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The Educational and Moral Responsibility of the Family Toward Children Abuse in the Jordanian Society

*Mohammad S. Al-Zyoud and Maisoun F. Al-Akroosh **

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to identify the educational and moral responsibility of the Jordanian families toward the forms of child abuse in the Jordanian society. The study population consisted of (34) cases of abused children. The study sample comprised of (17) cases of physical, sexual, emotional, neglect of children who were referred by the Family Protection house of the Public Security Department to the Treatment and Rehabilitation Center (Dar Al-Aman). This is run by the Jordan River Foundation. The study adopted case study research method by interviewing doctors of the (17) abused children. The study came out with the following findings:

- The presence of various forms of child abuse: physical, sexual, neglect and emotional were found. There was a difficulty in admitting and exposing it due to various family, moral, cultural considerations and social tradition and customs.
- The presence of several causes for abuse of which mainly are family disintegration and ignorance of parents of the requirements for growth and the satisfaction of the needs of children; also the presence of other economical, social and cultural causes.
- The concept of discipline and that of abuse are confused; most parents perform certain practices like beating and deprivation, imagining that such practices help in bringing up their children properly.
- Laws and legislations governing the protection of the child from abuse lack activation. The reason behind that is due to religious considerations and social traditions and customs which govern the application of such laws.
- The Jordanian society is characterized by the social support it renders to its members by providing all kinds of support and aid through adapting any child of large (extended) family in case the child is subject to harsh circumstances.
- People who look after the child fail to realize his rights and their importance, consequently they practice abuse.

According to the results above, the study recommended the launching of organized campaigns with aim at enlightening the parents and all those who deal with the child about the educational methods for dealing with children throughout their various stages of growth. This aim should change the wrong concepts which many individuals have, regarding beating of children which they consider as a successful means of bringing up the child. Also, intensive programs should be set to enlighten Jordanian families about the care that should be given to the child, especially those families which are of the low educational and economical levels. Finally, Studies should be made about the child abuse in families of the higher economical level. Most cases of abuse which are discovered and reported appear among families of lower economical level in contrast with families of higher economical level who try to hide up.

Keywords: Educational and Moral Responsibility, Family, Children Abuse, Jordanian Society.

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