

Abstract of Master's Dissertation

No.1

Course	Master of Science	Name	Tomomi Nakaike
Thesis Title	A systematic review and meta-analysis: impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on violence against children		
<p>Abstract of Master's Dissertation</p> <p>Background : Violence against children is one of the most crucial issues of public health. Several international studies have shown that 3 out of 4 children 2-4 years old are the victims of violence, and those cases are likely to be under-reported. Abused children are more likely to experience catastrophic damage and, in some cases, result in death. COVID-19 lockdowns caused interruption of child protection services or economic/psychological burdens on parents. It has become challenging for teachers or school counselors to detect and report signs of abuse. Therefore, a systematic review and meta-analysis were conducted to assess the impact of COVID-19 on violence against children.</p> <p>Objectives : The primary outcome of this study is to identify the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on violence against children. Secondary outcomes are (1) identifying the risk factors of violence in children, such as family structure, socio-economic status, age, gender, race, and place to live before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. (2)To identify methods of detecting or reporting cases of violence against children before and during the COVID-19 pandemic (Schools, Police, Parents, Online, NGO). (3)To investigate the change in violence against children reported cases before and during COVID-19.</p> <p>Methods : Systematic review and meta-analysis are required to be the “Preferred reporting item for systematic review and meta-analysis statement” (PRISMA). The protocol was registered in PROSPERO with the registration number CRD42022377660.</p> <p>Literature searching, title and abstract screening, full-text screening, and data extraction have been done as a group. The Meta-analysis was conducted using STATA, pooled OR was calculated, and subgroups by countries and gender were analyzed. The comparison of cases of reporters for violence against children was observed from one included study</p>			

* The abstract, containing background, objectives, methods, results and conclusion should not exceed 300-500words and printed double sided on A4 paper)

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No.2

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<p>Results: A total of 11 publications were included in the meta-analysis. Main meta-forest plots and sub-grouped by countries and gender were generated to compare the prevalence and proportion of three types of violence against children pre-COVID-19 and during COVID-19 period. Overall, no remarkable impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the prevalence and proportion of any type of violence against children among total abuse was identified. Furthermore, only one article reported a significant decrease in reporters from school staff, which might cause an under-report of child violence.</p> <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>Systematic review and meta-analysis of 11 publications could not detect a significant impact of COVID-19 pandemic on violence against children. The results interpretation should be cautious because the number of violence during the pandemic could be under-reported due to a significant decrease in reporters from school staff.</p> <p>(Word counts: 402 words)</p>			