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Introduction

Vulnerability in humans often refers to critical mental conditions in peoples which generally arise due to disturbed surrounding conditions. Children, young people and families are often subjected to vulnerability due to chronic poverty, illness, deprivation of basic needs, neglect, abuse, drug related issues, broken family etc. This case study is about a young teenage girl Renne who lived with her single parent along with her disabled younger brother in London. Because of her drug addicted father Renne was being abused by her father out of his senses which was affecting both Renne and her brother's life. Along with this, his complete indifference towards the family had put their family in severe vulnerable conditions. Noticing changes in Renne's behaviour, her teacher suggests she take help from a social service agency that can help her out. In Renne's case, the main problem was of child abuse and vulnerable family for which the future of the children in the household was in danger, which was uncommon for average families. In this report, Renne's case and related issues along with policies and legislations related to the situation, and what else could be done in this case will be labelled down.

Case study

Renne is 13 years old. She lives with her family in Islington, London. She often remains absent from class and is often inattentive in her lessons. She is quite unhealthy and often remains frustrated and disturbed with a very bad skill in making friends or creating attachments. Her teacher was worried about her so he decided to talk with her. Things confronted about her family were quite awful. Renne didn't live in a normal family like other children. Renne's mother left them about a year ago. Her father is a drug addict and often comes home late getting drunk. He most of the time remains blacked out and has no care about his children. Sometimes he even tortures Renne, getting out of his senses. Renne needs to do all the household chores. Moreover she also needs to take care of her younger brother who is disabled and just 3 years old. All this keeps her tired all day long. Moreover, she is concerned about her and her brother's future. She also remains tense about her father's health. Hearing all these, Renne's teacher recommended her to contact a local social service agency that works for supporting the vulnerable children and their families like hers.

The main purpose of this case study was to detect current situations related to children and familial vulnerability and their probable solutions. Since the last ten years, the rise in child vulnerability has amplified the Child Protection policies along with child councillors in the

UK. In recent times, there are almost 2 million children around England who are at high vulnerability risks (Brotherton and Cronin, 2020). Substantial needs, extreme poverty, abuse, familial issues are the main reasons behind these issues. In these situations children often face behavioural changes and disturbances along with minimal intentions to attachments which can lead to mental disability. In these cases, often the child needs immediate treatment or counselling, without being harsh on the child's physical health (medication/pharmacological approaches), staying within the margin of Child Right Act of UNO (Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health 2016–2030, WHO). Moreover, drug addicted parents, who are even battling to figure out their own entity, often throw their own child into vulnerable situations themselves. The Children's Commissioner's report about children vulnerability shows that, though at present about 2.3 million of children are living with vulnerable familial conditions in the UK like Renne, about only 25% of them are being heard by others (Sturt, 2020). It is even estimated that, almost 670,000 English children are living in risky situation with drug addicted parents along with high risks of child abuse, and almost 800,000 children are suffering from mental health disorders as well (Westra, 2020).

In Renne's case, the domestic conditions at her house were reasonable for her uncertain behavioural upshots. Studies showed, disturbed familial situations often lead children toward vulnerability (Wate and Boulton, 2020). Defects in parenting systems and drug addiction of the parents often results in child abuse and neglections which affects both physical and mental condition of children. In this situation the most risky part was, these disrupts can even affect other young people of the family or the family itself, as in Renne's case, she has a little brother who is even getting affected along with Renne in this situation. Psychology says, when children grow up undergoing long-term abuse and vulnerabilities around, they often tend to repeat those circumstances in their life too (Pickard, 2017). In addition, bad addictions of her father can also affect the economic conditions of her family which was an alarming part of this case too. Keeping all these things in mind, Renne was recommended to visit a Social agency that can help her out from this state via both mental and legal support.

Analysis

The process of intervention by relevant health and social care agencies and current relevant policy.

Action for Children is one of the renowned social agencies in the UK which has been supporting vulnerable children and their families from the very beginning of the '90s. Renne

contacted the agency with the help of her teacher. The agency assured to figure out her problems and reliable solutions to them. The agency at first sat with Renne and her parents for a mutual conversation and counselling session. Both her parents seemed indifferent to her problems. On the other hand Renne needed to be handled via a child counsellor who could help her to recover her mental issues. When it seemed that the problem was quite critical and none of her parents were bothering much, the agency took legal actions with the help of local UK government agents to help out Renne.

In the year 1989, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was signed, which was effective from the year of 1990, stated that, children has the right to get protection against abuse and vulnerability from parents or societies (Van Bueren, 2019). The Act considers that every child demands legal authorisation regarding harms and complications (according to the section 47, a Risky child who is being abused or in risk of being abused by anyone). Section 47 describes that local agencies and social workers should take sufficient steps including talking to the family or the child and take immediate actions or interventions under legal procedures if the child is in danger (Stafford, 2020). Section 31 (2) says local authorities are given the authority to support vulnerable children with crucial mental harm and to identify them by national register. The other social organisations and medical agents must be informed about these children, that they need special consideration under circumstances. Moreover this Act is also concerned about the parenting process which includes that parents must make right decisions to protect their children (Skivenes and Søvig, 2019). In addition, according to section 11 of the Children Act 2004, local authorities are given power to protect children and uphold their safety. This includes: local social agencies, police, and local government agents. In fact if these people neglect to notice or inform these situations, they can even be brought under action (Hann and Fertleman, 2016). Moreover, The Department for Education (DfE) updated the rules and guidance for anyone handling or working with children in England in July 2018.

The point for assessment and actions taken

When sudden changes in Renne's behaviour was noticed she was taken for placing an immediate referral. Renne's mental condition was deteriorating gradually and it had chronic chances to affect her little disabled brother as well. Moreover Renne's academic career and future was in danger in the midst of all these circumstances. If actions weren't taken in time, things would have gotten even worse resulting in unstable mental conditions or child death for her. For all these, Renne needed to get help on time. Disrupted upshots of vulnerability in the lives of children can result in negative outcomes in adulthood (Janko, 2019). If things go out

of control for a child, the local authorities have legal permissions to sort those out legally. The social agency, Action for children, helped Renne and her brother with some legal procedures. The agency at first found foster parents for the children with whom they decided to stay for a few years. They also managed expert counselling sessions for both the parents and Renne for some time. And at last, they consulted government child health experts for the children who functioned to improve their physical conditions as well.

Efficacy of the policies and roles and impact of the agencies

The Department for Education (DfE) is in charge of providing required laws and legislations to promote child protection acts in the UK. And the local authorities are responsible for assuring safety of children at local levels. Local authorities must check if the child needs immediate help or not and if the child needs to be taken under section 17 precautions of children act or not (Buck, 2020). If the child proves to be in a very risky condition of harm, it must be assessed under Section 47 precautions as well. At last if the child or its family needs special counselling or assessed by specialists, they will be given a chance to do so. And all these steps are needed to be taken by the local agencies within 45 days instant after they are involved in the referral with the child (Johnson et al., 2019).

Action for Children did the same for Renne as well. They assessed the situation particularly in time under the Child act and developed the case via statutory processes. They worked with other local assisting agencies and local government agents as well to assure total safety of the children. And lastly, they tried to sort out the health issues of the children.

Evaluation

Critical analysis of the responses of relevant agencies

Renne's case was practically in a position of high risk and vulnerability for the children. As soon as her teacher got to know about her, he placed a referral under the local agency. After that the local agency along with the help of legislations and other substitutional authorities, came forward to help Renne out. There is no doubt that the local authorities including her teacher played sufficient roles to save Renne out of the problem. They took proper measurements and steps to conquer the situation. But in the case of Renne and her brother they arranged for foster parents. The children needed intense care after all those mishaps and sometimes foster parents are just not enough to handle these situations. In addition, if they fail to adjust with their new parents and domestic environment, their situation has a high risk to

deteriorate (Kline and Overstreet, 2018). It can make the situation even worse than being better. In this case, they could have sent those children to some of their relative's houses in the first place, so that Renne could get sufficient mental support and care she needed.

Recommendation

Vulnerable children and family issues are still not taken into account seriously in time which often brings danger for the family (Grapes, 2017). 8/10 vulnerable child are found to be victims of child abuse cases in UK these days. In other countries, like Russia, they have special family code laws for children in their federation (Family Code of the Russian Federation and Federal Law No. 124-FZ), which offers children direct right to receive protection against abuse by family (Newell, 2016). In this way, legal policies and legislations in the UK need to become stricter and advanced so that no child can complain about getting abused. Laws need to be promoted to the last levels of society and every victim must get equal justice for their issues. Disciplinary actions must be taken for the indifference of the local authorities or societies or even parents if needed.

Conclusion

Children are the future of the country. They need to get nourished for a beautiful future. Their beauty today will assure a better future for society. But vulnerability and child abuse cases are a big drawback in this case (Bradshaw, 2020). Vulnerability hampers proper and safe growth of children where every child demands to get proper and intense care to grow up beautifully. Along with the rising child vulnerability cases laws and legislations need to get updated and advanced with time. If these situations aren't handled with care and proper legal management, more child deaths and mental disabilities are sure to rise. The government and other legal authorities need to focus on these sides much more for a secure future for every child in the country. The international organisations like UN or WHO also need to get active with new developed law and legislations in these cases. To be more precise, more and more precautions are needed to be taken to handle vulnerable children and their families in order to put an end to these.

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