

152nd SESSION of the WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD

(Geneva, 30 January- 7th February 2023)

9:30 AM (CET)



**Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Government of India**

Agenda 15: Ending violence against children through health systems strengthening and multisectoral approaches

(Word count: 337)

Thank you Chair,

Violence against children is widespread and remains a harsh reality for millions of children across socio-economic groups.

Both girls and boys face domestic abuse, sexual violence, violence at home and in school, trafficking, online violence, child labour and bullying which have lifelong consequences on children's lives, health and well-being.

There is a need to address **the economic and sociocultural factors that foster a culture of violence against children.**

We need to **adopt a multi-sectoral framework of mutually reinforcing interventions to prevent and manage child violence. Our work should focus on building health systems capacities** at all levels.

The best way to address violence is to prevent it from happening in the first place.

Data on the number of children experiencing violence underestimates the extent of the problem, as only a small proportion of such acts are reported & investigated and few perpetrators are held accountable. **There is a need to bring uniformity in approaching, treating, and documenting cases of sexual violence against children.**

School Health and Wellness Programme should focus on creating awareness on violence against children including sexual violence.

Trained and sensitized peer educators to identify cases of violence, motivate them to seek help & provide referral pathways, support to child victim of violence are important.

The strategies to address the violence against children should include:

- Strict Implementation and enforcement of laws ensuring service provision
- Community Awareness on violence against children
- Ensuring Safe environments for children in school and public spaces
- Regular Parental and caregiver support by providing education and updated support material

Chair,

To ensure multisectoral coordination for the prevention of violence against children, WHO can:

- Support in creation of a comprehensive framework for ending violence against children by involving all stakeholder ministries/departments under one platform

- Broaden the RESPECT women project developed by WHO for Preventing violence against women to support children age group as well.
- Ensure capacity building at all levels of policy makers and implementers based on their level of involvement

Thank you!