Effect of Child Abuse on Self-Esteem among Secondary Schools Students in Ekiti State (Case Study of Iworoko Community High School)

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Abstract: *This study was carried out to investigate the effect of child abuse on self-esteem among secondary schools students in Ekiti State. The purpose of this study was to find out the main cause of child abuse. Data was collected from one hundred and fifty children seventy (75) male and seventy (75) female below the age of 18 years old from Iworoko High School, IworokoEkiti. Two different instruments were administered to the participants to test the variables under study. The first instrument is called Child Abuse Self Report Scale (CASRS) that comprises of sub-scales that include physical abuse, psychological abuse, sexual abuse, and Neglect abuse scale. It was developed by Mohammadkhal(2003). The second instrument is the Coopersmith self-esteem inventory, it was developed Coopersmith (1967) to measure self-esteem of children. Six hypotheses was tested, five of the hypothesis was rejected while one is confirmed. That is neglect abuse significantly has effect on self-esteem of neglect abused child that result was retained. Finding was discussed in relation to existing literature and it was recommended that parent, guardians should be enlightened on the harmful effect of child abuse on the esteem of a child. Also parent, guardians need to be discouraged by educating them on the right of a child under the law.*

Keywords: *Child abuse, Self- esteem.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Child abuse is a major social problem in the world millions of children are being forced to work on extremely difficult circumstances of exploitation which affect their physical mental developments. Child abuse generally is human originated acts of commission or omission and human created or tolerated conditions to inhibit or preclude the development of inherent potentials of children. According to International Labour Organization (2012) estimated that about 250 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 are abuse, mostly in developing countries. Almost half are sexually abuse all around the world.

The word child abuse is sometimes used as child maltreatment; it is any form of physical, psychological, emotional and sexual abuse of a child whereby the survival, safety, self-esteem, growth and development of the child are endangered. The term child abuse subsumes many different conditions. It involves acts of omission or commission by a parent or guardian that are judged by a mixture of community values and professional expertise to be inappropriate and damaging to the child. According to Wikipedia (2013), most child abuse occurs in a child's home, with a smaller amount occurring in the organizations, schools or communities the child interacts with.

In Nigeria in (2012) it was estimated that fifteen million children are abuse in Nigeria with 40% are physically abuse, psychologically and sexually abuse according to international labor organization (ILO). Child abuse, especially its definition, incidence and management, is difficult to comprehend perception of what constitutes child abuse have differed with time and culture. Practices that are now considered abusive have been accepted in the past as the normal exercise of parental rights, as economic necessity or as appropriate disciplinary measures (Fairsth 2013).

According to the world health organization (WHO), there were an estimated 57,000 deaths attributed to homicide among children under 15 years of age in 2013. Global estimations of homicide suggest that infants and very young children are at greatest risk with rate for the 0-4

year old age group more than double those of 5-14 years old. The risk fatal abuse for children varies according to the world for children under 5year age living in high income countries, the rate are 2.3 time higher 6.1 per 100,00 for boys and 5.1 per 100,000 for girls. The lowest rates are see in high income countries in the world health organization European, esternmeditrerranean and western pacific regions.

According to a UNICEF report (2012) approximately 40% of the total child population under the age of 5years suffered malnutrition, 63% between 7year to 16year stunted growth anemic and underweight and infant mortality rate is 81%.Poor conditions extend to the education sector too. Children without official identity are more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. Another report indicated almost 1,549 case of sexual abuse reported in the year 2013 representing a rate of four case per day and 1,184 girls were sexually by the end of 2009 (SPARC, 2013).

The international society for the prevention of child abuse and Neglect recently compared the definition of abuse from 58 countries and found some commonality in what ionization (WHO) consultation on child abuse prevention drafted the following definition. " child abuse constitutes all forms neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility trust or power''.

Some definition focus on the behavior or action of adults while others consider abuse to take place if there is harm or the threat of harm is a potentially confusing one if parental intent forms parts of definition. Some experts consider as abused those children who have been inadvertently harmed through the actions of parents, while others require that harm to the child to intend for the act to be defined as abusive. Some of the literature on child abuse explicit include violence against children in institutional or school settings, The definitions given above covers a broad spectrum of abuse this focuses primarily on act of commission and omission by parents or caregivers that result in harm to the child in particular, it explores the prevalence, causes and consequences for four types of child abuse by caregivers, namely

- Physical abuse

- Sexual abuse

- Psychological abuse

- Neglect abuse

Physical abuse of a child is defined as those acts of commission by caregiver that cause actual physical harm or have the potential for harm.

Sexual abuse is defined as those acts where a caregiver uses a child for sexual gratification or when adult used the child for sexual gratification.

Psychological abuse including the failure of a caregiver to provide an appropriate and supportive environment, and include acts, that have adverse effect on the emotional health and development of a child. Such acts include restricting a child's movements, denigration, ridicule, threats and intimidation, discrimination, rejection and other non physical forms of hostile treatment.

Neglect refer to the failure of 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. Neglect is thus, distinguished from circumstance of poverty in the neglect can occur only in a cases where reasonable resources are available to the family or caregiver.

On the other hand, child abuse practices are the various acts perpetrated by parents, guardians, friends and other people against the child which literarily affects his or her psychological, physical, and moral development and self-esteem. The child welfare league Nigeria (WLN) has reverted that about five million children are abused annually in Nigeria, resulting in rampant cases of stunted mental and physical growth of such children (Punch 2013). According to the report, large population of children now walk aimlessly on the streets been abandoned by parents or subjected to perform task for beyond their mental and physical capacity, resulting in child delinquency.

Times without number, there have been public outcry including media campaign against the prevalent exposure of children to this avoidable social misfortune called child abuse. When one goes out, one sees children engaged in petty trading and street bagging, while some hawk for their parent and guardians when they should be laying a soiled foundation for the future, one reads about rape of children in the newspaper, cases of child prostitution in order to get money. Parent leave their children at home un-catered for and run after making, there are also cases of child battering by some parents, in a developing country like Nigeria, some socio-economic problems militate against the survival, development and protection of child. There is deprivation of basic emotional need largely due to parental absence from home in pursuit of economic survival. Poverty could lead to behavior or rejection, intolerance, discrimination, deprivation, marginalization, cruelty and abuse toward children.

Child abuse affect many children of all ages, physical abuse, psychological, sexual and neglect abuse affect self-esteem among secondary schools students in Ekiti state, all these call for immediate intervention of all stakeholders, government, parents or guardians teachers, non-governmental organization researchers are poised to stem this ugly tide.

2. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study is find out the causes of child abuse, in the light of the problems stated above, the study is to ascertain the effect of child abuse that include physical, psychological, sexual, and neglect abuse on self-esteem among secondary schools students in Ekiti state.

3. RELEVANT OF THE STUDY

The problem of self-esteem among secondary schools students in Ekiti state in the increase, nobody is trying to solve the problem from the foundation which is the scourge of child abuse in the society.

Many researches had been conducted on child abuse but the problem is growing into a multifarious dimension. Nigeria children especially in Ekiti state is a child that his or her parents are been traumatize by evil. The Ekiti child is therefore, a child living in physical and emotional conflicts, between his or her parent or caregivers but also the conflict within his or her mind and immediate environment.

The outcome of this study will help in better understanding of how to stern the scourge of self-esteem, and will evolve the strategy of reducing child abuse and reducing the menace of this social vices in the society.

4. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study will be limited to children's who are physically, psychologically, sexually, and neglect abused that is harmful to their health and development. The concern are children who are been denied their childhood future. Even though the scourge of child abuse has many defects to the society, emphasis will be lay on the implication on self-esteem. The limitation of the study will be basically in Ekiti state a unit in part of the state will be use for analysis.

- There will be a significant effect of gender child abuse on self-esteem.
- There will be a significant main and join influence of child abuse on self-esteem.
- Psychological abuse will significantly affect self-esteem.
- Sexual abuse will significantly influence self-esteem.
- There will be positive influence of child neglect on self-esteem.
- There will be negative relationship between child abuse and self-esteem.

5. OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS

Definition of some relevant terms used in the study will enhance a better understanding of this research work.

Child Abuse: child abuse according to this research is any acts of commission or omission by a parent or other caregiver that results in harm, potential for harm or the threat of harm is unintentional. Child abuse also include all forms of physical, psychological ill treatment, sexual abuse, and neglect or negligent treatment, commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development.

Child: A child is defined as any person under the age of 18. This category is for aggregate data on children involved in all form of child abuse.

Self-esteem: According this research, self-esteem is defined as the extent to which an individual approves of and accept him and regard himself in comparison with others. Simply put self-esteem as a person's characteristics evaluation to himself and accomplishment.

6. METHODOLOGY

6.1. Research Design

The appropriate research design for this study was survey type whereby questionnaire was distributed among different respondents. This respondent was selected randomly. The research visited iworoko community high School, iworokoEkiti Nigeria and questionnaire was being distributed to the students, in understanding the effect of child abuse on self-esteem.

6.2. Participants of the Study

The participants of this study consist of secondary school students from iworoko community high school, iworokoEkiti Nigeria. The research used one hundred and fifty (150) respondents in all. This consists of seventy five (75) male students and another seventy five (75) female students who were students of iworoko community high school. The participants selection cut across all level (from SS1 to SS2 students).

6.3. Measures

The instruments that were use are two different questionnaires to measure the variable under study. One of the questionnaire have different sub-scales to measure various types child abuse, physical abuse sub-scale, psychological abuse sub-scale, neglect abuse sub-scale, and sexual abuse sub-scale. The child abuse self report scale (CASRS) was used to measure child abuse, it was developed by (Mohammadkhal e tal 2003). The child abuse self report scale (CASRS) is a 38 items scale with different sub-scales under it. From the different types of child abuse, it consist of four (4) rating scale ranging scale ranging from (i) Never (ii) Sometimes (iii) most often, (iv) Always,and also based on liket format.

6.4. Reliability

The child abuse self report scale (CASRS) has 38 items initial findings has strong internal consistency psychological sub-scale had the highest level of internal consistency 0.95 and sexual abuse sub-scale had a moderate level of internal consistency of 0.87. The result of two times administration of the (CASRS) showed test-retest reliability of 0.82 to 0.80.

6.5. Validity

For discriminant validity, the least or negative correlation with other certain scale is necessary. The discriminant validity was tested by correlating person correlation the CASRC score with the score of coopersmiths self-esteem questionnaire it is expected that the abused children acquire lower self-esteem should decrease. The correlations between CASRS score and self-esteem score is negative correlation.

6.6. Scoring

The items are score based on liket format, scoring was done by assigning (0) Never, (1) Sometime (2) Most often (3) Always. The score for each sub-scale was the mean score on the items which make it.

The coppersmith self-esteem inventory is the second questionnaire to measure the variable under study. It consist of 58 items measuring of attitudes toward oneself, the inventory was originally designed to measure children's self-esteem for each item, participants answer whether the statement provided "like me" or "No like me". It was developed by coppersmith's 1969. The

reliability was found to have a test-retest reliability of .80 the validity the construct validity of the inventory using a variation of Thurstone's orthogonal technique. Also attempted to obtain data on the source of self-esteem which contribute to global self-esteem, it was hoped that data would reflect the comparative importance of the home, peer, and school to the global self-esteem of pre-adolescents and adolescents.

The scoring includes the lie scale items: 1, 6, 20, 27, 34, 41, 48 , the participants that answered "Like Me" for more of these items it suggests that, he or she is hard to present him or herself in a positive light.

High self-esteem items were:

'' Like Me" on 2, 4, 5, 10, 11, 14, 18, 19, 21, 23, 34, 28, 29, 32, 36, 45, 55, 57.

'' Unlike Me'' on 3, 7, 8, 9, 12, 15, 16, 17, 22, 25, 26, 30, 31, 33, 35, 38, 39, 40, 43,

44, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 56, 58

The answer of the participant was sum up in fashion.

6.7. Variable

There are two major variables in the study the Independent Variables and dependent variable. The independent variable represents child abuse while the dependent variables constitute self-esteem in this study.

6.8. Procedure of Data Collection

The research personally administered the questionnaire to the respondents most of the respondent were found in the class rooms at iworoko community high school. The researcher also personally retrieved the questionnaire from the respondents, and thanked them for their participation. In all hundred and fifty questionnaire were administered to the respondents, all of them were retrieved and analyzed.

6.9. Data Analysis

After administration and collection of data, it was subjected to statistical analysis. That will include three statistical methods the independent T-test, Regression and Correlation method.

7. RESULTS

Table4.1

Regression summary table showing the influence of dimension of child abuse on self-esteem among male

Variable	Beta	t	R	R^2	f
Physical Abuse	.023				
Psychological Abuse	-.33	-.199			
Sexual Abuse	.49	-.332	214	.046	0.844
Neglect Abuse	.198	1.69			

Child abuse has no significant influence on self-esteem of male children.

Regression summary showing the influence of child abuse on self-esteem of female

Variable	Beta	t	R	R^2	f
Physical Abuse	-.136	-.906			
Psychological Abuse	-.052		-.43		
Sexual Abuse	.052	.374	.505	.255	5.99[xx]
Neglect Abuse	.453	4.269[xx]			

There is joint influence of the dimension of child abuse on self-esteem of female. There also a significant influence of Neglect on self-esteem but others do not influence self-esteem.

Independent T-test table showing the effect of gender on self-esteem and child abuse

Variable	SX	N	X⁻	SD	SE	df	t
Physical Abuse	M	75	7.16	5.03	.58	148	.305
	F	75	6.89	5.65	-65		
Psychological Abuse	M	75	11.81	7.47	.86		
	F	75	9.78	8.65	-99		1.58
Sexual Abuse	M	75	2.56	3.01	.34		
	F	75	2.55	2.97	.34		0.027
Neglect Abuse	M	75	19.21	8.03	.93		
	F	75	19.45	10.19	1.18		-.6
Self-Esteem	M	75	37.20	35.67	4.12		
	F	75	29.35	5.92	.68		1.88

No significant effect of gender on self-esteem and child abuse.

Hypothesis: 2, 3, 4, 5,

Stated that there will be a significant main and join influence effect of child abuse on self-esteem Regression summary table showing the influence of child abuse on self-esteem of hypothesis 2, 3, 4, 5.

Table4.2.

Variable	Beta	t	R	R²	F
Physical Abuse	.090	.090			
Psychological Abuse	.006	.54	.191	.036	1.37
Sexual Abuse	.062	-.619			
Neglect Abuse	.77	2.13ˣ			

No significant influence of the dimensions of child abuse on self-esteem. There is a significant influence of only Neglect on self-esteem. No significant influence of others on self-esteem.

Hypothesis 6:

Hypothesis six stated that there will be negative relationship between child abuse and self-esteem.

Table 4.3

Correlation table showing the relationship between self-esteem and the dimension of child abuse

Variable	N	X	SD	SE	PA	PSY	Sexual	Neglect
Self-Esteem	150	33.27	25.75	-				
Physical Abuse		7.03	5.33	-.051	-			
Psychological Abuse		10.77	8.12	-.038	.54ˣˣ	-		
Sexual Abuse		2.55	2.98	-.076	.52ˣˣ	.49ˣˣ	-	
Neglect Abuse		19.33	9.15	.183ˣ	-.21ˣˣ	-.21	-.31	

Significant at .01

Significant at .05

There is a significant between self-esteem and Neglect abuse. r (148)=.187 p<.05

No significant relationship between self-esteem and other dimensions of abuse. Hypothesis not confirmed.

8. DISCUSSION

General question two looked into main cause of child abuse in Ekiti State, and the effect on self-esteem. The result showed that most children and parents, guardians are not aware of the right of a child under the law. This means that ignorance forms the major cause of child abuse in Ekiti State. This has been the reason why children are neglected.

Hypothesis one states that, there will be a significant effect of Gender child abuse on self-esteem using the independent T-test the hypothesis was rejected which mean it was not confirmed. It was reverse; that child abuse has effect on male or female child on their self-esteem. Support by the work of Attachment theory by (Bowlby 1951) that child especially the female child beings to develop cognitive models of relationships with their caregivers, usually the parents if the needs of these child are not met he or she developed negative self-esteem later in life. Because the child are

often denied the benefits of a secure attachment relationship because their parents are unresponsive or inappropriately responsive to their children's need. These difficulties in attachment relationship lead to the creation of negative models both self and others in relationships, based on unsatisfactory experience with early attachment. As such the children whether male or female come to believe the messages their abuser such as the parent deliver such as "you are worthless" and "you have no value". These messages that the parent pass on, the messages become internalized so that, when a child who has been abused groups up, the child whether male or female will often experience feelings of low self-esteem.

The hypothesis second, third, fourth, states that, there will be main and join influence of child abuse on self-esteem, using Regression the hypothesis was rejected. It was reverse in the study that psychological abuse, sexual abuse physical abuse has influence on self-esteem. The findings showed that there were join influence of child abuse on self-esteem as these evident in the report, developmental theory support that child that is psychological abuse affect his or her self-esteem. It suggested that psychological maltreatment is related to serious problems in a children peer relationship and self-esteem (Egeland et al 2000). Reported that children in their longitudinal study whose mother's were psychological unavailable. Rohner and Rohner (1989) fond that parental rejection was associated with among children who experience it, such behaviors suggested that children who are psychological abuse may have difficulties in peer relationship or low self-esteem. Attachment theory also supported this view that separation of child from the mother in first five years of life lead to a variety of psychological and social difficulties in later life since proper bonding and attachment to the mother was crucial if a child was to benefit from psychological security.

Learning theory stipulated that physically abusing children will have influence on the child self-esteem. Family dysfunction theory (Goddard 2010, Deacon and Gocke 2012) also maintains that family dynamic contributed to physical abuse. Children subjected to violence by a parent as a means of "Getting at" the other parent or that a child who has been a "Scapegoat" in the family as such the physical abuse will affect the child self-concept later in life. Family dysfunction theory further support that child sexual abuse serves the function of keeping together families that would otherwise collapse, a classic scenario is the sexual abuse of a teenage girl, because communication by her father who is considered to seeking emotion sexual gratification because communication and sexual relations with his wife was broken down as such result to low self-esteem of the teenage girl late in life.

The hypothesis six states that, there will be negative relationship between child abuse and self-esteem. The hypothesis was confirmed, that there is significant between self-esteem and neglect abuse. Supported by the learning theory of Albert Bandura (1977), child neglect abuse is as a result of having learned or experienced dysfunctional child care practices or not having learned functional child care practice. For example, neglecting child is learnt from observing aggressive role models, so that as a parent who have experienced punitive treatment of neglect may rely on such methods to their own children, that later have impact in the child self-esteem. As such the neglect abuse child develops negative self-concept about his or herself in later life.

The finding showed that neglect abuse constant neglecting a child needs are the area which child abuse practices are more pronounced and also have effect on child self-esteem. Keep kids health.com (2006) also confirms the finding.

9. CONCLUSION

In conclusion the study, examined the effect of child abuse on self-esteem among secondary schools students in Ekiti State. The purpose of the study was to find out the main causes of child abuse and the implications on child self-esteem. Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions were drawn.

It was discovered from that, there was no significant of child abuse on children gender, this therefore, implies that child abuse does not significantly has effect on child, whether male or female self-esteem. Also the study revealed that there was a significant effect of gender abuse on self-esteem. This connotes that, male or female child been abuse affect the child esteem.

Furthermore, the research revealed that, join influence of child abuse on self-esteem that include, the psychological abuse, physically and sexually abuse will significantly affect their self-esteem later in life. Base on the finding, moreover the study has also confirmed the neglect abuse by the parent or caregivers have significant effect on the child self-esteem.

10. RECOMMENDATION

In respect of all the variables so far considered parents, guardians should be enlightened on the harmful effects and cumulative negative impart child abuse as on child especially on self-esteem. Child abuse practice should be discouraged drastically by educating the parents, guardians and children on the right of a child under the law. The child right law should be active in order to eradicate the menace in our society at large.

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