**HT Core Lesson 7: Child Abuse - Introduction**

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| **Knowledge**  **Attitude**  **Practice** | After working through this lesson:   1. Participants will know what abuse and neglect are, and some types of abuse and neglect. 2. Participants will learn how to recognize child abuse and neglect. 3. Participants will know that childhood abuse and neglect is a serious problem with long-term consequences. | |
| **Overview for facilitators** | This is part of a series on social issues, based on information from the International Justice Mission and other sources, it can be expanded to help participants understand how to prevent child abuse with practical tools MAI offers to facilitators and families. Facilitators will know participants have learned the content of this lesson when they are more aware of child abuse and neglect. | |
| **Materials** | * Poster-size paper, markers, and masking tape * Starter is to be shared with two participants * Handouts with definitions * 2 large drawings of a child with inscriptions on the 4 limbs: Physical, Spiritual, Social and Emotional/Intellectual. | |
| **LESSON** | | Clock 1 HOUR |
| **STARTER** (10 minutes)  ***Role play: A mother and her small child are eating lunch. He accidentally spills a large glass of water.***  ***Mother: You idiot! You are always dropping things!***  ***Child: I did not mean to! It just fell!***  ***Mother: Shut up! Don´t talk back to me! (She slaps him)***  ***Child: (Starts to Cry)***    Ask SHOWD questions:  What did you See?  What was Happening?  Does this happen in Our place?  Why does this happen?  What will we Do about it? | | |

1. **Meaning of Abuse (10min)**

Ask the big group:

1. **What is Abuse?**
2. Abuse is hurting another person.
3. Abuse is being cruel.
4. Abuse is taking advantage of another person who is weaker than you are.
5. Abuse is using force or power to get your own way.

1. **How is power involved?**
2. Abuse is a form of manipulating a position where you can harm others.
3. It is a cruel use of power.
4. Sometimes men abuse women.
5. Sometimes adults abuse children.
6. The strong abuse the weak.

1. **Definition of Abuse (distribute on a handout or having it written to post upfront)**

**“Abuse is any intentional action that causes physical, emotional or psychological harm.”**

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1. **Discuss each part of the definition, what does it mean.**

**Intentional Abuse is done on purpose, it is not an accident.**

**It hurts - the one being abused is damaged in some way. It can be words, physical, or actions that have a negative effect on the other person.**

**The effect of abuse is not always visible, you may not be able to identify it unless you are present when it happens, or you ask, and they tell you their story.**

1. **Neglect**

**So far, we have only talked about abuse or harmful actions against another. But another way to harm people is by neglect. What is neglect?**

1. Neglect is not providing for a child’s basic needs.
2. For example, not providing, food, shelter, or emotional care to a child.
3. Neglect can be a lack of attention. It is like having a responsibility and not acting according to that responsibility.
4. Elderly people can be neglected by family members, persons living with disability or pets.

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1. Types of Child Abuse and Neglect (20 minutes)

**Divide into two groups. Each group will describe and give examples of one form of abuse or neglect:**

1. **Physical abuse/neglect**
2. **Emotional abuse/neglect**

**We will talk about sexual abuse later.**

**Report back**

1. **Group 1**

**Physical Abuse or neglect**

1. Physical aggression – blows, pushes, burns, pulling hair and ears, etc.
2. Forced labour: carrying heavy loads, working late at night or early in the morning.
3. Giving them inappropriate roles: must cook for the family, treat them like servants, must work to bring money home to the family, and give the oldest son the role of the father.

**Physical Neglect**

a) not enough medical care, or given medical care too late

b) fed too little, or given poor-quality food,

c) not given enough clothes or clothes not washed

d) Lack of security, allowing them to walk alone on unsafe streets, leaving them home alone while parents work, or allowing them to play with matches or with knives.

1. **Group 2**

**Emotional abuse**

1. Making fun of a certain trait, like “Hey, Fatso!”
2. Insulting them
3. Criticizing them “Why do you bother to go to school? You know nothing”.
4. Make them feel worthless.
5. Talk in front of them about family problems.
6. Do not explain, just threaten.
7. Humiliate them, screaming at them in front of people.
8. Cut them down, “I hate you; I wish you were dead”.
9. Threaten to abandon or hit them.
10. Macho insults “Boys never cry”.
11. Not allowing them to talk
12. Doing inappropriate things in front of the child, like allowing them to see you drunk, having sex in front of them, allowing them to see violence between parents, taking them to adult parties where they may see violence or sex.

**Emotional neglect**

1. Not paying attention to or praising their successes.
2. Ignoring them when they want to get our attention or talk to us
3. Not hugging them or showing affection
4. Not affirming our love for them regularly and independently of their behaviour

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**IV. Sexual Abuse (**15 minutes)

**B. What is Sexual Abuse? Read the definition of sexual abuse or create your own definition. Working as a large group, describe this in your own words.**

Sexual abuse is any sexual activity that occurs without consent.

Sexual abuse may happen without physical contact, even online.

The perpetrator is usually a person known to the family or the victim.

The perpetrator is usually in a position of power over the victim.

When the victim is a child, there is a force, or the child is tricked into having sexual activity.

1. **What is Child Sexual Abuse?**

Each country considers a different age for classifying rape or child sexual abuse. How old should a child be to consent to sexual activity without considering the child sexual abuse.

Each country considers different age group:

- Canada under 16

- Brazil 14

- Sudan 13

- Kosovo 16

- Colombia 14

**Read to participants the following:**

**Because the child is not emotionally ready to deal with his/her sexuality or incorporate to his or her life something that in his development process would come later in life, his/her emotions, mind, and body are unprepared to be exposed to any form of sexual activity, being it just looking, hearing, performing or directly involved in a sexual act with another person through physical contact. It is considered sexual abuse even if there is no penetration, or if a child is used for the perpetrator to obtain sexual satisfaction, even if it is through a screen, used as pornographic material.**

**Impact of abuse on children (Discuss in large group)**

**What is the impact of Abuse and Neglect in children: Have the figure of a child drawn on a large piece of paper, each topic you discuss, is written on one arm, or one leg, and you rip off each limb, as you discuss that topic, to make the impact more visible to participants**

**Abuse impacts the growth of children:**

1. **Physically: Ask participants to give examples.** Lacerations on areas of penetration, sexually transmitted diseases, bleeding, bruises.
2. **Emotionally and intellectually:** Slow thinking, hard to concentrate, rejecting people of the other sex, lack of trust, low self-esteem, changes in school performance, Isolation, a tendency to abuse substances like drugs or alcohol, becoming abusers themselves. Because perpetrators threaten with hurting family members or shaming the child, there is secrecy and guilt that will hurt the child for life if not treated and dealt with by the parents or caregivers.
3. **Socially:** they tend to go to one or another extreme: Extreme isolation, retrieving themselves from the world, creating their own world of fantasy to cope with the situation of abuse, or extremely sociable, partying and trying to deny something is wrong.
4. **Spiritually:** Usually they are upset because God allowed the abuse or deny the existence of a God that does not care. Nobody has taken time to explain or accompany them in their pain, so they rarely perceive God as an ally.

**CAN THIS BE TREATED AND SOLVED? YES! There is hope. Parents or Care Givers have to be involved directly and the family needs help to restore health and assurance of God´s intentions.**

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**V. Biblical View** (15 minutes)

* 1. **How would we like our children to grow? Luke 2:52**

Place another figure of a child on a big piece of paper and on each limb place the words

1. Height, or physical

2. Wisdom: skills for life

3. Favor with men: Social

4. Favor with God: Spiritual

* 1. **What is our goal and responsibility as adults toward the children of our families and communities?**

1. To fulfill our responsibility as Guardians and Facilitators of that growth. If someone attempts to disrupt that growth, we will come in the authority that the law, the family, and the society give us to protect that child from further damage.
2. To prevent child abuse and neglect by teaching others how to protect children.
3. To Care for children who have been abused or neglected.
4. To help restore children and adults who have been abused or neglected.

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