Name: Omoge Ayomide Benedicta

Matric No: 19/LAW01/213

Course Name: Communication in English

Course Code: GST 122

**Topic: Child Abuse**

 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.

 There are many ways through which a child can undergo abuse, such as: Sexual harassment e.g. rape, child marriage, child labor and even child prostitution. In our society today, it is not uncommon to see many young children especially those from unprivileged and poor homes undergoing abuse. Some of them are beaten unfairly by their parents or guardians for crimes they did not even commit. This is very unfortunate and saddening that children of young ages have to undergo, such ill treatment, which could be detrimental to them in future, as some of them might become traumatized by such incidents and when they grow up, they might become a bane to the society at large. For example, many female children have suffered under the hands of their male relatives or close friends, even now you will hear of incidents of a girl child being sexually harassed by her cousin, brother or even her own father. This is very sickening and disturbing, because as a child, you are meant to enjoy your childhood and youth, but many of the children of today have undergone so much ill treatment and abuse, that it has made it impossible for them to move forward with their lives normally, even male children are sexually harassed by family and neighbors, who are meant to protect them, not harm them.

 Also another form of abuse is neglect and psychological abuse. These two are not far from the same meaning, neglect occurs when the child’s parents or guardians, show lack of interest, attention or love towards the child, in turn the child may start to feel as though they are useless or the problem and feel like no one truly loves them. This might cause an adverse effect on the child’s mental state and in future, he or she might start acting out or start displaying very inappropriate characters that could affect others negatively and cause havoc in the society at large.

 But the worst of all these types of abuse, is child trafficking and child marriage. In many countries, where there are poor families, many of them give their daughters out for marriage at their young age to men old enough to be their fathers. Many if not all these girls do not desire to marry at such a young age, but are forced by not only their families, but sometimes, even by society itself. This sort of abuse is very terrible and could leave emotional and psychological problems for the child later on in life. Child Trafficking also has the same effects on the child, because many of these innocent children are deceived by family members or people they trust into this atrocious act, with most being sold into prostitution, while others will undergo child labor, being forced to do things they do not wish to do, and at the end of the day, these children who have been deceived, beaten and abused, grow up with the mindset not to trust people, while some end becoming misfits and start inflicting pain and trauma on other children, as means of satisfaction for them.

 There are many other ways through which a child could undergo abuse, but at the end of the day they all still have the same effect on the child’s life and their future. In my perspective, I believe that the government and society, should step in and lend a helping hand. The government should sensitize not only the parents and guardians of these children, but also the children themselves, so that when they notice any signs of abuse, they’ll be able to stand up for themselves and also protect other children from undergoing such terrible treatment and grow up to be beneficial members of the society.