

## Self-image to child abuse and family violence

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**Abstract.** The study investigated the relationship between Family Violence and Self-image. The researcher was founded this problem through a number of families and educational Institution. Researcher has tried to a measure, (self-image) in children Violence against children through the application (Test-Self-Image) prepared of this purpose , and applied scale to a random sample of(100) children were selected after applying scale of Violence against children, which was prepared by researcher. statistical concluded to results: The children Victims of Violence their (self- image )was negative. And there are difference of statistical significance in the negative (self – image) between male and females, and to favor to males.

**Key words:** Self-image, Family Violence.

### 1 INTRODUCTION

The problem of Human Violence in the forefront of issues that attracted considerable controversy around thinkers but did not reach a solution. The Family Violence which take place within the family context is considered one of the complementary aspects of human violence.

The problem of Violence against children neglected is not just an old problem, but it is today stands with many of the intractable problems that you wait research and theorizing which are prevalent in most communities. The researcher was founded this problem through a number of families and educational Institution. (self –image) is an important part of the Human personality and the foundation to guide human behavior individual, whether normal or subnormal behavior this depends mainly on the experiences, experiments and conflicts experienced by individuals, where these properties determine at (self-image) of individuals, whether if they positive, where they are individuals confident of their abilities and their thoughts or a negative (self-image) where they are faltering in their action and abilities.

Child abuse is the physical, psychological, social, emotional or sexual maltreatment of a child. It harms or endangers the survival, safety, self-esteem, growth and/or development of the child. It can involve a single act or a pattern of incidents.

- **Physical abuse:** is the deliberate use of force against a child which results, or may result, in bodily harm. It includes behaviors such as shaking, choking, biting, kicking, burning, poisoning, holding a child under water, or any harmful or dangerous use of restraint.
- **Emotional abuse:** refers to acts or omissions that harm a child's sense of self in a way that causes, or could cause, behavioral, cognitive and emotional disorders. This includes making verbal threats, put-downs, forcing a child into social isolation, intimidating, exploiting, terrorizing or routinely making unreasonable demands of a child.

- **Sexual abuse:** ranges from sexual harassment to sexual activity. It includes attempted or completed sexual relations, touching genitals, exposing adult genitals, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, and voyeurism. Neglect occurs when the child's basic needs are not being met. Physical neglect may involve inadequate food, clothing, shelter, cleanliness, medical care and protection from harm. Emotional neglect occurs when a child's need to feel loved, wanted, safe and worthy is not met. ([www.rcmp.gc.ca](http://www.rcmp.gc.ca))

Researcher has tried to measure (self-image) in children. Violence against children through the application (Test-Self-Image) prepared for this purpose, and applied scale to a random sample of (100) children were selected after applying scale of Violence against children, which was prepared by researcher. After the processors statistical concluded to results :

- 1- The children Victims of Violence their (self- image )was negative.
- 2- There are difference of statistical significance in the negative (self – image) between male and females, and to favor to males.

## 2 Statement the problem

The study is importance because children make up a large and important segment in the population pyramid . The number of children today estimated by 1.7 billion about 32 % of the earth's population, ( 1.4 ) billion or ( 82 % ) live in the developing countries .

As for Iraq , the number of children according to ( 1997 ) is ( 100019174 ) and the number of the population in Iraq is ( 22046244 ) , so the rate of children to the total number of the population is around ( 46.48 % ) , this rate is come closer to the rate of children under 15 year in the Arab homeland , where the global rate is ( 3710 ) of all the countries of the world , and ( 28 % ) of the advanced industrial countries , and ( 44 % ) of the third world countries .

Another significance of this study is sheds lights on the hazard of the problem of the violence against children vulnerability and the consequences .

Also , this study highlights the importance of the risk in the problem of violence against children because what this problem causes of devastating effects on the individual and the family especially children and its impact society .

Despite the reticence of some authorities and families of the cases of violence , basing on global statistics taken from the report submitted by the expert ( Paulo Sergio Pinheiro ) to the united nations at the request of the secretary – general , the report stressing on how children exposure to the violence , the report includes the following :

About ( 80- 98 % ) of children exposure for the domestic violence ( Paulo Sergio Pinheiro ) the report submitted to UN).

Obtaining accurate statistics on the cases of domestic violence against children is somehow difficult , even in the developed countries because of the unwillingness of parents to report its else the distinction between injuries caused by unintended accidents and deliberate violation against children is not always easy .

There is not clear statistic on the prevalence of violence against children ( despite the hard pursuit of the researcher for investigation in the relevant institutions ) that is for many reasons

, like the lack of serious studies for such subject , in addition to the social factors that many prevent from reporting such cases and the dominated culture in general does not consider some images of violence , such as hitting , humiliate and harm a child psychologically a sanctity of the child but it does consider it a part of the socialization process .

However , the researcher during a visit to a number of schools and hospitals interviewed a number of cases of children who exposure to hitting on sensitive parts of the body or hitting with a sharp instrument on the head . A number of children complained from exposure to burning by cigarettes or cases being locked in the bathroom for several hours by their parents as well as cases of contempt , humiliation and insult , also reducing the value of the child and making fun of him .

The importance of the current study comes to discover how the violence affects the child on the aspects of his personality which includes his vision for himself , as well as calling the attention to the domestic violence cases to protect the child from results that might getting rid of it are not very much that easy , it's worth to mention that it's on attempt to altered families that practice violence against their children and illustrates the gravity of this on their present and future . And it's also considers the first Iraqi study as far as the researcher know aims to measure the self-image in the punished children .

Targets of search the research aims to :

- 1 - Measuring self-image in the punished child
- 2 – Balancing in self – image between males & females of the punished children

### **3 Limits of the research**

the current search determined by the punished children of the primary stage students in Baghdad city for the academic year of ( 2011 – 2012 )

### **4 Definition of Terminology**

#### **Self- image**

**Allport Definitions 1961** :Self- image is agnostic factor included in the protection's effort to preserve the unity of the personality self – image includes three axes which are : approach that makes child sees his abilities position his roles and what would like to be in the future his ambitions for himself and what is exist in an individual ( All port , P.382 , 1961 ) .

**Dimble Definitions 1985**:Self- image is how to realize the self and it's the number of the self- impressions that have arisen over time and it does comprise hopes dreams and what you think about and what you feel and what you did and what you want to do in your life ( Dimble , 1985 , P.50 ) .

**Procedural definition of self-image**: the total score obtained by individual through the response to the items of the self – image paragraph prepared for this purpose .

#### **Domestic violence :**

**Heise Definitions 1999 :**Any physical , psychological and sexual abuse located on of the family member from another member of the same family ( Al-Yousuf and Al-Pomaihi , 2005 : 14 )

**Al-Najjar Definitions 2010 :**Is any violent or hurtful or offensive action that threatens the child's life or causes him physical or psychological harm or suffering (Al-Najjar 2010,p22)

**Child abuse :** Child abuse is the physical, psychological, social, emotional or sexual maltreatment of a child. It harms or endangers the survival, safety, self- esteem, growth and/or development of the child. It can involve a single act or a pattern of incidents. .([www.rcmp.gc.ca](http://www.rcmp.gc.ca))

Anyhow , the issue of childhood remains caught in that age space that begins from the moment of birth until the age of puberty , in accordance with the local laws each country .

## **5 Background of Research:**

### **First – self image**

The self- image means , the aware aspects of the self that includes the thought , situations , values and traditions and all that matters that can be award checked and discussed by us with the other if we want

Every person has its own self –image which essentially affected by the impression that the person make about himself , that means that the person many make unrealistic self- image , this image might be under mined or giving it more than it deserves , in both cases the individual makes a volatile personality and abnormal behavior that leads to a negative images the self is working to keep a good image for her and maintain a good and a high esteem for her most of people wish to get better in certain aspects or have in exist characteristics , the psychologists had confirmed that the great disparity between the ideal self and the personal self represents one of the means to measure self – esteem and the ideal self and the personal self – image represent the image of the human about himself ( Levine , 1963 , P. 97 -98 ) .

Theorists that follow Rogers use the difference between the real – image and the ideal self-image as a measure of poor accordance and the reducing of this difference as a measure of the improving in the accordance after the psychotherapy . ( Bauer , 1976 , P.96 ) .

### **Developed of self – image**

The psychologists specialists in character from a long time have confirmed that everyone has his own self- image and they pointed that every person also has two images , the first is the real self – image , the second is the ideal self- image , the difference between the real and the ideal if it great leads to a negative self – image , and if the difference is little bit , it will lead to a positive image ( Newcomb , 1965 , P.93-99 ) .

Most of the self theorists like Roygers , All port agree that the child develops his concept about himself through interpretation with others , and not only from what he observes about his self , as well as the child develops a pattern about what he should be , in addition he makes a public concept about others ( Lundgren , 1979 , P.500 ) .

Dimble by refers that self-image includes three main axes :

1 – Self , as I think others see me .

2 – Self , as I love being.

3 – Self , as I think.

( Dimble by , 1985 , P. 7)

The self – image varies from one person to another and this difference related to the age and intelligence in individuals ( Pervtn , 1970 , P.326 ) .The degree of difference between the image that the person wants other people to see him with and the image that valley people see themselves with , has a positive effect in changing individuals according to what society expect from them when the individual feels that other see him with a negative image , that will lead him to severely change his image because he feels failure ( Leary & Kowalski , 1990 , P.38 ) the development of self-image for the child negatively or positively depends on praise or slander which child received by the parents or those who raise him , the constantly praise for the child leads to a positive and a high estimate for the self on the other hand the constant slander and calling him with bad qualities leads him to a negative self-image and low estimate for himself ( the self ) .

Both of Jourard and Remy on 1955 have reviewed the degree through which the self image can be modified and that takes place by the understanding of the child to the praise of his parents , so scientists concluded that children are usually very sensitive in investigating the hidden emotional states in adults . ( Stagner , 1961 , P.188 ) social psychologists like Cooley 1902 and Mead 1939 have confirmed the theory of ( looking glass self theory ) according to this point of view , the child doesn't be able to know himself automatically as a person but he knows that the other understand him as a person with special qualifications , and since he begins acquiring the qualities of things from the parents and others in his environment , he starts to accept his self – image , and he also starts to look at that through the assessment of his surrounding self – image always takes the entitlements qualification , for example , intelligence and beauty , self – image in the child reflects the opinions which the other adopted about him , when child judges himself , he should use ideas that he gained from the surrounding social environment , therefore the self-image has a very inevitability relationship with the community . ( Stanger , 1961 , P.185 ) .

## **Second – Domestic violence**

### **Factors affecting the domestic violence**

A – Family upbringing of parents :

Violence means ( the behavior that aims to harm or hurt others ) and it's one of the most important and unique features which arises during the early child heave , and it does modify as a result of the exercising of the social upbringing process ( Mussen , P.H , et al , 1979 , P.339 ) .

Some of the studies have shown that the methods of some mothers characterized with stringent in the aggression attitudes toward children in most Arab societies ( Prothro , E.T1961 , P.93 – 94) .Social studies demonstrated in Baghdad and its suburbs the existence of this tough style in some Iraqi mothers .

The style of beating rebuke in the treatment of unwanted behavior leads to increase the aggression in children and that is often in the environments with low , economical and cultural level and medium

And rarely occurs in the class families ( Davis , W.A et al 1996 , P.698 – 710 ) .

Arab family is a patriarchal pyramidal family , the differentiation and work distribution in it based on sex and age , the male overpowers the male and the old rules over the young ( Al-Attayah , 1983 , P. 68 ) .

#### B – Parental cruelty:

This style is characterized with the strict discipline for the child issuing orders and the repeated punishment, whether physical such as beating by hand or stick or by ignoring his desires or deprives him from getting certain privileges such as money or sweets and imposing the opinion of the parents on the child and standing against his spontaneous desires and prevent achieving even if they are legitimate all that working on detriment the mental health for the child and motivates him to take inharmonious behavioral methods like surrender, miserable, withdraw, lack of self-confidence and others, hostile and low academic achievement in the next stages of life. ( Al-Rimawi : 1998 , P.226 ).

The authoritarian style prevails in the rural communities because of the low degree of the economical and educational level of the families there, this is of one side, and in another part the societies are differentiated to interpret their actions or concepts, what they consider it true or accepted in the society may be not as such in another society, to understand manner or action made by parents towards their children that is from necessary to own information about the society that parents live in, if we see either slap her son actively to know educational means that mother concluded them in some of social cases, considered the slapping as legislative & active educational manner, however it is considered in another communities as prohibited or serious ( R. Bord Won Rif Burico , 1968 , P. 433 ).

**C – Extra pampering of parents** this approach is represented by an extra protection and intense fear from both parents or one of them on the child physical & psychological health, therefore we find parents completely control the child and they insist that he has to obey them. This style has the following features :

- 1 – The surrender to the wishes of the child, regardless whether it is possible or impossible.
- 2 – Overtaking the mistakes of the child & protect him from the results of these mistakes
- 3 – The overpowering of the child & controlling his family memories, if one of his parents refuses his demands, he will start violence screaming, kicking and beating, smashing some pieces of the furniture after that parents rush to satisfy the child.

#### D – Preference males over females

The preference of sons is a universal issue and it is not only related to the developing countries or rural areas, actually it's a dedicated exercise in value system in most communities, the preference of sons of girls is phenomenon that exceeded cultures

## 6 Search procedures

### First test – study sample

The researcher visited eight elementary schools in Baghdad city, to choose the punished child and after the application of the domestic violence used in this research, 100 children were selected who got high scores on the scale.

"Table. 1 ."

Names of schools of research sample & its places and number of students

No.	School name	Geographic location	Students No.(Males )	Students No. ( Females )	Total
1	Miss Sukaina Primary School	Al-Hurriya Al-Ula	6	6	12

2	Al-Tasami School	Al-Hurriya Al-Ula	5	7	12
3	Al-Naser School	Al-Hurriya Al-Ula	6	6	12
4	Al-Mabdaa School	Al-Shila city	7	7	14
5	Tareq Bin Ziyad	Al-Shila city	6	5	11
6	Arabian Struggler	Al-Shila city	7	7	14
7	Aqba Bin Nafee	Al-Shila city	5	5	10
8	Al-Zahraa School	Al-Sader city	8	7	15
Total			50	50	100

### Names of schools of search sample & their locations pupils' number

#### Study tools:

1 – Measure of domestic violence against children .

This measure deigned after several violence situations have been determined , beside on the theories , studies the previous measures and the reconnaissance visits carried out by the researcher for a number of schools , 22 child of violence have been found spread over 3 fields which they are : physical psychological & negligence physical violence has included to forms : beating , beating with hand and hurtful tool , expulsion , imprisonment , strangulation , head shaving , deprivation of food , dragging hair and beating . The psychology violence has included eight fields : threat , rebuke , verbal abuse , humiliation , deprivation of playing . The negligence has included four types : cynicism , disregard contempt and irony

#### Validity of the scale:

Measure was presented to a number of psychology specialists to make sure of it is validity for measuring domestic violence against children & under the notes of the experts , the measure became consisted of ( 20 ) form of violence .

#### Stability of the scale ( measure :)

The stability of the scale was reached with the manner of re-test as ( 20 ) students were selected randomly out of the sample , re-measuring was applied on them ( 15 ) day of the first one . The value of the correlation between the two application of two tests was ( 0.86 ) , at level of significance ( 0.001 ) .

#### Second test – Self – image measure ( Scale )

The researcher has drafted several paragraphs or items by reading the theoretical frameworks the previous studies & the literature within this domain . All this led to get ( 80 ) paragraph that measure the variable of the self-image with two – way positive and negative .

#### Reconnaissance of experts' opinions :

Eighty paragraphs of self-image were offered that previously mentioned over number of specialists in psychology to judge range of responsibility of every paragraph to measure self-image and amending the required paragraphs .



And opinions of experts were taken into consideration which indicated to wording paragraphs , and range of its responsibility according to standard 80 % that led to make number of suitable paragraphs to measure self-image ( 61 ) paragraphs .

Analysis items : Eble signifies that the aim of this procedure is to keep characterized paragraphs in the measurement , and remove non characterized paragraphs in the measurement ( Eble , 1972 , P.392 ) the researcher depended through process of analyzing paragraphs on two manners to distinguish them : the first is manner of relation of mark of the paragraph in total and the other is the two extreme groups and it was stated that all paragraphs are distinct .

#### Reliability :

The researcher made a procedure of re-test on a sample of students reach ( 20 ) students ( males & females ) , and after passing period ( 15 ) it was applied the same measurement on the same sample to know consistency of the answer on this measurement over time , and after find factor of connection between marks of first test , and marks of second test , the reliability factor is to measure self-image ( 0.85 ) .

#### Show results :

First : Measuring of self-image required at severely children to use T-test of one sample t-test & Fig.4 clarifies what concluded .

"Table.2"

T-Test for one sample to significance of difference between  
Proposed mediation and account mediation in self-image

Sample number	Arithmetic mean	Proposed mean	Standard deviation	Free degree	Accounted T-value	Schedule T-value	Significance level
100	218	183	6.2	99	693.35	96.1	Significance at level 0.05

It is stated from Fig. 2 that average of marks of self-image at severely children that included with current research is ( 218 ) with standard deviation amount ( 6.2 ) comparison to proposed average of measurement amount ( 183 ) , and at test significance of difference between two averages by using T-test we find it statistical significance at significance level ( 0.05 ) this signifies that severely children are described with negative image .

Second : Balance in self-image between severely children ( males & females )

As related to comparison in self-image between males & females of severely children are included within current research , it was used T-test for two independent samples , Fig.no.5 explains what concluded in Fig.3 .

"Table .3"

T-test of significance of difference between males & females in self-image

Total	No.	average	Standard deviation	Free degree	Accounted T-value	Schedule T-value	Significance
Males	50	234.59	7.15	98	2.74	96.1	Significance at



<b>Females</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>99.6</b>	<b>3.22</b>				<b>level 05.0</b>
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Fig.3 signifies that children ( males ) different from females in themselves-image , where the result signifies difference of statistical significance at level 0.05 for benefit of females .

### 7 Interpretation of results :

1 – Result of first aim : It was stated that severely children are distinguished by negative self , and it is a result seems to be expected in the light of the studies that searched effects of violence on children that signified that view child to himself , and its thought about himself may be threatened , if he feels that he is disregarded or not cared or valueless , in addition that child if exposed to violence of different kinds may threaten whole his figure that reflected on concept of the child to himself .

2 – Result of second aim : Females have negative self-image larger than males self-image , this may returns back to the nature of prevailed social culture in mostly of Arabian communities as Iraqi society that makes females in level under level of males that may increase of possibility of their exposure to violence and that may affect directly on self-image at females .

Recommendation :based on the Results, the researchers recommends following:

- 1- Activating the laws to protecting children of the all forms of violence.
- 2- Emphasis on examining the factors which affecting in a negative to self-image to be avoided that.
- 3- Development to put programs to educate parents in the seriousness of the using of violence against their children, and their perceptions of themselves ,and taking into account to the differences between the male and female.

### 8 The proposals:

The researcher proposes the following:

- 1-conduct a study to measure the( self-image) of the larger samples from the current research sample to include school children all over Iraq especially social welfare institutions.
- 2-Conduct a study to measure the self-image in sample of adolescents who have been subjected to family violence in their childhood to know influence of exposure to violence with over time.
- 3-conduct a studies reveals the relationship between self-image and other variable , such as economic and cultural level of the parents.
- 4-Activation of the observation system and following up of state institutions and conduct visits un expectedly and interviewed with the children and following the staff personal for an investigate another extent of violence against the children.
- 5- promote and support the civil society organization to prevent the spread of cases of violence among children.
- 6- provision a safe opportunities and recreational for children girls and boys.

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