Research Method (soc 308)

Group work

Topic: Child Abuse and neglect and its effect in our society. Case study Ado Ekiti.

Group members

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**INTRODUCTION**

Child abuse or child maltreatment is physical, sexual, and/or psychological maltreatment or neglect of a child or children, especially by a parent or a caregiver. Child abuse may include any act or failure to act by a parent or a caregiver that results in actual or potential harm to a child, and can occur in a child's home, or in the organizations, schools or communities the child interacts with.

The terms child abuse and child maltreatment are often used interchangeably, although some researchers make a distinction between them, treating child maltreatment as an umbrella term to cover neglect, exploitation, and trafficking.

Different jurisdictions have developed their own stance towards mandatory reporting, different definitions of what constitutes child abuse for the purposes of removing children from their families or for prosecuting a criminal charge. It is also a complex set of behaviors that include child neglect and the physical, emotional, and sexual abuse of children.

Effects

Child abuse can result in immediate adverse physical effects but it is also strongly associated with developmental problems and with many chronic physical and psychological effects, including subsequent ill-health, including higher rates of chronic conditions, high-risk health behaviors and shortened lifespan. Maltreated children may grow up to be maltreating adults. The effect of child abuse can come in various ways like emotional effect, physical effect and so many other ways.

Emotional Effect

Child abuse can cause a range of emotional effects. Children who are constantly ignored, shamed, terrorized or humiliated suffer at least as much, if not more, than if they are physically assaulted. According to the Joyful Heart Foundation, brain development of the child is greatly influenced and responds to the experiences with families, caregivers, and the community. Abused children can grow up experiencing insecurities, low self-esteem, and lack of development. Many abused children experience ongoing difficulties with trust, social withdrawal, trouble in school, and forming relationships. Children who are constantly ignored, shamed, terrorized or humiliated suffer at least as much, if not more, than if they are physically assaulted. According to the Joyful Heart Foundation, brain development of the child is greatly influenced and responds to the experiences with families, caregivers, and the community. Abused children can grow up experiencing insecurities, low self-esteem, and lack of development. Many abused children experience ongoing difficulties with trust, social withdrawal, trouble in school, and forming relationships.

Physical effect

The immediate physical effects of abuse or neglect can be relatively minor (bruises or cuts) or severe (broken bones, hemorrhage, or even death). In some cases the physical effects are temporary; however, the pain and suffering they cause a child should not be discounted. Rib fractures may be seen with physical abuse, and if present may increase suspicion of abuse, but are found in a small minority of children with maltreatment-related injuries.

In Nigeria Abuse in all its forms are a daily reality for many Nigerian children and only a fraction ever receive help. Six out of every 10 children experience some form of violence one in four girls and 10 per cent of boys have been victims of sexual violence. Of the children who reported violence, fewer than five out of a 100 received any form of support.

The drivers of violence against children (VAC) are rooted in social norms, including around the use of violent discipline, violence against women and community beliefs witchcraft, all of which increase children’s vulnerability.

Nigeria has the largest number of child brides in Africa with more than 23 million girls and women who were married as children, most of them from poor and rural communities. While data suggests a decline of 9 per cent in the prevalence of child marriage since 2003, and a projected further decrease of 6 per cent by 2030, Nigeria’s rapid population growth means that the number of child brides will in fact increase by more than one million by 2030 and double by 2050.

**GOAL AND OBJECTIVE OF THIS RESEARCH:**

* Diagnose children who are victims of physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect and/or psychological maltreatment
* Work with others in the community to advocate for children
* Teach others about aspects of child abuse
* Demonstrate research capability in the field
* Maintain a commitment to life-long learning

**A SURVEY OF CHILD ABUSE AND ITS EFFECT IN OUR SOCIETY, CASE STUDY ADO EKITI.**

Dear respondent,

We the students of Afe Babalola University from the department of sociology, 300 level students. We are conducting a research on the effect of child abuse in our society. The main purpose of this research is to examine and also know the effect of child abuse in the society of today. We would also like to let you know that you don’t need to write your name or your personal information, this is to show you that whatever you write there is **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL** and shall not be used against you in any way at all. Please we also ask for your total honestly in answering this questions so that would give us adequate information.

Thank you for your cooperation.

**QUESTIONS**

**SECTION A: Demographic Data**

Please fill in the gap and tick when needed.

1. Gender
2. Male( )
3. Female ( )
4. Age
5. 5-10 ( )
6. 11- 16 ( )
7. 17- 25 ( )
8. 26- 40 ( )
9. Education
10. Primary ( )
11. Secondary ( )
12. Undergraduate ( )
13. Post graduate and above ( )

**SECTION B:**

4) Do you know what child abuse is?

a) Yes ( )

b) No ( )

5) if yes, explain what you understand by child abuse \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6) How much do you know about child abuse?

a) A lot ( )

b) A good amount ( )

c) A moderate amount ( )

d) None at all ( )

7) Does abuse just mean domestic and verbal abuse?

a) Yes ( )

b) No ( )

8) Have you ever experienced any kind of abuse? If yes tick which one it is

a) Physical abuse ( )

b) Emotional abuse ( )

c) Sexual abuse ( )

d) Family violence ( )

e) Neglect abuse ( )

9) If yes, at what age did it happen? ­­ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

10) Did you ever report the case of child abuse?

a) Yes ( )

b) No ( )

If no, what was your reasons? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

11) Do you think child abuse is a main concern in the society today?

a) Yes ( )

b) Partially ( )

c) Not enough ( )

d) No ( )

12) Do you think there should be more awareness for child abuse and neglect?

a) Yes ( )

b) No ( )

13) What way do you think you can spread awareness?

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14) Are there any Governmental authorities, structures and mechanisms, currently responsible for addressing violence against children?

a) Yes ( )

b) No ( )

15) Is reporting child abuse confidential in Ado Ekiti

a) Yes ( )

b) No ( )

16) Do you believe when you’re told that your report is confidential that it will remain confidential?

a) Yes ( )

b) No ( )

17) Have you ever suspected a child going through abuse?

a) Yes ( )

b) No ( )

18) Have you ever considered reporting a case of child abuse but didn’t?

If yes what kept you from reporting?

1. Afraid reporting isn’t confidential enough ( )
2. Unsure that actual abuse is occurring ( )
3. To avoid negative consequences for the victim ( )
4. Don’t know how or whom to report the case to ( )

If there other reasons please specify

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19) Have you ever witnessed a child being abused?

a) Yes ( )

b) No ( )

If yes what kind of abuse?

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20) Is there a lead Government authority tasked with responsibility for addressing violence against children?

a) Yes ( )

b) No ( )

If YES, describe briefly its organization and tasks

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