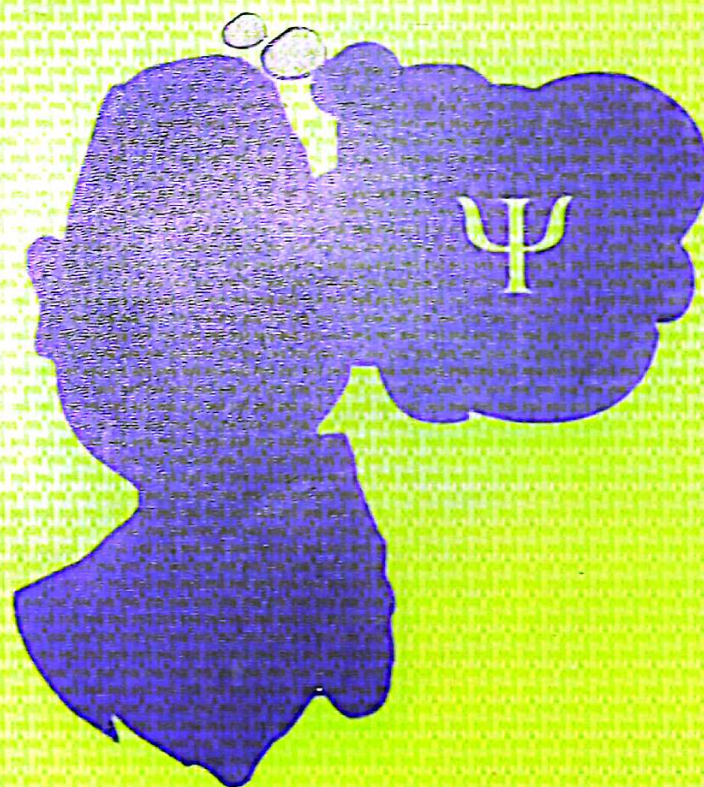


International Journal
of
**EMOTIONAL PSYCHOLOGY
AND SPORT ETHICS
(IJEPSSE)**



VOL 20, 2018
Second Edition
ISSN: 1119-7048

**International Journal of Emotional
Psychology and Sport Ethics
(IJEPS)**

Volume 20 June, 2018 [Second Edition] ISSN: 1119-7048

Editorial Comments

The Society for Psychology in Sport and Human Behaviour is pleased to announce the stability and continuous impact of the International Journal of Emotional Psychology for meeting the yearnings and dreams of our ever increasing and widely spread and articulate readership. This edition of the journal has added the benefits of continuous numbering starting from the last edition. The Society is therefore pleased to introduce the **20th Volume**, Second edition of 2018 of the International Journal of Emotional Psychology and Sport Ethics (IJEPE). The IJEPE is peer-reviewed and accessible online through the **ajol web site** at (<http://www.ajol/journal>). The Journal e-mail: mtnlpsychlgy@yahoo.co.uk

The International Journal of Emotional Psychology and Sport Ethics (IJEPE) is a professional journal of the Association of Psychology in Sport and Human Behaviour. The IJEPE had metamorphosed from the old name of the Nigerian Journal of Emotional Psychology and Sport Ethics to reflect its versatility with foreign contributors while negotiation on the possibility of its being housed and co-funding in a South African University is on-going. It publishes a wide variety of original articles and reports relevant to feelings and/or emotions, human behaviour in diverse forms as in sexual harassment, battery/battering, bullying etc. Theoretical propositions, research outcomes summarizing studies in behaviour disorders, marriage and family issues, disabling behaviour in learning/adjustment, (otherwise, education generally), workplace behaviours as well as sport-related regulations and ethics from different parts of the World. Other related areas of health psychology, mental health studies, Anthropological investigations as well as ecumenical behaviours also form part of its focus.

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(Vol.12, pp.3456).Lagos-Nigeria: Evans.

Footnotes They are not to be used.
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Causes of Child Abuse Among Students as Expressed by Police Officers in Ilorin: Implication for Counselling Psychology

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Abstract

The issue of child abuse is a current and topical issue all over the world, Nigeria inclusive. Over the years, a growing concern has arisen among stakeholders and professionals including counselling psychologists, family and gender practitioners, leaders of educational thought, the law enforcement agents and other personnels who have constantly attempted an understanding of its multi-genetic factors. Although there have been lots of inconclusive findings from studies previously conducted generally, the study however, investigated the causes of child abuse among secondary school students as expressed by police officers in Ilorin, Nigeria. The descriptive research design of survey type was adopted for this study on a population of 4,072 police officers in Kwara command working in Ilorin metropolis at both the Headquarter and Divisions. The sample consisted of 200 police officers drawn from all police divisions in Ilorin metropolis (i.e. from Headquarters and Divisions). The stratified random sampling technique was used to select police officers resident in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State who responded to copies of a self-constructed questionnaire entitled "causes of child abuse questionnaire" (CCAQ). The face and content validity of the instrument were ascertained while test-retest method was used in ascertaining the reliability co-efficient of 0.68. The hypotheses were tested using analysis of variance (ANOVA) for hypotheses 2, 3, 4 and t-test for hypothesis 1 at 0.05 level of significant. The findings, among others revealed that there was no significant difference on the causes of child abuse among secondary school students as expressed by police officers in Ilorin on the basis of gender. In using the factors of age, religion and educational qualifications, significant differences were however obtained on the respondents'

perceived causes of child abuse among secondary school students. Based on the findings, the study recommended that sufficient manpower in terms of trained counsellors should be employed by government who will be able to guide and assist both victims and their significant others who may be affected psycho-emotionally. Professional counsellors should organize regular seminars for other police officers in articulating best global practices for the rehabilitation of victims of abuse and help for the affected.

Keywords: Causes, Child Abuse, Counselling, Professional Counsellors.

Introduction

Deviant behaviours have been seen differently by different scholars. For instance, Agi (2017) described deviant behaviour as an action of individual(s) that are not in accordance with existing rules and regulations of the society. Also, Diche (2016) perceived deviant behaviour as a behaviour that violates the laid down rules and regulations of a given organization or group. Diche further asserted that cases of deviant behaviours are common among students to the extent that it has been institutionalized and welcomed as an acceptable behaviour among secondary school students thus it is not seen as manifestation of crimes being committed. Another scholar, Angel (2015) opined that deviant behaviour is any behaviour that lacks conformity and acceptability of people in the society. It is a deviation that attracts sanctions in the society or schools. Child abuse is such a behaviour that should not be acceptable in the schools and the society at large.

It is not a gain saying to state that child abuse is a form of deviant behaviours which is common in Nigeria. Child abuse is therefore the physical, sexual and emotional maltreatment of a child or children. It includes neglect of a child or children by their parents, guardian, or whoever is bestowed with the responsibility of caring, nurturing and protecting the rights of the child or children in the society. According to Herrenkohl (2005), child abuse is regarded as failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker which results in death, serious physical, emotional harm, sexual abuse, or exploitation. Henrrenkohl further described child abuse as intentional failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm to the child or children. Also, Leeb, Paulozzi, Melanson, Simon and Arias (2008) opined that child abuse can occur in a child's home, or in an organizations, schools or communities that the child interacts with. They further pointed out that there are four major categories of child abuse: neglect, physical abuse, psychological or emotional abuse and sexual abuse. Moreover, Obumneke-

Okeke, Anyachebelu and Anyamene (2011) viewed child abuse as the neglect of a child's survival and developmental needs, physical and emotional injury or harassment and the subjection of a child to major situations and experiences which interfere with a child's healthy development into adulthood.

An aspect of child abuse is sexual abuse, Osarenren and Anyama (2015) referred to sexual abuse as any action that puts pressures or coerces someone to do something sexually which they do not want to do and will not be willing to do. The child is pressurized to do it by an older person(s). Studies have shown that secondary school students are generally being abused by an older person in the school, at home and in other places especially when the adolescent need assistance from significant others. This is the reason why Kani (2015) pointed out that sexual abuse included rape and children being abused by family members such uncles, fathers, older students or teachers. Ngwokabuenui (2015) reported that rapping class/school mates as one of the indiscipline acts engaged by students in Cameroon. To address this problem in schools, students should be given sexuality education. This concept should be taught properly without sentiments in the school in order to help them understand what it entails. Abubakar and Sa'idu (2014) gave a comprehensive understanding of sexuality education as an encompassing education about reproductive health, emotional relations, reproductive rights and responsibilities, sexual abstinence, anatomy of human sex, reproduction and other aspects of human sexual behaviours as against what people perceived sexuality education to mean. The teachers are saddled with the responsibility of imparting the knowledge to the adolescents in the schools so as to educate them.

Another aspect of child abuse is physical abuse. Physical abuses experienced by children have negative impacts on the children later in life (Ford, Fraleigh & Connor, 2010). Alokun and Osakinle (2015) corroborated the fact that age at which physical abuse took place, severity of the physical abuse and duration of abuse determined the consequences physical abuse will have on the child at a later life. According to Gupta and Aggarwal (2012), there are four types of child abuse; they are neglect (34%), sexual abuse (30%), physical abuse (28%) and emotional abuse (8%). Gupta and Aggarwal therefore identified three causes of child abuse; they are circumstances of the abuser, the child and the family. The circumstances of the abuser relate to possibility of the abuser not being educated and lack of parental skills which would result to inadequate parental role models for

future generations. On the other hand, the children being abused physically may have ill health, physically challenged child who might have difficulties in hearing sound, sight problems, inability to coordinate his or her body, or any other vulnerable persons who may likely be the target of abuse.

In attributing the family as a cause of any abuse, such phenomena as marital discord, domestic violence, unemployment, poverty, and social isolation may be easily predicated (Gupta & Aggarwal, 2012); while the counsellors would play a vital role in the total development of the adolescents especially in facilitating adequate sexuality and sexual education. Counselling is a multi-disciplinary course that can meet the needs of such important aspect of life. Major problem faced in Nigeria is the fact that less attention is paid by the Government to eradicate or reduce the causes of child abuse. Some of the major problems may range from the inability of parents to provide basic necessity of life, separation of parents, peer influence, children of different mothers who sometime sexually abuse each other and negligence on the part of the parents among others. Even though majority of parents may be solely interested in giving birth to children without being ready to shoulder the responsibility associated with parenthood, it therefore behoves this study to examine, from the back drop of such wanton negligence, to examine the multi-factorial bases of child abuse among students. Since the police easily serves as the first agent of succor and where cases of abuse are reported premier-facie, it is important to investigate how the police force would perceive the multiple causes of child abuse.

Research Questions

To give direction to the study, the following research questions were asked:

1. What are the causes of child abuse among secondary school students as expressed by police officer in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria?
2. What is the difference in the causes of child abuse among secondary school students as expressed by police officers in Ilorin on the basis of gender?
3. What is the difference in the causes of child abuse among secondary school students as expressed by police officers in Ilorin on the basis of age?

Hypotheses

Specifically, the following hypotheses were tested:

1. There is no significant difference in the causes of child abuse among secondary school students as expressed by police officers in Ilorin based on gender;
2. There is no significant difference in the causes of child abuse among secondary school students as expressed by police officers in Ilorin based on age.

Methodology

A descriptive research design of survey type was adopted for this study. There are 4,072 police officers in Kwara command as at 5th February, 2014 which was the available data. Since the Nigeria Police force did not recruit recently, the researcher used the stated population for this study. The sample consisted of 200 police officers drawn from both the Headquarter and police divisions who are working in Ilorin metropolis. The stratified random sampling technique was used to select police officers resident in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State.

A self-constructed questionnaire titled “causes of child abuse questionnaire” (CCAQ) was used to gather data for the study; and had sections ‘A’ and ‘B’. Section ‘A’ comprised demographic data of gender and age while section ‘B’ consisted of 20 items which were based on four point modified likert type of responses of strongly agree (SA), agree (A), disagree (D) and strongly disagree (SD). The questionnaire forms were negatively worded which were scored Strongly agree 1 point, agree 2 points Disagree 3 points and strongly disagree 4 points. Content validity was ensured by to experts’ judgments. A reliability test was also carried out using twenty police officers who were not part of the sample. While applying the test-retest method to determine the reliability co-efficient (reliability co-efficient of 0.68) was obtained. The instrument was found to be suitable for data collection.

Results

The information gathered was analysed using mean, t-test and analysis of variance (ANOVA).

Research Question 1: *What are the causes of child abuse among secondary school students as expressed by police officers in Ilorin, Nigeria?*

Table 1: Mean and Rank Order of Causes of Child Abuse as Expressed by Police Officers in Ilorin

Item No.	Child abuse is caused by:	Mean	Rank
1	Illiteracy, not understand what child abuse is	3.22	1st
5	Polygamy, children of different mothers sexually abuse each other	3.20	2nd
8	Natural deformity of a child	3.18	3rd
13	Single parenting	3.18	3rd
14	Exposing a child to danger or shady characters	3.10	5th
15	Negligence on the part of the parents or guardian	3.07	6th
18	Physical or verbal maltreatment of the child	3.04	7th
20	Unpreparedness of parents to accept responsibility	3.01	8th
17	Subjecting the child to ill treatment	3.00	9th
2	Economic hardship (Poverty)	3.00	9th
4	Faulty religious belief	2.99	11th
9	Misbehaviour of a child	2.97	12th
11	Information from social media	2.95	13th
6	Separation of parents	2.94	14th
3	Having a large family members	2.92	15th
16	Showing hatred toward the child by the parent or guardian	2.92	15th
19	Inability of the parents to provide the essentials	2.90	17th
10	Poor academic performance of the child	2.88	18th
7	Age of the parents	2.85	19th
12	Peer influence	2.80	20th

Table 1 presents the respondents expression on the causes of child abuse among secondary school students in Ilorin. The results indicate that illiteracy is a major cause of child abuse as ranked 1st and practice of polygamy by the parent was ranked 2nd while age of the parents and peer influence were ranked 19th and 20th respectively.

Hypothesis 1: *There is no significant difference in the causes of child abuse among secondary school students as expressed by police officers in Ilorin on the basis of gender.*

Table 2: Mean, Standard Deviation and t-test Value on the Causes of Child Abuse based on Gender

Gender	N	Mean	SD	df	Calculated t-value	Critical t-value	Decision
Male	110	60.82	3.36	198	1.48	1.96	Not Rejected
Female	90	44.48	1.95				

Table 2 indicates that the calculated t-value of 1.48 was lesser than the critical t-value of 1.98 at 0.05 level of significance. On the basis of this result, it was concluded that hypothesis 1 was accepted. This implies that there was no significant difference in the causes of child abuse among secondary school students as expressed by police officers in Ilorin based on gender.

Hypothesis 2: *There is no significant difference in the causes of child abuse among secondary school students as expressed by police officers in Ilorin on the basis of age*

Table 3: ANOVA results comparing the Causes of Child Abuse based on Age

Source	Sum of Square	df	Mean Squares	Calculated f-value	Critical f-value	Decision
Between Group	799	2	399.500	*57.11	2.60	Rejected
Within Group	1378.092	197	6.995			
Total	2177.092	199				

Table 3 indicates that the calculated F-value of 57.11 is higher than the critical F-value of 2.60 at 0.05 level of significance. On the basis of this result, it was concluded that hypothesis 2 was rejected. This implies that there was a significant difference in the causes of child abuse among secondary school students as expressed by police officers in Ilorin based on age.

In order to determine where the significant lies, the mean scores of the three groups were compared. It must be noted in this study that for mean scores comparison to be significantly different, the mean scores must be relatively different.

Table 4: Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) showing Age

Duncan Grouping	Mean	N	Group	Age
B	56.97	16	2	21-25 years
A	50.20	117	3	31 years & Above
C	45.55	67	1	26- 30 years

Table 4 shows the Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) indicating the significant difference noted in the ANOVA results of Table 3 was caused by the relatively differences among the mean scores of the age brackets 21-25Years (56.97) and those of the 26-30Years (45.55) and 31 Years and above (45.55) respectively.

Discussion of Findings

The findings revealed that illiteracy is a major cause of child abuse among secondary school students in Ilorin. People take the advantage of their illiteracy especially when they are unable to understand what abuse is, which includes but not limited to the inability to distinguish what is right from what is wrong by the abusers who are probably adolescents in the schools. The findings supported the earlier work of Gupta and Aggarwal (2012) who had noted that abusers may not have sound educational background. It was also observed that the practice of polygamy by parents was another cause of child abuse among secondary school students in Ilorin. It was noted that children who were not born by the same mother were sexually violating one another at home. The result of the study was in consonance with the finding of Kani (2015) that pointed out that children of different mothers often sexually abuse each other while some others may be product of ones rape by family members such as uncles, fathers, or older siblings. In the same affirmation, and as it further corroborated the study conducted by Leeb, Paulozzi, Melanson, Simon and Arias (2008), they found that child abuse can occur in a child's home, or in schools or communities that the child

interacts with. The result showed that children who are living in the same house and who might have been born by other mothers sexually abuse each other sometimes.

Moreover, children who have one form of deformity or another may also be abused. At such instances, some adults may take advantage of their challenges to rape them or enticed them with monetary values. In using the factor of gender of the respondents, it was also noted that there was no significant difference in the causes of child abuse among secondary school students as expressed by police officers in Ilorin. There was however a significant difference when the factors of age, religion and educational qualifications of the police officers were applied. The finding corroborated Gupta and Aggarwal (2012) earlier findings where they submitted that the age, religion and educational background of parents of the children abused did not cause abuse as well as the additional import of peer influence of the children been abused.

Conclusion

The finding of this study revealed that illiteracy is a serious cause of child abuse in Ilorin. It was also concluded that child abuse is a problem that create serious concern for families, individuals, educationists, schools, Government at all levels and the society at large. Therefore, the results revealed that physical, psychological, emotional and mental needs of the adolescents need to be met in order to mitigate the challenges of being vulnerable. The factor of gender did not significantly influence child abuse among secondary school students as expressed by police officers while the factors of age, religion and educational background proved otherwise.

Implications of the Study

The findings of the study have some implications for counselling at secondary school level in Ilorin, Nigeria. School counsellors should assist by addressing what child abuse entails; and from the back drop seminars and workshops should provide enrichment programmes to enlighten police officers who handle abuse cases. It is very important for counsellors to know that some of the incidence of abuse whether sexual, emotional, mental or physical abuses may occur without the knowledge of the teachers. Therefore, teachers need to work collaboratively with the counsellors in order to assist the students to handle several abuses.

The findings of the study also have some implications for psychologists in that it helps the psychologists to identify the causes of child abuse and deal with the psyches of the victims accordingly. This will go a long way in ameliorate its consequences on the victims who are the students in turn in leading stress-free psycho-emotional lives.

Parents are to assist the counsellors especially in giving the information in order to function effectively in the school since most of the causes of child abuse are reported to the parents before taking the cases to the police. The counsellors also need to work in collaboration with the school administrators in order to enlighten them on the causes of child abuse in the schools. The Nigerian police authority should employ counsellors in the force in order to provide counselling services to victims. Victims of abuse should be guided by the parents, teachers, counsellors, and librarians to access adequate information from social media on adequate sexuality education.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made:

- Sufficient manpower in terms of trained counsellors and psychologists should be employed by Nigeria Police who will be able to guide and assist both victims and the parents of the victims who have reported the cases to the Nigerian Police.
- Professional counsellors should organize regular seminars for police officers on the causes of child abuse among secondary school students and how to assist and make referral to the professional counsellors in the Nigerian Police.
- Psychologists should apply psychological tests on the victims and parents of the victims in order to have adequate information on child abuse that can be useful for teachers, counsellors, parents and the society at large.
- Professional counsellors should be encouraged to assist the abused adolescents in the schools so as to identify the causes of child abuse and what the victims can do to better their academic performance in the schools.

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