



Academic Essay Writing.

Title: ***The Child Abuse in Malaysia: Causes and Consequences.***

Name : Muhammad Ikmal Fahmi Bin Che Mohamood

Matric Number: MC240126355

Subject: UGQB3033 - English for Academic Purposes

Section Number: MC 061

Mobile Number: 60136176409

The Child Abuse in Malaysia: Causes and Consequences.

Child abuse is an urgent concern and unfortunately escalating globally. This essay explores the causes and effects of child abuse, focusing on the Malaysian community. Child abuse encompasses various forms, such as emotional, physical, and neglect, as well as sexual abuse. Understanding the causes of this issue is important to devising effective preventive actions. The rise in child abuse among the Malaysian people can be attributed to cultural norms, socioeconomic differences, and the lack of public awareness. These lead to acute consequences for the well-being of the children in the short and long term.

Malaysia's cultural norms play a vital role in contributing to the act of child abuse. Conservative gender roles and hierarchical family structures lead to power imbalances, with children possibly becoming vulnerable. Many rape cases were reported involving father and female children. According to community studies, one in 10 children in Malaysia, or about 750,000 are sexually abused. In 95 percent of the cases, the sexual abusers are people known to the victims. In the Malaysian community, the primary abuser is the father. The second primary abuser is the father and the third primary abuser is also the father. (Singh, 2019)

Child abuse is often rooted in socioeconomic differences. In Malaysia, poverty still becomes a main issue, and families struggling with money matters may be more prone to express aggressive behaviors. Unemployment and limited access to education and healthcare can aggravate tensions in the family. This contributes to an environment conducive to abuse. Research shows a direct relationship between economic instability and child abuse (Smith, 2020).

The Lack of public awareness acts as a relevant catalyst for the perpetuation of child abuse. In a report by The Star in 2023, Johor Women's League (Jewel) stated that the cases of child sexual exploitation, abuse, and violence are still being kept inside the closet due to the lack of public awareness. Jewel had come across many cases of family members stopping victims from lodging reports. When the predator is the father

or husband who is the family breadwinner, the mother or wife remained in denial of their husbands' wrongdoings despite complaints from their children (Visvanathan-Suresh, 2023).

Child abuse in Malaysia has deep consequences for the victims, both immediate and long-term. The immediate effects include physical injuries and emotional trauma. Many physical abuse injuries can be experienced by abused children victim ranging from bruises to fractures, for which medical intervention is required. In terms of emotion, they often suffer anxiety, and depression, affecting their entire wellness and relationships. These immediate consequences can hinder a child's health and leave lasting trauma.

In the long period, child abuse can lead to severe mental health issues and challenges in various life activities. Survivors may struggle with issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), impairing their ability to maintain stable employment and interpersonal relationships. They are possibly engaged in risky behaviors like substance abuse and crimes. Addressing child abuse in Malaysia is important not only for the well-being of the survivors but also for fostering a safer society.

In conclusion, the rise in child abuse in Malaysia is a multifaceted issue with roots in cultural norms, socioeconomic differences, and the lack of public awareness. The ongoing consequences of child abuse ranging from physical injuries, emotional trauma to severe mental health issues. Addressing this problem necessitates consistent efforts involving policymakers, community leaders, and the public.

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