

# Parents' Perception on Physical Abuse of Children

Age 03 to 06 Years

By

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A thesis submitted to Brac Institute of Educational Development in partial fulfillment of  
the requirements for the degree of  
Master of Science in Early Childhood Development

Brac Institute of Educational Development  
Brac University  
December, 2022

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## **Declaration**

I hereby declaring that,

1. The thesis submitted is my/our own original work while completing degree at Brac University.
2. The thesis does not contain material previously published or written by a third party, except where this is appropriately cited through full and accurate referencing.
3. The thesis does not contain material which has been accepted, or submitted, for any other degree or diploma at a university or other institution.
4. I/We have acknowledged all main sources of help.

**Student's Full Name & Signature:**

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## **Ethics Statement**

Title of Thesis Topic: Parents' Perception on Physical Abuse of Children Age 03 to 06 Years.

Student name: Sumaya Safat

1. Source of population: The participants were selected from my neighbor of Khulna city and some were friends also from Khulna city.
2. This study involve with, (mentioned by yes or no).
  - a) Physical risk to the subjects (No)
  - b) Social risk (No)
  - c) Psychological risk to subjects (No)
  - d) Discomfort to subjects (No)
  - e) Invasion of privacy (No)
3. Subjects will be clearly informed about (yes or no)
  - a) Nature and purpose of the study (Yes)
  - b) Procedures to be followed (Yes)
  - c) Physical risk (N/A)
  - d) Sensitive questions (Yes)
  - e) Benefits to be derived (Yes)
  - f) Right to refuse to participate or to withdraw from the study (Yes)
  - g) Confidential handling of data (Yes)
  - h) Compensation or treatment where there are risks or privacy is involved (yes)
4. Will Signed verbal consent for be required (yes or no)
  - a) From study participants (yes)
  - b) From parents or guardian (yes)
  - c) Will precautions be taken to protect anonymity of subjects? (yes)
5. Check documents being submitted herewith to Committee:
  - a) Proposal (yes)
  - b) Consent Form (yes)
  - c) Questionnaire or interview schedule (yes)

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## Abstract

Child abuse is very common topic nowadays. Research shows that child physical abuse is a common phenomenon and sometime not considered as a crime. It occurs in family, institutions, neighbor, workplace etc. This research has explored parents' perception on physical abuse of children age 3 to 6 years. For data collection In-Depth Interview (IDI) and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) have been carried out. From the findings (both from IDI and FGD) it seems that both mothers and father are aware what is physical abuse. Other than physically hurting a child, the participants defined child abuse as mentally hurting or sexually abusing a child. The study participants shared, in most of the cases when their children are disobedient or naughty then their parents physically hurt their children. In answering what are the practices they do that can reduce physical abuse, the participants shared that they show love, affection and spend time with their children which they think can develop a good bonding and can reduce physically hurting a child. The participants shared physical abuse experience have long term negative impact on a child's life. So, parents not only should know the effect of child's physical abuse but there should be more awareness program that can make parents understand the importance of bonding between parents and their children so that whatever happens with the children they can share with their parents. Therefore, more focus needs to be given to launch more parenting education program and it needs to be started from early years of a child's life.

**Keywords:** Parents' perception; Child abuse; Child physical abuse; Neglect; Parenting; Incident.

## **Dedication**

I am dedicating this research to almighty Allah, my beloved parents, siblings and my husband.

## Acknowledgement

First and foremost, I want to thank the Almighty Allah for giving me life and for all Allah have done for me. Allah gave me the strengths throughout the period to complete my research. I praise my creator in the name of Allah because without him, nothing would be possible.

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## List of Acronyms

IDI	In-Depth Interview
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
CPA	Child Physical Abuse
WHO	World Health Organization
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
PTSD	Post-traumatic stress disorder
AHA	American Humane Association
ADHD	Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

# **Chapter I: Introduction & Background**

## **Introduction**

Physical abuse with children is common. (Dosari et al., 2017). There have always been instances of child abuse, lot of useful features of it as a serious social issue didn't emerge until the 1960s (Zigler & Hall, 1989). According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), child abuse and neglect are, any act or sequence of actions of commission or omission by a parent or other caregiver (such as a clergy member, coach, or teacher) that causes in harm, possibility for harm, or risk of injury or harm (David et al., 1999). The exact meaning of child abuse depends over time, among cultures and nations (Rathnaweera & Gunarathna, 2020).

Physical, sexual, emotional, or psychological harm or neglect of a child or children, by a parent, caregiver or other, is known as child abuse or child maltreatment (Wikipedia, 2022). Child abuse or maltreatment is always identified social, legal, or clinical outcome of bad parenting on the part of the parent or caregiver. Children are defined as anyone under the age of 18 (Johnson & Charles, 2016). Child abuses are unfortunately happens frequently. There is hope for healing, but children who endure abuse run the risk of developing health issues at present and in future. Recognizing the warning indicators of child abuse can lead to prevention, such as; if a young child is behaving different, then it can be further investigated (Cleveland clinic, 2020).

Child abuse can be defined at physical, sexual and psychological harm to any child by a parent, caregiver or any other individual. These incidents can happen at any places, such as: at home, communities and at different institutions (Wikipedia, 2022). As per the

World Health Organization (WHO), child abuse or maltreatment is categorized in four types: physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and negligence (WHO, 2020).

Children are often in a focus of protection due to its severity or because of its severity; child protection has been at center of attention by mental health and social care experts (Hansen et al., 1990). Although the terms child abuse and child maltreatment are frequently used synonymously, some studies distinguish between the two, using the term child maltreatment to refer to a range of behaviors including trafficking, exploitation, and neglect (Chaffin, 2006).

In several articles, child abuse has been defined in different aspect. In terms of identification, it is said that, parents should observe their child's behavior at home whenever they see any significant changes. For example: a child whose being physically abused will be unwilling to go to daycare or will be reluctant to spend time with that particular caregiver. Check if his/her body is covered with bruises or injury marks which cannot be explained rationally. If there are repeated bite marks or burn marks, it is a definite warning sign about the child being subjected to physical abuse (Chitnis, 2018).

In terms of child abuse, there is no specific age where the child can be subjected. However, in most cases, a child abuse issue goes unreported, specifically for 3-6 years. In such cases, a child often cannot express their feelings in proper language. Abusing your child is not a crime, Religion & Culture Keep parental rights preceding those of children. Children's issues are used as political pawns, organizational dysfunctions (Tikkanen, 2021).

Numerous studies have been conducted globally to measure and understand the severity of the child abuse issue. In a national survey conducted in UK, of around 3000 young individuals, it was discovered that 21% had experienced physical abuse, 11% had experienced sexual abuse before the age of 16, 6% had experienced neglect, and 6% had had emotional abuse as they grew up (Dosari et al., 2017).

## **Statement of the Problem**

The evidences and research discussed above shows that there is a lacking of parental knowledge on child abuse, and thus this research paper would contribute to generate evidence on that. There are sufficient statistics; the anticipated rate of presumptive child abuse among children under the age of five would be between 13 and 20 per 100,000 live births. These estimates are higher than those obtained from forensic reporting systems or community-based registers. Physical abuse death is the result of a deliberate act or sequence of acts. These include failing to notice potentially dangerous situations or children's dietary, health, and developmental needs as well as abandoning babies and young children or providing them with insufficient supervision (Jenny, 2006).

Children, who experience abuse frequently, have emotional and behavioral issues. The display of emotions can also be similar for those children, who witness frequent domestic violence or abuse in their regular life. In severe cases, these children can have depression, suicidal tendencies, lower academic performances, drug and alcohol consumption and sexual involvement from very early age. Children who experience abuse or neglect are also more prone to engage in violent relationships as teenagers and adults or to abuse

their own children, thus perpetuating the cycle of violence (Administration for Children and Families 1999).

Through research and evidences, it has been seen that majority of child abuse cases take place within family. Parental substance misuse, marital violence, parental history of childhood abuse or neglect, and parental depression or other mental health difficulties are risk factors. Families in poverty, families with teenage parents, and families with parents who use drugs or alcohol excessively are all more likely to experience child neglect and other forms of abuse (American Academy of Pediatrics 2019).

Young children may react differently to what has happened and harm they endure as children can have substantial and long-lasting impacts. When children are harmed, they may suffer from a variety of emotional, psychological, and physical issues, including this consequence; Low sense, Heightened self-blame, remorse, terror, trouble making friends, Strained bonds, Problems of anxiety, attachment, post-traumatic stress, depression are examples of mental health conditions, Thoughts of suicide or self-harm, Learning disabilities, including delayed linguistic, cognitive growth, Physical illnesses, food issues, and developmental delays, Mortality or physical injuries, Violence, hostility, criminal activity, or other behavioral issues, risky sexual behavior (Queensland govt., 2018).

In Bangladesh's rural society, self-reported prevalence of CPA (Child Physical Abuse) is highly prevalent. The prevalence was related to the children's socio demographic features, including their age, their exposure to domestic violence, and their mothers' lack of education (Haque, 2019).

In Bangladesh, there are numerous laws intended to safeguard children, yet they apply differently to children in various circumstances. There is not a single legislation that protects children from every danger they can encounter. By raising public awareness about child education and hazardous child labor, fostering stronger family ties, early reporting of child abuse cases to the appropriate law enforcement agency, developing and sustaining prevention programs, and facilitating successful school-based child sexual abuse prevention programs across the nation, the government should recognize the scope of the problem and enact stronger laws to protect the rights of our children (Islam & Akter, 2016).

### **Purpose of the study**

It is clear from the statement of the problem that physical abuse of children in their young age occurs often all throughout the world. In Bangladesh, physical abuse is a relatively common occurrence. Children may suffer physical abuse both within the home and from educational institution, transport, neighbor's home etcetera.

Therefore, it is crucial to understand how parents see physical abuse. Consequently, the study's objective is to identify the parent's perception about child physical abuse. It is the children specially the younger one are the most vulnerable from any physical abuse therefore parents as the primary caregiver can play an important role as a protector and as a mentor. The purpose of this study is to aware and disclosed parents' understanding on child physical abuse age of children 3-6 years old.

## **Significance and Justification of the study**

Physical abuse can have relatively moderate or terrible like, burning muscles, broken bones, red blood mark or contusion these are forms of physical abuse and also after effects of physical abuse. Although the physical symptoms may occasionally be transient, it is important to take into account the grief and suffering they give a kid. Again these can be after effects of a physical abuse. Children who have experienced physical abuse before are more likely to experience mental health issues or an unorganized attachment style. In addition, children who endure abuse have a 59 percent higher chance of being arrested as juveniles, a 28% higher chance of being arrested as adults, and a 30% higher chance of committing violent crime in Bangladesh. A range of developmental issues, such as dissociative symptoms as well as anxiety, depression, and acting-out symptoms, are linked to disorganized attachment (Tracy, 2022).

Child abuse and its impact can be severe can have a variety of emotional impacts. At least as much, if not more, harm is done to children who are routinely neglected, shamed, terrorized, or humiliated. These are form of psychological or emotional abuse. The Joyful Heart Foundation asserts that, a child's brain development is significantly influenced by and responds to interactions with families, careers, and the community. Children who have been subjected to physical abuse may struggle with insecurities, low self-esteem, and delayed development. Children who often face various abuse, struggle in many ways: to build relationships, socialize etc. in the long run, this impacts their education life and career as well (Wikipedia, 2022).



According to a research by “Dante Cicchetti”, 80 percent of newborns who had been abused showed signs of an unorganized attachment. Some of these children may experience difficulty when dealing with the needs and normal distress of their infants and young children when they become parents, which may have negative effects on their child's social-emotional development, especially if they have Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), dissociative symptoms, or other sequelae of child abuse. Children might also struggle to empathize with others or with themselves, which could make them feel lonely and prevent them from making friends (Tracy, 2022).

Physical abuse has been common in Bangladesh. There have been many organizations working to ensure child rights. But the prevalence rate in Bangladesh shows there are a lot of things that need to be done. Therefore, this study looks into the perception of parents about physical abuse for their younger children as another significant phenomenon that will be helpful for everyone who works with children's rights and even the policymaker to understand how much we need to do to make the parents aware about this.

## **Research Questions**

A systematic inquiry with the goal of owning qualitative data from study subjects is known as a qualitative research question. To acquire non-statistical data about the experiences, views, and perspectives of the study participants in keeping with the investigation's goals, qualitative research questions are used (Gay L. R, 2006).

In this qualitative study research questions are drawn to collect data through in depth interview and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) from the research participants.

Thereby the research questions of this study are;

- a) What are the parent's understandings about children's physical abuse?
- b) What are the practices parents' do that protect their children from possible abuse?

## **Operational Definition**

This operational definition includes definition of perception and what is physical abuse.

Perception: The mechanisms a person learns about his environment by observing, hearing, feeling, tasting, and smelling is called perception (Kashyap, 2015).

Perception is the grouping, identification, and explanation of sensory information in order to understand the demonstrated information or environment (International Journal of Innovative Research in Science, Engineering and Technology, 2022).

The method one experiences the world is part of perception. In order to identify and maybe reinterpret a patient's or group's perspectives; helps employ a variety of strategies. There isn't a universally accepted great method because there are so many biased tools quantify perceptions (Mcdonald, 2012).

Physical abuse: Physical abuse refers to physical injury when it is not an accident.

Bruises, lacerations, fractures, head trauma, shaking, burns, and poisoning are a few examples of injuries (Ann & Lenane, 2007).

Physical abuse is normally classified by the infliction of overt physical violence, the occurrence of non-accidental harm, and the conduct of the action by the parents (as cited in Kelly, 1983, Hansen, Sedlar, & Warner-Rogers, 1999).

Parent's perception: Parent's perception on child physical abuse about, the term "physical abuse" describes when an adult intentionally causes visual physical harm to a youngster (Kids HelpLine, 2022).

## Chapter II: Literature Review

Child maltreatment is a quiet epidemic. It is a societal crime that endangers our civilization. The overwhelming media attention, frequently on exceptionally gruesome specific examples of child abuse, suggests a higher occurrence (Islam & Akhter, 2015).

Violence against children, according to the WHO, includes all forms of violence against persons under the age of 18, whether committed by parents or other caregivers, classmates, romantic partners, or strangers (Hillis et. al., 2016). Child maltreatment is an act, continuation of acts by parents or caregivers that causes harms, probability for harm or hazard of harm to a child (Centers for Disease Control - CDC, 2010 as cited in Tillman K. S. et al., 2015). When there is physical force e.g., hitting, shaking, kicking, burning or any physical hostilities against a child that is deliberate or continued with meanness then it is called physical abuse (American Humane Association -AHA, 2010 as cited in Tillman K. S. et al., 2015).

All forms of physical and emotional maltreatment like, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development, or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust, or power, are the child abuse and child maltreatment. Physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, and neglect are the four categories of child maltreatment that the World Health Organization has identified as of 2006 (WHO, 2020). When a child is subjected to physical abuse and sustains physical harm as a result, this is referred to as intentional attempt to harm the child, harsh discipline, or unsuitable physical punishment measuring the age of a child. It might be

sexual abuse if the child is exposed to inappropriate sexual activity. Child sexual stimulation can take the form of actions, objects, passive use, and/or actual sexual contact a child abuser. Last but not least, child abuse can take the form of child neglect when a capable caregiver neglects to meet the kid's fundamental requirements, including enough food, clothes, housing, supervision, hygiene care, and support or medical care (Kemoli, & Mavindu, 2014).

According to encyclopedia, physical abuse acts committed by a caregiver that actually injure a child physically or have the potential to do so are referred to as physical abuse. It also says physical abuse occurs when an adult physically assaults a youngster. Physical abuse can include frequent mistakes, and severe punishment that could result in physical injury, as well as bruises, scratches, burns, fractured bones, and facial injuries. Torture and abuse are parental or caregiver-inflicted physical abuse of a kid. There are some frequent ways that physical forces are used in physical abuse. Due to its links to negative health outcomes, Child Physical Abuse (CPA) is a major public health issue (Annerback et al., 2018).

These forms have been used to identify physical abuse;

**Scratching or biting:** When someone has a mental disorder, they may physically assault others by biting or scratching child. They would grab hold of children, ladies or girls and commit these things when they were emotionally unstable and unable to manage their anger.

**Pushing or shoving:** Physical abuse can take the form of pushing or shoving and can be light, moderate, or severe. It is considered a moderate form of pushing when someone

pushes another person without causing them to fall or suffer harm. Pushing is considered a mild form of injury when it causes just minor discomfort, and an excessive form of injury when it causes severe discomfort.

**Slapping:** A frequent type of physical abuse is slapping. It could happen violently or subtly. Mostly children, women and girls have endured this kind of physical abuse at home.

**Kicking:** Kick is a form of physical abuse that can cause significant harm. The main drivers of this type of physical abuse are emotions of rage, hostility, and hatred.

**Hit by objects:** Children faced physical violence which is hitting with objects in households. This refers to striking someone firmly while wielding an object. Anger is a crucial factor in the occurrence of this type of physical violence.

**Throwing and breaking objects:** Physical abuse that frequently involves throwing and damaging things sometimes results from psychological issues like stress, anger, and frustration.

**Force feeding or denying food:** Force feeding refers to making someone eat something that they don't want to. Force feeding or depriving someone of food are both considered to be forms of physical abuse.

**Holding tightly:** Some behaviors that are considered to be kinds of physical abuse do occur. The act of securely clutching is one of the crucial ones. It is considered physical abuse when a child is held tightly by family members or other people, which could damage them (Kapur, 2020).

Individual and familial risk variables, such as being younger, having witnessed domestic violence, and having mothers with poor levels of education, were addressed in relation to the prevalence of CPA (Child Physical Abuse) (Haque et al., 2019).

According to the World Health Organization, sexual abuse affects 20% of girls and 10% of boys worldwide, while physical abuse affects 25–50% of all children (Haque et al., 2019). The majority of the risk factors, which is might be the result in parental physical abuse or corporal punishment of a kid (Dosari, et al., 2017). Children exposed to CPA reported bad health to a greater extent than children who were not exposed, by a study (Annerback et al., 2018). Parents who had experienced abuse as children were more likely to strike their kids rather than employ nonphysical strategies of settling conflicts with them (Dosari et al., 2017).

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Parents who have a history of physical abuse against children, new parents, those who have witnessed domestic violence and inadequate self-control were risk variables that were significantly linked to child abuse. Children with attention deficit hyperactivity

disorder or those who are difficult to control were among the child-related factors attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Parents who did not have a home were more like to punish their children physically. It is difficult to distinguish between physical punishment and child abuse. Because the parents thought they have the right to discipline their child as they see fit, there is no need for a system for the prevention of child abuse, and parents' consent to physical punishment for children were among the abusive beliefs of parents that were risk factors.(Dosari et al., 2017)

It is found out that the most cases of maltreatment occur from the practice of repetitive physical discipline strategies (Rodriguez C. M. 2003). Most of the parents think beating or slapping is a part of child guidance. They want to discipline their children by beating. But for disciplining a child have to guide with emotions and affections without anger and aggression (Adamovic, 2014).

In a study it finds out that 34 percent of the parents disclosed a history of physical abuse during their upbringing. Nearly 18% of parents punished their children physically. Parents who have a history of physical abuse against children, new parents, those who have witnessed domestic violence and inadequate self-control were risk variables that were significantly linked to child abuse. Parents who did not have a home were more inclined to punish their children physically. Physical punishment is an efficient educational tool for a noisy child, parents' consent to physical punishment for children, it is difficult to distinguish between physical punishment and child abuse, parents have the right to discipline their child as they see fit, and other abusive beliefs of parents were risk factors for abuse (Dosari et al., 2017)



There are several traits that abusive parents frequently do abuse. They frequently experienced abuse in their childhood, which support the thought that childhood experiences are the best indicators of how adults will treat their own children in the future (Kammer, 2022). There is no doubt that not only bad people are abusers but also good people may be the physical abuser. A lot of people are hurting their kids un-intentionally and they are doing this repeatedly. The main reason of this is to experience the same violent behavior on their own childhood (Adamovic, 2014).

It is the emotional scars that leave the child with lifelong effects, damage to the child's sense of self, and the inability to form healthy relationships and function at home, work, or school. All forms of child abuse and neglect leave the affected child with long-lasting scars that may be physical or psychological. The child may then resort to using drugs or alcohol to dull the pain of the circumstance. On the other hand, exposing a child to violence when they are still young can make them more susceptible to mental and physical health issues like anxiety disorders, depression, etc. (Kemoli, & Mavindu, 2014).

Comparisons of interactions between physically abusive and non-abusive households suggest that the majority of abused children are more likely to experience problematic peer connections as a result of their home environments. The quality of parent-child interactions makes a distinction between abusive and non-abusive interactions as early as infancy in abused newborns are distinguished by a disorganized or disoriented bond with their mothers (Carlson et.al., 1989 as cited in Haskett & Kistner, 1991).

Although, in Bangladesh the likelihood of other forms of abuse was more likely to occur with youngsters, the incidence of physical assault was significantly higher among younger children. Boys were more likely than girls to experience any sort of maltreatment. Child abuse was strongly correlated with poverty (Hadi, 2000). It is estimated that 93% and 99% of all children in Bangladesh's rural areas have experienced some type of physical abuse from an adult in the last year and over the course of their lives (Haque et al., 2019).

Despite Bangladeshi law banning child labor, 21% of the population was under the age of 18. In Bangladeshi villages, there was a high prevalence of child abuse and exploitation; 2.3% of all children were physically abused, 2% were financially exploited, 1.7% was made to participate in unsuitable activities, and 3% were made to work excessive hours (Hadi, 2000).

The frequency of child maltreatment Bangladesh is becoming more and more concerned about child abuse because it occurs everywhere. Everywhere at home, at work, on the street, and in prisons children are vulnerable targets for violence. In 2005, the Bangladeshi government's Ministry of Home Affairs performed a research on crime statistics. According to the survey, 555 incidences of child abuse were reported to the police during that particular year. This number rose to 1,542 in 2010. These examples are merely the recorded ones, so they might not accurately reflect the circumstances of violence and child abuse in the nation. The information of Govt. Ministry of Home affairs, Bangladesh, 2005 said, in 2001 total number of reported child abuse cases are 380, 2002 it is 521, 2003 to 10 it increased gradually. In 2010 it turns 1542 cases in a year (Islam & Akter, 2016).



## **Chapter III: Methodology**

### **Research design**

The framework of the research methodologies and procedures a researcher selects to carry out a study is known as the research design. The layout enables researchers to focus on developing research techniques appropriate for the topic and set up the investigations for success (QuestionPro, 2022).

To investigate the fundamental differences in the beliefs, attitudes, motives, and perspectives of the parents who explains very much well about their perception on children's physical abuse, an exploratory qualitative study approach was used.

### **Research Site**

Implicit a location that is executing with a research associate and taking part in the study as a result of that collaboration are the research site (Law Insider, 2018).

Since the purpose of this research was to better understand parents' perspectives, it was carried out at their home environment in a semi urban setting in Khulna city. Both parents were asked separately.

### **Research Participants**

Properly capturing the opinions of the study participants is a key concern for qualitative researchers (Gay, L. R, 2006).

This study's subject population consists of parents (both mother and father) who had children age three to six years. They were from middle socio economic background. Their age ranges were between 30 and 40 years.

## **Participant Selection Procedure**

In qualitative research settings, participant selection is one of the least apparent and evaluated procedures. Researchers choose which individuals to include as data, rather than just gathering and analyzing objective data. Every decision reshapes the investigation, presenting some options while preventing others (Reybold et al., 2006).

This is purposive sampling. This study was carried out with 18 participants. The interview was carried out with 6 parents (3 mothers and 3 fathers of the same family). There were 2 FGDs where 6 were outside the interview mothers. It was same for FGD with father.

## **Data collection methods and procedure**

6 IDIs and 2 FGDs were used to gather the data. An unstructured questionnaire was used in a focus group discussion with each of the 3 mothers in the group. 3 fathers, and 3 mothers from each of the areas, were participated in an in-depth interview session with an additional structured questionnaire.

Participants' respond was to inquiries about the consequences and results of child abuse. An audio recorder was used to capture the FGD and IDI. On spot notes was taken. Conversation was recorded. Time duration IDI was 45 minutes and FGD 45-60 minutes.

## **Data Management and Analysis**

Data recording, or data collection, was the first thing to data management. Then the data had to organize after recording. The obtained data was needed to be organizing so that it could smoothly retrieve information from a larger data set.

Firstly the data was transcribed and compiled into a single file. The content analysis technique was used for data analysis. Carefully read all the transcripts several times then categorized the data into different themes. After this as an ending discussion the conclusion was written based on themes.

Approval was taken from the ethical review committee of BRAC University. The purpose of the study was clearly explained to the participants before the interview and written consent was taken. There was volunteer participation of parents. All confidentiality was maintained.

## **Validity & Reliability**

How frequently a research evaluates something is referred to as its reliability. The measurement is regarded as reliable if the same result can be consistently obtained by applying the same techniques under the same conditions. And how well a method evaluates what it is supposed to measure is known as its validity. When a study's findings are highly valid, it means that they accurately reflect the genuine features, traits, and variations in the physical or social reality (Middleton, 2022).

This study tried to shows some wonderful findings of parenting problems of Bangladeshi context into few literature reviews. After this the problem and research topics were

stated. Here triangulation process was applied for building this research in various ways. Research triangulation is the method used to improve the reliability and validity of studies. In other terms, research triangulation essentially works to validate a study's findings (Noble & Heale, 2019 as cited in Akutey & Tiimub, 2021). Various kinds of methods like Focus Group Discussion and In-Depth Interview was taken to collect the data from the different different sources. All of tools what I had used are verified from the expert of BRAC university. The design and tools are refined by the researcher then it used in the pilot research after getting the feedback from the expert. The given information from interview question's reliability had been checked beside this the focus group discussion questions reliability also checked. This are the approaches how the researcher get confirmation of the research validity and reliability of the study.

## **Ethical Issues**

The careful adherence to ethical guidelines is required to make it clear under what circumstances the research was conducted. BRAC University ethical guideline was followed. The parent got messages for asking for their approval before the study was conducted. They informed about the study's setting, goal, objectives, justification for contacting them, researcher's biography, etc.

It was important to note how involved the study was been throughout the time. All participants were given the assurance that their privacy will be respected at all times, and that the study will not reveal any personal information. Any participant who was uncomfortable to answering a question was not required to do so. Participants' wishes must were prioritized where they were unable or unwilling to complete the FGD or IDI.

## **Limitations of the Study**

Initially it was a little bit challenge but later on the participants opened up during IDI and FGD. Participants were little bit hesitant to talk about physical abuse. More methods could be used to ensure triangulation. Also a limitation was little number of participants was too tough to find information appropriately. Further only Khulna city was selected for participants not the village people. And it was too tough to get time from participants.

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## **Chapter IV: Results/Findings & Discussion**

Here is two different themes of result are the demographic information and the findings. In demographic information section belong to participants' details like theirs age in numbers, their occupation, their gender, their children's age and education. And in the findings section all information are being settled with analysis. All information is collected by six in-depth interviews and beside this one focus group discussion was taken also.

### **Demographic Information of Parents**

In demographic information consist of age range, occupation, educational qualification of parents and children.

Here most of mothers are housewife and all are working father. Many of father are teacher in profession, some of them businessman and service holder. Most of mother are completed their graduation some are master degree holder. On the other hand all fathers are master degree holder. After analyzing the participants age, it has been seen that all of them between the age of 25 to 45 years. Very few parents have single child and others have two or more children. And all of children are the age between three to six years old.

The major objective of the research is to disclose the parent's perception about child's physical abuse at the age of three to six years old.

## Results/ Findings

The findings of the research are categorized in six major themes. There will be discussion from the in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. The first part will be about the IDI (in-depth interview) and the second part will be about FGD's (focus group discussion) finding.

### **THEME 01.** Parents' knowledge about physical abuse of children.

Neglect is the primary issue in instances that are recorded to Children's Protective Services, preceded by sexual and physical violence. Children who are abused often experience a variety of abuse; including physical and sexual maltreatment (Parents' should know about physical abuse of Children (American Academy of Pediatrics, 2019).

In the interview most of mother said, Child abuse refers to physical beating, mental neglect, and sexual behavior of a child by his/her family or people outside the family. All of fathers are also describe the child abuse in same way. Some of mother said, physically and mentally hurting the child, any work that disrupts the normal physical and mental growth activities of the child is child abuse. A mother shared about her knowledge about physical abuse,

*“Physical injury to the child by his parents, i.e., the elders of his family, the lashing of school teachers, and any kind of sexual activity of the elders is called child physical abuse” (IDI#03, 2022/10/14).*

On the other hand, Physical abuse refers to physically hurting a child, who can be intentional or unintentional said all most father. Very few father said, physically beating

or physically hurting or hurting through an act, Physical injury to the child by kids' parents, i.e., the elders of his family, the lashing of school teachers, and any kind of sexual activity of the elders is called child physical abuse. Most of fathers were from urban set up and they think child abuse is common with young children in Bangladesh which they are getting to know from different types of media, especially from social media. They also shared that this type of abusive news spread rapidly. Most of the mother agreed that it is a regular phenomenon.

In FGD, most of father said, child abuse refers to force on child's mind, talking against child' willing. And most of mother said, do something against the children are child abuse. And, all of father and mother are agreeing with biting, slapping, hurting by stick to a child are child physical abuse.

It was the controversies topics for the father and mother that, most of mother said the elder are being abused more than the children. They said also the parents are very much care about little kid than their elder or adult kid. It's because of the adult or elder has the capacity to tolerate the pain but the kid has no strength to tolerate the pain. On the other hand most of father said, children ages three to six years are being abused frequently. Those fathers also said, the children of age three to six years old are very much helpless for asking help to someone. Because they are not able to communicate properly, they are not able to speak properly and also they do not know exactly what is abuse and the time of abuse what they should do.

**THEME 02.** The impact of child physical abuse.

In terms of health and physical impacts, there are both short-term (such as bruising, burns, lacerations, and broken bones) and long-term (such as brain damage, hemorrhages, and lifelong abnormalities) possibilities (Edun, 2015).

Most of father shared that after being abused there grows a negative attitude among the children and they like to be alone after any kind of abuse. Child's physical and mental development hampered if a child is abused. Some of more common symptoms that are said all most mother; aggressive attitude towards playmates, pets and other animals, to be very afraid to see parents or guardians or someone older, being too scared, being depressed almost all the time, expressing too much anxiety, not to sleep properly and having nightmares often at night, self-destructive behavior or attitude, mental and behavioral problems of the child, the child mentally wraps themselves up. And also all most mother said about the signs will be seen; Signs of injury, sadness, panic and so many. A mother talked about the impact of child physical abuse is "*child's destructive attitude and behavior*" (IDI#2, 2022/10/14). All of father shared the future life of the child will be threatened because the child will always be mentally depressed. The child will not be able to pay proper attention to their studies. The children will withdraw themselves from social activities. *One father shared about the impact of child abuse is "Not being able to speak spontaneously like other children of same age"* (IDI#1, 2022/10/12). And very few mother said, the child will be deprived of all their due rights. Children will not be able to reach their desired goal. Disruption of normal development, being physically and mentally damaged, having a fearful personality, loss of respect for relationships, etc. also the very common impact of child physical abuse. The risk factors

are describe all of mother that can be more like physical: internal injuries to the body and damage to the brain can occur, bones may break and child's weak joints may move, physically can be damaged for a lifetime, there is also a possibility of death. And Mental can be like: tendency to commit suicide or the attitude to hurt child own self, not having proper mental development, not being able to speak spontaneously like other children of the same age, not having proper physical development, inability to learn anything, being too defensive, being too emotional and unable to make the right decisions, anti-social and destructive activities, and also mentally, can be devastated for a lifetime.

From FGD; The mother participants said, firstly if the child is abused physically then it passes by some sign and symptoms in children's body like child may have some spot of biting or hurting. Children may sad whole day or few days after the abuse, they cry more than before; also they may not eat properly. And the father participants said, Children may do some irrelevant work, they may not be able to talk properly with the family persons are the sign and symptom of child abuse. One of father shared about the impact that, *"If the injury is more, then there are scars on the body. After being mentally broken, accidents can happen many times"* (FGD#02, 2022/10/15). Some of fathers also said the child's physical and mental growth has been damaged day by day. Child's memory capacity can be damaged also, few cases it lost also. And so many accidents can be occurred.

**THEME 03.** Necessary to know about child physical abuse.

Every children, regardless of age, could be abused in any way. Children above the age of five are more likely than children under the age of five to experience physical abuse and serious harm (Kogan, 2013).

Most of mother shared in the context of Bangladesh, physical abuse is widespread which can be done by anyone e.g. parents, close relatives or by any adult stranger. All parents are afraid but conscious about child physical abuse because its consequences negatively affect children. Knowing information about different types of events and through the family education can be the most important way too aware of child physical abuse.

Parents have to give the child some bravery initiative and taking friendly relation with kids that thy can share anything to parents. One mother shared why and where has to know about child physical abuse, *“Child abuse is usually more common with young children in Bangladesh. Which we are getting to know in different types of media, especially on social media, this type of news spread rapidly”* (IDI#01, 2022/10/11). All of father also shared the same things. Very few mother shared to determine the extent of the child's activities and to keep an eye on them and to make them aware of the potential harm.

From the FGD; most of father said, that to know about child physical abuse is very much necessary for this era. Because the children are facing to abuse daily in everywhere, as like they are in school, they are in workplace like a labor, if they are in home also. All most mother said the guardian and the care taker are mostly abusing the child physically. Sometimes it may occurs by own parents of the child. One mother said, *“Often we*

*parents cannot hold our patience to child's roguery. And then unfortunately we slapped our kid to be clam" (FGD#2, 2022/10/14).*

**THEME 04.** The common scenario when child abuse happens.

Almost all mother shared if the child is disobedient, if the child does anything against the rules in a teaching center are the main reasons for child physical abuse. All of father shared the children's indiscipline is the main reason for being abuse. And very few mother said the major reason of child physical abuse is children's bad manner and also the aggressive behavior of abusers.

In FGD, Here most of father said that their kids are very much naughty and. And it may be the main reason of being abused from elder, teacher, neighbor and parents also. On the other hand most of mother said their kids are very much stubborn. This is the major issue for being abused. Beside these children's get angry, when they scream, they get abused by the elders in these situations. Sometimes some of mothers scolded their children and also slapped for their naughty behavior. But most of mothers are giving to watch cartoons and so many programs on their mobile phone and tablet. These practices are spoiling their analytical ability and also the children are facing eye problems a lot.

**THEME 05.** The practices that can reduce child physical abuse from parents and others.

Most of all mothers think they should teach the bad and good side of every matter. If the child insists too much on something, the parents have to be patient and make their children understand. All parents have to be told about the effects of child physical abuse and how terrible it can be to the children. As the child grows, gradually give an idea about child abuse and inform about its bad-effects. Parents also will teach them

religiously first. And will learn how to protect them from this aggressive situation of the society. Most of fathers spend time with their child by playing, watching his favorite cartoons with him, playing sports, helping to know about new things, going for a walk, etc. and most of time they play Sports, telling educational stories, and taking out of the house with their kids. *One father shared about correcting children's behavior like this way, "to teach a child how to behave well instead of doing bad behavior and reward them when they do any good deed" (IDI#3, 2022/10/15).* All most mother try to create child understanding and remorse about the mistake and its consequences, to discourage for bad manners, to make a derision Giving an idea of how it can be done correctly, to encourage and reward to do the given task properly, reprimanding, restricting activities to a limited period of time, to keep away from the possibility of harm, to give an idea of the loss and consequences, to forbid, to be aware of the child, to keep a special eye on children. Very few mother shared, they should give the child some idea about the positives of everything. Later, they will give the child more detailed idea about the daily life and activity. With the right education to the child can be save the child from abuser. One mother shared about child guidance that, *"Although it is not right to over-rule a child. That's why sometimes I understand my child that it does not have to be done, if you do mischief, it is called rotten."*(IDI#06, 2022/10/16). The parents will give the right education and will be aware from strangers.

From the FGD; All of mother and father said that their kids know about physical abuse. Most of mothers are very much conscious about their child physical abuse that's why they are alerting their children to refrain themselves from any physical abuse. Mothers are playing important role to overcome a child's bad situations like if they get hurt



physically from others then mother gave first aid, nutritional food also. After this they counseling their child very well that further they do not do this. Most of mothers teach their children with full of affections and love. They also spend time with children when the children eat, read, and also play, it can save and can be learn a lot from mother that how to protect oneself. Here a mother told about how she can save her child like, *“I warn my child not to go/roaming alone. Besides, if there is any injury, I give first aid. Then try to stop crying by giving something to eat”* (FGD#02, 2022/10/15). Here most fathers said they teach their children by storytelling, they observe their children’s daily activity and manners also. Fathers also share the present situations of the country and society with their children. All of fathers said they try their best to teach their kids do correct things against any bad work and also most of fathers expect that if the government organize any kind of workshop, seminar, it will be very helpful if they could participate and learn.

## **Discussion**

This research is going to disclose about parents’ perception on child physical abuse in early age. This study also showed what type of abuse is parenting and what type of abuse is not parenting also risk for kids.

In this research most of parents are well educated like they qualified as master’s degree. Very few parents are below post-graduation in educational qualification. All of parents were young aged.

Most of parents know their children’s psychology very well. Very few are not properly able to catch their children’s psychology. In the in depth interview, most of parents appreciate that they have to be very careful for their children’s every steps. But the

practice of biting or slapping a kid is not stoppable. Because the parents think that the only way to discipline a disobedient child is biting.

In the focus group discussion most of mother's response was the children of very young age like three to six years grows with affection. But when the children are in primary school age then they faces some cruelty. On the other hand most of father responses that the young aged children are being abusing more outside of the home. Because they are not well known about abuse, they don't know how they protest abuse, they are also afraid more.

For the father and mother, this was the contentious issue. The majority of mothers claimed that older children experience maltreatment more frequently than younger ones. The parents were said to give their younger child far more attention than their elder children. They believe it is because older children have the strength to bear discomfort while younger children lack that capacity. On the other hand, the majority of fathers reported that children between the ages of three and six are routinely abused. These fathers said that youngsters between the ages of three and six are completely incapable of asking for help. They are unable to speak clearly because they are unable to communicate effectively, and they additionally.

All information of this research was collected from two methods, one is in depth interview and another is focus group discussion. All information was assembled based on the research questions and objectives.

## **Conclusion**

The research explored the perception of parents about physical abuse of children age 3-6 years. The FGD and IDI method were used to carry out the research. The participants were mostly housewife mothers and fathers are working fathers from different professional background.

From the findings it seems that both mothers and father are aware what is physical abuse and it came in both IDI and FGD from both mothers and fathers. The main definition of physical abuse revolved around physically hurting a child which could be done by anyone (family member or outside of family). Mentally hurting or sexual abuse a child also came as physical abuse from the participants and they mentioned it could be intentional and unintentional They also shared the intensity of physical abuse in Bangladesh context which is sometime a worrying factor specially for the mothers. The point who are abused more, mothers shared it is the older children whereas fathers specifically mentioned age 3-6 years. When they mentioned the impact, they emphasized its long-term negative impact and what are the impacts it can make also mentioned by the participants.

All participants agreed that it is important for them to know what is happening around child abuse. The most important fact participants mentioned that can reduce their children from possible abuse is bonding between parents and their children. Therefore, parents not only should know about child's physical abuse but there should be more awareness program that can make parents understand the importance of bonding between

parents and their children so that whatever happens with the children they can share with their parents. This kind of program can be taken for the mothers who have children of early years age.

**Recommendations:**

- More parenting education program can be launched by different non-organization and government organization and this needs to be stated from the early years of a child's life.
- Since parents mentioned about social media and other electronic media from which they can know about different abuse therefore these can play an important role in showing proper news and aware parents about child abuse.
- There have been many researches carried out on child abuse but findings from those researches needs not only to be shared in big platforms but policy makers and non-stake need to come forward to take into consideration the affecting factors to bring changes in the context of Bangladesh.
- A lot of studies had held by scholars on child Physical abuse in Bangladeshi context. Beside this parents perception on child physical abuse in the age of three to six years also researches by some scholars. But it is not sufficient, a lot of discussions have to do and many more laws have to create.
- Self-defensing program's importance should have to teach more to the parents. And have to create more facilities to learn institutionally this type of program from the pre-primary ages.

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**Part A - (Demographic information)**

IDI:

<b>Participant SL</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Academic Qualification</b>	<b>Profession</b>	<b>Children's age</b>	<b>Children's Sex</b>
01	28	Female	BSS	Housewife	5	Male
02	23	Female	Degree	Housewife	5	Male
03	29	Female	Degree	Housewife	4	Female
04	47	Male	Honors	Teacher	5	Male
05	30	Male	MSc	Service	5	Male
06	37	Male	Honors	Business	4	Female

FGD (Mother):

<b>Participant SL</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Academic Qualification</b>	<b>Profession</b>	<b>Children's age</b>	<b>Children's Sex</b>
01	28	Female	MBA	Housewife	4	Female
02	26	Female	LLB	Lawyer	4.5	Male
03	33	Female	Diploma	Nurse	5	Female
04	27	Female	BBA	Business	6	Male
05	27	Female	Honors	Housewife	6	Male
06	37	Female	BBA	Artist	5.5	Female

FGD (Father):

<b>Participant SL</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Academic Qualification</b>	<b>Profession</b>	<b>Children's age</b>	<b>Children's Sex</b>
01	30	Male	MSc	Service	5	Male
02	37	Male	Degree	Business	6	Male
03	35	Male	Degree	Service	3.5	Male
04	34	Male	BSc	Service	6	Female
05	36	Male	MSc	Banker	4.5	Male
06	35	Male	BSc	Business	4	Female

### **Part B -**

IDI and FGD guideline:

1. What are the parent's understandings about children's abuse? What are the parent's understandings about children's physical abuse?
  - a) What do you understand by child abuse?
  - b) What do you understand by child physical abuse?
  - c) Do you think child abuse especially with younger kids happens so frequently in Bangladesh? If yes, where do you know this from?
  - d) What are the signs and symptoms a child might have if s/he is physically abuse?
  - e) Do you have any idea by whom the physical abuse can be done?

f) Do you have any idea if a child is physically abuse what are consequences the child might face later? Please explain both physical and mental consequences.

g) Did you notice any signs and symptoms in your child that says s/he might have physical abuse experience? If yes, then what did you see?

h) Does your child know about physical abuse?

i) Do you think that parents need to aware their children physical abuse? If yes, what they should make them aware?

2. What are the practices parents' do that protect their children from possible abuse?

a) Do you make yourself aware about children's physical abuse? How?

b) How do you spend time with your child?

c) What do you do if your child does anything wrong?

d) How do you discipline your child?

e) How do you protect your child from any harm?

f) In her/his regular activities what do you do that assure you that my daughter/son is safe?

g) Do you give some training of your kid like, karate, taekwondo, marshal art etc?

h) Do you aware your child about physical abuse? If yes, then how?

Part C - (Questionnaire-Bangla)

Tools IDI and FGD;

১. শিশুর ওপর নির্যাতন সম্বন্ধে বাবা-মায়ের ধারণা কী? শিশুদের শারীরিক নির্যাতন সম্পর্কে পিতামাতার কী ধারণা রয়েছে?

ক) শিশু নির্যাতন সম্পর্কে আপনি কি বোঝেন?

খ) শিশু শারীরিক নির্যাতন বলতে আপনি কী বোঝেন?

গ) আপনি কি মনে করেন যে শিশু নির্যাতন বিশেষ করে ছোট বাচ্চাদের সাথে বেশী হয় বাংলাদেশে? যদি হ্যাঁ হয়, তাহলে আপনি কোথা থেকে এটা জানেন?

ঘ) একটি শিশু যদি শারীরিকভাবে নির্যাতিত হয় তবে তার কী কী লক্ষণ এবং প্রভাব থাকতে পারে?

ঙ) আপনার কি কোন ধারণা আছে কার দ্বারা শারীরিক নির্যাতন হতে পারে?

চ) আপনার কি কোন ধারণা আছে যদি কোন শিশু শারীরিকভাবে নির্যাতিত হয় তবে শিশুটি পরে কী পরিণতির মুখোমুখি হতে পারে? অনুগ্রহ করে শারীরিক ও মানসিক উভয় পরিণতি ব্যাখ্যা করুন।

ছ) আপনি কি আপনার সন্তানের মধ্যে এমন কোনও লক্ষণ এবং প্রভাব লক্ষ্য করেছেন যা বলে যে তার শারীরিক নির্যাতনের শিকার হতে পারে? যদি হ্যাঁ হয়, তাহলে আপনি কি দেখেছেন?



জ) আপনার শিশু কি শারীরিক নির্যাতন সম্পর্কে জানে?

ঝ) আপনি কি মনে করেন যে বাবা-মায়েদের তাদের সন্তানদের শারীরিক নির্যাতন সম্পর্কে সচেতন করা দরকার? যদি হ্যাঁ হয়, তাহলে তাদের কীভাবে সচেতন করা উচিত?

২. বাবা-মায়েরা কী কী অভ্যাস করেন, যা তাদের সন্তানদের সম্ভাব্য নির্যাতন থেকে রক্ষা করে?

ক) আপনি কি শিশুদের শারীরিক নির্যাতন সম্পর্কে নিজে সচেতন? কিভাবে?

খ) আপনি কীভাবে আপনার সন্তানের সাথে সময় কাটান?

গ) আপনার সন্তান যদি কোন ভুল করে তাহলে আপনি কি করবেন?

ঘ) আপনি কিভাবে আপনার সন্তানকে শাসন করেন?

ঙ) আপনি কিভাবে আপনার সন্তানকে কোন ক্ষতি থেকে রক্ষা করবেন?

চ) তার নিয়মিত ক্রিয়াকলাপে আপনি কী করেন যা আপনাকে নিশ্চিত করে যে আপনার মেয়ে / ছেলে নিরাপদ?

ছ) আপনি কি আপনার বাচ্চার কিছু প্রশিক্ষণ দেন, যেমন, কারাতে, তাইকুয়ান্দো, মার্শাল আর্ট ইত্যাদি?

জ) আপনি কি আপনার সন্তানকে শারীরিক নির্যাতন সম্পর্কে সচেতন করেন? যদি হ্যাঁ হয়, তাহলে কিভাবে?

## **Consent Form**

### **Voluntary Consent Form for Parents**

Institute of Educational Development, BRAC UNIVERSITY

Title of the Research Protocol: Parent's perception on physical abuse at the age of 03 to 06 years old children.

Principal Investigator: SUMAYA SAFAT

#### **Introduction:**

In recent years, there has been an increase in interest in the idea that adverse childhood experiences might be causes of toxic stress, which can have negative short- and long-term effects on children's health and wellbeing. When parents physically abuse their children, which are considered to be when the pain reaches the level of physical abuse, the family environment can be a major cause of stress. (Gershoff, 2016)

#### **Purpose of the research:**

I am from the Institute of Educational Development- BRAC UNIVERSITY conducting a research to explore Parent's perception on physical abuse at the age of 03 to 06 years old children.

#### **Why selected:**

Since Parents are the main caregivers, I have chosen them (mother and father).

#### **Expectation from the respondent:**

If you accept to take part, you will be required to contribute your parenting knowledge and methods Knowledge on Child Development in Early Years. The responders have two options for providing their consent by face to face or by email.

**Risks and benefits:**

You have nothing to fear by taking part in this study. Furthermore, if the findings are considered by educators and policy officials, the child may in the future benefit directly or indirectly.

**Privacy, anonymity and confidentiality:**

Your personal data will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. You are invited to get in touch with me if you have any questions concerning the study, and I would be pleased to help; (cell # 01790205376), (Email: [sumayabintemazid@gmail.com](mailto:sumayabintemazid@gmail.com)) or anytime required.

**Future use of information:**

A portion of the data gathered for this project may be retained for potential use in the future, but in such circumstances, the information and data shared with other researchers will not conflict with or violate the privacy, anonymity, or security of any information distinguishing participants.

**Right not to participate and withdraw:**

Your engagement in the research is entirely voluntary, and only you have the power to decide whether or not to do so. There is no cost associated with declining to participate in

the study. Please sign your name or leave your left thumb impression in the space provided below if you agree to my suggestion that you enroll yourself in my study.

Thank you very much for your cordial cooperation.

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Signature of Investigator

Participant Date:

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Signature of Subject/

Date: