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Social Determinant of Child Maltreatment: Relationship Between Collective Efficacy and Child Maltreatment Among Community in Petaling Jaya, Selangor

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Abstract

The community has active roles to play to mitigate child maltreatment. In reviewing the Child Abuse and Neglect prevention measurement in Malaysia, the readiness score is relatively at the moderate level based on World Health Organization assessment tools. The primary objective was to assess a relationship between collective efficacy and child maltreatment in Petaling Jaya, Selangor. The cross-sectional and correlational study has been adopted. A sum of 390 questionnaires were disseminated to Petaling Jaya community, particularly those who were married with at minimum one child. The findings have revealed that the social cohesion and child maltreatment possesses a significant relationship ($r= 0.111$, $p<0.05$), however informal social control did not indicate any relationship ($r= 0.098$, $p>0.05$) with child maltreatment. The findings of this study contribute to several significant contribution. Several suggestions were provided for the Malaysian government to initiate some community approaches in effort to mitigate child maltreatment. It is practically to recommend the government to invigorate the comprehensive policies in fostering the community awareness to exercise their social responsibility in community in addressing the child maltreatment issues. The community awareness enables to enhance proactive involvement in which it could prompt the active action and establish a set of partnership among community group members. Hence, it is able to strengthen the solid protection to increase the resilience of children due to the proactive society to protect the vulnerable children and have zero tolerance on violence against children.

Keywords: collective efficacy, social cohesion, informal social control, child maltreatment

Introduction

Child maltreatment or more known as child abuse and neglect is a critical phenomenon in Malaysia. Recently, Malaysia Government predominantly focuses on the preventive strategies instead of curative strategies in addressing child maltreatment. It is one of the contemporary approaches for the country to provide tactful action and comprehensive solutions. Specifically, the government has initiated significant progression to strengthen the children protection through establishing the comprehensive list of legal and policy framework namely as (1) National Child Protection Policy and (2) National Action Plan. It literally exhibits the essential responsibility of government to care for the children and made the issue of child maltreatment as public issues which require a bundle of effort from the whole community instead of only restricted within the private homes.

However, according to Department of Social Welfare Malaysia (2016), the cases reported kept increasing from year to year. A report has stated physical abuse cases were ranked at the highest record for child maltreatment in between year 2014 and 2016. It has been revealed the numbers of these maltreatment cases were 53.09%, sexual abuse 43.25% and followed by emotional abuse 3.65%. Besides, in examining on these three consecutive years, the female children were continually indicated the highest rate of victims (Department of Social Welfare Malaysia, 2016). Hamdzah and Yaasin (2016) implied that most of the abusers or more known as perpetrators were not strangers to the children. However, they were particularly possessed in closed connection with the children such as their parents, foster mother-father and other relatives. In fact, in year 2016, the majority of abusers are their parents. The parents who were being majority of abusers particularly display the destruction of family institution that has been. It literally perceived the failure of the parenting practices in raising and caring for their children. In spite of such destruction, it urges the action from the whole community to take necessary step in protecting the most vulnerable group, particularly children in the society.

Problem Statement

In the community context, the neighbourhood problems are perceived as part of factors associated to the increase of child maltreatment (Choo, 2017). However, only a few studies discussed the context of community related to child maltreatment (Goldfeld et al., 2017). Although the child maltreatment issue merely comes from destruction of family institution, according to Maguire-Jack and Showalter (2016), it reflects the dysfunction of residential members to exercise their social duties to mitigate the issue of child maltreatment. The child maltreatment which literally articulates the violence of children perceived as human right challenges it was one of the global phenomena (UNICEF New York, 2013). It has been revealed that over 6 in 10 children between the ages of 2 and 14 years old suffered in deprivation or more known as neglect and also physical aggression by their caregivers.

In Malaysia, in accordance to the cases of child maltreatment in between years 2014 and 2016 in Malaysia, it has gradually increased as stipulated by Department of Social Welfare Malaysia (2016). Abdullah et al. (2017) claimed that the case reported has only shown 10% of total actual cases. Additionally, based on State Health, Welfare, Women and Family Affairs Committee chairman, Dr. Daroyah Alwi, Petaling district that comprises Petaling Jaya, Subang Jaya and Shah Alam were the higher regional area that has received a lot of number of child maltreatment cases. Moreover, based on UNICEF Malaysia (2013), it has been revealed that the initiative of primary preventions concerned the role of community. However, the Abuse and Neglect prevention measurement in Malaysia has revealed that the readiness score is relatively at the moderate level (UNICEF Malaysia, 2013).

Specifically, the awareness on the child maltreatment is very essential among the community. The low awareness of community particularly the closed neighbourhood to detect the existence of any child maltreatment signs and symptoms has created the low resilience of vulnerable children in their area (Department of Social Welfare Malaysia, 2016). On the other hand, the silence culture over community that apparently did not bother and less care among one another, they simply do not take any responsibilities once detected or noticed the maltreatment which occurred in their regional areas (UNICEF Malaysia, 2013). It has been further reiterated by Institut Sosial Malaysia (2018), the influence on life modernization that shows less care about other people, has exhibited the low level in relation over the community. Hence, it is eventually part of determinant associated to the higher child maltreatment cases. Even though there have been several studies in Malaysia that had analyzed the neighbourhood measures such as poverty level, residential mobility and demographic compositions, yet it has still been ambiguous why neighbourhood characteristic was associated to child maltreatment (Abdullah et al., 2017; Filzah & Taib, 2015; Yonas et al., 2010).

Thus, due to lack of studies in Malaysia in exploring the community capacity in preventing the issue of child maltreatment, this study intends to examine the characteristic of community derived from the Collective Efficacy Theory. In particular, to generalize and well represent the whole population, the study was conducted in Petaling Jaya due to this regional area is one of the most populated cities in Petaling district (World Population Review, 2018).

Research Objective

The main objective of the study is to examine if there is a relationship between collective efficacy and child maltreatment among community in Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

Literature Review

In community context, there has been a little intention to comprehend on the vital neighbourhood role to address the issue of child maltreatment. Coultan et al. (2007) stated that there has been low of apprehension on the role of community which may act as the preventive platform in highlighting the cases of child maltreatment. Based on Daro and Dodge (2013), the wider community involvement may act as the prevention mechanism to protect the vulnerable children from being maltreated by their irresponsible parents. A conventional theory that endeavours to analyze the involvement of community is Collective Efficacy Theory. Specifically, the collective efficacy can be described as the activating process of social relationship over community for the aim to achieve the mutual goals, such as crime prevention (Sampson et al., 1997). This theory particularly highlighted two views on the capacity of community which are social cohesion as well as informal social control.

Under the Theory of Collective Efficacy, the first element is social cohesion. The social cohesion explained two dimensions whereby it exposes the collective trust and sense of belongingness among the community. A handful studies have manifested the social cohesion has primarily influenced on the child maltreatment (Maguire-Jack & Wang, 2016; Maguire-Jack & Showalter, 2016). The social cohesion exhibited through social values, whereby it exposed the social solidarity that literally stimulates the people's belongingness and attachment in their living place and culture. The community that incorporated with the higher cohesion would create good interpersonal attitude and interaction among individuals (Munoz et al., 2012). The cultivation of interpersonal interaction among community acts as the platform to uphold the mutual trust and social support in exercising their social duties.

Correspondingly, based on Lampinen et al. (2010), it has revealed that the social cohesion presumed the community members to exercise positive attitude and behaviour among themselves and to possess closed relationship which literally embedded with the higher degree of trust and mutual dependence. The study argued that the good faith was important, in order to make sure the closed relationship among community would be able to sustain the social trust. Therefore, it may eventually reduce the propensity of any kind of social conflict that might happen. In the conception of social relationship, the parents are highly encouraged to be involved and to participate in the community event. It particularly derives some additional opportunities to build a social network interaction (Fujiwara et al., 2016). The community that has poor common consensus, that literally ties the common values, shared beliefs and trust, may lead to poor social network. It is reconcilable to Maguire-Jack (2014), the parents that possessed the low social cohesion, they typically faced some sort of obstacles and to form the relationship over their community members.

Furthermore, the higher level of social cohesion is corresponding to the lower level of child neglect. The study revealed the community members that lived in social disorder such as a high number of crime rate, the level of child maltreatment is higher (Maguire-Jack & Wang, 2016; Maguire-Jack & Showalter, 2016). Specifically, the neighbourhood that literally has less care provides poor assistance towards child care. It literally can be examined on lack of attention and action from the community members to assist the children on the basic needs in terms of food or medical assistance. On the other hand, Ellis et al. (2015), identified that the firmness of community belongingness and violence rely on the degree of social cohesion. The community belongingness or known as community connectedness was an essential protective mechanism. It was stated that the higher degree of belonging was less likely to occur with some violence over the community. It has happened because the high senses of connectedness can strengthen their relationship. The fact articulates the community belonging indicates that the protective platform may avoid any maverick behaviour against their community norms and culture. The high recurrence of their interaction and active participation in the community social events, it has led the parents to acknowledge their community members and also feel part of them.

Thus, it particularly derived a good social bonding and connection. In fact, majority of the respondents claimed that, the feeling of connectedness turned very high due to the closer interaction, therefore, it indirectly would nurture the supportive environment (Ellis et al., 2015). The supportive environment particularly enables them to uphold the community to exercise their social duties by taking into concern and empathy with one another.

Another element in Collective Efficacy Theory is informal social control. This element views the community response and action in terms of their intention and willingness to be involved when any kind of deviant behaviour from the society norms or culture are perceived. Specifically, this element addresses the social duties to prevent any action that would bring harm to their living, such as crime. Emery et al. (2013) pointed out that, the lay person that exercises his duties to avoid the violation is one part of the informal social control.

Drakulich and Crutchfield (2012) have measured the informal social control based on a possible action of community members to exercise their social responsibilities, when they are the witnesses of any violation. This measurement particularly is to analyse the responsiveness of the community in particular circumstances. Similarly, Steenbeek and Hipp (2011) used the same measurement by analyzing the individual reaction when violation had been exhibited in their regional areas. In fact, the validity of measurement is practically based on honesty values. However, the biasness may occur in terms of social desirability whereby certain people may reveal they were possibly to intervene, but in real circumstances, they literally may not do so. Besides, one study conducted by Yonas et al. (2010) among American community, it was found there has been moderate relationship between informal social control and mischievous children and neglect. However, the study indicated that there has not been moderate relationship between physical abuses with sexual violence. This result pointed out the informal social control could become as a preventive function against the neglect, but it contradicts the form of abuse. The main reason was perceived that American community only has intention or willingness to provide the intensive care for cases of child neglect in their regional areas. In spite of physical abuse, they are literally unwilling to intervene or get involved as it perceived that such involvement or intervention may arise some conflict between their relationships with neighbours. Yonas et al. (2010) simplified that there are two different responses of community towards any social violence which is this study proved that the community may not intervene for internal domestic affairs which have literally occurred in a home. However, any kind of deviations of social norms which happened outside the home, such as children neglect or skipping school, they would intervene.

On the other hand, Hurford (2016) study examined the community roles in taking care and showing concern on the disabled children who are really vulnerable in the society. It was claimed that such vulnerability and disability could create higher propensity of parent to abuse them. This nature of disabilities needs to be cared by all the community members and respective parties. One model known as Ecological Integration Model used by Hurford (2016), acts as the framework to understand the nature of children that suffered dyslexia disease. The study found that the community roles are essential and the exposure of the community awareness on this disease particularly could mitigate the case of child maltreatment. It was claimed that the relevant support and assistance provided by the community member in helping the families that possess a child with disabilities could lower the risk of the child to be maltreated (Hurford, 2016). The involvement and willingness of the community to show concern on their members is able to reduce the burden of the family, particularly when they were having some kind of constraints and difficulties in raising up their children.

The informal social control and family domestic violence including child maltreatment are literally counter-intuitive (Emery et al., 2013). For example, the individual that perceived the parents who were beating their child as violent and illegal (type A), and the individual who has seen parents beating were highly needed in order to manage the children's behaviour and attitude. In circumstances of child maltreatment, the type A people will informally be involved on such circumstances and type B people will not be involved. In regards to the high collective efficacy, type A people is one with the most. A vast number of community to get involve in the informal social control, they are practically being proactive in the situation that exhibits the social norms violation in their regional areas (Emery et al., 2013). The proactive community enables to cultivate good social norms and values that would foster

the community consideration to take part actively in any deviation norms that occurred in their regional areas. If the neighborhood entities are weak, there is no platform to these vulnerable children to be truly protected due to the destruction of family institution. This occurrence has created more risks to the children to be maltreated.

Research Design

The study took the correlational and cross-sectional method. The data were collected within two weeks which started on 17th September 2018 until 30st September 2018.

Scope of the Study

The study concentrates on community who were married with minimum one child. Specifically, this study intends to analyze their interaction and attitude with their child. Moreover, the level of maturity concerned was at least 18 years old as the respondents were chosen. The study was conducted in Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

Sampling and Sampling Techniques

The simple random sampling and stratified sampling techniques were applied in this study. The stratified sampling technique known as a sampling frame in which it was divided into corresponding sub-group which is called strata (Abdullah and Ahmad, 2011). In Petaling Jaya, Petaling Jaya Selatan was selected and it comprises seven areas namely Petaling Utama, Kampung Medan and Taman Dato' Harun, Taman Medan and Taman Sri Manja, Taman Medan, Taman Desaria, Kampung Lindungan and Bandar Sunway. The population was classified based on location. Despite this, each stratum was selected randomly.

Next, the technique of simple random was applied. Sekaran and Bougie (2010) described simple random has the minimum bias and offers the greater generalization. Within the target of 390 sample size, 30 questionnaire forms were randomly disseminated to each of regional area.

Measurement

The chosen scales were namely Conflict Tactics Scale: Parent-Child Version (Straus, 1979), Social Cohesion and Trust Scale **(**Sampson et al., 1997) and Psychological of Community Membership Scale (Goodenow, 1993). The questionnaire form comprised Parts A, B, C and D and the first three parts consist of 36 items. The 5-point ordinal scale was used to measure the items that specify the lowest value of 1 as "strongly disagree" and the highest value of 5 as "strongly agree". The version 22 of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) was performed for analysis of data.

Findings

Table 1 shows the Pearson correlation's result. The social cohesion has shown the significant negative relationship, with its accuracy of the relationship ($r= 0.111$, $p (0.031) <0.05$). It means that the social cohesion and child maltreatment possess significant relationship. The negative relationship has literally shown in the inverse relationship. Thus, it perceived that when the social cohesion has increased, it eventually decrease child maltreatment. In regards to the strength of r, as stipulated by Cohen (1988), this finding has shown small relationship between these two variables. Therefore, it can be simplified that the correlation between social cohesion and child maltreatment was statistically negative significant in a small strength ($r= 0.111$, $p<0.05$).

Table 1: Correlation analysis for social cohesion

Variable	Mean	Std. deviation	P value (sig)	N	Pearson Correlation
Social cohesion	3.861	0.757	0.031	381	-0.111

Note: Correlation is significant at $p<0.05$ level (2-tailed)

Furthermore, Table 2 shows that the informal social control was not significant, with its accuracy of the relationship ($r= 0.098$, p (0.057) >0.05). Thus, it means both informal social control and child maltreatment did not possess statistically significant relationship.

Table 2: Correlation analysis for informal social control

Variable	Mean	Std. deviation	P value (sig)	N	Pearson Correlation
Informal social control	3.861	0.905	0.057	381	0.098

Note: Correlation is significant at $p<0.05$ (2-tailed)

Discussion and Recommendations

The social cohesion could act as the potent social support in addressing issue of child maltreatment. Specifically, this study implies the social cohesion possess significant correlation to the child maltreatment in Petaling Jaya, Selangor. However, the strength of correlation is relatively small (Cohen, 1988). In congruence to the norm of society in Petaling Jaya that resided in urban regional, the impact on modern life and society has exerted influence on its culture. The ignorance of culture which did not take into consideration and concern about others has exhibited the poor relationship and bonding throughout the community and it is particularly part of determinant factors which literally has led to the case of child maltreatment (Institut Sosial Malaysia, 2018).

Since this finding found the social cohesion has correlation with child maltreatment, many studies have proven that the culture of community is embedded with connectedness, it could act as the significant factor to reduce child maltreatment. Most of the community members in Petaling Jaya agreed that they were staying in community associated with higher cohesion, common support and trustworthy living. This study was found on their level of relationship, whereby it has literally shown that they have the closed relationship and get along with each other. This relationship creates the supportive environment that has displayed a good relationship, willingness to give the favours and serve some guidance among one another and it could be as the protective mechanism to steer clear of any kind of deviant behaviours including the issue of child maltreatment among community. Additionally, the sense of belongingness among community in Petaling Jaya can clearly be seen whereby they revealed that their existence in their community was acknowledged as they felt like being part of their community. This connectedness literally displays the positive adaptation in the community living. This adaptation particularly may influence this kind of community, as it would particularly indirectly affect the lower level of child maltreatment. It has been significantly proven by Ellis et al. (2015) that analyzed the belongingness and violent perpetration. The findings have revealed that violence has been lessened while the belongingness has been created throughout the community.

Additionally, most of the community in Petaling Jaya were participating actively in social events in their regional areas. Fujiwara et al. (2016) point out that, the active participation could enhance the community interaction and cooperation to reduce the child maltreatment issues. Correspondingly, it has also been supported by Betancourt et al. (2014), the strong community's network that displayed from high participation significantly plays important functions to avoid the community from committing into any practice of deviant behaviours at their regional areas. Besides, in this study, the findings revealed the informal social control has no relationship with child maltreatment among community in Petaling

Jaya. It apparently shows that the community roles were not really essential in addressing the issue of child maltreatment.

According to Department of Social Welfare Malaysia (2016), the privacy of community was still relatively perceived, in which the culture of community silence primarily mobilized throughout society specifically in urban regional areas. In spite of Petaling Jaya as one section of urban regional areas, the notion of life modernization that literally does not concern about others has been displayed. They did not consider it practically a part of their responsibilities to make the report to respective and relevant authorities if there has been any suspected elements in terms of signs and symptoms of child maltreatment will occur. Therefore, they do not exercise their social duties such as making intervention or giving immediate favours, like trying to calm the parents once they detected any violence against children.

Inevitably, a number of studies have found the interventions of community to exercise their informal social control highly correlated to child maltreatment (Emery et al., 2013; Steenbeek & Hipp, 2011; Kimbrough & Melton, 2015). This has been claimed that the community was aware as their social duty to protect vulnerable children. It was found that the community would voluntarily react and cooperate in addressing child maltreatment as they perceived this critical phenomenon need as part of their social duties in the community. In contrast, in this study, the findings revealed that the informal social control did not possess significant correlation to child maltreatment. It was similar to a study by Emery et al., (2010), it has revealed the informal social control was not associated to child maltreatment due to the diversity issues in terms of characteristics of demographic and cultures. The different methodology such as statistical analysis and sampling techniques may also affect the findings of study. As the study by Emery et al. (2010) was administered in the United States, majority of American communities were intended to assist the child neglect by providing the intensive care in their regional areas. Whilst in regards in the form of abuse such as physical, emotional and psychological abuse, they were unwilling to intervene. It was believed such intervention may adversely affect their personal relationship with other community members. Correspondingly, in Malaysia, the child maltreatment classified as the internal domestic problem whereby it is literally perceived as sensitivity issues. Apparently, they would not be concerned in regards to the privacy of others' life (Suka Society, 2016). Consequently, it has led to the higher rate of child maltreatment due to the ignorance and silence culture over child maltreatment has been exhibited by the community that did not get into concern and care to the children. The capacity of community is particularly able to become the solid preventive nature in reality. Unfortunately, the ignorance culture has hidden the community function to play their social role to protect vulnerable children in their regional areas.

Several suggestions were provided for the government in order to invigorate the comprehensive policies in enhancing the awareness of community to exercise their social duties to address the issue of child maltreatment. Firstly, in understanding the social cohesion, it could act as the platform to eradicate the problem of child maltreatment; the government, specifically to policy makers, they need to formulate the comprehensive policies which support any state of programmes that could construct the culture of neighbourhood social cohesion. These policies may be articulated in terms of financial resources sufficiency, good public facilities such as community centres, the efficiency of welfare service and other social events.

It is essential for the government to identify and understand to some extent the intervention and some kind of practices that would ameliorate the social cohesion throughout the community. The programme associated to the community relation such as mentoring and parenting programmes could foster the social cohesion that literally exposes on the social interaction. In addition, it will eventually create the social mutual trust and also social support among the parents. These kinds of programmes may also foster a good relationship over the community as it is able to let the families feel as part of their community. The role of government is to make sure there is sufficient resources, which is vital specifically in terms of funding these programmes. The utilization of resources drives the high impact to the community as it leads to the effectiveness and efficiency of formal social support that apparently addresses strong connection and bonding over the community.

Secondly, due to the findings shown that the informal social control did not literally correlate with child maltreatment among Petaling Jaya community, it has shown the culture of community did not depend on informal social control. The parents were more literally less to rely on other people, particularly their friends. In return, it reflects the culture of community that typically did not get involved once they were the witnesses for any maltreatment including the internal domestic violence that happened in their regional areas. In fact, this kind of culture could create the propensity of these parents to separate themselves from receiving any kind of formal social support as well. It was proven by Kimbrough and Melton (2015), it has stated the parents excluded themselves from informal social support such as the favours and assistance from their community members specifically their friends. Specifically, they excluded themselves from gaining any structure of formal social support too. Most of the formal social control aids are social events, states and federally funded organization. Thus, to avoid such exclusion or isolation, the allocation of resources is the main priority whereby the role of government has to ensure the allocation of resources are equally and fairly accessible to targeted groups. In action, to make sure such assistance and aid are well received, the government has to identify the specific groups which are the needy families in certain regional areas. Apparently, the family finds it hard to depend on their friends' favours and government assistance of formal social support. They were literally keen to be alone and bear their burden solely. In other circumstances, they might not also be conscious or informed of subsidies provided due to the low accessibility of information and other barriers. These would become the constraints to government to ensure information is well delivered and to distribute such assistance to the targeted families.

From these barriers, the service of welfare delivery to the targeted groups need to be strengthened by the government through social events, for example outreach programmes like home visiting. It can be the medium by the government to have closed connection and keep observing the needy families and to recognize several necessary needs to be focused on. The government may also need to improve in terms of intensive children care, for instance the allocation of child care subsidies such as school clothes, education and nutrition food for the sake of children's growth. In effort of strengthening these programmes, the families who are reluctant and isolate themselves to receive any kind of formal and informal social control can be lessened. Therefore, it could indirectly reduce the burden of families by giving the appropriate children support for their state of development.

Lastly, in regards to the preventive instead of curative approach, the government need to implement the comprehensive childcare strategies by reviewing in-depth about the community voluntary assessment and service-oriented. These reviews of assessment need to focus on three aspects: (1) analyze on the awareness of community based on their participation level (2) initiate the engagement with the community at initial stage in the process of developing the plan and (3) sufficient budget allocation. These three aspects need to be well highlighted in order to ensure they are well-mobilized over the community. One of the good initiatives that could act as the benchmark is "Strong Communities for Children". It was under guidance from U.S Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect. This initiative is known as wide-based community approach in way to mitigate the case of child maltreatment (Kimbrough & Melton, 2015). This approach predominantly aims to transform the culture and norms throughout the community by emphasizing on the informal social support that need to be exercised. This approach addressed on the constructive networking by expanding the supportive relationship including community volunteerism that it was believed could act as the social support to the parents.

This approach is mainly to inculcate the communities about the child maltreatment problem. In the first stage, it identifies the opportunities that may stimulate the family support and in the second stage, it mobilizes and facilitates the community to construct and execute the plans. Finally, in the last stage, it addresses on resources institutionalization in order to ensure the support will be sustained for a period of time. Sufficient resources are essential in order to ensure such resources are well-distributed to the needy families in seeking favours and assistance they require. In spite of this, it would sustain the community voluntary in which it is able to inculcate the mutual shared values and common beliefs through society in addressing the child maltreatment issues.

Conclusion

To conclude, the results only found the social cohesion associated to the child maltreatment. However, the informal social control did not indicate any relationship with child maltreatment. Due to that, the social cohesion capacity could act as the vital platform to address child maltreatment issues among community. The communities that possess common bonding and trust literally provide the social support to give favours and assistance to the needy parents in rearing their children. Although the informal social control did not perceive any association to the child maltreatment among Petaling Jaya community, the researcher presumed the social cohesion that embedded among these community could enhance the supportive environment. This will later enhance social support in terms of exercising informal social control. Several studies have claimed the supportive norms may impact towards the individuals' behaviour and attitude of the individual. The community that embedded higher cohesiveness produces positive attitudes and behaviours. It can be seen on the creation of mutual trust and support where it encourages community to carry out their social responsibility in terms of helping and giving favours to the families in need. Hence, it can be simplified that the willingness to be involved on behalf of the whole community may appear after the supportive and constructive environments were created.

The implementation of legislative and policy could likely mitigate child maltreatment once people possess the sense of social responsibility. As civilized human being, the awareness of social responsibility would encourage people to exercise their social duties to ensure the children can truly be protected. Therefore, the preventive action needs to be tightened up by emphasizing on the high involvement and intervention of the community rather than strengthening with curative action.

Finally, in order to get more comprehensive analysis to extend the child maltreatment scope, future researchers are practically suggested to enlarge the scope by exercising longitudinal study. By conducting this kind of study, the researchers could remark on the community transition in terms of its development. This specifically may address in which part of capacity of community may influence on child maltreatment level. Therefore, it is practically suggested to future researchers to apply more tactful measurement in analyzing the community involvement and intervention, that is believed could act as an essential platform to address the issue of child maltreatment.

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