

Child Abuse and Its Effects on National Development: A Case Study of Maiduguri Metropolis

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Abstract: *This study focused on the effects of child abuse on National Development, a case study of Maiduguri metropolis. The result of the study revealed that there are peculiar factors responsible for child abuse; child abuse exists in several forms; there are those responsible for child abuse; child abuse can be prevented. Recommendations were made on how to prevent or reduce the incidences of child abuse in order to achieve meaningful and sustainable development.*

Key Words: *Child, Abuse, Abused child, Parent, Guardian, Nation.*

I. Introduction

The abuse of child in whatever form has been a social problem since the beginning of man-kind. It is a global issue and is not restricted to certain economic class, religious practice, ethnic group or culture. If there is child abuse, it then shows that there are rights which a child is supposed to enjoy. This is clearly stated in the United Nation's Declaration on the Rights of the Child November 1959 that "The Child by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safe-guards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth." Also, the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999) in section 17 (3) (1) states that "Children, young persons should be protected against any exploitation whatsoever and against moral and material neglect."

The above provisions i.e. the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child (1959) and section 17 (3) (1) of the Nigerian Constitution (1999) gives an indication of a laudable effort to stop the incidences of child abuse, or at least to minimize it. In December 1988, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), also organized a summit with the primary objectives of giving children a better chance of life. In like manner, several workshops on child abuse have been conducted.

Many people have different perspectives on child abuse. The earliest causal models of child maltreatment or abuse focused on parental psychopathology, with the two most prevalent disorders identified being depression and substance abuse (Chaffin, Kelleher and Hollenberg, 1996). Some attributed child abuse to substantial association between alcohol abuse and violence (Gelles, 1993). Consistently over the last 30 years, substance abuse has been increasingly cited as a contributory factor in child abuse (Browne and Saqi, 1988; National Research Council, 1993). Such inferences have been based primarily upon the assessment of children and young people in child welfare, medical or psychiatric programmes, rather than those presenting as part of a family unit at drug and alcohol treatment agencies (Freeman, 1993). Others believe that the family setting and the environment surrounding it has an influence on child abuse.

Every Nation in the world wishes to attain heights of development in all aspects, be it economically, socially, politically, educationally etc. child abuse, however, directly or indirectly affects National development. The concern of this study is to see the effects of child abuse on national development.

II. Research Objective

The general objective of this research is to know what child abuse is and its effects on national development. Also, through this research, an awareness would be created on the adverse effects of child abuse as regards the development of a nation.

While the specific objectives are as follows:

- i. To find out the causes of child abuse

- ii. to examine the various forms of child abuse
- iii. to know those who are responsible for child abuse
- iv. to examine the ways through which child abuse can be prevented.

III. Theoretical Framework

The relevant theory to this study is the theory of "Humanism." This is because the theory seek to affirm the dignity of human being. The phenomenon of child abuse is prevailing because of the lack of respect and dignity accorded to children by their parents, guardians or any other person in the society. The effects of child abuse on National development wouldn't have been called for if there were no instances of child abuse.

Humanism, as practiced in sociology has a fundamental assumption that sociology should be a moral enterprise, one whose fundamental purpose is to challenge the views and conditions that restrain human potential in a given society. Again, sociologists operating in the humanist tradition holds that the study of society begins with the premise that human beings are free to create their social world, and that whatever impinges on that freedom is ultimately negative and destructive.

Humanist sociology has moved beyond pragmatism via its attempt to spell out the social structural conditions for the maximization of freedom. Humanist sociology is based on the precepts, the foremost of which is that of freedom - "The maximization of alternatives" (Sciemecca, 1995, P.1). This is assumed to be the most desirable state for human beings - and the goal of sociology is to work towards the realisation of conditions that ensure this freedom. Therefore, the freedom of the children from abuse and the respect of their dignity are essential in order to have a meaningful national development.

IV. Focus On Child Abuse

The incidence of child abuse is a serious social problem that something needs to be done about it. It is indeed perplexing that parents and guardians are perpetrators of child abuse in spite of the fact that these children are gifts sought for from the creator. Again, members of the society who frowns at the actions of such parents or guardians are also ironically indulging in child maltreatment or abuse.

Child abuse is a term that generally refers to maltreatment of a child by a parent or another adult. There are many definitions or explanations to child abuse.

The new encyclopedia Britannica, volume 3 has this to say about child abuse. It states that child abuse also called cruelty to children, is the wilful and unjustifiable infliction of pain and suffering on children. The term can denote the issue of in ordinate physical violence; unjustifiable verbal abuse; the failure to furnish proper shelter, nourishment medical treatment, or emotional support; incest; other cases of molestation or rape; and the making of child pornography.

Costa and Nelson (1978) saw child abuse as being deliberately inflicted with physical injury that results in broken bones, brain and internal injuries on children by their own parents or caretakers.

Child abuse could also be seen as a failure of parents to meet the physical, psychological, social and emotional needs of their children. It also refers to the child rearing practice which are neither satisfactory to the children nor to the parents.

The Nigerian Social Development policy defined child abuse as a condition in which child's physical health, moral and emotional well-being is or are endangered by acts of a person.

Many cases of child abuse arise from the incidence of child labour. It is however, necessary that we draw a line on the kinds of works that are more likely to result in child abuse. This is because in traditional societies with agrarian base, work by children is seen as an integral part of the children's upbringing process, and thus a means of transmitting knowledge and skills from parents to children.

On another level, the participation of all those who can contribute to the production process might be necessary to meet the family or household survival requirement. Children from the artisan background may also be require early in life to help their parents in workshops and in this way acquired the skill fully in the family trade(s).

V. Causes of Child Abuse

According to the World Book Encyclopedia Volume 3 (P. 409), views about the causes of child abuse have changed through the years. Many social scientists once believed that only people with severe emotional

problems would abuse children. However, studies indicate that most individuals who abuse children do not suffer from traditional psychiatric illnesses. Another common view is that abused children grow up to be abusive adults, a development referred to as the cycle of abuse. A high proportion of parents guilty of abuse and inhumane treatment of their children were physically and mentally maltreated themselves as children.

Abusive patterns of behaviour on the part of parents can be thought of as maladaptive responses to stressful situation and feelings of powerlessness. They represents adult's warped efforts to master out of control situation or to regain psychological equilibrium through imposing their will and powers of control on their defenseless children.

A substance abuse problem can coexist with various types of child maltreatment - physical abuse, psychological or emotional abuse, child neglect, and child sexual abuse. Tomison (1996a, P.6), who is an expert in the field of child maltreatment and prevention, observed that "consistently over the last thirty years, substance abuse has been increasingly cited as a contributory factor in child maltreatment." Substance abuse is often used as a global term which may encompass the use or abuse of a range of substance, such as alcohol, illicit drugs and prescribed drugs.

Another cause of child abuse according to the World Book Encyclopedia Vol. 3 is stress. Parents who are unemployed, very isolated, or under great stress for the reasons are more likely to abuse their children than parents who do not have such problems. Children who are difficult to care for, such as premature infants, and handicapped children, create more stress for parents. Thus such children are more likely to be abused than are other children.

Today, many experts believe child abuse is widespread because society regards physical punishment by parents as a reasonable way of changing children's behaviour. Thus adults who hurt children sometimes only intend to correct them and do not realize how easily children can be injured.

VI. Forms Of Child Abuse

The various forms of child abuse include the following:

a. **Physical Abuse:**

This is the most common and most reported form of child abuse (National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse, 1987), and include severe beating, burns, strangulations, human bites, or immersion in hot water resulting in bruises and welts, broken bones, scars or serious internal injuries. Walter (1987) defined physical abuse as "an action taken by a parent or surrogate caretaker that results in physical harm or injury to the child which leads to death of the child resulting from continued assault."

b. **Sexual Abuse:**

Sexual abuse is also found everywhere in the world. According to the National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse (NCPCA) (1987), this include the exploration of a child for sexual gratification of an adult. Unlike the victims of physical abuse, the sexually abused girl do not show external marks of maltreatment she receives. But there is a strong psychological disturbances in the victim.

c. **Physical Neglect:**

Physical neglect as observed by the National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse NCPCA (1987) is the withholding or failure by caretaker to give a child such basic necessities of life as food, clothing, shelter, medical care, attention to hygiene, and supervision needed for optimum physical growth and development. The basic responsibilities of parents depend or rather centers around the fulfilment of these physical needs of the children. It is the parent's obligation to provide a nurturing home environment where children can develop in relative safety.

d. **Medical Neglect:**

According to Halperin (1979), medical neglect is the failure of a parent in providing medical treatment for suspected or diagnosed physical conditions of children. Parents who fail this are medically neglecting their children.

e. **Emotional Abuse:**

Child abuse does not involve only physical force alone but also involves emotional or psychological abuse. Emotional abuse according to Halperin (1979) involves action by a parent that the result is unhealthy personal and social development of the child. While the National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse (NCPCA)

posited that emotional abuse is a way of behaviour that constantly attract child emotional development and sense of self-worth. This includes criticisms, belittling, insulting and rejecting and non-provision of love, support or guidance.

f. Emotional Neglect:

Emotional neglect is the failure of parents to provide their children with pre-requisites for healthy development as a result of omission rather than action. Most of the emotionally neglected children become delinquents because their love attention or affection needs are largely unsatisfied by the parents, Halperin (1979).

g. Educational Neglect:

Education is a continual process which begins in infancy and lasts throughout life. It has the formal and informal phase. The formal phase takes place in schools where education directs students learning. The informal education on the other hand is received by the children from their parents. It is also an important part of their development Halperin (1979) believed that educational neglect occurs where parents fail to ensure that their children have opportunities of learning both in school and in the family.

h. Child Abandonment:

Halperin (1979) observed that perhaps this is the ultimate kind of child abuse. He further said that the physical abandonment of children stands on a total rejection of the relationship existing between parents and their children. It involves leaving children anywhere uncared for and failure to back an older child left in the care of another person under the pretense that parents will return for the child and yet nothing has been done for the child's continued sustenance,

i. Child Deaths:

Child maltreatment of severe cases may result in the death of a child. Between July 1989 and December 1993, 126 homicides involving children under the age 15 years (Strang, 1996) were reported; 26% of these (32 cases) were assessed as being fatalities due to child abuse. That is, "The assault upon the child was sudden and impulsive, the offender was the care giver at the time of the incident and the offender appeared to be expressing his or her rage or frustration through the imposition of 'punishment of 'discipline' upon the child" (Strang, 1996, P.4).

VII. Focus On National Development

According to Walter Rodney (1972), development in human society is a many-sided process. At the level of the individual, it implies increased skill and capacity, greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline, responsibility and material well-being. Some of these are virtually moral categories and difficult to evaluate - depending as they do on the age in which one lives, one's class origins, and one's personal code of what is right and what is wrong. However, what is indisputable is that achievement of any of those aspects of personal development is very much tied in with the state of the society as a whole. At the level of social groups, therefore, development implies an increasing capacity to regulate both internal and external relationships. Much of human history has been a fight survival against natural hazard and against real and imagined human enemies, Rodney (1972).

Development in the past has always meant the increase in the ability to guard the independence of the social group and indeed to infringe upon the freedom of others. Something that often came about irrespective of the will of the persons within the societies involved Rodney (1972).

National development can be understood when we consider the various indices of development. More often than not, the term 'development' is used in an exclusive economic sense, the justification being that the economy itself is an index of other social features Rodney (1972). What then is economic development? A society develops economically as its members increase jointly their capacity for dealing with the environment, this capacity for dealing with the environment is dependent on the extent to which they understand the laws of nature (science), and the extent to which they put that understanding into practice by devising tools (technology), and on the manner in which work is organized Rodney (1972).

To expatiate more on economy as an index of development, the World Bank uses the GNP per capita as a measure of development. The GNP per capita is the Gross National Product divided by the population, to allow comparisons between countries of widely differing population size. The GNP per capita measures the annual output of tradable goods divided by the total population to arrive at a figure which is expressed in monetary

terms more commonly in the U.S. dollars Thomas et. al., (1994). This does not however explain National development in total. There are other social indicators of development which includes the 'Physical Quality of Life Index' (PQLI), and 'Human Development Index' (HDI).

The Physical Quality of Life Index (PQLI) is developed by Morris (1979). This measures three things- Life expectancy, infant mortality, and adult literacy - and provides an index based on an average of all the three indicators for each country. The idea is to reflect the distribution of social benefits. The index is based on results rather than the amount spent on achieving them.

The Human Development Index (HDI) was devised by the United Nations Development Programme (1990). It considers Life expectancy, educational attainment (measured by adult literacy and average years of schooling), and finally the satisfaction derived from income, that is, does the income leads to any change in a given country? National development is therefore the growth and progress in all the structures of the society in a nation.

VIII. Effects Of Child Abuse On National Development

The effects of child abuse on National development cannot be overemphasized. To begin therefore, Dulge, Bates and Petti (Science, 31st December 1990) in their study found that children who have been subjected to physical abuse by their parents tend to exhibit violent behaviour towards others later in life. Accordingly, they went further to stress that individuals who had been found by juvenile courts as physically abused or neglected during their childhood were more likely to abuse others as suggested by their criminal records of violence as adults. These criminals are therefore a major setback to peaceful coexistence of the society which is a major base for national development.

Walter Rodney (1972) made mention of a country developing economically by its members jointly increasing their capacity to deal with their environment and that is dependent on the extent to which they understand the laws of nature (science) and the extent to which they put that understanding into practice by devising tools (technology). The issue of science and technology is raised here. But how can a nation advanced in science and technology where large number of children are educationally neglected? Where this prevails therefore, the effect is to make such a nation science and technologically backward and in education generally.

Education is believed to serve as a catalyst to enlightenment, development and progress. But parents and guardians fail to ensure that their children have opportunities of learning both in school and in the family, Halperin (1979). This deprive children to learn in areas of commerce, medicine, architecture, law, international relations morals and values of the society as they become adults because of the ill foundation. This is also detrimental to National development.

Child deaths are reported by Strang (1996) as a serious issue. Deaths resulting from child abuse all over the world is difficult to ascertain. However, what is known is that many children globally lose their lives because of child maltreatment. Child deaths therefore, deprives a nation of potentials born into it, who could be endowed with wisdom and enterprise, good leadership qualities and other positive social and intellectual abilities that would have led the nation to greater developments.

Emotional abuse and neglect as noted by Halperin (1979) can result into a number of consequences on a child which would affect him/her in adulthood. There would be no psychological maturity and also lack of self-worth. Therefore, an imbalanced adult is the result, who would not be capable of handling difficult situations or who cannot be good leader to his/her family talk less of leading the society at large. A nation full of such people stand the risk of not having devoted and patriotic citizens who can uphold and maintain the values of their fatherland.

IX. METHODOLOGY

The researcher adopted primary data in carrying out this research. The primary data include questionnaire and interview. The use of the two instruments is opted for so as to get a more comprehensive outcome as both would complement one another.

X. Sampling Design

It is obvious and practically difficult to have a view of every resident person in the area of this study on the subject matter. That is why the sample size is restricted to 260 individuals. 250 of the respondents were given questionnaires which comprises of both the young and matured adults, men and women, literate and illiterates. The illiterates had the questionnaires administered to them. While 10 other respondents were interviewed. The questionnaires were distributed in 5 wards of Maiduguri which includes Mafoni, Fezzan, Bulabulin, Gwange and Old G.R.A. Each ward had 50 questionnaires. The wards were selected through judgmental sampling and the respondents through accidental sampling. For the respondents for the interview, one specific individual is contacted such as the ward head or a person that has been part of the ward for a long period of time. In addition, another person is accidentally picked so as to give his/her own view. This means each ward has two (2) respondents for the interview making the total of 10. The findings therefore is generalized to the whole of Maiduguri Metropolis.

XI. Statistical Design

The data collected was classified into two categories based on the type of instrument used in the collection of the data, that is, questionnaire and interview. The information obtained through the questionnaire was analyzed by the use of tables which involves number of persons and percentages. While the information obtained through the interview was analyzed and presented.

XII. Background To The Study Area

Maiduguri is the capital of Borno State in Nigeria, it is located on latitude 115° and Longitude 135°. It is the largest town in the North-eastern part of the country. Borno State is bordered by the republic of Niger to the North, Chad to the North-east and Cameroon to the east.

Modern Maiduguri was founded in 1902 when the installed Shehu Bukar Garbai, who was moved from Kukawa, the nineteenth century capital of Borno to Maiduguri. It was established near the old town of Maiduguri, founded in 1972.

The climate of Maiduguri is favourable with a mean annual maximum temperature of 34.80c. The months of March and April are the hottest periods of the year with temperature ranging between 30° - 40°c. It is usually cold and dry during the harmattan, that is, November to January being the coldest months.

Maiduguri is a cosmopolitan town. It is inhabited by all the ethnic groups in Nigeria, however, the principal ethnic group in the town is Kanuri. The Kanuri according to legend, came from Yemen. The population of Maiduguri is projected to have the million mark. Although English is the official language, Hausa and Kanuri are widely spoken. Old Maiduguri has been a center of learning and commercial activities as far back as the seventeenth century.

Maiduguri is a town full of tourist attraction. The Shehu's palace is significantly noted by tourist from all parts of the world. The Maiduguri Museum, situated within fifteen minutes' drive from the University campus, preserves collections from the history of Borno. Other places of interest in Maiduguri include the Kyarimi Park (200), and Lake Alau along Bama Road. Recently visitors have been attracted by the irrigation activities in the Lake Chard Basin, while the lake itself form an excellent resort.

XIII. RESULTS

The data sourced from the field was analyzed through the use of tables based on simple percentages. The rate of return for the 250 questionnaires distributed in 5 wards was 248. The rate was very high due to the resilience and hard work committed to the research.

Table 1: Rate of return of questionnaires

Wards selected	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Mafoni	50	20

Fezzan	50	20
Bulabulin	48	18
Gwange	50	20
Old G.R.A	50	20
Total	248	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019.

Table 2: Respondents Demographics

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Male	154	62
Female	94	38
Marital Status		
Married	81	32.7
Single	143	57.7
Divorced	24	9.6
Educational background		
Primary education	33	13.3
Post Primary education	95	38.3
Tertiary education	117	47.1
None of the above	3	1.2
Occupation		
Business owners	74	29.9
Civil servants	70	28.2
Farmers	11	4.4
Jobless	84	33.9
None of the above	9	3.6
Religion		
Islam	151	60.9
Christianity	72	29
Traditional Religion	8	3.2
None of the above	17	6.9

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Causes of child abuse

81.4% of the respondents believes that poverty is the cause of child abuse. 2.4% believes or indicates that it is living with single parent. 8.9% on the other hand shows that the cause of child abuse is as a result of large number of children in a family. 5.2% attributes child abuse to emotional problems and only 2% relates it to religious beliefs and practices.

Whose children are mostly abused in Maiduguri?

77.8% indicated that the children of the very poor people are the ones mostly abused in Maiduguri. 2.8% says that it is the children of the moderately poor people. 5.2% says that is the children of the rich, while 14.1% indicates that is all of the above.

The educational qualification of those who abuse children.

43.5% have only primary education. 10.9% have post primary education, 8.5% have tertiary education, while 37% belong to none of the above.

People abuse children ignorantly

41.1% out of the total respondents agreed that people abuse children ignorantly. 39.1% strongly agreed, 10.5% disagreed, while 9.2% strongly disagreed.

Does taking of alcohol and drug abuse leads to abuse of children?

93.1% of the respondents answered yes while 6.9% answered no.

Most people beat children severely as a form of correction

77.8% of the respondents agrees that most people beat children severely as a form of correction, while 22.1% says no.

Is hawking a form of child abuse?

85.9% of the respondents answered yes while 14.1% answered no.

Child sexual abuse is rampant in Maiduguri

73% of the respondents says yes there is rampant child sexual abuse in Maiduguri. 14.9% says No, while 12% says they don't know.

Child neglect causes psychological problem on the child

44.8% of the respondents agreed that child neglect causes psychological problem on the child. 46.3% strongly agreed, 6.9% disagreed, while 2% strongly disagreed.

People care for their children

58.4% of the respondents agreed that people care for their children always, 36.7% sometimes, and 2.4% never, while 2.4% indicates that they don't know.

Who are those responsible for child abuse?

39.9% of the respondents believes that parents are responsible for child abuse. 16.5% indicates that guardians are the ones responsible. Those who attribute it to other relatives are 7.5%, while those who indicated that any adult in the society is 5.6%, while all of the above is 30.2%.

Abused children are likely to cause problem in the society.

93.1% of the total respondents answered yes. 4.8% answered no, while 2% answered they don't know.

The children are a nation's hope for tomorrow

The percentage of the people that says yes is 98.3%. Those that says no is 1.2%, while those that said I don't know is 0.4%.

Child abuse can hinder national development

50.8% agreed that child abuse can hinder national development. 45.1% strongly agreed, 1.6% disagreed, and 2.4% strongly disagreed.

Responses Elicited through Interview

1. The respondents' understanding of child abuse. Their understanding of child abuse includes the following:

- i. Misleading children through abnormal upbringing.
- ii. Lack of basic care for a child
- iii. Failure to have concern for child's moral behaviour and character
- iv. Denial of child's right in the family.
- v. Lack of respect or sense of reasoning towards a child.

2. The activities or circumstances that results in child abuse. Some of the circumstances or activities as suggested by the respondents includes:

- i. Hunger

- ii. Hawking
- iii. Making children to carry heavy loads beyond their capacity
- iv. Sending children during school hours
- v. Children engaged in self-employed jobs
- vi. Poverty
- vii. Lack of parental care as a result of a broken home.

But one of the respondents says that, the government knows best the circumstances or activities classified as child abuse.

3. Reasons why people engage children in such activities or place them under such circumstances.

The respondents gave their views in this manner:

- i. Most parents and guardians are deliberately running away from responsibility
- ii. Some parents or guardians do so because of poverty
- iii. Carelessness and irresponsibility of the parents or guardians
- iv. Pursuit of money and material things at the expense of the welfare of the child.

4. Do the activities or the circumstances affects the future of the child?

All the respondents answered affirmatively, some of the reasons they gave includes:

- i. All the negative aspects of social life is learned in childhood.
- ii. They may suffer psychological depression in adulthood when they see the achievements of their mates in terms of education, wealth and morality.

5. Parents and guardians only are responsible for child abuse do you agree?

Two of the respondents said yes because of the immediate custody of child they have. Five said no; and their reasons is that a child is part of the society and could be a victim of abuse by any adult in the society. Two other respondents also said no. They are of the opinion that government is also responsible for child abuse by not providing sound education to children. One of the respondents said that he cannot say anything on this.

6. Are you aware of any strategy(s) for preventing child abuse in Maiduguri?

Six out of the respondents are not aware of any of such strategy, while three said that they are aware of that. The strategies are those put in place by the UNICEF and the government of Nigeria through campaign in the mass media.

7. Are the strategy(s) effective? If No what is the problem(s)?

Out of the three respondents that said they are aware of the strategies for preventing child abuse, one said that the strategy is effective especially in changing the orientation of people towards children. Two others said that the strategies are not effective because of bad leadership of those given the responsibility to prevent child abuse. And they also believe that it is a gradual process.

8. In what way do child abuse affects national development? According to the respondents, child abuse affects national development in the following ways:

- i. It gives bad image to a nation, that is, when all the streets in a country is full of children that are hawking or begging.
- ii. Children that are brutalized would grow to be aggressive adults thereby leading to many other social problems.
- iii. A nation would have psychologically and emotionally imbalanced leaders.
- iv. A child would be hindered to develop his/her potentials as he/she grows.
- v. When children are not taught what they are supposed to know at their young age, when they become adults, they would be forced to learn those things they did not know in their childhood which is a major setback to a country.

9. Suggest ways through which child abuse can be prevented.

The respondents gave various suggestions which includes the following:

- i. Government should stop child hawking
- ii. There should be campaign to encourage children enrolment in schools
- iii. Parents or guardians should stop engaging children in a profession or occupation without the educational background of such a profession or occupation.
- iv. There should be campaign against early marriages

- v. Teachers in schools should also take proper care of pupils or students in their schools.
- vi. The government should support families with low income.
- vii. The government should give free education to the less privilege children in the society.
- viii. The government should provide Islamic boarding schools with adequate feeding to prevent ‘almajiris’ from begging for food and money on the streets.

XIV. Conclusion

The result of the study shows that the main cause of child abuse is poverty. While other causes include large number of children in a family and emotional problems. The various forms of child abuse are hawking, severe child beating, and sexual abuse, subjecting children to hunger and engaging them in self-employed jobs. The study also shows that parents are the ones mainly responsible for child abuse, while others includes guardians, other relations and any adult in the society.

It is clear from the results of the study that child abuse can be prevented if government should stop hawking, make intensive campaign to encourage children enrolment in schools. The government should also give free education to the less privileged children in the society. Parents should stop engaging their children in professions until when they mature and have the educational background for such.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of the findings above, the following recommendations are made. But as we know, all social problems requires a vigorous and a genuine check in order to prevent the society from decaying. Child abuse therefore requires such a deliberate attack as its effects are so grievous on national development. The recommendations are as follows:

- i. Government should promulgate more laws to protect the child thereby reducing the incidences of child abuse.
- ii. The existing agencies that are fighting against child abuse should intensify their activities and programmes so as to be more effective.
- iii. The government should establish centers for child abuse studies so that people will be very aware of the acts that constitute child abuse.
- iv. The government should provide Islamic boarding schools in Maiduguri where the children would be cared for and properly fed to curtail the roaming about and begging by the almajiris.

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