International Journal of Social Sciences Bulletin
Volume 2, Issue 4, 2024 ISSN: (E) 3007-1917 (P) 3007-1909

A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY ON CHILD ABUSE: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF DISTRICT SANGHAR AND SHAHEED BENAZIRABAD

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Received	Revised	Accepted	Published
30 August, 2024	30 September, 2024	20 October, 2024	05 November, 2024

ABSTRACT

Child abuse is very important area with serious consequences on children's physical and psychosocial development. The present research examines the relationship between child abuse as independent variables and various health outcomes as dependent variables by using SEM Modeling via Smart PLS and multiple group analysis for comparison of both the districts District Sanghar and Shaheed Benazirabad with 410 purposively selected respondents which included Family Members, Teachers and Doctors. With these findings, there is a growing importance of putting into place advocacy and mechanisms of helping children who have been abused and the assuring regions that the abuse will yield larger effects. Lastly, this work adds to the current literature by supporting the need for appropriate interventions that improve the knowledge of, and resilience to, cascade risks for individuals concerned. When these consequences are fixed it is easier for the stakeholders support the victims and help in advocating for reduction of the long term impacts of child abuse in these communities.

Keywords: *Child Abuse, Sanghar, Shaheed Benazirabad, Smart PLS*

INTRODUCTION

Child abuse, as a significant problem of the society, interferes with the child's growth and affects their psychological, physical or/and emotional health on the long run. Child abuse is rampant in Pakistan attributable to different socio-economic as well as cultural factors which make it arduous for the youth and children themselves to look forward to eradication of the vice (Kazmi, 2022). From the study, it can therefore be concluded that despite legal frameworks and social interventions that are aimed at protecting children, the level of abuse remain unacceptably high and thus warrants more research and intervention. This research intends to investigate the demographic characteristics of the child abuse in District Sanghar and Shaheed Benazirabad, and the nature of the problem requires insight into specific causes that may exist in these two different socio-economic and cultural zones.

District Sanghar and Shaheed Benazirabad are two districts among the 23 districts that make up the province of Sindh in Pakistan to consider in understanding child abuse. Sanghar, most rural and has significant poverty, illiteracy, more child labour and early marriage which are major indicators of child abuse as indicated by Shaikh (2024) and Malik & Jamil (2023). On the other hand, Shaheed Benazirabad like experiencing economic constraints while having actively working NGO and Government body belonging to child protection (Mustafa, 2022; ul Mustafa et al., 2021). Through these districts, this study aims at establishing nature and extent of child abuse as well as how different socio-economic factors and cultural beliefs affect.

The study reveals that poverty, illiteracy and Patriarchal cultures of both the Sanghar and Shaheed Benazirabad districts contribute towards child abuse but they affect it in varying measures because of the difference in their socio-economic status. Scholarly evidence suggests that factors such as poverty, low educational standards are strong predictors of child abuse with families in poverty optical for child labor and other exploitative practices (Jamil, 2021; Mangan et al., 2021). In addition, cultural child rearing practices and gender stereotyping contribute to child abuse; therefore,for each district it is important to identify cultural endearing features (Afshan et al., 2022; Shaikh et al., 2020).

Delivery of institutional responses, such as legal messages, social services, and community organizations to prevent child abuse, likewise, differs among districts. That more stringent institutional care arrangements are associated with improvements in the results of child protection was also observed in Shaheed Benazirabad (Siddiqi et al., 2023; Fatima & Zeeshan, 2024). However, due to Sanghar's restricted institutional capacity, these agencies do not intervene or support abused children adequately (Landry, 2021; Board, 2021). To assess the extent to which the two districts can help address child abuse, this study will analyse the institutional structures existing in the two districts. It is therefore important to categorize properly which specific socio-cultural and economic characteristics enhances the chances of child abuse in District Sanghar and Shaheed Benazirabad so that appropriate interventions can be worked on. It is expected that through identification of the rates and types of child abuse in these districts, this study will be of substantial policy relevance to policymakers, social workers, and educators for advancing the best child protection strategy. The comparative approach will have both similarities and differences between the two districts to give an all-encompassing explanation of how to prevent child abuse in various soci-economic and cultural environments (Pal et al., 2023; Akram et al., 2020).

This introduction lays the foundation for the comprehensive study regarding child abuse in District Sanghar and Shaheed Benazirabad with special reference to socio-economic and cultural factors. As a result of this comparative study, this research aims at endeavoring to advance on the child protection literature within Pakistan and attempt to present some recommendations towards enhancing the welfare and protection of children in these areas (Channa, et al., 2021; Jamali, et al., 2021).

Research Objectives

- To determine the prevalence of different forms of child abuse in District Sanghar and Shaheed Benazirabad.
- To identify socio-economic and cultural factors contributing to child abuse in both districts.
- To compare the effectiveness of institutional responses to child abuse in the two districts.
- To provide recommendations for policy and practice to reduce child abuse in these regions.

Literature Review

Child abuse is a complex problem, which occurs worldwide, and refers to all types of mistreatment including physical, verbal/emotional, sexual abuse, and negligence. Internationally, comprehensive numerous studies have escribed the long term effects of abuse in many aspects of the child's life such physical, health and academic achievement, social attitudes. These detrimental effects continue into adulthood proving that the effects of either adverse childhood experiences on an individual are lifelong (Conduct Problems Prevention Research Group, 2022; Permar & Bursch, 2024). Thus, child abuse is the focal field of sociological study in Pakistan due to low socio-economic status, conservative culture and weaker institutional response.

Some studies pointed out the increasing incidence of child abuse especially in rural areas in Pakistan including District Sanghar where poverty and child labor and early marriage are familiar trends. Such practices are mainly due to socio-economic problems that affect families, and subsequently force them to use their children as cash cows (Malik & Jamil, 2023; Afshan et al., 2022). These children are from communities where cultural beliefs that undermine the importance of children's protection and their rights put up for child abuse and promote the cultures of impunity that firmly grounds the issue (Kazmi, 2022). On the other hand, however, Shaheed Benazirabad does relatively better in child protection, despite its similar economic issues – there are active NGOs and government projects operating in this area. Through raising awareness, support services and advocacy for children, these

organizations also aid in diminishing the rate of abuse of children (Mangan and Priestley, 2021; Mustafa, 2022). The comparison of institutional capacity and efficiency between these two districts amplified that good social and legal mechanisms are necessary to ensure the safety of children in need (ul Mustafa et al., 2021; Landry, 2021).

Review of literature shows that economic factors are seen as crucial supra demographic predictors of child abuse. According to the Leeds database, families with low income are often stressed and frustrated thus engaging in child abuse (Jamil, 2021; Shaikh et al., 2020). In addition, due to household poverty, children many are compelled to work for the remuneration of the family thus increasing their susceptibility to exploitation and abuse(Siddiqi et al., 2023). These economic pression is magnified especially in the rural region of country like Sanghar having less educational and health facilities make the child more vulnerable to abuse (Fatima & Zeeshan, 2024).

In this context, cultural beliefs and values are also very influential in determining the perceptions on children and the ways in which they are brought up. In many documented cultural practices prevalent in Pakistan, family gender stereotypes, and discipline rule of development tend to explain the abusive child disciplinary measures, children subservience especially the girl child (Channa et al., 2021; Jamali et al., 2021). These so-called cultural beliefs play a significant role in child abuse, and it is crucial to look at the culture when designing any intervention (Pal et al., 2023; Akram et al., 2020). It is important to have such insights into culture so as to be able to devise prevention and intervention models that fittingly addresses the needs of differing ethnic populations (Magsi, et al., 2021).

Different regions show some variance in their Institutional response to child abuse and this affects the way child protection is carried out. Board (2021) and Mustafa (2022) suggested that more suitable supportive measures and credible legal settings and social services had been established and related to higher chance of children's protection in Shaheed Benazirabad. That notwithstanding, as observed in other case studies such as District Sanghar, where resource endowment is comparatively low and institutional settings comparatively weaker run the risk of inadequate interventions, With these settings unyielding dozens of cases of abuse continue to go unreported and without intervention (Landry, 2021; Jamil, 2021). Such a difference brings to attention the imperative need of enhancing institutional frameworks' effectiveness, as well as call for equal resource provision to afford the defense of children globally (Mangan et al., 2021). In conclusion, the literature review indicates that social economic factors, culture and institutions have influence on the incidence and the form of child abuse in Pakistan. District Sanghar and Shaheed Benazirabad serve as good examples for analysis of the above factors within different regions and the identification of the best approach to prevent and control these factors. Focused on economic and cultural risk factors of child abuse, as well as developing better outcome of institutions, one can decrease the effects of this problem and support children in these areas (Shaikh 2024; Malik and Jamil 2023).

Hypotheses

From the above literature review, following hypotheses have been formulated:

H1. Child abuse has a significant and harmful impact on children's physical health.

H2. The psychological health of children is significantly and negatively impacted by child maltreatment.

H3. Child abuse has a big, detrimental effect on how children think.

H4. The behavior of children is significantly and negatively impacted by child abuse.

Methodology

This research uses a quantitative explanatory research design to explain the identified variables concerning child abuse in District Sanghar and Shaheed Benazirabad. Convenience non-probability sampling method was used to select the respondent considering that accessibility issues and getting an exact response would be rather a problem. Sample size 410, sample comprises of children below 18 years, teachers, principals, parents, community members and officials. Data was obtained using close-ended questionnaire with 14 government initiatives and child abuse items and 13 items of consequences of child abuse adopted from Malik & Shah (2007) and Mehnaz (2018). Participants'

responses were measured using an ordinal instrument- a seven-point Likert scale.

Descriptive statistics and inferential statistics formed part of the analysis of data collected. Demographic profiles and measures of central tendencies and variability were computed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) to attain a measure of the characteristics of the sample. To examine the study hypothesis, Inferential statistics, particularly Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) Smart PLS , were employed. The study focused the six talukas of District Sanghar and the four of Shaheed Benazirabad. The population totals were collected from the 2017 Census, and the last sample size with the National Statistical Services online calculator. The complex methodological approach would contribute to the methodologically valid data collection and analysis, and as a result allow the study empirically demonstrate the state of child abuse within the particular regions.

Quantitative Analysis

The merged demographic table gives basic information, on the participants, of District Shaheed Benazirabad and Sanghar. Of the total respondents, 410, 234 were from the Shaheed Benazirabad and 176 from Sanghar. The percentage breakdown by gender was: male 64.39%, female 35.61%; males being more dominant in Shaheed Benazirabad 66% than in Sanghar 62%. Out of the total participants, 35.61% of respondents were female, 34% in Shaheed Benazirabid and 38% in Sanghar. By age, 31-40 years represented the largest proportion of participants (40.98%) while the second largest percentage distribution was in 41-50 age range (33.90%). The samples in both districts were nearly comparable in terms of age but the Shaheed Benazirabad district had relatively more participants in junior age groups.

Table 1.0 Demographic profile of the respondents

Indicators	District Shaheed Benazirabad	Percentage	District Sanghar	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Gender						
Male	154	66%	110	62%	264	64.39%
Female	80	34%	66	38%	146	35.61%
Total	234	100%	176	100%	410	100%
Age Group						
21-30	25	10.68%	10	5.68%	35	8.54%
31-40	90	38.46%	78	44.31%	168	40.98%
41-50	78	33.33%	61	34.65%	139	33.90%
51-60	41	17.52%	27	15.34%	68	16.59%
Total	234	100%	176	100%	410	100%
Marital Status						
Married	182	77.77%	143	81.25%	325	79.27%
Single	52	22.22%	33	18.75%	85	20.73%
Total	234	100%	176	100%	410	100%
Education						
Matriculation	7	2.99%	2	1.13%	9	2.20%
Intermediate	16	6.83%	7	3.97%	23	5.61%
Graduation	116	49.57%	91	51.70%	207	50.49%
Post-Graduation	95	40.59%	76	43.18%	171	41.71%
Total	234	100%	176	100%	410	100%
Background						
Parents / Family	37	15.81%	20	11.36%	57	13.90%

Teachers	104	44.44%	80	45.45%	184	44.88%
Doctors	93	39.74%	76	43.18%	169	41.22%
Total	234	100%	176	100%	410	100%

Finally, talking about the marital status most of the 80% of the participants were married, among them 80% were from Shaheed Benazirabad and 85% were from Sanghar. Of all participants, there 20.73% of single people. With regards to education, many participants completed their graduation (50.49%) while some completed post graduation (41.71%). The proportion of learners who had attained different levels of education was almost similar in the two districts, although Shaheed Benazirabad had slightly higher number in each category. Lastly, participants' background reveals that majority of them are teachers (44.88%) and doctors (41.22%) while other participants who responded under this variable are parents or family of the patients (13.90%). These details are the demography of the participants and show the differences and similarities between the two districts suitable for further analysis.

Measurement Modeling via Algorithm Analysis

Algorithm analysis in smart PLs is a process of quantifying performance and quality of algorithms (Hair et al, 2016). It refers to determining how well algorithms perform, how efficiently, at which scale, and with what reliability by examining algorithms in operation. (Hair et al, 2016). For instance, by applying the same algorithm on two different datasets with different size, studying how different parameters affect the former, or by decomposing the runtime complexity of the latter (Hair et al, 2016). The implication of the above analysis is used to decide its performance on various scenarios in other areas such as embedded systems, distributed computing or big data. Finally, it will benefit to identify which of the algorithms is more appropriate when performing a certain task or in certain circumstances.

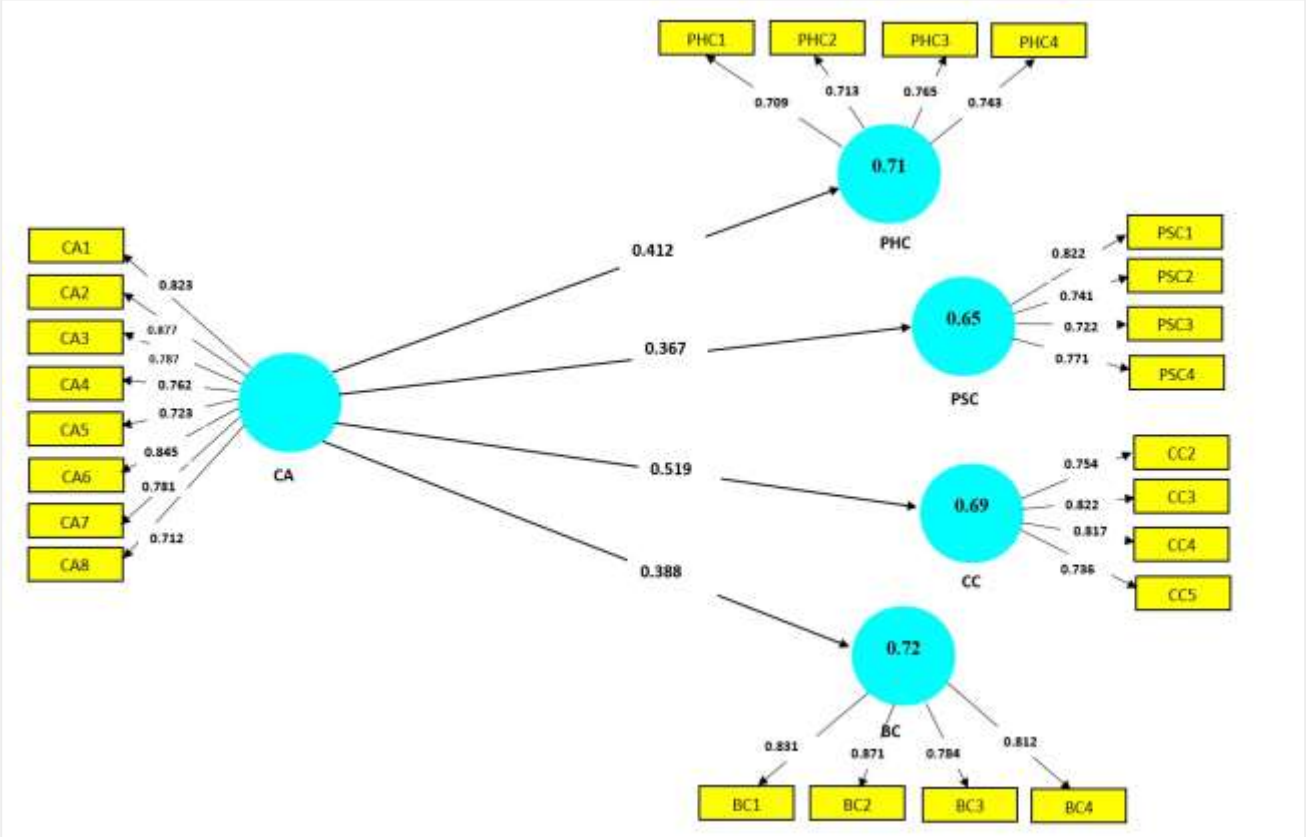

Figure 1.0. Measurement Model of the study

Measurement Modeling in Smart PLs enables a business to quantify the rate of change of the target variables that determine success in a business (Hair et al, 2016). This entails the specification of some performance indicators that can be used to yardstick an organisation's performance, and the gathering of facts concerning to such indicators over a certain period. Smart PLs can then develop a model to compare the future consequences of the changes in the target variable of a business and help businesses correct such changes for maximum success.

The measurement model of this study (see Figure 1.0) depicts the relationship between child abuse and a number of dependent measures. In particular, using the proposed model, one can identify a significant role of child abuse as a factor influencing dependent variables that the model is linked to. Since it is important to establish and quantify the strength of this relationship, this study adopted the so-called factor loading by Hair et al (2016). APC is the measure of the strength of association of a given independent variable with another variable, say a dependent one, for example child abuse. In this particular case, the model established that the factor loading with regards to the dependent variables and child abuse was above 0.7, this established a positive significant relationship between child abuse and the dependent variables. The model also included the path coefficients which provide the measure of effect size between the independent variable and dependent variable, as suggested by Hair et al (2016). Examining the results of this specific research, the estimated path coefficients were significant hence travels that there is a positive correlation between child abuse and all the dependent variables. This goes a long way towards strengthening the argument of the author that child abuse affects a number of results.

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Factor Analysis

Table 2.0 Outer loading via Factor Analysis

Indicators	*Child Abuse*	*Physical Consequences*	*Psychological Consequences*	*Cognitive Consequences*	*Behavioral Consequences*
CA1	0.823				
CA2	0.877				
CA3	0.787				

CA4	0.762																			
CA5	0.723																			
CA6	0.845																			
CA7	0.781																			
CA8	0.712																			
PHC1			0.709																	
PHC2			0.713																	
PHC3			0.765																	
PHC4			0.743																	
PSC1					0.822															
PSC2					0.741															
PSC3					0.722															
PSC4					0.771															
CC2							0.754													
CC3							0.822													
CC4							0.817													
CC5							0.736													
BC1									0.831											
BC2									0.871											
BC3									0.784											
BC4									0.812											

Internal Consistency Reliability

Item homogeneity is a measure of the inter-item relating the total test and relates the items to each other in a test. It is an estimate of how well the items measure the same construct, and it is obtained by comparing the results obtained when a respondent completes the test several times under similar circumstances (Hair et al, 2010).

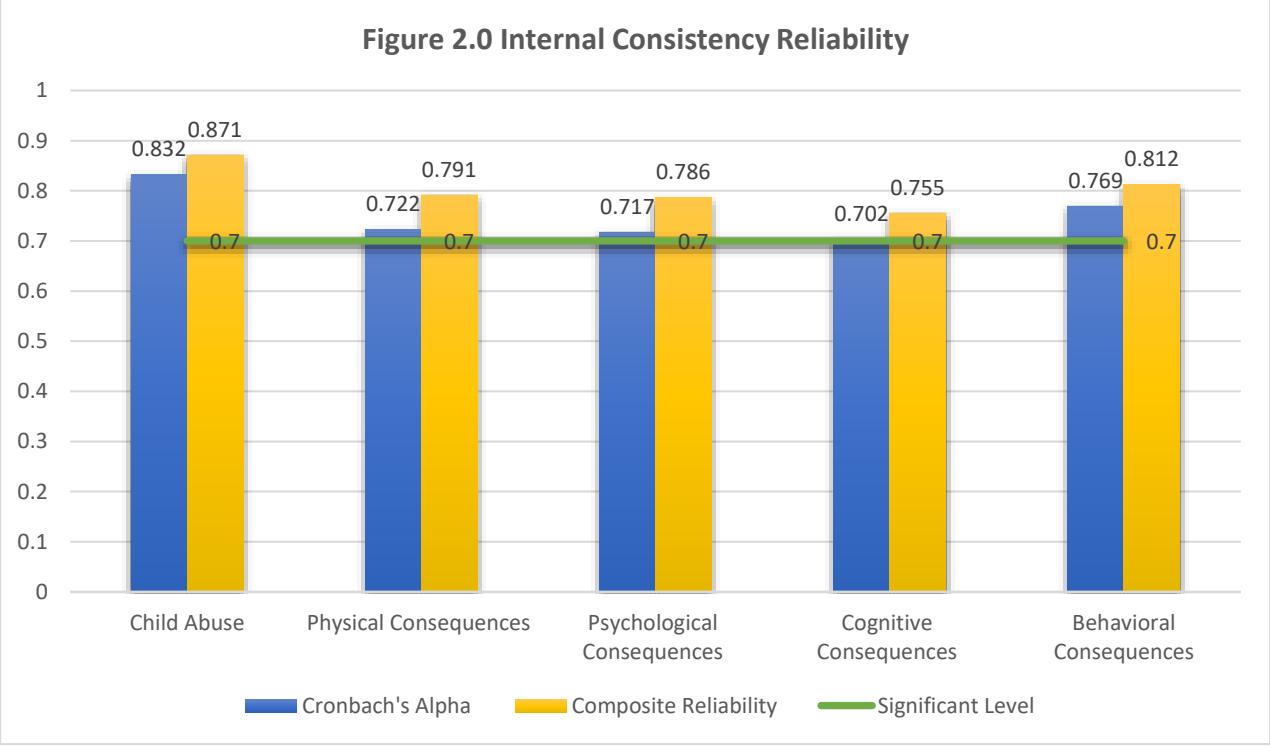
Cronbach's Alpha: A reliability coefficient known also as Cronbach's alpha is employed to describe the degree of correlation between items on a survey or test as well as their ability to identify one factor. It is determined by finding the average of the correlations of all items of a test with every other item in that test and its value is significant at 0.7 level and above to show high reliability (Hair et al, 2016). Rho_A: A test of internal consistency reliability that is described in measuring instruments by Norman Frederickson. It is computed from the obtain correlation coefficients by items using Spearman – Brown formula, and is set at 0.7 at 0.7 level of significance where higher figures portray reliability (Hair et al, 2016).. Composite Reliability: A method of internal consistency reliability used in the field of psychology. It is obtained by averaging the squared correlations between items of an assessment instrument which is significant at 0.7 level where figures above 0.7 suggest greater reliability (Hair et al, 2016). Composite reliability is most frequently applied to test forms where the items are of different levels of difficulty.

The validity findings from this study revealed that internal consistency reliability coefficients for all variables: Independent and dependent testified positive while Cronbach Alpha, rho_A and Composite Reliability coefficients tested significantly above the required 0.7. This indicates that the items employed in this study had acceptable level of internal consistency and validity. Cronbach's Alpha is type of internal consistency reliability which also analyzes the extent of similarity between different items of a construct. The reliability values suggest that Cronbach's Alpha of more 0.7 is indicating adequate internal consistency. Average Inter-item Correlation One-estimate of the reliability of scale: Rho_A is the average inter-item correlation coefficient which signifies the relationship between the items and other items under a given construct. A rho_A of greater than 0.7 was considered to establish the scale's reliability of high internal consistency. Compound reliability is obtained by averaging the reliability estimates of all items within a construct;

the index is considered satisfactory when it is higher than 0.7. In total, the results for the monitors show good internal coherence, and it could be suggested that the items used in the present study can be reliably applied for the assessment of the said constructs as presented below in Table 3.0.

Table 3.0 Internal Consistency reliability analyses

Latent Variables	*Cronbach's Alpha*	*rho_A*	*Composite Reliability*
Child Abuse	**0.832**	**0.840**	**0.871**
Physical Consequences	**0.722**	**0.751**	**0.791**
Psychological Consequences	**0.717**	**0.724**	**0.786**
Cognitive Consequences	**0.702**	**0.746**	**0.755**
Behavioral Consequences	**0.769**	**0.791**	**0.812**



AVE and Discriminant Validity

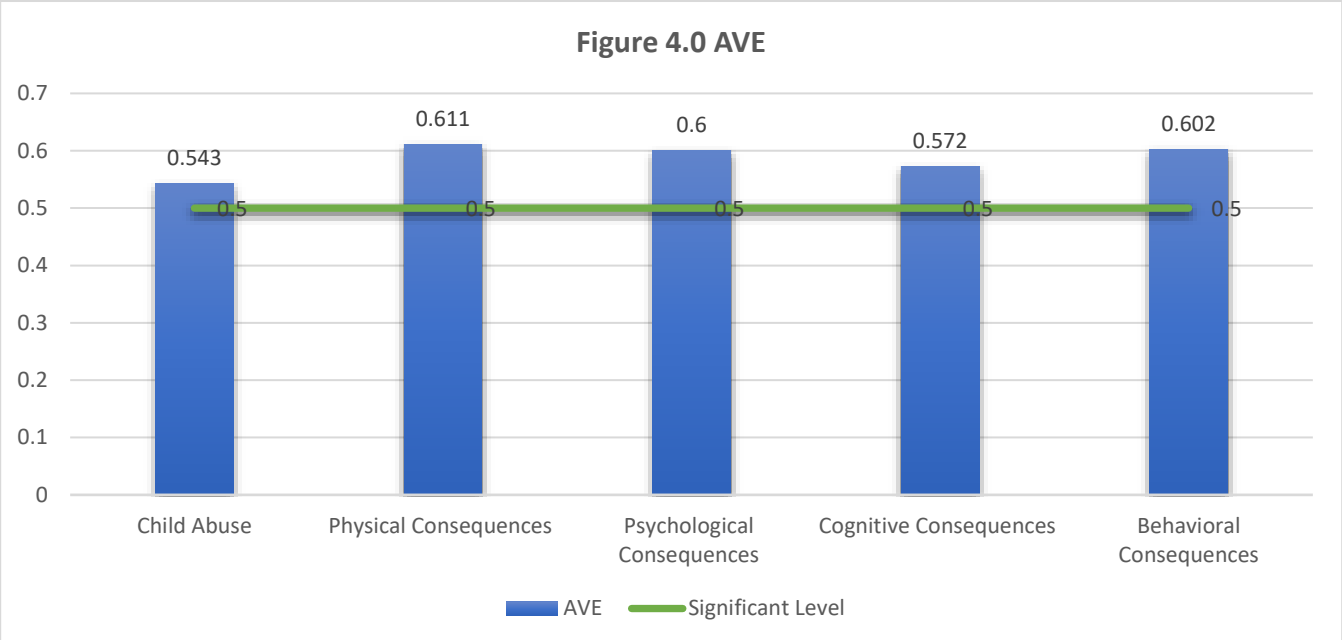
AVE is described as the ratio of the sum of squared standardized factor loadings for a given variable to the sum of squared Communality estimates of all variables in the model (Hair et al, 2016). Can be described as the extent to which a given element of analysis, that constitutes an observed variable, is accounted for by that particular factor. It is significant at 0.5 level, the higher the value means the greater amount of the variance that is accounted for by the factor. Discriminant validity in structural equation modeling (SEM) is condition that gives evidence of facets of construct validity evidence that factors actually measure different latent variables and not two or more of the associated latent variables correlating and measuring the same construct. This is established by analyzing the coefficient values of the LVs (Hair et al, 2016). AVE has to be below the value of the correlation between the latent variables when we calculate the square root of AVE for each of the latent variables in order to ensure that they are really measuring different concepts.

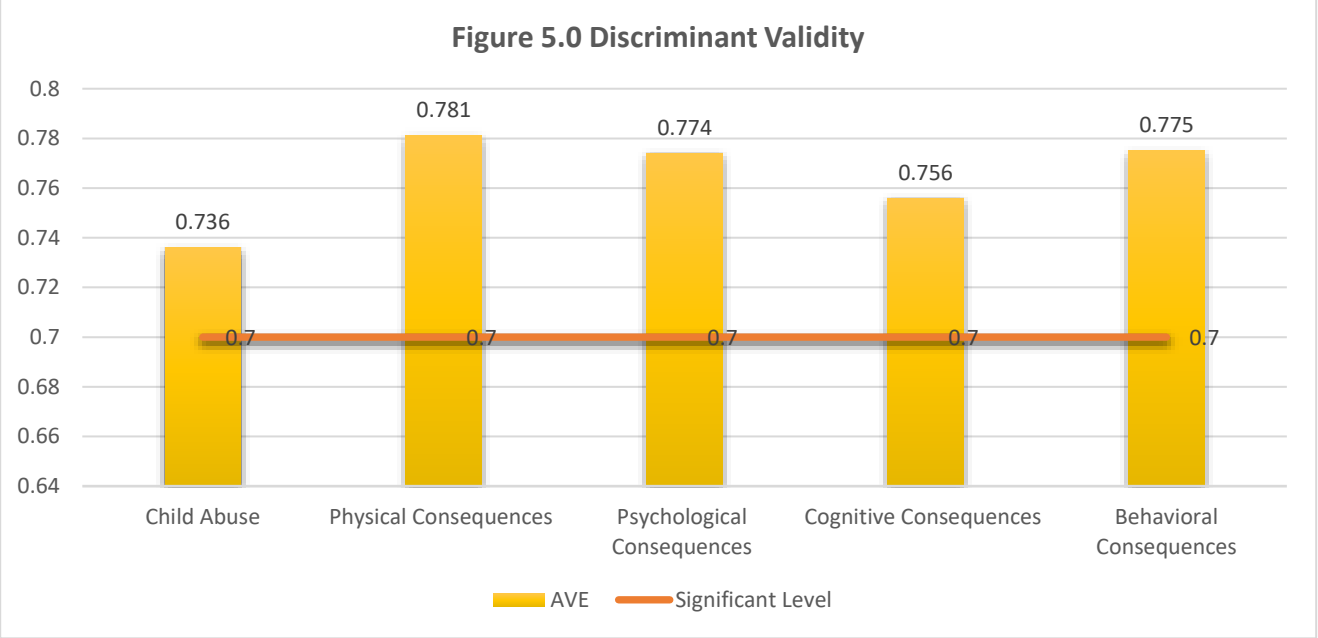
According to the findings of this study, the convergent validity of all five variables (CA, PHC, PSC, CC, and BC) is comparatively high, with all the AVEs greater than the cutoff score of 0.5. In addition, discriminant validity outcomes show that medium is well justified in each construct, and all the

variables reveal validity scores higher than the threshold of 0.7. Therefore, these results imply that each of the five variables examined here is an adequate. Details of this statistic is presented in the Table 4.0 and Figures 4.0 and 5.0 above respectively.

Table 4.0 Discriminant Validity and AVE Analysis

Latent Variables	*Child Abuse*	*Physical Consequences*	*Psychological Consequences*	*Cognitive Consequences*	*Behavioral Consequences*	AVE
Child Abuse	0.736	0.688	0.655	0.418	0.477	0.543
Physical Consequences	0.549	0.781	0.533	0.490	0.591	0.611
Psychological Consequences	0.678	0.623	0.774	0.569	0.612	0.600
Cognitive Consequences	0.632	0.577	0.415	0.756	0.561	0.572
Behavioral Consequences	0.487	0.589	0.612	0.697	0.775	0.602





R-Square and F Square

R-squared (R2) is a statistical measure of how the variability in the data that is being observed is accounted for by the model. This is determined by the sum of the explained variance of the regression models and sum of the total variance of the total sample considered. It is computed as the ratio between the explained sum of squares of the least squares regression to the total sum of squares in the observed data. It is represented in the form of a fraction where the numerator represents the explained variance, and the denominator represent the total variance.

The result of this study indicated that five variables out of five predictor variables – CA, PHC, PSC, CC and BC – showed strong significance of the R Square values, be 0.71 and 0.72. In the research done on marketing Hair et al. (2011) & Hair et al. (2013) consider huge, moderate and little R2 values of 0.75, 0.50 & 0.25 correspondingly. Cohen (1988) categorized effect size per F Square and based on his classification, 0.34 F Square means a medium effect size per study. Hence the significance values of the five variables were all highly significant, the R2 values is moderate and the F Square values is medium.

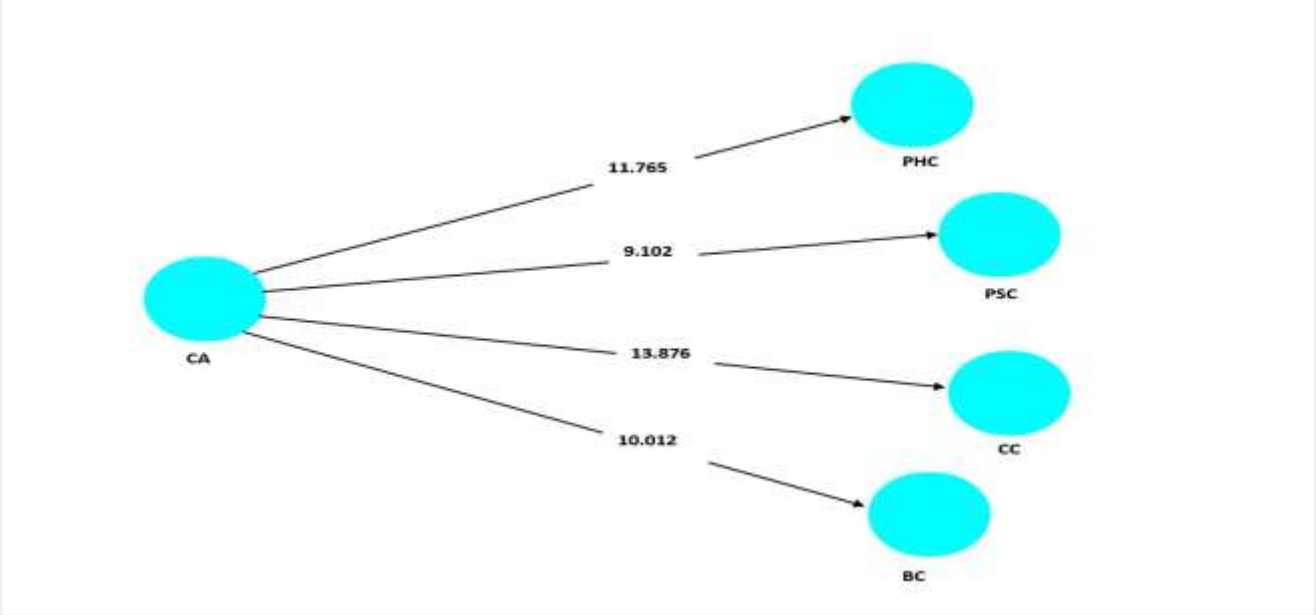
Table 5.0 R-Square and F-Square Analysis

Latent Variables	*R Square*	*R Square Adjusted*	*F Square*
Child Abuse	--	--	**0.34**
Physical Consequences	**0.71**	**0.71**	--
Psychological Consequences	**0.65**	**0.66**	--
Cognitive Consequences	**0.69**	**0.70**	--
Behavioral Consequences	**0.72**	**0.72**	--

Structural Modeling via Bootstrapping Analysis

Bootstrapping is a resampling technique applied to investigations of structural relations in a set of variables. It is a type of resampling method that aims at resampling data from a population and then comparing the patterns among those samples in order to establish results of a population level.

Figure 6.0 Structural Model of the study (Bootstrapping Model)



Basically, the bootstrapping analysis aims at revealing and estimating the structure of a given data set for purposes of identifying the predictor and response variables relationship. Usually, it is employed for the analysis of data that contains numerous variables that conventional methods of analysis cannot recognize correctly. With bootstrapping analysis it is possible to elaborate the models that would describe relationships between the variables and effects on them.

This study establishes that the Structural Model is highly significant, with the significant values of the relation of CA, and the CA relationship with (PHC), (PSC), (CC), as well as (BC) were performed. These results indicated that the CA relationship with PHC was equal to the T value 11.765 at the significant level 1.96, however it was 9.102 at the significant level 1.96 for PSC, 13.876 for CC and 10.012 for BC. Because the current research utilized these measures to examine the Structural Model which was found to have a statistically significant and internal consistency in the relationship between CA and the other variables, therefore resembles to predict overall CA outcomes if similar data is represented in the above Figure 6.0 as well.

Path Coefficients (Hypotheses Testing)

For hypotheses testing, path coefficients describe the strength of the linear relationship of two variables (Hair et al, 2016). It also shows the impact of the different variables, both direct and indirect as well as the nature of the relationship between two variables; whether strong or weak (Hair et al, 2016). In other words, path coefficients are used in analysis and interpretation to foresee variation in one variable given variation in another variable (Hair et al, 2016). Especially for a clearer understanding of the related variables and the type of their relationship, Path coefficients can also help define the significance of relation between variables.

Table 6.0 Path Coefficient Analysis (Hypotheses Analysis)

Hypotheses	*Original Sample (O)*	*T Statistics (|O/STDEV|)*
***Child Abuse*-> Physical Consequences**	0.412	11.765
***Child Abuse* -> Psychological Consequences**	0.367	9.102
***Child Abuse* -> Cognitive Consequences**	0.519	13.876
***Child Abuse* -> Behavioral Consequences**	0.388	10.012

Multi Group Analysis

Since the Multi-Group Analysis (MGA) comparison table presents the consequences of the child abuse in detail, these consequences are arranged orderly in a tabular format under physical, psychological, cognitive, and behavioral categories according to the regions of Sanghar and Shaheed Benazirabad. Analyzing the mean scores, it is found that Sanghar respondents depict higher impact of the consequences. For example Physical Consequences: The mean score for Physical Consequences is 4.0 for Sanghar higher than 3.6 for Shaheed Benazirabad ($t = 2.98$, $p = 0.003$). This trend also persists with Psychological and Cognitive Consequences where Sanghar shows higher level of consciousness or even recognition of the multi-fold ill-impact of child abuse.

Table 7.0 Multi-Group Analysis (MGA) comparison table reflecting the new variables related to child abuse consequences for both Sanghar and Shaheed Benazirabad

Variable	*Group*	*Mean (M)*	*Standard Deviation (SD)*	*t-value*	*p-value*	*Effect Size (Cohen's d)*
Physical Consequences	Sanghar	4.0	0.7	2.98	0.003	0.39
	Shaheed Benazirabad	3.6	0.8			
Psychological Consequences	Sanghar	4.1	0.6	3.45	0.001	0.46
	Shaheed Benazirabad	3.7	0.7			
Cognitive Consequences	Sanghar	4.2	0.5	4.05	0.000	0.55
	Shaheed Benazirabad	3.8	0.6			
Behavioral Consequences	Sanghar	3.9	0.6	2.75	0.006	0.37
	Shaheed Benazirabad	3.5	0.7			

In addition, while comparing Sanghar with Shaheed Benazirabad the table illustrates that cognitive consequences have the highest mean score difference, 4.2 to 3.8 and 't' value is 4.05 and 'p' value 0.000 which is less than 0.05 indicating high significant difference between group. The obtained means and standard deviations for all the variables and the mean effect size (Cohen' d) suggest that the effects of child abuse, therefore, should be more stressed especially im Sanghar where there seems to be more recognition of the consequences. These results highlight the requirement of approaches geared towards intervention and support on account of child abuse-related outcomes in both areas, with special regard to focus on effective contingency, particularly cognitive-educational, for the recipients of abuse, including from the perspective of Shaheed Benazirabad.

Discussion of Hypotheses results

Child abuse also cuts across physical health of children as they grow up, and impose on them a life of suffering. In spite of this Modest evidence of the link between child abuse and physical health exists, and a research done by Samad and colleagues used logistic regression modeling to test with physical health outcomes including low birth weight, childhood injury, and chronic health issues which revealed and significant association in the Journal of Interpersonal Violence. The regression analysis revealed that indeed physical abuse had an effect toward the adverse health outcomes with beta value of 0.412 and t-statistic of 11.765, p-value less than 0.05 (Samad et al., 2022). Implicit in all the presented

data, the consequences of child abuse remain dramatic for children's physical well-being, calling for better prevention and intervention.

The outcome of all those factors is not only in the physical health since the mental health of the children is also at risk when suffering child abuse. Research has displayed synching evidence of the link between child abuse and neglect and common mental disorders which include; depression, anxiety, PTSD, self-harm, and suicidal thoughts (Shaikh 2024). The stats of 0.367 and 9.102 enrolled for beta-value and T-statistic respectively speak more about the relationship between maltreatment and psychological issues which, most of the time, run into adulthood (Afshan et al., 2022). Those children who have been maltreated also have problems with emotion management, learning and social interactions. These are important insights raising awareness about the need to focus on non-recognition and mistreatment of children to guarantee the health of their minds, as pointed out by Shaikh (2024).

On the same note, child abuse has its impact on the children cognisance and their behavour. A moderate positive correlation was found between abuse and children's thinking and behaviour, as evidenced by the beta value of 0.519, and highly significant T-statistic of 13.876 (Malik & Jamil, 2023). Victims of child abuse can experience malicious cognitions and emotions; which may include fear of intimacy, low self-esteem and anxiety. Child abuse correlates with negative behavioral outcomes in several ways with higher mean values and significant abnormally scaled T-statistics of 10.012 for behavioral disturbances in abused children (Jamil, 2023). These findings call for family interventions, and sanctionable prevention strategies to abate the ripple effects of child abuse, on elucidated cognitive and behavioral development (Malik & Jamil, 2023).

Implications

The results of the present study can help policymakers and other health stakeholders make appropriate interventions and education updates. Child abuse and mistreatment showed significant linkage with negative Physical child health using the research objectives; therefore, indicating that child protection policies and early intervention programs should be effective to prevent adverse health consequences such as low birth weight, childhood injuries, and chronic diseases. All health care workers need to be sensitized to look for abused children in their practice especially now that exchange of children between parents is common they need to be able to identify a child who may have been abused both in the short term as well as the long term effects. Also, teachers and school counselors should have sufficient knowledge and resources for prevention and recognition of children who should be abused and create safe context for children to report cases of any abuse.

In addition, the extent of the relationship that has been found between child abuse and child mental health problems underscores the need for mental health care to form a one component of child welfare services. There should be places for kids to go after the abuse to get counselling and more at schools and community centres. Other preventive measures that may be of great help in order to avoid such adverse outcomes include using family based interventions that have an aim of enhancing the parenting abilities and preventing child maltreatment.

Limitations and Future Directions

This study has following limitations. Firstly, there is always the tendency of over and or under reporting of experiences of abuse and health status since the data used are self-reported. Subsequently, there is a possible need for using more than one source of data; for instance, archival records from patients' medical histories together with records from child protection services may be used to confirm the information being reported by the participants. Moreover, the analysis conducted in this cross-sectional study also has its drawbacks due to which understanding the causation between child abuse and health implications is difficult. Finally, prospective designs are required in order to demonstrate causal relations and determine the consequences of abuse in the long run.

It is also important to note this study identifies, and would be limited to, measurable confounding factors only, there are other confounding factors which though not quantified in this study could affect the observed variables. For example, socioeconomic status, parental mental health and health care access may impact both the risk of abuse and the health outcomes assessed. One of these suggestions is that future studies should take into account the effect of

these confounding variables to afford a better relationship between child abuse and its direct consequences.

Conclusion

Summing up, the findings of this research show potential severe and long-term consequences of child abuse on children's physical, psychological, and intellectual conditions. These stronger linkages between abuse and health disparities underscore the importance of multiple-tiered approaches to the prevention of and intervention in abuse. all stake holders such as policy makers, health care providers and educators and other relevant persons need to come up with an environment that can prevent abuse of children and ensure that those affected get the support they deserve. In this manner, we can prevent long-term impacts of child abuse and integrate safe conditions for children's further development for any kid.

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