



A Study on the Sexual Abuse of Children Due to the Toxic Relationships with Special Reference to Chennai

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ABSTRACT

A toxic relationship that features control and emotional manipulation. There are different types of abuse. They are financial abuse ,digital abuse, verbal abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse. When parents see their child hurting in a romantic relationship, it's natural to react with fear, anger and judgment .Kimgb Sisto Robinson, a writer, and high school educator, has been a passionate voice against domestic violence since her sister was killed by her estranged husband in 2010. The method used in the study to collect data is a non-probability method in specific convenience sampling. Both primary data and secondary data is used in the study for analysis of the study. Total number of the respondents were 205 .The data was collected by preparing a well structured questionnaire .The independent variables are age ,gender,income, area and education qualification of the respondents . Firstly, self-awareness is the key. Understanding the dynamics of a toxic relationship involves recognizing patterns of control, manipulation, or emotional abuse. This awareness lays the foundation for the individual to acknowledge the unhealthy nature of the relationship and its impact on their mental and emotional health. Self-awareness is the key. Understanding the dynamics of a toxic relationship involves recognizing patterns of control, manipulation, or emotional abuse. This awareness lays the foundation for the individual to acknowledge the unhealthy nature of the relationship and its impact on their mental and emotional health.

Keywords: Physical violence, Abuse, Depression, Toxic, Children

1. Introduction

A toxic relationship that features control and emotional manipulation. There are different types of abuse. They are financial abuse ,digital abuse, verbal abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse. When parents see their child hurting in a romantic relationship, it's natural to react with fear, anger and judgment .Kimgb Sisto Robinson, a writer, and high school educator, has been a passionate voice against domestic violence since her sister was killed by her estranged husband in 2010. She asks parents to recognize the following as possible signs of relationship abuse in their children of all ages may have eating disorders , depression, drinking , forgetfulness, isolation from friends and family. Girl children are more likely to be the victims of severe physical and sexual partnership abuse. But boys can also be victims of toxic and emotionally and physically abusive relationships. A toxic relationship is a complex web of emotional turmoil that ensnares individuals, leaving a lasting impact on their mental and emotional well-being. Whether it manifests in romantic partnerships, familial bonds, or friendships, the consequences can be profound and far-reaching. At the core of a toxic relationship often lies a lack of healthy communication. The toxic dynamics may involve patterns of manipulation, control, or emotional abuse. In romantic relationships, this could manifest as a constant power struggle, where one partner seeks dominance over the other, undermining the very foundation of mutual respect and equality. Friendships, too, can become toxic when they're characterized by one-sidedness, betrayal, or manipulation. A toxic friend may drain emotional energy, creating an atmosphere of negativity that hinders personal growth and happiness. Escaping the clutches of a toxic relationship requires recognition and courage. Individuals must acknowledge the harmful patterns, understand their worth, and prioritize their mental health. Seeking support from friends, family, or professionals can provide the necessary strength to break free from the toxic cycle. Preventing toxic relationships necessitates a broader societal shift towards education and awareness. Schools, families, and communities must prioritize teaching healthy relationship dynamics, communication skills, and emotional intelligence. By fostering these qualities early on, individuals are better equipped to recognize and avoid toxic patterns.

Objectives

- * To analyse the mental situation of the children affected due to toxic relationship
- * To interpret the consequences of toxic relationships
- * To analyse the reasons due to which children enter into toxic relationships

1.1 Review of Literature

Domhardt et al. (2015) The authors found that the information about the protective factors promoting an average level of functioning in child victims of sexual abuse. These factors were education, interpersonal and emotional competence, active coping, control beliefs, optimism, social attachment, external attribution of blame, and most importantly, family and the broader social environment.

Lassri et al. (2018) The author suggested that CSA may lead to elevated levels of self-criticism, linked with reduced satisfaction in romantic relationships, promoting a vicious cycle involving relationship satisfaction and attachment avoidance

Devries et al. (2018) The author produced the first globally age-specific and sex-specific prevalence estimates by perpetrator type for physical, emotional, and sexual violence against children. Across a range of ages, for both sexes, the most common perpetrator for physical and emotional violence were the household members (> 50%), followed by student peers. For sexual violence, the most known perpetrator against girls aged 15-19 years were intimate partners.

Huang and Mossige (2018) The author examined resilience among young people (aged ≥ 18 years) who reported being victims of multiple forms of violence during childhood and adolescence using data from two national youth surveys administered in Norway in 2007 and 2015.

Musicaro (2019) The author provided a framework of prolonged victimization as a precursor to complex post-traumatic social adaptations. Around the world, child suffer from sexual violence and assault at the hands of their offender, but these incidents are never reported. Everyone is affected differently after experiencing sexual abuse and current data cannot provide accurate information about victim ability to form healthy relationships in the adulthood.

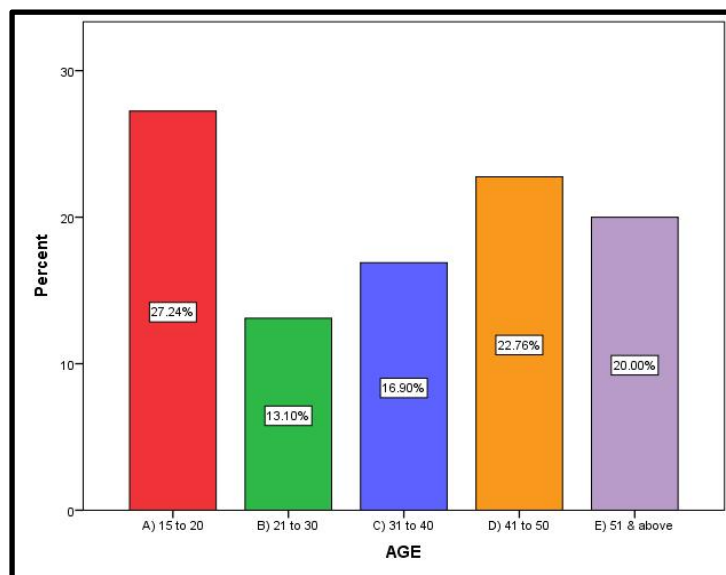
Balamurugan (2024) in their study explored the socio-economic and familial backgrounds of juvenile offenders in India. It found that a significant proportion of these young offenders came from broken or dysfunctional families, with many experiencing parental neglect, abuse, or emotional neglect. The absence of positive role models, coupled with economic hardships, were identified as contributing factors to juvenile delinquency. The study stressed the importance of a supportive family environment in preventing juvenile offenses and emphasized the role of early intervention.

1.2 Methodology

The method used in the study to collect data is a non-probability method in specific convenience sampling. Both primary data and secondary data is used in the study for analysis of the study. Total number of the respondents were 205 .The data was collected by preparing a well structured questionnaire .The independent variables are age ,gender,income, area and education qualification of the respondents .The dependent variables are the causes ,disadvantages , problems etc...The research tools use were graphs like pie chart , bar graph and chi square test.

1.3 Analysis

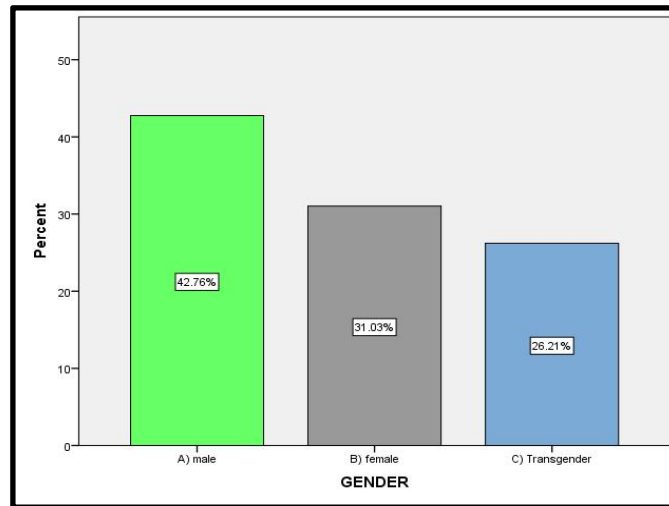
FIGURE 1:



Legend - The figure 1 shows the age of the respondents

RESULT - Most of the respondents are between the age of 15 to 20 (27.24%) and least are between 21 to 30 (13.10%).

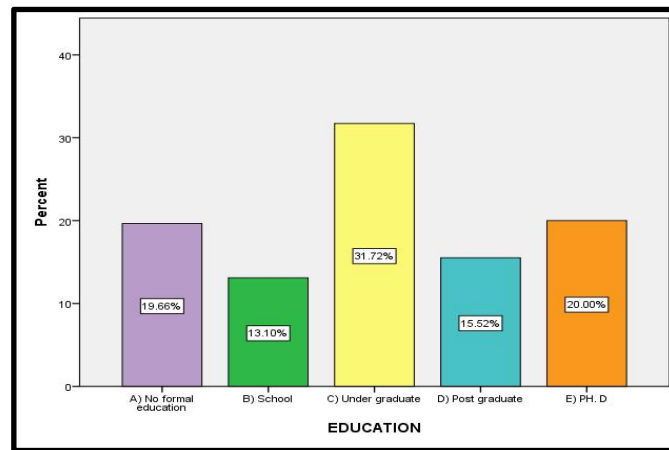
FIGURE 2



Legend - The figure 2 shows the gender of the respondents

RESULT - Most of the respondents are male (42.76%) and least are female (26.01%).

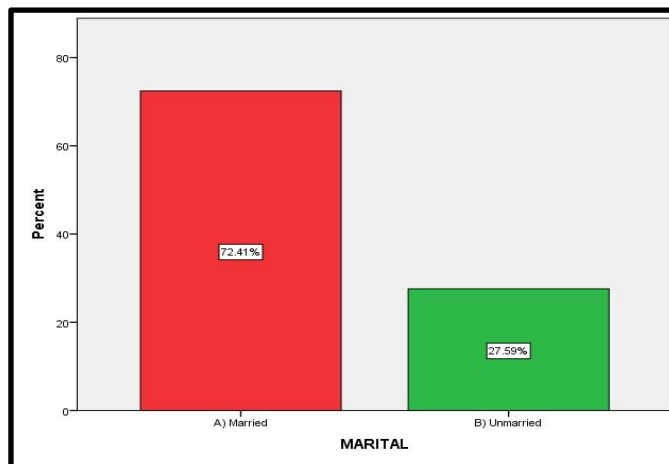
FIGURE 3



Legend - The figure 3 shows the education of the respondents

RESULT - Most of the respondents are UG (31.72 %) and least are school students (13.10%).

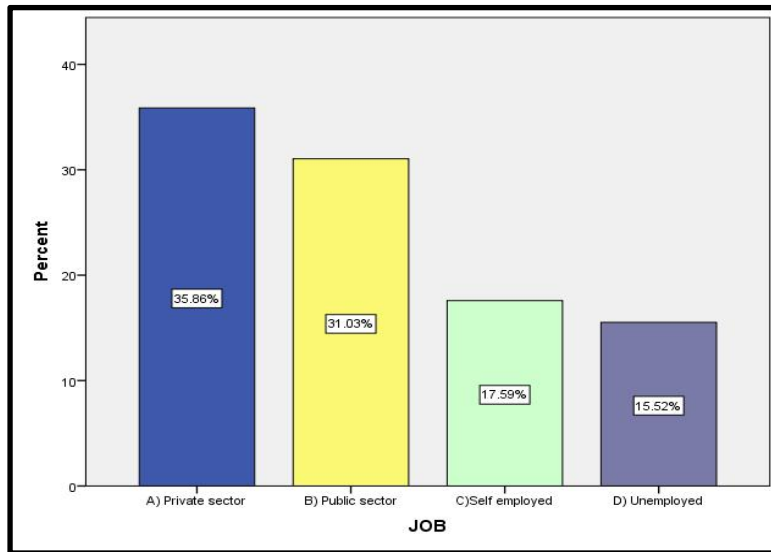
FIGURE 4



Legend - The figure 4 shows the of the respondents

RESULT - Most of the respondents are married (72.41 %) and least are unmarried (27.59%).

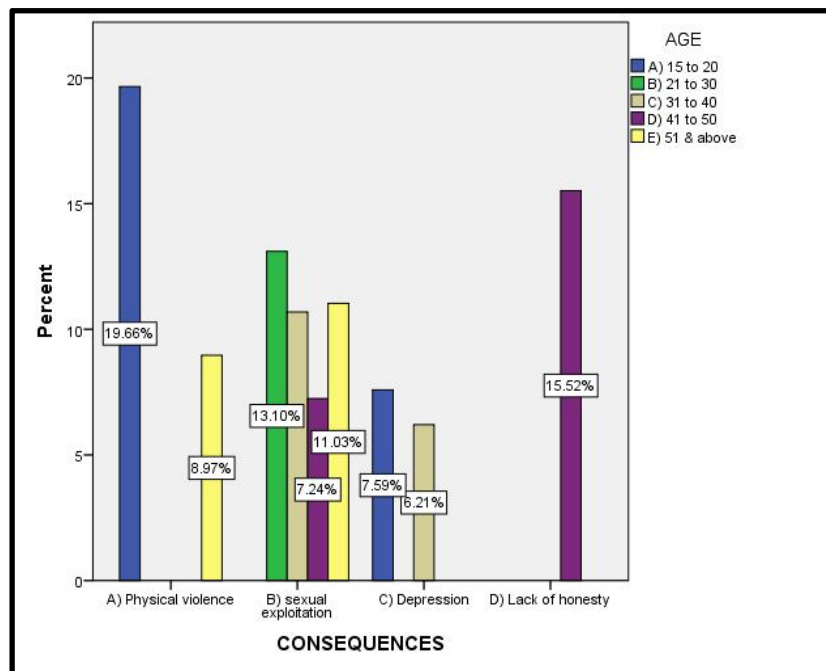
FIGURE 5



Legend - The figure 5 shows the job of the respondents

RESULT - Most of the respondents work in the private sector (35.86%) and least are unemployed (15.52%).

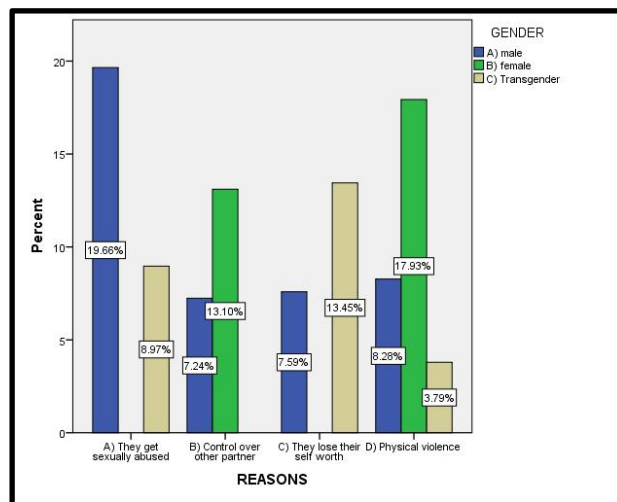
FIGURE 6



Legend - The figure 6 shows the age and consequences faced by children due to toxic relations of the respondents

RESULT - Most of the respondents between 15 -20 think that consequence of toxic relation is physical violence (19.66%)

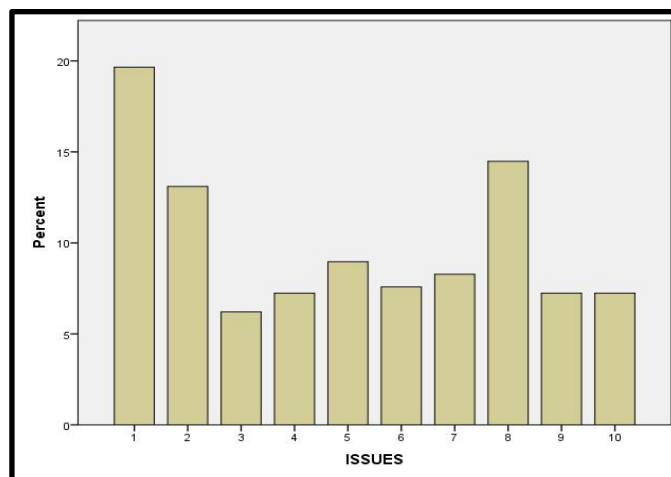
FIGURE 7



Legend - The figure 7 shows the gender and reasons for toxic relations according to the respondents

RESULT - Most of the male respondents think that the reason for toxic relationships is sexual abuse (19.66 %).

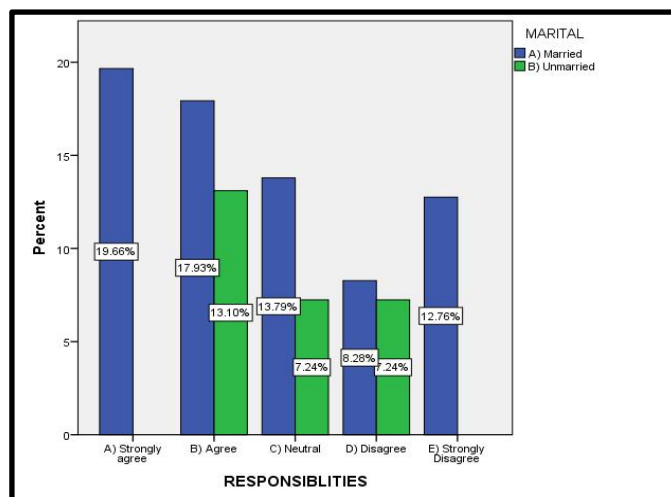
FIGURE 8



Legend - The figure 8 shows the opinion of the respondents on children who face unwanted pregnancy due to these toxic relationships .

RESULT - Most of the respondents think that the respondents strongly agree that children may face unwanted pregnancy due to toxic relationship.

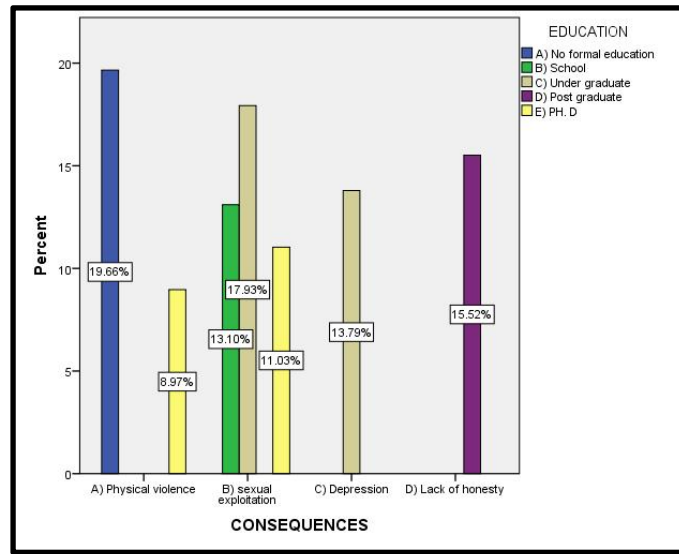
FIGURE 9



Legend - The figure 9 shows the marital status of respondents and their opinion on the responsibilities of parents towards their children

RESULT - Most of the married respondents strongly agree that parents attention towards their children may reduce toxic relationships (19.99%).

FIGURE 10



Legend - The figure 10 shows the education and consequences faced by children due to toxic relations of the respondents

RESULT - Most of the uneducated respondents think that consequence of toxic relation is physical violence (19.66 %).

TABLE 1

Case Processing Summary						
	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
AGE * REASONS	290	100.0%	0	0.0%	290	100.0%

AGE * REASONS Crosstabulation						
Count		REASONS				Total
		A) They get sexually abused	B) Control over other partner	C) They lose their self worth	D) Physical violence	
AGE	A) 15 to 20	57	0	22	0	79
	B) 21 to 30	0	38	0	0	38
	C) 31 to 40	0	0	18	31	49
	D) 41 to 50	0	21	0	45	66
	E) 51 & above	26	0	21	11	58
	Total	83	59	61	87	290

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	385.351 ^a	12	.000
Likelihood Ratio	433.831	12	.000
N of Valid Cases	290		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 7.73.

LEGEND - The Table 1 shows the chi square test between gender and reasons for toxic relations according to the respondents

RESULT - The p value is above .05 in this test that is 7.73, so we can accept the null hypothesis and reject the alternative hypothesis

HYPOTHESIS

Null Hypothesis: There is no significant relationship between gender and reasons for toxic relations according to the respondents

Alternative Hypothesis: There is a significant relationship between gender and reasons for toxic relations according to the respondents

TABLE 2

Case Processing Summary						
	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
EDUCATION * ISSUES	290	100.0%	0	0.0%	290	100.0%

EDUCATION * ISSUES Crosstabulation													
Count		ISSUES										Total	
		1	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
EDUCATION	A) No formal education	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	57
	B) School	0	0	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38
	C) Under graduate	0	21	0	18	0	0	22	0	31	0	0	92
	D) Post graduate	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	24	0	0	0	45
	E) PH. D	0	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	11	21	0	58
Total		57	21	38	18	21	26	22	24	42	21	0	290

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	1093.812 ^a	36	.000
Likelihood Ratio	857.243	36	.000
N of Valid Cases	290		

a. 27 cells (54.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 2.36.

HYPOTHESIS

Null Hypothesis: There is no significant relationship between education and opinion of the respondents on children who face unwanted pregnancy due to these toxic relationships

Alternative Hypothesis: There is a significant relationship between education and opinion of the respondents on children who face unwanted pregnancy due to these toxic relationships .

LEGEND - The Table 2 shows the chi square test between gender and reasons for toxic relations according to the respondents

RESULT - The p value is above .05 in this test that is 2.36 , so we can accept the null hypothesis and reject the alternative hypothesis

TABLE 3

Case Processing Summary						
	Cases					
	Valid		Missing		Total	
	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
GENDER * AWARENESS	290	100.0%	0	0.0%	290	100.0%

GENDER * AWARENESS Crosstabulation												
Count		AWARENESS										Total
		1	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
GENDER	A) male	57	21	0	0	0	0	22	24	0	0	124
	B) female	0	0	38	0	21	0	0	0	0	31	90
	C) Transgender	0	0	0	18	0	26	0	0	11	21	76
Total		57	21	38	18	21	26	22	24	11	52	290

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	491.890 ^a	18	.000
Likelihood Ratio	554.712	18	.000
N of Valid Cases	290		

a. 4 cells (13.3%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 2.88.

HYPOTHESIS

Null Hypothesis: There is no significant relationship between gender and the awareness which should be provided by parents .

Alternative Hypothesis: There is a significant relationship between gender and the awareness which should be provided by parents .

LEGEND - The Table 3 shows the chi square test between gender and the awareness which should be provided by parents .

RESULT - The p value is above .05 in this test that is 2.88 , so we can accept the null hypothesis and reject the alternative hypothesis

2. Discussion

The unwanted pregnancy of children in the context of toxic relationships is important. It highlights the need for comprehensive sex education, emphasising consent, communication, and healthy relationships. Additionally, fostering an environment where children feel safe to seek guidance can be crucial in preventing and addressing such situations. Parental involvement and community support are essential aspects of mitigating the risks associated with unwanted pregnancies in these challenging circumstances.

Children exposed to toxic relationships with adults can experience various negative outcomes. This may include emotional and psychological distress, impaired self-esteem, difficulties forming healthy relationships, and increased vulnerability to mental health issues. Long-term consequences may extend into adulthood, impacting the individual's overall well-being and ability to navigate healthy connections. Early intervention, support systems, and a nurturing environment are essential to mitigate these harmful effects and promote the child's resilience.

Parents in toxic love relationships bear the responsibility of prioritizing their children's well-being. It's crucial for parents to shield their children from any harm, both physical and emotional. This may involve seeking professional help, such as counselling or therapy, to address relationship issues. Creating a stable and nurturing environment for the children, and ensuring open communication about emotions and concerns, can contribute to their emotional resilience. Ultimately, parents must prioritise their children's safety and work towards providing a healthy and supportive upbringing.

Absolutely, raising awareness about toxic love relationships is crucial for children's well-being. Parents, teachers, and close individuals can play a significant role by fostering open communication, educating on healthy relationships, and providing resources on recognizing and addressing toxic behaviors. This proactive approach empowers children with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate relationships in a positive way, reducing the risk of falling into unhealthy patterns as they grow older.

Toxic love relationships can have profound consequences on children. Exposure to conflict, emotional abuse, or neglect may lead to long-lasting effects such as anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem. Children may struggle with forming healthy relationships, have difficulty regulating their emotions, and even exhibit behavioral problems. Early intervention, counseling, and creating a supportive environment are essential to mitigate these consequences and help children develop resilience in the face of challenging family dynamics.

4. Conclusion

Firstly, self-awareness is the key. Understanding the dynamics of a toxic relationship involves recognizing patterns of control, manipulation, or emotional abuse. This awareness lays the foundation for the individual to acknowledge the unhealthy nature of the relationship and its impact on their mental and emotional health. Establishing clear boundaries is another pivotal step. Setting limits on what is acceptable behavior and communicating these boundaries assertively is crucial. This may involve expressing one's needs, desires, and discomfort with specific actions, thereby reshaping the relationship dynamic. Cultivating a support system is essential. Connecting with friends, family, or support groups provides a crucial network for emotional validation and guidance. Having a support system reinforces the belief that the individual deserves a healthier relationship and provides the necessary strength to initiate change. Seeking professional help is a powerful strategy. Therapists, counselors, or support hotlines offer objective perspectives and coping mechanisms. Professional guidance can empower individuals to navigate the complexities of ending a toxic relationship and healing from the emotional wounds it may have caused. Developing self-esteem and self-love is paramount in breaking free from toxic relationships. Engaging in activities that bring joy, pursuing personal goals, and focusing on individual growth contribute to building a strong sense of self. This newfound confidence becomes a catalyst for making decisions that prioritize well-being.

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