

**Family  
Dark Side of Family Life**

**1. Domestic Violence**

**Causes** Dobash and Dobash (1980)

- Wife not performing duties to husband's satisfaction
- Women forced to stay
  - Poverty
  - Economic dependence on man
  - Stigma

**Data**

- Reliability**
  - Unreported
  - Unrecorded by police
- Validity**
  - Private institution
  - Secret activity
  - Deliberately hidden
  - ? "Increase?"
    - More media / police activity
    - More reporting by victims

**Research Evidence**

- Dobash and Dobash (1980)
  - Scotland
  - 25% of ALL assaults
- UN Women's Conference (1995)
  - 25% of world's women suffer
  - India: 5 women burned to death / day
  - 1 million new born girls killed each year
  - Genital mutilation
  - Women
    - 2/3rds world's work
    - Earn 1/10 world's income
    - Own <1/100th world's property
    - Lower pay rates

**Solutions**

- Connors (1992)
  - Free legal advice
  - Attitude changes
    - Police
    - Judiciary / Courts
- Refuges for women / children
- Educational programmes

**Explanations**

- Structural**
  - Feminism
  - Marxism
  - "Invisibility of battered women"
  - Social isolation of women
  - Police inaction
    - Family-private institution
- Individual**
  - Cheal (1991)
    - Key ideological myths
      - Personal interests of women less important than family role
      - "Women free to leave"
      - Private institution

**2. Rape within Marriage**

- Legal**
  - Until 1991 in UK
- Prosecution Rare**
- Connors (1992)
  - Few societies penalise marital rape
  - Some societies kill women for adultery
- Feminism**
  - Male power
  - Tyrannisation
  - Patriarchy

**3. Child Abuse**

**Explanations**

- Mental illness / pathology
- "Damaged individuals"
- Psycho-pathological
- Feminist**
  - Patriarchal Ideologies
  - Force
  - Patriarchy
  - Deviant male sexuality
  - Violent Abusive
  - Sexual predators
  - Paedophiles
  - Most men not
  - Criticism of
  - ? Female abusers?

**Sociological**

- ? Frustration / repression
- Economic deprivation
- Men have right to be violent
- Age of consent
- Subcultural norms / beliefs
- Multiple partners
- Single parent families
- Stress
- Violence
- Blocked opportunities
- Inappropriate sexuality

**Issues**

- Media interest in 1980's
- Cleveland
- Police action
- Mainly men abuse
- Men are danger to children
- Gittens
- Interpreting "abuse"
- Elliott (1996)
- Control
- Take into care
- Investigate cruelty / neglect
- "At risk" registers
- Child Protection
- Sexual Offenders Register
- "Abuse" not just sexual

**Data**

- Reliability**
  - Unreported
  - Unrecorded by police
  - ? What is "abuse?"
  - Definitions
  - ? How much "abuse" in past?

**Validity**

- Private institution
- Secret activity
- Deliberately hidden
- More media / police activity
- More reporting by victims
- ? "Increase?"

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**Legal** Until 1991 in UK

**Prosecution Rare**

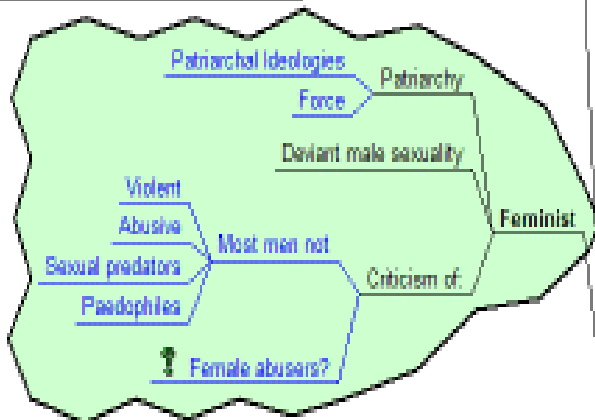
**Connors (1992)**

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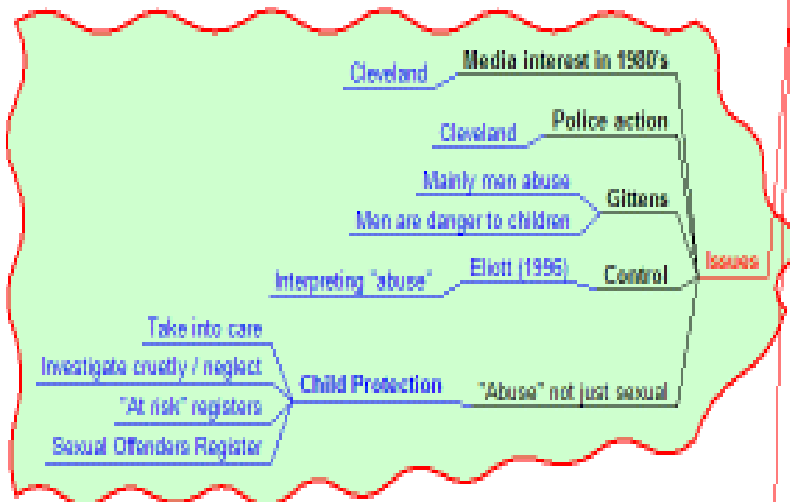
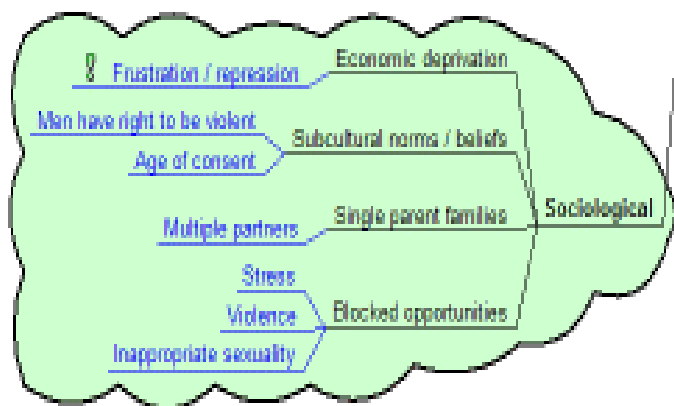
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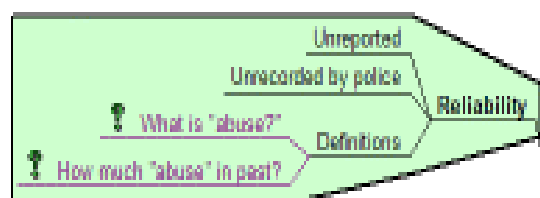
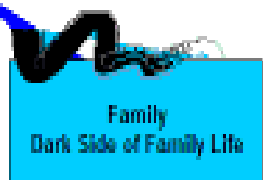
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Explanations



3. Child Abuse



Data

