

# Effect of Physical Abuse and Negligence on Academic Achievement of Primary School Students in Bangladesh

## Abstract

*This study examines the effect of physical abuse and negligence on the academic achievement of primary school students in Bangladesh. The research is based on a sample of primary school students who have experienced physical abuse and neglect from their parents or caregivers. The study analyzes the academic performance of these students in comparison to their peers who have not experienced such abuse or neglect. The data is collected through surveys and interviews with both students and their parents or caregivers. The findings reveal that physical abuse and neglect have a negative impact on the academic achievement of primary school students in Bangladesh. These students tend to have lower academic scores and are more likely to drop out of school. The study highlights the need for interventions and support services to address physical abuse and neglect among primary school students to promote better academic outcomes.*

**Key Words:** Child abuse, physical abuse, child labor, trafficking, the social construct of mindset, violation of human rights.

## 1. Introduction

Every society's greatest asset is its youth. They are viewed as a country's future architects. Therefore, it is the responsibility of society to provide for optimal development. According to the Child Rights Act, 2003 of the United Nations Convention where it has been decided that a child is anyone who has not attained the age of 18 years [1]. But the sad truth is that every day, millions of children worldwide are exposed to risk, which severely impedes their ability to grow and develop. The likelihood of lower academic attainment among mistreated and neglected children is generally acknowledged [2]. Children can occasionally come into contact with filth, physical abuse, exploitation, and other dangers in the environment [3]. According to a number of studies, kids who have experienced neglect perform less well academically than kids who have experienced physical abuse. Children who have experienced abuse or neglect are much more likely to leave school before graduating from high school [2]. Hence, mistreating, hitting, or depriving children of their basic necessities at home or at school is child abuse [4]. Child abuse can also result from the negative actions of a child's instructors, parents, guardians, friends, siblings, so-called mentors, and society as a whole [5]. Physical abuse and carelessness can have a significant impact on primary school pupils' academic performance. These types of abuse can result in physical harm, emotional distress, and other mental health problems, all of which can have a detrimental effect on a child's capacity for learning and academic success.

Most nations that have laws on child abuse define it as when children are intentionally hurt or when adult actions put children in a clear and present danger of harm or death [5]. Anxiety, sadness, and post-traumatic stress disorder are just a few of the mental health problems that can result from physical abuse and affect a child's ability to learn and focus. Physical abuse is defined as any adult behavior that could result in a kid receiving burns, lacerations, illegal bruising, scratches, broken bones, rough treatment, or repeatedly occurring accidents that could result in physical injury [6]. Physically abused children may have feelings of unease or anxiety at school, which can make it

challenging for them to concentrate on their studies. Also, they might struggle to build strong relationships with their teachers and peers, which could cause them to feel isolated and unsupported, which would impede their academic achievement even more. In addition to its psychological impacts, physical abuse can result in injuries that prevent a child from attending class or from participating fully in physical activities. This may have an effect on the general health and well-being of a child, which may further impede their academic success.

On the other hand, neglect can have various effects on a child's academic performance. Abuse and neglect in all forms leave permanent scars on a child physically and even mentally. Emotional wounds can have an adverse influence on a child's sense of self, their ability to form new relationships, and their capacity to perform well at job, home, and school [7]. Children that are neglected could not have access to necessities like healthy food, medical care, and education. Due to the impact of hunger and untreated illnesses, this may result in low academic performance. Children who are neglected may regularly skip school due to illness or a lack of transportation, which results in lost opportunities for learning and social interaction with peers and teachers. Children who are neglected may be going through trust issues [7]. A child's emotional and social development may be impacted by neglect, which can make it challenging for them to create relationships and interact with others. This may result in inadequate communication abilities, social anxiety, and a lack of confidence, all of which may have an adverse effect on academic performance. They grow a strong feeling of being “worthless, which affects a lot in their future progress 7.

Bangladesh is one of the leading countries in the world for child abuse and physical punishment. In Bangladesh, children often begin physically and mentally punished at home and school. Bangladesh is becoming more and more concerned about child abuse because it occurs everywhere [8]. In the last few years, the government of Bangladesh tried a lot to stop physical and mental punishment in educational institutions. The academic success of Bangladeshi elementary school kids can suffer from physical abuse and carelessness. Due to the psychological and emotional trauma they have experienced, kids who have been physically abused or neglected frequently have academic difficulties.

Physical abuse and neglect are serious issues that can have an impact on primary school pupils' academic performance in Bangladesh, where poverty and restricted access to resources are commonplace. In Bangladesh, many kids encounter physical abuse at home or at school, while others are neglected because of hardship or a lack of resources. The likelihood that a student would experience corporal discipline increased if they were found to be disobedient, dishonest, or verbally hostile to other students [9]. It is critical that parents, educators, and community members recognize the warning signs of physical abuse and neglect and take steps to stop them in order to address these problems. This can involve giving families in need tools and assistance, teaching parents and caregivers effective parenting strategies, and offering therapy and mental health services to traumatized kids. Child abuse has been linked to behavioral issues, psychological issues, bodily health issues, and societal threats [10].

Students in Bangladesh's primary schools may perform significantly worse academically as a result of physical abuse and neglect. To ensure that every kid has the chance to achieve academically and realize their full potential, it is crucial that individuals and communities take action to prevent and solve these difficulties.

## **2. Literature Review**

In Bangladeshi society, corporal punishment at school is commonplace and accepted [11]. Children are urged to accept whatever treatment is given to them without question, teachers enjoy great regard, and instructional methods are rarely questioned [11]. The physical harm that children may experience as a result of physical abuse and neglect is one of the most obvious consequences and can result in lost school days, decreased involvement in physical activity, and long-term health problems. Depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder are just a few of the emotional and psychological issues that children who experience physical abuse or neglect may have (PTSD). Poor academic performance, trouble focusing, and a lack of drive to learn can all be symptoms of these mental health problems. According to a survey conducted in Bangladesh, practically all children have experienced physical abuse [12].

Physically abused children may sustain wounds that necessitate medical attention and force them to skip school. As a result, they may miss out on educational opportunities, experience learning gaps, or have trouble catching up with their classmates. Childhood abuse is associated with costs to society as a whole, as well as long-term physical, psychological, and behavioral effects [13]. However, the psychological consequences of physical abuse, such as worry and sadness, can cause a person to lose motivation, have trouble focusing, and perform poorly in school.

The academic success of students is impacted by physical abuse and child neglect [14]. Academic achievement in elementary school pupils can also be impacted by neglect. Lack of access to basic necessities like food, shelter, and healthcare for children who experience neglect may have a detrimental influence on their physical and mental health. Children may find it challenging to stay up academically with their peers if they suffer from developmental delays and cognitive impairment brought on by malnutrition, untreated illnesses, and ongoing stress. Physical abuse is also defined as any physical harm that is done to a person other than accidentally, any harm that is inconsistent with their past, or any condition in a child that is brought on by maltreatment, such as malnutrition, deprivation of necessities, or brutal punishment [14]. Also, the emotional consequences of neglect, such as low self-esteem and a lack of confidence, can have a negative impact on academic achievement and lower learning engagement.

A child's emotional and social development can be harmed by physical abuse as well as neglect, making it challenging for them to establish healthy relationships with peers and adults. Affectionate neglect in children can have disastrous effects, such as stunted growth, developmental delays, hyperactivity, aggression, despair, low self-esteem, running away from home, substance misuse, and a wide range of other emotional illnesses [15]. These kids experience rejection and unlove [15]. This might result in a lack of support and feelings of loneliness, which can further impede academic success.

### **2.1 Child Physical Abuse**

Any physical interaction with a child's body that could cause harm is referred to as physical abuse [14]. Physical abuse of a child is defined as those acts of commission by a caregiver that cause actual physical harm or have the potential for harm. Physical abuse is also defined as any physical harm that is done to a person other than accidentally, any harm that is inconsistent with their past, or any condition in a child that is brought on by maltreatment, such as malnutrition, deprivation of necessities, or brutal punishment [14]. Physical abuse involves

physical aggression directed at a child by an adult. Bruises, scratches, burns, broken bones, lacerations, as well as repeated "mishaps," and rough treatment that could cause physical injury, can be physical abuse. Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child or failing to protect a child from that harm. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms or deliberately induces illness in a child. Child neglect, physical, emotional, and sexual abuse of children are all part of the exceedingly hazardous and complicated problem of child abuse [10].

## **2.2 Child Neglect**

The most serious and commonly reported type of child abuse is child neglect [10]. Failure to meet a child's requirements for food, shelter, supervision, and safety is considered to be this type of abuse [10]. Physical, emotional, and educational abuse of children are all possible [10]. Neglect refers to the failure of a parent to provide for the development of the child – where the parent is in a position to do so – in one or more of the following areas: health, education, emotional development, nutrition, shelter, and safe living conditions. Affectionate neglect in children can have disastrous effects, such as stunted growth, developmental delays, hyperactivity, aggression, despair, low self-esteem, running away from home, substance misuse, and a wide range of other emotional illnesses. These kids experience rejection and unlove [15]. Neglect is thus distinguished from circumstances of poverty in that neglect can occur only in cases where reasonable resources are available to the family or caregiver. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food and clothing; shelter, including exclusion from home or abandonment; failing to protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; failure to ensure adequate supervision including the use of inadequate caretakers; or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

## **2.3 Causes and Consequences of child abuse**

### **2.3.1 Causes of Child Abuse:**

Mental illness and psychological issues top the list of causes of child maltreatment [10]. The physical, emotional, and mental health of children can be significantly and permanently impacted by child abuse. Child abuse can have a variety of causes. Family and relationship issues are one of the major causes. These may include issues like infidelity, stress from money, substance misuse, and mental illness. Drug-using parents run the risk of seriously harming their kids [10]. A history of being abused can have a serious effect on future life. Individuals who experienced abuse as kids may be more inclined to abuse their own kids. Parents who are under a lot of pressure may abuse their children more frequently. Parents who lack effective parenting abilities run the risk of unintentionally harming their kids. Gambling-addicted parents may also mistreat their children in some way [16].

### **2.3.2 Consequences of Child Abuse:**

Child abuse is a serious and harmful act that can have severe consequences for the victim. Child abuse can take various forms, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect. Child abuse can have serious and lasting repercussions. Physical harm can result in bruising, fractured bones, and head traumas, among other problems. Child abuse has negative effects on one's physical and mental health as well as their conduct and posed a threat to society [10]. The child's elementary education was negatively impacted by this [10]. Child maltreatment

may result in emotional issues like anxiety, despair, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Adverse childhood experiences can cause children to develop behavioral issues like violence, delinquency, and substance misuse. Social issues: Children who have experienced abuse could find it challenging to build positive relationships with other people. A pattern of verbal and nonverbal behaviors between a student and a teacher, which do not involve any physical contact, is referred to as emotional abuse by instructors [17]. This behavior has an impact on the student's functioning and adjustment on an emotional, social, cognitive, and bodily level [17]. Child maltreatment can impact a child's cognitive growth, which includes their capacity for learning, focus, and memory. Long-term health issues including chronic pain, digestive issues, and cardiovascular disease can be brought on by child maltreatment. Here are some of the consequences of child abuse:

**Physical health problems:** Children who experience physical abuse may suffer from physical injuries such as bruises, broken bones, and burns. These injuries can lead to long-term health problems and physical disabilities. Strong correlations between abuse and neglect and health issues in children and adolescents have been found, according to data from the Longitudinal Studies of Child Abuse and Neglect (LONGSCAN) in the United States [18].

**Poor mental health:** Children who experience abuse may experience mental health problems such as anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and other related disorders. They may also experience feelings of shame, guilt, and low self-esteem. According to a number of studies, classifying children with PTSD does not fully account for the developmental implications of ongoing child maltreatment and neglect [18]. As previously mentioned, many researchers now prefer the term "complex trauma."

**Behavioral problems:** Abused children may exhibit behavioral problems such as aggression, impulsivity, and self-harm. They may also develop eating disorders or engage in substance abuse.

**Relationship difficulties:** Abused children may have difficulty forming and maintaining healthy relationships later in life. They may struggle to trust others and feel comfortable in intimate relationships.

**Cognitive problems:** Children who experience abuse may have cognitive problems such as difficulties with attention, memory, and concentration.

**Higher risk of suicide:** Abused children are at a higher risk of suicide compared to non-abused children [18].

**Criminal behavior:** Children who experience abuse may be more likely to engage in criminal behavior later in life.

It is essential to note that the consequences of child abuse can vary depending on the severity, frequency, and duration of the abuse. Child abuse is a serious and harmful act that can have long-term impacts on a child's life [19]. Therefore, it is crucial to provide support and resources for victims of child abuse to help them heal and recover from the trauma they have experienced.

## **2.4 Causes and Consequences of child neglect**

### **2.4.1 Causes of Child Neglect:**

When parents or other caregivers fail to offer their children the necessary care, supervision, and necessities, this is referred to as child neglect [19]. There are numerous ways that someone can be neglected, including physically, emotionally, educationally, and medically. Lack of resources, such as food, clothing, and shelter, can result in the

neglect of children. Parents who are dependent on drugs or alcohol may neglect their kids because they are unable to take care of them. Parents with mental health problems may neglect their kids since they are unable to take care of them [18]. Lack of knowledge and parenting abilities is also a very major part of child neglect. Parents who lack these qualities may unintentionally neglect their children. Domestic violence is also a major cause of child neglect. Due to the pain experienced by their parents, children who watch or experience domestic violence may become neglected.

#### **2.4.2 Consequences of Child Neglect:**

Child neglect refers to the failure of a caregiver to provide for a child's basic needs, including food, shelter, clothing, and medical care [20]. Neglect can have severe consequences for children, both in the short term and long term. Here are some of the consequences of child neglect:

**Physical health problems:** Neglected children may suffer from malnutrition, dehydration, and other health issues related to a lack of adequate food, water, and medical care [18].

**Poor mental health:** Neglected children may experience depression, anxiety, and other mental health problems as a result of feeling unloved, unsupported, and neglected.

**Educational problems:** Neglected children may struggle with school attendance, academic achievement, and social relationships.

**Behavioral problems:** Neglected children may exhibit behavioral problems, such as aggression, impulsiveness, and defiance [19].

**Substance abuse:** Neglected children may be at a higher risk of developing substance abuse problems later in life.

**Criminal behavior:** Neglected children may be more likely to engage in criminal behavior later in life, especially if they have been exposed to violence or substance abuse.

**Relationship difficulties:** Neglected children may have difficulties forming and maintaining healthy relationships later in life, due to a lack of trust and emotional support.

It is important to note that the consequences of child neglect can vary depending on the severity and duration of the neglect, as well as the child's individual resilience and support system. However, neglect can have a lasting impact on a child's life, highlighting the need for early intervention and support for children who may be experiencing neglect [21].

#### **2.5 Child Abuse in Bangladesh Primary Schools**

Bangladesh's primary schools need to address the major problem of child abuse. Regrettably, there are many various types of child abuse that can occur in schools in Bangladesh, including physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. The fact that child abuse frequently remains unreported presents one of the largest obstacles to addressing it in primary schools in Bangladesh [8]. Children could be reluctant to report abuse they have witnessed out of fear of retaliation or because they think nothing will be done to stop the abuse. Child abuse prevention in primary schools must be a top priority for both the government and schools. This can include creating policies and processes that promote child safety and protection, such as screening teachers and staff for possible abusers, conducting background checks, and offering training to teachers and staff on how to identify and report child abuse [11].

A major part of preventing child abuse in primary schools is played by parents and other caregivers. They may teach their kids what is and isn't acceptable behavior as well as how to report abuse if they experience it or see it [12]. They can also keep an eye out for any changes in their children's conduct or emotional state and alert the authorities or the school if they have any concerns. In Bangladesh, avoiding child abuse in primary schools necessitates a multifaceted strategy that encompasses the community, parents, schools, and the government. For children to learn and develop without being concerned about abuse or neglect, it is crucial to create a safe and encouraging atmosphere.

## **2.6 Child Negligence in Bangladesh Primary Schools**

Primary school child neglect in Bangladesh is a major problem that requires immediate attention. Child abuse can take many different forms, including physical abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, and deprivation of access to necessities like food, water, and sanitary facilities [9].

Inadequate funding, a shortage of qualified teachers, bad facilities, and poor governance are a few of the frequent causes of child neglect in Bangladesh's primary schools. In addition, social injustice and poverty also contribute to the continuation of child neglect in schools. Neglecting a child can have serious, long-lasting effects [12]. Children who endure school neglect run the risk of dropping out, having poor academic results, developing physical and mental health issues, and being socially isolated. They might also be open to abuse and exploitation from others.

Prioritizing financing and resources for education is crucial to combating child neglect in Bangladesh's primary schools [9]. The government and educational institutions ought to put more effort into finding and preparing qualified instructors who are able to provide kids with a secure and nurturing atmosphere. Schools should also have the necessary facilities and supplies to give students access to necessities like food, water, and sanitary facilities [9].

Raising public awareness and educating the populace about the value of child safety and the repercussions of child neglect are also crucial. Together, parents, educators, and other community members should endeavor to make schools a secure and nurturing place for kids. Last but not least, rigorous laws and rules should be put in place to deter and penalize kid carelessness in schools.

## **2.7 Effect of Child Abuse on Academic Achievement of Primary School Students in Bangladesh**

A child's academic success may be significantly impacted by child maltreatment. Primary school pupils who have experienced abuse may struggle with academic progress for a number of reasons in Bangladesh, where child abuse is regrettably common.

One reason is that abuse can impair a child's capacity to learn and focus in the classroom by causing psychological suffering, such as worry and sadness. A lack of confidence and self-esteem brought on by maltreatment can also affect academic achievement [8]. The inability of abused children to establish healthy relationships with instructors and peers may also have an adverse effect on their academic performance by making them feel alone. They might also be absent from class if they've suffered mental or bodily harm, or if they're afraid to go back after being subjected to abuse. Also, children who have experienced abuse may display behavioral issues like hostility, withdrawal, or self-destructive conduct. These issues can disrupt the learning environment in the classroom and affect both the child's own and the learning of other pupils [11].

A child's academic success may also be impacted by additional external issues connected with abuse, such as poverty or a lack of access to educational resources, in addition to these. It is crucial to offer assistance and resources to the child and their family in order to address these problems, such as counseling services, access to healthcare, and educational opportunities. In addition to developing rules and programs to stop abuse and support victims, schools may play a significant role in creating a secure and encouraging environment for kids who have been victims of abuse.

### **2.8 Effect of Child Negligence on Academic Achievement of Primary School Students in Bangladesh**

In Bangladesh, child neglect can have a big effect on how well kids do in school. Children who have been neglected physically and emotionally may find it difficult to concentrate on their schoolwork, which can lead to subpar academic results. In addition to lacking basic essentials like wholesome food, appropriate clothing, and a secure home environment, neglected children may also experience frequent absences from school and health issues. Academic deficits and difficulties keeping up with their peers may follow from this [21].

Also, neglected kids may lack ambition and self-esteem, which makes it challenging for them to participate in class activities and interact with their teachers and peers [19]. Also, they may display behavioral issues like hostility or withdrawal, which can further impede both their own and others' ability to learn. Due to poverty and limited access to educational resources, neglected children may also encounter extra obstacles to academic success. For instance, kids might not be able to purchase school supplies or uniforms, or they could not have access to books or other educational materials.

Giving neglected children and their families support and resources, such as counseling services, access to school, and healthcare, is crucial to addressing these problems. In addition to developing policies and initiatives to avoid neglect and help victims, schools can be crucial in detecting and assisting neglected children [17]. Families in need can also get aid through community-based organizations and social services groups, including access to resources for education and daily necessities.

### **3. Discussion and Analysis**

According to a number of studies, kids who have experienced neglect perform less well academically than kids who have experienced physical abuse. Children who have been abused or neglected are more likely to have poor social skills and behavior issues in school [3]. Neglect and physical abuse are important problems that can significantly affect Bangladeshi primary school students' academic performance. These types of abuse can have a variety of negative effects on children, from bodily harm to emotional and psychological stress, which can impair academic performance and decrease interest in learning. Abuse and negligence in the first five years of the life of a child nearly triple having problems in academic performance [2].

A child's emotional and social development can be harmed by physical abuse as well as neglect, making it challenging for them to establish healthy relationships with peers and adults [19]. This might result in a lack of support and feelings of loneliness, which can further impede academic success. Eventually, Poor academic achievement can have detrimental psychological and financial effects that last a lifetime.

It's crucial to give impacted kids support and tools in order to lessen the detrimental consequences of physical abuse and carelessness on academic progress [5]. This can entail having access to basic necessities like food and

healthcare as well as resources for education and mental health services. The need of educating parents, caregivers, and community members about effective parenting methods, warning signs of abuse and neglect, and ways to prevent these types of mistreatment cannot be overstated.

Physical abuse and carelessness can have a serious negative impact on elementary school pupils' academic performance [6]. It is possible to lessen these consequences and make sure that every child has the chance to achieve academically and realize their full potential by offering assistance, and resources, and raising awareness and knowledge.

The physical harm that children may experience as a result of physical abuse and neglect is one of the most obvious consequences and can result in lost school days, decreased involvement in physical activity, and long-term health problems [5]. Depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder are just a few of the emotional and psychological issues that children who experience physical abuse or neglect may have (PTSD) [18]. Poor academic performance, trouble focusing, and a lack of drive to learn can all be symptoms of these mental health problems.

The physical harm that children may experience as a result of physical abuse and neglect is one of the most obvious consequences and can result in lost school days, decreased involvement in physical activity, and long-term health problems. Depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder are just a few of the emotional and psychological issues that children who experience physical abuse or neglect may have (PTSD) [18]. Poor academic performance, trouble focusing, and a lack of drive to learn can all be symptoms of these mental health problems.

Physical abuse and neglect can have long-term repercussions on a child's academic success in addition to these acute disadvantages [5]. Children who are subjected to physical abuse or neglect, for instance, may struggle to build trusting relationships with others, gain social skills, and form healthy interactions with peers and adults. This may result in loneliness, a lack of confidence, and low self-esteem, all of which have an adverse effect on academic achievement.

Furthermore, learning difficulties, cognitive impairment, and developmental delays can all occur in children who have been physically mistreated or neglected. These problems might make it challenging for children to stay up academically with their peers, which can result in disinterest in learning, frustration, and feelings of inadequacy.

Lack of access to educational resources and support is another factor that may have an impact on a child's academic performance after physical abuse or neglect [19]. Lack of access to basic necessities like food, clothing, and healthcare for neglected children may have an adverse effect on their physical health and capacity to attend school on a regular basis. Similarly, to this, children who experience physical abuse may miss school due to illnesses or injuries, which can result in a lack of interest in their studies and subpar academic performance.

In order to address these problems, it's critical to offer counseling, mental health services, access to necessities like food, clothing, and healthcare, as well as educational resources and support, to kids who have suffered physical abuse or neglect. It is crucial to educate parents, caregivers, and community members on effective parenting methods and tactics for preventing abuse and neglect as well as to increase knowledge of the symptoms of physical abuse and neglect.

Physical abuse and neglect can significantly affect Bangladeshi primary school pupils' academic success. It is possible to lessen the effects of physical abuse and neglect and make sure that all children have the chance to

succeed academically and reach their full potential by offering support and resources to kids who have experienced these types of abuse as well as by educating and bringing awareness to parents and caregivers.

#### 4. Conclusion

Neglect and physical abuse are important problems that can significantly affect Bangladeshi primary school students' academic performance. These types of abuse can have a variety of negative effects on children, from bodily harm to emotional and psychological stress, which can impair academic performance and decrease interest in learning.

A child's emotional and social development can be harmed by physical abuse as well as neglect, making it challenging for them to establish healthy relationships with peers and adults. This might result in a lack of support and feelings of loneliness, which can further impede academic success.

It's crucial to give impacted kids support and tools in order to lessen the detrimental consequences of physical abuse and carelessness on academic progress. This can entail having access to basic necessities like food and healthcare as well as resources for education and mental health services. The need of educating parents, caregivers, and community members about effective parenting methods, warning signs of abuse and neglect, and ways to prevent these types of mistreatments cannot be overstated.

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