

Neglect of Children

1. Motivation behind research paper

I am exploring the subject of neglect of children. This is a serious problem in society. Recently, the issue of neglect for children is increasing rapidly compared to 30 years ago. I decided to research this issue because when I first heard about the problem of neglect, which actually happened to my father, I was shocked, and I questioned why such an unimaginable fact could happen. In addition, I would like to get a job related to children in the future, so I felt that I needed to know about this issue in particular. Therefore, I will consider the relationship between the number of children and the rate of increase in neglect.

2. Introduction

According to the e-health net of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, neglect is neglecting to protect, care for, nurture, or care for an infant, child, elderly person, or disabled people. Along with physical, mental, and sexual abuse, it is one of the most common forms of abuse, and in Japan, it especially refers to "abandonment" of children, which is the theme of my exploration in this issue. Physical, emotional, and sexual abuse mainly refers to harming or doing harmful things to children. Neglect, on the other hand, refers to the opposite: shutting children in the house, not feeding them, keeping them terribly unclean, or otherwise neglecting child-rearing and not providing them with what they need.

3. Results and Analysis

According to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, the number of cases of child abuse handled by child guidance centers has increased from 1,101 in 1990 to 205,022 in 2020, an increase of approximately 186 times. However, a comparison of the number of child abuse cases and the percentage of children in the total population by the Metropolitan Police Department and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications reveals that the number of children has been decreasing every year despite the increase in the number of abuse cases. Then, why is it that the number of children has decreased so much over the past 30 years, while the number of consultations on child abuse has increased? I hypothesized that the increase in the number of children abused was due to the increase in the penetration rate of the Internet. I will test the hypothesis that the increase in the prevalence of the Internet is the cause of the increase in the number of child abuse cases. Why do I think that the Internet is increasing the number of abuse cases? Generally speaking, the Internet is very convenient. Whenever I have a question about childcare, I can immediately search and find the answer, and if something happens to my child, I can immediately make a reservation at a hospital. In the past, you could only ask family members, relatives, and others close to you for advice, so you could only get narrow opinions, and it is thought that many families were biased in their child-rearing practices. However, not all parents use the Internet, which is so convenient, to raise their children first. Smartphones and tablets are now indispensable for work and daily life, but while they are convenient, they also have various harmful effects. Benesse Education Research Institute of Benesse Holdings, Inc. The survey showed that the smartphone usage rate of mothers with children aged 0-6 years old increased from 60.5% in 2013 to 92.4% in 2017. The frequency and duration of smartphone use

increased from 11.6% in 2013 to 21.2% in 2017. The percentage of respondents who use their smartphones for less than 15 minutes per weekday increased to 70.2%. About 70% spend more than one hour a day playing outside or walking, and about 80% spend more than one hour a day playing with toys. On the other hand, about 50% to 90% of children spend less than 15 minutes a day watching each type of media, with the exception of television. These results indicate that the overall balance has not changed significantly from four years ago. The researcher involved in the planning and analysis of the survey stated that the results of this survey showed that the use of smartphones in the lives of infants and toddlers was carefully examined to see if it was creating symptoms of dependence, etc. However, this was not the case, and only a few families had infants and toddlers using their phones for extended periods of time. The results did not indicate a decrease in time spent playing outside or reading picture books, indicating that parents are trying to incorporate media in their daily lives in a well-balanced manner. Most of the families were also concerned about the content and rules of what they watch. In an essay written by a Singaporean elementary school student that became a hot topic on social networking sites about six years ago, the student came home to say "I'm home," but neither his mother nor father responded. However, when his smartphone rings, he responds.

4. Conclusion and Future Problems

These verifications showed that the results do not indicate that the widespread use of the Internet is likely to directly affect neglect, although the term "smartphone neglect" exists and is one of the causes of neglect. Of course, there are a few parents who are smartphone-neglectful or internet-dependent, but the survey

found that a majority of families are concerned about online parenting, and many parents take care to avoid using the Internet for childcare as much as possible during the day. In my own mind, I had been aware that smartphone parenting has a negative influence on children, but now I know that moderate use is not only a disadvantage, as it reduces the burden on parents and enriches children's imagination. If the Internet is not the main cause, I would like to continue to examine the causes of neglect in order to better understand whether it is related to parents' financial problems or the increase in the number of divorces.

5. Reflection

From this research, I have come to realize that it is necessary to understand the causes of a certain question or problem correctly, based on solid evidence, and not just on prejudice or speculation. By acquiring such correct knowledge, I would like to find new solutions to problems and continue to conduct detailed research in order to become a leader in creating a better society.

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