**Belmaker, Ilana (PS1-A)**

**Risk Factors for Child Abuse and Neglect in an Indigenous Ethnic Minority Community in Israel**

https://ssl.gstatic.com/ui/v1/icons/mail/images/cleardot.gifIlana Belmaker, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Public Health, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel ( [ilana.elaine.belmaker@gmail.com](mailto:ilana.elaine.belmaker@gmail.com); Phone in Israel: +972-50-2814700)

Kher Albaz, MSW; Co-Director of AJEEC (Arab-Jewish Center for Equality, Empowerment and Cooperation), Beer-Sheva, Israel

Keywords: Child Abuse and Neglect; Risk factors; Intervention Programs; Indigenous Minority Communities; Bedouin

Purpose of the Presentation: To present risk factors and intervention programs for child maltreatment in the Bedouin community of Israel.

Description of the Presentation: Bedouin are an indigenous minority community in Israel, living in extended families within a patriarchal society.  Arranged marriages are normative, with high rates of polygyny and consanguineous marriages. 50% of Bedouin children live in "non-recognized" villages without access to electricity, running water, sewage and garbage disposal.

Risk factors for child maltreatment include: children of polygynous marriages, living in unrecognized villages, children with disabilities, children of mothers with no legal status in Israel and poverty. Risk factors for youth maltreatment include: youth with world views and mores different from those of traditional Bedouin society, youth who are school drop-outs and those with risk-taking behavior.

Community –based maternal and child health centers are staffed by nurses trained to screen for at-risk children. However, there is a serious lack of social services in the community for treating at-risk families. There is under-reporting of cases of suspected child maltreatment. Intervention is based on creating circles of security within the community through mediation.

The Haruv Institute in Jerusalem has worked with AJEEC (Arab-Jewish Center for Equality, Empowerment and Cooperation), an NGO with roots in the Bedouin community, in order to develop awareness of child abuse and neglect.

Implications: AJEEC has implemented a program to promote community resilience in unrecognized villages. This could be an appropriate platform for the integration of a program to prevent child abuse and neglect in unrecognized villages.