Traumatic Children, Violent Single Mother Headed Family and Legal Aid

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Abstract
Instigation of trauma or distress begins from a quantity of grievance which could be physical or physiological. These two are intensely interrelated with each other. Since mental health controls over the body similarly abusing physically may cause cerebral illness today or later. There are many contention in the society which are apparently taken lightly though these weights heavy for the victims or sufferers. Single mothers are dreadfully defiled by the society as a result their children are also suffering tremendously in silent comportment. This paper has been articulated particularly for traumatized children of single mother headed family who are repeatedly being offended due to direct or indirect abuse by their family members or by the society. In addition, since scarcity of single mother is the key reason of abusive structure and environment of the family thus the aim of this paper is to illustrate protection of these peer of the children by ensuring a special law for single mothers in Bangladesh.

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1. Introduction
Indisputably children are the backbone of every society however they could act as an asset and leader only if the children are nurtured with proper care and concern. Appropriate care along with concern for the children starts from thinking about their rights and fundamental or basic needs. First of all the adult society has to understand that children around us or in the society are also human being rather than product or material who belong all kinds of human rights as well as legal rights which are established for their well being by the state and by the universe. It is very unfortunate that due to brutality of adults children especially from distressed mothers are being abused continuously in addition it is depressing that such kind of acts starts from the home. Abusing children in several ways is very common as well as old practice in the society however in my study I have found that the children who are orphan, poor, abandoned and the children and from single parent family are immensely abused by the care giver, custodian parents, relatives, teachers, employer or the other members of the society. According to this profound analysis concerning types of abuse or maltreatment can be alienated as two kinds by direct abuse and indirect abuse. Direct abuse can be illustrated as attacking physically by direct hitting, hurting, poking, pinching, choking, pushing or directly verbally insulting, scolding or using cane or any stiff objects to hurt. On the other hand, indirect abuse can be characterized by showing fear of harm or punishment. Home, pecuniary and other fundamental demands are assured by the male of the family thus the men of the country has started assuming themselves as the supreme power of the association and has made the custom and culture of neglecting the dependant female’s and children’s essentials, honour as well as emotion and sentiments as well as this picture is severe in case of distressed mothers who are sheltered along with children in any male family member’s house. Institution of domestic violence such as threatening, hurting, wounding, insulting bulling and many more take place from this ground. Repeatedly happening of such kinds of offences impact negatively on the children as a result the children depart from the mainstream or go out of the correct track mentally and physically. In my insightful research I have discovered that shocking home environment is responsible for committing suicide, drug addiction, stealing things and some other mental disorder such as schizophrenia, telling lie and many more.

Tendency of telling lie is not a mere problem rather it indicates the upbringing system disorder (R.Dent,2011). Article 19 of United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 has specified that it is obligation for state party to protect the children from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse. It is mandatory to mention that in the article 28(4) of the Constitution of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh it is provided that the state can formulate special provisions in support of women or children or for any backward citizen for their advancement. Despite of having influence of international human rights and affirmative declaration from the constitution of Bangladesh to eradicate the uneven sight from the society violation of legal rights are taking place enormously in the society. With the benevolence of legal ground distressing children of single mothers of Bangladesh must get the legal aids and assistance for their well being which can be possible by encompassing a special legislation for single mothers in Bangladesh. It is vastly intended to elaborate the entire crisis and overcome with legal illustrations in the further steps of the work.
2. Traumatic Children and abusive domestic environment of single mother’s family

Family is the first institution to nurture and build up the nature of the children all over the world. However there are many children around the society who are born to be neglected by the family and society. Children of distressed mothers are the dormant victim of shocking domestic environment. Firstly these children lose their identity as human being in the society as soon as they are discarded or neglected by the fathers. They become burden to the society as most of the times the resources for living become extremely limited. In addition, some children may stay with the mother but deficiency of financial resources make the distressed mother violent or abusive. Such type of children never gets recognition as human being thus humiliation, harassment, unnecessary severe punishment, threatening becomes regular instance for them which develops trauma inside them. Despite of positive mental and physiological growth they fall into darkness from the begging of their life. Again there are some children who used to live in better position with both parents but divorce and separation of the parents makes drastic change in their life. Thus most of the times they take shelter with the mother in any relative’s house or the mothers migrate in another place keeping the children to other caregivers in search of the job and from the care giver they experience harsh, brutal and offensive behaviour from the domestic atmosphere. Gradually these children go out of the path due to hidden anguish and unhappy life as there is nobody to hear their emotions and problems. Out of trauma children try to find a new world around them apart from the violent family and by this way they enter into a wrong way or unlawful way of life. The acts or omissions done by traumatic children are illustrated elaborately in the imminent discussion of the thesis.

2.1 Mythomania syndrome among the children of negligent family atmosphere

Mythomania is a kind of anxiety disorder therefore it can be said that it is not a legal issue. Since Bangladesh is a signatory party of Convention on the Rights of the Child and according to article 19(1) the children are entitled to get favorable atmosphere at home for their proper growth of mental and physical health. However the structure of single mother headed family is infringing this rights of the children therefore it must be direct legal concern. According to experts from the Instituto Mexicano Del Seguro Social, ‘Mythomania’ is a dilemma that also frequently affects people with low self-esteem they lay to build themselves feel important and since they are not competent to communicate well with other people. They are able to draw attention by overstate or making up legend or anecdotes (Victoria Nicolas,2017). These types of children do not have any importance in the family rather than an extra trouble so they always try to make them important to others. Moreover, habit of telling lie originated from violent family environment of the children as most of the children of broken family stay with other relatives. As a result false allegation by other members for many reasons is very common for them. As children are not eligible to express the facts thus it’s easy to point finger on them. Gradually for personal safety or to be exempted for punishment they grasp the habit of telling lie. In a research it has been found that 13% children are affected in this syndrome due to negligent behaviour of the family(Nicholas,2017).

2.2 Kleptomania or habit of stealing things by underprivileged children

Although it is a mental impairment but as it is happening for breach of international conventional rights in which Bangladesh has ratified in 1989. This treaty is known as Convention on Rights of the Child and according to Article 19(1) of it negligent, violence or any form of abuse which distract the mental condition of children will be amount of violation of human right and state party is under obligation for taking necessary measures to prevent this form of violation. ‘Kleptomania’ is a kind of mental disease that means regular malfunction to resist the desire to steal things. Most of the cases of kleptomania, the patient of this disorder steals belongings that they don’t need even (Goldman MPJ,2017). It is very unfortunate for the society that due to negligence towards single mothers a large number of children are getting mentally sick silently. Apparently they are blamed with the name of thief or punished as an offender. However in my study I have found that stealing thing is not always about criminal state of mind rather it is a kind mental disorder. To establish this point I have gone through different medical journals and book based on Kleptomania. From my profound study I have found that according to American Mental Health Society (AMHS) feeling empty for negligent behaviour of family towards children, sadness and hopeless of children, less emotional attachment with the family members are the big reasons for Kleptomania. Unpleasant family environment of single mother headed family is originating this kinds of children in Bangladesh. In the daily newspaper The New Age’ published in Dhaka, 23 of December 2016 a reports alleged that a 13 years old boy was beaten brutally by his maternal uncle for stealing pen from his cousin’s pencil box. According to the caregiver uncle the boy is his sister’s son and he is living with him after the boy’s father divorced her mother before three years, and stealing is common habit of the boy. Every day he is stealing something from home and to make him aware the uncle gave him severe punishment. As the boy was punished brutally and about to die an organization named Human Rights Watch (HRW) took it as criminal offence and take the victim under their custody. According to the chairman of Human Rights Watch there is a medical ground of stealing things by the boy as our team has admitted the boy to the intensive care unit of the specialized children hospital. Moreover doctor has stated that this kind of activity is called Kleptomania which is confirm depending on the inattentive life style of the victim boy in
his uncle’s house (Department of Mental Health, 2016). The reported cases are very rare in this regard as humiliation and negligent towards these peer has become a norm and nobody is there to think about the cerebral condition of them. Thus I have visited in a rehabilitation centre for psychological therapy which is known as ‘Light House Mental Treatment Centre’ (LHMT) situated in Dhaka metropolitan area. In October 24, 2017 at 2.30 p.m I have had an interview with doctor ‘Safia Rahman’ of this centre stated in the interview with her that in that centre they have admitted three patients of Kleptomania and their family environment history is worse. The centre (LHMT) found that two patients out of the three are minor and they are from single mother headed family. Therefore it can be said that unknowingly by negligent behaviour the state is producing mentally ill nation for the future which must be stopped as immediate as possible. According to mental health researcher Robert E stealing something does not mean the person need the thing but it’s a mental process of thought which sometimes point that scarcity in the family life rather it may be for economy or emotional scarcity. Mentally distressed children make them habitual with different wrong habits. A survey shows on stealing habit has been presented that 23% engage into stealing habit due to distressed family environment in Bangladesh and the governing member of the project a famous child researcher said that if the society goes like that the day is not far to see the number will exceed more than half (Sridhar Sharma, 2015). These children think that all the people around them belongs all kinds of necessary substances than them and they are taking advantages of all resources. Gradually unknowingly they become furious inside and start stealing things from others.

2.3 Drug Exploitations by single mother’s children

Assessment by International Labour Organization (ILO) found that the children from the poorest families and broken family, who are in practice of low educational accomplishment, and found in drug trade due to economic inevitability, wrong friendships along with police extortion. Apparently these problems might be seen as social problems however these kinds of crisis directly originates legal issues. Since drug abuse or trade or dealing of drugs is prohibited by law. Abusive structure of single mother headed family is enlarging the pasture of such crimes. Research on Family and Social Factor (USA, 2017) suggests that children raised in supportive, affectionate and accepting home environment are less likely to become socially deviant. Consequently children rejected by parents are among the most likely to become delinquent. Negative family conditions and delinquent peers are seen as significant contributors in the development of drug misuse behaviour. This group of juveniles become very confused about their identity and social recognition as a result start live in the world of frustration. They desire a radical relief from the life of humiliation and violence on them along with their mothers. Deviant group in the society is very clever to seize the attention of this group. Unknowingly they enter in to the world of drugs. Broken family structure juveniles are found highly correlated with misuse of drugs where juveniles of both parents are less related with misuse of drugs (Amato PR). This peer is not only the consumer of the drugs rather they are also used as drug dealer in exchange of money. Bangladesh Drugs Investigation Authority has been estimated that 45% broken family children are addicted with different kinds of drugs in Dhaka city and 26% drug dealings are happening by them. Bangladesh Narcotic Control Act has been formed in 1990 to control dealings or trade of various kinds of drugs. This act has been amended in 2018 after ratifying United Nations Convention of Drug Trafficking and Narcotic Control. According to this law for dealing drugs imprisonment may extent up to 15 years and in some cases it may extend up to life imprisonment.

2.4 Tendency of committing suicide by disgraced children

Social Isolation is a big issue to commit suicide. According to French philosopher Emily Durkheim ‘When a man becomes socially isolated or feels that he has no place in the society he destroys himself. It is called Egoistic suicide’ these group of children feels that they are alone in the world while other children have everything and enjoying all of their rights but they are just a matter of negligent. They become isolated by the family and society and commit suicide. In daily news paper Dhaka Tribune published in 1st of July has been reported that in the year 2013 rate of committing suicide of broken family juvenile was 27% where it becomes 39% in 2017. That means each year out of 30 juvenile 16 commits suicide that belongs from a broken family. Violent family structure is abetting the children to commit suicide however these offences are not taking in the concern in this way rather these are comprehending as mere social problems. According to section 306 of Penal Code of Bangladesh, 1860 whoever abet or instigate any person to for committing suicide is shall be punished under this law. Apparently these can be seen as social problem however these are the violation of human rights as well since the abusive members of the broken family directly or indirectly instigating the minors toward committing suicide. Such as these children are not allowed to participate in social activities moreover most of the time they are being emotionally abused by mockery or harassment by others. Sometimes they are tortured physically too in the name of punishment out of rage of the adult member as these minors are taken as unwanted lumber in the family. As soon as the single mothers issue will become a concern of special law instigation for committing suicide will be lesser and tendency of it among children can be minimized.
2.5 Other criminal activities by the dishonored children

According to Dhaka Chief Metropolitan police (DCMP) it is found that juvenile of Dhaka city are becoming more aggressive than the wanted criminal. 24% of them are from broken family and they are used by the godfathers to commit different types of criminal activity. For instance hijacking, drug dealings, eve teasing, demanding money, participating in abduction are the basic job of the broken family boys. They are earning money from these sources. The broken family children face financial crisis thus they set up in their mind to do something and to earn money. They do not consider the consequences of doing criminal activity rather they just take it as their job and involve them in the crime. When a child see his mother to cry he tries to do something to stop her tears. Accordingly when a child of violent family sees to cry his mother all the time he determines himself to do something for mother. When a child does not find to do anything to support his mother he starts crime (James Borat,1996). According to section 444 and 445 of Bangladesh Penal Code,1860 these kind of criminal offences are punishable and in case of juvenile the court will make the punishment lesser if the offender age is under 16 years old. In this circumstances it is seen that unwillingly and by the pressure of circumstances the children are going towards crime or wrongdoings as well as going apart from the normal and balanced life. To put away children from these types of involvement the present conditions must be changed by comprising a special legislation in favour of single mothers.

3. Recommendation of the research

Whenever a civilization becomes uncontrolled law is the only effective instrument to bring a positive change in the society. Broken family is not a normal matter for the children as they realize the shortage of emotional and financial elements. Moreover when they can realize that they do not have any recognition in the society and they have become a burden for the family as well as mother is suffering to preserve his rights and demands then the innocent mind has nothing except involve in such kind of criminal activity. Mental disorder is another big syndrome among single mothers children. Therefore taking necessary steps to control these things mandatory otherwise the society is going to get a group of violent, criminal and mentally disorder children who will be the burden and barriers for the development of the country. China is becoming a supreme power around the world. Development is impossible without comprising and implementing proper law. In this regards Bangladesh should follow Chinese Marriage and Family law. In the Chinese marriage and family law it is particularly written that both parents have to perform equal duties and responsibilities to up bring the children. In my point of view to overcome from the present situation a particular provision in the proposed legislation for single mothers should be created on the basis of the best interest of the children. More elaborately no matter fathers are getting the custody of children or not nevertheless the children must get full maintenance until they attain their majority over circumstances such kinds of criminal offences are punishable. In this regards Bangladesh should follow Chinese Marriage and Family law. In the Chinese marriage and family law it is particularly written that both parents have to perform equal duties and responsibilities to up bring the children. In my point of view to overcome from the present situation a particular provision in the proposed legislation for single mothers should be created on the basis of the best interest of the children. More elaborately no matter fathers are getting the custody of children or not nevertheless the children must get full maintenance until they attain their majority.

4. Concluding remarks

Development of nation is impossible without sound children and wellbeing of children is unfeasible without secured life of mother as mother is the first and most trusted shelter for the children. To maintain the stability in the society survival of single mothers should be secured by the proposed legislation. As soon as the mothers can enjoy the human rights the scarcity of life will be decrease. If the mother’s right can be secured by the law then related problems like traumatic children will appear less in the society. One of the key reasons to create shocking children is defenselessness of single mothers. Single mother headed family has to suffer not only in financial basis rather in emotional issues also. Impact of such situations highly affects to the children. As a result the insufficiency in the society is moving in cyclic order such as mothers are being deprived from their human rights as a result they cannot support to preserve their children’s right and again involvement in crime and deviant activity of the children is raising. Therefore the root is the disregarding towards single mothers of the society. These peers are becoming
crooked from the mainstream however they are the essential part and member of the society. If the single mothers can be placed firmly in the society by law then children do not have to go through a hectic life. Single mothers cannot do anything to protect their children’s right as there is not any clear and correct path to go forward. Thus to provide them right track to come forward making a law regarding single mother is undoubtedly important. Since the proposed law is in regard to support the single mothers thus the law should have to provide legal provisions for mothers keeping the best interest of the children in the mind. Contemporary formation of law can transform the present condition of the violent single mother headed family environment which is immensely significant for the country.

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