Guest Editorial: Protecting Women and Children from Violence and Abuse

Welcome to the special issue of Anthropological Bulletin titled "Women and Children's Perspectives" apparently focused on the issues related to women and children that might

have some anthropological academicians of different their work for this issue to the lives of women and women and children and disadvantaged ones are close have tried to address their That is chiefly the reason I offer of this space to expound and children.

Joyce Banda has rightly in every nation on Earth children". Talking women and children prompts and violence free World to women (VAW) and violence been recognized as global



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importance. Researchers and disciplines have contributed highlight various aspects of children. Matters related to particularly that ofto my heart and I severally issues through my research. have taken advantage of the on things related to women

said, "The seeds of success are best planted in women about the wellbeing of us to provide them a safe live in. Violence against against children (VAC) have public health and human

rights problems. Exposure to abuse has a significant negative impact on individual victims and society, leading to behavioral, health, psychological, and economic problems. Women and children are especially vulnerable since their rights are often limited and because they often lack adequate protection. This problem gets exacerbated by the fact that some countries lack legislation or regulations to protect victims and that the perpetrators are often people victims know. The fear of stigma and societal condemnation makes victims of violence hesitant to report crimes. Studies have found rates of violence against women range from 15 to 71% in some countries, and the rate of violence against children is as high as 80%. These statistics show that violence against women and children is endemic across the globe.

Victims' advocacy movements and their initiatives since the 1980s have helped both policymakers and the general public learn more about violence against women and its impact on their physical, mental, and reproductive health. Domestic Violence is estimated by the World Health Organization (WHO) to account for 5-20% of healthy years of life lost in women aged 15 to 44 (WHO 1997). Besides causing physical harm to women, violence increases their chances of developing a wide range of other health conditions, including chronic pain, physical disability, alcohol and drug abuse, and depression (Heise et al. 1999.). As part of the fight against domestic violence, preventive and legal measures are warranted totackle the root of the problem. To ensure women have equal rights and opportunities as men, the government must do everything in its power to end discrimination against women.

Provisions of protection of both these segments of our society require specially designed preventive interventions such as awareness campaigns. An awareness campaign may focus on raising awareness about a service, a law or a general issue, such as violence against women. It is common for advocacy campaigns to be based on coalitions of individuals and organizations working collaboratively to influence policy change (Heise, 2011), for example UNiTE: the UN Secretary General's Campaign to End Violence against Women. Interventions aimed at mobilizing communities usually focus on empowering women, engaging men and changing gender stereotypes and norms within communities. Workshops and peer training could also be used to confront prevalent norms and influence attitudes and behaviors. Interventions are increasingly focusing on influencing the ecological

framework and combining multiple methods. There are community mobilization interventions that focus specifically on men, such as the Cambodian Men's Network and the Men's Action Against Violence Against Women (MASVAW) in India.

Child maltreatment is also a serious global concern. Neglect and abuse have detrimental long-term effects on children's social, behavioral, and cognitive development. Those who experience abuse as children go on to have physical and mental health problems in adulthood, including chronic inflammation, asthma, substance abuse, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (Frans et al., 2005) The prevalence of child maltreatment alone has been estimated at 22.6% worldwide (Stoltenborgh et al., 2013). In addition to experiencing high rates of intimate partner violence as adults, childhood abuse victims are also more likely to become victims of abusive relationships as adults and their offspring are more likely to be abused as well. There are various interventions that may help prevent the maltreatment of children, such as educating parents to increase positive discipline methods, and providing behavioral therapy for parents to help them improve their coping skills and strengthen their relationship with their children. Home visitation programs were created to improve family functioning and parent-child interaction by sending a professional to the home of the child to assess the family's needs and provide counseling, education services, and clinical care as needed. More than 30 years of research have substantiated the effectiveness of Triple P - Positive Parenting Program, which is based on social learning, cognitive behavioral theory, as well as research about risk factors associated with development of social and behavioral problems in children. These programs utilize evidencebased prevention strategies to address problems before they occur and foster family environments in which children can grow. Another interesting intervention is 'Play Therapy' that is founded upon children's innate desire to learn about themselves and their relationships with others (Axline, 1947; Carmichael, 2006; Landreth, 2002). With the help of play therapy, children learn communication skills, the ability to express their emotions, and behavior modification.

A comprehensive understanding of violence against women and child abuse is essential for making informed decisions and implementing effective policies in these areas. Research on violence against women and child maltreatment is necessary to understand the nature of perpetration, the cycle of violence, and the impact of family violence on women and children. By studying the etiology of these two problems, it is possible to develop programs that counteract etiological factors to prevent them. The value society gives to its women and children determines how much effort is put into improving research on various groups of women and children. In order to encourage greater investment in research on women and children, it is necessary to address broader structural and social issues within our society.

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