

Children as Victims of Violence in the Municipalities of Bujanovc and Presevo: The Forms of Manifestation

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Abstract: Many of us get the information in different ways, such as in written forms, daily newspapers, television, and we see that every day they give more information about violence against children, about the increase in the number of victims of minors up to the over age, the phenomenon of child's violence has become a worldwide problem which is faced by every family, society, regardless of the degree of economic, political or social violence against children has found applicability in the municipalities of Presevo and Bujanovc. Forms of violence and ways of victimization every day more and more perfect and more perpetrators of violence are allegedly cover with family issues. Violence against children often cannot be seen, not heard and not reported by individual offenders but also by others, this phenomenon is very difficult to treat because of its specifications is also widespread in our country, with all that because of mentality, myths, customs, traditions; the number is higher in dark than in democratic countries.

Having in mind the problem to victimization of children, the way they are treated by the parents, guardian, teachers, the place they live, we must have a clear vision, universal, must see the problem in its entirety and only then to get into details. At the beginning we should look where the children placed, analyzing habits, political circumstances are, social, economic, and legislation of country. Children are the future of all mankind, the most pure structure of humanity, and we as individuals, as families, as a society are obliged to take care of them, to offer opportunities for a better life by trying the maximum effort in accordance with their abilities to adapt to psycho physical conditions of life.

Key words: children victims of violence, physical violence, psychological violence, reasons for using violence against children

1. Introduction

Ways, methods, tools, which are used for education, treatment of children during childhood stages of the disciplines considered medical, psychological and pedagogical as a crucial period for the future development of children as individuals and as citizens. The importance of this period for all subsequent development makes it necessary for children to show special care to meet their development needs. One of them is security need and without fulfillment of this need is impossible to have healthy individuals and responsible citizens.

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The use of easy forms and moderate physical and psychological violence is widespread, virtually every family, every school and everywhere where the children are. Many children are subject to forms of violence whether physical, psychological or sexual violence. Recent years many cases have been reported the violence behavior by parents, teachers and others persons.

Despite numerous indications of the presence of violence on children and increasing its arrival, the burden of the world this phenomenon is not so simple and easy to be treated. Although many international conventions have been ratified and special laws for Conservation of children's rights by democratic Countries which victimization of children is not stopped, especially in transition countries where predominates the belief that children should be dealt as family issues, exercising violence perpetrated against them either in family environment, school or society, it is treated only as their education measures.

Very often, for many simply worthless items children victimize, because they have not implemented any given order, did any hassle from negligence, have not committed any obligation, did not perform housework or because of their personal hygiene violence is physical or psychological, not taking into account the increase in child psychology, the dynamics of the development of life, how the child perceives events and so on.

2. Definition of Violence against Children and Forms of Violence

Sorrowful we notice that in our society, families do not have a unique model that deserves to be followed in the process of education. Today we do not find a reference or indication to suggest they as parents, from one family to another, have a rough average level of training, in terms of educational methods that follow such families exist, where the child, whether male or female grows with the feeling of fear, characterized by weak personality and is confusing, there are other families which give absolute freedom child, love them excessively, there are families where child grows as ignorant and remains faraway the social ethics, there are families that prepare future aristocracy dived in luxury and departed from society¹.

No a violence against children can be justified, and any violence against children can be prevented. Elementary studies of violence against children also prove that violence exists in every country regardless the culture and class distinction, despite education, and ethnicity. In all regions despite obligations to protect human rights and the right of children, violence against children is acceptable to society, and behind it stands the justice and state².

"Child" means every human being below the age of 18, except when the majority is attained earlier, in accordance with the legislation of which he ject³.

Today the meaning of violence on children has evolved, e.g., by violence we understand any behavior that obstacles the developing or realization of child's potential. Indeed, the concept of family is to be reconsidered by reality, which cannot always find it warmly. Unfortunately, today the family has the main place where the best of abuses against minors, but it is the family where children are abused left hand dial, neglected, labeled called insulting names, and so on, this phenomenon is very much reflected in school objects, in different social circles.

The definition of violence is an issue that has its difficulties, which have become popular in studies that are done. Among them the biggest difficult is the dependence of its defining from his culture that study the violence

¹ Mustafa S. (2008), *Etika Jonë Familjare* 2, Tiranë, p. 51.

² Nasilje nad decom, *Studija Generalnog sekretar Ujedinjenih nacije*, p. 5.

³ Convention on the Rights of the Child, 20 novembar 1989, Article 1.

and from the culture where the violence is practiced and suffered. Cultural dependence of violence is best expressed in the fact that a century ago in England teacher was forced to discipline the child by hitting him with the rod, today such a move English teacher goes to prosecution. However the study you have on hand as well as many international studies on this topic, is required a number of terms and phraseologies to be defined for a better understanding of the study and comparisons. "Violence is defined the including of all forms of physical or mental violence, insult or maltreatment, abandonment or neglect, exploitation or outrage, inclusion of sexual abuse while he is in the care of his parents or one of them, the representatives or his legal representatives or any other person entrusted"⁴.

Violence against children is a global phenomenon. It now appears in developed countries and also in a larger size, even in developing countries. That is why international organizations such as UNICEF, WHO, ILO, etc., have shown an increasing interest to addressing this phenomenon. The data referred to their documents of these organizations indicate for the size and various types of violence perpetrated on children:

In the whole world during the 2002 have been killed nearly 53,000⁵. Between 20 and 65% of school age are said to have been physically or verbally abused for the last 30 days⁶. World Health Organization assesses that in 2002, 150 million girls and 73 million boys under 18 experienced forced sexual relationship or various forms of sexual violence, including physical contact⁷. The use of corporal punishment as a mean of disciplining children, culturally and legally is accepted in many countries and is spread. Studies in the United Kingdom and the United States found that 90% of all children are physically punished during childhood⁸. In 2004, about 218 million children have been engaged to work, and of this number 126 million have worked in hazardous work⁹.

The studies made by various international organizations dealing with the protection of children's rights can be said that violence against children has become a global problem that faces almost every family, every society, every country despite the economic stability, political and social adjustment. From the statistics of global organizations and those non-governmental organizations—NGOs, it is worrying that the number of children victims of physical, psychological and sexual violence every day is added more and more.

Demographic dispute for municipality of Bujanovac and Presevo — Population in municipalities of Presevo and Bujanovac is young, but the low level of economic development, low level of incomings compared to other municipalities in Serbia is significantly more pronounced.

Table 1 Population and Economic Indicators¹⁰

Municipalities	No. residents	Albani. %	Serb. %	Rom. %	others	Depende rate children ¹¹	Depende. ratio of elderly persons ¹²	Age Average
Bujanoc	45279	54.69	34.14	8.93	2.05	18.48	7.70	32.9
Preshevo	39341	89.10	8.55	0.92	1.28	21.41	19.62	29.2

⁴ Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 19, Fusnot 3.

⁵ Globalne procene posledica pozdravlje zbog nasilja nad decom. Podržavajući rad za Studiju Ujedinjenih nacija o nasilju nad decom (Ženeva, Svetska zdravstvena organizacija, 2006).

⁶ Svetska zdravstvena organizacija (www.who.int/school_youth_health/gshs) uz korišćenja podatak iz istraživanja sprovedenih od 2003 do 2005 god.

⁷ Globalne procene posledica pozdravlje zbog nasilja nad decom, Op.cit fusnota 5.

⁸ Children and Violence, Innocenti Digest No 2, UNICEF, f. 6.

⁹ The end of Child Labour- Within Reach: global report, Geneva, International Labour Office, 2006.

¹⁰ Zavod za statistiku Republike Srbije (ZSRS), u Opštinama Srbije, 2009, 2006.

¹¹ The rate of the population aged 0–14 to the population of working age (15–64).

¹² The rate of the population over 64 aged to the population of working age.

To further argued that fact in Figures 1 and 2, we present the number of children beneficiaries of social assistance at the centers for social work in Bujanovac and Presevo, for periods 01.01.2011-31.12.2011 and 01.01.2012-31.12.2012.

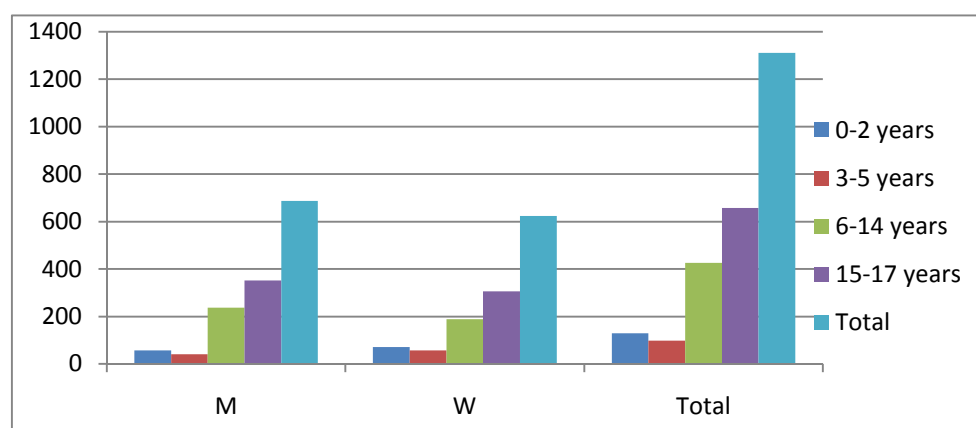


Figure 1 The Report for the Period from 01.01.2011 to 31.12.2011¹³

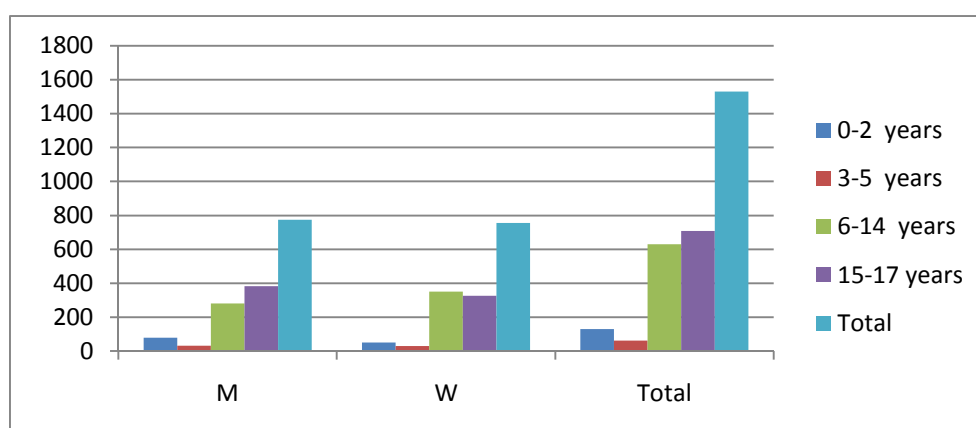


Figure 3 The Report for Period from 01.01.2012 to 31.12.2012¹⁴

WHO estimates indicate that the rate of killings of children during 2002 was double higher in low-income countries from the rate in high-income countries (2.58 to 1.21 per 100,000 population). The highest rate of murders of children is estimated among adolescents, especially boys of age 15 to 17 years (3.28 for girls 906 for boys) and among children 0 to 4 years (1.99 for girls, 2.09 for boys)¹⁵.

Having in mind the level of poverty in Presevo and Bujanovac municipalities, the social work report entity for the years 2011–2012 the biggest users of social assistance are children of ages 0–17 years, especially on the stated age is the age of the users 15–17 years old, and analyzing reports of the World Health Organization that the number of killings is more pronounced at ages 15–17 years, this fact should be extremely worrying because is one of factors that has an impact on victimization of children is the economic factor, especially when we talk about young people.

¹³ Centar za socijalni rad Bujanovac, izveštaj za period od 01.01.2011 god do 31.12.2011 god., p. 10.

¹⁴ Centar za socijalni rad Bujanovac, izveštaj za period od 01.01.2012 god do 31.12.2012 god., p. 10.

¹⁵ Globalne procene posledica pozdravlje zbog nasilja nad decom, op. cit, fusnot 5.

3. Children-Victims of Physical Violence and Forms of Manifestation

Based on previous findings, victimization of children begins very early. Many victimized children come from incomplete families, families that miss the parents or they are abroad, are dead or are currently serving punishment in prisons, from poor and unemployed families, from alcoholics or drug addicts families or sick families, with spiritual and pathological disorders. Also presented as victims of children submit from previous marriages, adopted children, unwanted children, abandoned children, children left to relatives or children that are in hospice or shelters¹⁶.

The child as a witness violence between their parents, especially like a witness of mother abuse, it is very scared and experiences the world as unsafe and hostile place¹⁷, which means that he will experience indirect violence that consequences are indelible for his future.

Emotional/psychological violence is related to that behavior that leads to immediate and permanent threat to mental emotional health and dignity of the child/student. Refers to situations in which miss the appropriate safety and supportive environment for healthy emotional and social development in accordance with the potentials of children/students. Emotional violence and abuse are: acts of humiliation, labeling, ignorance, insults, blackmail, name calling, slander, ridicule, mockery, rejection, coercion, manipulation, threats, intimidation, restraint of children/students, and other forms of hostile behavior¹⁸.

When interviewing parents and children what they think about domestic violence, they are aware that physical and psychological violence has negative consequences for the child, the vast majority of respondents agree that physical and psychological violence also has positive effects on a child's education, but they justify it to use when it is necessary, but in the light form and not to young people. The concept of the need to use physical and psychological violence at home and in school is also internalized by the children at home but also in school claim to know that the violence exercised in cases where it is necessary, in order to educate them.

But the use of physical and psychological violence is tolerated more at home by parents or other family members than in school or other institutions. The vast majority of respondents think that physical violence is more harmful than psychological violence, psychological violence is therefore seen as permissible and useful, whether at home or at school.

In its general comment of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, edited in 2006, defines the physical or corporal punishment as: any punishment in which physical force is used and whose purpose is to cause some degree of pain or discomfort, no matter how slight. This primarily relates to hitting (Pluska, beatings, Čuška) by hand or an implement-whip, stick, belt, throwing children, scratching, pinching, biting, pulling hair or ears close, forcing children to stay in uncomfortable positions, causing burning, scalding or forced ingestion¹⁹.

Starting from the definition of physical violence against children we can make some questions about the most common forms of physical violence and they were used in interviewing 100 children aged 6 to 17 years old.

¹⁶ Halili R. (2011), *Viktimologji*, Prishtinë, p. 82.

¹⁷ Petrušević N., Kostatinović Ilić S. (2008), *Vodič kroz sistem porodičnopravane zaštite od nasilje u porodici*, Beograd, p. 15.

¹⁸ http://www.uecpd.org/uploads/files/Nasilje_u_skoli.pdf.

¹⁹ http://www.coe.org.rs/REPOSITORY/1826_brosura_pitanja_i_odgovori-final_zamaj_fajl.pdf.

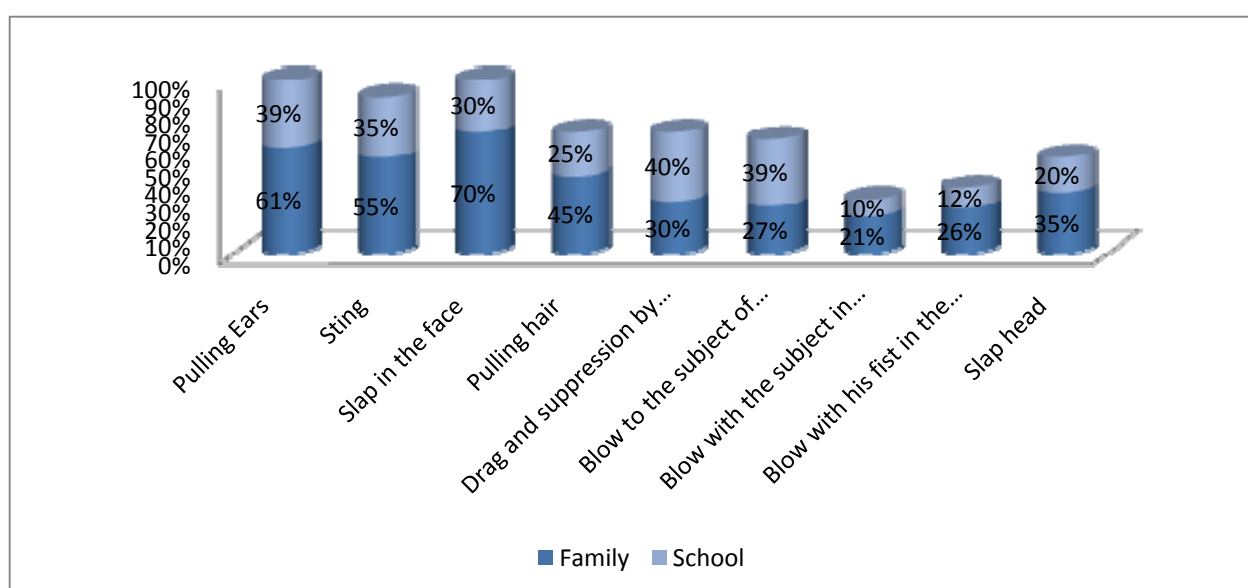


Figure 3 The Forms of Physic Violence on Children in Family and School²⁰

Data in Figure 3 reveal these realities: pulling ears, bites, slapping the body and head, pulling the hair appears more often in the house, and pull and push with force, smashing the object into the body appear more often in schools. Thus we can not say that violence is more a family phenomenon and less a school phenomenon. Some forms of physical violence are used more at home and some other more in school. Care institutions in the above forms of violence occur more in school that at home. But as the school are considered, the violence mostly is between pupils, especially the most victimized are those pupils who have a physical defect, are overweight, children who come from poor families and all these groups of children are labeled, stigmatized by their schoolmates and friends.

According to social welfare entity number of children victims of violence appears to be very limited, for example during the period 2010 to 2013 there were only 15 cases of violence against children²¹.

If we make a comparison between the interview which was conducted with children and social welfare entity is clearly a big conflict on terms of exerting violence against children, which means that the number of dark children who have been victims of violence is very large. The reasons why they or their relatives do not provide such cases are numerous. They consider that it is a family event and it should be dealt with in family or is not practiced violence with huge consequence, and lack of confidence in bodies that are competent to protect the rights of citizens.

Free legal aid in South Serbia, in their research regarding at the age structure shows that free legal assistance has not required any person less than 18 years old and a minimum percentage of citizens that have addressed the service is the grown up group of 18 to 30 years old with an average of 12%²².

To further confirm this, the report of the Secretary General of the United Nations has presented this phenomenon. By this report in some parts of the world people do not trust the police, social services or other

²⁰ The result stopped by interviewing children in municipalities of Presevo and Bujanovac.

²¹ Centar za socijalni rad Bujanovac, izveštaj za period od 01.01.2010 god do 31.12.2012 god.

²² Besplatan pravna pomoć u jug Srbiji, (Mart 2013) god, p. 23.

public authorities, in other areas, particularly rural areas, often there is no authority which could apply. A special little information exists about violence within child care and correctional institutions in most of the world²³.

4. Psychological Violence Victims of Child and Forms of Manifestation

Childhood is the most crucial period of development of the child as an individual and as a citizen. The importance of this period that affects the ongoing development makes it necessary to show a special care and attention to the child's developmental needs. One of these needs is the need for security, without the fulfillment of it, is impossible to have healthy individuals and responsible citizens. Therefore, we as responsible people for children should be careful in our behavior, do not try through force, threat, isolation, to educate future generations, because the use of these forms of education immediate emotional effects of abuse and neglect, isolation, fear and inability to believe, can become life-long consequences for that include low self-esteem, depression and relationship difficulties, the district where he lives, after which they may be messy socialization and emotional difficulties, or more difficult to form long-term relationships and sound. In this way they can continue to be disadvantaged and vulnerable to further violence.

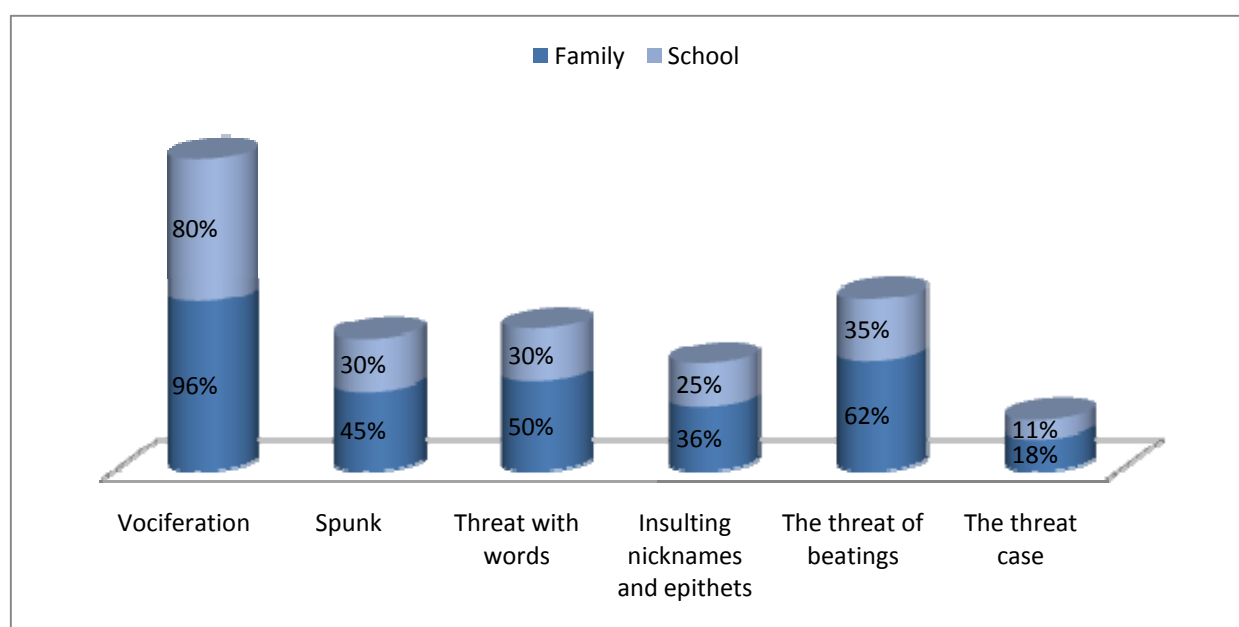


Figure 4 Psycho Violence Forms on Children in Family and School²⁴

The data presented in Figure 4 reveal that the most common forms of bullying that are used in the home are: the shouting, holding resentment, verbal threats, use of nicknames and epithets evil, the threat of beating and threatening object. At school the most common forms of bullying are: yelling, threatening words, nicknames and epithets evil, threat, anger, threat of denunciation, the threat of beating, threatening object, note the threat, the threat of expulsion from school.

Analysis of datas from the interview of school-age children, is clearly that psychological violence is much more expressed than physical violence, all this is as a result of the perpetrators of violence departing from the

²³ Nasilje nad decom, Studije Generalnog sekretara Ujedinih naciji, p. 9.

principle that the shouting or any form of psychological violence is much easier and is not used any form of physical violence, which means that psychological violence is hardly considered almost as a form of violence.

What catches the eye of the interviews is that adults who use the above mentioned forms of psychological violence against children have an awareness of their side effects. They do not believe in them. It is likely that a good part of psychological forms of violence be assessed and used for pragmatic reasons, for the simple fact that some issues are solved easily with using harsh words, threats, nicks and various epithets against children. But also the use of psychological violence as a mean to influence the children fill their space with vital security vacuum. One of the basic psychological needs of children is necessary for security. Violence psychological contributes significantly to children's lives.

It is evident that both at home and at school, children face the authority figures that tend to hold the same positions, choose the same forms of psychological discipline and to use them.

5. Children Victims of Sexual Violence

Victims of sexual violence can hardly be identified, in most cases they remain isolated in order, it was proven during researching but also reports from centers for social work, in other words it is a taboo topic to discuss.

If we analyze international relations, they give us the alarming figures with regard to victims of sexual violence, but with the development of technology especially internet access in uncontrolled way from children. It is disturbing that every day they are more able either directly or indirectly to be victims of sexual violence, abuse sexual, incest, pedophilia, pornography with children and the exploitation of children has become very widespread phenomenon. Social networks have become extraordinary hook victimization of children that offers them many opportunities to have access to various pornographic video or video delivery by such irresponsible persons and its distribution as well.

In addition to vaginal or anal sexual relations with a child, sexually violence on child, perpetrator may exhibit and through oral sex with a child, sexual touching or fondling of a child, showing the child pornographic material, masturbating in front of child, exhibition behavior before or with the child²⁵.

Sexual abuse — is the work related to the sexual abuse of children including the following intentional acts: a) engaging in sexual activities with a child who is under the relevant provisions of national law, has not reached the legal age for sexual activities (not applies to consensual sexual activities between minors), and b) engaging in sexual activities with a child, which is used coercion, force or threats, or it is abused against a known position of trust, authority or influence over the child, including within the family, or is abused in a particularly vulnerable situation of the child, especially because of mental or physical incapacity, or a situation of dependence²⁶.

Although data about children sexual abuse is difficult to put in or taken up, the World Health Organization estimates that about 20% of women and 5–10% of men have experienced sexual abuse as children. In 2002, 150 million girls and 73 million boys under 18 experienced forced sexual intercourse or other end of forms of sexual violence involving physical violence in Serbia every child at least once has been exposed to some form of violence, 10% were continuously exposed to more severe forms of physical or sexual abuse²⁷. While in the United

²⁴ Op.cit. Funston 21.

²⁵ Petrušević N, Kostatinović Ilić. N, op. cit, p. 31.

²⁶ Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, CETS , No. 20, article 18.

²⁷ <http://www.nasiljeuporodici.rs/index.php?url=usvetu/index.htm>.

States about 44% of rape victims are under age 18 and about 15% are under the age of 12 years.

6. Reasons for the Use of Violence against Children

Of the things that are seen with regret in the education of children, is not knowing child psychology, ignorance of his feelings and not the right estimate of growth stages until it reaches full maturity, we often ignore the fact that the world's children is not like the world of the adults, and as a result we punish them even by practicing power or lashing many times with disdain and contempt²⁸.

Reasons why it comes to use violence against children are: raising the voice of radio, fights between children or students, different injuries in family like brokes, breakdowns, confusion, talking during class, lack of attention in class, mistakes in answers, failure to perform duties, coming to school without the necessary tools, unprepared, failure housework, taking notes inconvenient, laughing in class, school items loss, damage pencil, notebook or book, return back, exits from benches, exit in corridor, running in the hallway, contamination of clothes, tearing their non-smoking cup of milk powders failure, not cleaning the place where smokes, eating sweets, watching TV in teaching time, insult others and their cursing, delays in returning home, failing to permit certain things, talking loudly, using violence against others, using others items without permission, lying, carrying messages forgetting, forgetting the tap open, caprice, coquetry to eat, laziness to perform any work, refusing to shed fertilizers, speaking over the phone too, dislike of cooking etc.

But what is more drastic than almost all the reasons mentioned above, the adults exaggerate and take in the future as an excuse to practice violence against children, e.g., if a child once lies, we call him always a liar, if once hits another child we call bastard, if he cheats once we call cheater, if he once steal the parents pocket, we call him always stealer.

The best response and the right way for children in these cases is advancing the child lovely and softly, making him clear with the language he knows that his own brain to be persuaded that manner it makes bad deed to himself and society²⁹.

8. Conclusion

For protecting children from various forms of violence in the Presevo and Bujanovac municipalities is required complex interventions in different areas. Some of these interventions have preventive effects, others focus on the treatment of victims of violence:

To make large-scale campaigns and systematically raising the general awareness and education in particular the forces of law approach to the use of violence, the attitude of medicine, psychology, psychiatry and pedagogy to it, the consequences of violence, the devastating effects of bullying on children's rights to physical and mental integrity, etc.

To make training and other programs (home visits) with parents to equip them with alternative ways of disciplining children; Undertake training of staff education, health and social care for early diagnosis and reporting cases of violence against children: to edit the brochures about child discipline, which challenge the use of violence and non-violent techniques for achieving the objectives of the child's upbringing; to restore confidence in the local institutions to show up state violence, and identify practitioners of violence and

²⁸ Siba, M op.cit, p. 56.

involvement in these institutions the local people in order to increase confidence; Establish a central government special structure (along with local structures) to deal primarily with addressing violence against children; the school subjects reviewed in order to reduce stress to teachers and students and training measures associated with stress management: to extend psychological services in all local educational institutions and social care by basing it on reliable data.

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²⁹ Siba, M op.cit p. 60.