

**A PILOT STUDY ON VALIDATION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE
PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE AND
NEGLECT CHILD ABUSE SCREENING TOOL -
CHILDREN'S VERSION (ICAST-CH)**

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ABBREVIATION

CRC	Convention on the Right of the Child
CDC	Centre for Disease Control
EFA	Exploratory Factor Analysis
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICAST-CH	ISPCAN Child Abuse Screening Tool – Children's Version
ISPCAN	International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
JKM	Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat
NSPCC	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
PDRM	Polis Di Raja Malaysia
SCAN	Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nation
UNICEF	UN International Children’s Emergency Fund
USA	The United States of America
USD	US Dollar
WHO	World Health Organization
SL	Source language
FTL	Forward translation language
BSL	Backward Source language

ABSTRAK

Latar Belakang

Penganiayaan kanak-kanak, yang meliputi semua jenis penderaan iaitu fizikal, seksual, emosi atau psikologi dan pengabaian tanpa boleh disangkal lagi merupakan masalah yang kritikal di seluruh benua, budaya dan kepercayaan. Walaupun kadar dan kelaziman penganiayaan meningkat pada tahap yang membimbangkan di seluruh dunia, tahap sebenar permasalahan ini tetap menjadi tanda tanya. Terdapat banyak kajian yang telah dilakukan dalam usaha untuk menyelongkar masalah ini, namun misteri ini masih lagi belum boleh diselesaikan. Persatuan antarabangsa ‘the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect’ (ISPCAN), telah membangunkan sebuah instrumen ICAST-CH yang direka khas untuk kanak-kanak. Instrumen ini telah terbukti berkesan dalam mengenalpasti skop dan kelaziman penganiayaan zaman kanak-kanak. Malaysia khususnya, mempunyai alat sangat terhad untuk mengenalpasti pengalaman penganiayaan zaman kanak-kanak .

Tujuan

Kajian ini bertujuan untuk menterjemah dan menjalankan ujian keboleh percayaan ke atas versi bahasa Melayu Alat Pemeriksaan Penderaan Kanak-kanak ISPCAN – Versi Kanak-kanak (ICAST-CH) di kalangan kanak-kanak Malaysia.

Kaedah

Kajian dilakukan dalam dua fasa. Di dalam Fasa I, versi Bahasa Inggeris ICAST-CH diterjemah ke Bahasa Melayu menggunakan prosedur terjemahan ke hadapan dan ke belakang dan berikutan itu, pengesahan isi kandungan (content validity) diperolehi. Di dalam Fasa II, seramai 253 orang pelajar, berumur 13 hingga 17 tahun diambil dengan kaedah universal untuk memeriksa ketekalan dalaman (internal consistency) menggunakan 'Cronbach's alpha' dan meneliti kesahihan struktur (construct validity) menggunakan 'exploratory factor analysis'.

Keputusan

Analisa kajian ini menunjukkan versi Bahasa Malaysia ICAST-CH-M mempunyai skor tinggi secara keseluruhan dengan nilai Cronbach's alpha pada 0.84, tetapi rendah di dalam skala (subscale) di antara 0.61 – 0.81.

Kesimpulan

Kajian ini gagal untuk memberikan ketekalan (reliability) dan kesahihan yang memuaskan untuk ICAST-CH. Dengan itu cadangan penggunaan ICAST-CH-M sebagai instrumen untuk mengukur penganiayaan zaman kanak-kanak di kalangan kanak-kanak di Malaysia tidak dapat disimpulkan lagi. Kajian lanjut untuk memperincikan lagi instrumen ini amatlah disyorkan.

ABSTRACT

Background

Childhood maltreatments, which include all forms of abuse namely physical, sexual, emotional or psychological abuse and neglect undeniably is a very crucial problem across the continents, cultural and beliefs. Despite the alarming increasing in rates and prevalence of such maltreatments all over the world, the true extent of the problem remains a conundrum. There are multitudes of studies carried out in an attempt to explore this pressing problem, but the mysteries have yet to be solved. The International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN), has developed an instrument ICAST-CH specifically designed for children. This instrument proved to be reliable in accessing the scope and prevalence of childhood maltreatment. Malaysia, in particular, has very limited tools to assess childhood experiences of maltreatment.

Objective

The study aimed at translating and validating Malay version of ISPCAN Child Abuse Screening Tool – Children's Version (ICAST- CH) among Malaysian children.

Methods

A two-phase study was conducted. In phase I, the ICAST-CH English Version was translated into Malay using forward and backward translation procedure and following that, the content validity was obtained. In phase II, 253 students, aged 13 to 17 years old were recruited by universal sampling method to examine internal consistency by mean of Cronbach's alpha and to explore construct validity by mean of exploratory factor analysis.

Results

Analysis of the study indicated that Malay version ICAST-CH-M had high total score internal consistency with Cronbach's alpha of 0.84, but low on subscale that ranged from 0.61-0.81.

Conclusion

This study failed to demonstrate satisfactory reliability and validity for ICAST-CH-M. Thus the recommendation to use ICAST-CH-M as an instrument to measure childhood maltreatment's among Malaysian children could not yet be concluded. Further study to explore the instrument is highly recommended.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Koffi Annan, the former UN Secretary-General declared, " The principle of 'all children, all right' is still much too far from being a reality" (Youssof Oomar, 2008), p.2)

1.1 Background

In December 1946, under United Nation (UN), a special agency was founded specially for providing basic survival needs of children all over the world, more so for under-developed countries. United Nation International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) now, for so many years has put forward various measures to ensure children, who are so vulnerable to any diseases, maltreatments and inequality, secure in every aspect of their living condition.

United Nations General Assembly set out in New York on 20 November 1989 has come up with UN Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC) in an attempt to strengthen the ground of equality for children. There are 54 (UNICEF, 2014a) articles produced, 6 of them (Article 1,19,34,36,37,39) are specifically designed to address the problem of child abuse and neglect.

"The Convention on the Right of the Child." (n.d). Retrieved from http://www.unicef.org/crc/files/Protection_list.pdf states the following:

Children have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, physically or psychologically. Governments should ensure that children are

adequately cared for and protect them from violence, abuse, and neglect by their parents, or anyone else who looks after them. Children should be disciplined in non-violent ways which are appropriate to the child's level of development and the best interests of the child are put into consideration” (p. 15)

In accordance to the CRC, Malaysia has implemented a specific law to protect the children in Malaysia, enacted in Child Act 2001 (L. o. Malaysia, 2001)

1.2 Definition

There has been a substantial argument on the best definition to precisely define what is child abuse, as it has a very broad understanding and varies across the geographical jurisdictions. Each country has its law on the enforcement about child abuse, with specific definition implied to each category or types of ill treatment. Despite the differences in definitions, the basic concepts are similar.

An author of one of the studies on child maltreatment, described medicine as an art, in a way; it carries a meaning of subjectivity (Nemeroff, 2016). The very essence of art in medicine is uncertainty (Moles & Asnes, 2014). This subjectivity not only true when implying to psychological illness but also in physical diseases.

Child maltreatment is one of the many problems that have both physical as well as psychological components to it, and even social implications. In this sense it one of the most challenging and very subjective area, not only in defining 'what is abuse' but also in term of assessment,

diagnosing and managing the involved individual. The complexity and uniqueness of this ever-growing problem make it almost impossible to coin definition to a certain terminology as maltreatment occurs across the culture, ethnicity, belief, ideology and religion, which all have their magnitude of issues to be considered.

Inconsistency in definition

A Child

Child as defined by dictionaries:

1. A boy or girl from the time of birth until he or she is adult or a son or daughter of any age. Child. (2016). In *dictionary.cambridge.org*. Retrieved from <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/child>.
2. A young person from the time they are born until they are about 14 years old. Child. (2016). In *macmillandictionary.com*. Retrieved from <http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/british/child>.
3. A young human being below the age of puberty or below the legal age of majority, a son or daughter of any, immature or irresponsible person, an individual who has little or no experience in a particular area. Child. (2016). In *oxforddictionaries.com*. Retrieved from <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/child>.

In medical context

1. A person between birth and puberty.
2. A person who has not attained maturity or the age of legal majority.
3. An unborn infant; a fetus.
4. An infant; a baby.
5. A son or daughter; an offspring.

Child. (n.d). The American Heritage Medical Dictionary. (2007).
Retrieved from <http://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/child>.

In legal context

1. A person's natural offspring.
2. A person 14 years and under.
3. Should be distinguished from 'minor' who is anyone under 18 in almost all states.

Child. (2016). In *dictionary.law.com*. Retrieved from <http://dictionary.law.com/Default.aspx?selected=185>.

When it comes to defining a child, particularly in the context of childcare and protection, 18 years old is taken as a cut off limit, by the most jurisdictions.

According to Child Act 2001:

Child means a person under the age of eighteen years, and concerning criminal proceedings, means a person who has attained the age of criminal responsibility as prescribed in section 82 of the Penal Code (Act 574).(p. 13)

Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) view child as, “Any individual from birth through 17 years of age” (Rebecca T. Leeb, 2008) (p. 13)

Convention on the Right of the Children UNICEF, stated in Articles 1 CRC, “A child is human being below the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier” (UNICEF, 1990) (p. 2)

In Malaysia’s Child Act 2001, in Part V, subsection 17 (2) it stated very specifically pertaining each type of abuse:

- (a) Physically injured if there is substantial and observable injury to any part of the child’s body as a result of the non-accidental application of force or an agent to the child’s body that is evidenced by, amongst other things, a laceration, a contusion, an abrasion, a scar, a fracture or other bone injury, a dislocation, a sprain, haemorrhaging, the rupture of viscus, a burn, a scald, the loss or alteration of consciousness or physiological functioning or the loss of hair or teeth. (p. 29)
- (b) Emotionally injured if there is substantial and observable impairment of the child’s mental or emotional functioning that is evidenced by, amongst other things, a mental or behavioural disorder, including anxiety, depression, withdrawal, aggression, or delayed development. (p. 29)
- (c) Sexually abused if he has taken part, whether as a participant or an observer, in any activity which is sexual in nature for the purpose of:
 - (i) Any pornographic, obscene or indecent material, photograph, recording, film, videotape or performance or (p. 30)
 - (ii) Sexual exploitation by any person for that person's or another person is sexual gratification. (p. 30)

Dasar Perlindungan Dasar Perlindungan Kanak-Kanak Negara.
(2016). Retrieved from

[http://www.jkm.gov.my/jkm/index.php?id=TIFwUVczN0RLQ3VIRD
FqRTFmVENuZz09&r=portal/left](http://www.jkm.gov.my/jkm/index.php?id=TIFwUVczN0RLQ3VIRD
FqRTFmVENuZz09&r=portal/left) give following definition:

‘Pengabaian’ (Neglect)

‘Pengabaian merujuk kepada kegagalan secara berterusan dan serius untuk menyediakan keperluan asas fizikal, emosi dan pembangunan dari segi kesihatan, pendidikan, perkembangan emosi, nutrisi, tempat perlindungan dan kehidupan yang selamat untuk kanak-kanak. Pengabaian boleh mendedahkan kanak-kanak kepada segala bentuk bahaya, termasuk mengancam nyawa mereka.’

(Neglect refers to a constant serious failure in providing basic needs of physical, emotion and development in reference to health, education need, and emotion grows, nutrition, shelter, and safety for children. Neglect exposes children to dangers, and may harm the life of the children)

‘Penderaan’ (Abuse)

‘Penderaan kanak-kanak adalah satu pencabulan atau pelanggaran yang serius terhadap hak kanak-kanak untuk berkembang dalam keadaan sihat dan bermaruah disamping menyebabkan risiko dalam kelangsungan hidup mereka. Penderaan boleh dikategorikan kepada penderaan fizikal, emosi, seksual dan pengabaian.’

(Child abuse is a form of infringement or a serious offends towards children’s right to grow in a healthy environment and dignity, and this may endanger their survival. Abuse can be classified as physical, emotion, sexual or neglect)

The details definition of each type of abuse is precisely inscribed inside Malaysia's Child Act 2001, which has been enacted and being used throughout the country.

WHO| Child maltreatment. (n.d.). Retrieved April 01, 2016, from http://www.who.int/topics/child_abuse/en/ stated:

Child maltreatment, sometimes referred to as child abuse and neglect, includes all forms of physical and emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect, and exploitation that results in actual or potential harm to the child's health, development or dignity. Within this broad definition, five subtypes can be distinguished namely, physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect and negligent, emotional abuse, and exploitation.

While CDC defines child abuse and neglect as:

Child abuse and neglect are any act or series of acts of commission or omission by a parent or other caregiver (e.g., clergy, coach, teacher) that results in harm, potential for harm, or threat of harm to a child. (Rebecca T. Leeb, 2008) (p. 11)

UNICEF Malaysia in 2010 (U. Malaysia, 2010) has summarized definitions as follow:

- A child is anyone under the age of 18 according to the Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC) and Malaysia's Child Act 2001.

(p. 1)

- Child abuse and neglect (known formerly by United Nations agencies as child maltreatment) are harm (or risk of harm) caused to a child by a parent, guardian or another person in a position of responsibility, trust or power over the child. There are four major types of child abuse:
 - Neglect: failure to provide for a child's basic needs. (p. 1)
 - Physical abuse: punching, beating, kicking, biting, burning, shaking, stabbing, choking, or otherwise harming a child. (p. 1)
 - Sexual abuse: fondling a child's genitals, penetration, incest, rape, sodomy, indecent exposure, and commercial exploitation through prostitution or the production of pornographic materials. (p. 1)
 - Emotional abuse: constant criticism, threats, rejection as well as withholding love, support or guidance. (p. 1)

In UK from NSPCC (Sonja Jutte, 2015) put forward following sets of definition for child abuse and neglect:

- Abuse – a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or an institutional or community setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g., via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children. (p. 11)
- Physical abuse – involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a

parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

(p. 11)

- Emotional abuse - the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on child's emotional developments. (p. 11)
- Sexual abuse – Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. (p. 11)
- Neglect – persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical or psychological needs, or both that likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. (p. 11)

Moreover, for the purpose of this study, maltreatment, victimization or child abuse will carry a similar meaning, which includes physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional and psychological abuse, and neglect.

1.3 History

Child maltreatment is one of the medical problems amongst Paediatric's age group. It is now a recognizable issue that exists in every society around the globe and has become one of the global concerns across the region.

One of the earliest recorded histories of child maltreatment was in the early 1870's in USA (Myers, 2008). The abused child was an 8-year-old orphan named Marry Ellen Wilson, whose father died, and left with her mother who was unable to take a proper care of her. Instead, she was put under the care of a foster parent who later had abused her. The case has captured the people attention about the seriousness of child abuse, which later in 1874 the first child abuse society in the USA was formed, known as New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to the Children.

In 1962, an article on child abuse was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association where it described the symptoms of child abuse and child abuse was considered as one of the diagnosable medical conditions.

In Malaysia, a child abused only being formally recognized in 1985, with the establishment of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) Team founded in Hospital Kuala Lumpur. The abuse cases only reached its popularity amongst Malaysian community in 1989 following the death of a severely abused child (M.S Kasim, 1995).

Despite the vigorous effort from all authorities in preventing child maltreatment, the statistics nonetheless, implicating significant rising of new cases each year, worldwide, including Malaysia.

1.4 Epidemiology

The Magnitude Of Child Maltreatment

World Wide

Child abuse is an international issue (David Finkelhor, 1994; Rao & Lux, 2012), has an extensive social problem (May-Chahal & Cawson, 2005) and becomes more pressing matter in recent years. Pereda, Guilera, Forns, and Gomez-Benito (2009b) conducted a meta-analysis on the prevalence of child sexual abuse in the community, and students sample involving 22 countries summarized the seriousness of sexual abuse in children. The analysis showed that 7.9% of men and 19.7% of women had suffered from some form of sexual abuse.

A Finnish population study on child sexual abuse (Laaksonen et al., 2011) found that childhood sexual abuse experiences varied between 0.7-4.6% for men and 1.8-7.5% for women. May-Chahal and Cawson (2005) found that from 2869 young adult aged 18-24 years interviewed face to face, maltreatment was experienced by 16% of them. Out of this, 7% experienced severe physical abuse, 6% for emotional abuse, 6% for absence of care, 5% for absence of supervision and 11% of sexual abuse. David Finkelhor (1994) in his study, found that the rate of sexual abuse reported by women was between 2%-62%, whereas men reported 3%-16%. On the follow-up study by Pereda, Guilera, Forns, and Gomez-Benito (2009a) where the comparison was made between the previous study (David Finkelhor, 1994) with the recent international epidemiology of child sexual abuse, it was found there was a similarity between prevalence distribution which was constant over the

years. This finding indicates that child sexual abuse is still an ongoing and widespread problem in the international community.

From U.S Department of Health & Human Services, in 2014, there were estimated 702,000 children who were victims of child maltreatment with the rate of 9.4 victims per 1000 children in the population. Out of which, 1,580 were fatality cases with an alarming rate of child fatalities as high as 2.13 deaths per 100,000 children (Services, 2014).

In the UK, from National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) reported in year 2013/14, there were 36,429 sexual offenses, 9,516 cruelty, and neglect, against children in the UK and 67 cases of child homicide (Sonja Jutte, 2015).

In other countries, the child maltreatment is not an uncommon phenomenon as well. In East Asia and Pacific region for instance, as reported by United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF), in their Systematic Review of Research on Child Maltreatment, the overall prevalence rate of physical abuse ranges from 10% - 30.3%. Studies from districts of Republic of Korea, from 2001-2008 it is reported that the rate of child abuse was 0.53% per 1000 children. (Fry, 2012)

In Malaysia, local context

Malaysia too is not protected from child maltreatment problem. As aforementioned, the popularity of such cases has significantly risen after the fatality incident in 1989 (M.S Kasim, 1995).

To date, the care of the victims has shown promising improvement with the establishment of the SCAN team in the National Policy involving children with maltreatment.

Based on our local data, published by Welfare Department, there were 4295 children were classified as needed for protection. These numbers included all types of abuse (physical, sexual, emotional and neglect) in 2014 alone ((JKM), 2014). The incidence has been increasing each year, partly due to increasing awareness among the public population of Malaysia regarding its existence and that it is obligatory to the public and those who are working with children to report any case of child abuse and neglect as enacted in Child Act 2001.

Nonetheless, these figures were merely at the tip of the iceberg as the actual number of cases possibly were higher than the data depicted, owing to undoubtedly, underreported for a variety of reasons, includes lack of knowledge on what is a child abuse and neglect, and the ignorance of the local community. This phenomenon common especially among the rural population, whom the majority, still uphold the belief of corporal punishment is the best way to discipline their children.

1.5 Concerns of abused children

Jackson and Deye (2015) stated that the alteration in brain architecture and the subsequent impact on cognition and behavior are a critical consequence of child maltreatment.

A child abuse is not a one-off problem. It has a devastating effect even after the physical wound has long disappeared. For instance, in a case of

physical abuse, the child might recover from the external physical injury but might live the rest of his life in a state of emotional instability with a possibility of progression into a severe psychological illness, such as depression. There are significant effects in both short and long term. These short term and long term effects have been a focus of multiple studies for a long time, and numerous data were showing such effects can last well into adulthood of the child victim.

The consequences can lead to physical, psychological and behavioral disturbances. While there are still much to prove of the exact association and relation between the type of maltreatment and their related consequences, current research continues to demonstrate sequel results across the life span of the involved children (Jackson & Deye, 2015).

A systematic review in 2009 examined the impact of child sexual abuse on health concluded that there was an association between childhood sexual abuse with medical, psychological, behavioural and sexual disorders (Maniglio, 2009).

1.5.1 Short term

Physical Injury And Mortality

The direct effect of child maltreatment, especially in the form of physical abuse, without any doubt, in fact, is death (M.S Kasim, 1995; Robert Sanders, 1999; Yasumi & Kageyama, 2009). It is not uncommon for the victims to have a very severe form of injuries include long bones fractures, skull fractures, cervical cord injury, internal bleeding and intracranial haemorrhage (M.S Kasim, 1995).

These injuries may lead to severe health complications, with death at the end of the extreme spectrum. Death as a complication of child abuse is not uncommonly encountered.

There were as many as 30 fatalities caused by physical abuse in Malaysia from 1985-1991. The main cause of death was either from intracranial hemorrhage or intra-abdominal injury (M.S Kasim, 1995).

Another study carried out in 1999 (Robert Sanders, 1999), looked into fatalities related to child abuse as early as 1975, in an attempt to propose a better approach to managing the children who have been abused and put forward the appropriate measures to prevent further recurrence.

From the UNICEF's Systematic Review of Research on Child Maltreatment in the East Asia and Pacific Region (Fry, 2012) published in 2012, part of the review looked specifically into the filicide or child deaths. They found a total of 7 studies describing filicide or child death.

Two studies were from China (Jiao et al.,2000, (Coordinators, 2003), three from Fiji (Andinkrah 2000, 2003), two from Japan (Bao-Li, 2000; Yasumi & Kageyama, 2009) and one from Republic of Korea (Government of the Republic of Korea,2005).

1.5.2 Long term

The impact of the maltreatment could have lasted a lifetime, for some child victims. Following are few of the long-term consequences that may affect the victims.

Psychological diseases

There has been increasing evidence relating early child maltreatment with major psychological problems such as major depression, bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, even schizophrenia and some may have severe symptoms that led to suicidal ideation and attempt (Nemeroff, 2016; Steven N. Gold, 1999). It is universally agreed that this vulnerable subpopulation has a more severe clinical course in term of symptomatology and prognosis as they respond more poorly to pharmacotherapy or psychotherapy (Nemeroff, 2016).

Problematic behavior

Any form of maltreatment may contribute to behavioral problems. Overtly sexualized behaviour as described by Putnam (2003) has been linked strongly to a history of being sexually abused. Some of the victims observed exhibit the features resemblance to ADHD, confuses clinician when in actuality it was just one of the manifestation of the abused child.

Harford, Yi, and Grant (2014) in his study, examined the association between childhood abuse (physical, emotional, and sexual), violence toward self (suicide attempts) and interpersonal aggression, found that each type of childhood abuse indeed had the association with the risk of violent behaviours to self and others (Harford et al., 2014). In another study, which examined the

association of childhood abuse experiences and non-suicidal self-injury, found that child abuse was a strong predictor of adolescent non-suicidal self-injury (Auerbach et al., 2014).

A study by Maneta, Cohen, Schulz, and Waldinger (2015) who investigated linkages between childhood emotional abuse and marital satisfaction and examined the role of empathic accuracy for hostile emotions, suggested that a history of childhood emotional abuse was associated with difficulties with empathic accuracy, and in turn, affect adult marital satisfaction.

Developmental impairment

Childhood abuse and neglect possibly affect the development of the involved victims. One of the domains of development milestones is emotional development. One of the studies examined long-term effects of childhood abuse and neglect, specifically on emotion processing in adulthood found that individual with a history of childhood maltreatment were less accurate in overall emotion processing (Young & Widom, 2014).

Economic burden

The financial burden and fiscal challenges involved in the care of children who abused are enormous. According to a systematic review short and long-term effects on medical cost attributable to child maltreatment by (Brown, Fang, & Florence, 2011), the authors concluded that child maltreatment required substantial medical cover both in childhood and adulthood. The estimation, however, varies because of differences in research

designs, types of cost and study qualities. Nonetheless, econometric estimated the cost involved in caring for these patients are as high as USD 800 annually for an adult and as high as USD 24000 per episode for a child.

The Early Intervention Foundation has published in 2015 report (Sonja Jutte, 2015) to imply that nearly £17 billion per year was spent by the state in England and Wales on a range of acute or statutory services for troubled children and young people.

In the US, it is estimated that average lifetime cost per victim of nonfatal child maltreatment is USD 210, 012 in 2010 dollars, and estimated average lifetime cost per death is USD 1, 272,900. In 2008, the total lifetime economic burden as a result of new cases of fatal and nonfatal child maltreatment was approximately USD 124 billion (Fang, Brown, Florence, & Mercy, 2012).

In East Asia and Pacific Region, as reported by Fang et al. (2015) it was estimated that the economic value lost to child maltreatment totaled up to USD 194 billion 2012 dollars, which accounted for 1.88% of the region's GDP. A press release in UNICEF website dated 2nd June 2016 stated that child maltreatment in Asia-Pacific had cost countries USD 209 billion each year which equivalent to 2 percent of the region's GDP. This information was according to newly published research commissioned by UNICEF. The study detailed the cost based on types of abuses, and it was estimated USD 65.9 billion for emotional abuse, USD 39.6 billion for physical violence, and 39.9 billion attributed to sexual abuse (UNICEF, 2016).

1.6 Objective Of The Study

1.6.1 General Objective

- i. To translate and validate the International Society for the Protection of Child Abuse and Neglect Child Abuse Screening Tool Children's Version (ICAST-C) into Malay language (Bahasa Melayu).

1.6.2 Specific Objective

- i. To do a forward translation of English version of the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Child Abuse Screening Tool Children's Version (ICAST-C) into Bahasa Melayu (Malay version).
- ii. To do a backward translation of Malay version (Bahasa Melayu) of the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Child Abuse Screening Tool Children's Version (ICAST-C) into English.
- iii. To compare and review forward and backward translated version of the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Child Abuse Screening Tool Children's Version (ICAST-C).
- iv. To do a final forward translation into Bahasa Melayu (Malay version) of the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Child Abuse Screening Tool Children's Version (ICAST-C).

- v. To validate Malay version of the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Child Abuse Screening Tool Children's Version (ICAST-C).

1.7 Research Hypothesis

The Malay version of the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Child Abuse Screening Tool Children's Version (ICAST-C) Questionnaires is as valid and reliable as the English version.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The magnitude of the problems related to child abuse and neglect, clearly and undeniably surpass the concerned child victims. The implications, of the child maltreatment, are not only confined to managing the involved child but also in maintaining and constructing the whole systems of childcare. In this particular context, childcare is focusing on child protection system practice, which should be the primary goal to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the child victims (Meiksans, Iannos, & Arney, 2015). The aims include assessing risk and harm to children and identifying the appropriate interventions (Meiksans et al., 2015) if required. In other words, this will directly involve a policymaker, starting with the most basic fundamental issue; identifying the victim child or child at risk.

Despite the structured-almost perfect module produced by UNICEF on strategy plan (Save the Children, 2013; UNICEF, 2015; United Nations, 2008) of how to go about establishing, designing, managing, monitoring, and evaluating child abuse protection plan/policy, Malaysia is still very far behind as compared to developed countries in tackling this ever-growing concern. The current system employed more of a response-driven strategy targeting to protect further insult to already victimised child, instead of detecting and protecting 'at risk' children before they become a victim.

To date, the only government-driven system, with a structured and organised plan in Malaysia that dealing directly in managing child abuse and neglect is SCAN team with Child Act 2011 as a safeguard, which very far from perfect, but nonetheless functional. Even though this system is centralised, there are still a lot to be improved, to ensure the safety of children in Malaysia. Before such tremendous

effort can be summoned, there has to be an adamant driving force to trigger these actions. Among other things, providing accurate quantitative and qualitative data on the magnitude of child abuse and neglect. As stated by Jeffrey O'Malley, Director, Division of Data, Research and Policy UNICEF in his foreword article Hidden in Plain Sight: A Statistical Analysis of Violence Against Children 2014 stated: " the first step in curbing all forms of violence against children is bringing the issue to light – in all its complexity." (UNICEF, 2014b)(UNICEF, 2014b)(p. 4)

Among fundamental inconsistencies that should be looked into more thoroughly in this field of child abuse and neglect in particular, before we can proceed further, are:

1. Definitions
2. Measurement tools/instruments used

In the past, there has been substantial studies and reviews in an attempt to solidify these two issues. To date, these problems still as a conundrum in the field of research as they have ever been.

Different continents have their concerns, social and cultural milieus that impinge on these particular issues, especially when to precisely defined the abuse and neglect. For instance, in some culture, beliefs or even religions, may consider corporal punishment (Corina Benjet, 2003; DuPre & Sites, 2015; Ho & Gross, 2015) as an acceptable and justifiable way to discipline the children, while others may believe it is a form of abuse.

We first look into our local context in Malaysia, specifically about physical abuse.

Child Act 2001(L. o. Malaysia, 2001) states:

A child is physically injured if there is a substantial and observable injury. This injury is further described as a laceration, contusion, abrasion, scar fracture, dislocation, sprain, hemorrhaging, rupture of viscus, burn, scald, alteration or loss of consciousness, or loss of hair or teeth, among other things.' (p. 29)

In this elaboration, it does not include, or in other word excluded, any children who may have been beaten or spank or cane or in any such equivalent act of physical torture, and did not manifest the strong physical sign that required to label the child as being abused. In most circumstances, for instance, parents may use a rattan to cane a child, which apparently a potential act that can injure or physically harm the child, but did not produce such physical signs. In this situation, would we consider as abuse or otherwise?

Meanwhile in the UK from NSPCC (Sonja Jutte, 2015) physical abuse is defined as:

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or care taker fabricates the symptoms of or deliberately induces, illness in a child.' (p. 11)

It is clear that the definition of physical abuse here does not require any presence of physical signs, which make wider spectrum definition coverage and they

even include fabrication as a form of abuse. From this definition, it obvious that any act that is causing physical harm, regardless the physical sign is present or not, has been considered as an act of abuse. It is of considerable a safe conclusion to say that it is not acceptable to cane a child in the UK, but perhaps justifiable in our local setting, here in Malaysia, as long as one do not produce any physical sign to prove it.

UNICEF in one of its many articles on child abuse and neglect stated: " all children have the right to protection from violence, regardless of the nature or severity of the act as long as the action can cause harm to children, reduce their sense of self-worth, affront their dignity and hinder their development." (UNICEF, 2014b).

UNICEF in the same article, in 2014 has summarised the findings of the surveys that specifically examined the views on corporal punishment across cultures, and as expected different cultures see this kind of punishment differently. The studies in Australia performed in 2005 commissioned by Australian Childhood Foundation and the National Centre for the Prevention of Child Abuse, found that 45 percent of the respondents agreed that it was reasonable to leave a mark on a child as a result of physical punishment, and 69 percent agreed 'sometimes it is necessary' to 'smack' a naughty child. One in 10 said it was appropriate to use implements such as canes, sticks, belts or slippers to punish a child (UNICEF, 2014b).

The findings from a study in Chile conducted by UNICEF in 2012 involving children age 12 to 17 years old, on the usefulness of physical punishment in some child-rearing situation, suggested that early experiences of violence may increase a child's acceptance of its use in certain circumstances. This finding indirectly indicates that child may think it is okay to be punished physically (UNICEF, 2014b). Such a finding again, suggest conflicting agreement even among children themselves, concerning defining when or how they are abused.