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**Department of Forensic Medicine, SNMC, Agra &**  
**GLAFIMS ASSOCIATION**  
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### **Child abuse - grave instead of cradle**

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#### **Abstract**

Children -vulnerable group in society. Their abuse- under reported. It is put off as teaching the child good manners or correct behavior or told as child getting hurt while playing. Hereby reporting a case of 6 year old boy brought to autopsy with alleged history of abuse by stepfather. He had hit the child too much and the child died soon after. Mother who came home late, saw dead son and filled complaint immediately.

AUTOPSY findings – multiple abrasions, multiple contusions, with muscle deep blood extravasations over face, back, upper and lower limbs. Antemortem injuries. A belt was taken from crime scene. Cause of death – death due to shock and hemorrhage as a result of multiple injuries sustained.

Child abuse -physical, mental, emotional, sexual ... Child neglect, isolation(physical or mental), bullying in schools and neighborhood, even cyberbullying- all are types of child abuse. Commonest perpetrators -family members (parents, step-parents, grandparents, other members, siblings), in other cases- people known to child. Child abuse –affects mind and body of the child+ long term effects. Though there is legislation to curtail this heinous crime, not many know of it. Support groups and NGOs- provide counselling and care of victims.

Never turn a blind eye. DON'T THINK its parenting or teaching when child is hurt. Inform the authorities in cases of suspicion. Get counselling when you are ready for family or getting stepchildren. CHILD ABUSE is crime against society. We, as society, must stop this.

Keywords: Child Abuse