

The consequences of exposure to domestic and sexual violence and abuse on children and survivors

An Abstract of the Thesis By
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Domestic abuse is a significant social issue that has a major impact upon the health of women, children and men within society, it is one of the most occurring situations yet it is barely recognised unless it leaves physical traces. This is a social issue that occurs in all cultures and people of all races, ethnicities, religions, gender and classes can be perpetrators of domestic abuse. Within a psychosocial framework, it is thought that different forms of maltreatment and abuse result in complex trauma or cumulative harm, which is thought to have long-term effects on a child's development and psychosocial outcomes, including the ability to form attachments and healthy, respectful relationships in adulthood (Price-Robertson, Higgins, & Vassallo 2013). Although it is recognised that both sexes may be victims of domestic abuse, the phenomenon is commonly understood from the perspective of male to female violence, supported by a substantial body of research and policy focusing on female victims of domestic abuse. However, evidence shows that significant numbers of men are victims of female-perpetrated violence, but as the issue is under-explored, the extent and effects of abuse are poorly understood. Society's outdated ideas about masculinity and what it means to be a man are trapping male victims in domestic prisons.