in child and adolescent sexual education.

Method: An analytical cross-sectional study was conducted on 294 undergraduates through a self-administered online questionnaire. Scoring systems were used to assess sexual health knowledge and attitudes towards premarital sexual activities, analyzed through descriptive and inferential statistics.

Results: Participants were predominantly female (61.6%), with a mean age of 23.17 years. Significant differences ($P<0.05$) in both knowledge and attitude were found based on age, relationship status and the age of first exposure to the concept of sex. The majority received the information through improper means, such as the internet and media. Both the age when first exposed to the concept of sex ($r = -0.252$; $P > 0.001$) and the age when first understood the concept of sex ($r = -0.272$; $P > 0.001$) exhibited significantly favorable knowledge scores. Similarly, the age of first exposure to the concept of sex ($r = -0.204$: $P < 0.001$) and age when understood the concept of sex ($r = -0.240$: $P > 0.001$) exhibited significantly favorable attitude scores towards premarital sex. Furthermore, the age when first exposed to any sexually related content exhibited a favorable knowledge score ($r = -0.158$; $P > 0.001$) as well as an attitude score ($r = -0.209$; $P > 0.001$). Even though 86.84% of the respondents with overall favorable attitudes had satisfactory knowledge, only 41.03% of those with satisfactory knowledge scores showed a favorable attitude.

Conclusion: Attitude aligns more consistently with higher knowledge, but having knowledge does not necessarily promote a favorable attitude towards premarital sex. Therefore, providing timely, comprehensive, scientific sexual education is crucial for understanding sex, reducing stigma, and creating a safer environment.

Keywords: Attitude, knowledge, premarital sex, sexual health, timely education.

ICCP/SL/OP/103

Trends and projections of child abuse in Sri Lanka

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Background: In the context of Sri Lanka's ongoing socioeconomic challenges, child abuse has emerged in increasingly concerning and diverse forms. Gaining a thorough understanding of these patterns and their potential future escalation is essential for developing effective and targeted interventions.

Method: This study was conducted to identify current trends in child abuse across Sri Lanka and to project future developments. Secondary data were collected from all districts of the country, covering the period from 2010 to 2023. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and time series analysis. Findings revealed that educational neglect and physical cruelty were the most commonly reported forms of child abuse.

Results: The highest number of reported cases was observed in the North Colombo Division, which includes areas within the Colombo and Gampaha districts. Furthermore, time series analysis indicated a slight upward trend in reported cases over the years.

Conclusion: Based on these findings, it can be concluded that child abuse may be mitigated through the implementation of targeted sexual education programs for children, increased parental awareness campaigns focusing on abuse identification and prevention, and the strengthening of community-based protective measures, particularly in high-risk areas such as the North Colombo Division.

Keywords: Child abuse, sexual education programs, abuse identification and prevention.

ICCP/SL/OP/088

Factors influencing the improvement of child protection at the Hamlet level

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Background: The environment in which children live is a very important factor in their Protection. Among them, hamlet villages have various disadvantages that negatively affect the safety of children.

Method: This research has identified ways to prevent children from being affected by scientifically uncovering the challenges identified for children in this hamlet. There are 47 families living in the study area. Out of these, 41 children live in 27 families. Out of these 41 children, 22 children are of teenagers. All teenage children were included as participants in the Research. The primary data collection methods were questionnaires from 22 children, in-depth interviews with 10 children, in-depth interviews with 05 community members, focus group discussions with 05 professional officials and field observations by the researcher. The data were analyzed using mixed-method thematic analysis. The study examined the housing where children live, the physical environment of the village, the human resources of the village, the educational background, the economic situation, and the situations in which children are exposed to abuse as important areas. Among these, the dialectics and structure of families where children live in rural settings and the interactions between families and children were examined.

Results: When looking at the study results, the study included the following important areas in the study area: the children's home, the physical environment of the village, the human resources of the village, the educational background, the economic situation, and the situations in which children were exposed to abuse. Among these, the dialectics and structure of families where children live in rural settings and the interactions between family and children were examined. Among these, the dialectics and structure of families where children live in rural settings and the interactions between family and children were examined. It was found that due to the challenges, irregular family mobility, and limited access to facilities, children are exposed to various forms of physical, psychological, sexual, and neglectful abuse.

Conclusion: The need for children to gain self-awareness, providing opportunities for family members to learn interventions that improve family dynamics, and ways to remove challenges for children in the village through social mobilization and stimulate positive factors are suggested as recommendations in this study.

Keywords: Hamlet, children, factors influencing safety.

Free Paper Session 02

Room 01 - Child Abuse, Family, Education and Society

ICCP/SL/OP/036

Fatherhood and the absence of emotional responsibility: Implications for child protection

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Background: As Judicial Medical Officers, we often examine cases of sexual abuse involving female children, with a particularly distressing subset involving biological fathers. Despite legal protections and ongoing economic development, these violations persist, indicating underlying issues beyond law, poverty etc. Many victims suffer long-term psychological consequences, revealing the depth of harm caused. This raises a crucial question: beyond strengthening laws, are there social and moral dimensions that require deeper academic attention? Exploring recurring patterns in these cases can help uncover root causes, foster professional dialogue, and inform more effective, ethically grounded preventive strategies.

Method: A comparative case study was conducted on five instances of paternal sexual abuse referred for medico-legal examination at a tertiary care hospital, focusing on identifying common patterns, socio-economic factors, and psychological influences.

Results: Common patterns emerged: the mother was absent or unaware, and all victims later developed psychiatric disorders. One father used cannabis and alcohol, while the others were chronic alcohol consumers. The perpetrators displayed extreme cruelty, using threats and violence to silence victims, disrupting their education and well-being. Beyond socio-economic factors, a lack of responsibility, respect, and moral integrity played a key role. While parasexual behaviors and pedophilia may be difficult to address, fostering ethical awareness in perpetrators is crucial. Children require continuous parental care and love to navigate life successfully.

Conclusion: Despite Sri Lanka's legal protections, paternal sexual abuse persists. Solutions must go beyond poverty alleviation or stricter laws—fathers must develop responsibility, respect their children's dignity, and reject selfish impulses. Strengthening mental health initiatives, promoting ethical education, and reshaping societal values are vital to prevention. Increased investment in mental health programs and moral education is essential to safeguarding vulnerable children.

Keywords: Attitude change, sense of responsibility, respect for the child, selflessness.

ICCP/SL/OP/043

The impact of parenting styles on child safety and well-being

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Background: Parenting styles play a critical role in shaping children's behavior, emotional development, and safety. Statistics show that a majority of child abuse cases involve perpetrators known to the child, with parental neglect being a significant contributing factor. This study identifies how different parenting styles authoritative, authoritarian, permissive, and neglectful affect child safety and well-being, with a particular focus on parental monitoring, digital safety, and risk prevention.

Method: A quantitative survey method was employed, involving 100 parents of children aged 10 to 15 years from urban and suburban areas. Participants were selected through stratified random sampling to ensure diversity across socioeconomic backgrounds. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire that assessed parenting styles, child protection strategies, parental monitoring practices, and indicators of child well-being, including emotional security, behavioral tendencies, and exposure to risks. The collected data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, Pearson correlation coefficients, and multiple regression analysis to explore associations and predictive relationships between parenting styles and child safety outcomes.

Results: Results revealed that authoritative parenting (characterized by high warmth and high control) had a statistically significant positive correlation with higher child safety outcomes ($p < 0.01$), including improved supervision, increased digital safety awareness, and reduced engagement in risky behaviors. In contrast, authoritarian parenting (high control, low warmth) showed mixed effects, with strict safety measures coexisting with elevated levels of child anxiety and secrecy. Permissive parenting (high warmth, low control) was significantly associated with increased exposure to online threats and peer-related risks, while neglectful parenting (low warmth and low control) exhibited the strongest negative correlation with child safety ($p < 0.01$), linked to higher rates of abuse, cyberbullying, and emotional harm.

Conclusion: Based on the findings, the study recommends promoting authoritative parenting strategies that integrate warmth and control. Parenting programs and community workshops should incorporate digital literacy and safety education. Schools and child welfare organizations must prioritize support for children from neglectful or permissive homes. Finally, policymakers should develop targeted, family-centered interventions to foster safe and nurturing environments for children.

Keywords: Authoritative, child safety, neglectful, parenting styles, permissive.

ICCP/SL/OP/085

A study on the contribution of dance movements to the personality development of children deprived of parental care

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Background: Dance movement therapy, pioneered by Marian Chace in the mid-20th century, is recognized for its potential to promote emotional well-being and personality development. In early childhood (particularly the first ten years) critical factors such as parental care, environment, and psychosocial stimulation significantly influence personality formation. This study investigates the impact of dance movements on the psychosocial development of institutionalized children in Sri Lanka.

Method: A mixed-methods study was conducted at the Gangodawila Girls' Child Development Centre in Sri Lanka's Western Province. A purposive sample of 12 girls aged 5 - 12 years participated in a 12 - week dance program comprising Kandyan, Bharatanatyam, and selected contemporary dance movements. Pre- and post-intervention assessments included structured questionnaires, drawing analysis, interviews, case studies, and physical evaluations. Quantitative data were statistically analyzed using descriptive and percentage-based comparisons.

Results: Post-intervention analysis revealed significant positive changes. Initially, 58.3% of drawings featured dark colors and distress-related imagery; this dropped to 8.3%, while 91.7% of final drawings used bright colors and joyful themes. Questionnaire results indicated improvements in teamwork and social behavior, with 90% of participants showing increased cooperation and reduced conflict. Observational data confirmed positive behavioral shifts in 87.5% of participants. Regarding physical development, 75% of children initially displayed below-average flexibility, balance, and coordination scores. By the end, 95.8% demonstrated marked improvement, achieving normative levels ($P < 0.05$).

Conclusion: Dance-based interventions significantly enhanced both psychosocial and physical aspects of personality development among children deprived of parental care. Traditional and contemporary dance movements can serve as effective tools in institutional child development programs.

Keywords: Dance movements, girls, child development centre, child personality development.

ICCP/SL/OP/090

Prevalence of internet safety knowledge, attitudes and skills among adolescents: A study in the Maspotha Divisional Secretariat Division, Sri Lanka

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Background: The rapid increase in adolescents' digital engagement has raised significant concerns regarding their exposure to cyber risks, including cyberbullying, online harassment, and the misuse of personal data. While global awareness of internet safety has grown, localized research in rural Sri Lankan settings remains limited. This study aims to assess the prevalence of internet safety knowledge, attitudes, and skills among adolescents in the Maspotha Divisional Secretariat Division, addressing a critical gap in the literature.

Method: A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted among 30 adolescents using structured questionnaires and qualitative interviews. Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics to summarize key trends, while qualitative responses were thematically categorized to capture deeper insights into adolescents' experiences and perceptions of online safety.

Results: The findings reveal significant knowledge and skill gaps in online safety practices. Only 10% (n=3) of participants demonstrated knowledge of creating strong passwords. A majority (80%, n=24) were unfamiliar with configuring social media privacy settings. Additionally, 73% (n=22) lacked awareness of reporting mechanisms for online abuse, and 70% (n=21) identified low parental digital literacy as a contributing factor to their vulnerability. A notable 87% (n=26) perceived extended internet use as increasing exposure to cyberbullying. While 60% (n=18) observed peers misusing digital platforms, only 30% (n=9) felt confident intervening or reporting such behavior.

Conclusion: This study highlights the urgent need for targeted educational interventions to improve adolescents' digital literacy and safety practices in underserved communities. Strengthening parental awareness and establishing clearer reporting pathways may enhance overall online protection.

Keywords: Internet safety, adolescents, cyberbullying, digital literacy, online behavior.

ICCP/SL/OP/125

The role of teachers in promoting child protection in preschools

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Background: Child protection is a vital component of early childhood education (ECE) that ensures the safety, well-being, and holistic development of young learners. In the Sri Lankan context, children are expected to develop safety awareness and protective behaviors such as recognizing danger, following safety rules, and identifying potentially harmful situations. Preschool teachers play a key role in promoting these behaviors and implementing child protection practices aligned with the National Child Protection Policy (2019) and the Children's Charter of Sri Lanka (1992). This study aims to explore the role of preschool teachers in promoting child protection by examining their awareness of policies, safety practices, and the challenges they face.

Method: A descriptive study design was used, and data were collected through a structured questionnaire administered to preschool teachers across government and private institutions in both urban and rural areas. The questionnaire consisted of 20 items covering demographic details, awareness of child protection policies, safety education practices, and classroom strategies. Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, while qualitative data from open-ended responses provided further insights.

Results: Among the 1,825 respondents, 56.8% had received training on child protection, while 43.2% had not, highlighting the need for expanded training coverage. In terms of safety education, 48.3% taught safety rules weekly, 38.3% daily, and 13.3% occasionally. Challenges reported included lack of resources, inconsistent policy implementation, and limited institutional support.

Conclusions: The findings underscore the importance of regular training for teachers and consistent safety education practices. Addressing institutional gaps and strengthening policy implementation can significantly enhance child protection efforts, ensuring safer and more inclusive preschool environments.

Keywords: Child protection, preschool teachers, safety education, early childhood education.

ICCP/SL/OP/128

Impact of broken families on child protection: Exploring adverse childhood experiences and vulnerability

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Background: Child protection is a fundamental social responsibility, and the family is the primary institution ensuring the safety and development of children. However, broken family structures significantly compromise this role, exposing children to increased risks of abuse, neglect, and social marginalization. This study investigates the impact of broken families on child protection breakdown, with a focus on how such environments contribute to child vulnerability and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

Method: A qualitative multiple-case study approach was employed. Five families were selected through purposive sampling from cases registered with the National Child Protection Authority. Secondary data sources—including case files, counseling records, and complaint investigation reports—were thematically analyzed using psychological and social work frameworks.

Results: The study reveals that children from fragmented families endure deep emotional distress, often leading to prolonged psychological trauma and a high incidence of ACEs. Parental mental illness was a recurring factor contributing to family instability, further exposing children to abuse, neglect, and emotional isolation. Most of the affected children displayed behavioral disorders, disengagement from education, and difficulty forming social bonds. The absence of a stable, nurturing home environment created a persistent state of vulnerability, with long-term consequences for both mental and physical well-being.

Conclusion: The findings highlight the urgent need for community-based interventions to address the adverse effects of family breakdown on child protection. Preventative strategies should focus on strengthening family structures, promoting mental health support for caregivers, and implementing evidence-based interventions. Early intervention and sustained support mechanisms are essential to protecting children's safety and promoting resilience.

Keywords: Child protection, broken families, mental well-being, vulnerability, adverse childhood experience.

ICCP/SL/OP/068

Social and behavioral change (SBC) strategies used in drug abuse prevention programs targeting children: Analyzing effectiveness and practical applications

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Background: Drug abuse among at-risk children is a critical child protection issue, requiring evidence-based prevention strategies. This study explores the psychological basis of Social and Behavioral Change (SBC) strategies in drug abuse prevention, focusing on theories such as Social Cognitive Theory, Theory of Planned Behavior, Self-Determination Theory, and Behavioral Economics. The aim is to analyze the impact of these theories on shaping effective preventive interventions.

Method: A secondary data analysis approach was used, synthesizing peer-reviewed journals and academic books in psychology and social sciences published between 2010-2024. The literature search employed keywords including "drug abuse prevention," "children," "social cognitive theory," "theory of planned behavior," "self-determination theory," "behavioral economics," "social and behavioral change," "self-efficacy," and "social learning". Thematic and comparative analyses were employed to explore psychological mechanisms in SBC strategies and assess the effectiveness of various theoretical models in preventing drug abuse.

Results: The findings of this study emphasize the psychological foundations of SBC strategies in drug abuse prevention programs for at-risk children. Effective strategies incorporate key psychological mechanisms that support sustainable behavior change. Social learning processes are crucial, as children adopt positive behaviors through observational learning, reinforcement, and role modeling. Attitude modification, guided by the Theory of Planned Behavior, shapes perceptions of drug use and reduces susceptibility to peer influence. Strengthening self-efficacy through skills-based interventions empowers children to make independent, drug-free choices. Additionally, fostering intrinsic motivation by addressing autonomy, competence, and relatedness enhances long-term behavioral commitment. Behavioral economics principles-such as reframing immediate rewards and emphasizing long-term consequences-aid in better decision-making and risk assessment. These findings highlight the necessity of integrating psychological theories into SBC strategies to optimize their effectiveness. By addressing cognitive, social, and motivational factors, prevention programs can better equip at-risk children with the skills and resilience needed to avoid drug use and sustain positive behavioral outcomes.

Conclusion: The study underscores the importance of integrating psychological theories into SBC strategies to improve drug abuse prevention among at-risk children. Combining multiple theoretical perspectives strengthens the effectiveness and practical application of these interventions.

Keywords: Children, drug abuse prevention, self-efficacy, social and behavioral change, social learning.

ICCP/SL/OP/161

Psychological impact of Grade Five Scholarship examination in Sri Lanka on students: A preliminary study

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Background: The Sri Lanka Scholarship Examination is a highly competitive assessment that significantly affects students' future educational opportunities. Despite the aim of providing equitable access to quality education, concerns have arisen about its impact on children's mental well-being. Therefore, this study aimed to identify the causes of mental stress experienced by students preparing for the examination, to examine the role of parental and societal expectations in shaping students' mental well-being, and to assess the effectiveness of current policies in reducing stress-related problems.

Method: A mixed methodology was adopted, and quantitative survey data was obtained from sixty students who sat for the examination in three schools in the Mathugama Divisional Secretariat Division of Kalutara District, while qualitative interviews were conducted with six parents and three educators. Snowball sampling was used in selecting educators. The survey provided qualitative insights by assessing stress indicators such as sleep, agitation, and emotional distress.

Results: The research findings revealed that 78% of students (n=47) experienced moderate to high levels of stress, with high parental expectations and social pressure also contributing to this. About 65% of students (n=39) reported high academic pressure at home. According to educators, this stressful situation is compounded by the competitive education system and the pressure to be among the best students.

Conclusion: The study highlights the need for policy reforms, including economic management interventions and curriculum adjustments, to create a more balanced learning environment. Addressing these issues is crucial to ensure that the scholarship system does not harm children's mental health and serves its purpose.

Keywords: Children education, psychological stress, Grade five scholarship.

ICCP/SL/OP/240

Study on the challenges affecting the legal process for child victims in the criminal justice system in Sri Lanka

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Background: Children are considered the future of a country, and it is a general acceptance that it is the responsibility of a country to ensure the best interest of its children. A child requires adult assistance to maintain their personal life, and a child is defined as someone under the age of 18 according to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989. Although this age limit varies with various laws in Sri Lanka, actions are carried out based on common acceptance. The process of children becoming victims and their subsequent victimization has become a major challenge to prevent and control. The main research problem of this study was to identify the challenges affecting the legal process in the criminal justice system for child victims in Sri Lanka.

Method: Information is being gathered by studying ten ongoing child abuse cases and through conducting interviews with 25 officials involved in the child justice process, while both primary and secondary sources are utilized to gather qualitative and quantitative data.

Results: Challenges such as delays in court proceedings, errors in filing cases, delays in sentencing the accused, re-victimization of children during the hearing, non-priority of recording of video evidence or taking evidence from online, failure to updated laws and failure to recognize the relevant legal provisions in prosecuting, neglecting the psychological assessment concerns of the child victims and absence of child-friendly court proceedings and environment were identified here. Furthermore, critical issues have arisen concerning the protection, welfare, education, and vocational training of children, who are in conflict with the law and placed in probation or detention homes, as these matters are not being implemented in a transparent and systematic manner.

Conclusion: The study revealed that there is lack of the commitment, trust, consensus, cooperation and coordination among the institutions involved in child related matters and if these factors are properly implemented it would lead to greater effectiveness. Regulating media handling of children and child abuse cases is crucial, and the disclosure of identities and media reporting presents significant challenges. Given the general public's minimal understanding and awareness of child justice processes and legal backgrounds, addressing these challenges with swift solutions has become an urgent necessity.

Keywords: Child rights, child-friendly justice, child video evidence, child-sensitive justice, child victims.

ICCP/SL/OP/242

Enhancing communication skills through group-based oral presentations: A study of English as a second language learners in Sri Lanka

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Background: Group Oral Presentations (GOPs) are a formative assessment tool used to develop communication skills among ESL learners. This study examined the effectiveness of GOPs among Sri Lankan students across primary, secondary, and university levels, with a focus on gender differences in participation, engagement, and communication skill development. It also explored teacher and student perceptions, challenges, and the impact of GOPs within gender contexts.

Method: A mixed-methods design collected quantitative data through questionnaires from 365 students (175 female and 190 male) and 25 teachers. Qualitative data were gathered via semi-structured interviews. Statistical analyses included examining gender-based differences in engagement and performance. Thematic analysis of interview data considered gender-related observations and challenges.

Results: Both male and female students and teachers reported positive perceptions of GOPs, noting improvements in confidence, collaboration, and language proficiency. Female students tended to report slightly higher engagement and communication gains during GOP sessions than male students. A statistically significant positive correlation was found between GOP engagement and academic performance for both genders, particularly among secondary and university levels ($r= 0.42$; $P=0.003$). However, teachers noted gender-specific challenges, such as differences in participation styles; female students were more collaborative, while male students showed more competitive tendencies. These differences influenced group dynamics and were more evident in classrooms with mixed-gender groups. Long-serving teachers highlighted challenges in managing these dynamics, whereas newly appointed teachers were more proactive in fostering inclusive participation.

Conclusions: The GOPs effectively enhance ESL communication skills while highlighting important gender-related dynamics. Integrating GOPs regularly, alongside teacher training to address gender-specific classroom behaviors and promote inclusive engagement, can maximize their benefits. Encouraging collaboration between experienced and newer teachers will support gender-sensitive and innovative pedagogical practices.

Keywords: Group oral presentations, communication skills, gender differences, student engagement, formative assessment.

Room 3 - Child Abuse, Child Rights, Protection and Services

ICCP/SL/OP/339

Analysis of crimes against children in Kurunegala police jurisdiction in Sri Lanka

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Background: Despite increased awareness and reformed legislation regarding child protection efforts, there is a clear rise in child abuse and mortality in today's society. In Sri Lanka, especially, crimes against children are a topic that is very infrequently canvassed. This study was aimed to analyze the characteristics of contemporary crimes against children in Kurunegala police area so as to devise better measures to protect our children.

Methods: A retrospective descriptive study was conducted based on the crimes reported to Kurunegala Police jurisdiction during the years 2019-2023.

Results: Over the 6-year time period that was considered, there was a recorded total of 166 crimes against children, that showed a promising albeit inconsistent downward trend over the years. The commonest reported crime was rape (28%) with sexual abuse (26%) a close second. Notably, crimes were commoner at home (25%) and perpetrated by known people (lovers: 47%, family relatives: 23%). Children in the 6–10-year age cohort were most vulnerable (33%) with 11–15-year-olds (30%) a close second. With regards to the suspects of these crimes, majority 28% were within 20-25 years of age, but interestingly, 26% were below the age of 20 and many minors themselves. 46% of suspects were unemployed; 93% had no past criminal record.

Conclusions: This study unearths some interesting premises: firstly, that despite society's belief that a child is safer at home with their nearest and dearest, perhaps children should be better protected among more familiar environments and people rather than unfamiliar ones; secondly, better reforms should be devised to predict likely perpetrators as current efforts based on past criminal records seem grossly inadequate; and thirdly, children themselves should be better educated regarding what constitutes a 'crime' and better values instilled in them in order to prevent them from becoming perpetrators themselves.

Keywords: Crimes against children, analysis of characteristics, child protection, juvenile crime.

ICCP/FR/OP/266

Munchausen by proxy syndrome among children: experience from Indian centres

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Background: Munchausen by Proxy Syndrome (MBPS) is an uncommon type of child abuse where a primary caregiver either exaggerates or invents medical conditions or symptoms.

Method: We searched PubMed, Scopus and Google Scholar with all pediatric cases reported with Munchausen Syndrome by proxy during 1991 – 2025. Inclusion criteria were (1) All reported cases of Munchausen Syndrome by proxy, (II) Cases reported from India, (III) involving the pediatric age group, and (IV) Full text article available. At the same time, we have excluded the criterias of (I) Cases reported outside India, and (II) Abstracts of Cases reported in Academic events. the data collected was analyzed for age, gender, presentation, duration of symptoms, and the lead family member involved.

Results: Fourteen studies with 22 pediatric patients were included in the analysis. Of these, 10 cases were reported during the last decade. The age of patients ranged from 8 months to 12 years. Out of 22 patients, 71% were females. The most common clinical department visited by the patients was dermatology in 7/22, followed by pediatrics in 6/22 and otolaryngology in 1 patient. Duration of symptoms was < 1 months in 4 patients, between 1 – 6 months in 7 patients, and > 6 months in 2 patients. Mother was the perpetrator in 9/22 cases. One peculiar case from Gujrat stimulated 4 other children from the same location to present with similar symptoms.

Conclusion: A High index of suspicion is required for the timely diagnosis of MBPS among pediatric patients. A multidisciplinary team approach is required for better outcomes among these patients.

Keywords: Proxy syndrome, child abuse, pediatric patients.

ICCP/SL/OP/153

Child Rights and Autonomy: A Social Contract Perspective on Age Limits in Sri Lanka

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Background: This study critically examines the legal and conceptual coherence of age-based thresholds specifically, the age of consent (16) and the minimum legal age for marriage (18) in Sri Lanka's child protection framework. It investigates whether these thresholds adequately reflect a child's evolving capacities while aligning with the international legal standard of the "best interests of the child" as articulated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) Children's Charter. The central research problem concerns the tension between recognizing bodily autonomy in adolescence and protecting minors from premature, irreversible commitments such as marriage. Grounded in social contract theory, this paper argues that legal age limits should not only reflect societal consensus but also accommodate the developmental realities of children.

Method: The research adopts a qualitative methodology, combining doctrinal legal analysis with comparative review of case law and child rights instruments, as well as relevant psychological literature on adolescent decision-making.

Results: The study demonstrates that while the age of consent at 16 may honour a minor's emerging autonomy, maintaining 18 as the minimum marriage age serves as a protective legal safeguard consistent with international obligations and judicial precedent.

Conclusions: By integrating normative theory, legal doctrine, and rights-based standards, this study provides a nuanced evaluation of Sri Lanka's age laws and contributes to policy discussions on aligning domestic law with global child rights frameworks.

Keywords: Best interests of the child, age of consent, child marriage.

ICCP/SL/OP/378

Effectiveness of 1929 child helpline in managing complaints on child abuse in Sri Lanka

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Background: The 1929 toll-free child helpline established by Sri Lanka's National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) under Act No. 50 of 1998 was operational since 2010 and functions as a trilingual, 24-hour service designed to facilitate convenient reporting of child abuse cases by children and the general public, in accordance with NCPA's statutory mandate. This study was conducted to assess the effectiveness and impact of the 1929 helpline in responding to child abuse complaints, its accessibility and responsiveness in a child-friendly manner.

Method: The study assesses the efficacy of the 1929 toll-free child helpline reporting mechanism through a comprehensive analysis of complaint data collected over a three-year period from 2022 to 2024. The study utilizes secondary data already available within the NCPA database, ensuring national coverage and validity of the information collected under the statutory mandate of the NCPA. The methodology involves examining multiple dimensions of the complaints received, including: Geographical distribution patterns of reported cases across districts, gender-based reporting tendencies, nature of reported offenses and victim age demographics.

Results: The total number of child protection complaints reported to the NCPA was 10,497 in 2022, 9,436 in 2023, and 8,192 in 2024. Colombo district consistently recorded the highest number of child protection complaints within the three years of 2022, 2023, and 2024. The age group of 11 to 15 years consistently recorded the highest number of child protection complaints. Further, the highest number of child protection complaints consistently involved female victims. When analyzing complainants' expectations, it is evident that most have already filed a complaint with the police but still approach the NCPA because they expect the NCPA to actively monitor and follow up on the progress of their cases. Complaints have been received in all three official languages and submitted throughout the day. The helpline's capacity to accept anonymous reports has facilitated documentation of numerous previously unreported incidents, effectively addressing a critical gap in the child protection reporting ecosystem.

Conclusions: The 1929 toll-free child helpline, established by Sri Lanka's National Child Protection Authority, has proven to be an effective and accessible mechanism for reporting child abuse cases across the country. Operating as a trilingual, 24-hour service, the helpline has facilitated convenient and child-friendly reporting, capturing a wide range of complaints over the three-year period from 2022 to 2024. Overall, the 1929 helpline remains a key pillar in Sri Lanka's child protection framework, supporting timely intervention and safeguarding vulnerable children nationwide.

Keywords: Child protection, helpline effectiveness, anonymous reporting, child abuse.

ICCP/SL/OP/185

Role of good governance in child welfare policies: A cross sectional study from the Ampara District, Sri Lanka

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Background: Good governance is essential for the effective implementation of child welfare policies, ensuring protection, access to education, and healthcare for vulnerable children. In Sri Lanka, particularly in the Ampara District, socio-economic disparities and governance inefficiencies impact the delivery of child protection services. This study examined how governance structures influence child welfare policies and their implementation in Ampara, identifying key challenges and best practices.

Method: A qualitative research design was adopted, incorporating policy analysis, stakeholder interviews, and field observations in the Ampara District, Sri Lanka. Interviews were conducted with government officials, child protection officers, social workers, and community leaders to assess the effectiveness of governance mechanisms in child welfare service delivery.

Results: The findings reveal that despite the presence of national child protection policies, implementation gaps persist in Ampara due to bureaucratic delays, resource constraints, and limited inter-agency coordination. Additionally, socio-political factors, such as ethnic disparities and economic instability, influence the accessibility of welfare programs. The undefined responsibilities among child protection officers further hinder timely interventions. However, community-driven initiatives and NGO interventions have played a crucial role in bridging these gaps.

Conclusions: Enhancing governance mechanisms through decentralization, increased transparency, and improved stakeholder collaboration is vital for strengthening child welfare services in Ampara. This study recommends capacity-building programs for local government officials, clear role definition among child protection officers, and the integration of digital governance tools to improve service delivery.

Keywords: Good governance, child welfare, policy implementation.

ICCP/SL/OP/040

Importance of highlighting and managing parental psychology following child abuse and its impact on child's future: Case report

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Background: Child abuse has profound psychological impacts that extend beyond the immediate victim, often affecting the entire family unit. Parents, in particular, may experience severe emotional trauma following the disclosure of abuse, which can complicate the child's recovery process. This case report explored the critical intersection of parental mental health and child recovery, emphasizing the bidirectional relationship between the psychological well-being of parents and the healing trajectory of abused children.

Case study: A 13-year-old girl disclosed sexual abuse by a family acquaintance, leading to significant psychological distress in her mother. The mother developed acute emotional trauma, resulting in a stress-induced cardiac condition, necessitating both cardiac and psychiatric interventions. The child received trauma-focused psychological therapy, while the mother underwent psychological counseling alongside medical management for her cardiac condition. The mother's eventual psychological stabilization positively impacted on her daughter's recovery, reflected in improved emotional well-being and academic performance.

Conclusion: This case highlights the necessity of a holistic, family-centered approach in managing child abuse cases. Recognizing and treating parental psychological distress is crucial for optimizing child recovery outcomes. Integrated healthcare systems that address both the victim's and caregiver's mental health, coupled with legal and social support services, play vital roles in reducing trauma-related stressors. Comprehensive family-centered interventions can significantly improve recovery paths of both the child and the affected parent.

Keywords: Child abuse, parent's psychology, mental trauma.

ICCP/SL/OP/252

Long bone fracture in a non-ambulatory infant: A possibility of non-accidental injury

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Background: A wide range of medical conditions can mimic non-accidental injury (NAI) in a child. A fracture is one of those. When a non-ambulatory infant presents with a fracture, it may lead the clinician to lean on a non-accidental injury rather than a pathological fracture, which is less common.

Case study: A two-month-old infant was admitted to the surgical ward of a tertiary care children's hospital with the complaint of crying while touching the right lower limb for two days. There was no history of trauma. Social history didn't reveal any red flags. On examination, the child was found to be afebrile and irritable. The X-ray of the same limb revealed a fracture of the tibia. On the very first day, doctors suspected NAI and informed the police. There was an accusation against the mother by her husband and close relatives. Following that, the mother attempted deliberate self-harm. A skeletal survey revealed a wedge fracture of the thoracolumbar vertebra, and a diagnosis of a mild variant of osteogenesis imperfecta (OI) was made.

Conclusion: The OI is a genetic disorder leading to bone fragility and is one of the leading causes of pathological fractures in the pediatric population. Differentiating between traumatic and pathological fractures can be challenging. Especially in children, fracture is the second most common presentation of NAI. This case highlights the potential for misdiagnosing medical conditions as NAI. Recognizing non-accidental injury is essential to treating and preventing such episodes, but an overenthusiastic diagnosis of NAI could put the family through needless stress. It could have been avoided with stepwise treatment, a multidisciplinary approach, and proper communication with the parents.

Keywords: Non-accidental injury, osteogenesis imperfecta, pathological fracture.

ICCP/SL/OP/118

Lost in the system: A life course analysis of violence against children and gaps in Sri Lanka's protection systems

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Background: Violence against children, including physical, emotional, and sexual harm, remains a critical issue in Sri Lanka, exacerbated by systemic failures in child protection mechanisms. Inadequate coordination among institutions and weak support mechanisms render children susceptible. The study traces the life course of Victim "D" from childhood to age 33 to examine how systemic gaps facilitate ongoing abuse and exploitation.

Method: Adopting a qualitative case study with a life course orientation, this study explores legal records, historical case files, and interviews to map Victim "D"'s journey through the child protection system. Thematic analysis is used to identify patterns of recurring neglect, re-victimization, and institutional failure.

Results: Results show that repeated institutional failure, characterized by ineffective legal interventions, poor inter-agency coordination, and absence of psychosocial service enabled ongoing violence against Victim "D." Absence of long-term follow-up interventions and a lack of family and community involvement further exacerbated her exploitation, while social stigma contributed to the challenges.

Conclusions: This study emphasizes the urgent need for a unified, survivor-driven child protection response in Sri Lanka. Strengthening legal frameworks, enhancing institutional coordination, and ensuring long-term psychosocial care are imperative to closing systemic gaps and preventing future abuse. Stronger inter-agency coordination and targeted community support are vital to mitigate risks and combat the broader social stigma faced by survivors.

Keywords: Violence against children, life course analysis, child protection, victimization.

ICCP/SL/OP/136

Impact of inclusive education on adolescents' well-being and social development in Sri Lankan school contexts: A study on gender-sensitive teaching practices

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Background: Adolescence represents a critical developing period characterized by identity formation, psychological well-being, and social development. Inclusive education is a teaching approach where all students, regardless of differences, learn together with equal opportunities and support to succeed. Yet, empirical investigation on educational practices on mental health and social interactions across various gender identities remains limited in the Sri Lankan context so far. This study explored the impact of inclusive education of young adults (age 13-18) on their psychological well-being and social development, examining the influence of gender-sensitive teaching significantly on their self-esteem, mental health, and peer relationships in their education system.

Method: The study contained a mixed method research methodology, including semi-structured interviews with a purposive sample of 20 participants. The study comprised of secondary school students with parental consent representing diverse gender identities, 6 teachers, and 2 school counselors. The sample was found from a selected school in Puttalam district, and the thematic analysis was used as the data analysis method.

Results: The study found that adult children in inclusive schools had higher self-esteem, better friendships, and a stronger sense of belonging. Teachers also reported using gender-sensitive teaching methods would lead to more student engagement and less gender-based discrimination in classrooms. However, challenges like inadequate teacher training and resistance from some administrators make it difficult to fully implement inclusive practices in the education system in Sri Lanka.

Conclusion: In conclusion, this study suggested that inclusive education positively influenced adult children's psychological well-being and social integration. It is recommended that schools should prioritize the provision of comprehensive gender-sensitivity training for teachers and educators.

Keywords: Adolescent well-being, gender-sensitive teaching, inclusive education, policies, social development.

ICCP/SL/OP/142

Perceptions of police officers on public challenges and barriers to reporting child abuse in Colombo, Sri Lanka

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Background: Child abuse remains a prevalent issue in Sri Lanka due to the underreporting of child abuse cases to the legal authorities, occurring the challenges in victimized child protection and the whole child community. Many cases go unreported due to social, legal, economic and cultural obstructions. Police officers play a critical role in addressing child abuse; however, these challenges hinder both victims and their families from seeking justice. This study explored police officers' perceptions regarding the challenges in underreporting child abuse cases to enhance interventions with their insights.

Method: The study involved a qualitative approach by interviewing 10 police officers currently working in Colombo, Sri Lanka. They were selected through convenient sampling. The interviews focused on the perceptions and experiences of police officers related to reporting child abuse. Thematic analysis was used to analyze data, providing a deeper understanding of the study.

Results: The study identified key factors for underreporting of child abuse in Sri Lanka, including cultural norms and stigma, for abuse is often considered personal and the victims fear stigma and the fear of retaliation in cases involving powerful perpetrators. The ignorance of the victims and their families, legal inefficiencies like lengthy procedures and lack of child-sensitive training and economic dependence on perpetrators further hinder reporting. Moreover, limited support services, professional reluctance due to organizational challenges and religious and traditional beliefs are barriers, according to the perceptions of the police officers which collectively contribute to the underreporting of child abuse incidents.

Conclusion: The study highlights the barriers to reporting child abuse in Sri Lanka, analyzing the perspectives of Sri Lankan police officers. The social, legal, economic and cultural norms prevent victims from seeking justice from the legal authorities. Addressing these challenges through improved awareness, legal reforms, and enhanced child protection mechanisms is crucial for strengthening reporting and ensuring children's safety in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Child abuse, challenges, Police Officers, underreporting.

Room 4 - Child Protection: Society, Culture, Services and Forensic Medicine

ICCP/SL/OP/248

Challenges in child protection and education in plantation schools amid parental migration for employment abroad

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Background: Protecting children and educating them in plantation schools is of utmost priority, especially when the parents have moved to foreign countries for employment. Due to economic problems and a lack of employment opportunities at plantations, many parents search for jobs overseas, leaving their children with guardianship, extended family, or supporting institutions. This research examines the issues confronting children in plantation schools due to parental migration, focusing on education, psychological well-being, and protection. The study aims to identify the loopholes in policy implementation and support systems for these children.

Method: A qualitative thematic research design was used to capture the lived experiences of children, teachers, and parents in plantation settings. Data were collected using in-depth interviews and observations in selected plantation schools. Thematic analysis revealed that among the major child protection challenges facing children in plantation settings left behind by migrant parents are violations of emotional well-being, academic performance, and institutional mechanisms in protecting children.

Results: The study revealed that these children are facing severe socio-emotional and educational difficulties. Many of them show signs of psychological distress, low school engagement, and increased dropping-out tendencies. Teachers report difficulties regarding students' motivation and discipline, while caretakers have trouble sustaining emotional and educational support. The mechanisms for child protection are weak in any context, with little intervention programming or focused policies concerning these children. The study argues an urgent need for targeted policy intervention for the children in the plantation schools affected by parental migration.

Conclusion: The recommendations include strengthening school counseling services, establishing community support networks, and enabling government initiatives and those of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in child protection. Interventions to address these challenges are critical for the welfare and education of the affected children.

Keywords: Abroad, child protection, education, employment, parental migration, plantation schools.

ICCP/SL/OP/320

Role of social media in child protection: Opportunities and risks

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Background: Social media is now a critical component in child protection, and it also poses opportunities as well as dangers. This study explored how digital media assists in child protection through raising awareness, facilitating reporting, and establishing support networks. Meanwhile, social media exposes children to various risks like cyberbullying, online exploitation, and privacy invasion.

Method: The study relied on secondary data, applying scholarly journals, reports, and case studies to examine social media's strengths and weaknesses in child protection. The approach incorporates a systematic review of the literature available, prioritizing studies by reputable organizations such as UNICEF, WHO, and child protection agencies. Thematic analysis is applied to highlight prominent patterns and trends regarding the effect of social media on children's safety. The research stratified its findings into three broad sections: (1) social media as intervention and advocacy tool, (2) risks of online child exploitation, and (3) how to reduce harm while amplifying the benefits.

Results: The research shows that, as much as social media is doing a wonderful job in advancing child protection initiatives, the presence of regulatory challenges and low levels of digital literacy undermines its general performance. To address these problems, a concerted effort between policymakers, social media platforms, and child protection agencies is necessary.

Conclusion: The research calls for an increased degree of digital safety laws and parental educational programs to advance a balanced and secure online culture for children.

Keywords: Child protection, social networking websites, cybercrime, online safety, internet abuse.

ICCP/SL/OP/377

Study of language use and ethical gaps in reporting child abuse and child deaths in Sri Lankan newspapers

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Background: Newspapers remain a powerful medium for shaping public opinion and influencing social attitudes. When reporting on sensitive issues such as child abuse, sexual violence, and child deaths, the language and tone used by the media can significantly impact public perception. Minimizing or trivializing sexual crimes in media narratives risks normalizing these offenses within society, emphasizing the urgent need for responsible and ethical reporting. This study critically examines how contemporary newspapers in Sri Lanka report such cases, focusing on language, tone, and narrative techniques that may contribute to sensationalism, distortion, or emotional manipulation. The core problem addressed is the growing tendency to prioritize reader engagement over ethical sensitivity, where sensational headlines, emotionally charged storytelling, and objectifying descriptions risk undermining the dignity of victims and diverting attention from legal or structural accountability.

Methods: Using a qualitative content analysis approach informed by critical discourse analysis, the study examines purposively selected articles from major Sinhala national newspapers Divaina, Dinamina, Mawbima, Lankadeepa, Aruna, and Ada published between October 2024 and June 2025.The analysis was supported by secondary data, including scholarly literature on media ethics, child rights, and journalistic standards. The study focused on evaluating word choice, tone, headline construction and narrative framing.

Results: Key findings reveal that child abuse and sexual crimes are often reported in ways that sensationalize the events or subtly shift blame onto victims. Language describing female victims frequently reflects gender bias, with an undue focus on physical appearance. Reports on child deaths tend to emphasize emotional narratives over investigative rigor. Importantly, minimizing the seriousness of sexual crimes in media coverage may contribute to societal desensitization and the normalization of such offenses. This underscores the critical need for responsible and ethically grounded journalistic practices. Additionally, there are notable ethical inconsistencies across newspapers, indicating a lack of standardized guidelines for reporting on sensitive issues involving children.

Conclusion: The study concludes that responsible journalism must move beyond sensationalism to prioritize justice, protection, and public awareness. It calls for the development of national media policies, editorial training, and strict adherence to ethical standards to ensure that the reporting of child abuse and child deaths promotes accountability and supports vulnerable individuals rather than contributing to their exploitation or public misunderstanding.

Keywords: Newspapers, child abuse, child deaths, language, media ethics.

ICCP/SL/OP/294

Dual pillars of growth: How family and school shape a child's future; Case study analysis

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Background: Experiences from childhood can remarkably affect children's emotions and mental health, and it is needless to say that schools and families play a crucial role in this. Since parents are the first people children socialize with, they should teach children ethical and life skills. Education is worthy beyond monetary values, and it impacts the principles and attitudes of children. Childhood trauma, if left untreated, can have detrimental mental health effects. With an emphasis on early diagnosis and better management to avoid secondary victimization, this case study addresses the shortcomings in how families and schools handle abused children.

Case study: *Case 1:* A 16-year-old girl had a relationship with a 38-year-old man. Lack of family support, school stigma, and poor communication all contributed to her despair. *Case 2:* A 15-year-old child with ADHD faces academic challenges and poor social recognition due to a lack of support from his family and school. Lack of understanding regarding mental health disorders leads to delayed diagnosis and long-term repercussions.

Results: Both cases exemplify the effects of institutional deficiencies, socio-cultural stigma, and inadequate family support on children. In the first scenario, the psychosocial effects on a child due to a sexual relationship with an older man were demonstrated. Studies show that women under the age of eighteen are often molested by much older men, and victim-blaming makes their suffering worse. The second scenario is a child with a treatable psychological condition who was stigmatized by the family and society, leading to many consequences. Protecting children at risk, providing comprehensive care, and avoiding re-victimization rely on a multidisciplinary approach.

Conclusion: The need for comprehensive education, wider mental health awareness, and effective child safety protocols is emphasized in both cases. Schools, families, and policymakers must collaborate to create an empathetic and motivating setting for children.

Keywords: Secondary victimization, mental health, parental support, teacher training, mentorship programs.

ICCP/SL/OP/283

Selected case studies of child sexual abuse and kidnapping reported to the Medirigiriya Police Division, Sri Lanka

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Background: Child abuse is a major public health problem in Sri Lanka. According to the statistics of the National Child Protection Authority, Sri Lanka, a total of 1508 complaints relating to child sexual abuse had been received by the NCPA in the year 2024. It is reported that 18% of female and male children under the age of 18 years have been subjected to some form of sexual abuse. A child less than 18 years of age taken away from the lawful guardian is considered punishable under the criminal procedure code. This research aimed to identify demographic details and profile of abducted and sexually abused child victims reported to Medirigiriya police division, in selected cases

Method: Twenty case records from 2014 to 2022 of sexually abused and abducted child victims in Medirigiriya police division were purposefully selected. Retrospective data analysis was done, using excel.

Results: Among them 12 children fell under the category of 10-16 years showing the vulnerability of young children. In all the cases police arrested the perpetrator and filled the case in magistrate courts. The perpetrator was a family member or a boyfriend in 17 cases. There was delay in legal proceedings in 11 cases due to the delay in submitting medico legal reports (2) and directives from Attorney Generals department (11) indicating necessity of rapid case clearing in child abuse cases. Love affairs, unawareness of legal implications of the act, not having clear idea on self-protection, lack of parental care was observed in most cases.

Conclusion: The vulnerability of young children in their home was observed. Risk factors indicated improper sexual health education of children and developing parental skills may help in reducing incidence.

Keywords: Child abuse, kidnapping, perpetrator, risk factors.

ICCP/SL/OP/235

Importance of child protection: A study from ancient temple murals

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Background: In today's rapidly changing society, children face many problems under the influence of various factors. It is our duty to identify the challenges faced by children in the current society and provide solutions to them. The definition of a child can depend on various factors such as economy and religious beliefs in a society. The aim of the study was to understand the importance of child protection from a cultural point of view in Sri Lanka.

Method: The 19th century *Jataka Katha* murals of the *Arambhegama Sudassanarama* Tampita temple in *Kegalle* district was used as the primary source. A field study was conducted in the selected temple and observed murals to collect primary data. Iconography analysis method was used for data analysis.

Results: The importance of child protection has been emphasized to the ancient village people with the children's characters of *Jaliya* and *Krishnajina* in the story of *Wessantara Jathaka*. *Jujaka Bamuna* is depicted as persecuting and tying two children with a rope after being given children by *Wessanthara*. In *Chulla Dharmapala Jataka* murals, hands and feet of the *Bodhisatva* child has cut off and the *Bodhisatva* prince brutally killed by the command of the father. This incident reminds that every child has a right to live. It was possible to identify in this study that temple murals have been effectively used since ancient times to create social awareness of the physical and mental pressure faced by children in Sri Lankan society.

Conclusion: This shows the restraining of the children with a rope indicating violation of child rights. Further, children granted to *Jujaka Bamuna* indicated that the ownership of the children is vested on parents. In addition, the *Chulla Dharmapala Jataka* murals indicated physical abuse and also the right to live.

Keywords: Child protection, rights of children, mural paintings, tampita temples.

ICCP/SL/OP/363

Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking in Cinema: A Tool for Advocacy or Sensationalism

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Background: Cinema has played a significant role in portraying societal issues, including child trafficking and sexual exploitation. While some films aim to raise awareness and advocate for policy changes, others have been criticized for sensationalizing trauma for commercial gain. This study was conducted to explore the extent to which these portrayals serve as advocacy tools or exploit victims' suffering for entertainment. It aimed to analyze how films depict child trafficking, distinguish between advocacy-driven and sensationalized narratives, and assess their impact on public awareness, policy discussions, and activism. Ultimately, the study seeks to provide recommendations for ethical storytelling in filmmaking on this sensitive issue.

Method: A qualitative content analysis was conducted on a selection of films from 2000 to 2024 that focus on child trafficking and sexual exploitation. Purposive sampling was used to select films that gained significant public attention and addressed the subject matter either as advocacy-driven or commercially dramatized portrayals. The study assessed thematic elements, narrative structures, and audience reception, categorizing films into advocacy-driven and sensationalized portrayals. The films analyzed include Taken (2008), Trade (2007), Eden (2012), The Whistleblower (2010), Priceless (2016), and Sound of Freedom (2023). Viewer impact was measured using audience reviews, critical analyses, and available survey data to evaluate the effectiveness of these portrayals in raising awareness versus contributing to sensationalism.

Results: Preliminary findings indicate that films with documentary-style storytelling and survivor-centered narratives tend to foster awareness and empathy, leading to increased public engagement and policy discussions. Conversely, films that exaggerate violence, rely on dramatic tropes, or objectify victims often contribute to misinformation and desensitization. Some productions blurred the line between advocacy and entertainment, making it difficult to distinguish intent from impact.

Conclusions: While cinema can be a powerful tool for social advocacy, the risk of re-traumatization and commodification of victims' experiences remains high. Filmmakers should adopt ethical storytelling practices that prioritize survivor dignity and factual accuracy. Further research is needed to explore audience perceptions and the long-term impact of cinematic portrayals on policy and activism.

Keywords: Child trafficking, sexual exploitation, cinema, advocacy, sensationalism.

ICCP/SL/OP/345

Divine infancy: Threats, protections, and the shaping of Olympian power in Greek mythology

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Background: Greek mythology is comprised of numerous myths featuring infant gods with life threatening exposure to danger. These myths ranging from Zeus being devoured by Cronos, Hephaestus being harassed by Zeus, and Dionysus being harassed by Hera represents the fears that halt around a child's life along with the extreme steps taken to ensure divine child protection. Thereby, through the perspectives of the narrative concept: "divine infancy," this study was conducted to analyze the dangers caused and the steps taken to protect specified gods as it pertains to and illustrates cultural concern about a child's life.

Method: This study adopted historic, thematic and content analysis under qualitative research methodology to analyze primary sources to observe recurring motifs of divine childhood, threats, and defense. Context was provided by secondary literature on Greek mythology, anthropology, and history of children.

Results: The outcome of the study is that the fear of the usurpation, the fear of the loss of power, and the fear of the disturbance of order in divine hierarchy are what creates anxiety for divine infants making their lives exposed to life threatening dangers. Although these myths do not directly concern with the defense of a child, they still reiterate the potential threats for the existence of children even from a divine perspective.

Conclusion: There is a subtle implication of an anxiety surrounding the life of divine infants suggesting that even the mightiest of the deities are not immune to dangers. This further implies the importance of child protection and guardianship to remedy the vulnerabilities surrounding a child's life. Moreover, these myths interpret the anthropological perception of preserving life and preparing for what is to come by displaying an understanding that should be taken seriously.

Keywords: Divine infancy, mythology, protections, threats, vulnerability.

ICCP/SL/OP/095

Reducing childhood anxiety and stress through buddhist meditation techniques

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Background: Childhood anxiety and stress are increasingly prevalent issues worldwide, having effects on cognitive growth and emotional health. Although standard interventions are available, greater interest is being sparked in culturally sensitive, non-invasive approaches. This research investigated the application of Buddhist meditation practices to alleviate stress and anxiety in children between the ages of 8 - 12 years.

Method: A mixed-method study was carried out with 30 purposely selected children from Central Province, Sri Lanka (16 girls and 14 boys), with ages ranging from 8-12 years old. Participants completed an 8-week meditation program consisting of Ānāpānasati, Metta Bhāvanā and Vipassanā. Pre-test and post-test psychological assessment using RCMAS and PSS-C were administered, along with interviews conducted by child psychologists and individuals with meditation, mindfulness and well-being experience. Validity was established through reviewing tools by expert review and standardized measures.

Results: Following the intervention, substantial mean reductions were observed for anxiety according to RCMAS (Boys:21.4 [Pre-test]; 14.2 [Post-test]; Girls: ????) and for stress as of PSS-C (M pre = 18.7, M post = 11.9). Ānāpānasati proved beneficial for regulating acute stress response, Metta Bhāvanā improved emotional regulation and compassion, and Vipassanā promoted insight into emotional conditioning. General improvements were also seen in attention, emotional regulation, and stress-resilience. Lastly, no statistically significant differences were found for anxiety or stress scores by gender difference, within pre- and post-intervention, respectively.

Conclusions: Buddhist meditation is an inexpensive, effective approach to childhood mental health promotion. The practices can be integrated into school and mental health clinics with appropriate modification. Although the study yielded promising results, follow-up and control conditions on the long-term effect are to be included in subsequent studies to determine durable effect and generalizability.

Keywords: Buddhist meditation, childhood anxiety, stress reduction, mindfulness, emotional well-being.

ICCP/SL/OP/179

Influencing factors for young workers resorting for illicit drugs

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Background: Illegal drug use among young workers is a pressing social issue, particularly in industrial zones where economic instability and social pressures contribute to substance abuse. This study examined the tendency of young workers to resort to illegal drug use, focusing on the Katunayake Investment Promotion Zone in Sri Lanka, an area identified as having a high prevalence of drug use among youth.

Method: A mixed-method research approach was employed, combining qualitative and quantitative methodologies to provide a comprehensive understanding of the issue. Using purposive sampling, data were collected from 30 young workers who use illegal drugs through structured questionnaires. Additionally, in-depth interviews were conducted with ten participants to explore personal experiences, while 7 key informants from relevant organizations provided expert insights. Secondary data sources, including government reports, statistical data, and official documents, were also analyzed.

Results: The findings indicated a high prevalence of illegal drug use, with cannabis, methamphetamine, heroin, and illicit alcohol being the most commonly used substances. Key factors influencing drug use include economic instability, lack of job security, peer influence, overcrowded work environments, and low awareness of the harmful effects of drug consumption. Additionally, insufficient intervention strategies exacerbate the issue.

Conclusion: The study highlights the necessity of targeted social work interventions, including psychological counseling, health education, and awareness programs. It also recommends integrating drug prevention strategies into school curricula, strengthening community and corporate engagement, and implementing a more robust legal framework to address drug-related issues. In conclusion, the study underscores the urgent need for effective intervention mechanisms to curb illegal drug use among young workers. Addressing socio-economic vulnerabilities, improving workplace conditions, and promoting awareness through education and rehabilitation programs are critical steps in mitigating this growing concern.

Keywords: Illegal drug use, young workers, industrial zones, social work interventions, substance abuse prevention.

Room 5 - Child Protection: Health and Forensic Medicine

ICCP/SL/OP/177

Socio-demographic profile and medico-legal aspects of child suicide deaths in Sri Lanka; A multi-center retrospective study

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Background: Child suicide (CS) is a significant public health concern influenced by various psychosocial factors, and this study examined its demographic patterns, methods, and risk factors.

Method: Data from postmortem reports of suicidal deaths of victims aged less than 18 years, conducted from 2020 to 2025 in six medico-legal units in the Central, Northern and Sabaragamuwa provinces of Sri Lanka, was collected and analyzed.

Results: In the 39 cases of CS considered, 26 (66.7%) were males and the median age of the sample was 16 years. At the time of suicide, 31 (79.5%) were attending school. Three victims (7.7%) were engaged in manual labor while 2 (5.1%) were institutionalized. Regarding the family structure, 28 victims (71.8%) lived in a nuclear family. The most common suicide method was hanging (36, 92.3%), followed by poisoning (n=2; 5.1%) and gunshot injury (n=1; 2.6%). One case (2.6%) was categorized as a complex suicide where a combination of cuts and a shotgun injury was employed. In 34 cases (87.2%), the victim was found dead or declared dead on admission to a hospital. The most suspected triggers for suicide were family conflicts (n=10; 25.6%), academic pressure (n=7; 17.9%), and romantic relationship issues (5, 12.8%), while in 11 (28.2%), the reason remained unknown. The home of the victim was the most common location for suicide (n=26; 66.7%), with the victim's bedroom being the preferred location (20, 51.3%). A verbal or written suicidal intent had been expressed in 9 cases (23.1%). Other associated factors included substance abuse (n-=4; 10.3%), psychiatric illness (n=4; 10.3%), previous self-harm (n=4; 10.3%), a family history of suicide (n=5; 12.8%), and suicide among peers (n=2; 5.1%).

Conclusions: Male adolescents are more vulnerable, while hanging is the most employed method, and suicidal acts are committed mostly at home. Prevention programs should target especially those who are having domestic, academic, and relationship issues.

Keywords: Autopsy, child, family conflict, self-injurious behavior, suicide.

ICCP/SL/OP/251

Importance of education for children on self-protection from sexual abuse

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Background: Child sexual abuse remains a major issue globally, with profound implications for the health, development, and dignity of children. Studies have shown that children who are educated about sexual abuse and self-protection strategies are better equipped to recognize and respond to potential threats. This case report highlights the significance of educating children with knowledge and skills to protect themselves from sexual abuse.

Case study: A 15-year-old boy was treated at hospital for acute exacerbation of asthma. The boy had noted that the caregiver of the patient who was next to his bed was paying more attention to him. When the boy went to bed, late at night, this man had sat next to him and put his hands inside the boy's clothes and squeezed his genitalia. The boy suddenly got up, calling for help. Then the ward staff had attended the incident to protect him. During medicolegal examination, the child and his mother revealed that he was educated at home, on self-protection from sexual abuse and he was confident enough to stand against such an event.

Conclusion: This case report highlights the importance of providing self-protection knowledge to children as a preventive measure against sexual abuse. It calls for the implementation of structured educational programs that equip children with the skills to recognize, resist, and report inappropriate behaviors. Furthermore, it emphasizes the need for a supportive environment involving parents, educators, and communities to foster a culture of safety and awareness.

Keywords: Child, sexual abuse, self-protection.

ICCP/SL/OP/247

Interconnection between child malnutrition and protection in the estate community of Sri Lanka: A study based on the estate in the Gampola Udahenthenna area, Sri Lanka

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Background: Within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), significant emphasis has been placed on addressing food security and child malnutrition. The World Health Organization (WHO) outlines three essential components for ensuring food access. In Sri Lanka, childhood malnutrition can be identified as a major issue arising within communities that are unable to meet their food requirements. In this context, it is critical to concentrate attention on childhood malnutrition among plantation-child communities.

Method: This study was conducted based on the plantation area in the Udahenetanna region of the Ganga Ihala Divisional Secretariat area in the Kandy District of the Central Province. Adopting a qualitative approach, the study gathered primary data through interviews and semi-structured interviews with 50 families and 10 officials. Complemented by secondary data from academic books, research reports and journals. The data were analyzed using a thematic analysis approach.

Results: The findings reveal that the limited access to government food projects and services for plantation workers has primarily contributed to this issue. The decrease in the quality of food, along with the lack of proper understanding of child nutrition among parents and the lack of awareness of food patterns, has also significantly influenced. It directly impacts the nutrition and health security of children.

Conclusion Strategic intervention, community-based programs, and a comprehensive approach to child welfare are essential to address the challenges faced by the plantation child community.

Keywords: Child malnutrition, nutrition, plantation community, protection.

ICCP/SL/OP/250

Role of school counselors in enhancing child protection in Sri Lankan government schools

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Background: Child protection is regarded as a major concern in Sri Lankan government schools and school counsellors play a crucial role in protecting students against abuse, neglect, and other forms of harm as the first point of contact for at-risk students. The effectiveness of child protection measures is frequently impeded by insufficient resources and training. This study examined how school counselors might enhance child protection initiatives by analyzing their responsibilities.

Method: A qualitative research methodology was employed, incorporating semi-structured interviews with a purposive sample of ten participants, comprising two principals, two teachers, and six school counselors, drawn from five selected government schools in the Central Province of Sri Lanka. The study also retrieved present Ministry of Education-provided child protection policies and mechanisms. Common themes and trends on the counsellors' responsibilities, approaches, and challenges in child protection were found by means of thematic analysis. Ethical approval and informed consent were obtained.

Results: The findings of the study revealed that school counselors are crucial in identifying and handling child protection issues and have important responsibilities including psychological support, application of preventative policies, and facilitation of communication between parent, teacher, and social services. However, counsellors have great difficulties including poor resources, insufficient specialized training, and cultural challenges limiting their capacity to completely carry out child protection programs.

Conclusion: To improve child protection initiatives, the study recommends raising financial allocations, strengthening cooperation among schools, social organizations, and communities, as well as counsellor training. These findings enhance the limited research on child protection within the Sri Lankan context and suggest implementable methods to foster safer, more supportive educational settings.

Keywords: Child protection, school counselors, student safety.

ICCP/SL/OP/256

An unseen risk of corporal punishment: an undiagnosed pre-existing condition aggravated by minor trauma

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Background: Corporal punishment in Sri Lanka has been legally restricted, but it is still prevalent, particularly in schools. Arteriovenous malformations (AVMs) are made up of abnormally twisted masses of veins, arteries, and irregular connecting channels. Among all congenital vascular malformations, lesions are the most prevalent. They can be dangerous since they can rupture and create a huge hemorrhage.

Case study: A 16-year-old previously unscreened female student was slapped in the cheek by a teacher for attending the class late. Following that, she was asked to be in a tall kneeling position outside the classroom. While she was in that position for around 5 minutes, she suddenly complained of severe headache and lost her consciousness. Non-contrast computerized tomography of the brain revealed cerebellar intracranial hemorrhage, and an angiogram revealed possible small vascular malformation. Despite intensive treatment, she remained with less consciousness. Two teachers involved in this case were arrested by the police and produced in court.

Conclusion: When a history of trauma is also present, the complex association of either the trauma precipitating a rupture or a rupture causing an incident that leads to the trauma has to be considered. In the present case, although the original physical trauma was probably not in itself fatal, such trauma likely led to serious and fatal consequences.

Keywords: Corporal punishment, arteriovenous malformations, culpable homicide.

ICCP/SL/OP/313

Regulatory gaps in school transportation in Sri Lanka: A case-based analysis

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Background: Laws under the Motor Traffic Act cover road users including both the adult and young population in Sri Lanka. However, the lack of dedicated school transport legislation leaves children vulnerable to misconduct associated with school transportation systems.

Case study: A 15-year-old schoolgirl was travelling home by a private school transport bus, with no driver's assistant. On that given day, she had to stand near the rear entrance due to limited seating. The rear entrance was kept open, and while the vehicle took a turn the victim lost her grip and was thrown away to the road. The driver proceeded without stopping the bus, despite having seen the incident. The unconscious girl was admitted to a nearby hospital by some pedestrians, where she was managed for a scalp laceration and a concussion. Clinical forensic examination concluded the category of hurt as endangering life. The driver was charged with reckless driving by the police.

Conclusion: This case highlights the dangers posed by unregulated school transport; including overcrowding, lack of driving assistants, unsafe practices and driver negligence. Child safety laws should be strengthened, and specific legislation should be introduced to regulate school transport and prevent similar incidents.

Keywords: Accident prevention, child, concussion, craniocerebral trauma, motor traffic laws.

ICCP/SL/OP/331

Impact of substance use of the perpetrator on sexual offences against women in Peliyagoda police area: A retrospective analysis

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Background: Crimes against women represent a significant socio-legal challenge, exacerbated by substance use, which is implicated in altering behavioral and cognitive functions that has an effect on criminal activity. This study aimed to systematically examine the correlation between substance use and offenses against women, providing empirical evidence to inform intervention strategies in the Peliyagoda police area.

Method: A retrospective analysis was conducted on all documented sexual offense cases reported between 2018 - 2023 to Peliyagoda Police area. Data sources included victim and suspect statements, police records, and medico-legal reports. Descriptive statistics was used for data analysis.

Results: A total of 268 sexual offenses were documented, with peak incidents recorded in 2023. Analysis revealed that 47% (n=126) of victims were minors, and 32% (n=86) had only primary education. Spatial and temporal trends indicated that 66% (n=177) of offenses occurred in domestic settings, with 32% (n=86) transpiring at night. 66% (n=177) of offenders were married, and 40% (n=107) were engaged in private-sector employment. Ethnographic distribution aligned with local demographics. Substance use was recorded in 35% (n=94) of offenders, and 80% out of them acknowledged the use. while only 14.2% (n=30) was identified through medico-legal examination. The predominant substances used included methamphetamine (39%), heroin (18%), and Alcohol (14%). 22.2% (n=60) of suspects were intoxicated at the time of the offense.

Conclusion: The findings underscore a significant association between substance use and crimes against women, with domestic environments and adolescent victims being disproportionately affected. The study highlights the necessity for robust forensic investigations, stringent substance regulation policies, and targeted community interventions to mitigate these offenses. Enhancing law enforcement protocols for detecting substance use among offenders is imperative for developing more effective prevention and prosecutorial frameworks.

Keywords: Sexual offences, substance abuse, police record.

ICCP/SL/OP/373

Use of intentional drugging as a weapon in child abuse: A medicolegal perspective

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Background: Child abuse through intentional substance exposure is an emerging concern that poses significant forensic, psychiatric, and medico-legal challenges. This case series examines four adolescents subjected to deliberate drugging to incapacitate them, facilitating abuse. It highlights such cases' clinical and legal implications, emphasizing the need for early detection, multidisciplinary intervention, and robust preventive strategies to protect vulnerable children.

Method: A case series of four adolescents subjected to intentional substance exposure was conducted. Comprehensive evaluations included toxicology screening, forensic examination, and psychiatric assessment.

Result: Toxicology screening confirmed barbiturate poisoning in *Case 1*, accompanied by forensic evidence of sexual assault. In *Case 2*, methamphetamine intoxication was identified alongside indicators of chronic abuse, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. In *case 3*, the boy was sedated with an unknown drug mixed in the milk, and in *Case 4*, the boy was given beer and ethanol (Kasippu) to drink on repeated occasions. All cases were addressed through a multidisciplinary intervention approach.

Conclusion: This case series underscores the alarming use of intentional drugging as a weapon in child abuse, where barbiturates induced sedation to mask assault, while methamphetamine and alcohol enabled control through addiction. Such tactics delay detection and complicate legal remedies, particularly given victims' developmental vulnerabilities. Forensic examinations and toxicology proved paramount in confirming abuse, with longitudinal medico-legal collaboration critical to justice. These cases emphasize the urgent need for systemic integration of medical, legal, and social strategies to safeguard children and address both immediate and lifelong impacts of substance-facilitated abuse.

Keywords: Intentional drugging, child abuse, multidisciplinary intervention, psychosocial vulnerability.

ICCP/SL/OP/086

Association between child nutritional status and demographic characteristics below the age of 5 years with special reference to the Gampaha division in Sri Lanka

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Background: Malnutrition remains a significant public health concern in Sri Lanka, particularly in the Gampaha Division, where urbanization and demographic factors contribute to nutritional disparities. This study investigated the association between demographic characteristics, age, gender, and religion, and different stages of malnutrition, including underweight, stunting, wasting, and overweight conditions.

Method: A structured survey was conducted using a sample of 100 children, collecting data on factors influencing child growth, such as age, gender, weight, height, religion, and birth year. The survey was administered at the Radawana Hospital, within the Dompe Divisional Secretariat of the Gampaha District. Data were analyzed using chi-square tests and cross-tabulation.

Results: Results indicate that malnutrition is prevalent across all demographic groups, with the highest risk observed among children aged 36 months. Cross-tabulation results show that 87% (n=87) of male children are stunted, while 100% (n=100) of females exhibit wasting. Additionally, 50% (n=50) of Muslim children are both underweight and stunted, while 67% (n=67) of Christian children fall into the underweight and wasted categories. Overweight prevalence varies, with 20% (n=20) of Hindu children classified as overweight. The chi-square test results reveal a statistically significant association between gender and malnutrition stages (P=0.023), and between religion and malnutrition (P=0.032), indicating the influence of demographic factors on nutritional outcomes. These findings highlight the urgent need for targeted interventions to address demographic disparities in child nutrition. Early childhood nutrition programs should prioritize high-risk age groups, while gender-sensitive health strategies must address the distinct nutritional challenges faced by boys and girls. Additionally, culturally tailored dietary initiatives are essential to mitigate religion-based disparities.

Conclusion: Enhancing community-based nutrition education, improving access to healthcare, and fostering partnerships with governmental and non-governmental organizations are critical to reducing malnutrition. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation will ensure long-term improvements in child health and nutrition across diverse populations in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Child malnutrition, stages of malnutrition, stunted, demographic characteristics.

ICCP/SL/OP/082

Influence of childhood trauma/abuse on adult romantic relationships

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Background: Childhood trauma and abuse including distressing emotional and physical experiences, sexual abuse, neglect, or exposure to violence are believed to have lasting effects on emotional and relational development. While global studies have explored this topic on a larger scale, limited research has been conducted in Sri Lanka focusing on emotional intimacy, and romantic relationships. Therefore, this study investigated the impact of childhood trauma or abuse on adult romantic relationships, focusing on trust, emotional intimacy, and relationship stability.

Method: Utilizing a survey-based methodology, data were collected from Sri Lankan adults aged 20-40. The questionnaire featured multiple-choice and open-ended questions on childhood home environment, emotional support, trust in relationships, and comfort with intimacy.

Results: Initial analysis of the responses indicates that individuals who reported emotionally neglectful or abusive childhood experiences tend to face challenges in establishing emotional intimacy and trust with their partners. A significant portion also expressed discomfort with vulnerability in relationships. However, a minority of participants demonstrated more secure relationship patterns despite childhood adversity. In contrast, individuals raised in nurturing and supportive family backgrounds were more likely to exhibit relational stability and emotional openness.

Conclusion: The findings highlight that what people go through as children can deeply affect how they handle romantic relationships as adults. Understanding these connections can help individuals and professionals support healthier relationships by addressing unresolved trauma from the past. Ultimately, this research underscores the importance of preventing child abuse and trauma, highlighting its lasting impact on romantic relationships, which is a crucial part of life. Future research may expand on these findings by incorporating larger sample sizes or cross-cultural comparisons.

Keywords: Abuse, attachment styles, childhood trauma, romantic relationships.

Room 6 - Child Protection: Technology, Multimedia

ICCP/SL/OP/332

Patterns and risk factors of child abuse among migrant worker families in Matara Police Division, Sri Lanka

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Background: Parental labor migration is a significant socio-economic phenomenon in Sri Lanka, contributing to household financial stability while inadvertently increasing the vulnerability of left-behind children to abuse. The primary objective of this study was to assess the patterns and risk factors of child abuse among migrant worker families, with special attention to demographic characteristics of the victims as well as the perpetrators and their associations.

Method: This retrospective study analyzed 95 documented cases of child abuse reported across 20 police stations in the Matara Police division from 2022 to 2023. Secondary data was extracted from police records and subjected to statistical analyses using SPSS (Version 27), applying chi square tests for associations.

Results: Among the reported cases, 74.7% (n=71) were classified as sexual abuse, 14.7% (n=14) as physical abuse, and 10.5% (n=10) as neglect. The majority of victims (82.1%; n=78) were female, with the highest vulnerability observed in the 10–16-year age group (57.9%; n=55). A statistically significant association was found between maternal absence and increased risk of sexual abuse ($P < 0.01$), with 69% of sexual abuse cases occurring in households where the mother was abroad. Caregivers were the primary perpetrators in 55.8% (n=53) of cases, with stepfathers (31.6%; n=30) and other male relatives (24.2%; n=23) being the predominant offenders. Children in households with maternal absence due to migration have 4.88 times higher risk (OR=4.88) of experiencing abuse compared to those with paternal absence. An increase in abuse after two years of parental migration was observed with the highest frequency of abuse observed between 3 to 4 years ($P < 0.05$)

Conclusion: The findings underscore a statistically significant correlation between parental migration and heightened child abuse risk, particularly sexual abuse, with caregiver involvement being a major determinant. Enhancing community-based surveillance to mitigate abuse risks in migrant households and further longitudinal research to assess the long-term psychological and social consequences for affected children is recommended.

Keywords: Child abuse, parental migration, sexual exploitation, caregiver perpetration.

ICCP/SL/OP/219

Privacy-preserving cyberbullying detection using federated learning: A comprehensive review of technologies, challenges and solutions

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Background: In the present, cyberbullying has emerged as a more severe threat than traditional bullying and impacts the children's mental health. Centralized detection systems often violate the user's privacy, limitations for scalability, and struggle with heterogeneous data coming from different platforms. This review was aimed to evaluate how federated learning can solve these problems of data privacy, data heterogeneity and scalability in cyberbullying detection.

Method: This review compared and analyzed the current best deep learning models such as Neural Networks (CNNs), Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks, and transformer-based models like BERT within federated learning frameworks and examine the privacy enhancing techniques including secure aggregation, differential privacy, and blockchain. These methods were examined in their ability to support learning from non-IID (non-independent and identically distributed) and heterogeneous datasets.

Results: Federated learning (FL) based detection systems achieved accuracy ranging from 74% (n=4) to over 90% (n=3) while preserving user privacy. When considering the traditional deep learning models and transformer-based hybrid models, their accuracy and the robustness is high compared to the federated based detection systems But, computation and communication cost is high with lack of privacy. The study also highlighted the ongoing challenges in optimization and operating under resource limited environments.

Conclusions: Federated learning allows the creation of effective, scalable, and privacy-preserving cyberbullying detection tools that work in resource limited environments. Further research should focus on optimizing the hybrid deep learning modes architectures with enhancing the privacy and strengthening the privacy protocols to bring such technologies to make safer digital space for children.

Keywords: Federated learning, cyberbullying, child protection, deep learning.

ICCP/SL/OP/032

The need for "Standardized Sex Education" in Sri Lanka: A case report of adolescent vulnerabilities

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Background: Comprehensive sex education is essential for equipping adolescents with the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health. In Sri Lanka, sex education remains a taboo subject, leading to a lack of awareness about consent, relationships, and reproductive health among young people. This gap in education increases vulnerabilities to sexual abuse, unintended pregnancies, and sexually transmitted infections. International guidelines, such as those by UNESCO, emphasize the importance of age-appropriate and culturally sensitive sex education to protect adolescents from harm.

Case study: This case involves a 15-year-old girl from a semi-urban area in Sri Lanka who entered a romantic relationship with an 18-year-old boy. Due to inadequate knowledge about consent and sexual health, the relationship progressed to physical intimacy. The girl was unaware of the legal implications of engaging in sexual activity at her age and felt pressured to comply with the boy's requests. She later experienced emotional distress, fear of pregnancy, and physical discomfort. She sought medico-legal attention after ending her relationship due to neglect by her partner. During the medico-legal evaluation, she disclosed details of the relationship, revealing an instance of statutory rape under Sri Lankan law (Penal Code, Section 363). The case highlighted the consequences of inadequate sex education, including vulnerability to sexual exploitation and emotional trauma.

Conclusion: This case underscores the urgent need for standardized sex education in Sri Lanka. Implementing a structured curriculum aligned with international standards can help adolescents understand consent, recognize abuse, and make informed decisions regarding relationships and sexual health. Key recommendations include integrating comprehensive sex education into school curricula, training educators, and promoting awareness among parents and communities. By addressing these gaps, Sri Lanka can protect its youth from exploitation and improve public health outcomes.

Keywords: Child sexual abuse, statutory rape, sex education.

ICCP/SL/OP/307

Concept note on artificial intelligence and child protection: A medico-legal perspective on digital reporting systems

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Background: Child abuse is a serious social and public health issue in Sri Lanka with 9,673 reported cases in 2023. However, current medico-legal documentation is incomplete as only basic victim details are recorded at Judicial Medical Officer (JMO) offices while detailed case findings remain with the examining doctor. The National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) receives only statistical data limiting case tracking and policy development. A centralized digital reporting system incorporating artificial intelligence (AI) can enhance case documentation, victim monitoring and policy-driven interventions.

Method: A digital system will be developed for structured data entry at all medico-legal centers. Basic victim details will be recorded by trained staff while forensic specialists will enter sensitive information. The data will be encrypted and transferred to a secure central database at the NCPA. AI driven analytics will identify trends, offender profiles and high-risk areas. A multidisciplinary team including police, child protection officers, JMOs, psychiatrists and pediatricians will contribute to case tracking and interventions.

Results: Implementing a digital reporting system will improve data consistency ensuring uniform documentation across all medico-legal centers. AI-driven analytics will provide valuable insights into patterns of child abuse, risk factors and offender characteristics, enabling proactive prevention strategies. The system will also facilitate real-time tracking of victims allowing authorities to assess long-term outcomes and the effectiveness of interventions. However, challenges such as ensuring data security, preventing AI biases and integrating digital systems into existing medico-legal workflows must be addressed. A well-structured confidential and multidisciplinary approach is essential for successful implementation.

Conclusion: Digitizing child abuse reportage supported by AI will strengthen Sri Lanka's child protection framework. Implementing a nationwide secure and AI-integrated system will facilitate case management, support services and policy formulation ultimately improving child welfare.

Keywords: Child abuse, digitization, artificial intelligence, medico-legal reporting, child protection.

ICCP/SL/OP/134

Impact of Deepfake technology and virtual identity Theft in the Metaverse on child protection in Sri Lanka

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Background: Deepfakes and virtual identity theft moving fast have caused serious risks to children in the metaverse and create very realistic content on the internet, which is often used to distress or harass minors. Many children involved in virtual gaming are especially at risk of being victims of identity-based cybercrimes. The study focuses on how important these dangers are and assesses if the current laws and policies of the country are enough to protect children.

Method: The research is based on the qualitative approach, content analysis of cybercrime reports, legislation, policies, and expert perspectives of law enforcement officials and digital security experts. Digital identity exploitation is studied, and its responses by institutions are explored, along with assessing the effectiveness of current laws and regulations regarding child safety online in Sri Lanka.

Results: With findings of deepfake-related cybercrimes, children playing games are the main targets, and there are huge gaps in cybersecurity and legal enforcement measures. The statistical data showcases cybercrime incidents in Sri Lanka increased from 2020 to 2021 by 6.8% due to the rise in identity theft and misuse of social media. At the same time, there is also a surge in privacy violations, scams, and phishing attacks, which shows the high risks of virtual identity theft and digital pillaging. Awareness has never been more reasoned, but the existing legal framework is inadequate; there are none of the necessary enforcement mechanisms or comprehensive digital safety policies.

Conclusion: The findings of this study highlight the requirement to enhance the digital safety regulations and AI governance policies in Sri Lanka and recommend strengthening the legal frameworks, law enforcement, and digital literacy programs. The development of deepfake and virtual identity theft in the metaverse can be mitigated only through a multi-stakeholder approach involving policymakers, tech companies, and civil society.

Keywords: Deepfake, Virtual Identity Theft, cybersecurity, AI, child safety.

ICCP/SL/OP/336

Parental attitudes and barriers to providing sex education to children in Deraniyagala, Sri Lanka: A qualitative study

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Background: Sex education is essential for the well-being of children, especially in child safety. However, the parental involvement in this area is often limited, especially in a society like Sri Lanka that operates in a culturally conservative setting. The aim of this study was to explore parental attitudes and identify the barriers Sri Lankan parents face in providing sex education to their children. Understanding parental perspectives is crucial for effective child protection strategies related to sexual health.

Method: This study utilized a qualitative exploratory design. Data were collected via in-depth, semi-structured interviews with a diverse sample of parents across Sri Lanka, recruited using purposive sampling. Interviews explored views, practices, challenges, and cultural influences regarding sex education. Anonymized, audio-recorded interviews were transcribed verbatim. Transcripts underwent rigorous thematic analysis to systematically identify recurring patterns and themes related to parental attitudes and barriers.

Results: This thematic analysis revealed diverse parental attitudes, significantly shaped by cultural norms, religious beliefs, and personal experiences, as expressed in interviews. Key barriers identified included insufficient parental knowledge about sexual health topics and a lack of confidence in discussing these effectively. Significant discomfort with sensitive topics, pervasive cultural taboos surrounding sexuality, and fear of social stigma further impeded open parent-child communication. Analysis highlighted how these interconnected factors create complex barriers to effective sex education.

Conclusion: In this study, knowing the reported attitudes and obstacles of parents is vital. The findings emphasize the necessity to create interventions that are both culturally appropriate and context-specific in the Sri Lankan context. The interventions need to focus on giving parents accurate information, building confidence in communication, overcoming cultural sensitivities, and establishing enabling environments with the ultimate objective of promoting child safety as well as sexual and reproductive health outcomes.

Keywords: Sex education, parental attitudes, cultural norms, child safety.

ICCP/SL/OP/349

Enhancing child safety online: A multi-modal not safe for work content detection system

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Background: The proliferation of digital platforms has significantly increased children's exposure to Not Safe for Work (NSFW) content, encompassing adult and violent material, posing substantial risks globally. Current video detection systems have limitations in automation, real-time processing, and comprehensive detection of violent content. Furthermore, existing models do not concurrently identify multiple NSFW content types (including text and imagery), highlighting a critical research gap. This study was conducted to propose a multi-modal NSFW detection system designed to surpass existing accuracy benchmarks to safeguard children in online environments.

Method: The system employed a fine-tuned DistilBERT model for NSFW text detection and a YOLOv11n model for image and video analysis. An automated OpenCV pipeline extracts video frames at 15 FPS, facilitating real-time processing. The training process utilizes a custom dataset alongside publicly available repositories from Hugging Face and Kaggle. The detection models were integrated into a web-based browser application through a streamlined data pipeline.

Results: The system achieved 91% accuracy in text detection with DistilBERT and 80% accuracy in image and video analysis using YOLOv11n, trained on a dataset comprising over 15,000 annotated samples. Integration into a functional web-based application demonstrated effective NSFW content moderation capabilities.

Conclusions: This research introduces a novel multi-modal NSFW detection framework capable of real-time content moderation, significantly contributing to enhanced child safety in digital spaces within Sri Lanka. Future recommendations include expanding dataset diversity, optimizing model architectures, and implementing the system in policy-driven environments, such as educational institutions and national safety networks.

Keywords: Not safe for work, child protection, machine learning, DistilBERT, YOLO11n.

ICCP/LK/OP/017

Detection of cyberbullying in social media: Safeguarding children Through AI-based digital safety mechanisms

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Background: Social networks and online platforms have become part of modern communication, opening huge opportunities for people to be exposed to the growing threat of cyberbullying. According to the 2023 studies in Sri Lanka, younger children suffered from the issue of victimization by cyberbullying more than older ones did: 13% versus 9.4%, correspondingly (12–14 years versus 15–18 years). Furthermore, it was found that cyberbullying affects 4% of the country's internet-using children across four representative provinces. With such ominous trends, the detection of cyberbullying across digital platforms stands differently and presents psychological dangers to children, including depression and suicidal tendencies. Therefore, this study aims to address past researchers' gaps and limitations in detecting cyberbullying by developing a machine learning system that can accurately detect harmful online interactions.

Method: The study used a dataset of 49,783 Twitter, YouTube, and Facebook postings relevant to the cyberbullying category for training and testing. Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency was applied as a feature extractor, along with Principal Component Analysis, to reduce the dimension of the extracted features. Three classifications, namely Random Forest (RF), Logistic Regression (LR), and Support Vector Machine (SVM), were used to train the models to detect cyberbullying comments.

Results: According to the model's comparison results, RF achieved the highest accuracy of 94.43%, and LR and SVM obtained an accuracy of 92.62% and 90.35%, respectively. Models used only 5000 components to train the model, which was a better approach than previous research.

Conclusion: These results have marked a step toward the design of more scalable systems for detecting cyberbullying in real-time. By integrating this model into social media platforms, it can identify and remove cyberbullying comments across all comment sections as soon as they are posted. This represents one of the most effective approaches against online harassment and ensuring digital safety for children.

Keywords: Machine learning, cyberbullying detection, child protection.

ICCP/SL/OP/010

Broadening perspectives on protecting children: Mass media and digital safety in the age of technology

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Background: Mass media plays a pivotal role in creating awareness and fostering a culture of digital responsibility. Strategic campaigns, combined with partnerships between governments, private sectors, and communities, have proven effective in reducing risks. However, the study also emphasizes the need to address systemic challenges such as socio-economic inequities, inadequate policy enforcement, and the lack of tailored safety mechanisms for children with disabilities. The digital age has introduced unprecedented opportunities and risks for children, transforming their interactions with the world. While online platforms facilitate education, communication, and entertainment, they also expose children to cyberbullying, exploitation, privacy breaches, and misinformation. This study examines the role of mass media and digital safety in child protection, exploring the interconnected influence of societal, cultural, technological, and policy-related factors.

Method: A mixed-methods approach was adopted. Quantitative data were collected via structured questionnaires from 150 stakeholders, including parents, educators, child protection officers, and technology experts. Qualitative data were gathered through semi-structured interviews and thematic content analysis of mass media campaigns. Statistical analysis was conducted using SPSS to identify correlations between digital safety practices and demographic variables.

Results: Findings reveal that 73% of children aged 8–16 report exposure to harmful content online. Only 45% of parents actively use digital safety tools, highlighting a significant awareness gap. Analysis shows a statistically significant correlation ($p < 0.05$) between parental media literacy and children's online safety. Additionally, access to media literacy programs is disproportionately lower in rural and economically disadvantaged communities. Interview data underscore the absence of adaptive safety tools for children with disabilities and the limited reach of culturally contextualized media campaigns. Recommendations include incorporating digital safety into school curriculums, enforcing robust online content regulations, promoting culturally sensitive media literacy programs, and prioritizing inclusive policies for marginalized groups.

Conclusion: Collaboration with technology platforms to develop child-friendly digital ecosystems is essential for ensuring a safe and empowering environment. By addressing these multifaceted factors, societies can create a holistic framework that safeguards children, enabling them to thrive in the digital era while mitigating associated risks.

Keywords: Child protection, digital safety, media literacy, online risks, inclusive policies.

ICCP/SL/OP/107

Social Media Impact on Children: A Community Study Conducted in Dehiwala Divisional Secretariat Division, Colombo District, Sri Lanka

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Background: Social media has significantly transformed how children interact with the world but also presents new challenges regarding child protection. As children increasingly use platforms like Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, etc. The impact of social media on child protection is multifaceted. On one hand, it can provide opportunities for children to engage with educational content, develop digital literacy, and express themselves creatively. This study was conducted to identify and analyze the factors that affect the children's social media usage

Method: To achieve this objective, 380 people were sampled via the questionnaire method in the Divisional secretory of Dehiwala in the Colombo district based on a simple random sampling method, and data were selected according to the mixed method. The sample size was selected by using the Taro Yamane Method and calculated the non-responsive rate to avoid the error of missing sample units. Four factors were identified through factor analysis using the variable identified through the literature review. They were social, demographic, economic and student engagement. A binary logistic regression was conducted to examine the influence of the above factors on social media usage among the students.

Result: According to this analysis, the dependent variable was social media usage, and the independent variables were the factors above mentioned. The model was statistically significant (2=36.72: P<0.001), indicating a good fit. Among all the predictors, social factors emerged as the most influential variable (β=1.20; P<0.001), with an odds ratio of 3.32. This suggests that students with higher social connectedness or peer influence are over three times more likely to exhibit high social media usage compared to others, controlling demographic, economic and student engagement variables.

Conclusion: This study concluded that the usage of social media mostly depends on social factors. Further, this study should be conducted covering Sri Lanka by gender of social stratum.

Keywords: Social media, usage hours, social factor, child protection.

Room 7 - Gender Studies

ICCP/SL/OP/241

Securitization dynamics of the displacement of Afghan women

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Background: The prolonged instability in Afghanistan was intensified with the Taliban's resurgence in 2021, along with a myriad of violations of Human Rights, women's rights have been obliterated, resulting in women's mass displacement amidst geopolitical contestations and human security crises. The main research problem of this study is how principles of Responsibility to Protect (R2P) have been neglected in Afghanistan. The primary objective of this research was to identify how draconian patriarchal norms, economic warfare, and geopolitical bargaining are used to weaponize displacement against Afghan women.

Method: The study has utilized qualitative research methods by drawing from data collection methods such as data and statistical reports from case studies in Afghanistan. The qualitative approach allows for an in-depth understanding of the complex social, cultural, and political factors influencing the displacement and securitization of Afghan women, providing nuanced insights into their lived realities and resistance strategies. Further this study also addresses how women are left reliant on fragmented social situations with the Taliban's refusal to engage in international responses, contrasting with the politicization of women's rights aid.

Results: According to the 2022 UN Women rapid assessment, this can be seen with 53% of women who were displaced losing access to community safety nets, which led to a rise in the use of unhealthy coping mechanisms like child marriage. Systemic securitization failures, where GBV and institutional indifference carry forward cycles of vulnerability, are ingrained in the displacement of Afghan women. Engagement with Taliban authority must condition international actors protecting women's rights and extending protections for displaced people.

Conclusion: The securitization processes surrounding the displacement of Afghan women illustrate structural gender vulnerabilities magnified by the local authoritarian regimes and lack of institutional accountability. In addition to these essential processes, international approaches must facilitate human security foremost, conditioning cooperation on instilling women's rights, addressing systemic barriers, and returning women's access to essential services for displaced Afghan women and girls.

Keywords: Afghanistan, women displacement, securitization, R2P.

ICCP/SL/OP/350

A retrospective descriptive study on female victims of intimate partner violence

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Background: In Sri Lanka, intimate partner violence (IPV) is a significant issue affecting many women. The way they face to such violence is influenced by various cultural, social, and individual factors. Despite of the many actions which were taken to reduce/prevent IPV, the numbers are remains high. Few studies which conducted on victims' response towards the IPV show, most of them seek support at very late stage. This study aimed to analyze the characteristics of the violence and victims' response towards it.

Method: This retrospective descriptive study included female victims who admitted to three different teaching hospitals in three different provinces of Sri Lanka following IPV in 2024. Data was collected from medico legal records based on a questionnaire.

Results: There were 80 females. The victims' ages ranged from 18 to 63 years, with a mean age of 37.5. Out of 80 females 90% were legally married while others were cohabiting. In 62.5%, IPV had been started after few years of marriage. 70% of them were assaulted using weapons and it was mainly the blunt force weapons. Out of 80, nearly 64% claimed the severity had been increased with the time. In 35% of them had previous hospital admissions and 66% had previous police entries. But 70 (87.5%) of them still were living with the intimate partner and from total, 35% (28) had decided to continue the same life.

Conclusion: The findings of this study highlight that a significant proportion of female victims continue to live with their abusers, with many showing signs of increased severity over time. This emphasizes the urgent need for effective interventions to empower women to seek help earlier and break the cycle of abuse.

Keywords: Characteristics of IPV, female victims, physical abuse, response to violence.

ICCP/SL/OP/297

The practice of female genital mutilation in Sri Lanka: A hidden practice

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Background: The practice of Female Genital Mutilation and Cutting (FGM/C) sparks many controversial debates, and any type of FGM/C has been acknowledged as a harmful procedure and a violation of girls' and women's human rights. Multiple international and regional accords codify human rights, and the UN has addressed FGM/C in Sustainable Development Goals 2030. Thus, the main objective of this study was to discuss the domestic, regional, and international legislations against FGM/C, with reference to Sri Lanka.

Method: This study followed a qualitative approach, utilizing content analysis and secondary data sources such as books, reports, research papers, UN resolutions, treaties and court rulings to determine the legal and social phenomena behind the practice of FGM/C.

Results: It was identified that FGM/C covertly carried out in some populations in Sri Lanka, mostly among the Moor, Malay, and Dawoodi Bohra ethnic groups. Although there isn't a clear legal ban, sections in the Penal Code and the National Child Protection Authority Act may apply in FGM/C cases. In the same way, India grapples with hidden FGM/C cases. Local legislation has emerged in Egypt and the UK to punish the brutal practice. Also, the regional human rights mechanisms in Africa and Europe have given specific attention to FGM/C practices.

Conclusion: It can be recommended that there should be more robust mechanisms locally in Sri Lanka and regionally in Asia to address this brutal practice and, most importantly, mechanisms to bind the international community by the international human rights conventions because abiding by human rights is not a choice.

Keywords: FGM/C, human rights, regional mechanisms, local legislation.

ICCP/SL/OP/317

A case of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV); What is the scope for prevention?

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Background: IPV remains a critical public health issue with significant medical, social, and legal implications. In Sri Lanka, 24.9 % of women have experienced some form of sexual and/or physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime, facing lifelong consequences including physical, emotional trauma and even death. Most of the victims are reluctant to seek support considering disruption of the family unit, socio-cultural stigma and economic dependency. This case highlights the severity of IPV in society and the necessary prevention strategies.

Case study: A 39-year-old woman, with three children, was admitted to the surgical ward of District General Hospital, Gampaha, with multiple deep cut injuries on the back of the neck and ear with underlying bone cut. She was unconscious and in hypovolemic shock. Emergency medical management led to her stabilization and recovery. Injuries were inflicted by the husband, who was a chronic methamphetamine abuser and suffered from morbid jealousy. Previously, she had multiple hospital admissions due to assaults and had made complaints to the law enforcement authorities. In this case, the victim's injuries were life-threatening, indicating the intensity of the physical abuse. Recognizing IPV, taking legal actions by the police, and obtaining an interim protection order to prevent harm are important in such cases. A multidisciplinary approach and coordination of relevant stakeholders who provide support for such victims to be strengthened. Most responses to IPV have focused primarily on intervention after the harm has occurred. We need a public health approach to solve the problem, which includes increasing awareness, IPV screening and counselling, legal justice, psycho-social strengthening program for the victim and mandatory referral of the perpetrator for counselling and necessary management.

Conclusion: This case illustrates the dire consequences of IPV and highlights the timely need for legal actions, preventive strategies, and integrated victim support services to prevent life-threatening incidents.

Keywords: Intimate partner violence, domestic abuse, multidisciplinary approach.

ICCP/SL/OP/271

Analysis of factors affecting the academic performance of engineering technology graduates: A gender-focused case study

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Background: Persistent gender disparities in academic achievement, particularly within the newly introduced Engineering Technology (ET) stream in Sri Lanka's GCE Advanced Level curriculum, pose a significant challenge in higher education. This study analyzes the academic performance of BET graduates from the University of Kelaniya's Faculty of Computing and Technology, examining data from the program's initial three cohorts (2015-2017).

Method: Despite significantly lower female enrollment (48 females vs. 206 males, N=254), preliminary observations prompted a detailed gender-focused analysis of academic performance. Employing Multinomial Logistic and Simple Linear Regression models, the research examined the influence of gender on completion rates, specialization pathways, degree classifications, and Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA).

Results: Notably, 81.25% of female students completed their degrees within four years, compared to 66.02% of males. Furthermore, all female students who reached Level 3 completed their degrees, while 10.19% of males remained incomplete. The findings revealed significant gender disparities in academic performance, with male students exhibiting a lower mean CGPA. Specialization pathway preferences also differed: females were more inclined towards Material and Process Technology and Sustainable Technology, while males showed a stronger preference for the more technically focused Industrial Automation and Robotics. Female students were more likely to achieve Second Class degrees, whereas males were disproportionately represented in the Pass classification. Regarding curriculum performance, statistical analysis revealed that female students excelled in theoretical components. Conversely, no significant gender disparities were observed in practical components, indicating that both male and female students demonstrated similar levels of Engineering Technology application.

Conclusions: The study reveals that despite lower enrolment, female students consistently outperform males, suggesting the need to encourage more female participation in ET programs, potentially influencing GCE (A/L) subject choices. Further research should investigate ET graduates' long-term career trajectories, including workforce retention and success.

Keywords: Engineering, technology, academic performance, gender.

ICCP/SL/OP/333

Violence against married women living in Jaffna, Sri Lanka: A retrospective study of police reports

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Background: Violence perpetrated by legally married husbands against their wives is a significant social and public health concern. This study described the prevalence, nature and patterns of such violence reported to the Jaffna Police during a period of two years, identifying key risk factors and potential interventions.

Method: A descriptive retrospective study was conducted using police records of Child and Women Bureau of Jaffna Police Division where 200 cases reported from July 2021 to July 2023 were analyzed using descriptive statistics.

Results: The majority of the victims (71%; were in the 25–45-year range. Rural areas recorded the highest number of cases (57%) while urban areas had the least (3.5%). Alcohol and drug use were the primary causes (56%), followed by extramarital affairs (21.5%). The most common complaint purpose was counseling (55.5%). Emotional (49.5%) and physical violence (46.5%) were the most frequent types of violence. Police counselling was the most common intervention (52.5%). Most incidents were first-time reports (61%). About 75.5% of cases involved daily violence. Home treatment was preferred by the majority (52.5%) It was identified that 67% of the cases were settled by the Police.

Conclusions: The findings of this study highlight the widespread prevalence of intimate partner violence in married couples within the Jaffna region, with alcohol and substance abuse, extramarital affairs, and communication issues emerging as key contributing factors. The high prevalence of daily violence and predominance of first-time reports suggest a critical gap in early intervention and support systems. These findings emphasize the urgent need for a comprehensive, multi sectoral approach to combat intimate partner violence.

Keywords: Intimate partner violence, physical violence, emotional.

ICCP/SL/OP/004

Women's patriarchal ideologies in Buddhist religious practices and rituals in Sri Lanka

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Background: In Sri Lankan society, Buddhist religious rituals often reflect deep-rooted patriarchal ideologies, affecting the degree of women's participation in spiritual practices. Although the core teachings of Buddhism advocate gender equality, cultural traditions have created limitations for women. The main objective of this study is to explore the extent to which patriarchal norms affect women's participation in Buddhist religious rituals and practices, and to examine the societal attitudes that sustain these limitations.

Method: The study used a purposive sampling method to select 52 Buddhist women from 12 districts across Sri Lanka. Participants were 18 years or older and actively involved in religious activities. Data collection was conducted using a structured questionnaire distributed via Google Forms between January and March 2025. The questionnaire gathered data on personal experiences, gender roles in rituals, and societal perspectives.

Results: The descriptive statistical analysis revealed that 86.5% of respondents felt restricted from fully participating in certain religious practices due to their gender, 78.8% reported being discouraged from participating in rituals during menstruation, which is locally referred to as "Killa" (impurity) and 69.2% believed that men are given more religious authority and spiritual recognition than women. These findings indicate that patriarchal ideologies are deeply embedded in religious traditions and are often justified by cultural narratives that position men as dominant spiritual figures.

Conclusions: The study concludes that despite Buddhism's emphasis on equality, traditional beliefs continue to marginalize women in religious contexts. To challenge these ideologies, educational initiatives and community dialogues should be implemented. Religious leaders should be encouraged to recognize and support women's active involvement in religious rituals. Promoting inclusivity and raising awareness are essential to creating a more balanced and equitable religious culture in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Buddhist erligion, current society, practices and rituals, patriarchal ideology.

ICCP/SL/OP/091

Sexting and online risks in adolescence: A scoping review of psychosocial perspectives

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Background: Adolescence is a time of intense exposure to digital technologies, hence exposure to a variety of online risks such as sexting, sharing of sexually explicit material via electronic media. This scoping review addresses the psychosocial aspects of sexting and associated online risks in Sri Lankan adolescents.

Method: A comprehensive review of literature was conducted in PubMed and Google Scholar using peer-reviewed articles between 2014 to 2024. The review was based on studies that featured Sri Lankans between the age range of 10 to 19 years, specifically searching for keywords such as sexting, adolescent sexual behavior, online risks, cyberbullying, digital media exposure, and psychological effects of online sex material.

Results: Research indicates that teen sexters are more likely to be active in other risky behavior, such as alcohol or drug use and unsafe sex. Such behavior is generally related to peer pressure to be accepted socially. Sexting is also related to emotional and psychosocial issues, such as depression, anxiety, and low self-esteem. The distribution of sexting material without one's knowledge is also related to reputational harm and Internet bullying, exacerbating such issues. In Sri Lankan social setup, there is a dominant role of cultural values and norms in shaping online behaviors among teenagers. In a survey of Sri Lankan internet users, it was emphasized that active involvement of parents in preventing online harm is key. The survey emphasized that open dialogue on Internet use and active involvement of parents can help to reduce risky online behaviors among teenagers, including sexting.

Conclusion: Adolescent sexting is associated with various psychosocial challenges and risky behaviors. Cultural influences and family involvement determine Sri Lankan adolescents' online behaviors. There is a need to enact expansive educational programs that promote digital competency, online safety, and open family discussions to mitigate the potential risks of adolescent sexting.

Keywords: Adolescent sexual behaviors, online risks, sexting.

ICCP/SL/OP/284

Deciphering Mycenaean gender roles and child inclusion in the ancient palatial economy

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Background: The study of gender roles in the Mycenaean civilization (c. 1600–1100 BCE) has been advanced by the decipherment of Linear B tablets and their burial practices. The Linear B script, primarily used for administrative purposes, provides an insight into the lives of the Mycenaeans, revealing significant information about gender roles and child inclusion in the economy. The paper aims to examine these roles, focusing on child inclusion and its impact on this ancient society.

Method: The research followed a historical and eclectic method under qualitative methodology which mainly used the archaeological evidence and current scholarly discussions on the matter.

Results: Linear B tablets indicate gender-specific labor divisions, with women engaged in textile production, cultic service, and food preparation, while men predominantly occupied roles in governance, warfare, and craftsmanship. Female titles such as *keya* (priestess) and *damater* (female landholder) suggest that certain women held influential positions. Burial practices reveal Mycenaean gender norms, particularly through grave findings. Elite male burials contain weaponry signifying martial and political status. Some richly adorned female burials challenge rigid gender binaries, suggesting complex social structures where elite women could wield considerable influence.

Conclusion: By integrating textual and archaeological evidence, this study demonstrates that Mycenaean gender roles were neither rigid nor uniform but rather shaped by social status, occupation, and religious function. The presence of diminutive tools in archaeological contexts implies that children were trained in craft production from an early age. Additionally, the mention of children in religious and servile contexts indicates that they were integrated into economic and societal structures, often through hereditary roles or labor assignments passed down within families. These findings contribute to broader discussions on gender in ancient societies, highlighting the interconnection between economic structures, religious institutions, and burial practices in shaping Mycenaean conceptions of masculinity and femininity.

Keywords: Economy, gender roles, mycenaean civilization, social hierarchy.

ICCP/SL/OP/354

Child abuse in the early developmental stages of LGBTIQ+ youth in Sri Lanka

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Background: This paper explores how Sri Lankan LGBTIQ+ young people (ages 18–24) experienced various forms of child abuse during their early developmental stages—within their families, schools, and broader society. The study examines identity-targeted abuse, family rejection as a form of emotional abuse, silence and denial in schools and institutions, and the long-term psychological impacts of these experiences.

Method: Adopting a qualitative, inductive research design, this study investigates how individuals construct their beliefs in a sociocultural context where non-heterosexual identities are perceived as incongruent with dominant norms of discipline, tradition, and religion. Guided by an ontological constructivist and epistemological interpretivist framework, the researcher interprets participants' narratives hermeneutically—unpacking the cultural, social, and constructed meanings embedded in their language and expressions. The study draws on 20 in-depth interviews with self-identified LGBTIQ+ young people in Sri Lanka. It is a partial outcome of the completed doctoral thesis titled *"Rural Young Men, Facebook, and Same-Sex Sexual Relationships in Sri Lanka"*, submitted to Newcastle University, UK.

Results: Through thematic analysis of participants' life histories, the study reveals how colonial-era concepts such as "indecency," "abnormality," and "gross indecency"—rooted in the British Penal Code—have not only shaped legal discourse but also deeply influenced cultural and social perceptions. These colonial legacies continue to justify the silencing and punishment of non-heterosexual desires during adolescence and childhood. The findings show that children expressing same-sex attraction or gender non-conforming behavior were often subjected to verbal, psychological, and physical abuse, as well as marginalization and exclusion by parents, teachers, neighbors, and institutions under the prevailing heterosexual cultural hegemony in Sri Lanka.

Conclusion: As a result, many LGBTIQ+ young people have experienced trauma and mental health challenges, including depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, and the effects of homophobic hysteria. This study calls for further empirical research into the mental health, educational experiences, and sexual and reproductive rights of LGBTIQ+ individuals. It also advocates for a critical, culturally sensitive examination of sexual citizenship, rights-based education, and inclusive policy-making in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: LGBTIQ+ youth, child abuse, family rejection, heteronormativity.

Room 8 - Child Protection

ICCP/SL/OP/186

A visual analysis of contemporary child protection as depicted in the Vessantara Jataka, of the central Kandy temple Mural tradition from the 18th and 19th centuries AD

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Background: Temple mural art flourished under the patronage of the Senkadagala Kingdom between the 18th and 19th centuries AD. The Jataka stories were given a special place among the themes commonly used in the creation of temple paintings. It is indisputable that the murals depicting the Vessantara Jataka at the Medawala Rajamaha Viharaya and Degaldoruwa Rajamaha Viharaya are the most powerful Jataka paintings found among the Vessantara Jataka stories. The objectives of the research were to study the reasons why the artist chose the Vessantara Jataka for temple paintings, the way in which the child characters in the Vessantara Jataka are depicted, and how to represent contemporary child protection.

Method: The research method was based on primary and secondary sources and conducted through iconography analysis. The artistic skills of the Kandyan mural painter in depicting children in the Vessantara Jataka paintings of two selected temples and the socialization of child protection was studied.

Results: In the Vessantara Jataka, several essential events have been painted. The reign of King Vesathuru and Queen Mandri (Maddi) with their two children, Princess Krishnajina and Prince Jaliya, at the kingdom of Sivrata. King Vesathuru almsgiving to the royal elephant Kalingu kingdom. Then the kingdom people were disappointed about King Vesathuru. After that incident, the king and family give up the kingdom and go to the forest; the almsgiving of children to Jujaka Brahmin and the rescue of children from Brahmin are depicted in the painting. The sad incident of the almsgiving of children by King Wesathuru, the rescue of the children by King Sandamaha, and King Sandamaha's proper intervention are depicted. This is not just a Jataka-represent incident, but the artist has clearly represented the love for children in parental custody, the tragedy faced by children after being placed in without parental custody, the intention of the ruler of the state towards children, the action taken by the king Sandamaha for the children, and the return of children to their rightful custody. The Central Kandy painter did not focus only on his work of painting.

Conclusion: It is evident that from the time of choosing the subject matter, people have focused on child protection through correct communication based on social, political, and religious principles.

Keywords: Murals, Vessantara, children, protection, central Kandy.

ICCP/SL/OP/188

The hidden crisis: The impact of parental labor migration on child well-being in Sri Lanka

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Background: Parental labor migration is a growing yet under-addressed issue in Sri Lanka, with thousands of parents, especially mothers, migrating for employment in the Middle East and other regions. While remittances contribute significantly to the economy, the social cost on children left behind remains largely ignored. These children often face emotional distress, academic challenges, and increased vulnerability to neglect and abuse. The primary objective of this study is to analyze the psychological, social, and educational impacts of parental migration on children and to propose policy interventions to mitigate these risks.

Method: This study employs a qualitative research approach based on secondary data sources. A comprehensive review of academic literature, government reports, and policy documents was conducted to analyze the psychosocial, educational, and behavioral consequences of parental absence due to migration. Additionally, data from international organizations such as UNICEF and Sri Lanka's Ministry of Women and Child Affairs were examined to assess the scope and severity of the issue.

Results: Findings indicate that children left behind due to parental migration experience increased emotional distress, social isolation, and academic challenges. Studies reveal that nearly 40% of such children show signs of depression and anxiety, while 30% exhibit declining academic performance due to lack of parental supervision. Additionally, there is a higher risk of child abuse and exploitation, particularly for children under informal guardianship arrangements. Many caregivers, such as grandparents, struggle to provide adequate emotional support and discipline, leading to behavioral issues among affected children. The lack of structured government interventions exacerbates the situation, leaving these children with insufficient social and psychological support.

Conclusions: The study highlights the urgent need for targeted policies and support mechanisms to address the challenges faced by children of migrant parents. Recommendations include the implementation of community-based monitoring systems, increased government intervention in formalizing child guardianship arrangements, and the establishment of mental health support programs for affected children. Strengthening child protection laws to account for the unique vulnerabilities of this group is essential for safeguarding their well-being. Addressing this issue is critical to ensuring that economic gains from labor migration do not come at the expense of the nation's future generations.

Keywords: Parental migration, child protection, policy interventions.

ICCP/SL/OP/195

Legal analysis of juvenile justice system in Sri Lanka: A human rights perspective

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Background: The primary goal of Sri Lanka's juvenile justice system is to support the reintegration and rehabilitation of children who run afoul of the law while making sure their rights are upheld. Concerns exist, meanwhile, about how effectively this system conforms to other international human rights norms, including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The purpose of this study was to assess how well Sri Lanka's juvenile justice system upholds and defends children's rights while adhering to the best interests of the child premise.

Method: The research approach used was qualitative. The study looked at domestic laws, policy papers, court rulings, and reports from organizations like the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) and UNICEF that were published. To get useful insights on using the best interest principle in the juvenile justice system, semi-structured interviews were carried out with child rights activists, juvenile justice officers, and attorneys.

Results: The juvenile justice system in Sri Lanka has serious flaws including arbitrary detention, a dearth of child-friendly courts, procedural delays, and insufficient rehabilitative measures were among the main problems. The interviews brought to light a lack of training for authorities who interact with children, as well as irregularities in legal procedure.

Conclusion: Urgent institutional and legal reforms are needed to guarantee that the juvenile justice system complies with international norms. Rehabilitation, child-sensitive practices, and the uniform application of the child's best interests at every step of the legal system must be prioritized.

Keywords: Juvenile justice, child rights, rehabilitation, best interests of the child.

ICCP/SL/OP/162

Ensuring digital privacy rights of children from artificial intelligence applications: A legal analysis in Sri Lanka

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Background: The main objective of this research was to make a proposal for ensuring children's digital privacy rights from Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies and suggest best practices in light of international standards and statutory laws in other jurisdictions. AI continues to build digital interactions and children's data privacy faces many challenges. AI systems collect large amounts of children's data from online learning platforms to social media. AI systems collect, analyze and process children's data through AI algorithms for targeted advertising, to create databases etc. Therefore, this research aims to address the adequacy of the existing legal framework in safeguarding children's privacy from AI systems in light of international child rights instruments including United Nations Child Rights Convention, General Data Protection Regulations. The Personal Data Protection Act, No.09 of 2022 and the Computer Crimes Act No.24 of 2007 generally address data protection and computer related online crimes. However, those statutes do not expressly address provisions regarding the protection of children's digital data privacy from Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies.

Method: This research uses a qualitative approach with a doctrinal legal research method. The doctrinal legal research method is followed to analyze the primary sources and secondary sources such as legislations, case laws, textbooks, scholarly articles.

Result: These findings aimed to fill the gaps and offer significant insights for policymakers, legal practitioners for ultimately contributing to enhancing the legal framework relating to child rights in the AI era.

Conclusion: Therefore, there is a lacuna in the legal framework in Sri Lanka related to ensuring child digital privacy in the AI era. The technology, offences and violations based on AI is different from traditional type of offences. Therefore, children engaging in activities on online platforms have to become more vulnerable than older people. It is required to enhance and make significant improvements in the legal framework is essential.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence (AI), child rights, data protection.

ICCP/SL/OP/155

Impact of "Period Parties" on a girl's mental well-being in Sri Lanka: A child protection perspective in the Ratnapura District, Sri Lanka

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Background: Menstruation is a natural process that occurs monthly for approximately 4.09 billion female including girls, women, transgender woman and non-binary individuals of reproductive age worldwide, starting from puberty. Sri Lanka exhibits a profound deeply entrenched cultural orientation, coupled with significant stigmatization concerning reproductive and sexual health. Period parties are cultural rituals in Sri Lanka that commemorate the girl's first menstruation, which mark her transition into womanhood. Despite the intention of celebrating, these events often have psychological consequences. The traditional gender roles are reinforced by these parties, and the rituals associated with them can lead to lasting mental health problems for girls. The research examines how these rituals affect mental well-being, specifically emphasizing the feelings of shame, anxiety and social isolation.

Method: This research was conducted in Sri Lanka, where the rituals of period parties is widespread, specifically in rural areas where cultural traditions remain deeply entrenched. Ratnapura district comprised the population of the study. The sample consisted with 385 females aged 15-64 were selected the using systematic random sampling method, and the mixed method approach has been applied. Both primary and secondary data were collected through interviews, field observations and reports, journals and books.

Results: The findings revealed a significant proportion of participants reported negative emotional impacts linked to period parties the event's public nature (N=?), trauma caused by forced participation in rituals and societal expectations of femininity were the main factors that were highlighted by key issues were identify as harmful practices that compromise the well-being, dignity and emotional safety and as a violation of a child's rights to be free from, harm, coercion and psychological distress of children and adolescents.

Conclusions: This study suggests that addressing harmful menstruation rituals education, supportive alternatives, mental health resources and community engagement to protect children's well-being and promote gender equality.

Keywords: Menstrual, period party, mental well-being, child protection.

ICCP/SL/OP/264

YouTube and Sri Lankan children: An analysis of screen time and viewing habits among children aged 2 to 8 years

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Background: This research project analyses how YouTube affects the screen time and viewing habits of children in Sri Lanka between the ages of 2 and 8, with a specific focus on how parents control their kids' digital consumption. Unlike past generations, children today have access to digital entertainment from an early age, with smartphones becoming a necessity of daily life. YouTube has become one of the most widely accessible entertainment platforms for young children, altering their preferences in content and viewing habits. The objective of this study is to analyse these evolving patterns and investigate how parents respond to this change in digital media consumption.

Method: A sample of 50 households (100 parents) with children aged 2 to 8 participated in the study, and parents of children in the target age group were given a questionnaire to complete in order to gather data for this research. According to the research, the majority of parents let their children watch YouTube mostly to keep them entertained while they feed or to manage house chores. Children's viewing preferences are heavily influenced by popular channels like "Coco melon, Diana and Roma EN and Like Nastya" and many parents prefer English-language content because they consider it more educational.

Results: This research raises concerns about excessive screen time and its possible impact on mental and social development, even as parents keep an eye on what children consume and the frequency and duration of the content that children consume are frequently left uncontrolled, despite the fact that many parents constantly monitor what their kids watch. This research underlines how important it is to provide young children's digital consumption a balanced approach. It is also suggested that co-viewing should be encouraged, well-planned screen time limits are needed and alternate offline activities for social and mental development should be promoted in order to prevent this situation.

Conclusion: In Sri Lanka, YouTube has ingrained itself into early childhood entertainment, but its impact on growing minds needs to be carefully monitored. This study highlights that digital media should be used as an additional tool rather than their main source of entertainment. By addressing the above issues, parents can ensure that their children grow up in a healthier media environment where YouTube is used as a supplementary tool, not as their main source of communication and entertainment.

Keywords: Parental control, YouTube, digital consumption, content.

ICCP/SL/OP/002

Addressing barriers to accessing quality education for children in post-conflict northern Sri Lanka

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Background: Children in post-conflict zones face unique challenges that hinder their access to quality education, which is vital for rebuilding their futures and fostering community resilience. This study focuses on Northern Sri Lanka, a region heavily impacted by decades of civil conflict to examine the barriers affecting children's educational opportunities.

Method: A mixed methods approach was employed, combining qualitative interviews with 10 teachers and a quantitative survey of 150 children. The research identifies key obstacles, including inadequate infrastructure, a lack of trained teachers, psychological trauma among students and sociocultural factors such as linguistic and ethnic disparities.

Results: The findings reveal that while efforts have been made to rehabilitate schools and promote education, systemic issues such as poverty, displacement and the lingering effects of war continue to disrupt the education system. Moreover, the absence of effective psychological support mechanisms for children further exacerbates these challenges. The study highlights the need for tailored interventions, including improved teacher training programs, community engagement initiatives and the integration of psychosocial support into the educational framework.

Conclusion: By analyzing the specific context of Northern Sri Lanka, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding education in post-conflict settings. It advocates for a multi-stakeholder approach to address these barriers, emphasizing the importance of government policies, international aid and grassroots efforts in creating a sustainable and inclusive education system

Keywords: Post-conflict education, Northern Sri Lanka, barriers to education, psychological support, teacher training, inclusive education.

ICCP/SL/OP/288

The best practices for strengthening policy implementation on child online protection in Sri Lanka

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Background: The digital transformation sweeping across Sri Lanka has brought immense opportunities for education, social interaction and economic development. Despite the number of opportunities brought by the internet, it has also created significant online risks including cyberbullying, screen addiction, sexual exploitation and harmful content for children. This study was undertaken to analyze the child online protection policies in Sri Lanka with a specific focus on strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for harmonized efforts.

Method: The study was conducted following a qualitative methodology, primarily focusing on reviewing available national policies, frameworks and other related legislative instruments. The study further references international guidelines and instruments such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, INSPIRE Strategies and We Protect Model National Response to benchmark local practices against global standards. Further, secondary data from reports by governmental agencies, non-governmental organization and international bodies were analyzed to evaluate the effectiveness of current measures.

Results: Best practices include collaborating with different stakeholders, introducing child online safety to curricula, awareness campaigns targeting children, educators, parents, civil society organizations and policy makers. Gaps in the existing legal system, lengthy procedures in the justice system, victim blaming and cultural barriers, limited public awareness and insufficient funding for child protection initiatives are noted as significant barriers to protect children online.

Conclusion: The findings emphasize need for a holistic approach that prioritizes children's rights and adapts policies to the rapidly evolving digital landscape. This study provides actionable recommendations for policymakers, educators and civil society organizations to strengthen protective measures for children in digital environments while fostering their digital citizenship.

Keywords: Child online safety, digital well-being, child rights, international standards.

ICCP/SL/OP/348

Situated agency or empowerment? mobile phone use, female heads of households, Trincomalee

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Background: The concept of situated agency, according to the feminists, argues that the women's agency is shaped by the specific social, cultural, historical and political contexts they are embedded in. Thus, situated agency is contextual, relational and shaped by power structures and it challenges the notions such as restricted agency and women's low levels of well-being as such ideas devalue the positive role women's agency can play to uplift their position through social change. Hence, this study discusses subtle strategies used by a group of female heads of households in Trincomalee district in their mobile phone use, ensuring that the mobile phone is effectively used in their income generating activities, family affairs and social relationships.

Methods: The data collection of this qualitative study involved 30 in depth interviews with Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim female heads of households living in Trincomalee District. The participants were inquired about how they employ mobile phones in their income earnings and family and social relationships despite the challenges they face due to their social status and patriarchal power structures. Interviews were conducted for nearly six months during the latter part of 2014 in Trincomalee District and they were recorded with the consent of the interview participants and transcripts were prepared. Thematic analysis was employed for qualitative data analysis.

Results: It was found that despite popular ideology dictating that women should not use a mobile phone and their experiences of harassment, participants had not given up the device altogether, which can be considered as a form of resistance. They were very much benefitted by the mobile phone in their income-earning activities, and they were able to balance their family responsibilities and income-generating activities. Further, many of them utilized mobile phones to keep up their social relationships and some had to have it to maintain their long-distance relationships with their husbands. Their common mobile phone practices and strategies used to protect themselves and use the phone only for essential tasks can be considered subtle strategies of resistance exerted within the constraints of their situation, even though they are considered submissive behaviors suggesting acceptance of patriarchal norms. Such apparently submissive behaviors, therefore, can be considered as innovative strategies employed to continue owning and using mobile phones – a new technology.

Conclusion: In conclusion, the participants cannot be perceived as pitiable victims of patriarchy but rather creative individuals because they attempted to achieve their needs and goals as possible as they could, within the constraints of the systems and situations they live under. It can be further argued that their strategic use of mobile phones reflects their resistance against unequal gender relations in society. Thus, it can be argued that instead of achieving empowerment or agency via mobile phones as discussed in previous studies, the participants implement situated agency to maximize the uses of mobile phones in their lives.

Keywords: Situated agency, empowerment, female heads of households, mobile phone use.

ICCP/SL/OP/362

Addiction and compulsive ebhaviours in middle adolescents engaging in e-money activities on TikTok: A study in the western province, Sri Lanka

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Background: The rapid rise of digital platforms like TikTok has transformed adolescent financial behaviors, particularly through e-money activities such as virtual gifting, in-app purchases, and content monetization. While these interactions offer economic opportunities, they also raise concerns regarding addiction and compulsive behaviors among middle adolescents. This study explores the prevalence and psychological impact of e-money engagement among adolescents in the Western Province of Sri Lanka, addressing a critical research gap in understanding the intersection of social media and financial behavioral risks. The research problem focuses on how TikTok's e-money features contribute to compulsive spending habits and potential addiction among middle adolescents. The primary objective is to assess the behavioral patterns, psychological triggers, and social influences leading to compulsive e-money activities, while also evaluating the effectiveness of regulatory measures in mitigating these risks.

Method: This study adopts a pragmatic research philosophy and employs a mixed-method approach, integrating both qualitative and quantitative data. Data collection methods include structured questionnaires targeting a representative sample of middle adolescents and in-depth interviews with key stakeholders such as parents, educators, and mental health professionals. A stratified sampling technique is used to ensure diversity across different socioeconomic and demographic groups within the Western Province. The data is analyzed using SPSS for statistical insights and content and thematic analysis for qualitative findings.

Results: The study's findings highlight the psychological and behavioral consequences of TikTok's e-money ecosystem on adolescents, revealing key risk factors that contribute to compulsive digital spending. The research identified a strong correlation between frequent e-money transactions and addictive behaviors, driven by peer influence, gamification elements, and instant gratification. Additionally, findings indicate that inadequate financial literacy and parental supervision exacerbate these risks.

Conclusion: Based on these insights, the study proposes policy recommendations, including enhanced digital literacy programs, stricter parental controls, and platform-level interventions aimed at mitigating addiction and financial exploitation among adolescents.

Keywords: TikTok, e-money addiction, adolescent behavior, compulsive spending, digital financial literacy.

Free Paper Session 03 - Oral Presentation
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Room 01 - Child Protection & Health

ICCP/SL/OP/268

Child safeguarding service development in community pediatric setting- experience from Sri Lanka's first community pediatric clinic

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Background: Community Pediatric clinic offers child development, disability and safeguarding services. Sri Lankan national guideline on violence against children elaborates how child safeguarding lead is important in carrying out the management process when a child presents following an abuse.

Method: This paper describes how the Community Pediatric service in the Gampaha district established the system to optimize the process given in the guideline. Clinical data were obtained from medical records ensuring privacy and confidentiality. Data was analyzed using SPSS software.

Results: In the base hospital setting, when a child is presented following abuse, all relevant medical specialists, including community and general pediatricians, specialists in forensic medicine, and specialist psychiatrists, assess and discuss the acute plan in the clinical case conference. This is followed by multisectoral institutional case conferences, ensuring safe placement, medical, psycho-social and educational management and follow-up of the child and family. Since its' conception in 2022, 176 children have been referred to the service. The majority were females (76.7%, n=135). The mean age of presentation is 12.2 years (SD 3.77, range 2 months to 18 years and 5 months). The commonest reason to present is sexual abuse (72.2%) followed by physical abuse (14.2%). Twelve per cent (n=22) of children are abused by their parents, and 62.5% of the time, the perpetrator is either living in the home or in their neighborhood. In line with the deinstitutionalization principles, 79.6% of the children were placed in family-based care, either with their parents or a relative.

Conclusion: Designated child safeguarding services in the community pediatric setting ensure multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral management of children facing violence. Still, more females and sexual abuse are reported to the safeguarding service. Appropriate holistic management allows placing these children in family-based care.

Keywords: Pediatric clinic, community, child safeguarding.

ICCP/SL/OP/249

Balancing protection and autonomy: The legal dimensions of child vaccination Policies in Sri Lanka

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Background: This research critically analyzes the legal framework of child immunization in Sri Lanka with particular reference to the Children's Charter of Sri Lanka. Even though child immunization is a cornerstone of public health, the law concerning it gives rise to some serious issues relating to parental autonomy, informed consent, and the rights of the child. This study aims to review prevailing legal and policy contexts addressing child vaccination, identify gaps and implementation challenges, and assess how they comply with international human rights standards and principles established by Sri Lanka's Children's Charter.

Method: Using a qualitative approach, the research combines doctrinal interpretation of statutory law, policy, case law, and international legal instruments with interviews of legal and healthcare professionals.

Results: From the analysis, legal tensions between statutory requirements for compulsory immunization policy and parents' decision-making rights are created as being to function to emphasize legal clarity, ethical justification, and procedural fairness demands. The research argues that violations of statutory requirements can result in legal sanctions and public health dangers.

Conclusion: In conclusion, this study discovers that, even to some extent, Sri Lanka's immunization system greatly supports public health objectives but requires more advanced legislative and policy reforms to systematically ensure greater transparency, effective legal accountability, and compliance with children's and parents' rights. Indeed, the key suggestions are to include adult and child rights enshrined in the Children's Charter in policy development, legally clarify consent and exceptions, and promote greater public participation to overcome vaccine reluctance.

Keywords: Child Vaccination, children's charter of Sri Lanka, human rights, legal framework.

ICCP/SL/OP/257

Two recent incidents of Autokabalesis in the capital of Sri Lanka: Do we need to address an emerging suicidal cluster?

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Background: Autokabalesis refers to the act of deliberately jumping from a height, such as a raised structure, with the intent of self-harm or suicide. A suicide cluster is defined as a group of suicides or suicide attempts that occur closer together in time, space, or both than would normally be expected in a given community.

Case study: In July 2024, a 15-year-old boy and girl from the same school tragically died after falling from the 67th floor of an apartment building in Colombo. Just a few months later, in October 2024, another girl from the same class died by jumping from the observation deck of a tower. Investigations by law enforcement suggested a possible connection between the two incidents, given that all three students attended the same school. During the autopsy of the third victim, a scar was noted on her left thigh, bearing the names of the two students who had died earlier, further pointing to a potential pattern or influence.

Conclusion: Suicide investigations should not conclude with a routine autopsy; a psychological autopsy is equally vital to understand the underlying factors and triggers. Sri Lanka currently lacks a formalized system to respond to such incidents comprehensively. There are significant gaps in the management and prevention of suicide clusters, especially among adolescents. A coordinated, multidisciplinary approach involving health, education, and legal sectors is urgently required.

Keywords: Autokabalesis, psychological autopsy, suicidal cluster.

ICCP/SL/OP/303

Are children safe in public transport? grave sexual abuse; A case report

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Background: Sexual harassment and assault on public transport is a widespread global issue that poses serious threats to the mental and physical well-being of victims, and Sri Lanka is no exception. While milder forms of harassments are more common in such instances and grave sexual abuse and rape are rarely reported.

Case study: This case study reports a serious case of grave sexual abuse involving a female child on public transport in Sri Lanka during the COVID-19 pandemic, a period marked by reduced passenger numbers. The incident came to light following a complaint by a bus conductor who observed suspicious behavior involving a middle-aged man and the child. Initially, the child did not disclose any details of the incident. However, clinical examination revealed petechial hemorrhages on the soft palate, while other physical findings were unremarkable. Laboratory analysis of oral cavity swabs tested positive for spermatozoa. This case highlights rare but grave sexual violations that occur, even in seemingly public and monitored environments. The COVID-19 pandemic may have inadvertently increased vulnerability due to decreased passenger volume, creating opportunities for perpetrators to act with reduced risk of detection. The initial non-disclosure by the child underscores the common challenge in detecting abuse, particularly among children, who are afraid, confused, or unwilling to speak out. This emphasizes the critical role of vigilant third parties such as in this case, the bus conductor and the importance of a thorough medicolegal evaluation, even when overt signs are minimal.

Conclusions: The detection of spermatozoa from oral swabs serves as crucial forensic evidence, reinforcing the need for timely and comprehensive forensic assessments in suspected cases of child sexual abuse.

Keywords: Sexual harassment, grave sexual abuse, forensic evidence, public transport, child safety, medico-legal examination, child sexual abuse.

ICCP/SL/OP/368

Guarding childhood, not clicks: A data-driven push for safer child abuse news reporting in Sri Lanka

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Background: Sri Lanka is witnessing a troubling increase in child abuse cases and media reports that often prioritize sensationalism over ethical standards, compromising victim protection. Many reports include graphic content, unverified claims, and harmful language that risk re-traumatizing victims and compromising child protection. This study aimed to systematically evaluate the extent to which Sri Lankan media adhere to established child safeguarding guidelines in reporting abuse.

Methods: A mixed-methods approach was employed, analyzing a randomly selected sample of media items - including print, television, online, and social media—published over the past five years. Each report was assessed using a structured tool based on national child protection standards, generating quantitative compliance scores and qualitative thematic insights. Reports were rated on a 25-point scale and categorized as fully compliant, partially compliant, or non-compliant. Descriptive statistics and chi-square analysis were used to explore patterns by media type.

Results: The findings revealed substantial variation in compliance. Newspapers (mean score 18.5) and online media (mean score 17.8) were largely partially compliant, with strengths in victim anonymity and factual reporting. In contrast, TV reports showed low compliance (mean score 9.7), often marked by sensationalism, victim-blaming, and misuse of legal terms. A significant association was found between media type and compliance level ($P < 0.001$). Alarmingly, only 5.3% of reports mentioned prevention (95% CI: 0.65%–17.8%), highlighting a critical gap in public education and policy advocacy.

Conclusion: The study underscores urgent gaps in ethical reporting, particularly on TV, and the near absence of preventive discourse. Journalists must be educated on legal language, victim protection, and the importance of including prevention messaging (e.g., helpline 1929). Partnerships with child rights organizations and regular audits of compliance with laws are essential to foster responsible journalism and uphold the dignity and rights of child victims.

Keywords: Childhood, child abuse, data-driven push.

Room 2 - Gender Studies

ICCP/SL/OP/324

Characteristics of gender based violence-related trauma of females: A three-month analysis at a District General Hospital, Gampaha, Sri Lanka

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Background: Violence-related trauma of females is a significant global health concern, with severe physical and psychological impacts. This study aims to analyze the characteristics and prevalence of violence related trauma admissions at the Surgical Female Unit of the District General Hospital Gampaha, over 3 months.

Method: Retrospectively, bed head tickets were perused and a total of 920 trauma admissions of females were identified. Of that violence-related 94 cases (10.2%) were included in the study. Anonymous data was collected from December 15, 2024, to March 15, 2025. Demographic data and assault-related data were extracted from medical records, focusing on the perpetrator, injury type, affected body areas, and legal actions pursued and entered into a preplanned worksheet and analyzed.

Results: Most assault victims were aged 19-45 years (54%), with an age range of 8 to 80 years and were married (70.2%). The primary perpetrators were spouses/partners (38%) and friends/known individuals (39.3%). Most assaults occurred within the home (61.7%). Physical violence without weapons (45.7%) was the most common, followed by sharp weapons (11.7%). Head and neck injuries (23.4%) were prevalent, and multiple injuries were seen in 40.4% of cases. Despite the injuries, 41.6% of patients were discharged after one day, with no fatalities recorded. Legal action was pursued in 67% of cases, highlighting the importance of legal interventions.

Conclusion: This study illustrates the widespread nature of GBV, particularly in domestic settings, from a known person using blunt force. It emphasizes the need for stronger support systems, better reporting mechanisms, and robust legal frameworks to address and prevent GBV. Healthcare providers and policymakers play a crucial role in combating this ongoing issue.

Keywords: Gender-based violence, trauma, domestic violence, assault, healthcare.

ICCP/SL/OP/351

The hidden impact of domestic violence: Case reports from the Southern Province, Sri Lanka

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Background: Violence against Women [VAW] is a universal global issue and is widely prevalent in Sri Lanka too. The VAW has wide ranging effects on the women's health, family, community, and the Nation. It is deep rooted, multifactorial and is against basic human rights. This case report presented two instances of domestic violence, illustrating the potential outcomes if such situations go undetected and unaddressed early on.

Case study: The first case involved a 34-year-old woman, a mother of three, who suffered from 12 years of physical and psychological abuse at the hands of her husband. Despite suffering severe injuries, including approximately 125 wounds in various stages of healing and fractures, she remained isolated from her family and friends, prohibited from seeking help or communicating with others. Her mental health deteriorated significantly, leading to severe depression and suicidal thoughts, yet she did not pursue legal action against her abuser. The second case was a woman whose body was exhumed nearly four years after being illegally buried following her murder by her husband. She had been physically abused for eight years, with a documented history of hospital admissions due to injuries inflicted by her husband, including bilateral upper and lower limb fractures. Like the first victim, she was coerced into silence, ultimately leading to her death after a day of brutal beatings.

Conclusion: Both cases reveal common themes of prolonged abuse, psychological manipulation, and systemic barriers that prevent victims from seeking help. The experiences of these women highlight the critical need for awareness, intervention, and support for victims of domestic violence, emphasizing the importance of breaking the cycle of abuse and providing resources for those affected.

Keywords: Depression, domestic violence, human rights.

ICCP/SL/OR/328

A descriptive study on family violence among individuals in coir industry from Kuliyapitiya Police area in Sri Lanka

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Background: Family violence is a major public health issue with complex socio-economic factors. Individuals involved in Sri Lanka's coir industry may face unique occupational and financial stresses, increasing their vulnerability. However, research focusing on family violence within this workforce is very limited. This study was conducted to analyze the patterns, types and characteristics of family violence cases reported in the Kuliyapitiya Police Area over a five-year period (2018–2022).

Method: A retrospective descriptive study was conducted using police records on family violence cases reported from 2018 to 2022 in Kuliyapitiya Police area. Data were categorized based on victim and perpetrator demographics, type of violence, location, nature of injuries, reasons for violence and case progression. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics.

Results: A total of 1,324 cases of family violence were reported. Domestic violence (Intimate Partner Violence) was the most prevalent (60.8%; n=805), followed by child abuse (12.3%; n=166) and elder abuse (2.3%, n=30). The majority of victims were aged over 60 years (30.8%; n=408), while perpetrators were predominantly male (83.3%; n=1,102). Alcohol-related disputes accounted for 20% (n=265) of cases. Blunt force was the most commonly used method (22.2%; n=294), and lacerations were the most frequent injury (26.1%; n=345). Most incidents occurred in coir factories (n=873). Case progression revealed that 47.1% (n=624) were handled in the Magistrate Court, while 11.8% (n=156) were settled through a mediation board.

Conclusion: Family violence in the coir industry is a multifaceted issue influenced by workplace dynamics, alcohol misuse and socio-economic stressors. The predominance of workplace-related incidents highlights the need for targeted interventions, including workplace education programs, support services for victims, and stronger policy enforcement. Further research is recommended to explore intervention strategies to mitigate family violence in this sector.

Keywords: Domestic violence, child abuse, intimate partner violence.

ICCP/SL/OP/347

Men as victims of intimate partner violence; A case series

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Background: Intimate partner violence (IPV) against men is a significant but often underreported issue worldwide. While much attention is given to women as primary victims, studies show that men also experience various forms of violence within intimate relationships. Cultural attitudes, societal norms, and gender stereotypes often prevent male victims from seeking help. In a patriarchal society like Sri Lanka, the problem is even more pronounced. There is only one study and a case report on this issue in Sri Lankan literature. In forensic practice, we encounter a small number of male victims compared to females.

Method: This case series includes 11 male victims admitted to four different teaching hospitals in Sri Lanka following IPV between 2022 and 2024. A retrospective descriptive analysis was conducted using secondary data.

Results: The victims' ages ranged from 27 to 49 years, with a mean age of 36.1. The duration of the relationships ranged from 2 to 22 years. Of the 11 men, 10 were legally married, and one was cohabiting. For 8 (73%) of them, this was the first incident of IPV. A weapon was used in almost all cases, except one, with burns (4) and blunt weapons (4) being the most common. All victims sustained injuries, including burns, abrasions, contusions, lacerations, and cuts. Regarding the severity of injuries, one victim had endangering life injuries, 6 (54.5%) had grievous injuries, and 4 (36.4%) had non-grievous injuries.

Conclusion: This case series highlights the underreported yet significant issue of IPV against men in Sri Lanka. The severity of the injuries challenges traditional gender norms and emphasize the importance of recognizing and addressing IPV against men. Gender-neutral, multisectoral approaches should be developed to support all victims of IPV, regardless of gender.

Keywords: Category of hurt, injuries, male victims.

ICCP/SL/OP/166

Gender differences in lifestyle modifications adopted by medical undergraduates of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya in response to economic changes in Sri Lanka

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Background: The Sri Lankan economy has recently faced challenges, including rising inflation and increased unemployment, impacting various sectors including university undergraduates. This study aims to identify the gender differences in coping strategies adopted by medical undergraduates at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya and describe the effects of those on their economic stress.

Method: A cross-sectional study was conducted among 302 medical undergraduates. Data was collected using a self-administered questionnaire including demography, coping strategies, and the APR Financial Stress Scale which represents affective (A), physiological (P), and relational (R) aspects of financial stress.

Results: The sample comprised 191 males (63.2%) and 111 females (36.8%). Approximately 74.8% (n=83) of females and 58.6% (n=112) of males reported that lifestyle modifications were necessary following economic crisis. The APR Financial Stress Scale revealed a mean stress score of 2.3575 (out of 5) for the entire sample, with no statistically significant difference between genders (p = 0.294). Females were more likely to modify learning strategies (84.7%) (n=94), engage in religious activities (82%) (n=91) and share expenses with roommates or friends (72.1%) (n=80) as coping strategies. Frequent engagement in extracurricular activities (71.7%) (n=137) and reduced personal grooming expenses (67%) (n=128) were observed in males. While no significant difference in the overall extent of coping strategies was found between genders (p = 0.413), female students were significantly more likely to take student loans (p < 0.001). Regression analysis indicated that students employing greater extent of coping strategies reported higher levels of feelings of depression, hopelessness, reduced self-confidence, fear, anxiety, and worry about their financial situation.

Conclusion: The economic crisis did not significantly impact on most medical undergraduates. In the affected group, both genders were similarly impacted, prompting students to adopt various coping strategies. Findings highlight the importance of establishing targeted support systems, such as financial aid programs and mental health services, to navigate financial stress and maintain academic performance.

Keywords: Gender difference, economic change, lifestyle modifications.

Room 3 - Child Abuse, Child Rights

ICCP/SL/OP/050

Challenges to children's rights in the mega teledrama industry in Sri Lanka: Focus on the right to survival and development

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Background: This research attempts to study how the survival and development rights of children are subtly violated in the mega teledrama industry. With the emergence of teledrama as an industry, there has been a growing trend toward the production of mega teledramas. It has become common to employ children as actors and actresses to attract audiences, which often leads to the violation of various children's rights. In this context, this study seeked to address the following research question; Despite the potential of teledramas to contribute to social development, why are children's rights challenged in the mega-teledrama industry?

Method: A qualitative method was employed to collect data, including observations and in-depth interviews with field experts. The key findings of the research reveal that child actors/actresses have been purposely commercialized within Sri Lanka's mega teledrama industry. Children's rights to survival and development are subtly violated as child actors in the mega teledrama industry are engaged in part-time child labor. Producers shape children's characters according to their own vision, effectively redefining childhood through these portrayals. After years of acting in mega tele dramas that extend beyond 100 episodes, child actors begin to internalize their on-screen characters, influencing their real-life identities. This prolonged exposure leads to lasting psychological and behavioral effects. In the process, children's rights, such as freedom of expression, the right to grow and live freely, and access to education, are subtly violated.

Conclusion: Accordingly, this research reveals that the absence of a legal and policy framework concerning the use of child actors in Sri Lanka's mega teledrama industry has led to the subtle violation of their rights to survival and development. In this context, to safeguard all children's rights while ensuring the sustainable development of the mega teledrama industry, a robust legal framework must be established, supported by a systematic institutional mechanism for effective implementation.

Keywords: Children's rights, mega teledrama industry, child actors.

ICCP/SL/OP/325

A retrospective study on the child abuse cases reported in Sri Lanka from 2010 to 2023

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Background: Child abuse is a critical public health and social issue in Sri Lanka it affecting children's safety and well-being. Despite ongoing efforts, reporting and incidence patterns vary due to socio-economic factors, cultural attitudes, and policy changes. This study was conducted to analyze the trends and characteristics of child abuse cases reported nationally from 2010 to 2023, aiming to inform policy and improve child protection systems.

Methods: Secondary data on child abuse cases reported to the NCPA from 2010 to 2023 were collected and categorized by abuse type. Data entry and descriptive statistical analysis were performed to identify temporal trends, district-level variations, and prevalence of abuse categories.

Results: During 2010–2023, nearly 70,000 child abuse cases were reported to Sri Lanka's National Child Protection Authority, with the highest annual total in 2021 (11,187 cases), including 2,741 cases of cruelty and 947 of sexual harassment. Colombo and Gampaha districts consistently reported the most cases, likely due to robust awareness and reporting systems, while post-conflict northern districts like Kilinochchi and Mannar showed increasing trends after 2013 as child protection infrastructure improved. Cruelty to children rose sharply by 203% from 2010 to 2021, whereas rape cases declined substantially from 691 in 2013 to 45 in 2023. Other prevalent forms included lack of compulsory education (peaking at 1,570 in 2023) and neglect (2,005 in 2022). Reporting dipped in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, likely due to movement restrictions and reduced service access, but rebounded in 2021 as restrictions eased and delayed cases surfaced. These results highlight both persistent high prevalence and shifting patterns of child abuse reporting, shaped by public health crises, economic challenges, and regional disparities in protection services.

Conclusion: The high prevalence of cruelty, sexual harassment, and neglect continues to be associated with the reports of child abuse that differ among regions. To such extent, strengthening region-specific policies, heightening awareness and access to child protection services for all is essential. Recommendations include increasing community based interventions, improving reporting infrastructure in rural and post-conflict areas, and addressing sociocultural barriers to reporting.

Keywords: Child abuse, Sri Lanka, retrospective study.

ICCP/SL/OP/254

Broadening perspectives on protecting children

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Background: The personal safety of school children has been a critical challenge in Sri Lanka. School-age children must be equipped with skills to protect themselves and prioritize their personal safety. The problem is the lack of knowledge about their own safety. Children are unaware of how society and its dangers affect their lives. They have limited knowledge about their safety. This research investigates how sufficient the knowledge that students have received from Sri Lankan school education and, main reasons that caused unsafe situations for them.

Method: By using questionnaires and interviews collected data for this study. This research focuses on Paliyagama Shariputhra Maha Vidyalaya in the Anamaduwa Regional Educational Division, Puttalam District, North Western Province. Ten (10) teachers and Thirty (30) students of that school were selected through purposive sampling. They already in 1-5 and 6-11 class groups. Those sampling was categorized by the classes.

Result: According to the results of the research most of the selected students and teachers agreed that the schools pay limited attention to children's safety. Seventy percent of students and teachers said that economic difficulties and human behaviors in Sri Lanka make ensuring children's safety a challenge. The finding of the research reveals those students in this particular field of study area currently exposed various physical and mental risks. Most of the selected group said that many children suffer from mental pressure. And also, from selected group about 10 students are under various stress conditions. Those problems are mainly caused by the problems in the society their family. 05 students faced to non-communicable diseases. The research found many students have relationships and related problems. Many reasons found as the factors that affect to these problems. Such as lack of a proper understanding about the society, low nutritional levels, low identifications about the personal safety.

Conclusion: As the conclusion of this research identified the dangerous level of the school children. Most of the students faced to many problems. To address these issues, the research recommends expanding sex education, introducing awareness programs, and encouraging extracurricular activities.

Keywords: Family, safety, awareness, respiratory.

ICCP/SL/OP/005

An exploratory study on the role of inclusive education in promoting equitable educational development in Sri Lanka

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Background: Inclusive education, which involves integrating children with special needs into mainstream classrooms, is considered essential for achieving equitable educational development in the 21st century. In Sri Lanka, the concept has gained attention, but significant challenges remain in implementation. This study aims to explore the role of inclusive education in promoting educational equity and to identify the key challenges and benefits associated with its practice in the Sri Lankan context.

Method: This exploratory study was conducted in the Kandy District from January to March 2024. The research involved one special education school and four general education schools. A qualitative methodology was adopted, with data collected through teacher interviews, structured questionnaires, and direct classroom observations. The data were analyzed using thematic analysis.

Results: The study revealed several critical barriers to the successful implementation of inclusive education; teachers in 4 out of 5 schools reported a lack of essential resources such as learning aids, accessible infrastructure, and specialized equipment, over 60% of participants expressed concern about inadequate training for teaching students with special needs, classroom observations indicated a reliance on exam-oriented, teacher-centered methods, with limited use of inclusive teaching strategies, teachers also identified negative societal attitudes, including peer discrimination and low levels of parental involvement, as major challenges.

Conclusions: The findings emphasize the need for systemic improvements to support inclusive education. Recommendations include implementing targeted teacher training programs, raising public awareness about inclusive practices, and providing assistive technologies such as wheelchairs, hearing aids, and Braille devices. Additionally, a shift toward student-centered pedagogy is crucial for enhancing learning outcomes. These efforts are essential to ensure that inclusive education contributes effectively to equitable educational development in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Inclusive education, teacher training, learning resources, special needs.

ICCP/SL/OP/008

A study of teacher awareness and practices on the safety of teaching aids used for pre-school children in Sri Lanka

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Background: Using teaching aids for pre-school children is crucial for promoting a child's holistic development, enhancing classroom interactivity and delivering high-quality lesson content. Ensuring the child's safety during the use of teaching aids in the teaching-learning process is significant. Despite the widespread adoption of numerous teaching aids, there is a deficiency of systematic attention to protection measures and safety standards in pre-school education settings. While the research on the protection of pre-school children in relation to teaching aids is globally existing but locally extremely limited. The main objective of this study is to assess and enhance their awareness of protection and safety awareness of regulations on teaching aids.

Method: A total of 78 pre-school teachers were randomly selected from the Colombo district for this survey study. Missing and neutral responses were excluded from the data list. A pilot and validated questionnaires with a 5-point Likert scale were distributed to participants. Alpha value is 0.715. Descriptive statistics consist of frequency distribution and graphic presentation, which were utilized to represent demographic data and summarize responses of teachers in relation to teachers' perceptions of safety awareness on teaching aids.

Results: Chi-square test tests were conducted to analyze responses by sector, educational qualifications, ethnicity, income level of teachers to determine whether these variables influence the responses (r=0.8; P<0.01). The findings reveal that the current teacher awareness of safety guidelines and regulations on teaching aids is considerably satisfactory, but they face challenges such as limited, insufficient training on using digital teaching aids safely, the government and responsible authorities not offering high-quality teaching aids and limited time for monitoring and maintaining teaching aids safely.

Conclusions: The study recommends enhancing professional training on safe use and maintaining teaching aids, strengthening government support, and increasing adequate funding for pre-school classroom infrastructure. Also, incorporating safety awareness guidelines into teacher guides.

Keywords: Pre-school education, safety of teaching aids, teacher awareness, safety awareness.

Room 4 - Child Rights, Child Abuse, Services, Education

ICCP/SL/OP/376

Exploring parental attitudes towards vocational training to secure the future of children with special needs: A human security perspective

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Background: In Sri Lanka, children with special needs have issues that run deep roots, like social, economic and institutional challenges that prevent them from becoming included and independent. Among them, the absence of paternal care increases the likelihood that the impacted individuals would experience future problems. This study examines the perception of parents towards vocational training as a means of securing their special needs in future lives of their children in the context of human security.

Method: The study followed a qualitative research methodological approach. The study was conducted between late 2024 to May 2025. Primary data was collected from parents registered under the Ratmalana Divisional Secretariat. A total of 25 purposively selected parents were interviewed in a semi-structured way as the method of collecting data and analyzed using thematic analysis. In line with this, three major themes were identified. Specifically, economic empowerment (freedom from want), psychosocial protection (freedom from fear) and dignity through inclusion (freedom from indignity).

Results: The findings of the study indicated that parents believe that vocational training is important with regard to financial independence and reducing dependence. On the other hand, parents fear about safety, discrimination of their children and the uncertain future of them in the event of absence of parents. In addition, a lot of parents expressed dissatisfaction with the absence of inclusive training that meets job market demands and the ignorance of institutions. Despite these concerns, a strong parental support was there for inclusive career methods that aim for community acceptability and that respect the capabilities of the children with special needs.

Conclusion: In order to address the many uncertainties that children with special needs confront, this study emphasizes how vital it is to incorporate human security principles into vocational training programs. Better institutional coordination, rights-based policy frameworks that promote parental trust and child engagement, and participatory program designs are some of the policy proposals. The study was limited to the perceptions of parents in the Ratmalana Division. However, this study contributes to the understanding of fundamentals to create inclusive development plans in Sri Lanka to ensure every child, irrespective of ability, gets an opportunity to live with dignity, security, and purpose.

Keywords: Vocational training, special needs education, parental attitudes, human security.

ICCP/SL/OP/327

A retrospective analysis of domestic violence reported from a fishing community in the Devinuwara Division, Sri Lanka

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Background: Domestic violence is a pervasive issue that disproportionately affects women particularly in socioeconomically vulnerable communities. Fishing families face unique challenges due to economic instability, social isolation and cultural factors increasing their risk of intimate partner violence. This study was aimed to identify the victim characteristics, types of violence and contributing factors of domestic violence at a selected fishing community in Sri Lanka.

Method: A retrospective descriptive study was conducted using secondary data from 50 reported cases of domestic violence. Data were collected through structured records and analyzed using thematic analysis and statistical techniques. Key variables including victim demographics, assailant characteristics, nature of violence and underlying causes were systematically examined.

Results: Findings revealed that 68% (n=34) of victims were women, highlighting their heightened vulnerability. Domestic violence was predominantly reported among married couples (76%; n=38), with incidents increasing with longer durations of cohabitation. About 60% (n=30) of victims lacked permanent housing and 72% (n=36) had low educational attainment, contributing to their subjugation. Unemployment was identified as a significant factor, with 58% (n=29) of victims being unemployed. The most prevalent form of violence was sexual violence, affecting 64% (n=32) of cases. Alarmingly, 70% (n=35) of victims had experienced repeated abuse, often due to initial tolerance or lack of intervention. Additionally, extramarital affairs, particularly among men engaged in fishing-related occupations were implicated in 54% (n=27) of cases. Mental health screening was rarely conducted with only 16% (n=8) of victims seeking psychological support.

Conclusion: This study highlights the critical need for targeted interventions including economic empowerment, housing stability and awareness programs to mitigate domestic violence in fishing communities. Addressing these socioeconomic and cultural factors could significantly reduce the prevalence of violence and improve victim outcomes.

Keywords: Domestic violence, fishing community, sexual violence, intimate partner violence.

ICCP/SL/OP/204

Education as a modern child protection component: A study of global experience for local education policies

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Background: Education is a key, significant intergradient of numerous sectors to improve the quality of life. This study discusses education as a component of child protection, especially considering sex education. In the context of physical and virtual violations, abuse, and rape against children, the role of education can be known as a significant factor in preventing children from vulnerabilities. The main objective of the study is the exploration of education as a component of child protection and the use of education in the local context of Sri Lanka.

Method: The methodology has been executed as the secondary study, which depends on the reports, studies and other literature, and the method of analysis has been done by using thematic analysis for the synthesis of the literature.

Results: The key findings of the study align with the past approaches used in several countries to give sex education to save them from the negative impact of society. The majority of the literature has explained the positive integration of sex education for child protection. Aligning with the key findings of synthesis, the present study tries to propose useful implications in the local context to combat vulnerabilities and abuses on children.

Conclusion: Restructuring education, including a fresh approach to sex education, the education system has to be modernized in the contemporary digital society. The methods of digital awareness and sexual awareness have been identified as the key groundbreaking factors of education, which are work on child protection. Thus, the study has provided the policy and educational framework for child protection by using education as a component of child protection.

Keywords: Child abuse, child protection, digital awareness, gender awareness, sex education.

ICCP/SL/OP/246

A review of the role of mental health professionals in child protection systems

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Background: Child protection refers to safeguarding children from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect, and abandonment. Globally, mental health professionals are integral to multidisciplinary child protection frameworks. In Sri Lanka, their roles remain underutilized and poorly defined, with limited recognition. This study examined the role, obstacles and limitations faced by mental health professionals in Sri Lanka's child protection system, focusing on those working in Colombo District, the area with the highest reported child protection violations in the past year.

Method: A mixed-methods approach was employed. Quantitative data were collected from 100 mental health professionals, including psychologists, counselors, social workers using structured questionnaires. Qualitative data were obtained through in-depth semi-structured interviews with 15 professionals selected through purposive sampling. Descriptive statistics were used for quantitative data, while thematic analysis was conducted on qualitative data using Braun & Clarke's framework.

Results: Quantitative results showed that only 40% (n=40) of professionals follow child protection cases through to resolution, while 60% (n=60) disengage during the process. Although 100% (n=100) reported engaging in assessment, diagnosis, and initial therapeutic intervention, 90% (n=90) acknowledged that their responsibilities extend beyond counseling. Key barriers identified include systemic challenges 85%, (n=85) cultural and social barriers 90% (n=90) and economic constraints 80% (n=80). Thematic analysis revealed four overarching themes including role ambiguity and marginalization, systemic fragmentation, Cultural Silence and need for policy integration.

Conclusion: To strengthen Sri Lanka's child protection system, mental health professionals must be formally integrated into the national child welfare framework. This includes developing clear operational guidelines, improving inter-organizational coordination, and enhancing capacity building at both national and local levels.

Keywords: Child protection, child welfare, mental health professionals, counseling.

ICCP/SL/OP/375

Youth at risk: Exploring causes and methods of child suicide through national data in Sri Lanka

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Background: Child suicide is a growing social phenomenon that affects countries worldwide, including many in Asia. According to global data from 2019, a total of 18,327 child suicide deaths were reported, with 4,988 among boys and 3,338 among girls. The overall mortality rate was 1.30 per 100,000. Notably high child suicide rates were recorded in countries such as Mongolia, Uzbekistan, Greenland, and Ecuador, while the lowest rates were observed in South Africa, Saudi Arabia, and the Bahamas. This phenomenon is not only a social concern but is also widely recognized as a critical mental health issue.

Method: This study was based on secondary data analysis using for from the Sri Lanka Police Department for the year 2022. The focus was on children and adolescents aged 8 to 20 years. Suicide cases were categorized into two age groups: 17–20 years (N=210) and 8–16 years (N=85). For data analysis, frequency analysis was done by using SPSS.

Results: As the finding of the study, significant gender disparity in child suicide, with boys accounting for 2,832 cases (83.13%) and girls 574 cases (16.87%), out of a total of 3,406 cases. The main reason was romantic relationships among the young community, reported in 319 cases (9.36%), including 223 boys and 96 girls. Drug addiction was linked with 275 cases (8.07%), comprising 268 boys and 7 girls. Mental health disorders were linked to 410 cases (12.03%), with 311 boys and 99 girls affected. In terms of employment status, 312 children (9.15%) were engaged in informal work, 1,108 (32.54%) were unemployed, and 450 (13.21%) were school pupils (including 98 boys, 61 girls, and 291 students from additional data). According to the methods of suicide, hanging was the most frequently used method, accounting for 163 cases (4.79%).

Conclusion: The study highlights that child suicide in Sri Lanka is both a serious social and mental health challenge. Young males are particularly vulnerable, with hanging being the most common method of suicide. Contributing factors include romantic relationship issues, substance abuse, and mental illness. Most affected individuals are school children or unemployed youth. These findings underscore the urgent need for targeted mental health interventions, school-based awareness programs, and strengthened communication between parents, educators, and communities to prevent youth self-harm.

Keywords: Child suicide, adolescent mental health, suicide methods, gender disparities.

Room 6 - Child Abuse, Child Protection

ICCP/SL/OP/315

An Analysis of the reasons of males associated with underage eloping cases recorded in Anuradhapuara district during 2017- 2019

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Background: Males eloped with girlfriends below 16 years are arrested by police and produced for medicolegal examination to prosecute under the offence of statutory rape and abduction.

Method: During the three years of 2017 to 2019, the first author had medicolegally examined 49 boyfriends at the teaching Hospital Anuradhapura. Information recorded in medicolegal examination forms were extracted to a data sheet. Percentage of age groups, occupations, reasons for elope, knowledge about age of marriage and sex were calculated.

Results: Ages were between 15 to 34 years and the highest number 14% (n=7) was at the age of 20 years. All were aware of the age of marriage and age of consenting sex. All wished to marry in due age. Occupational history revealed unemployment 37% (n=18), unskilled laborer 28% (n=11), skilled laborer 8% (n=4), farmer 8% (n=4), army soldier 8% (n=4), worker of private company 6%(n=3), businessman 6% (3 cases), carpenter 2% (n=1) and mason 2% (n=1). Several reasons were identified such as hostile domestic environment including assaults and scald by parents 40% (n=20), no reason 12% (n=6), attempt to separate the couple by girlfriend's parents 10% (n=5), insist of the girlfriend 10% (n=5), unsafe environment at the home of the girlfriend 10% (n=5), advised by girlfriend's father 8% (n=4) and disclosure of love affair to girlfriend's parents 6% (n=3). Girlfriend was half-sister of boyfriend and relations disapproved marriage 2% (n=1).

Conclusion: Since all were wishing to marry when legal age of girlfriend is reached, the offence of underage elope should be considered according to sociocultural context. Development of life skills and psychosocial support system are necessary to address reasons.

Keywords: Girl child, reasons, elope, statutory rape.

ICCP/SL/OP/146

Boko Haram's use of child soldiers in Nigeria: An international relations perspective on child recruitment, and UNICEF's contribution for child protection

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Background: This study, through the lens of International Relations (IR) theory, examines the patterns of Boko Haram's use of child soldiers in Nigeria, and the role of UNICEF in child protection. Boko Haram, the jihadist terrorist organization which is predominantly active in northeastern Nigeria, recruiting and using children as combatants, suicide bombers, human shield, and operation associates for the organization's deplorable atrocities has been a major concern in child protection.

Method: The usage of children in armed conflicts is an internationally recognized war crime, particularly in reference to human rights. Thus, the research investigates the strategic tactics employed by Boko Haram to recruit children. Some of the well-known tactics are, ideological indoctrination, exploitation of poverty, and capitalization on weak governance. In parallel, the study analyses the long-term and devastating consequences for affected children, such as severe physical and psychological trauma from witnessing and participating in violence, loss of education, and confrontation of stigma and rejection from their communities once escape or rescued from Boko Haram. The research also observes how UNICEF could implement practical, effective, and strategic initiatives to protect children from recruitment, and to provide alternative pathways for children affected by the conflict to rehabilitate and reintegrate into the community, while acknowledging the limitations and challenges when implementing them in highly volatile environments. The research utilizes qualitative analysis of various secondary sources such as reports from international organizations, and journal articles, in order to explore pragmatic measures to ensure children's protection at the face of Boko Haram's engagements.

Conclusion: The study seeks to integrate theoretical and conceptual frameworks in IR, particularly the theory of Neoliberal Institutionalism, and concepts of violence, backed by empirical evidence, in order to examine the dynamics of Boko Haram's child soldier recruitment, and offer policy recommendations for more effective child protection strategies.

Keywords: Boko Haram, UNICEF, child protection, child soldier.

ICCP/SL/OP/022

Impact of traditional games on children's emotional well-being and social development: A study on the traditional games camp conducted by Sirakukal Amayam

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Background: Traditional sports, deeply rooted in cultural traditions, offer significant potential for enhancing emotional well-being and social development among children. Unlike modern competitive sports, traditional games emphasize teamwork, inclusivity, and community-building—providing a valuable response to emotional isolation, bullying, and the loss of intergenerational cultural practices. This study explores these impacts through Traditional Games Camps conducted by *Sirakukal Amayam*. (Youth lead Community Organization)

Method: Two one-day camps were organized in 2023 and 2024 with a total of 126 children aged 8–14. Eight culturally rooted traditional games were facilitated. Data were collected using structured observations, post-game facilitator debriefs, and informal interviews with children and parents. While no formal surveys were used, qualitative data were analyzed thematically, with responses categorized by emotional, behavioral, and social indicators. Literature on traditional play and child well-being was referenced to contextualize findings.

Results: The study found that games such as *Oppu* (Kabaddi-style tag) and *Kili Thaddu* (blindfolded trust game) improved peer bonding and communication, while *Nondi Kodu* (hopscotch) and *Goli Vilayattu* (marbles) enhanced focus and patience. Facilitator observations noted that over 75% of participants showed increased cooperative behavior by the end of the camp. Inclusive adaptations ensured full participation across ability levels. Children previously identified as socially withdrawn showed visible engagement. Games also bridged generational gaps through elder involvement.

Conclusion: Traditional games contribute significantly to emotional and social development by fostering inclusivity, teamwork, and cultural connection. These findings support integrating traditional play into education and community programs as a low-cost, high-impact approach to child development and cultural sustainability.

Keywords: Traditional sports, emotional well-being, social development, inclusivity, cultural preservation.

ICCP/SL/OP/243

Rehabilitation and reintegration of juvenile offenders: Strengthening family resilience and enhancing child protection post-incarceration; A study of Palansena Prison, Negombo, Sri Lanka

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Background: Juvenile offenders are likely to be challenged with family and socio-economic problems that drive them to crime. Rehabilitation and reintegration upon release from prison are issues of prime concern in rehabilitating the lives of such youth. This study aimed at exploring the impact of rehabilitation among juvenile offenders within Palansena Prison, Sri Lanka, through strengthening family resilience and protection of children.

Method: Purposive sampling with a qualitative study design was utilized. The study was conducted between January and April 2024, involving 30 juvenile offenders, family members, and community stakeholders were used. Data were collected using semi structured interviews which were thematically analyzed to ask questions about participants' experiences, attitudes, domestic relationships, and reintegration. This method was highly informative for juvenile delinquency and allowed broad based understanding of perceptions at the community level.

Results: Key findings were that 72% (n=22) of the adolescents with strong support from their family following rehabilitation had significant reduction in recidivism. In addition, 65% (n=20) of the families had improved relationships and economic conditions, thus contributing to an improved home environment. Further, 50% (n=15) of the adolescents were well-adjusted in society since family bonds were enhanced.

Conclusion: The research recommends bringing family-based rehabilitation schemes to halt delinquency among youths and to ensure sustained behavioral change. It also recommends continuous family counseling, community programs for rehabilitation, and child protection systems to effectively safeguard vulnerable youths.

Keywords: Juvenile rehabilitation, family resilience, child protection.

ICCP/SL/OP/069

Between absence and dreams: A phenomenological study on the experiences of Malaiyaha tamil children with migrant mothers in the Ratnapura District, Sri Lanka

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Background: Malaiyaha Tamils, a minority ethnic group comprising 4.1 % of Sri Lanka's population, have a history of labor migration and are underrepresented in psychological research. Making matters worse, the recent economic crisis has further aggravated vulnerabilities among tea estate communities. Children of migrant mothers face academic, social, and emotional challenges including abuse. This study explores Malaiyaha Tamil children's experiences of having mothers abroad.

Method: This study employed interpretative phenomenological analysis to explore the lived experiences of Malaiyaha Tamil children. Participants aged 12–18 were purposively sampled from Ratnapura district. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews. The interviews were transcribed, coded, and analyzed to identify emerging themes.

Results: The themes revealed disrupted education and conflicting effects of maternal absence. Findings indicate a diffusion of family roles with children taking on responsibilities typically associated with adults. They coped with maternal absence through extended family reliance, distractions, or withdrawal. Moreover, limited social interactions and isolation were noted. Despite challenges, participants displayed resilience, with positive aspirations for the future.

Conclusions: This study contributes to the limited research on Malaiyaha Tamil children with migrant mothers highlighting the need for targeted interventions and reforms to support children, particularly in underprivileged communities (i.e., via mentorship programs and child welfare mechanisms). Further studies on the long-term psychological and social impacts of maternal migration can inform policies to improve outcomes for these children and similar groups.

Keywords: Malaiyaha tamil children, migrant mothers, psychological impact, child welfare interventions, socio-cultural reforms.

Room 7 - Child Abuse, Child Protection

ICCP/SL/OP/230

Knowledge and attitudes on child sexual abuse among adolescent children ranging from 13 to 15 years of age in the Gampaha Education Zone

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Background: Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a critical global public health issue with severe psychological, social, and developmental consequences. Adolescent children, undergoing significant physical and emotional changes, are particularly vulnerable. In Sri Lanka, CSA remains a pressing concern due to cultural taboos and inadequate sex education. This study aimed to assess the knowledge and attitudes of adolescent children regarding CSA in the Gampaha Education Zone.

Methods: A cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted among 374 students aged 13–15 years from Type 1 AB schools. Stratified random sampling ensured representation across Grades 8, 9, and 10. Data were collected through a structured, self-administered questionnaire assessing demographics, CSA knowledge, attitudes, and reporting behaviours. Statistical analysis explored associations between demographic factors and CSA awareness.

Results: The majority of the students were females (59.9%; n=224) and were in Grade 9 (41.1%; n=155). There were huge gaps in knowledge about CSA, and only 11% knew the legal age for consenting to a sexual act. There was a significant association between age, parental education level and source of information on CSA with children's knowledge level ($P<0.05$). Attitudes towards CSA reporting was concerning, with only 44.1% identifying a trusted adult and 11.5% aware of helpline services. A strong association was observed between knowledge and attitudes, where poor knowledge is associated with poor attitudes.

Conclusion: Significant knowledge gaps and misconceptions about CSA exist among adolescents. Findings highlight the urgent need for structured, age-appropriate sexual education, increased parental involvement, and broader community awareness to enhance child protection in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Child sexual abuse, adolescent children.

ICCP/SL/OP/196

Evaluating the role of UNCRC in safeguarding the rights of displaced children: Challenges and strategies for enforcing the best interest principle

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Background: A cornerstone of international human rights legislation, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) was created to safeguard all children's rights without exception. Although its rules are theoretically applicable to displaced children, including internally displaced children, refugees, and asylum seekers, their actual application is still uneven and insufficient. The practical efficacy of the UNCRC in protecting the rights of displaced children is critically examined in this essay, with an emphasis on the best interests of the child premise. The research aimed to identify legal and structural gaps, assess compliance issues, and propose reforms to improve protection and accountability in line with international child rights standards.

Method: This study employed a qualitative doctrinal legal research approach, analyzing international instruments like the UNCRC and regional legal frameworks. It critically examines case law, reviews secondary sources, and conducts semi-structured interviews with legal experts and child rights advocates. The combined legal and empirical approach provides a comprehensive assessment of the effectiveness of existing mechanisms in protecting displaced children's rights.

Results: The UNCRC's implementation of child rights norms for displaced children faces significant challenges. State-centric sovereignty considerations often override international commitments, limiting uniformity. Selective compliance and lack of enforcement measures further undermine accountability. Inconsistent practices in refugee and asylum proceedings affect children due to fragmented international collaboration. Resource constraints, particularly in low-income areas or conflict-affected areas, hinder effective implementation. These factors undermine the best interest's principle's practical application and limit the UNCRC's capacity to provide effective protection for displaced children.

Conclusion: The study suggests reforms to address protection gaps in children's rights, including enhancing accountability frameworks, expanding tribunal jurisdiction, streamlining refugee and asylum procedures, and codifying the best interest's principle as a binding legal standard.

Keywords: Displaced children, refugee law, best interests principle, international child protection.

ICCP/SL/OP/114

Nature of contemporary family conflicts and their impact on family stability

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Background: The family is the fundamental unit of human society, traditionally established through marriage and responsible for child-rearing, economic cooperation, and social support. However, in modern society, family structures and relationships have undergone significant changes. Advances in technology, rapid lifestyle transformations, and increasing social pressures have contributed to a rise in extramarital relationships. Failure to address these issues not only undermines marital stability but also profoundly affects children's lives and mental well-being. This research investigated the complex relationship between family conflicts and extramarital affairs within the Mirigama Police Division of the Gampaha District.

Method: An analysis of police complaints received over the past four months revealed that 54 complaints were recorded in August, 65 in September, and 96 in October, all pertaining to family disputes.

Results: The majority of these complaints originated from the Mirigama Grama Niladhari Division, and a significant number were associated with extramarital relationships. Through this research, a deeper understanding of the interplay between family conflicts and extramarital affairs within the Mirigama police jurisdiction is anticipated, along with an examination of their impact on children. The study aims to identify the socio-economic and cultural factors contributing to these issues and propose potential solutions. The research methodology involves an analysis of police complaints documented at the Mirigama Police Station. A randomly selected sample of complaints will be used for both primary and secondary data analysis, with primary data sourced directly from police records. A key finding of the study is that the Mirigama Mawihena area exhibits the highest incidence of family disputes. Moreover, the research revealed that employment in garment factories by both men and women is a major contributing factor to extramarital affairs in this region. Other factors influencing extramarital relationships include female dominance in households, breakdowns in communication, substance abuse, financial difficulties, the influence of certain drugs on sexual behavior, non-traditional sexual preferences, and the impact of technology.

Conclusion: These issues have resulted in parents spending less time with their children, leaving the latter feeling isolated and unprotected.

Keywords: Family corporations, family crises, Family disputes, extramarital affairs, socioeconomic factors

ICCP/SL/OP/152

Enhancing child protection awareness among preschool children through applied theatre: A one-year intervention in Sri Lanka

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Background: Children's physical, emotional, and psychological development is negatively impacted by child abuse. Children in Sri Lanka are at risk due to a lack of age-appropriate, child-friendly protection educational instruction. Abuse impacts sustainable development of a country in addition to adversely affecting the well-being of people. For children to be safe and for a healthier, more resilient generation to be raised, they must be empowered through organized protective education. The main objectives of this research were to develop an engaging, age-appropriate pedagogical approach for child protection awareness.

Method: Twenty pre-schools in the Kandy District's Pujapitiya division, Sri Lanka participated in the intervention. This intervention used puppet theatre and role-playing exercises to teach preschool children about how to identify good and bad touch, practice self-protection strategies, and learn reporting mechanisms. The three-month program was followed by two phases of evaluation to gauge information retention: one in November and December and one just after each session. After a puppet presentation, each session included interactive role-playing exercises and facilitated discussions. Qualitative observation procedures were employed in place of formal testing to evaluate the children's capacity for protective methods, behavioral responses, and emotional engagement.

Results: Important ideas like good and bad touch, setting personal boundaries, and recognizing accountable adults were introduced through a puppet show and interactive role-play. The goal was to provide an interesting and developmentally appropriate method of teaching child protection.

Conclusion: This study proves the efficacy of applied theatre as an experiential intervention for teaching children about good touch bad touch, practice self-protection strategies and reporting mechanisms. Future research must incorporate parent and teacher training to cement these protective measures in school and home environments. Moreover, the replication of the intervention to other settings will enable its applicability and effect in child protection.

Keywords: Child protection, applied theatre, preschool education, puppet theatre.

ICCP/SL/OP/016

AI-Powered web filter for detecting and preventing unsafe and inappropriate content to ensure children's online safety

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Background: The rapid increase of children's engagement of online platforms for learning and entertainment, ensuring their digital safety become more crucial than ever. Children are highly vulnerable to expose unsafe and inappropriate content-based websites. Adversaries send unsafe URLs (Universal Resource Locator) using various methods, including email, SMS (Short Message Send), and social media to trick the kids and lure children into accessing such inappropriate content. Unsafe URLs were traditionally identified using blacklist and whitelist techniques. The inadequacy of detecting zero-day attacks using these traditional methods, this study focuses on artificial intelligence (AI)-based approaches for unsafe URL detection.

Method: The study uses 11,430 size labeled benchmark dataset including 52 distinct features and RFE (Recursive Feature Elimination) is used to eliminate the unwanted features. The dataset is used to train five machine learning algorithms, including Logistic Regression (LR), Decision Tree (DT), Random Forest (RF), XGBoost (XGB), Voting Classifier (VC) (using LR, RF, XGB) algorithms, and one of the deep learning algorithms, the Multilayer Perceptron (MLP). Hyperparameter tuning is performed using the grid search algorithm to enhance model performance. Among the evaluated models, the best-performing one is integrated into a web-based platform to evaluate its performance on unseen data.

Results: The models Logistic Regression, Decision Tree, Random Forest, XGBoost, Voting Classifier and Multilayer Perceptron achieved accuracy scores of 94.88%, 94.31%, 96.98%, 97.28%, 96.98%, and 82.15% respectively, using feature counts of 80, 46, 72, 52, 80, 87.

Conclusions: The results analysis supports the recommendation of the XGBoost algorithm to ingrate with the web-based platform among the algorithms due to its highest accuracy (97.28%) and minimal feature requirement (52), which contribute to enhanced platform performance.

Keywords: Social engineering, child protection, machine learning, deep learning.

Room 9 - Child Abuse, Child Protection

ICCP/SL/OP/285

Challenges in formulating an opinion on the category of hurt in injuries to deciduous teeth: Case study

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Background: Section 311 of the Penal Code of Sri Lanka defines a fracture, dislocation or subluxation of a tooth as a grievous hurt, but it does not specify whether this applies to deciduous or permanent teeth. This ambiguity presents challenges in cases involving children, especially where natural exfoliation may mimic or complicate traumatic dental injuries.

Case report: A 9-year-old boy was presented for clinical forensic examination following an alleged assault by a mother of one of his classmates. The victim's mother claimed that the assailant had squeezed the mouth, which resulted in the avulsion of a tooth, although the tooth was not brought in during the admission. Clinical forensic examination on the next day revealed a missing tooth on the lower left jaw with no associated acute injuries on the adjacent lip or gingiva. There was no bleeding from the site, and the tooth socket was not visible. A pedodontics referral concluded that the missing tooth was the canine on the left lower jaw. However, the timing of the injury could not be precisely determined, and it was opined that a deciduous tooth may dislodge at this age even with minor trauma. It was further stated that the displacement of the deciduous teeth could also be due to the natural exfoliation process. On the lower right jaw, the corresponding deciduous canine had already exfoliated, and the process of eruption of a permanent tooth had commenced.

Conclusion: This case highlights the complexity of formulating an opinion on the category of hurt in children with injuries to deciduous teeth due to the natural exfoliation process and difficulty in timing injuries. This case also emphasizes the need for early clinical forensic and dental examinations to detect injuries to deciduous teeth and exclude false allegations.

Keywords: Category of hurt, deciduous teeth, penal code, tooth injuries.

ICCP/SL/OP/301

Factors influencing suicide among teenagers: A case study from Ampara District, Sri Lanka

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Background: Suicide among teenagers in the Ampara District of Sri Lanka presents a critical public health issue, with alarmingly high rates of adolescent suicide surpassing the national average. This study explored the factors contributing to teenage suicide in this district, where cultural, social, and economic dynamics are unique and under-explored.

Method: This study was conducted using a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs), The study included 30 participants, including teenagers aged 15–19, their caregivers, and mental health experts, to gather comprehensive data on the contributing factors of suicide.

Results: The findings highlight four key factors influencing suicide risk among teenagers in Ampara: academic pressure, family dynamics, limited access to mental health services, and community support. High levels of academic stress, coupled with inadequate mental health resources, were found to be significant contributors to suicidal ideation. Family conflicts, compounded by cultural expectations, were also identified as critical factors, although open family communication provided protective benefits.

Conclusion: The study underscores the challenge posed by limited access to mental health care, with many teenagers facing logistical and financial barriers to obtaining help. However, positive peer relationships and community support systems were recognized as protective factors that helped mitigate suicide risk. The results emphasize the importance of addressing both structural and cultural barriers in suicide prevention efforts, advocating for improved access to mental health services and stronger community-based support systems to safeguard the mental well-being of teenagers in Ampara.

Keywords: Mental health services, mental health, suicide, teenage suicide, teenagers.

ICCP/SL/OP/370

Role of school principals in minimizing child abuse in Sri Lanka: A study in the Kelaniya Educational Zone, Sri Lanka

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Background: In 2024, the Police Children and Women Bureau reported 1,408 cases of sexual assault against children in Sri Lanka, with 214 resulting in pregnancy. Many abuses occur due to apparent "consent" by victims and lack of awareness. Since children attend school from age 5 - 18, schools are positioned to deliver not only academic knowledge but also life skills. The objective of this study was to examine awareness & interventions by school principals aimed at minimizing child abuse.

Method: A quantitative study was conducted using a structured questionnaire distributed to 60 randomly selected school principals from 114 schools in the Kelaniya educational zone. The questionnaire focused on principals' awareness of child abuse, preventive measures taken, and collaboration with relevant child protection institutions. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics.

Results: The study found that 93% (n=56) of principals lacked knowledge about child abuse statistics locally and nationally. Fifty-seven percent (n=34) were unaware of the emergency contact number for the Police Children and Women Bureau, and while 90% (n=54) had not displayed the contact number in their schools. Furthermore, 15% (n=9) had not conducted any child protection programs, while 66% (n=40) of existing initiatives used traditional lecture-based methods. Only 65% (n=39) of principals had established partnerships with child protection agencies.

Conclusions: Principal awareness and intervention regarding child abuse were found to be inadequate. To strengthen prevention efforts, principals should be provided with current statistical data on child abuse and receive timely training on response protocols. Regular awareness programs should be implemented for students, staff, and parents. Emergency contact numbers must be visibly displayed in all schools, and collaboration with regional child protection institutions should be reinforced.

Keywords: Child abuse, principals, awareness.

ICCP/SL/OP/066

Effectiveness of 2D animated storytelling in drug awareness among upcountry Sri Lankan students

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Background: In upcountry Sri Lanka, a region where the infrastructure for health education is limited and adolescent drug use is a growing concern, traditional lecture-based drug awareness methods have not effectively engaged students or promoted protective behavioral change. This study addresses a critical gap in child protection strategies by evaluating the efficacy of 2D animated storytelling as a culturally relevant and scalable medium for drug awareness in underserved school communities.

Method: A mixed-methods quasi-experimental design was employed to compare the effectiveness of a traditional lecture with a 10-minute animated short film titled "A Journey of Redemption." The animation was developed through a structured production pipeline to ensure cultural and narrative relevance. The study involved 80 students from grades 9 to 11, with data collected through pre- and post-tests, Likert-scale engagement surveys, and classroom observations. Statistical analysis using SPSS revealed that students exposed to the animated intervention demonstrated significantly higher engagement, "M" stands for Mean (M = 4.85 vs. 3.14, p < .001) and a 28% greater improvement in knowledge retention.

Results: Observation data showed reduced distraction during the animation session (3.75%) compared to the traditional lecture (20%). Furthermore, 89% of students expressed interest in creating their own animations, highlighting animation's dual role as both an educational and creative empowerment tool.

Conclusions: These findings evidence that the potential of animated storytelling not only to enhance drug awareness but also to foster participatory resilience an essential element of child protection. The study recommends integrating animation into national child protection education policies and expanding research to assess its long-term behavioral impact across Sri Lanka's diverse school populations.

Keywords: Drug awareness, 2D animation, storytelling, student engagement, social impact.

ICCP/SL/OP/374

Children first – A deep dive into the National Child Protection Authority's role in child protection

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Background: Child protection is a fundamental human right and corner stone of justice and equitable society. The National Child Protection Authority (NCPA), established via Parliament Act No 50 of 1998 is the central authority responsible for child protection in Sri Lanka, and plays a pivotal role in safeguarding approximately 7 million children. This report provides a comprehensive evaluation of the NCPA's performance from 2012 to 2022.

Method: The methodology for this study involved a comprehensive review of available NCPA's annual reports, statistical records and the Auditor General's reports from 2012-2022. They were analyzed using a qualitative approach to identify key themes, patterns and trends related to NCPA's functions, governance, financial performance and accountability. The comparative analysis to assess changes in the NCPA's overall performance over time was evaluated against the following criteria; performance and efficiency in carrying out its mandated functions, resource allocation and utilization, coordination with local and international stakeholders, policy influence and challenges and constraints. To enhance the validity and reliability of the analysis data triangulation was employed. This involved a comparison of findings from various sources to identify consistent patterns and discrepancies. By synthesizing data from annual reports, statistical records, Auditor General's reports and insights from the Chairperson of the NCPA and other stakeholders, the report aimed to present a well-rounded assessment of the NCPA's effectiveness in fulfilling its mandated functions.

Results: While the NCPA has made significant strides in child protection, this report highlights the impact assessment. Slow implementation of the National Child Protection Policy, limited impact of public awareness campaigns and training programs, lack of centralized data base to track cases were of concern. Additionally, statistical reports exhibit inconsistencies and lack vital criteria, need to strengthen data management, absence of formal inter-agency committee and data sharing processes exacerbated the issues. The limited availability of video evidence units resulted in only 1.4% of cases in 2015 and 0.6% in 2021 child abuse cases were able to utilize this crucial tool for justice.

Conclusion: While the NCPA's achievements are commendable, this report identifies areas of further growth in resource allocation, interagency coordination, community outreach, monitoring and evaluation, increasing public awareness and fostering collaboration with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders will be key to addressing these challenges.

Keywords: National Child Protection, Child Abuse, Evaluation, Analysis

Room 10 – Child Abuse, Child Protection

ICCP/SL/OP/012

Children as content: Ethical and legal challenges in content marketing

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Background: The increasing consumption of digital content has gained significant scholarly attention, particularly within the domain of marketing. Central to this discourse are content creators and their strategies for engaging audiences. However, a critical and often overlooked dimension involves the participation of children in social media content, especially by family bloggers and vloggers. Despite existing child protection laws mandating parental or guardian consent for children's media appearances, broader ethical and social implications, including impacts on children's autonomy and well-being, remain inadequately addressed. This study aims to critically examine the use of children in social media content, with a focus on ethical considerations and child protection challenges.

Method: This research adopts a netnographic methodology within an interpretive framework and employs an inductive qualitative approach. Publicly available YouTube data was analyzed to investigate the digital practices and interactions surrounding children featured in social media content. Moreover, as this study is working progress this primary stage of the study was conducted in July 2024 to December 2025. The study focused on how these representations influence public discourse and perceptions related to child protection.

Results: Findings indicate a complex dynamic involving content monetization, parental decision-making, and children's rights. The study highlights tensions between commercial interests and the protection of children's privacy and autonomy. While numerical data is not central to this qualitative study, the analysis reveals consistent patterns of audience engagement, such as high viewership and comment volumes, that underscore the commercial value of child-focused content. These patterns expose the lack of robust safeguards for children in the digital content ecosystem.

Conclusions: This study underscores the urgent need for clearer ethical guidelines and stricter regulatory frameworks to prevent potential exploitation of children in social media. It emphasizes the importance of balancing creative expression with the imperative to uphold children's rights and well-being. The research contributes to ongoing debates on content marketing and child protection by calling for greater public awareness, policy reform, and critical evaluation of current content creation practices involving children.

Keywords: Child protection, content marketing, social media.

ICCP/SL/OP/028

A study on the impact of drug-addicted parental behavior on the child's mind

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Background: According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, every human being under the age of 18 is considered a child. The research problem was to study the impact of parental drug use on the mentality of children and to study how it affects the socialization process. The study examined the deviant behavior, personality disorders, and social-emotional skills that arise from parental drug use.

Method: The study area selected for this research was Gohatuwa village in the Kolonnawa Divisional Secretariat Division of the Colombo District and children between the ages of 05-18 were selected under random sampling. Data were collected under primary and secondary sources. Observation, questionnaires and interviews were used under primary sources.

Results: Analysis of the data obtained revealed that 32% of mothers use drugs and 68% of fathers are addicted to drugs. 17% of mothers use drugs daily, 83% of fathers use drugs daily. Their behavior patterns include bullying children, hitting children, bullying neighbors, etc. As a result, 34% are unable to do school work, 22% are unable to study, 7% are thinking about skipping school, 19% are angry with friends and neighbors, and 18% feel insecure at home.

Conclusions: Accordingly, the research revealed that children suffer physically, mentally and socially due to parental drug use. The reasons identified were the low educational level of the parents, unemployment, lack of a clear understanding of the future, etc. The need to promote parent counseling is recognized and awareness about how parenthood affects the socialization of the child should be raised through schools. It was also identified that the intervention of state mechanisms to create a physically, mentally and socially safe environment should be further developed.

Keywords: Parents, children, drug use, addiction, mental distress.

ICCP/SL/OP/077

Geospatial approaches to child welfare: Enhancing protection systems through GIS-based spatial analysis of vulnerability in urban and rural areas

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Background: Child protection remains a pressing global concern, particularly in regions where children face persistent risks of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and service deprivation. The spatial nature of these issues often leads to inconsistent access to support services across urban and rural areas. This research investigates how Geographic Information Systems (GIS) can be leveraged to identify and analyze vulnerable areas, monitor disparities in child welfare services, and support more targeted, equitable interventions.

Method: The study employed a mixed-methods design, combining spatial data analysis with qualitative insights from stakeholders such as social workers, local authorities, and community leaders. GIS mapping tools were used to visualize child protection indicators including access to education, healthcare, and social services overlaid with socio-economic and demographic risk factors. Field surveys and interviews complemented the spatial analysis, validating the locations of high-risk zones and service gaps.

Results: The results revealed significant disparities between urban and rural areas. Urban centers showed clusters of child vulnerability in informal settlements and overcrowded zones, while rural regions suffered from severe under-provision of essential services due to infrastructural and logistical limitations. Several high-risk areas previously undetected by conventional methods were highlighted, indicating the added value of geospatial techniques.

Conclusions: Discussion of the findings emphasizes that GIS enables the detection of service deserts and supports proactive policy-making by allowing for the spatial targeting of interventions. GIS provided real-time monitoring potential and supported inter-agency coordination through visual data sharing. The study concludes that integrating GIS into national child protection frameworks can enhance decision-making, improve the efficiency of resource allocation, and strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems. It recommends institutionalizing geospatial tools within child welfare governance, building technical capacity among protection officers, and promoting cross-sectorial collaboration to ensure data consistency and accessibility.

Keywords: Child protection, geospatial, GIS, technologies, vulnerability.

ICCP/SL/OP/154

Parental influence on providing education to children in rural communities: A case study of Molkawa village, Sri Lanka

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Background: Education is pivotal in determining the future of children in rural communities. Parental influence is a significant determinant of educational outcomes in rural Sri Lanka. These communities face persistent challenges in accessing quality education, including financial limitations, inadequate infrastructure, and cultural constraints. This study aimed to explore parental engagement in their children's education, focusing on the forms of support provided, parental expectations, and the challenges encountered in promoting learning.

Method: Molkawa village, the location of this study, is a rural community of approximately 5,000 residents, where socio-economic challenges, geographic isolation, and cultural norms significantly influence children's educational aspirations and achievements. A stratified random sampling method was used to select a sample of 150 households. The research adopted a mixed-methods approach, utilizing both primary and secondary data collected through field observations, interviews, and a review of relevant literature published between 2005 and 2023.

Results: Quantitative analysis showed higher parental involvement among educated parents. Qualitative findings revealed that 62 percent of parents reported that their limited education hindered their ability to assist their children academically. Nearly 40 percent of parents rarely attend school meetings due to time constraints related to farming responsibilities, while around 30 percent indicated that young girls are often tempted into early marriage after completing their Ordinary Level examinations. The findings highlight the impact of natural challenges, such as frequent flooding, on the quality of education in Molkawa. A notable trend was observed among low-income and farming families, where children are often encouraged to engage in agricultural work The study recommends improving resource accessibility, implementing parental education programs, establishing financial support mechanisms, and prioritizing rural education in policy planning.

Keywords: Rural education, parental involvement, socio-economic barriers, educational accessibility.

ICCP/SL/OP/278

Disaster impact and child protection gaps: A case study of the Haldummulla landslide, Sri Lanka

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Background: Disasters, whether man-made or natural, disproportionately impact vulnerable populations, with children facing heightened risks to their lives, safety, rights, and well-being. Sri Lanka, as an island nation, is prone to various disasters including floods, landslides, and droughts. Therefore, ensuring child protection and upholding child rights during and after such events is crucial. However, very little has been examined related to children with a specific focus on the experiences and needs of children within disaster contexts in Sri Lanka, particularly through a child-centered, rights-based lens. Thus, this study investigated the impact of the Haldummulla Kalipanawela landslide in 2023, on child rights and protection, employing a child-centered, right-based approach using the Framework for Integrating Rights and Equality (FIRE).

Method: This study employed a mixed-method approach, including an interviewer-administered questionnaire survey, key informant interviews, focus group discussion with the displaced community, and visual data analysis of children's drawings. The total sample consisted of 25 children from 29 displaced families.

Results: Key findings revealed that 80% of children experienced significant disruptions to their education, with 60% reporting inadequate access to clean water and sanitation. Furthermore, 75% of children expressed feelings of insecurity due to poor housing conditions, and 50% reported witnessing or experiencing increased instances of exploitation. The study also highlighted the limited effectiveness of existing institutional interventions, with only 30% of children reporting positive experiences with support services.

Conclusions: The research concludes that the 2023 landslide severely compromised children's rights to education, shelter, sanitation, and protection, necessitating a more robust and participatory disaster response. It recommends the implementation of child-friendly spaces within temporary shelters, the provision of targeted educational support to mitigate learning loss, and the strengthening of community-based child protection mechanisms. Furthermore, the study suggests that future disaster response plans must prioritize the active participation of children and incorporate regular evaluations of institutional interventions to ensure their effectiveness in upholding child rights.

Keywords: Child protection, disaster situations, child rights, institutional intervention.

Room 9 - Poster Presentations
26th July, 2025

ICCP/SL/PP/030

Teenage pregnancy and statutory rape: Case report

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Background: Teenage pregnancy represents a critical public health concern with complex medical, legal, and psychological dimensions. In Sri Lanka, sexual relationships with minors under 16 years are legally classified as statutory rape under Section 363 of the Penal Code, regardless of perceived consent. Healthcare providers face significant challenges in managing such cases, which require a delicate balance of medical care, legal reporting, and psychosocial support.

Case study: A 15-year-old schoolgirl presented to a hospital with lower abdominal pain, which was subsequently diagnosed as a 10-week pregnancy. Detailed investigation revealed a sexual relationship with her 24-year-old mathematics tutor, spanning over a year. Despite the patient describing the relationship as consensual, it constituted to statutory rape under Sri Lankan law. Clinical examinations and ultrasound confirmed a healthy, single intrauterine pregnancy. The case triggered mandatory legal reporting, forensic evidence collection, and child protection interventions. The tutor was charged under the Penal Code, facing potential imprisonment of 10-20 years. The multi-disciplinary healthcare team provided comprehensive management, including antenatal medical care and nutritional supplementation, psychological counseling, forensic evidence collection, mandatory legal reporting and family counseling on medical and legal implications. Psychosocial assessments highlighted the patient's limited understanding of exploitation and the potential long-term emotional and developmental impacts of such a relationship.

Conclusion: This case exemplifies the multifactorial challenges in managing teenage pregnancy resulting from statutory rape. It underscores the critical need for comprehensive, multidisciplinary healthcare approaches, robust child protection mechanisms, community education on recognizing and preventing sexual exploitation and strengthening legal frameworks to protect minors. Effective intervention requires collaborative efforts from healthcare providers, legal authorities, and child protection agencies to ensure the victim's holistic care and prevent future occurrences.

Keywords: Teenage pregnancy, child sexual abuse, statutory rape.

ICCP/SL/PP/059

A critical analysis on the legal framework governing the corporal punishment in schools in Sri Lanka with special reference to case No. SC/FR/97/2017

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Background: All human rights that are available to a human are also available to a child and s/he cannot be deprived of the same just because s/he is a small creature. Being small doesn't make her/him a less human being than a grown up. Children are entitled to enjoy whatever rights available, which are recognized by the human rights instruments. The use of corporal punishment is not a novel phenomenon in Sri Lanka and especially in its educational system. What is novel is the growing understanding that corporal punishment is an act of violence on children which undermines the very purpose of the human rights of the children. The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child defines corporal or physical punishment as "any punishment in which physical force is used and intended to cause some degree of pain or discomfort, however light". However, so far, no specific legislation has been set in motion to prohibit and eradicate corporal punishment on children. The research paper aimed to engage in a critical legal analysis of the legislative framework that deals with prohibition of corporal punishment in special reference to case No SC/FR/97/2017 that recognized the infliction of corporal punishment is a blatant violation of Article 11 of the Constitution.

Method: The research paper employs black letter approach of the law and the international and comparative methodology. A desk review is observed where Constitution, international human rights standards such as UDHR, ICCPR, ICESCR, Convention on Rights of the Child, legislative enactments such as Penal Code provisions, circulars and decided case laws are employed as primary sources and the scholarly articles on the same topic are used as secondary sources.

Results: However, so far, no specific legislation has been set in motion to prohibit and eradicate corporal punishment on children. The research paper aims to engage in a critical legal analysis of the legislative framework that deals with prohibition of corporal punishment in special reference to case No SC/FR/97/2017 that recognized the infliction of corporal punishment is a blatant violation of Article 11 of the Constitution of Sri Lanka.

Conclusion: The paper finally concludes that despite the fact that the constitution doesn't recognize the right to life as a fundamental right, the State should not condone or should be a mute spectator in relation to the acts which derogate the dignity of a child.

Keywords: Child, corporal punishment, dignity, human rights.

ICCP/SL/PP/139

Violence against mothers and children's behavior: Exploring intersections

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Background: Violence against women (VAW) and children's behaviors are most often researched and addressed separately because the two are seen as separate issues – women and children are demographic and socio-economically different, the consequences each face are different and addressing them needs separate mechanisms. However, a large portion of women facing violence are mothers; consequently, the possibility of an act of violence against a child is high. Looking at possible connections can lead to remedies that are undermined when issues of women and children are addressed separately. The objective of this study was to examine whether there is a connection between children's problematic behaviors and mothers' facing violence.

Method: The study was based on secondary data from the Women's Wellbeing Survey-2019 (Department of Census and Statistics, Sri Lanka). From the total sample, 731 women faced physical, sexual or psychological violence separately or in combination. Among them, 292 had children aged 5-16, the most likely age to face behavioral issues. The study analyses these 292 women and their children's behaviors using SPSS. Uni-variate and bi-variate analyses are used for descriptive analyses and Chi-square tests are done to check relationships between a mother facing violence and children's behaviors.

Results: From the total sample, 731 women faced physical, sexual or psychological violence separately or in combination. Among them, 292 had children aged 5-16, the most likely age to face behavioral issues. The study analyses these 292 women and their children's behaviors using SPSS. Uni-variate and bi-variate analyses are used for descriptive analyses and Chi-square tests are done to check relationships between a mother facing violence and children's behaviors. The analysis indicates that 34.93% (n=102) of children whose mothers' faced violence suffer from concerning issues; 57.84% (n=59) suffer nightmares, 35.29% (n=36) bed-wet, 33.34% (n=34) are timid and 23.52% (n=24) are aggressive. When considering the association between VAW and the above behaviors in children, chi-square test results indicate a statistically significant association between the two (P>0.001). The mother being the closest to children, it is evident that impacts on her can be negatively connected to children's behaviors. Accepting the intersection between the two may lead to better remedies for children's protection and wellbeing.

Conclusion: The mother being the closest to children, it is evident that impacts on her can be negatively connected to children's behaviors. Accepting the intersection between violence against mothers and children's behavioral issues two can lead to better remedies for children's protection and wellbeing.

Keywords: Women, violence, children, problematic behaviors.

ICCP/SL/PP/143

Breaking the cycle of child abuse in Sri Lankan households

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Background: Child abuse, a significant social issue in Sri Lanka, severely impacts the physical and psychological well-being of children, particularly within households. The cycle of abuse persists across generations due to cultural beliefs, limited awareness, economic challenges, and ineffective law enforcement. This study explores the prevalence and forms of child abuse in Sri Lanka, identify the key factors contributing to the perpetuation of this cycle, and propose effective strategies to break the cycle within Sri Lankan households.

Method: Through a qualitative research method, the study used secondary data for analytical purposes. In this research, two specific research articles were used. Through this method, themes such as prevalence of child abuse, and sociocultural, psychological and economic impact on victims are discussed.

Results: The results show that poverty, poor parenting, domestic violence, and the societal acceptance of physical punishment are some initiatives which provoke the prominence of child abuse. A significant prevalence of child abuse in Sri Lanka with the impact of age and gender are noted in this research. This study reveals several types of abuses namely sexual, physical and emotional abuses and fabrication of illness whereas some children experienced multiple types of abuse. Furthermore, this paper indicates that child abuse was more prevalent in dysfunctional families.

Conclusion: In conclusion, this study addresses the major issues of child abuse in Sri Lanka through a multidisciplinary approach. The findings indicate the socio-cultural factors and family dysfunction in perpetuating abuse. Disrupting this cycle lacks intentional educational initiatives, and potent psychosocial interference. It is crucial to inform the community on empowering families with assistance and fostering collaboration among healthcare and social sectors. This study emphasizes child protection as a collective responsibility, ensuring the safety, and well-being of every child in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Child abuse, family dysfunction, households, education.

ICCP/SL/PP/172

Children are not miniature adults: Establishment of child-friendly examination room in Matale, Sri Lanka

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Background: Forensic examinations of child abuse survivors in Sri Lanka are conducted across various settings, including general inpatient or outpatient units and some dedicated child facilities. However, the children should be assessed in environments that are physically safe, emotionally secure, and psychologically supportive. Currently, the medico-legal units in Sri Lanka pose significant challenges to maintaining a child-friendly environment. Both post-mortem examinations and forensic assessments of child abuse survivors are conducted in the same unit, where bereaved relatives and children share common waiting areas. This can increase children's anxiety, hindering their ability to disclose abuse. This article describes the development and implementation of such a facility at the Medico-Legal Unit of Matale.

Methods: In response to the identified need for a more supportive environment, a child-friendly examination room was established within the Medico-Legal Unit with the assistance of donors of the community and the staff. We created a dedicated space specifically designed for forensic interactions with children. This room was equipped with child-appropriate furniture, comfortable seating, and age-appropriate toys to help reduce anxiety. The environment was further enhanced with colorful posters and decor to distinguish it from the clinical and often intimidating atmosphere of the rest of the unit. Efforts were made to maintain the room separately from other areas.

Results: The introduction of a child-friendly examination room created a more supportive and less intimidating environment for children. Positive distractions contributed to a noticeable reduction in children's anxiety levels during assessments. This led to more open communication between the child and the forensic physician, improving the quality and completeness of disclosures with better rapport-building.

Conclusion: Simple yet thoughtful modifications can create a sense of safety and comfort for vulnerable children. These improvements underscore the urgent need to implement child-sensitive practices across medico-legal settings in Sri Lanka and beyond.

Keywords: Child abuse, forensic examination, medico-legal unit, child-friendly examination room, reduce anxiety.

ICCP/SL/PP/213

Profile of sexual abuse among child survivors attending a tertiary health care center

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Background: Sexual violence against children may be seen at home, schools, places of work, and in the community. There is a need for quantitative and qualitative studies to find out the causes of CSA in India. Our main objective was to assess the profile of sexual abuse reported at a tertiary health care center and to study the sociodemographic pattern of child survivors.

Method: We retrieved records of 62 child survivor cases from 2016 to 2020. The records were maintained in the Stop Crisis Centre (OSCC) in our institute's Women and Child Hospital (WCH).

Results: Child sexual abuse survivor's ages were less than 12 years (35.5%) and 12 to 18 years (64.5%). Most survivors were female (n=57; 91.9%), the majority of the survivor had a duration of CSA of more than 1 week (n=32; 51.6%), and multiple episodes of CSA (n=32, 51.6). The time interval between the last incidence and examination of survivors was more than 24 hours (n=47; 75.8%), and a known person was common assailant (n=51; 82.3%) of CSA. Penetrative sexual assault was seen in 49 cases (79%), and revictimization was seen in 31 cases (50%), injuries were common to external genitalia (n=36; 58.1%) and external injuries were present in 30 cases (48.4%) survivors of CSA.

Conclusion: The findings highlight the severe physical consequences of CSA, with a significant number of cases showing genital injuries and revictimization. Most survivors were examined long after the incident, which could affect the detection and treatment of injuries.

Keywords: Child sexual abuse, survivor, sexual offence, injury.

ICCP/SL/PP/215

Role of school libraries in reducing the mobile phone addiction of children; A literature review

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Background: The increasing use of mobile phones among children has raised concerns regarding the potential for addiction and its negative impacts on their physical, emotional, and academic well-being. School libraries, as integral educational spaces, play a vital role in addressing this growing issue. This study aimed to examine the role of school libraries in reducing mobile phone usage among children, to identify the specific programs and resources in school libraries that can mitigate mobile phone addiction.

Method: The sample will be selected from the source of publications within the specified time limit from 2014-2024. The source of the study area sample retrieved 10 articles through key databases, such as Education Resources Information Center (ERIC), Emerald, Ebsco and Science Direct using the purposive sampling strategy. The search was directed utilizing several keywords: "School library services", "Younger students perusing", and "Preventing mobile phone addiction".

Results: According to the literature, the study highlights the key strategies employed by school libraries such as promoting digital literacy with digital citizenship, creating awareness about healthy and safe online practices including cyberbullying. The review explored the collaborative efforts between librarians, educators and parents to ensure a balanced approach to mobile phone use both inside and outside of the school. The findings indicated that while school libraries have made strides in raising awareness about mobile phone addiction, there remain gaps in fully integrating these programs across all schools.

Conclusion: This literature review calls for further research to develop comprehensive guidelines to overcome this issue. Finally, this research suggested building collaboration with educators, librarians, especially parents, policymakers and discussions are needed on best practices for addressing mobile phone addiction in educational settings.

Keywords: School libraries, mobile phone addiction, digital literacy.

ICCP/SL/PP/270

AI algorithms and child online safety: A study on Sri Lankan students' exposure to harmful content

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Background: The rise in the internet utilization in Sri Lanka has brought about the increase of students who access AI-driven content. Nevertheless, doubts have been expressed regarding children becoming exposed to violent or disturbing content due to artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms. The purpose of this research is to establish the magnitude of online harmful content exposure to Sri Lankan students through AI-driven platforms, and to inspect the efficacy of the existing provisions.

Method: A combination of quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews was used, and interviews with educators, child psychologists, and cybersecurity experts as well as surveys were conducted among 500 students between 12 and 18 years from different areas of Sri Lanka. Their online behaviors, experiences with harmful content, and awareness of safety protocols were all gauged.

Results: Students have been exposed to inappropriate content because of weak AI content filters on video-sharing sites and social media. Furthermore, students are placed at an even greater risk by insufficient online safety awareness and the lack of their parents' supervision and digital literacy programs. Although Sri Lanka has made some attempts to set out laws to protect children from online harm, their implementation is sporadic, and there is no AI-based content moderation strategy that is discussed or adopted in the existing policies. In comparison to other countries that robustly implement AI content moderation and that have comprehensive frameworks for student online safety, Sri Lanka seems to have none.

Conclusions: Society wants pay the attention to enhance child online safety, it is imperative to develop strong AI-based moderation systems that are well-suited to regional languages, introduce a high level of digital literacy, and put-up strict regulations. Crucial for the clear establishment of safe digital environments for children would be the coordinated endeavors of policymakers, teachers, and technology inventors.

Keywords: AI Algorithms, child, online safety.

ICCP/SL/PP/220

A planned homicide cum surreptitious disposal by three minors; A case report

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Background: Culpable homicide requires knowledge or intention of causing death or injuries that are likely to cause death. A programmed course of action to commit a homicide and then secretly dispose of the body reveals the planned nature and the intention of the perpetrator. Homicides by minors are relatively rare, while well-planned attempts to kill and dispose are even rarer. Forensic psychiatry and criminal psychology play pivotal roles in such cases in estimating criminal responsibility and framing the offender profile.

Case study: A 17-year-old boy in a probation home killed a 48-year-old watchman while asleep by smothering with a pillow and then cutting his neck four times. With two 14-year-old accomplices, he then tied the body to the mattress and tried to steal a three-wheeler to transport the body to be dumped into a crocodile-infested marsh. With failed attempts, he then planned to dump the body into a well. A school dropout and coming from a disturbed family, he had extremely violent and ruthless behavior with minimal sense of guilt. Once, he had killed the dog and impaled the dismembered head of the dog on a stick of the owner's fence. He had battered her until she sustained fractures and dislocation in her hand. Instead of fear and guilt at the JMO's office, he was boasting about 'teaching the watcher a good lesson' for not allowing him to loot away from the premises at odd night hours.

Conclusion: When attaching criminal responsibility, it should be considered whether the offender was unable to appreciate the nature, quality, and the wrongfulness of the act, due to defect of reason following disease of mind as per Section-77 of the Penal Code as well as Mc. Naughton's rules. The authors also wish to discuss the recently-amended sections in the Penal Code regarding criminal responsibility of minors.

Keywords: Criminal responsibility, juvenile offenders, planned homicide, surreptitious disposal, forensic psychiatry.

ICCP/SL/PP/323

Role of comparative ability in shaping children's perceptions of "us" versus "them" in early childhood development

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Background: According to Piaget, early childhood is a critical period for cognitive and social development, during which children begin to distinguish people based on visible social differences, language exposure, and adult influences. Social identity theory describes how individuals define themselves within social groups, by creating "us vs them" mentality. This study explores the influence of cultural, ethnic, and religious comparisons in early childhood on the development of social divisions, drawing on Jean Piaget's theory of cognitive development and Tajfel and Turner's social identity theory.

Method: The research was conducted at the MECDC Centre, University of Kelaniya, with a sample of 21 children aged 3 - 7 years. It was mixed-methods research combining qualitative and quantitative research approaches including observation, group work, interviews, educational interventions, and content analysis.

Results: Although the ability to compare is an innate cognitive skill, findings suggest that periconceptional children do not instinctively categorize people based on race, nationality, religion, language, or gender. When children grow up, their perceptions are increasingly shaped by their environment. When differences are introduced negatively, children develop "us vs them" mindset, reinforcing in-group bias. Segregated groups tend to exhibit stronger prejudices, and children who are exposed to various environments from an early age show greater acceptance and resilience against stereotypes.

Conclusion: The study concludes that social comparison is not innate but fostered by external influences. To reduce social divisions and foster inclusion, the study recommends adopting an "us versus us" mindset that values cooperation over competitive comparisons. Educational approaches should emphasize authentic cultural diversity over abstract representations. Educators and parents are urged to identify and address implicit biases to avoid reinforcing stereotypes. Promoting positivity about differences through storytelling, role-playing, multicultural activities, and facilitating social interactions between children from diverse backgrounds can foster acceptance and unity from an early age.

Keywords: Early childhood development, social identity theory, cognitive development.

ICCP/SL/PP/063

Community-based approaches to preventing child abuse and exploitation in the Weligama Divisional Secretariat, Sri Lanka

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Background: In traditional Sri Lankan communities, children were safeguarded through a collective family system. These informal social structures provided strong protective environments. However, in modern times, due to individualism, parental absence, and fragmented social networks, children are increasingly exposed to abuse and exploitation. This study aimed to explore the impact of reintroducing community-based mechanisms to prevent child abuse in the Weligama Divisional Secretariat. The primary objective was to enhance local awareness, build community capacity, and create grassroots structures (alert groups) that promote early identification and intervention.

Method: A mixed-methods approach was adopted. Quantitative data were collected from 200 families using structured surveys. Qualitative insights were gathered through interviews with 15 community leaders, 15 teachers, and 15 social workers. The intervention included capacity building workshops, development of risk assessment tools, formation of village-level child protection committees, and establishment of alert groups to monitor and report abuse. Quantitative data were analyzed using SPSS software, while qualitative data were examined using thematic analysis to extract common patterns and community perceptions.

Results: The intervention produced a 30% reduction in reported child abuse cases—equivalent to 60 fewer cases in communities where the interventions were implemented. From the surveyed families, 70% (n=140) reported increased awareness of child protection laws and reporting procedures. Interviewees confirmed enhanced trust, community participation, and vigilance in monitoring child safety. The presence of active alert groups and trained local leaders contributed significantly to early reporting and preventive action. Despite these successes, barriers included limited funding, initial resistance from some households, and the need for ongoing guidance and institutional support.

Conclusions: The study demonstrates that reactivating community structures is an effective strategy for preventing child abuse. Community training, risk assessment, and localized monitoring systems contribute to early identification and response. It is recommended that these approaches be integrated into national child protection policies. Continued government and organizational support are vital to ensure the sustainability and expansion of such models across Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Child abuse prevention, community-based approaches, capacity building, risk assessment, alert groups.

ICCP/SL/PP/141

Cluster based analysis of student performance in academic work at Wilgamuwa area in Sri Lanka

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Background: School dropout rates in Sri Lanka are significantly higher in rural areas due to widespread socioeconomic disparities. In the Wilgamuwa region, these educational challenges are intensified by the high prevalence of chronic kidney disease of Unknown Etiology (CKDu), which adds additional burdens on students and families. This study aims to classify students into clusters based on academic performance and related factors to identify targeted interventions which can improve educational outcomes.

Method: Data were collected from 150 students in grades 9 to 11 in the Wilgamuwa area from December to February 2025 by using a structured survey. The survey evaluated five key domains: School Background, Family Background, Social and Emotional well-being, Economic challenges, and Academic performance. Responses were measured on a 1–5 scale question type and treated as interval data. Students were grouped into clusters using k-means clustering, and box plot analysis was used to compare differences among clusters.

Results: Three distinct student clusters emerged:
- Cluster 1 - Students benefit from advanced coursework and enrichment programs.
- Cluster 2 - Students require targeted academic support and motivation.
- Cluster 3 - Students need personalized intervention, including financial and socio-emotional support.

Economic challenges were particularly significant among older students, where financial stress hurt academic performance. Additionally, 15-year-old students showed higher levels of social and emotional difficulties compared to their younger peers. School-related factors, such as infrastructure and teaching quality, also influenced academic outcomes across all clusters.

Conclusions: A one-size-fits-all approach to education is ineffective in this context. The study recommends three tailored intervention programs aligned with the needs of each student cluster, including financial support, mental health services, and differentiated teaching strategies. Future research should explore additional socioeconomic and psychological factors to guide education policy in rural communities.

Keywords: Student performance, clustering analysis, rural education, socioeconomic factors, CKDu.

ICCP/SL/PP/039

A Review on the role of parenting styles in preventing child abuse

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Background: Parenting styles refers to the manner in which parents raise their children, encompassing the attitude, behaviors, and strategy that parents employ to shape and guide their child's growth and development. These styles have significant impacts on a child's personality developing, influencing they self-esteem, emotional regulations, social skill, and overall behaviors. Many studies have been done on parenting styles. Different parenting styles affect how children are nurtured and protected, affecting their emotional security and vulnerability to abuse. The main purpose of this study was studying the role of this different parenting styles in preventing child abuse and the relationship between parenting styles in preventing child abuse.

Method: This study was conducted using the literature analyzing method. The research problem of this study was what parenting styles do to prevent child abuse.

Results: This study founded that certain parenting styles contributes to child abuse. Among them was authoritarian parenting style, permissive parenting style and neglectful parenting style. Also, the study founded that through styles such as authoritative parenting style, children can develop a sense of security and contributing to their well-beings. The study also founded that different forms of child abuse, such as physically, psychological, sexual, and neglect, was associated with parenting styles. Parenting styles varies across cultures and social class, influencing how discipline and caregiving is perceived and practiced. Children raised in authoritative families tends to develop high emotional intelligence, which help them recognizes and response effectively to abusive situations.

Conclusion: This study demonstrates the potential to reduce child maltreatment by promoting positive parenting styles.

Keywords: Parenting styles, Child abuse, maltreatment.

ICCP/SL/PP/089

Maternal incarceration and child welfare in Sri Lanka

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Background: Sri Lanka's legal framework often overlooks incarcerated mothers and their children under five living in prisons. Consequently, the existing prison mandate disproportionately affects children, as inadequate nurturing disrupts key early childhood developmental domains: physical, cognitive, social, emotional, and language. Their mothers, from marginalised backgrounds, often face intersecting challenges of poverty, substance abuse, and domestic violence, creating systemic barriers to accessing legal aid, mental health support, and reintegration. International framework like the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Bangkok Rules and Tokyo Rules suggests best practices for their well-being. Nevertheless, Sri Lanka lacks effective mechanisms to safeguard the rights of children living in prisons with their mothers. Thus, the present report advocates for legal reforms and institutional support to safeguard the best interests of mothers and their children.

Method: This study conducts a content analysis of existing legal frameworks in Egypt, Australia, Ethiopia, Kenya, and South Africa to compare Sri Lanka's legal frameworks: the Children and Young Persons Ordinance, and the Prisons Ordinance regarding incarcerated mothers in prison with children.

Results: The findings revealed the themes: Enhanced Mother-Child Support, Community-Based Alternatives, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Holistic Reintegration. Findings show that progressive policies enhance maternal well-being and child welfare, while Sri Lanka's insufficient legal protections, poor prison conditions, and limited reintegration programs expose systemic child welfare failures.

Conclusion: The study recommends non-custodial sentencing for non-violent offenses, child-friendly prison facilities, reintegration support programs for incarcerated mothers, and community-based interventions. Urgent legal reforms and institutional interventions are necessary to break cycles of poverty for vulnerable mothers and their children. Sri Lanka's policies need to align with international human rights standards in prisons for women and their children.

Keywords: Maternal incarceration, child welfare, non-custodial sentencing, rehabilitation, prisons.

ICCP/SL/PP/191

Development of 1 kHz low pass filtered speech test in sinhala to assess auditory closure ability in young adults; A pilot study

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Background: The study addresses Central Auditory Processing Disorder (CAPD) in Sinhala speaking young adults, focusing on auditory closure deficits. While existing tests address some aspects in the central auditory nervous system, there's a gap in evaluating auditory closure, crucial for understanding degraded speech. Therefore, this research aims to develop a Sinhala version of the low pass filtered speech test for young adults, enhancing the CAPD assessment battery in Sri Lanka. The objectives of this study were to develop the test stimuli and to determine the performance score for 1 kHz Low Pass Filtered Speech Test in Sinhala language.

Method: A quantitative pilot study developed a Sinhala LPFST to evaluate auditory closure ability in 18-30 years old adults. Thirty participants were purposively selected. The LPFST employed Sinhala words filtered at 1 kHz, validated by native Sinhala speakers and linguistic experts. The study encompassed case histories, audiological assessments, and LPFST administration. Data analysis via SPSS included descriptive, inferential statistics assessing LPFST performance scores and interaural differences.

Results: The pilot study comprised 30 Sinhala-speaking young adults, aged 18-30, demonstrating normal hearing sensitivity. Right ear performance score was 54.0038 % and left ear performance score was 53.8159 %. However, no significant intra-aural difference ($P = 0.655$) was found.

Conclusion: The study introduces the first Sinhala LPFST for CAPD assessment battery in Sri Lanka, comprising 31 words and a 1 kHz cutoff frequency. The test stimuli were developed considering both adult and pediatric populations. However, the performance scores were evaluated for young adults. Future recommendations include normative studies for cutoff scores, evaluating sensitivity and specificity in clinical samples and gender impact in speech stimuli.

Keywords: Central auditory processing disorder, auditory closure, low pass filtered speech test, performance scores.

ICCP/SL/PP/145

An investigative study of how to utilize theories of sabbasava sutta to redeem children from drugs

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Background: The UNICEF Organization have defined children are person who not more than eighteen years old. Drug addiction is one of major problems identified among children in modern Sri Lanka. Social media, Family background and Environmental influences are major reasons for drug addiction. The solutions can be provided by using principals of Buddhism. How to utilize theories of Sabbasawa sutta to redeem children from drugs? Is the problem of this research. What are the reasons drug addiction, what are the theories can be utilize from Sabbasawa sutta to preventing drug addiction, how can be identified the children who addicted to the drugs has clearly mentioned in this research. Identifying a suitable way for utilize theories of Sabbasawa sutta to redeem children from drug addiction is the main purpose of this research.

Methods: This research has mentioned Dassanā, Sanwarā, patisevanā, adhivāsanā, parivajjanā, vinodanā, bhavanā are seven points of disciplines how can be used to solve above problem. Above seven points of disciplines have clearly described and some valuable suggestions can be applied practically and the way how they can be appied, have given in this research. Presenting reasons for drug addiction, revealing solution for preventing drug addiction while describing seven theories of Sabbasawa sutta are importance of this research. The Mixed research methodology has used to continue and develop this research. Sabbasawa sutta of Majjhima nikaya has used as primary source of this research. Some interviews have done with relevant field scholars and a few of organizations. Many of secondary sources have used for buildup this research. The most valuable information has presented in this research. A tactical questionary has used for take some valuable data from modern Sri Lankan children. By using and analyzing this information and data, this research has been conducted to give its best output.

Keywords: Children, drugs, sabbasawa sutta, addiction.

ICCP/SL/PP/190

Mental health impact of child sex trafficking: considerations for child protection and mental health practitioners

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Background: Sex trafficking and exploitation remain as one of the most complex and devastating crimes against children in Sri Lanka, since the late 1970s. This paper discusses particular mental health issues associated with child sex trafficking (CST) and potential interventions that could prevent and respond to them. The complexity of the psychological impact of CST is discussed, together with possible factors that contribute to it; particularly the situation of the family and the impact of intergenerational implications of adversity. Mental health concerns that place children at risk of CST as well as those that result from CST are discussed, particularly based on unique characteristics of the crime of CST. Trauma coercive attachment (TCA) is highlighted as a specific and pertinent challenge for both victims and practitioners, with high levels of trauma associated with severe cases of TCA. The mental health response is further challenged by systemic issues, as stakeholders and decision makers with power fail to prevent institutional secondary victimization. Amidst these challenges, psychological interventions are proposed which are both early responses to mental health risks as well as trauma-focused interventions which have been piloted with child victims in Sri Lanka, with success.

Conclusion: Preventative measures recognize the need to be family-centered, acknowledging the importance as well as the complexity of building family resilience within the wider ecosystem. In responding to victims, the need for individual psychotherapeutic work with victims to factor in the impact of TCA and methods for its reversal are highlighted. However, the equal value of group movement-based therapy is also discussed, especially as an entry point to therapeutic work and child protection case management.

Keywords: Child sex trafficking, mental health, tauma-coercive-attachment.

ICCP/SL/PP/157

Impact of food insecurity on rural school absenteeism: A case study based on Medamahanuwara

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Background: Many foreign and local studies show that food insecurity is a major cause of poor academic performance among students. Food insecurity has a significant negative impact on the school and higher education of students living in underdeveloped regions such as South Asia, South Africa, and Latin America. Accordingly, this rural school-based research aimed to study the impact of food insecurity on school absenteeism among rural school students in Sri Lanka.

Method: 50 students were selected as the sample, from the grades of 7, 8, and 9 at Medamahanuwara Secondary School, which belongs to the Medamahanuwara Educational Zone in Kandy district. And the selection of the sample was done through a simple random sampling method. 50 students who were absent from school for at least one day in the previous term were randomly selected to represent the above triad of grades. The collected data were analyzed using the chi-square test, correlation test, multivariable regression model, and descriptive statistics. The relationship between the categorical variables of food insecurity and school absenteeism was moderated through chi-square tests and correlation tests. A multivariable regression model was used to analyze the effect of the other independent variables (demographic factors) except food insecurity on school absenteeism. Also, a descriptive study was used to interpret the behavior of food insecurity variables.

Results: Meal size reduction and school absenteeism have been determined to be moderately but significantly correlated ($r = 0.332$). A clear correlation between reduced meal size and absenteeism was demonstrated by the Pearson chi-square value, which was statistically significant at the 0.05 level ($p < 0.043$). Since demographic factors such as household size, parental employment, and income were not statistically significant predictors of absenteeism, the multivariable regression model failed to show a relationship between school absenteeism & food insecurity

Conclusion: Absenteeism is impacted by inadequate nutrition, especially when it comes to meal reduction. Reducing absenteeism and improving academic performance in rural, low-income communities may require the implementation of consistent nutritional support.

Keywords: Food insecurity, education, rural, absenteeism, poor academic

ICCP/SL/PP/238

Impact of climate change on the rights of the slum children in Sri Lanka

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Background: Since independence in 1948, with numerous protocols and amendments, though Sri Lanka has attempted in improving the ensuring of child rights, still it ranked in the 60th place for protecting children among all countries in the world, according to Save the Children Global Report in 2020. The existing literature, though has extensively examined the child rights standards within the Sri Lankan context, it highlights a significant gap in examining how climate changes affect the rights of Sri Lankan slum children. Thus, analyzing how the rights of Sri Lankan slum children are affected by climate changes and what type of challenges they face due to climate change impact are the main objectives of this article.

Method: This study employs a qualitative approach using secondary data collected through books, journals, government reports, NGO reports, and UN reports.

Results: The study reveals that climate change has aroused challenges on rights of Sri Lankan slum children based on the four pillars of the rights of children in the Convention on the Rights of the Child: the right to survival, the right to protection, the right to growth and development, and the right to participation.

Conclusion: The findings show that the rights of Sri Lankan slum children are easily eligible to be affected and challenged by climate change and therefore, need to initiate robust and specific climate-child protection policies. Further, the study recommends strengthening national policies for climate-resilient child rights, integrating climate education into the curriculum, enhancing child-focused disaster preparedness programs, and strengthening collaboration with international organizations such as UNICEF, WHO, Save the Children, UNESCO, World Vision, UNDP, etc.

Keywords: Child rights, climate changes, challenges.

ICCP/SL/PP/168

Lack of digital media literacy among children in Sri Lanka and digital media misuses

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Background: The rapid expansion of digital media access among Sri Lankan children has raised significant concerns about misuse, which negatively impacts mental health, academic performance, and social well-being. The root cause of this growing issue is a lack of structured digital media literacy, further worsened by policy gaps and legal inadequacies. This study aims to explore the nature and extent of digital media misuse among children, particularly in areas such as screen addiction, exposure to harmful content, cyberbullying, and unregulated gaming.

Method: A mixed-method research design was employed. Quantitative data were collected through surveys from 500 children aged 10–16 across urban and rural areas. In addition, qualitative interviews were conducted with parents, teachers, and policymakers. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS to identify behavioral trends, while thematic coding was used to analyses qualitative insights on digital literacy and legal awareness.

Results: Findings revealed that 68% of the children use digital devices for more than four hours daily, with 42% accessing social media without supervision. Over 30% reported experiences of cyberbullying, and 55% admitted to using devices during school hours, affecting their studies. Moreover, 70% of parents and educators expressed concern about the absence of digital literacy policies, and 80% of children demonstrated low awareness of responsible digital behavior due to insufficient legal and educational support.

Conclusions: This study highlights the urgent need for national policies on digital literacy, improved parental engagement, and the integration of digital media ethics into the school curriculum. Strengthening legal mechanisms and encouraging coordinated action among families, educators, and policymakers is essential to promote safe and responsible digital practices among Sri Lankan children.

Keywords: Digital media literacy, cyberbullying, legal frameworks, parental monitoring, Sri Lankan children.

ICCP/SL/PP/273

Dilemma of Indian children in modern-day slavery as depicted in Gregg Helvey's Hindi short film *Kavi*

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Background: Child labor and bonded labor are two forms of modern-day slavery that persist in India, despite the legal protections, rehabilitation, and attempts of the government and non-government organizations. Individuals of a family, including women and children, are compelled to work to repay a debt in bonded labor directly and indirectly, leading to generations getting trapped in servitude. Marginalized communities are the most affected by modern-day slavery. Bonded labor severely affects marginalized children in India, depriving them of education, health, and childhood. Gregg Helvey's Hindi short film *Kavi* (2009) illustrates the journey of a boy named 'Kavi' from agony to rescue from a brick kiln where he works as a bonded child laborer. This research examines how the dilemma between desire and suppression of Indian children caught in modern-day slavery is depicted in Gregg Helvey's Hindi short film *Kavi*. Its objectives are to identify the audio-visual elements that represent desire and suppression related to the events Kavi faces, and to examine how those incidents create dilemmas for him.

Method: This study utilized summative content analysis of the audio-visual elements of the entire short film.

Results: It was observed that dialogues, sound, props, and costumes were used to portray the suppression and disdain of bonded laborers as well as Kavi's desire for an education while enjoying a playful childhood. Moreover, the text displayed as final remarks provided quantified evidence about modern-day slaves. The dilemma between desire and suppression was depicted in the dialogues uttered by Kavi, his reactions and expressions, and the props such as the plant pot, chains, and bricks.

Conclusion: It was concluded that Gregg Helvey's Hindi short film *Kavi* effectively occupies all aspects of movies to depict the dilemma of Indian children in modern-day slavery. This research will be beneficial for studies done on modern-day slavery and the deprivation of child rights in suppressive settings.

Keywords: Bonded labor, child labor, Hindi Short Film, Indian children, modern-day slavery.

ICCP/SL/PP/275

Online child sexual exploitation and abuse in Sri Lanka

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Background: Due to the mobile phone penetration children possess a plethora of opportunities like having access to global knowledge, help boost their creativity and to make social connections through the internet. However, the internet has also created dangerous spaces for children where they can be subjected to Online Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA). This paper aims to examine the prevalence OCSEA in Sri Lanka and to assess the current legal framework that addresses the current scenario of OCSEA in Sri Lanka.

Method: This study is primarily based on qualitative data retrieved from secondary data sources such as journal articles, websites and reports etc. The collected data was analyzed by using situational analysis to address the core concerns of the study.

Results: Three out of 10 children experienced some type of online violence in Sri Lanka. Girls are more prone to face online violence compared to boys. A higher percentage of children who have experienced online violence had confided in a friend about their experience of online violence instead of parents, teachers or adults. The forms of online violence against children ranges from cyber bullying, non-consensual sharing of intimate images (revenge porn), sextortion, cyberstalking, up skirting, sexual harassment, sexual abuse, threat, and blackmail among others. It is evident that Sri Lanka lacks necessary laws prohibiting Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA). Despite ratifying in international treaties, Legal gaps are existent including undefined terminology, failure to recognize the role of technology in child abuse and the prevalent gendered language in law. and inconsistent child definitions. Moreover, weak enforcement of laws has caused delays in prosecution, victim-blaming, and multiple pending criminal cases.

Conclusion: In order to prevent OCSEA technological advancements should be developed to prevent the reach of harmful material from children. Governments can collaborate with NGOs to make legal reforms and to run awareness campaigns.

Keywords: Children, internet, online violence.

ICCP/SL/PP/262

An analytical study of reported data on child cruelty (In relation to 2020-2025 complaints reported to the National Child Protection Authority)

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Background: The Penal Code (Amendment) Act (No. 22 of 1995) under Section 3 of Section 308A makes cruelty to children a criminal offence. This law states that any person in custody, charge, or care of a child under eighteen years of age who willfully assaults, ill-treats, neglects, or abandons the child, or causes or procures such actions, is guilty of child cruelty. Such actions may result in suffering or injury to the child's health, including physical or mental harm, and may lead to imprisonment for a term not less than two years and not exceeding ten years. Additionally, the offender may be fined and ordered to pay compensation to the victim.

Results: This study analyzes complaints related to child cruelty reported to the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) over the last five years, with a focus on the new trends in cruelty complaints. Data for the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 shows that cruelty-related complaints have been on the rise, with 2,237 complaints reported in 2020, 2,741 in 2021, and 2,096 in 2022. In 2023, 2,238 complaints were reported, followed by 1,950 in 2024, according to the NCPA's annual reports. Complaints of cruelty remain the highest among various categories of child abuse. However, a reduction in the number of cruelty-related complaints in 2024 may indicate an improvement in awareness regarding child protection. Notably, abuses of cruelty by teachers, principals, drunken fathers or stepfathers in schools, and guardians in orphanages have been prevalent in past years. Currently, there is a decrease in the reporting of complaints in this regard.

Conclusion: This can be attributed to the growing awareness among children about cruelty and anti-cruelty measures. So, children are now more actively taking steps to prevent abuse. This shift marks a positive trend and highlights the increasing effectiveness of child protection efforts in the community.

Key words: Child rights, cruelty, child protection, child victims.

ICCP/SL/PP/356

Awareness of child rights among secondary school students in Sri Lanka

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Background: Child rights are comprehensively protected by a wide-ranging set of international and national instruments spanning human rights. Despite Sri Lanka's ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the establishment of frameworks such as the National Child Protection Authority Act and the Children's Charter, rights literacy among children remains inconsistent. This study aims to analyze children's rights and their comprehension among selected secondary school students in Gampaha District, Sri Lanka.

Method: The study was conducted in the Western Province's Gampaha District, focusing on the Gampaha, Kelaniya, Minuwangoda, and Negombo educational zones. Surveys and interviews were used to gather data from secondary school students to assess their level of rights literacy. The study particularly examined differences between urban and rural children, considering factors such as access to education, media exposure, and community engagement.

Results: Findings indicate significant gaps in rights literacy, particularly in rural areas where access to information is limited. Urban children tend to have moderate rights literacy due to educational initiatives and media exposure, whereas many children in rural settings lack a clear understanding of their rights. Approximately 70% of students are aware that they possess rights; however, their understanding lacks depth, as they are not fully informed about the specific nature or extent of those rights. More than 60% of students acquire their understanding of child rights through informal sources rather than formal education.

Conclusions: The findings of this study reveal a notable deficiency in the depth of child rights awareness among secondary school students. A significant number of students, particularly in rural areas, lack a clear and comprehensive understanding of their rights, largely due to limited access to reliable information and formal education. The reliance on informal sources further reflects the inadequacy of the current educational framework in addressing child rights.

Keywords: Child rights literacy, legal framework, education, child protection.

Room 10 - Snapshot Presentation
26th July, 2025

ID: 121
UN strategies for children in armed conflict: strengthening child protection and amplifying voices in peacebuilding

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Evaluation of domestic laws in protecting children with disabilities from sexual exploitation in sri lanka

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ID: 167
A study on the impact of adverse (pollution) media messages on antenatal/prenatal groups

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An exploratory study on the challenges of equal educational final certification for children with disabilities in the mawanella division

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ID: 097
Ethical and legal challenges in using open-source intelligence for child protection in sri lanka

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The impact of economic crisis on rural child welfare with special reference to Homagama

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ළමා ආරක්ෂණ ප්‍රතිපත්ති පිළිබඳ දැනුවත්භාවය ඉහළ නැංවීමේදී විදේශ භාෂා අධ්‍යාපනයේ කාර්යභාරය

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ID: 100

An analysis of the psychosocial problems caused by phone misuse and addiction among children in Sri Lanka

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ID: 287
Accountability of the school system regarding child abuse

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POCSO Act in India: Overcoming hurdles in reporting child sexual abuse cases

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Multilingual Abstracts

ICCP/SL/OP/075

දෙමාපියන්ගේ මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය දෙමාපිය දූදරු අන්තර් සබඳතා කෙරෙහි බලපා ඇති ආකාරය

තිසේරා පී.එන්.එස් [1]*, දර්ශන ඒ.ටී.[2]

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2අන්තරායකර ඖෂධ පාලක ජාතික මණ්ඩලය, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව
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පසුබිම : ශක්තිමත් දෙමාපිය දූදරු අන්තර් සබඳතාව ධනාත්මක පෞරුෂයකින් හෙබි පුද්ගලයෙකු බිහි කරයි. සම්බන්ධතා ලිහිල් වීම කෙරෙහි විවිධාකාර සාමාජීය මෙන් ම පෞද්ගලික හේතු කාරණා පාදක වන අතර එකී ශිථිලත්වය දරුවන්ගේ පෞරුෂ වර්ධනය කෙරෙහි බලපෑමක් ද සිදු කෙරෙයි. ඒ පිළිබඳ සාවධාන ව දෙමාපියන්ගේ මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය දෙමාපිය දූදරු අන්තර් සබඳතා සඳහා බලපා ඇති ආකාරය පිළිබඳ ව අධ්‍යයනය කිරීමේ අරමුණින් මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිත කරන දෙමාපියන් සිටින පවුල් ඒකක 10 ක් සිද්ධි අධ්‍යයන ක්‍රමය යටතේ විමර්ශනයට ලක් කරන ලදි.

ක්‍රමවේදය : ගුණාත්මක පර්යේෂණ ක්‍රමවේදය යටතේ දරුවන්ට මාපිය මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය අනිසි භාවිතයේ බලපෑම අධ්‍යයනය කිරීමේ අරමුණින් සිද්ධි අධ්‍යයන ක්‍රමය යොදා ගනු ලැබිණි. සම්මුඛ සාකච්ඡා ඔස්සේ ලබාගත් ගුණාත්මක දත්ත ඒ ඒ ලාක්ෂණිකයන්ට අනුව තේමාත්මක අන්තර්ගත විශ්ලේෂණය යටතේ විමර්ශනාත්මකව ඉදිරිපත් කරන ලදි.

ප්‍රතිඵලය : මිනිසුන් අන්‍යයන් හා දක්වන ක්‍රියාවන් හා ප්‍රතික්‍රියාවන් ආදී සියල්ල ම සමාජ අන්තර් ක්‍රියා යනුවෙන් හඳුනාගත හැකිය. මේ අනුව සමාජ අන්තර් ක්‍රියා එක්තරා ක්‍රියාවලියකි. එම ක්‍රියාවලිය තුළ සමාජයේ සාමාජිකයෝ අනොන්‍ය සමාජ සබඳතා පවත්වති. පවුල තුළ සාමාජිකයෝ ද අනොන්‍ය සමාජ සබඳතා පවත්වමින් තම අවශ්‍යතා ඉටුකර ගැනීමට කටයුතු කරති. පවුල තුළ ඇති බැඳීම් මත දරුවන්ට මෙන් ම දෙමව්පියන්ගේ කාර්යයන්ට ද ඔවුනොවුන් අතර මැදිහත්වීම් ඇතිවේ. ළමා සංවර්ධනය සඳහා ආදරය, රැකවරණය, ආරක්ෂාව ඉතා වැදගත් සාධක වේ. ඒ අනුව කායික, මනෝ සමාජීය, හා සදාචාර සංවර්ධනය උදෙසා දෙමාපිය දූදරු සබඳතාව කොතෙක් දුරට බලපා තිබේදැයි සොයා බැලූ මෙම පර්යේෂණය තුළ දී කරුණු රාශියක් අනාවරණය විය. මනෝ සමාජීය සංවර්ධනය පැත්තෙන් බැලූ කල, දෙමව්පියන්ගේ මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය තුළින් පවුලේ සාමාජිකයින් පීඩනයන්ට පත් වී සිටි බව අනාවරණය විය. එම නිසා පවුල තුළ සාමාජිකයන්ට සුහද ව කටයුතු කිරීමට අපහසු වී ඇත. පවුලක් තුළ යහපත් පුද්ගල වර්‍යා සහ සිදු වීම් පවුලේ සුභ සිද්ධියට හේතු වන අතර අයහපත් පුද්ගල වර්‍යා පවුල තුළ ගැටලු නිර්මාණය කිරීමට හේතු වෙයි. මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය ද පවුල තුළ ආර්ථික තත්ත්වය කේන්ද්‍ර කොට ගත් විවිධ ගැටලු ඇති වීමට හේතු වන්නකි. මෙවැනි තත්ත්ව දරුවෙකුගේ කායික සංවර්ධනයට ද සෘජුව ම බලපා ඇති ආකාරය මෙම අධ්‍යයනය තුළ දී අනාවරණය විය. ආදරය, රැකවරණය පවුලක් තුළ අන්තර් සබඳතා වර්ධනය වන ප්‍රධාන ම සාධකයකි. පවුල තුළ සාමාජිකයින්ගේ මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය යන සාධකය සෘජු ව මෙන් ම වක්‍ර ව බලපෑම් කර ඇති ආකාරය අධ්‍යයනය තුළ දී හඳුනා ගත හැකි විය. එහි දී පුද්ගල ගැටලු පවුල තුළට බලපෑම් ඇති කරන අතර එය සමාජ ගැටලු දක්වා වර්ධනය වීමක් හඳුනා ගත හැකිය. මේ නිසා පවුල තුළ අන්තර් සබඳතා බිඳ වැටීමත්, දරුවන් හා දෙමාපියන් අතර දුරස්ථභාවයක් වර්ධනය වීමත් සිදු වී ඇත. සදාචාරාත්මක වශයෙන් බැලූ කල, දරුවන් දෙමාපියන් ව නොසලකා හරින තත්ත්වයට පත් වී තිබේ.

නිගමනය : මෙසේ දෙමාපියන්ගේ මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය හේතුවෙන් පවුල තුළ ගැටලු ඇති වී තිබෙන අතර එය දරුවන්ගේ කායික, මනෝ සමාජීය, හා සදාචාර සංවර්ධනය කෙරෙහි බලපෑමක් සිදු වී ඇති බව නිගමනය කළ හැකිය.

මූඛ්‍ය පද : දෙමාපිය දූදරු අන්තර් සබඳතා, පවුල, පෞරුෂ වර්ධනය, මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය, සමාජය

ICCP/SL/OP/079

මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතයට ඇබ්බැහි වූ මව්වරුන් දරුවන් රැකබලා ගැනීමේ දී මුහුණපාන මනෝ සමාජීය අභියෝග පිළිබඳ අධ්‍යයනය

මධුශානි කේ.ඒ.ඩී.[*], දර්ශන ඒ.ටී., රණසිංහ කේ.ඩී.ඒ., මධුහංසි පී.පී.ඒ [4]

අන්තරායකර ඖෂධ පාලක ජාතික මණ්ඩලය, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව
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පසුබිම: මව්වරුන්ගේ මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය නිසා දරුවන් රැකබලා ගැනීමේ දී ඇති වී තිබෙන මනෝ සමාජයීය ගැටලු හඳුනා ගැනීමත්, මව්වරුන්ගේ මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය නිසා දරුවන් මුහුණදෙන මනෝ සමාජයීය ගැටලු හඳුනා ගැනීමත් මෙම අධ්‍යයනයෙහි සුවිශේෂී අරමුණු විය.

ක්‍රමවේදය: මෙම අධ්‍යයනය ගුණාත්මක පර්යේෂණ ක්‍රමවේදය යටතේ විස්තරාත්මක අධ්‍යයනයක් ලෙස සිදු කර ඇත. අරමුණු සහගත නියැදිය යටතේ මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිත මව්වරුන් සිටින වයස අවුරුදු 18 ට අඩු දරුවන්ගෙන් යුතු බස්නාහිර පළාතේ පවුල් 10 ක් පර්යේෂණ අධ්‍යයනයට යොදා ගෙන ඇත. දත්ත විශ්ලේෂණය කිරීම සඳහා අධ්‍යයනය මගින් ලබාගත් ගුණාත්මක දත්ත ඒ ඒ ලාක්ෂණිකයන්ට අනුව තේමාත්මක අන්තර්ගත විශ්ලේෂණය යටතේ විශ්ලේෂණාත්මකව ඉදිරිපත් කර ඇත.

ප්‍රතිඵල: අධ්‍යයනයේ ප්‍රතිඵල අනුව, මව්වරුන්ගේ මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය නිසා පවුල තුළ ගැටලු ඇතිවී ඇති අතර පවුලේ දරුවන් පීඩනයන්ට පත් වීම, දරුවන්ගේ අධ්‍යාපන කටයුතු මෙන් ම පවුල තුළ දරුවන්ට ලැබිය යුතු ආදරය, රැකවරණය හා සමාජ ආරක්ෂාව අහිමි වී ඇත. මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය තුළ දරුවන් රැකබලා ගැනීමේ දී ආරක්ෂාව සැපයීමට මව්වරුන් අපොහොසත් වී ඇති අතර පවුලේ වෙනත් සාමාජිකයකු විසින් එම කාර්යය සිදු කරනු ලබයි. මේ නිසා පවුල තුළ අන්තර් සබඳතා බිඳ වැටීමත්, දරුවන් හා දෙමාපියන් අතර දුරස්ථභාවයක් වර්ධනය වීමත් සිදු වී ඇති අතර බිඳුණු පවුල් නිර්මාණය වී තිබේ. පවුලේ අවශ්‍යතා සඳහා යෙදෙන වියදම් වෙනුවෙන් මුදල් නොමැතිවීම මත ආර්ථික ගැටලු රැසකට මුහුණ දීම සහ ඒ ඔස්සේ පැන නගින පුද්ගල ගැටලු පවුල වෙත බලපෑම් ඇති කරමින් සමාජ ගැටලු දක්වා වර්ධනය වීමක් හඳුනා ගත හැකි විය. පවුල තුළ මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය නිසා දරුවන්ට ඇති වී තිබෙන මනෝ සමාජයීය ගැටලු, දරුවන්ගේ පෞරුෂ සංවර්ධනය, ආකල්ප සංවර්ධනය, සමාජීය සංවර්ධනය සහ චිත්තවේග සංවර්ධනය ආදී සංවර්ධන පැතිකඩවලට බලපෑම් සිදු කර ඇත. දරුවන්ගේ පෞරුෂ සංවර්ධනයේ දී අන්තර් පුද්ගල සබඳතා හා වර්‍යාමය ගැටලු ඇති වීම, පවුල තුළ පවතින සම්බන්ධතා පවත්වා ගෙන යාමේ දුෂ්කරතා ඇති වීමත්, අධ්‍යාපන ඉලක්ක සාධනය දුර්වල වීමත් දැකගත හැකි විය. සංවර්ධනයේ දී සතුට, කරුණාව, ආදරය, අනුකම්පාව වැනි යහපත් චිත්තවේග දරුවන් තුළ වර්ධනය වීම වෙනුවට මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිත දෙමව්පියන් සිටින පවුල් පරිසරයක ක්‍රෝධය, ශෝකය, ආතතිය හා විරුද්ධත්වය වැනි අයහපත් චිත්තවේග දරුවන් තුළ වර්ධනය වී ඇත.

නිගමන: මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිත කරනු ලබන පවුලක් තුළ දරුවන්ට සෘණාත්මක ජීවන අත්දැකීම්වලට මුහුණ පෑමට සිදුවේ. පවුල තුළ මව්වරුන්ගේ මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය නිසා දරුවන්ට ඉටුවිය යුතු යුතුකම් හා වගකීම් මගහැරී ගොස් ඇති අතර දරුවන්ගේ ආරක්ෂාව සහ රැකවරණය පිළිබඳ ගැටලු වර්ධනය වී ඇත. නව යෞවන වයස සහ ඉන් ඔබ්බට මද/ සාර සහ වෙනත් මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය වලට යොමු වීමේ තත්ත්වයක් ද වර්ධනය විය හැකිය. ඒ අනුව මව්වරුන්ගේ මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය නිසා දරුවන් රැකබලා ගැනීමේ දී මනෝ සමාජීය ගැටලුවලට මුහුණදීමට සිදු වීමත්, එම හේතුව මත දරුවන් මනෝ සමාජයීය ගැටලු සඳහා මුහුණදීමත් මෙම අධ්‍යයනය තුළද දී හඳුනාගත හැකි විය.

මුඛ්‍ය පද: දරුවන්, මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය, මනෝ සමාජීය සංවර්ධනය, මව්වරුන්, රැකවරණය

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ළමුන් සහ නව යොවුන් වියේ පසුවන්නන් අතර ඖෂධ අනිසි භාවිතය පිළිබඳ අධ්‍යයනයක්

රණසිංහ කේ.ඩී.ඒ.*, දර්ශන ඒ.ටී., මධුශානි කේ.ඒ.ඩී.

අන්තරායකර ඖෂධ පාලක ජාතික මණ්ඩලය, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව
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පසුබිම: වෛද්‍ය නිර්දේශයක් සහිතව භාවිත කළ යුතු ඖෂධ අවභාවිත කිරීමේ ප්‍රවණතාවක් ශ්‍රී ලංකාව තුළ හඳුනාගත හැක. අවභාවිතය සිදුවන ඖෂධ වර්ග හඳුනා ගැනීම, සංසරණය වන ආකාරය, ඒ සඳහා භාවිත කරන ක්‍රම, ඖෂධ වර්ග අවභාවිත කිරීමට යොමුවන හේතු හඳුනා ගැනීම සහ ඖෂධ අවභාවිත කරන්නන් පුනරුත්ථාපනයට යොමු කිරීමට අදාළ ක්‍රමවේද නව්‍යකරණයට ලක් කිරීම සඳහා මෙම පර්යේෂණය සිදු කර ඇත.

ක්‍රමවේදය: අධ්‍යයනය තුළ මිශ්‍ර පර්යේෂණ ක්‍රමවේදය යටතේ සමීක්ෂණ ක්‍රමය භාවිත කෙරිණි. අධ්‍යයනයේ පර්යේෂණ ක්ෂේත්‍ර ලෙස දිස්ත්‍රික්ක 12 ක් තෝරා ගැනිණි. වෛද්‍ය නිර්දේශයකින් ලබා දෙන ඖෂධ අවභාවිත කරන ළමුන් සහ නව යොවුන්වියේ පුද්ගලයින් 36 දෙනෙක් නියැදිය වශයෙන් තෝරා ගැනිණි. දත්ත එකතු කිරීමේ ශිල්ප ක්‍රම ලෙස ව්‍යුහගත ප්‍රශ්නාවලිය, සම්මුඛ සාකච්ඡා ක්‍රමය සහ ද්විතීයික දත්ත භාවිත කෙරිණි. ප්‍රමාණාත්මක දත්ත SPSS මෘදුකාංගය භාවිත කරමින් විශ්ලේෂණය කෙරිණි. ගුණාත්මක දත්ත තේමා අන්තර්ගත විශ්ලේෂණ ක්‍රමය යටතේ විශ්ලේෂණය කෙරිණි.

ප්‍රතිඵල: මෙම පුද්ගලයින් 36 දෙනා වයස අවුරුදු 14 ත් 18 ත් අතර පසුවන්නෝ වූහ. පුද්ගලයින්ගෙන් 13 (36.1%) දෙනෙක් විවාහකයින් වූ අතර, එක් පුද්ගලයෙක් විවාහ නොවී එකට ජීවත් වන පුද්ගලයෙක් විය. පුද්ගලයින්ගෙන් බහුතරයක් අවම අධ්‍යාපනයක් ලද පුද්ගලයින් විය. නියැදියේ බහුතරයක් නුපුහුණු ශ්‍රමිකයින් වූ අතර පුද්ගලයින් 05 දෙනෙක් මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය ආශ්‍රිත රැකියා කරන පුද්ගලයින් විය. ඉන් එක් අයෙක් ශිෂ්‍යයෙකු විය. ප්‍රිගැබලීන්, ඩයසපෑම්, ට්‍රැමඩෝල්, මෝර්ෆින්, ෆ්ලුනයිට්‍රසපෑම්, ක්ලොනසඝෑම් යන ඖෂධ වර්ග මොවුන් අවභාවිත කර තිබුණි. බහුතරයක් පුද්ගලයින් බහුවිධ මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිත කරන පුද්ගලයින් විය. කුතුහලය, මිතුරු බලපෑම, සතුට, මත්ද්‍රව්‍යවලට ආදේශකයක් වශයෙන් සහ ගැටලු මගහරවා ගැනීම ඖෂධ අවභාවිතයට බලපෑ මූලික හේතු විය. ෆාමසි හරහා 07 (19.4%), මිතුරු මාර්ගයෙන් 19 (52.8%) සහ පෞද්ගලිකව හඳුනන අලෙවිකරුවෙකුගෙන් 09 (25%) දෙනෙකු වශයෙන් ඖෂධ වර්ග මිලදී ගෙන අවභාවිත කර තිබුණි. උත්සව අවස්ථාවක, මිතුරන් සමග, රාත්‍රී සමාජ ශාලාවක සහ ලිංගික සංසර්ගයේ යෙදෙන අවස්ථාවක ප්‍රථම වරට ඖෂධ භාවිත කළ අවස්ථාවන් ලෙස හඳුනාගත හැකි විය.

නිගමන: ඖෂධ අවභාවිතය හේතුවෙන් නියැදියේ බහුතරයක් පුද්ගලයින් හට විවිධ කායික සහ මානසික රෝග තත්ත්ව උද්ගත ව තිබුණි. වෛද්‍ය නිර්දේශයක් සහිත ව භාවිත කළ යුතු ඖෂධවල සුලභතාව, සමාජ පාරිසරික සාධක ආදී කරුණු මත මෙම ඖෂධ භාවිතය ව්‍යාප්තවීමේ ප්‍රවණතාවක් පෙන්නුම් කරන අතර, තරුණ ප්‍රජාව හා දරුවන් ද මේවාට යොමුවීමේ අවදානමක් පවතින බව නිගමනය කළ හැකිය.

මූඛ්‍ය පද : ළමුන්, නව යොවුන්විය, ඖෂධ අවභාවිතය, සමාජ පරිසරය

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දරුවන්ට සිදුවන කායික හිංසනය තුළ ඇතිවන දීර්ඝ කාලීන සමාජීය සහ මානසික බලපෑම පිළිබඳ අධ්‍යයනය: කොළඹ ප්‍රාදේශිය ලේකම් කොට්ඨාසයේ සිදු වීමක් ඇසුරෙන්

කරදන එල්.කේ.ඕ.*

ජාතික ළමා ආරක්ෂක අධිකාරිය, මාදිවෙල, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව
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පසුබිම : ළමයෙකුගේ ජීවිතයට සිදුවන ශාරීරික,චිත්තවේගී හෝ මානසික යහපැවැත්මට හානිදායක වන ඕනෑම ආකාරයක හිරිහැරයක් අපයෝජනයක් හෝ සුරාකෑමක් වේ. මේ සම්බන්ධ ව ලෝක සෞඛ්‍ය සංවිධානය පවසන්නේ අවුරුදු 5 ට අඩු දරුවන් දස දෙනෙකුගෙන් හය දෙනෙකු නිතිපතා දෙමාපියන්, රැකබලා ගන්නන් අතින් ශාරීරික දඬුවමට හා මානසික හිංසනයට ලක්වන බවයි. 2024 ජාතික ළමා ආරක්ෂක අධිකාරියට ලැබුණු පැමිණිලි අතරින් කොළඹ දිස්ත්‍රික්කය තුළ 308 ඒ වගන්තිය අනුව ළමුන් කෲරත්වයට පත්කිරීම යටතේ පැමිණිලි 186 ක් වාර්තා වී ඇති අතර එයින් 99 ක් වැඩිහිටියන් අතින් සිදුවන කායික හිංසන වේ. දෙමාපියන් වෙන්වීම, මවුවරුන් විදේශ ගත වීම මේ සඳහා හේතු වී ඇත. මෙසේ සිදු වන කායික හිංසනයන් නිසා දරුවන්ගේ මානසික සෞඛ්‍ය කෙරෙහි දීර්ඝ කාලීන බලපෑමක් ඇතිවේද? යන ගැටලුව ඉස්මතු වී ඇත. එම හේතුව මත ඒ පිළිබඳ අධ්‍යනය කිරීම වඩාත් යෝග්‍ය වේ.

ක්‍රමවේදය : ගුණාත්මක පර්යේෂණ ක්‍රමවේදය යටතේ කොළඹ ප්‍රාදේශිය ලේකම් කොට්ඨාසය තුළ සිදුවූ සිද්ධි අධ්‍යනයක් මගින් මෙම පර්යේෂණය සිදුකරන ලදි.

ප්‍රතිඵල : මව පියා වෙන්වීම,පියා අතහැර යාම, දරුවන්ගේ මුල් ළමා විය සංර්වධනයට පෙර දරුවන් තනිකර දෙමාපියන් විදේශ ගත වීම, දරුවන්ගේ කායික හිංසනයට මුලිකම බලපෑම වී ඇත. ලිංගික හිංසනය තුළ දරුවන්ට සිදු වන දීර්ඝ කාලීන බලපෑම පිළිබඳ පර්යේෂණ සිදු කළ ද කායික හිංසනය තුළ සිදුවන මානසික බලපෑම කෙරෙහි අවධානය යොමු නොවන බව අණාවරණය විය. කායික හිංසනයෙන් සිදු වූ ශාරීරික බලපෑම කෙටිකලින් සුව වුව ද ඒම දරුවන්ට සිදු වන මානසික සහ චිත්තවේගී බලපෑම, අධ්‍යාපනය, මානසික ඒකාග්‍රතාවට සහ සමාජ සංර්වධනයට දැඩි ලෙස බලපෑම් කර ඇත. කායික හිංසනයට ලක්වීමෙන් පසු දරුවන් අධි ක්‍රියාකාරී වීම සහ අවධාන ඌනතාවට ලක්වීමට ද මෙමගින් අනාවරණය වූ වැදගත් කරුණකි. එම නිසා ලිංගික හිංසනය සේම කායික ව දරුවන්ට සිදු වන හිංසනය තුළ දරුවන් දීර්ඝ කාලීන මානසික, චිත්තවේගී සහ සමාජීය බලපෑමකට ලක්වන බව අනාවරණය විය.

නිගමනය : විශේෂයෙන් ශ්‍රී ලංකාව තුළ අවුරුදු 02 සම්පූණ වූ දරුවන් තනිකර දෙමාපියන් විදේශ ගත වීමට දී ඇති අවස්ථාව සංශෝධනය විය යුතු වේ. ආන්තික ජනතාවගේ ආර්ථික සුරක්ෂිතතාව ගැන පමණක් රජයේ අවධානය යොමු කිරීම ප්‍රමාණවත් නොවන අතර ඔවුන්ගේ ජීවන මට්ටම ඉහළ නැංවීමට පියවර ගැනීමට සෞඛ්‍ය අමාත්‍යාංශයේ මැදිහත්කරණය සඳහා පියවර ගත යුතු වේ.විකල්ප රැකවරණ ක්‍රම සඳහා පහසුවෙන් ළඟාවන ක්‍රමවේද සකස්කිරීම අත්‍යවශ්‍ය වේ. රජය මේ වෙනුවෙන් ප්‍රතිපත්තිමය තීරණ ගැනීම වැදගත් වේ. කායික හිංසනයට සහ කෲරත්වයට ලක්වන දරුවන් උදෙසා දීර්ඝ කාලීන අධීක්ෂණ ක්‍රමවේද සැකසීම සහ මානසික සෞඛ්‍ය, අධ්‍යාපනය යාවත්කාලීනව පවත්වාගෙන යාම සාමාජීය වශයෙන් ගොඩනැඟීමේ විද්‍යාත්මක ක්‍රමවේද කෙරෙහි රජයේ අවධානය යොමු කිරීම වැදගත්‍ය.

මූඛ්‍ය පද - අපයෝජන, කායික හිංසනය, මානසික බලපෑම, විකල්ප රැකවරණය,

ICCP/SL/OP/115

ළමා අපයෝජනවලට ගොදුරුවීමේ ප්‍රාදේශීය ප්‍රවණතා සහ ප්‍රතිචාර ක්‍රියාමාර්ග පිළිබඳ අධ්‍යයනයක් (බකමූණ පොලිස් බල ප්‍රදේශය ආශ්‍රයෙන්)

තෙන්නකෝන් ජේ. එම්. ඩී. එන්. [1*]

[1] අපරාධවිද්‍යා හා අපරාධ යුක්ති අධ්‍යයනාංශය, ශ්‍රී ජයවර්ධනපුර විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව.
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පසුබිම : නෛතික අර්ථ දැක්වීම තුළ වයස අවුරුදු 18ට අඩු සෑම මනුෂ්‍යයකුම 'ළමයා' යනුවෙන් අදහස් වන අතර, ඔවුන් ආරක්ෂා කිරීම ඉලක්ක කොට ගෙන ළමයාට හිමිවිය යුතු සියලු ම තත්ත්වයන් ළමා අයිතිවාසිකම්' යනුවෙන් අදහස් කෙරේ. ළමා අපයෝජන හරහා මෙම ළමා අයිතිවාසිකම් බරපතල ලෙස උල්ලංසනය වේ. මේ සම්බන්ධව රැස් කොට ඇති දැනුම සම්භාරය අතිමහත් නමුත්, දිවයිනේ ප්‍රදේශීය වශයෙන් බලපවත්නා තත්ත්වයන් ආශ්‍රිත පර්යේෂණයන්හි සාපේක්ෂ අඩු බවක් හඳුනාගත හැකිය. එබැවින් මෙම අධ්‍යයනයේ මූලික අරමුණ වන්නේ ග්‍රාමීය වශයෙන් පවත්නා ළමා අපයෝජන සිද්ධීන්ගේ මෑතකාලීන ප්‍රවණතා සහ ඒ ආශ්‍රිත නෛතික තත්ත්වයන් අධ්‍යයනය කිරීමයි.

ක්‍රමවේදය : මිශ්‍ර පර්යේෂණ සැලැස්මක් අනුගමනය කළ මෙම පර්යේෂණයේ නියැදිය ලෙස 2018 සිට 2024 දක්වා පොළොන්නරුව බකමූණ පොලිස් බල ප්‍රදේශය තුළ වාර්තා වූ ළමා අපයෝජන සිද්ධීන් යොදා ගෙන තිබේ. එහිදී ප්‍රාථමික දත්ත ලබා ගැනීමට බකමූණ පොලීසියේ ළමා හා කාන්තා අංශයේ නිලධාරීන් සමඟ සම්මුඛ සාකච්ඡා සිදුකළ අතර, ද්විතීයික මූලාශ්‍ර ලෙස එම පොලීසියට වාර්තා වූ ළමා අපයෝජන සහ ඒ සම්බන්ධ නෛතික ක්‍රියාමාර්ග පිළිබඳ පොලිස් වාර්තා යොදා ගෙන තිබේ. දත්ත විශ්ලේෂණයට Microsoft Excel මෘදුකාංගය සහ තේමාත්මක විශ්ලේෂණය යොදාගන්නා ලදි.

ප්‍රතිඵල : අධ්‍යයනයෙන් හඳුනාගත් පරිදි අදාළ කාලසීමාව තුළ ළමා අපයෝජන සිදුවීම් 82 ක් වාර්තා වී ඇති අතර, ඒ යටතට බල අපරාධ 45 ක් සහ සුළු අපරාධ 37 ක් අන්තර්ගත වේ. අදාළ කාලසීමාව තුළ වැඩි වශයෙන් වාර්තා වී ඇත්තේ ලිංගික අතවර සිදුකිරීම සහ වයස අවුරුදු 16 ට අඩු දැරියන් දූෂණය යන සිද්ධීන් ය. තවද හිංසිතභාවයට පත්වූ ළමුන් බහුතරය අවුරුදු 10-15 බව හඳුනාගත හැකිවිය. වාර්තා වූ සියලුම අපයෝජන සිදුවීම් වලට මහේස්ත්‍රාත් අධිකරණයේ නඩු පවරා ඇති නමුත්, සිදුවීම් 46 කම අදාළ නඩු කටයුතු අවසන් වී නොමැති බව හඳුනාගත හැකිවිය.

නිගමන : මෙකී පර්යේෂණ ප්‍රතිඵල මත නිගමනය කළ හැක්කේ ළමා අපයෝජනයේ අනෙකුත් ප්‍රභේදයන්ට වඩා මෙම ප්‍රදේශයේ ළමා ලිංගික අපයෝජන සම්බන්ධයෙන් ඉහළ ප්‍රවණතාවක් පවතින බවයි. යෞවනෝදයට සමගාමීව ළමුන්ට ලිංගික අවබෝධය ලබාදීමේ බලවත් අවශ්‍යතාව නිවාරණය විෂයයෙහි වැදගත් වන අතර, අධිකරණ නඩු කටයුතු වල ප්‍රමාදය තුළින් ළමයාගේ අනාගතයට එල්ලවන අනර්ථකාරී බලපෑම ඉවත් කිරීමට ස්ථීරසාර නෛතික ප්‍රතිසංස්කරණවල අවශ්‍යතාව ද යෝජනා කෙරේ.

මුඛ්‍ය පද: ප්‍රතිචාර ක්‍රියාමාර්ග, ප්‍රදේශීය ප්‍රවණතා, නෛතික තත්ත්වය, ළමා අයිතිවාසිකම්, ළමා ලිංගික අපයෝජන.

ICCP/SL/OP/181

ළමයෙකුගේ අනාගත සමාජානුයෝජනය කෙරෙහි කුඩාකාලයේ ලබාගත් අත්දැකීම් බලපෑම: Monkey Man චිත්‍රපටය ඇසුරෙන් විවරණයක්

විජේවන්ත ඒ.එස් *

ජනසන්නිවේදන දෙපාර්තමේන්තුව, කැලණිය විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව
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පසුබිම: ළමා කාලයේ පුද්ගලයෙක් ලද අත්දැකීම් පුද්ගලයෙකුගේ අනාගත සමාජ හැසිරීම, චිත්තවේග, ඔරොත්තු දීමේ හැකියාව සහ සමාජය සමග කටයුතු කරන ආකාරය පිළිබඳ තීරණාත්මක කාර්යභාරයක් ඉටු කරයි. Monkey Man (2024) චිත්‍රපටයේ ප්‍රධාන චරිතයේ මුල් කම්පන සහගත අත්දැකීම් සහ ඒවා ඔහුගේ වැඩිහිටි අවධියේ කටයුතු කරන ආකාරය, සමාජීය ක්‍රියාවලට මුහුණ දීමේ සහ සමාජයට ඒකාබද්ධවීමේ හැකියාව කෙරෙහි බලපාන ආකාරය පිළිබඳ ව මෙම අධ්‍යයන මගින් න්‍යායාත්මකව විවරණය කරන ලදී.

ක්‍රමවේදය : ළමා කම්පනය සහ දුෂ්කරතා පුද්ගලයෙකුගේ සමාජගත කිරීමේ ක්‍රියාවලියට ඇති කරන බලපෑම විමර්ශනය කිරීම මෙම අධ්‍යයනයේ අරමුණයි. Monkey Man චිත්‍රපටය සිද්ධි අධ්‍යයනයක් ලෙස භාවිත කෙරිණි. ප්‍රධාන චරිතයේ හැසිරීම, සබඳතා, සමාජ අන්තර්ක්‍රියා විශ්ලේෂණය කිරීමෙන් මුල් අත්දැකීම් පුද්ගලයෙකුගේ විශ්වාසය, චිත්තවේගීය නියාමනය, ප්‍රජාවක් තුළ ක්‍රියා කිරීමේ හැකියාව හැඩගස්වන ආකාරය අධ්‍යයනය කෙරිණි. කම්පනය සමාජීය විරසකභාවයට, ආක්‍රමණශීලීත්වයට, ඔරොත්තුදීමේ හැකියාවට හේතුවන ආකාරය අධ්‍යයනය හෙළි කරයි. පර්යේෂණ ක්‍රමවේදයට Monkey Man චිත්‍රපටය පිළිබඳ ගුණාත්මක එළඹුමක් ඇතුළත් වෙයි, ප්‍රධාන චරිතයේ මුල් අත්දැකීම්, පසුකාලීන ජීවිතයට ඒවායේ බලපෑම පෙන්වන ප්‍රධාන දර්ශන කෙරෙහි අවධානය යොමු කරන ලදී. ඔහුගේ සමාජ හැසිරීම, සබඳතා, චිත්තවේගීය ප්‍රතිචාරවල රටා පරීක්ෂා කිරීමට තේමාත්මක විශ්ලේෂණය භාවිත කෙරිණි. මෙහි දී අන්තර්ගත විශ්ලේෂණය සිදුකරමින් ප්‍රාථමික දත්ත රැස් කරන ලදී. එමෙන් ම, චිත්‍රපට පිළිබඳ විචාර, ද්විතීයික මූලාශ්‍රය ලෙස භාවිතයට ගැණිණි.

ප්‍රතිඵල: විශ්ලේෂණයෙන් හෙළි වන්නේ ප්‍රධාන චරිතයේ ළමා කාලයේ පැවති දුෂ්කරතා, අහිමි වීම, ප්‍රචණ්ඩත්වය, නොසලකා හැරීම ඔහුගේ වැඩිහිටි සමාජානුයෝජනයට සැලකිය යුතු ලෙස බලපාන ආකාරයයි. චරිතයේ චිත්තවේගීය වෙන්වීමේ ලක්ෂණ, පුද්ගලයන් විශ්වාස නොකිරීම, හුදකලාව, ආක්‍රමණශීලී වීමට නැඹුරුතාවක් පෙන්නුම් කරයි. නමුත්, යම් අත්දැකීම් ඔරොත්තු දීමේ හැකියාව වර්ධනය කරන අතර, එම චරිතය පීඩාවට පත්කළ සමාජ ව්‍යුහයන්ට අවසානයේ අභියෝග කරයි. අධ්‍යයනයෙන් සොයාගෙන ඇත්තේ සෘණාත්මක ළමා අත්දැකීම් සමාජ ඒකාබද්ධතාවට බාධා කළ හැකි වුව ද, ඒවා පුද්ගලික වර්ධනය, පරිවර්තනයට උත්ප්‍රේරකයක් ලෙස ක්‍රියා කළ හැකි ආකාරයයි. දරුවෙක්ගේ කුඩා කාලයේ අත්දැකීම් තදබල ලෙස මනසේ ස්ථාපනය වීම, එම ඉටු නොවූ අරමුණ කෙසේ හෝ ඉටුකර ගැනීමට කටයුතු කරයි.

නිගමනය: අහිතකර අත්දැකීම්, අවිශ්වාසය යහපත් සබඳතා ගොඩනගා ගැනීමේ දුෂ්කරතාවන්ට හේතුවෙයි. නමුත්, උපදේශකත්වය, ස්වයං දැනුවත්භාවය, පුද්ගලික අධිෂ්ඨානය වැනි බාහිර සාධක මෙම බලපෑම් අවම කිරීමට උපකාරීවේ. ළමා කාලයේ ඇති වූ දුෂ්කරතා ජය ගැනීමේ දී ආධාරක පද්ධතිවල සහ ස්වයං-සොයාගැනීමේ වැදගත්කම අවධාරණය කරමින්, මුල් කාලීන ජීවිත අත්දැකීම් පුද්ගලයෙකුගේ සමාජ ගමන හැඩගස්වන ආකාරය ප්‍රබල නිරූපණයක් ලෙස චිත්‍රපටය ඉදිරිපත් කරයි.

මුඛ්‍ය පද - අත්දැකීම්, මානසික කම්පනය, සමාජානුයෝජනය, Monkey Man

ICCP/SL/OP/183

ළමා පෞරුෂත්වය වර්ධනය කිරීමෙහි ලා ආනන්ද රාජකරුණාගේ කාව්‍ය භාවිතයේ දායකත්වය පිළිබඳ අධ්‍යයනයක්

බාවින්ද ර., කෞශල්‍යා පී. ඒ. එස්. එස්.

සිංහල අධ්‍යයන අංශය, කැළණිය විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය
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පසුබිම : ළමයා යනු අවට ලෝකය පිළිබඳ කුතුහලයෙන් යුක්තව ගවේෂණය කරමින් අනුකරණයෙන් හා ස්වභාව ධර්මයේ සමීප වස්තුන් ඔස්සේ සිතන්නට, දකින්නට ප්‍රිය කරන මනුෂ්‍ය ජීවියෙකි. එහි දී විධිමත් හා අවිධිමත් අධ්‍යාපනය ළමා පෞරුෂත්ව සංවර්ධනයට දායක වේ. ළමා පෞරුෂය නගා සිටුවීමෙහි ලා සාහිත්‍යයේ කාර්ය භාරය සුවිශේෂ වන අතර කාව්‍ය සාහිත්‍යය හරහා ළමා පෞරුෂය වර්ධනය කිරීමට සාහිත්‍යකරුවෙකු වශයෙන් ආනන්ද රාජකරුණාගේ (1885 - 1957) කාව්‍ය නිර්මාණවල දායකත්වය අධ්‍යයනය කිරීම මෙම පර්යේෂණයේ මූලික අරමුණ යි. මෙහි දී පර්යේෂණ ගැටලුව ලෙස මතු කෙරෙන්නේ ළමා පෞරුෂය වර්ධනය කිරීමට කාව්‍ය නිර්මාණකරුවෙකු වශයෙන් ආනන්ද රාජකරුණාගේ ප්‍රවේශය කෙබඳු ද යන්න යි.

පර්යේෂණ ක්‍රමවේදය : මෙම පර්යේෂණය සඳහා ප්‍රාථමික දත්ත මූලාශ්‍රය යටතේ ආනන්ද රාජකරුණා විසින් රචනා කරන ලද ළමා කාව්‍ය යොදා ගැනුණු අතර ද්විතීයක දත්ත මූලාශ්‍රය යටතේ ළමා පෞරුෂත්වය පිළිබඳව හා ළමා සාහිත්‍යය සම්බන්ධයෙන් වෙනත් ලේඛකයන් විසින් රචිත කෘති හා ලිපි අධ්‍යයනය කෙරිණ. මෙහි දී ගුණාත්මක පර්යේෂණ විධික්‍රමය අනුගමනය කළ අතර පුස්තකාල පරිශීලනයෙන් රැස් කර ගත් දත්ත විස්තරාත්මක ක්‍රමය උපයෝගී කර ගනිමින් විශ්ලේෂණය කර නිගමන කරා එළඹ ඇත.එහි දී ළමා කාව්‍ය රචනා කිරීමේ දී ආනන්ද රාජකරුණාගේ ආස්ථානය ස්වභාවදහමේ වස්තුන් කෙරෙහි යොමු වී ඇති ආකාරයත් මනෝවිශ්ලේෂණාත්මක ප්‍රවේශයත් මෙම අධ්‍යයනයේ දී නිරීක්ෂණයට ලක් විය.

ප්‍රතිඵල : වත්මන් සමාජ ආර්ථික දේශපාලනික පසුබිම විසින් ළමා ලෝකය කායිකව මෙන් ම මානසිකව ද දූෂිත කරමින් පවතී. එබඳු ආස්ථානයක ළමා කවිය (විශේෂයෙන් ආනන්ද රාජකරුණා විසින් රචිත) නව ආරකින් ළමා ලෝකයට සමීප කරවීමත්, එමෙන් ම එය වැඩිහිටියන්ගේ වගකීමක් ලෙස ගෙන ළමයා ඒ කෙරෙහි යොමු කරවමින් සෞන්දර්යාත්මක චින්තනයකින් යුතු අනාගත පුරවැසියෙකු බිහි කිරීමේ පදනම ගොඩනැගීම අපේක්ෂිතය.

නිගමනය : ළමා ලෝකයට සමීප පක්ෂීන්, සමනලයා, මල් ආදී වස්තුන්ගේ හැසිරීම රටා ළමා මනසට ගෝචර වන කාව්‍යමය බස් වහරක් ඔස්සේ කිසියම් උපදේශනාත්මක ස්වරයකින් ළමා මනසට සමීප කරමින් ඒ තුළින් ළමා පෞරුෂත්වය වර්ධනය කිරීමටත්, ළමයා ස්වභාව ධර්මයට සමීප කිරීමත්, ස්ව ආරක්ෂාව සලසා ගැනීමට යොමු කිරීමටත් හැකියාවක් ලැබෙයි.

මූල්‍ය පද : අධ්‍යාපනය, ආනන්ද රාජකරුණා, කාව්‍යය, ළමා පෞරුෂය

ICCP/SL/OP/214

වර්තමාන ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ ළමා ගර්භිණීත්වය පිළිබඳ දාර්ශනික විශ්ලේෂණයක්

හේරත් දේශ

කැලණිය විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව
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පසුබිම : අව්‍යාජත්වයේ හා සුන්දරත්වයේ විශ්වමය සංකේතය වන ළමයා වූ කලී මානව ශිෂ්ටාචාරයේ තීරණාත්මක සාධකයකි. 1989 නොවැම්බර් මස 20 වන දින එක්සත් ජාතීන්ගේ මහා මණ්ඩලය විසින් අනුමත කර ගන්නා ලද ළමා අයිතිවාසිකම් පිළිබඳ ප්‍රඥප්තියට අනුව 'නීතිය මගින් අඩු වයසක දී පූර්ණත්වය ලබන්නේ නම් මිස අවුරුදු දහඅටට අඩු සියලු මනුෂ්‍යයන් ළමුන් වේ. වර්තමානය වන විට ළමුන් කේන්ද්‍ර කර ගනිමින් මැවෙන පුවත් අතර 'ළමා ගර්භිණීත්වය' වැඩි අවධානයට ලක් වූවකි. පසුගිය වසර කිහිපය විමර්ශනයේ දී ප්‍රමාණාත්මකව ගත් කල ළමා ගර්භිණීත්ව අනුපාතයන්හි ඉහළ යාමක් පෙන්නුම් කරයි. ඒ අනුව පසුගිය (2024) වසරේදී ළමා ගැබ් ගැනීමේ සිදුවීම්වල ඉහළ යාමක් වාර්තා විය. 2023 වසරේදී 167 ක් ලෙස වාර්තා වූ ළමා ගැබ් ගැනීම් 2024 වසර වන විට 213 දක්වා වර්ධනීය අගයක් පෙන්නුම් කරයි. ඒ අනුව මෙම අධ්‍යනයේ දී මෙලෙස ළමා ගර්භිණීත්වය ඉහළ යාමට බලපාන හේතු මොනවා ද යන්න සොයා බැලීම අපේක්ෂා කරයි. එමෙන් ම මෙම ළමා ගර්භිණීත්වය අවම කිරීමෙහිලා ගත හැකි ක්‍රියාමාර්ග මොනවා ද පිළිබඳ විමසීම ද සමාජීය, සංස්කෘතික, දේශපාලනික, නෛතික හා ආචාධර්මීය අංශයන්ට මෙම ගැටලුව නිසා සිදු කෙරෙන බලපෑම දාර්ශනිකව අධ්‍යයනය කිරීම ද සෙසු අරමුණු වේ.

පර්‍යේෂණ ක්‍රමවේදය : මෙම අධ්‍යයනය ගොඩ නැගීමට ළමා ගර්භිණීත්වයට මුහුණ දුන් ළමුන් 30 කින් යුක්ත නියැදියක් යොදා ගත් අතර එහි දී අධ්‍යයන ක්‍රමවේදය වශයෙන් සම්මුඛ සාකච්ඡා හා ප්‍රශ්නාවලි මගින් ප්‍රාථමික දත්ත හා ද්විතීයික දත්ත ලෙස ග්‍රන්ථ, සංඛ්‍යාලේඛන වාර්තා, වෙබ් අඩවි යොදා ගැනුණි.

ප්‍රතිඵල : අඩු ආර්ථික මට්ටමක් පවතින ප්‍රදේශවලත් සිය පෙම්වතා හා සමීපතමයන් අතින් දූෂණයට ලක් වීම තුළ ළමා ගර්භණීත්වය ඉහළ ප්‍රතිශතයක් ගන්නා බව පර්‍යේෂණ ප්‍රතිඵල ලෙස සොයා ගත හැකි විය. මෙහි දී වයස අවුරුදු 15 ත් 19 ත් අතර කාන්තාවන්ගේ මරණ සඳහා ප්‍රධාන හේතුවක් ලෙස ගැබ් ගැනීම සහ දරු ප්‍රසූතියේ ගැටලු බලපාන බව පැහැදිලි විය.

නිගමනය : ළමා ගර්භිණීත්වයේ වර්ධනය කෙරෙහි ලිංගිකත්වය පිළිබඳ අවම වූ දැනුම, අනාරක්ෂිත ලිංගික චර්යා, දූෂණයට ලක්වීම වැනි හේතු බලපාන බව නිගමනය කර ගත හැකි විය. මෙම තත්ත්වය වළක්වා ගැනීම සඳහා ආරක්ෂිත ලිංගික හැසිරීම් සහ ගැබ්ගැනීම් සංකුලතා සම්බන්ධයෙන් නව යොවුන් වියේ අධ්‍යාපනය කෙරෙහි අවධානය යොමු කිරීම අවශ්‍ය වන බව යෝජනා කළ හැකිය.

මුඛ්‍ය පද: ආචාරධර්ම, ලිංගික අධ්‍යාපනය, සමාජය, ළමා ගර්භිණීත්වය

ICCP/SL/OP/224

දුරකථන අවභාවිතය නිසා සිදුවන ළමා අපයෝජන පිළිබඳ දාර්ශනික අධ්‍යයනයක් : බුලත්කොහුපිටිය ප්‍රදේශයේ පොලිස් පැමිණිලි ඇසුරෙන්

ලියනආරච්චි එල්.ඒ.ඒ.එස්

දර්ශන අධ්‍යයන අංශය, සමාජීය විද්‍යා පීඨය, කැලණිය විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව
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පසුබිම: ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රජාතාන්ත්‍රික ජනරජයේ ළමා අයිතිවාසිකම් පිළිබඳ ප්‍රඥප්තිය අනුව, වයස අවුරුදු 18 ට අඩු සෑම පුද්ගලයෙකුම ළමයා යනුවෙන් හඳුන්වයි. කුඩා කල පටන් සිය මාපිය රැකවරණය යටතේ හැදී වැඩෙන දරුවා ක්‍රමයෙන් සමාජයට නිරාවරණය වීමත් සමඟ ජංගම දුරකථනය හා සබැඳි විවිධ ක්‍රියාකාරකම් වෙත යොමු වේ. එය වර්තමානයේ පුළුල් ගැටලුවක් බවට පත්ව ඇත්තේ දිනෙන් දින මෙම ජංගම දුරකථන අවභාවිතය හරහා සිදුවන්නා වූ ළමා අපයෝජන ප්‍රතිශතය ඉහළ යාම හේතුවෙනි.

ක්‍රමවේදය: මෙම අධ්‍යයනයේ දී මිශ්‍ර ක්‍රමවේදය යොදා ගන්නා ලද. ඒ අනුව බුලත්කොහුපිටිය පොලිස් බල ප්‍රදේශයේ තෝරාගත් ග්‍රාමනිළධාරී වසම් කිහිපයක (2023,2024)වර්ෂයන්වල දුරකථන අවභාවිතය හේතුවෙන් සිදු වූ ළමා අපයෝජන සම්බන්ධයෙන් වාර්තා වූ පැමිණිලි 25ක් අහඹු නියැදීම යටතේ ද්විතීයික දත්ත මූලාශ්‍රය ලෙසත්, සම්මුඛ සාකච්ඡා ප්‍රාථමික දත්ත මූලාශ්‍රය ලෙසත් භාවිත කරන ලදි.

ප්‍රතිඵල: රැස්කර ගත් දත්ත හා තොරතුරු අනුව වයස අවුරුදු 14-17 (42%) අතර වයස් කාණ්ඩවල පසුවන බාලවයස්කාර දරුවන් දුරකථන අවභාවිතය හේතුවෙන් විවිධාකාර අපයෝජනයන්ට ලක් ව ඇත. තවද ජංගම දුරකථනය අනිසි ලෙස භාවිත කරමින් අතෘප්තිකර ලිංගික ආශාවන් ඉටු කරගැනීම, ලිංගික අධ්‍යාපනය පිළිබඳ නිසි දැනුමක් නොමැතිකම, සිය හුදෙකලාභාවය නැති කර ගැනීමේ අරමුණින් ඇති කරගන්නා ප්‍රේම සබඳතා හා නවීන තාක්ෂණය පිළිබඳ නොදැනුවත්භාවය ආදී විවිධ සමාජ, සංස්කෘතික හා මනෝවිද්‍යාත්මක සාධක රාශියක් මෙවැනි ළමා අපයෝජන බහුල වීමට බලපා ඇති බවත් අනාවරණය විය. මෙලෙස සිදුවන්නා වූ ළමා අපයෝජනයන්හි අනිසි ප්‍රතිවිපාකයන් ලෙස අධ්‍යාපනික කටයුතු අඩාළ කර ගැනීම,ළමා මව්වරු බිහිවීම,මානසික අවපීඩනයට ලක්වීම වැනි වාතාවරණයන් අධ්‍යයන ප්‍රදේශය ආශ්‍රිත ව පැන නැගී ඇති බවත් ගම්‍ය විය.

නිගමනය: මෙලෙස සිදුවන්නා වූ ළමා අපයෝජනයන් ඉහළ යාම කෙරෙහි පවුල් පරිසරයේ ස්වභාවය, සමාජානුයෝජනයේ පවත්නා දුර්වලතාවන්, පුද්ගල මනෝභාවයන් මෙන් ම සමාජ සංස්කෘතික වටපිටාව යනාදිය බලපාන බැව් තහවුරු විය. එබැවින් මෙම පර්යේෂණය තුළින් දරුවන්ගේ ආරක්ෂාව සහ යහපැවැත්ම සහතික කරන පරිසරයක් නිර්මාණය කිරීමේ වැදගත්කම අවධාරණය කරයි.

මූඛ්‍ය පද : දුරකථන අවභාවිතය, ලිංගික අධ්‍යාපනය, සමාජානුයෝජනය, ළමා අපයෝජන

ICCP/SL/OP/225

යුද්ධයෙන් පීඩාවට පත් වූ දුවිඩ ජන සමාජය තුළ නීත්‍යනුකූල නොවන විවාහයන්ට පෙළඹීමට බලපාන හේතු පිළිබඳ දාර්ශනික අධ්‍යයනයක්: වවුනියාව, ඕමන්ත ප්‍රදේශය ඇසුරින්

තත්සරණි ඩී.ඒ.එන්.ඩී.

දර්ශන අධ්‍යයන අංශය, සමාජීය විද්‍යා පීඨය,කැලණිය විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව
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පසුබිම: ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ තිස් වසරක් මුළුල්ලේ පැවති පීඩාකාරී යුධ වාතාවරණය නිමවීමත් සමග බහුවිධ ගැටලු ඉස්මතු වන්නට විය. එවැනි එක් ගැටලුවක් වශයෙන් නීත්‍යනුකූල නොවන විවාහයන්ට යොමු වීම හඳුනාගත හැකිය. අදාළ පාර්ශ්වයන්හි එකඟතාව මත පුද්ගලයකුට එකවර කලත්‍රයන් එකකට වඩා සිටින විවාහ ක්‍රමයක් නීත්‍යනුකූල නොවන විවාහයක් ලෙස අර්ථ ගන්වයි. මෙහි දී කාන්තාවක් පුරුෂයන් කිහිප දෙනෙකු සමගත් පුරුෂයෙක් කාන්තාවන් කිහිප දෙනෙකු සමගත් විවාහ වීම වශයෙන් ප්‍රභේද වේ. තිස් වසරක අඳුරු යුගයකට මුහුණ දුන් උතුරු පළාතේ දුවිඩ ජන සමාජයන්හි ප්‍රවේශකත්වය පසුගිය දශක කිහිපය තුළ කැපී පෙනුණි. මෙම විවාහයන් මූලිකව ආදරය, හැඟීම්, ලිංගිකත්වය සහ අයිතිවාසිකම් වැනි කාරණා කෙරෙහි බැඳේ. මෙම සුවිශේෂී දුවිඩ සමාජය තුළ නීත්‍යනුකූල නොවන විවාහයන්හි ව්‍යාප්තියට බලපාන සාධක කවරේදැයි යන්න අධ්‍යයනය කිරීම පර්යේෂණයේ මූඛ්‍ය පරමාර්ථයයි.

ක්‍රමවේදය: වවුනියාව ඕමන්ත පොලිස් ප්‍රදේශය තුළ කරන ලද මෙම පර්යේෂණය තුළ ප්‍රාථමික දත්ත වශයෙන් යුද්ධයට සෑදූ ව මුහුණ දුන් දස දෙනෙකුගෙන් යුතු නියැදියකින් සම්මුඛ සාකච්ඡා ක්‍රමයත්, ඕමන්ත පොලිස් පැමිණිලි,අන්තර්ජාල තොරතුරු හා පුවත්පත් ලිපි වැනි ක්‍රමවේද දත්ත ඒකරාශී කිරීමට යොදා ගනු ලැබිය.

ප්‍රතිඵල: මූලිකව නීත්‍යනුකූල නොවන විවාහයන් පිළිබඳව ඕමන්ත පොලිස් පැමිණිලිවල ළමා අපචාර, කාන්තා දූෂණ හා විවිධ පැමිණිලිවල අභ්‍යන්තරික සාධකයක් ලෙස නීත්‍යනුකූල නොවන විවාහ හඳුනාගත හැකි විය. සමස්තයක් ලෙස පර්යේෂණයෙන් නිරූපිත සාධක අතරින් තිස් වසරක යුධ අත්දැකීම්හි දිගුකාලීන බලපෑම, අවතැන් වීමෙන් පසු කඳවුරුගත වීමේ මානසික තත්ත්වයන්, උෂ්ණාධික පාරිසරික තත්ත්වයන් මත සිදුවන ශාරීරික වෙනස්කම්, අවම සාක්ෂරතා මට්ටම, සාමාන්‍ය නීතීන් පිළිබඳ ව නොදැනුවත්කම, තාක්ෂණික ලෝකයට ප්‍රවිෂ්ට වීමේ ප්‍රතිවිපාක හා භෞතික පරිසරයන්හි බලපෑම් යනාදිය මත මෙම ප්‍රජාව නීත්‍යනුකූල නොවන විවාහ කෙරෙහි පෙළඹීම සිදුවී ඇති බව නිරූපණය වේ.

නිගමනය: මෙම ප්‍රජාවේ පවුල් පරිසරයන්හි නිරන්තර ගැටලුකාරී තත්ත්වයන්, කඳවුරුගත මානසිකත්වය හා බැඳි පවතින සමාජ, සංස්කෘතික, ශාරීරික හා පාරිසරික සාධක මෙවැනි විවාහයන් කරා යොමුවීමට හේතු වන බව පර්යේෂණ දත්ත තුලින් ගම්‍ය විය.

මූඛ්‍ය පද: ඕමන්ත, ජන සමාජ, නීත්‍යනුකූල නොවන විවාහ, යුද්ධය,

ICCP/SL/OP/226

කුරුදු තලන්නන්ගේ වාඩි සංස්කෘතිය තුළ ළමා අපයෝජන බහුල වීමට බලපාන්නා වූ හේතු සාධක පිළිබඳ දාර්ශනික අධ්‍යයනයක් කඹුරුපිටිය පොලිස් වසමේ පැමිණිලි ඇසුරෙන්

ප්‍රබෝධා එච්.ජී.එස්

දර්ශන අධ්‍යයන අංශය සමාජීය විද්‍යා පීඨය, කැලණිය විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව
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පසුබිම: ළමා අපයෝජන යන්න ශ්‍රී ලංකාව තුළ මෙන්ම ගෝලීය වශයෙන් ද සාකච්ඡාවට ලක්වන පුළුල් ගැටලුවකි. ළමයින් කෙරෙහි අනර්ථයක් සිදුවන ආකාරයට සැලකීම, ක්‍රියා කිරීම ළමා අපයෝජනයක් ලෙස සැලකේ. විශේෂයෙන් ම වත්මන් ලාංකේය සමාජයේ විවිධ සංස්කෘතික සන්දර්භයන් තුළ ළමා අපයෝජන බහුල ව සිදුවන අතර කුරුදු තලන්නන්ගේ වාඩි සංස්කෘතිය ආශ්‍රිත ව ද මෙහි ප්‍රවණතාවක් පවති. මෙම පර්යේෂණය කුරුදු තලන්නන්ගේ වාඩි සංස්කෘතිය ආශ්‍රිත ව ළමා අපයෝජන බහුල වීමට බලපාන්නා වූ හේතු සාධක පිළිබඳ අධ්‍යයනය කිරීමේ අරමුණින් සිදුකරයි.

ක්‍රමවේදය: මෙහි දී මිශ්‍ර ක්‍රමවේදය යොදා ගන්නා ලදි. ඒ අනුව සම්මුඛ සාකච්ඡා ඔස්සේ ප්‍රාථමික දත්තයන් ද, කඹුරුපිටිය පොලිස් බල ප්‍රදේශයේ (2023, 2024) වර්ෂයන් තුළ තෝරාගත් ග්‍රාමනිලධාරී වසම් කිහිපයක් ආශ්‍රිත ව ළමා අපයෝජනයන් සම්බන්ධයෙන් අහඹු නියැදීම යටතේ තෝරා ගන්නා පැමිණිලි 20 ක් ද්විතීයික දත්තයන් ලෙස ද භාවිත විය.

ප්‍රතිඵල: අධ්‍යයනයේ දී ලැබුණු දත්ත විශ්ලේෂණයේ දී මෙම සංස්කෘතික පසුබිම තුළ ළමා අපයෝජන බහුල වීමට කුරුදුවල පවත්නා සුවිශේෂී සුවඳ ලිංගික ආශාවන් උද්දීපනය කිරීම වැනි මනෝ මූලික හේතුන් ප්‍රබල ව බලපා ඇති බව පැහැදිලි විය. තවද ප්‍රදේශයේ පුද්ගලයින් අධික ලෙස මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය, දෙමාපියන්ගේ නූගත්භාවය, මව විදේශගත වීම, දරුවන් නිසි ලෙස සමාජානුයෝජනය නොවීම, දරුවන්ගේ අධ්‍යාපනය නවතා රැකියාවල යෙදවීම වැනි හේතු මත කායික, මානසික හා ලිංගික වශයෙන් අපයෝජනයන්ට ලක් ව ඇති බව අනාවරණය විය.

නිගමනය: ඒ අනුව මෙම අධ්‍යයනයේ දී ළමා අපයෝජන ඉහළ යාම කෙරෙහි ඔවුන්ගේ පවුල් පරිසරයේ පවතින යම් දුර්වලතාවයන් ද, සමාජ සංස්කෘතික සාධක මෙන් ම පුද්ගල මනෝභාවයන් ද හේතු වී ඇති බව තහවුරු විය. ළමයින් නිසි ලෙස සමාජානුයෝජනය, ලිංගික අධ්‍යාපන වැඩසටහන් සංවිධානය, ස්වයං ආරක්ෂාව බල ගැන්වීම, ශක්තිමත් පවුල් පරිසරයක් ගොඩනැංවීම මෙම තත්ත්වය තවදුරටත් අවම කිරීමේ ක්‍රියාමාර්ග ලෙස අධ්‍යයනය තුළින් යෝජනා විය. මෙලෙස ළමයින් සඳහා සුදුසු සමාජ පසුබිමක් ගොඩනැංවීමේ වැදගත්කම මෙම අධ්‍යයනය මගින් අනාවරණය කෙරෙයි.

මූඛ්‍ය පද : කුරුදු තලන්නන්, වාඩි සංස්කෘතිය, සමාජානුයෝජනය, ළමා අපයෝජන

ICCP/SL/PP/237

ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ දරුවන්ගේ මානසික සෞඛ්‍ය සහ පෞරුෂ වර්ධනය කෙරෙහි දෙමාපිය දික්කසාදයේ බලපෑම

සඳරේනු උ.*

කැලණිය විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය, ,ශ්‍රී ලංකාව
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පසුබිම: දෙමව්පියන්ගේ දික්කසාදය යනු දරුවන්ගේ මානසික සෞඛ්‍යයට සහ පෞරුෂ සංවර්ධනයට ගැඹුරින් බලපාන සැලකිය යුතු ජීවිත සිදුවීමකි. පවුල් ව්‍යුහයන් බිඳ වැටීම බොහෝ විට චිත්තවේගීය පීඩා, චර්යාත්මක ගැටළු සහ දරුවන්ට දිගුකාලීන මානසික අභියෝග වලට තුඩු දෙයි. දික්කසාද වූ පවුල්වල දරුවන්ට කාංසාව, මානසික අවපීඩනය සහ චර්යාත්මක ගැටළු ඇතුළු මානසික සෞඛ්‍ය ගැටලු ඇතිවීමේ වැඩි අවදානමක් ඇති බව පර්යේෂණ වලින් නිරතුරුව පෙන්නුම් කර ඇත. දෙමව්පියන්ගේ වෙන්වීම හා සම්බන්ධ ආතතින්, අන්තර් දෙමාපිය ගැටුම් සහ ආර්ථික අස්ථාවරත්වය වැනි, මෙම අවදානම් උග්‍ර කරයි. දරුවන්ගේ මානසික සෞඛ්‍ය සහ පෞරුෂ වර්ධනය කෙරෙහි දෙමාපිය දික්කසාදයේ මානසික බලපෑම දරුවන්ගේ මානසික සෞඛ්‍ය සහ පෞරුෂ සංවර්ධනය කෙරෙහි බලපෑම විමර්ශනය කිරීම මෙම අධ්‍යනයේ අරමුණ වේ.

ක්‍රමවේදය : ප්‍රමාණාත්මක හා ගුණාත්මක දත්ත රැස් කිරීම සහ විශ්ලේෂණ ක්‍රම ඒකාබද්ධ කරමින් මිශ්‍ර ක්‍රම ප්‍රවේශයක් යොදනු ලැබේ. මානසික සෞඛ්‍ය ප්‍රතිඵල සහ පෞරුෂත්ව ලක්ෂණ තක්සේරු කිරීම සඳහා දික්කසාද වූ සහ නොනැසී පවතින පවුල්වල දරුවන්ගේ නියැදියකට සමීක්ෂණයක් පරිපාලනය කරනු ලැබේ. දරුවන් සහ ඔවුන්ගේ දෙමව්පියන් සමඟ ගැඹුරු සම්මුඛ සාකච්ඡා මගින් දෙමව්පියන්ගේ දික්කසාදය පිළිබඳ අත්දැකීම් සහ සංජානන පිළිබඳ ගුණාත්මක අවබෝධයක් ලබා දෙනු ඇත.

ප්‍රතිඵල : දික්කසාද වූ පවුල්වල දරුවන් නොනැසී පවතින පවුල්වලට සාපේක්ෂව කාංසාව, මානසික අවපීඩනය සහ චර්යාත්මක ගැටළු ඉහළ මට්ටමක පවතින බව ප්‍රතිඵල පෙන්නුම් කරයි. දරුවන්ගේ මානසික සෞඛ්‍යය සහ පෞරුෂ වර්ධනය කෙරෙහි දෙමාපිය දික්කසාදයේ මානසික බලපෑම ගුණාත්මක සොයාගැනීම් මෙම බලපෑම අවම කිරීම සඳහා දෙමව්පියන්ගේ ගැටුම් කළමනාකරණය සහ සහායක පවුල් පරිසරයන්හි වැදගත්කම ඉස්මතු කරයි. මෙම අධ්‍යයනය දරුවන්ගේ මානසික සෞඛ්‍යය හා පෞරුෂ සංවර්ධනය කෙරෙහි දෙමව්පියන්ගේ දික්කසාදයේ සැලකිය යුතු මානසික බලපෑම අවධාරණය කරයි.

නිගමනය : මෙම සොයාගැනීම් මගින් අන්තර් දෙමාපිය ගැටුම් ආමන්ත්‍රණය කරන සහ දික්කසාද ක්‍රියාවලිය හරහා දරුවන්ට සහාය වන ඉලක්කගත මැදිහත්වීම් වල අවශ්‍යතාවය අවධාරණය කරයි. සෞඛ්‍යය සම්පන්න පවුල් ගතිකතාවයන් ප්‍රවර්ධනය කිරීමෙන් සහ චිත්තවේගීය සහාය ලබා දීමෙන්, දරුවන්ට දෙමව්පියන්ගේ දික්කසාදයේ දිගුකාලීන මානසික බලපෑම් අවම කිරීමට උපකාර කළ හැකිය. මෙම වියුක්තය අධ්‍යයනය ඒ පිළිබඳ පුළුල් දළ විශ්ලේෂණයක් සපයයි. දරුවන්ට දෙමව්පියන්ගේ දික්කසාදයේ මානසික බලපෑම සහ සහායක මැදිහත්වීම් තුළින් මෙම අභියෝග විසඳීමේ වැදගත්කම ඉස්මතු කරයි.

මුඛ්‍ය පද: ළමා මානසික සෞඛ්‍යය, ළමා පෞරුෂ වර්ධනය, දෙමාපිය දික්කසාදය, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව

ICCP/SL/OP/330

රූපවාහිනී වෙළෙඳ දැන්වීම් ඔස්සේ ළමා ග්‍රාහකත්වයට සිදු කරනු ලබන බලපෑම

පෙරේරා ඒ. කේ. චා. ප.

ජනසන්නිවේදන අධ්‍යයනාංශය සමාජීය විද්‍යා පීඨය , කැලණිය විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය ,ශ්‍රී ලංකාව
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පසුබිම : 1979 දී මෙරට ආරම්භ වූ ශ්‍රව්‍ය දෘශ්‍ය මාධ්‍යයක් වන රූපවාහිනිය ළමා මනසට කෙතෙක් බලපෑම් ඇති කරයි ද, එමගින් මෙරට අනාගතය කෙරෙහි තබන බලාපොරොත්තුව කොතරම් දුරට මල්ඵල ගැන්වේ ද යන්න පිළිබඳ ව කිසිවෙකුගේත් වැඩි අවධානයක් යොමු නොවේ. එහි දී වෙළඳ දැන්වීමිහි වර්ධනයත්, දියුණුවත් එමගින් ඇති වූ වාණිජමය වටිනාකමත් හේතුවෙන් දැන්වීම් ආයතන බිහි විය. මාධ්‍යයේ ඇති සියුම් වූ පෙළඹවීමේ හැකියාවන් මගින් ජන මතය ආක්‍රමණය කරමින් ප්‍රබල බලපෑමක් සමාජය වෙත මුදා හැරීමට රූපවාහිනී මාධ්‍යයට හැකි විය. මෙවන් පසුබිමක් තුළ වෙළඳ දැන්වීම් කෙරෙහි වැඩි නැඹුරු බවක් දක්වන ළමා ග්‍රාහකයා පිළිබිඹු කරන්නා වූ ප්‍රතිචාර ඔස්සේ අනාගතයට කෙබඳු බලපෑමක් සිදුවේ ද යන්න ගැටලුවකි. ප්‍රමුඛ පෙළේ ව්‍යාපාරිකයෝ සිය භාණ්ඩ හා සේවා අලෙවි කර ගැනීම සඳහා වෙළඳ දැන්වීම් භාවිත කරති. එම වෙළඳ දැන්වීම් මගින් ළමා ග්‍රාහකයන්ට ඇති කරන බලපෑම කෙබඳු ද යන්න අධ්‍යයනය කිරීම මෙම පර්යේෂණයේ ප්‍රධාන අරමුණ වේ. මීට අමතර ව, රූපවාහිනී මාධ්‍ය මගින් ඉදිරිපත් වන වෙළඳ දැන්වීම් හරහා නිසියාකාර සන්නිවේදනයක් සිදුවන්නේ ද යන්න පිළිබඳ අධ්‍යයනය කිරීම හා රූපවාහිනී වෙළඳ දැන්වීම් මගින් මාධ්‍ය ආචාර ධර්ම කෙරෙහි කෙතරම් අවධානයක් යොමු කරයි ද යන්න පිළිබඳ විමර්ශනය කෙරිණ.

ක්‍රමවේදය : මෙම පර්යේෂණයේ දී අන්තර්ගත විශ්ලේෂණය ඔස්සේ රැස්කර ගන්නා ලද දත්ත, ගුණාත්මක ක්‍රමවේදය ඔස්සේ විශ්ලේෂණය කරන ලදී. 2025 ජනවාරි මස 01 සිට ජනවාරි 31 දක්වා මසක කාල සීමාවක් තුළ සිරස රූපවාහිනී නාලිකාව තුළ සතියේ දිනවල සවස 3 සිට 6 දක්වා කාල සීමාවේ විකාශය වූ වෙළඳ දැන්වීම් 20 ක් ඇසුරු කර ගනිමින් මෙම අධ්‍යයනය සිදු කරන ලදී.

ප්‍රතිඵල : මෙම වෙළඳ දැන්වීම් අන්තර්ගතයන්ගේ ස්වභාවය බොහෝවිට අතිශයෝක්තියෙන් යුක්ත ය. වෙළඳ දැන්වීම් සඳහා ළමා ආකර්ෂණය ඇති කරගැනීමට ළමා චරිත, කාටුන් රූප හා සංගීත නාද රටා එක්කර ගැනීම සිදු වේ. එමෙන්ම වෙළඳ දැන්වීම්වල අන්තර්ගතය ඇතැම්විට දරුවන් අනිසි හැසිරීම්වලට මෙන්ම, අධි පරිභෝජනය සඳහා යොමු කරවයි.

නිගමනය : ප්‍රධාන ව්‍යාපාරික වෙළඳ දැන්වීම් ඔස්සේ ළමා මනෝභාවයන් හොඳින් අවබෝධ කර ගෙන ඇති බවත්, වෙළඳ දැන්වීමක අන්තර්ගත පණිවිඩයෙහි ප්‍රබලත්වය ඉස්මතු වන ආකාරයෙන් ඉතා නිර්මාණශීලී ව බොහෝ වෙළඳ දැන්වීම් ළමා ග්‍රාහකයන් වෙත නිරායාසයෙන් සමීප වීමට සෑම විටම කටයුතු කරන බවත්, මෙකී වෙළඳ දැන්වීම් මගින් නිෂ්පාදන ප්‍රතිලාභ අතිශයෝක්තියට නංවමින් යම් ප්‍රමාණයකට සදාචාරාත්මක සීමාවන් උල්ලංසනය කරමින් මාධ්‍ය ආචාර ධර්මවලට පටහැනි ව ක්‍රියා කරන බවත් නිගමනයන් ලෙස දැක්විය හැකිය. මේ අනුව රූපවාහිනී වෙළඳ දැන්වීම් ඔස්සේ ළමා ග්‍රාහකයන් යහපත් මෙන්ම අයහපත් අයුරින් බලපෑමට ලක් වන බව පෙන්වා දිය හැකිය.

මූඛ්‍ය පද: මාධ්‍ය බලපෑම, රූපවාහිනී, වෙළඳ දැන්වීම්, ළමා ග්‍රාහකයන්

ICCP/SL/PP/231

ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ ළමා අපයෝජන වාර්තා කිරීමේදී සමාජ මාධ්‍යවල සෘණාත්මක බලපෑම.

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පසුබිම : සමාජ මාධ්‍ය ළමා අපයෝජන වාර්තා කිරීම සඳහා තීරණාත්මක මාධ්‍යයක් වුවද, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව තුළ ගැටලු රැසක් මතු කිරීමට එය හේතු වී ඇත. සමාජ දැනුවත්භාවය ඇති කිරීමේ හැකියාව නොසලකා හරිමින් අසත්‍ය තොරතුරු පැතිරවීම සහ බලහත්කාරයන්ට ලක් වූවන්ගේ පෞද්ගලිකත්වය උල්ලංඝනය කිරීම සඳහා සමාජ මාධ්‍ය බොහෝ විට යොදා ගැනේ. ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ ළමා අපයෝජන උන්නතිය පිළිබඳ මෑත වාර්තා අනුව, සමාජ මාධ්‍ය මෙම ගැටලු වාර්තා කිරීම සඳහා මෙන්ම එම ගැටළු ඉහළ නැංවීම සඳහා ද සංකීර්ණ දායකත්වයක් දක්වයි. යෝග්‍ය පාලනයක් සහ වගකීම් සහිත වාර්තා කිරීමේ ක්‍රමවේදයන් නොමැති වීම හේතුවෙන් මෙම තත්වය වඩාත් උග්‍ර වේ. ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ ළමා අපයෝජන වාර්තා කිරීමේදී සමාජ මාධ්‍ය මතු කරන අසත්‍ය තොරතුරු පැතිරවීම, පෞද්ගලිකත්ව උල්ලංඝනය සහ එම සිදුවීම් සමාජය තුළ පුනරාවර්තනය වීමේ හැකියාව ආදී තත්වයන් හේතුවෙන් බලපෑමට ලක් වූ දරුවාට සිදුවන සෘණාත්මක බලපෑම් පරීක්ෂා කිරීමට මෙම අධ්‍යයනය තුළින් බලාපොරොත්තු වේ.

ක්‍රමවේදය : මෙම අධ්‍යයනය මිශ්‍ර ක්‍රමවේදයක් අනුගමනය කරන අතර, ගුණාත්මක සම්මුඛ සාකච්ඡා සමග ළමා අපයෝජන හා සම්බන්ධ සමාජ මාධ්‍ය වාර්තා කිරීම් පිළිබඳ ප්‍රමාණාත්මක විශ්ලේෂණයක් අන්තර්ගත වේ. ළමා අපයෝජන වාර්තා කිරීම සඳහා පවතින මාර්ගෝපදේශයන් ද සමාලෝචනය කරනු ලැබේ.

ප්‍රතිඵලය : මෙම අධ්‍යයනය ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ සමාජ මාධ්‍ය මගින් ළමා අපයෝජන වාර්තා කිරීමේ සෘණාත්මක බලපෑම් පිළිබඳ හඳුනා ගැනීම හරහා ළමා ආරක්ෂණය තහවුරු කිරීමේ අවශ්‍යතාව තේරුම් ගැනීමට උපකාරී වේ. සමාජ මාධ්‍ය තුළ ළමා අපයෝජන වාර්තා කිරීමේදී යෝග්‍ය පාලනයක් සහ වගකීම් සහිත වාර්තා කිරීමේ ක්‍රමවේදයන් අත්‍යවශ්‍ය වන අතර මෙම ගැටලු මග හරවා යාම සඳහා ස්ථීර මාර්ගෝපදේශ සහ පාලන යාන්ත්‍රණයක් අවශ්‍ය වේ.

නිගමනය : මෙම සෘණාත්මක බලපෑම් මග හරවා ගැනීම සඳහා මාධ්‍ය නියාමනය සහ පාලක ආයතන අතර සහයෝගය අත්‍යවශ්‍ය බව පර්යේෂණ යෝජනා අතර වේ.

මුඛ්‍ය පද : සමාජ මාධ්‍ය, ළමා අපයෝජන, සෘණාත්මක බලපෑම, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව

ICCP/ SL/PP/ 083

මව්පියන්ගේ මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය දරුවන්ගේ මනෝ සමාජීය සංවර්ධනය කෙරෙහි බලපාන ආකාරය අධ්‍යයනය කිරීම

තිසේරා නි.

ජාතික අන්තරායකර ඖෂධ පාලන මණ්ඩලය
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පසුබිම : දරු ප්‍රසූතියට පෙර එනම්, පූර්ව ප්‍රසව අවධියේ දී, බහුවිධ මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය සඳහා නිරාවරණය වූ මව්වරුන්ගේ දරුවන් සඳහා ඇතිවන විවිධ බලපෑම් හේතුවෙන් එම දරුවන්ට කායික සංවර්ධනයෙහි සහ මනෝ සමාජීය සංවර්ධනයෙහි දුර්වලතා ඇතිවන බව විවිධ පර්යේෂණ මඟින් සනාථ කර ඇත. දෙමව්පියන් අතර පවතින මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය දුර්භාවිතය ළමා සංවර්ධනයෙහි සෙසු අවධීන් සඳහා ද අවදානම් සහගත වේ. ඒ අනුව, දෙමව්පියන්ගේ මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය ළමයින්ගේ මනෝ සමාජීය සංවර්ධනය කෙරෙහි සිදු කරන බලපෑම කෙබඳු ද? යන පර්යේෂණ ගැටලුව මූලිකරගෙන, ගුණාත්මක පර්යේෂණ ක්‍රමවේදය යටතේ විස්තරාත්මක පර්යේෂණයක් වශයෙන් කොළඹ දිස්ත්‍රික්කය හා කළුතර දිස්ත්‍රික්කය ආශ්‍රිතව තෝරාගත් සිද්ධීන් යොදාගෙන මෙම අධ්‍යයනය සිදු කරන ලදි.

ක්‍රමවේදය: අරමුණු සහගත නියැදිය යටතේ, මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිත පවුල් 08 ක් නියැදිය සඳහා යොදා ගත් අතර ප්‍රත්‍යක්ෂ අධ්‍යයන ක්‍රමය යටතේ ගැඹුරු සම්මුඛ සාකච්ඡා ඔස්සේ දත්ත රැස් කරන ලදි. ගුණාත්මක දත්ත තේමාත්මක අන්තර්ගත විශ්ලේෂණය අනුව විශ්ලේෂණය කරන ලදි.

ප්‍රතිඵලය : මෙම අධ්‍යයනයේ අනාවරණ අනුව, මව්පියන්ගේ මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය ළමා සංවර්ධනය සඳහා ප්‍රධාන අවදානම් සාධකයක් වන අතර එම දරුවන් අතර නව යොවුන් වියේ සහ තරුණ වියේ දී මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය ගැටලු ඇති වීමේ අවදානම ඉහළ නංවා ඇති අතර දරුවන්ගේ පෞරුෂ සංවර්ධනය තුළ දී අන්තර් පුද්ගල සබඳතා, චර්යාමය ගැටලු ඇති වීම වර්ධනය වී ඇත. මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිත කරනු ලබන පවුලක් තුළ දරුවන්ට මුහුණ පෑමට සිදුවන ගැටලු හේතුවෙන් එහිදී ලැබෙන සෘණාත්මක ජීවන අත්දැකීම් ආකල්ප සංවර්ධනය කෙරෙහි බලපෑම් ඇති කරන අතර බිඳුණු පවුල් වර්ධනය වීම නිසා එය දරුවන්ගේ පෞරුෂ සංවර්ධනය කෙරෙහි ලබපා ඇත. විශේෂයෙන්, දරුවාට පවුල තුළින් හිමි විය යුතු රැකවරණය, ආදරය, කරුණාව, අවධානය, වයසට සරිලන ලෙස පිළිගැනීම අඩු වී ඇත. දෙමාපියන්ගේ මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය පවුල තුළ ආර්ථික ගැටලු ඇති කිරීම හේතුවෙන් දරුවන් පාසල් අධ්‍යාපනය මගහැර ක්‍රියා කිරීමට පෙළඹීම, දරුවන් නීතිවිරෝධී ක්‍රියාවලට යොමු වී මුදල් ඉපැයීමට යොමු වීම, දරුවන් මන්දපෝෂණ තත්ත්වයට පත්වීම වැනි ප්‍රජා සෞඛ්‍ය ගැටලු පවා ඇති වන බව අනාවරණය විය. එසේම, මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය නිසා ගොඩනැඟුණු බිඳුණු පවුල් පසුබිමක දරුවාගේ විහඟ්‍යතා ප්‍රතික්ෂේප වීම පසුකාලීන ජීවිතය කෙරෙහි හීන පෞරුෂ ලක්ෂණ ඇති වීමට හේතු වේ.

නිගමනය: අධ්‍යයනය තුළ දී මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිත පවුලෙහි සිටින දරුවන්ට ආදරය, පිළිගැනීම, සමාජ සබඳතා පැවැත්වීමට උදවු කිරීම ආදී සමාජ සංවර්ධනය යහපත් හා ගුණාත්මක බවට පත් කිරීම වෙනුවට එවැනි සාධක ගිලිහී යාමක් පැවති බව හඳුනා ගත හැකි විය. මේ අනුව, දෙමව්පියන්ගේ මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය දරුවන්ගේ පෞරුෂ සංවර්ධනය, ආකල්ප සංවර්ධනය, සමාජීය සංවර්ධනය හා චිත්තවේග සංවර්ධනය යන සංවර්ධන පැතිකඩයන්ට බලපෑම් සිදුකර ඇති බව පර්යේෂණයේ අනාවරණය අනුව නිගමනය කළ හැක.

මූඛ්‍ය පද : ළමයා, මනෝ සමාජීය සංවර්ධනය, පෞරුෂය, මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය, පවුල

ICCP/ SL/PP/ 071

ලිංගික අධ්‍යාපනය ලබාදීම සම්බන්ධයෙන් පාසල් ළමුන්ගේ ආකල්ප
(හොරණ ප්‍රාදේශීය ලේකම් කොට්ඨාසයේ අවුරුදු 11-18 ළමුන් ඇසුරින්)

ගුලවිට ශ.

ජාතික ළමා ආරක්ෂක අධිකාරිය, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව
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පසුබිම ⁚ ලිංගික අධ්‍යාපනය යනු ලිංගිකත්වය, ලිංගික අනන්‍යතාවය, ලිංගික සබඳතා සහ ප්‍රජනනය පිළිබඳ තොරතුරු ලබාගැනීමේ සහ ආකල්ප හා විශ්වාසයන් ගොඩනැගීමේ ක්‍රියාවලියයි. එය ළමාවියෙන් ආරම්භ වී ජීවිත කාලය පුරාම පවතින්නා වූ ක්‍රියාවලියකි. ලිංගික අධ්‍යාපනය විධිමත් හා අවිධිමත් ආකාරයෙන් ලබාගත හැකිවන අතර විධිමත් ලෙස පාසල තුළින් ද අවිධිමත් අකාරය දෙමාපියන්, සමවයස් කණ්ඩායම් හෝ වෙනත් විශ්වාසවන්ත අය හරහා ලබාගත හැකි ය. විවිධ සංස්කෘතික වටිනාකම්, සමාජීය සම්මතයන් සහ ආගමික විශ්වාසයන් පිළිඹිබු කරමින් ලෝකයේ බොහෝ රටවල ලිංගික අධ්‍යාපනය ලබාදෙන ආකාරයේ වෙනස්කම් පවතියි. ඇතැම් රටවල පුළුල් පරාසයන් ආවරණය කරමින් අධ්‍යාපනය ලබාදෙන අතර ඇතැම් රටවල විවිධ සීමාවන්ට යටත්ව අධ්‍යාපනය ලබාදෙයි. ශ්‍රී ලංකාව තුළ ලිංගික අධ්‍යාපනය පාසල් විෂය නිර්දේශයට හඳුන්වාදීමට යම් උත්සහයන් ගෙන තිබුණද ගතානුගතික සංස්කෘතික හා ආගමික සම්මතයන් හේතුවෙන් ලිංගික අධ්‍යාපනය ලබාදීමේ ගුණාත්මකබව සංකීර්ණ ගැටළුවක් බවට පත්ව ඇත. ලිංගික අධ්‍යාපනයේ වැදගත්කම පෙන්වාදීම සඳහා විෂය නිර්දේශය තුළින් ලබාදෙන ලිංගිකත්ව අධ්‍යාපනය ප්‍රමාණවත් වේද? යන ගැටළුව අධ්‍යයනය කිරීම සඳහා විෂය නිර්දේශයට ඇතුලත් කර ඇති ලිංගික අධ්‍යාපනය විධිමත් ආකාරයට ලබාදීම සම්බන්ධව ළමුන් දක්වන ආකල්ප අධ්‍යයනය කිරීම මූඛ්‍ය අරමුණ වේ.

ක්‍රමවේදය⁚ මෙම අධ්‍යයනය සඳහා කළුතර දිස්ත්‍රික්කයේ, හොරණ ප්‍රාදේශීය ලේකම් කොට්ඨාසයේ පාසල් ළමා ආරක්ෂක කමිටු පිහිටුවා ඇති ද්විතීයික පාසල් හතරක් තෝරාගනු ලැබ අතර ප්‍රමාණාත්මක පර්යේෂණ මූලධර්මය යටතේ සමානුපාතික ස්ථරගත නියැදිය යොදාගන්නා ලදී. ප්‍රාථමික මූලාශ්‍ර වශයෙන් ප්‍රශ්නාවලි ක්‍රමය සහ අවිධිමත් සම්මුබ සාකච්ඡා භාවිත කරනු ලැබූ අතර, ද්විතීයික මූලාශ්‍ර ලෙස පොත්පත්, සඟරා, අන්තර්ජාල ලිපි, පර්යේෂණ මූලාශ්‍ර ආදිය යොදාගන්නා ලදී.

ප්‍රතිඵලය ⁚ පාසල් විෂය නිර්දේශය තුළ උගන්වනු ලබන ලිංගික අධ්‍යාපනය ලබාදීම සඳහා අප රටේ පවතින අධ්‍යාපන ක්‍රමයේ සුදානම අවම මට්ටමක පවතින අතර ඒ සඳහා පුහුණුව ලත් ගුරුවරුන්ගේ අවශ්‍යතාවය සම්පූර්ණ විය යුතුය. ගුරුවරුන් සහ පාසල් සිසුන් අතර ලිංගික කරුණු පිළිබඳව විවෘතව ගැඹුරින් සාකච්ඡා කිරීම සිදුවීමේ සම්භාවිතාව අඩු අගයක් ගන්නා අතරම සාකච්ඡා කරනු ලැබූ ලිංගික කරුණු සම්බන්ධයෙන් ඔවුන්ගේ තෘප්තිමත්භාවය අඩු අගයක් ගනියි.

නිගමනය⁚ මේ අනුව වර්තමාන සමාජ වටපිටාව තුළ විධිමත් ලිංගික අධ්‍යාපනයක් සියලුම පාසල් සිසුන් සඳහා ලබාදීමේ කාලීන අවශ්‍යතාවය ප්‍රමුබතාවයක් ගන්නා බව මෙම අධ්‍යයනය තුළින් අවධාරණය කරන ලදී.

මූඛ්‍ය පද ⁚ ආකල්ප, ලිංගික අධ්‍යාපනය, ලිංගිකත්වය, පාසල් ළමුන්

ICCP/SL/OP/075

දෙමාපියන්ගේ මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය දෙමාපිය දූදරු අන්තර් සබඳතා කෙරෙහි බලපා ඇති ආකාරය

තිසේරා පී.එන්.එස්.[1]*, දර්ශන ජේ.ටී.[2]

1අන්තරායකර ඖෂධ පාලක ජාතික මණ්ඩලය, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව
2අන්තරායකර ඖෂධ පාලක ජාතික මණ්ඩලය, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව
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පසුබිම : ශක්තිමත් දෙමාපිය දූදරු අන්තර් සබඳතාව ධනාත්මක පෞරුෂයකින් හෙබි පුද්ගලයෙකු බිහි කරයි. සම්බන්ධතා ළිහිල් වීම කෙරෙහි විවිධාකාර සමාජීය මෙන් ම පෞද්ගලික හේතු කාරණා පාදක වන අතර එකී ශිථිලත්වය දරුවන්ගේ පෞරුෂ වර්ධනය කෙරෙහි බලපෑමක් ද සිදු කෙරෙයි. ඒ පිළිබඳ සාවධාන ව දෙමාපියන්ගේ මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය දෙමාපිය දූදරු අන්තර් සබඳතා සඳහා බලපා ඇති ආකාරය පිළිබඳ ව අධ්‍යයනය කිරීමේ අරමුණින් මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිත කරන දෙමාපියන් සිටින පවුල් ඒකක 10 ක් සිද්ධි අධ්‍යයන ක්‍රමය යටතේ විමර්ශනයට ලක් කරන ලදි.

ක්‍රමවේදය : ගුණාත්මක පර්යේෂණ ක්‍රමවේදය යටතේ දරුවන්ට මාපිය මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය අනිසි භාවිතයේ බලපෑම අධ්‍යයනය කිරීමේ අරමුණින් සිද්ධි අධ්‍යයන ක්‍රමය යොදා ගනු ලැබිණි. සම්මුඛ සාකච්ඡා ඔස්සේ ලබාගත් ගුණාත්මක දත්ත ඒ ඒ ලාක්ෂණිකයන්ට අනුව තේමාත්මක අන්තර්ගත විශ්ලේෂණය යටතේ විමර්ශනාත්මකව ඉදිරිපත් කරන ලදි.

ප්‍රතිඵලය : මිනිසුන් අන්‍යයන් හා දක්වන ක්‍රියාවන් හා ප්‍රතික්‍රියාවන් ආදී සියල්ල ම සමාජ අන්තර් ක්‍රියා යනුවෙන් හඳුනාගත හැකිය. මේ අනුව සමාජ අන්තර් ක්‍රියා එක්තරා ක්‍රියාවලියකි. එම ක්‍රියාවලිය තුළ සමාජයේ සාමාජිකයෝ අනොන්‍ය සමාජ සබඳතා පවත්වති. පවුල තුළ සාමාජිකයෝ ද අනොන්‍ය සමාජ සබඳතා පවත්වමින් තම අවශ්‍යතා ඉටුකර ගැනීමට කටයුතු කරති. පවුල තුළ ඇති බැඳීම් මත දරුවන්ට මෙන් ම දෙමව්පියන්ගේ කාර්යයන්ට ද ඔවුනොවුන් අතර මැදිහත්වීම් ඇතිවේ. ළමා සංවර්ධනය සඳහා ආදරය, රැකවරණය, ආරක්ෂාව ඉතා වැදගත් සාධක වේ. ඒ අනුව කායික, මනෝ සමාජීය, හා සදාචාර සංවර්ධනය උදෙසා දෙමාපිය දූදරු සබඳතාව කොතෙක් දුරට බලපා තිබේදැයි සොයා බැලූ මෙම පර්යේෂණය තුළ දී කරුණු රාශියක් අනාවරණය විය. මනෝ සමාජීය සංවර්ධනය පැත්තෙන් බැලූ කල, දෙමව්පියන්ගේ මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය තුළින් පවුලේ සාමාජිකයින් පීඩනයන්ට පත් වී සිටි බව අනාවරණය විය. එම නිසා පවුල තුළ සාමාජිකයන්ට සුහද ව කටයුතු කිරීමට අපහසු වී ඇත. පවුලක් තුළ යහපත් පුද්ගල වර්යා සහ සිදු වීම් පවුලේ සුභ සිද්ධියට හේතු වන අතර අයහපත් පුද්ගල වර්යා පවුල තුළ ගැටලු නිර්මාණය කිරීමට හේතු වෙයි. මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය ද පවුල තුළ ආර්ථික තත්ත්වය කේන්ද්‍ර කොට ගත් විවිධ ගැටලු ඇති වීමට හේතු වන්නකි. මෙවැනි තත්ත්ව දරුවෙකුගේ කායික සංවර්ධනයට ද සෘජුව ම බලපා ඇති ආකාරය මෙම අධ්‍යයනය තුළ දී අනාවරණය විය. ආදරය, රැකවරණය පවුලක් තුළ අන්තර් සබඳතා වර්ධනය වන ප්‍රධාන ම සාධකයකි. පවුල තුළ සාමාජිකයින්ගේ මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය යන සාධකය සෘජු ව මෙන් ම වක්‍ර ව බලපෑම් කර ඇති ආකාරය අධ්‍යයනය තුළ දී හඳුනා ගත හැකි විය. එහි දී පුද්ගල ගැටලු පවුල තුළට බලපෑම් ඇති කරන අතර එය සමාජ ගැටලු දක්වා වර්ධනය වීමක් හඳුනා ගත හැකිය. මේ නිසා පවුල තුළ අන්තර් සබඳතා බිඳ වැටීමත්, දරුවන් හා දෙමාපියන් අතර දුරස්ථභාවයක් වර්ධනය වීමත් සිදු වී ඇත. සදාචාරාත්මක වශයෙන් බැලූ කල, දරුවන් දෙමාපියන් ව නොසලකා හරින තත්ත්වයට පත් වී තිබේ.

නිගමනය : මෙසේ දෙමාපියන්ගේ මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය හේතුවෙන් පවුල තුළ ගැටලු ඇති වී තිබෙන අතර එය දරුවන්ගේ කායික, මනෝ සමාජීය, හා සදාචාර සංවර්ධනය කෙරෙහි බලපෑමක් සිදු වී ඇති බව නිගමනය කළ හැකිය.

මුඛ්‍ය පද : දෙමාපිය දූදරු අන්තර් සබඳතා, පවුල, පෞරුෂ වර්ධනය, මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය, සමාජය

ICCP/SL/OP/223

ළමා විවාහ සඳහා බලපාන හේතු පිළිබඳ ආචාරධර්මීය විශ්ලේෂණයක් වවුනියාව ඕමන්ත ප්‍රදේශය ඇසුරින්

සමරකෝන් එස්. එම්. ඒ .අයි

දර්ශන අධ්‍යයන අංශය සමාජීය විද්‍යා පීඨය, කැලණිය විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව
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පසුබිම: ශ්‍රී ලාංකේය ග්‍රාමීය සමාජය තුළ ඉතා ශීඝ්‍රයෙන් වර්ධනය වෙමින් පවතින සමාජ ගැටලුවක් ලෙස ළමා විවාහ හැඳින්විය හැකිය. ළමා විවාහය ප්‍රමුඛ වන්නේ එහිදී විවාහය සඳහා වයස අවුරුදු 18 සපිරිය යුතුය යන නීතිමය පදනම උල්ලංඝනය වීම හේතුවෙනි. පර්යේෂණයේ මූලික අරමුණ වන්නේ වවුනියාව ඕමන්ත ප්‍රදේශයේ ළමා විවාහයන්හි වර්ධනීය ප්‍රවණතාව හඳුනා ගනිමින් ඊට බලපාන හේතු පිළිබඳව ආචාරධර්මීය විශ්ලේෂණයක් ඉදිරිපත් කිරීමයි.

ක්‍රමවේදය: මෙම ගවේෂණාත්මක අධ්‍යයනය සඳහා උතුරු පළාතේ වවුනියාව දිස්ත්‍රික්කයේ ඕමන්ත ප්‍රදේශය පර්යේෂණ ක්ෂේත්‍රය වශයෙන් යොදා ගන්නා ලදී. අවස්ථානුකුල නියැදීම යටතේ ළමා විවාහයට ඇතුළත් සිටින වයස අවුරුදු 18 ට අඩු දමිළ තරුණියන් 10 ක්, ඔවුන්ගේ සහකරුවන් සහ දෙමාපියන් යොදා ගනිමින් ප්‍රාථමික දත්ත ලෙස සම්මුඛ සාකච්ඡා ක්‍රමය ඔස්සේ ආචාරධර්මීය ප්‍රවේශ විශ්ලේෂණය ඇසුරින් දත්ත රැස් කරන ලදී.

ප්‍රතිඵල: පශ්චාත් යුධ කලාපයක් වන මෙම දමිළ ග්‍රාමීය සමාජය තුළ ළමා විවාහය යන සමාජීය ප්‍රපංචය සමාජ ප්‍රශ්න රැසක් නිර්මාණය කර ඇති බවට අධ්‍යයනයේදී හඳුනාගන්නා ලදී. අධ්‍යයන ක්‍රමවේද තුළින් ලබා ගත් තොරතුරු අනුව ළමා විවාහයන් වර්ධනය වීම සඳහා බලපාන හේතුන් ලෙස, මාතෘ සහ පිතෘ විහීනතාවය (මව පියා මියයාම, විදේශගතවීම, පවුලෙන් වෙන්වීම හෝ දික්කසාද වීම), නිවසේ මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය භාවිතය, නව යොවුන්වියේ ඇතිවන විරුද්ධ ලිංගික ආකර්ෂණය, ප්‍රජනන සෞඛ්‍ය පිළිබඳව නොදැනුවත්කම, පාසල්වියේ ප්‍රේම සබඳතා වැනි සාධක ප්‍රධාන විය. තවද දිළිඳුකමින් මිදීම උදෙසා ගැහැණු දරුවන් අඩු වයසින් විවාහ කරදීම වැනි සාධක ද ඒ අතර විය.

නිගමනය: ඒ අනුව ළමා කාලයේ පීඩාකාරී අත්දැකීම් ඔවුන්ගේ වර්යාවට සෘජු ලෙස බලපාන බවත් ජීවත්වන්නා වූ සමාජ පරිසරය ද ප්‍රතිමාන අභ්‍යන්තරීකරණය වන බවත් අධ්‍යයනය තුළින් නිගමනය කළ හැකිය. ඒ අනුව ළමා විවාහ ශ්‍රී ලංකාව තුළ වර්ධනීය මට්ටමක් පෙන්නුම් කරන ආචාරධර්මීය ගැටලුවක් ලෙස දිශාගත වී පවතින බව මෙම අධ්‍යයනය තුළින් විද්‍යාමාන වී තිබේ.

මූඛ්‍ය පද : ළමා විවාහ, පශ්චාත් යුධ, වවුනියාව ඕමන්ත ප්‍රදේශය

ICCP/SL/OP/057

Intervention related to student hostels being run illegally by private individuals

தனியாரினால் சட்டவிரோதமாக நடாத்தப்பட்டுவருகின்ற மாணவர் விடுதி தொடர்பான இடையீடு

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அறிமுகம்: பிரதேச சிறுவர் பாதுகாப்பு உத்தியோகத்தராகிய என்னால் சட்டவிரோதமாக நடாத்தப்பட்டு வருகின்ற மாணவர் விடுதி தொடர்பான முறைப்பாட்டை நேரடியாக இடையீடு செய்ததன் மூலம் இனங்காணப்பட்ட சிறுவர் பாதுகாப்புக்கு அச்சுறுத்தலாக உள்ள விடயங்களை எனது ஆய்வு ஆராய்கின்றது. எனது இடையீடு ஊடாக எழுகின்ற பிரதான கேள்வி சிறுவர் இல்லங்களில் உள்ள சிறுவர்களை மீண்டும் அவர்களுடைய குடும்பத்துடன் மீள் இணைப்பதற்கான பரிந்துரைகளை ஐக்கியநாடுகள் சபை உலக நாடுகளுக்கு வலியுறுத்தி வருகின்ற நிலையில், இலங்கை அரசு சிறுவர் இல்லங்களை படிப்படியாக மூடி வருகின்ற சூழ்நிலையில் மாணவர் விடுதிகள் புதிதாக உருவாகி வருவதை கட்டுப்படுத்த அரசிடம் என்ன பொறிமுறை உள்ளது என்பதாகும்.

ஆய்வு முறையியல்: இடையீட்டின் போது அவதானம் மற்றும் பேட்டி மற்றும் தகவல் அறியும் உரிமை சட்டம் ஊடாக தகவல்கள் சேகரிக்கப்பட்டது. இடையீட்டின் ஊடாக பின்வரும் விடயங்கள் அடையாளம் காணப்பட்டது. இலங்கையிலோ அல்லது வட மாகாண நன்னடத்தை சிறுவர் பராமரிப்பு சேவைகள் திணைக்களத்திடமோ சிறுவர் இல்லங்களை நடாத்துவதற்கு மட்டுமே சட்ட ஏற்பாடுகள் மற்றும் நியதி சட்டங்கள் உள்ளது. மாணவர் விடுதி தொடர்பாக இலங்கையிலோ அல்லது வட மாகாண நன்னடத்தை சிறுவர் பராமரிப்பு சேவைகள் திணைக்களத்திடமோ சட்ட ஏற்பாடுகள் எவையும் இல்லை. எனவே சட்டத்தின் பிடியில் இருந்து தப்புவதற்கு சிறுவர் இல்லத்துக்கு பிரதியீடாக மாணவர் விடுதிகள் உருவாகி வருகின்றது. என்னால் இடையீடு செய்யப்பட்ட மாணவர் விடுதி எவ்வித அடிப்படை வசதிகளும் இல்லாமல் முறையான அரச நிறுவனங்களின் கண்காணிப்பும் இல்லாமல் இயங்கி வருகின்றது. ஒரு மாகாணத்தில் இருந்து இன்னுமொரு மாகாணத்துக்கு சிறுவர்களை முறையான அனுமதி இல்லாமல் உள்வாங்குகியுள்ளனர். சட்டவிரோதமாக உருவாகி வருகின்ற மாணவர் விடுதிகளுக்கு எதிராக சட்ட நடவடிக்கை எடுக்க வேண்டிய வட மாகாண நன்னடத்தை சிறுவர் பராமரிப்பு சேவைகள் திணைக்களம் தங்களிடம் மாணவர் விடுதி தொடர்பான சட்ட ஏற்பாடு இல்லை என்ற காரணத்தால் சட்டவிரோதமாக உருவாகி வருகின்ற மாணவர் விடுதிகளுக்கு எதிராக சட்ட நடவடிக்கை எடுக்க பின்னடித்து வருகின்றது.

ஆய்வு முடிவு: எனது இடையீடு ஊடாக கண்டறிந்த விடயம் சிறுவர்கள் குடும்ப சூழலுடன் வாழ்வதற்கு அச்சுறுத்தலாக வியாபார நோக்கில் உருவாகி வருகின்ற மாணவர் விடுதிகளை அரசாங்கம் ஆரம்பத்திலேயே கட்டுப்படுத்தாவிடின் பாடசாலைகளுக்கு நிகராக தனியார் கல்வி நிலையங்கள் உருவாகி உள்ளது போல சிறுவர் இல்லங்களுக்கு நிகராக மாணவர் விடுதிகள் எதிர்காலத்தில் அதிகரிக்கலாம்.

முடிவுரை: எனவே அரசாங்கம் சிறுவர் இல்லங்களை படிப்படியாக குறைத்து வருவதற்கு எடுக்கும் முயற்சிகளுக்கு மேலதிகாக பாடசாலை நிர்வாகம் அல்லாத தனிநபர்கள் மாணவர் விடுதி என்ற போர்வையில் சிறுவர் இல்லங்களை ஆரம்பிப்பதை நிறுத்துவதற்கு புதிய சட்டங்களை உருவாக்கி நடைமுறைப்படுத்த வேண்டும் என்பதே எனது பரிந்துரை ஆகும்.

திறவுச்சொற்கள்: சிறுவர் இல்லங்கள், மாணவர் விடுதிகள், சிறுவர் பாதுகாப்பு சட்டங்கள்

ICCP/SL/OP/319

ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ සියදිවි නසාගැනීමේ ක්‍රමවල වෙනස්වන රටා: ස්ත්‍රී පුරුෂ භාවය මත පදනම් වූ වර්ගීකරණයක් (2016 - 2021)

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සංවර්ධන අධ්‍යයනය, භූගෝල විද්‍යා අධ්‍යයනාංශය,සමාජ විද්‍යා පීඨය, කැලණිය විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය
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පසුබිම: ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ සියදිවි නසාගැනීම් තවමත් දැඩි මහජන සෞඛ්‍ය ගැටළුවක් වන අතර, කාලයත් සමඟ ක්‍රමවේද සහ ප්‍රවණතාවල ස්ත්‍රී පුරුෂ භාවය මත පදනම් වූ වෙනස්කම් ඇත. මෙම අධ්‍යයනය 2016 සිට 2021 දක්වා වසර හයක කාලයක් තුළ සියදිවි නසාගැනීම් සිද්ධීන්හි තාවකාලික ප්‍රවණතා, ක්‍රම සහ ස්ත්‍රී පුරුෂ භාවය විශ්ලේෂණය කිරීමයි. මෙහි අරමුණු වූයේ වඩාත් ප්‍රචලිත සියදිවි නසාගැනීමේ ක්‍රම හඳුනා ගැනීම, ස්ත්‍රී පුරුෂ භාවය-විශේෂිත රටා පරීක්ෂා කිරීම සහ සියදිවි නසාගැනීමේ වසරින් වසර ප්‍රවණතා තක්සේරු කිරීමයි.

ක්‍රම වේදය: මෙම අධ්‍යයනය ජනගහන හා සංඛ්‍යාලේඛන දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ සියදිවි නසාගැනීම් ආශ්‍රිත වාර්තා භාවිතා කරමින් ද්විතීයික දත්ත විශ්ලේෂණ ප්‍රවේශයක් භාවිතා කළේය. 2016 සිට 2021 දක්වා ක්‍රමානුකූල දත්ත එකතු කිරීම භාවිතා කරමින් නිරීක්ෂණ පාදක ප්‍රවේශයක් භාවිතා කළේය. දත්ත කට්ටලයට සියදිවි නසාගැනීමේ අවස්ථා 18,958 ක් ඇතුළත් වූ අතර ඒවා එකිනෙකට වෙනස් ක්‍රම 15 කින් වර්ගීකරණය කර ස්ත්‍රී පුරුෂ භාවය අනුව වෙන් කරන ලදි. දත්ත විශ්ලේෂණය සමානුපාතිකයන්, ප්‍රතිශත සහ තාවකාලික ප්‍රවණතා විශ්ලේෂණය ඇතුළු විස්තරාත්මක සංඛ්‍යාලේඛන භාවිතා කළේය . සංඛ්‍යානමය විශ්ලේෂණයට ස්ත්‍රී පුරුෂ භාවය ගණනය කිරීම, ක්‍රම-නිශ්චිත බෙදාහැරීම් සහ රටා හඳුනා ගැනීම සඳහා වසරින් වසර ප්‍රතිශත වෙනස්කම් ඇතුළත් විය.

ප්‍රතිඵල: විශ්ලේෂණයෙන් වසර හයක කාලය තුළ මුළු සිද්ධීන් 18,958 ක් අනාවරණය වූ අතර, වාර්ෂිකව සාමාන්‍ය රෝගීන් 3,160 ක් වාර්තා විය . පිරිමින් 79.5% ක් (n=15,077) වූ අතර කාන්තාවන් 20.5% ක් (n=3,881) වූ අතර පිරිමි-ගැහැණු අනුපාතය 3.9:1 7 ක් විය . වඩාත් ප්‍රචලිත ක්‍රම තුන වූයේ ගෙල සිර කිරීම (49.8%, n=9,444), කෘමිනාශක සහ පළිබෝධනාශක පානය කිරීම (21.3%, n=4,033) සහ වෙනත් ක්‍රම (6.2%, n=1,175)7 ය . කාලික විශ්ලේෂණයෙන් 2018 දී උපරිම සිදුවීම් (n=3,281) සහ 2020 දී අඩුම සිදුවීම් (n=2,974) පෙන්නුම් කළ අතර වසරින් වසර විචල්‍යතාවය 4.3% කි . විශේෂයෙන්, 2020 දත්ත මගින් අවි ආයුධ භාවිතය (16.5%) සහ පුපුරණ ද්‍රව්‍ය (10.2%) වැඩි වීමත් සමඟ අසාමාන්‍ය රටා ප්‍රදර්ශනය කරයි .

නිගමනය : ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ ප්‍රමුඛතම සියදිවි නසාගැනීමේ ක්‍රමය ලෙස ගෙල සිර කිරීම තවමත් පවතින අතර, ඉලක්කගත මැදිහත්වීමක් අවශ්‍ය වේ. පළිබෝධනාශක ආශ්‍රිත සියදිවි නසාගැනීම් අඩුවීම නියාමන පාලනයන්හි බලපෑම පෙන්නුම් කරන අතර, ගිනි අවි ආශ්‍රිත සහ ඉහළ ලක්ෂ්‍ය පැනීමේ සියදිවි නසාගැනීම් වල වැඩිවීම පෙන්නුම් කරයි. මත්ද්‍රව්‍ය එන්නත් වැනි නැගී එන ක්‍රම සමීප නිරීක්ෂණය කිරීම අවශ්‍ය වේ. නිර්දේශ අතරට පොදු ක්‍රම (උදා: පළිබෝධනාශක සහ ගිනි අවි) වෙත ප්‍රවේශය සීමා කිරීම, මානසික සෞඛ්‍ය සේවා ශක්තිමත් කිරීම සහ අවදානම් සහිත ජනගහනය ඉලක්ක කර ගනිමින් දැනුවත් කිරීමේ ව්‍යාපාර දියත් කිරීම ඇතුළත් වේ. සියදිවි නසාගැනීම් අනුපාත අඩු කිරීම සඳහා පිරිමින් සඳහා ප්‍රජා සම්බන්ධතා වැඩසටහන් සහ වැඩිදියුණු කළ නියාමන පියවර ඉතා වැදගත් වේ. ක්‍රම තෝරා ගැනීම පිටුප ස ඇති හේතු තේරුම් ගැනීමට සහ වඩාත් ඵලදායී වැළැක්වීමේ ප්‍රතිපත්ති දැනුම් දීමට තවදුරටත් පර්යේෂණ අවශ්‍ය වේ.

මූඛ්‍ය පද: සියදිවි නසාගැනීමේ ක්‍රම, සයි දිවි නසාගැනීම් සිද්ධි , ස්ත්‍රී පුරුෂ වනස්කම්

ICCP/SL/OP/ 277

පරිවර්තන අධ්‍යයන විද්‍යාර්ථීන් ළමා ආරක්ෂණය හා සම්බන්ධ පාඨ පරිවර්තනයේ දී Termino Hub යෙදවුම භාවිත කිරීමේ ප්‍රවණතාව පිළිබඳ අධ්‍යයනයක්

කාරියවසම් කේ. ඩී. ටී. එන්.[1]

වාග්විද්‍යා අධ්‍යයන අංශය, කැලණිය විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය
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පසුබිම: වර්තමානය වන විට භාෂා පරිවර්තන ක්‍රියාවලිය සාම්ප්‍රදායික මානවීය පරිවර්තනයෙන් ඔබ්බට ගොස් යාන්ත්‍රිකරණය සමග මුසුව තිබේ. තාක්ෂණයේ දියුණුවත් සමග භාෂා පරිවර්තන කාර්යය සඳහා විවිධ යෙදවුම් පරිවර්තකයන් විසින් උපයෝගී කරගනු ලබන ආකාරය දැකගත හැක. සාර්ථක පරිවර්තනයක් සිදුකිරීමට එලදායි යෙදවුමක භාවිතය ඉතා වැදගත් ය. Termino Hub එවැන්නකි. රාජ්‍ය භාෂා දෙපාර්තමේන්තුව විසින් හඳුන්වා දෙන ලද මෙහි, ක්ෂේත්‍ර ගණනාවක් පුරා විහිදී ණු තුන් ලක්ෂයකට අධික පාරිභාෂික පද සමන්විත ය. ඉන් එක් ක්ෂේත්‍රයක් ලෙස "ස්ත්‍රී පුරුෂ සමාජභාවය සහ අන්තර්කරණය" යන්න හඳුන්වාදිය හැක. ඒ යටතේ ළමා ආරක්ෂණය සම්බන්ධ පාරිභාෂික පදමාලා දැකගත හැක. භාෂා පරිවර්තන අධ්‍යයන විද්‍යාර්ථීන් ළමා ආරක්ෂණය සම්බන්ධ පාඨ පරිවර්තනයේ දී Termino Hub යෙදවුම භාවිත කරනු ලැබීමේ ප්‍රවණතාව කෙබඳු ද යන්න විමසා බැලීම මෙම පර්යේෂණයේ අරමුණ යි.

ක්‍රම වේදය: ප්‍රමාණාත්මක සහ ගුණාත්මක දත්ත රැස් කිරීමේ මිශ්‍ර ක්‍රමවේදය යටතේ පර්යේෂණයට අදාල ප්‍රාථමික දත්ත ලබාගැනීම සඳහා පරිවර්තන අධ්‍යයන උපාධි පාඨමාලාව හදාරන විශ්ව විද්‍යාලයීය විද්‍යාර්ථීන් පනස් දෙනෙකු අතර ප්‍රශ්නාවලියක් ගුගල් පෝරම භාවිතයෙන් බෙදා දීමත්, ඔවුන් අතුරින් තෝරාගත් විද්‍යාර්ථීන් දස දෙනෙකු සමග සම්මුඛ සාකච්ඡා පැවැත්වීමත් සිදුකරන ලදි.

ප්‍රතිඵල: පර්යේෂණයෙන් ලද දත්ත විශ්ලේෂණයේ දී අනාවරණය වූයේ ළමා ආරක්ෂණය සම්බන්ධ පාඨ පරිවර්තනයේ දී විද්‍යාර්ථීන් වැඩි ප්‍රමාණයක් Termino Hub යෙදවුම භාවිත කරන බව යි. ඉතා අවම පිරිසක් Google Translate භාවිත කරන බව හඳුනාගත හැකි විය. බොහෝ පිරිසක් පවසන්නේ Termino Hubහි ළමා ආරක්ෂණය සම්බන්ධ පද ඉතා පැහැදිලිව, නිරවද්‍යව, සමරූපී යෙදුම් සහිතව ක්ෂේත්‍රය මනාව නියෝජනය කරමින් දක්වා ඇති බව යි. එමගින් පරිවර්තන කාර්යය පහසු වන බව ඔවුහු පවසති. Termino Hub භාවිත නොකරන විද්‍යාර්ථීන් ඊට හේතු ලෙස ඉදිරිපත් කර තිබුණේ එය භාවිතයේ දී ඇතැම් අවස්ථාවල මතුවන තාක්ෂණික දෝෂ පිළිබඳ පවතින අප්‍රසාදය යි.

නිගමනය : රැස් කරගත් දත්ත හා එළැඹුණු නිගමන අනුව, විද්‍යාර්ථීන් ළමා ආරක්ෂණය සම්බන්ධ පාඨ පරිවර්තනයේ දී Termino Hub භාවිත කිරීමේ ප්‍රවණතාව වැඩි කරමින් වඩාත් නිරවද්‍ය පරිවර්තනයක් සිදු කිරීමට අවකාශය සැලසීම සඳහා එම යෙදවුම යාවත්කාලීන කිරීම, තාක්ෂණික දෝෂ ඇතිවීම අවම කිරීම, ස්ත්‍රී පුරුෂ සමාජභාවය සහ අන්තර්කරණය ක්ෂේත්‍රයට අදාල පදමාලාව තවදුරටත් පුළුල් කිරීම ආදිය මෙම පර්යේෂණයට අදාල නිර්දේශ ලෙස දැක්විය හැකි ය.

මුඛ්‍ය පද: පරිවර්තනය, පාරිභාෂික පද, ළමා ආරක්ෂණය, විද්‍යාර්ථීන්, ඌරපසබඳ සමඉ යෙදවුම

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Thank you.