

RESOURCE MATERIAL SERIES
No. 100

Work Product of the 163rd International Training Course
“Children as Victims and Witnesses”

UNAFEI



Global Situation of Violence against Children

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Remember that...

Violence remains the **hard reality of children** around the globe regardless of economic and social circumstances, culture, religion or ethnicity

Experiences of violence often **overlap** and come in **multiple forms**

Children can be **victims, perpetrators and witnesses** to violence-**all at the same time**

Realities of VAC are far more confounding and multidimensional than any attempts to define, categorize or quantify it.



Also remember that...



10 Facts

about Violence against Children



1

of all homicide victims are children (approx. 95,000)



2

children are physically punished by caregivers on a regular basis



3

students involved in one or more physical fights



4

students experience bullying on a regular basis



10 Facts

about Violence against Children



adolescents admit to having bullied others at least once



girls report being victims of some form of physical violence



girls have been subjected to forced sexual intercourse or other forced sexual acts (approx. 12 million)



adolescent girls have been victims of violence committed by their husbands or partners (approx. 84 million)



10 Facts

about Violence against Children



adults believe that physical punishment is necessary



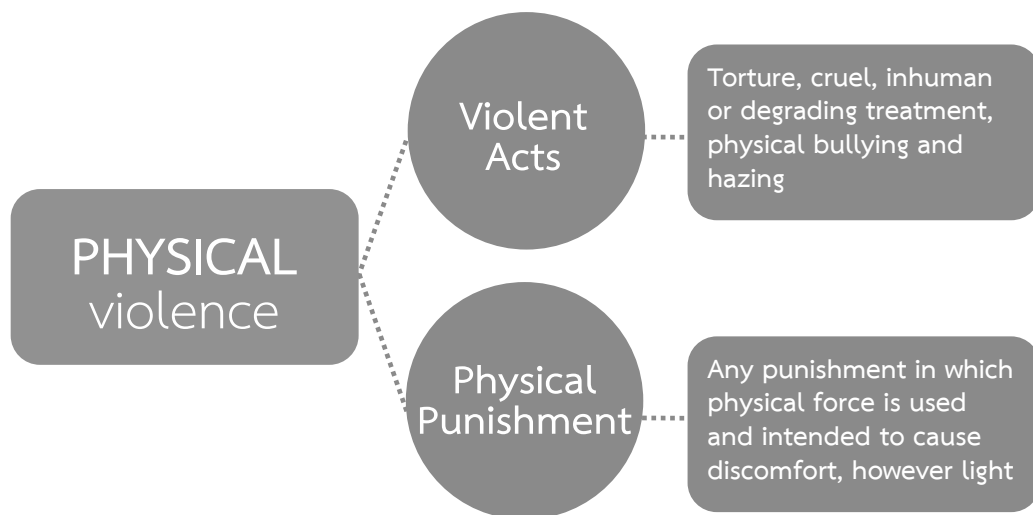
of all girls think a husband is sometimes justified in hitting or beating his wife (approx. 126 million)



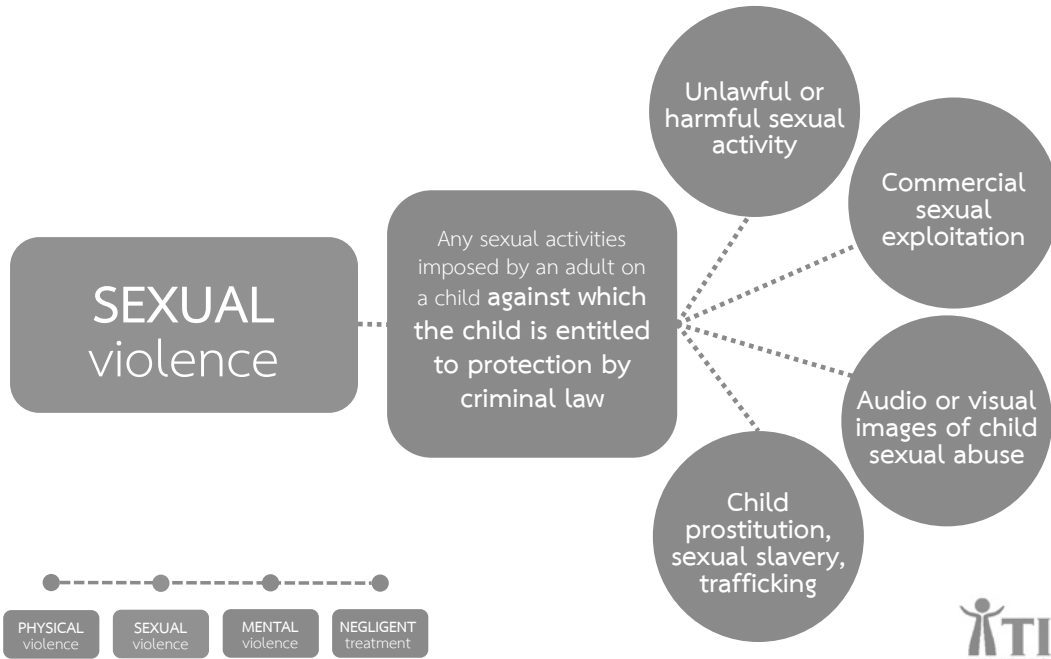
Common Forms of Violence against Children



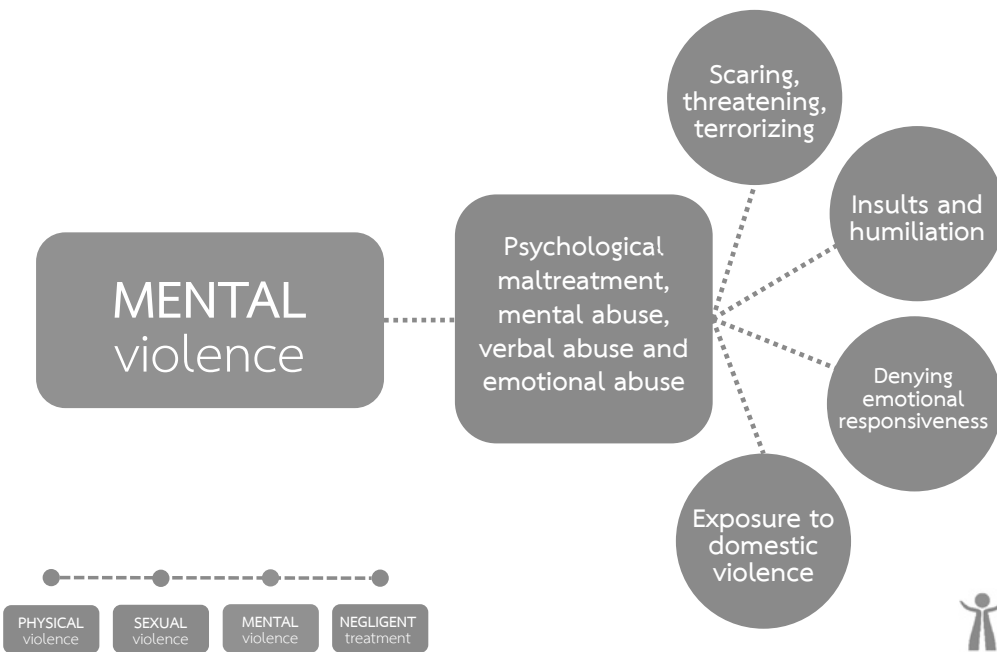
Common Forms of Violence against Children



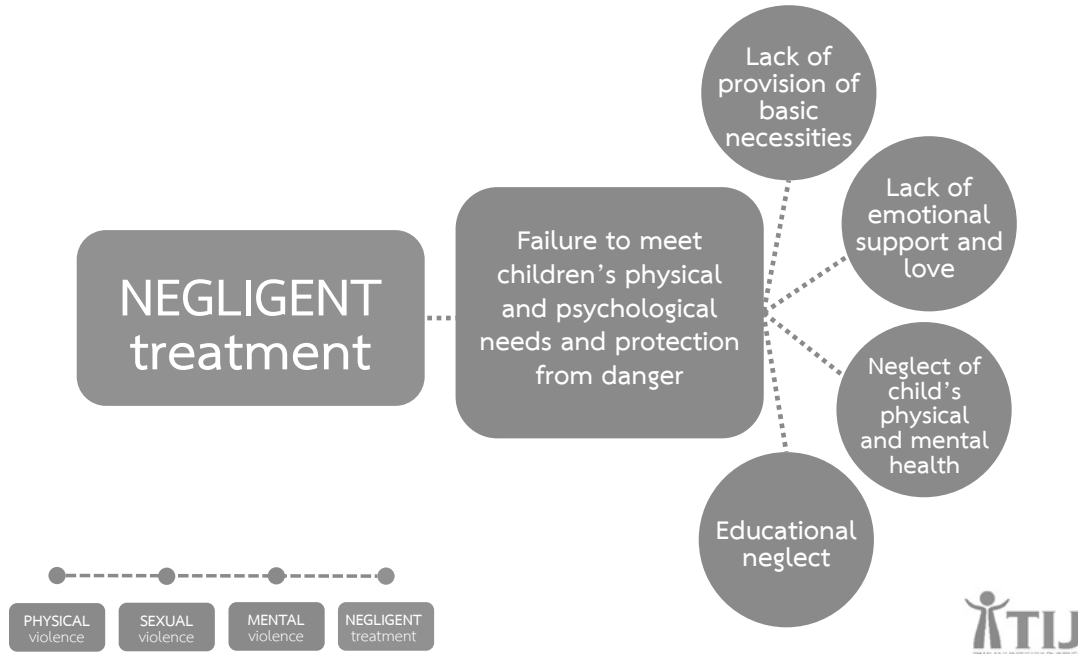
Common Forms of Violence against Children



Common Forms of Violence against Children



Common Forms of Violence against Children



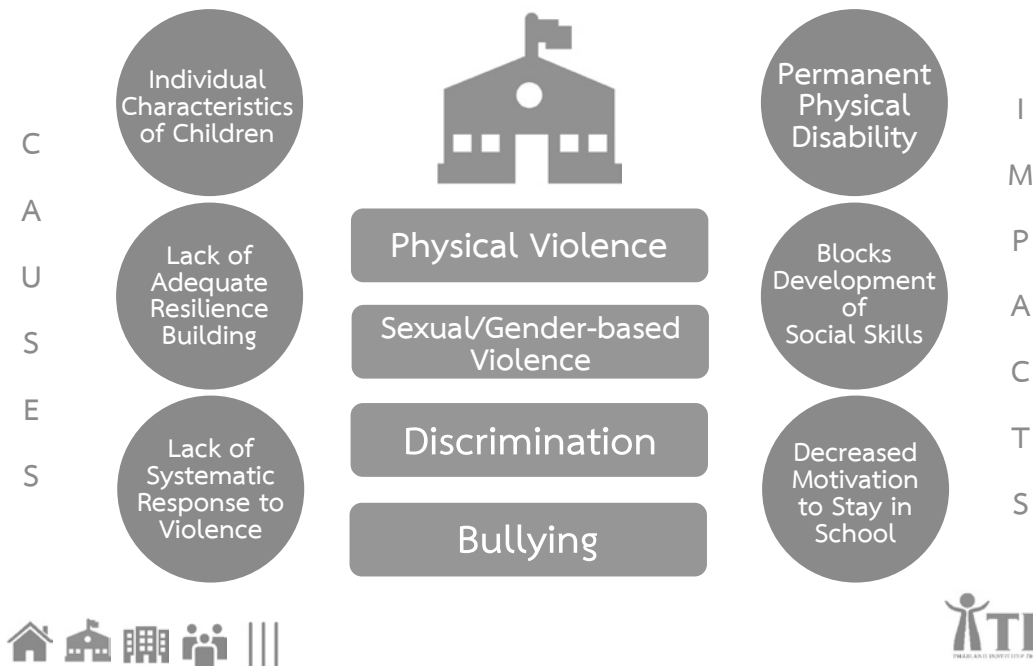
Violence against Children In Various Settings



Violence against Children In Various Settings : Home and Family



Violence against Children In Various Settings : School and Educational Settings



Violence against Children In Various Settings : Places of Work

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Children are perceived as weak

Unsafe Working Environment

Lack of Child Labour Protection Laws



Beating, Whipping, Shouting, Insulting

Excessive/Forced Labour, Under-Compensation

Forced into Drugs Trade/ Sexual Exploitation

Increased Child Involvement in Illicit Activities

Children Held in Bonded Servitude/ Slavery

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Violence against Children In Various Settings : Community

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Alcohol and Other Substance Abuse

Situations of Unrest and Conflict

Rapid Urbanisation



Homicide/ Physical Violence

Violence from Intimate and Dating Relationships

Coerced First Sex

Trafficking of Children

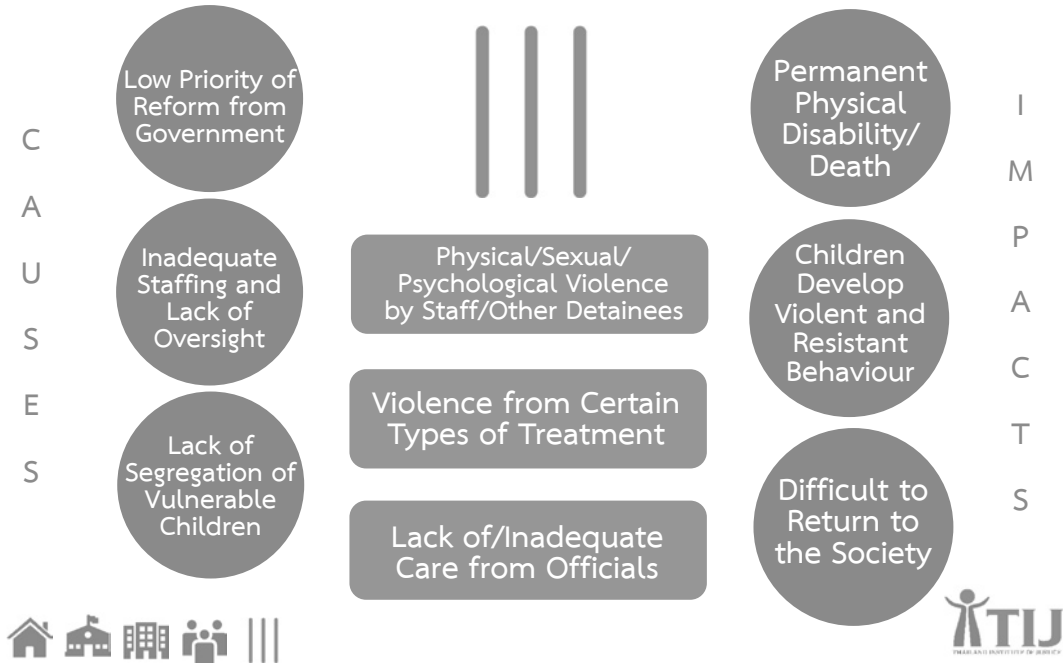
Permanent Physical Disability/ Death

Decreased Feelings of Safety toward the Community

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Violence against Children In Various Settings : Justice Institutions



“All forms of violence against children, however light, are unacceptable. [...] Frequency, severity of harm and intent to harm are not prerequisites for the definitions of violence. States parties may refer to such factors in intervention strategies in order to allow proportional responses in the best interest of the child, **but definitions must in no way erode the child’s absolute right to human dignity and physical and psychological integrity by describing some forms of violence as legally and/or socially acceptable.**”

United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, General Comment No.13 on the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Social and Economic Cost of Violence against Children

Dropping
out

Less likely to
anticipate
attending college

Lower grades
and IQ test
scores

Suspension

Absenteeism

Impact on
Educational Performance and Achievement



Social and Economic Cost of Violence against Children

Less likely to
own assets

Less likely to
be employed

Reduces a person's
earning potential
by \$5,000 per year

In economic terms,
women appear to
be more severely
affected by
childhood abuse
than men

Economic Impact on Individuals



Social and Economic Cost of Violence against Children

In 2008, the estimated
lifetime cost of new cases of
child abuse in the US is

\$124 billion

which included
lifetime costs of

\$210,012 per abuse
victim who
survived and **\$1.3
million**
per abuse
victim who died

It is estimated that the
economic cost of child
abuse in East Asia and
the Pacific will exceed

\$160 billion

Based on economic
losses due to death,
disease and health risk
behaviours attributable
to child abuse

Economic Impact on Society



Attitudes and Social Norms that Perpetuate Violence against Children

Wife beating is
justifiable

Corporal punishment
of children
is necessary

No internationally
comparable data on
attitudes towards child
sex abuse currently exist



Global Efforts to End Violence against Children



Turkey

- Violence against Children National Strategy drafted by the government, NGOs and children
- Training programme for professionals on intervening in violence against children cases

Launched a social media campaign

“Time to Sound the Red Siren”

challenging social norms that sanction violence against girls



India



Zimbabwe

Launched the National Girls’ Empowerment Framework to address sexual violence, unintended pregnancies and HIV among adolescent girls

The Prosecutor’s Office established child-friendly legal services for child victims of sexual abuse and their families along with the revision of the justice system and the development of protocols to deal with violence against children cases



Bolivia



Policy Recommendations

Supporting parents, caregivers and families

Implementing laws and policies that protect children

Helping children and adolescents manage risks and challenges

Providing and promoting support services for children

Changing attitudes and social norms that encourage violence and discrimination

Carrying out data collection and research

