

Effects of Child Abuse among Nomads in Alkaleri Local Government Area of Bauchi State

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ABSTRACT

The study has examined the effects of child abuse among nomads in the Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi state. The study adopts a cross-sectional survey design. Three specific objectives were formulated to guide the study. The population used for this study consisted of 7,084 students from all the secondary schools in Bauchi metropolis. The study used a sample of 400 respondents from the population using a simple random sampling technique. Data were collected through direct administration of questionnaires. It was found from the study that there was a negative and high prevalence rate of child labour among nomadic residents in Alkaleri local government. Based on the findings, every society needs to sets out some norms which are expected of the citizens to faithfully follow for the welfare of the people and any conduct that violates these norms is referred to as deviance. It was recommended among others that the effects of child abuse should be addressed to improve children's attitudes and social norms as well as their academic achievements in Alkaleri local government and beyond.

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INTRODUCTION

The effect of child abuse is a global concern. In many instances, the causes and effects observed to have been shadily neglected by the caregivers or parents. Most issues of child abuse seem to be surrounded by the social and economic problems around the communities. However, this tragic social issue exists in most countries, the kinds of abuse and neglect and the ways they are defined, prevented, and treated vary significantly from country to country. Many countries appear to be in a state of unrest concerning this issue. Countries attempt to create their perspectives and perceptions of abuse within their cultural contexts. There is variation in understanding the distinctions between acceptable discipline and child-rearing practices and inappropriate practices that should be defined as maltreatment leading to child abuse.

Globally, it has been considered that every child, despite his/her differences is unique, and to be considered equal and important in the society. All children are considered to be entitled to equal social, economic, civic and political rights in a way that they should fully realise their potential as members of every society. These could be seen as parts of the legal values rooted in the humanistic philosophy of any nation's declaration of independence. It is in line with these values that any act of commission or omission by individuals, institutions or society as a whole, and any conditions which deprive children of equal rights and liberties or interfere with the child's optimal development, could be constituted as an act of neglect or abuse.

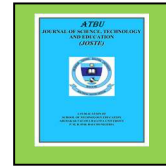
Economic hardship by most parents could be an underpinning condition that led to the causes of child abuse in many African countries. If

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a child's family fails to provide the basic needs including feeding, clothing, school materials, school fees and shelter, the child will have no option but to hawk and survive. The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund [UNICEF] (2015), believed that many Children do not attend school because their labour is needed at home or to bring additional income into the home. This made many families (including the nomads) unable to meet the cost of sending their children to schools; including buying uniforms, textbooks, and transportation, the right for those children to education is invariably denied. Therefore, the rate of child dropout could remain very high. Nigerian Bulletin (2013) posited that more than 79,322 are not in schools in Bauchi State. Despite the effort of the government in providing free education in the State, it faced problems of economic hardship and culture among the people of the State (Adam, 2016).

Therefore, the researcher being from a nomadic community, and has witnessed many forms of child abuse ranging from compulsory shepherding of cattle to lack of parental care and denial of rights such as education, has developed an interest in this research topic. The researcher sought to ascertain the effect of child abuse among nomads to ameliorating the problem for a better future of such nomadic children in the Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi State, Nigeria.

For decades, the problems of child abuse among nomads have long been in existence in Nigeria. It has always been a silent issue that many people could not distinguish between the nomadic culture and the child abuse that nomads' children are exposed to. Nomadic children are at risk of getting exposed to various forms of abuse which include corporal punishments, female genital mutilation (FGM), kidnapping, child marriage and rape. The children are introduced at a very early stage of their life to routines of cattle rearing and movement from place to place. The inability of the people as well as the nomadic communities themselves to establish a clear boundary between culture and child abuse is the motivating factor that nudged the interest of the researcher to carry out this

study. The researcher is interested in ascertaining the prevalence and effect of this problem of child abuse among nomads as a basis for exploring alternative ways to improve their future in the Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi State.

Objectives of the Study

Specifically, the study sought to achieve the following:

To examine the effect of child abuse among nomads in the Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi State.

To identify the factors influencing the effect of child abuse among nomads in the Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi State.

To examine the opinion of the nomads on strategies for addressing child abuse and challenges in the Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi State.

Research Questions

Based on the aforementioned objectives, the following research questions guided the conduct of this study;

1. What is the prevalence rate of child abuse among nomads in the Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi State?
2. What are the factors influencing the prevalence of child abuse among nomads in the Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi State?
3. What are the strategies for addressing child abuse and challenges among nomads in the Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi State?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study used a cross-sectional survey design. This is a process whereby data to enable the researcher to test hypotheses are collected from the population through the use of questionnaires. Under this research design, data relating to the variables were collected to describe the relationship between the variables under study. As mentioned earlier, this research decided to use the questionnaires method while, the population used for this study consists of the students in the senior secondary which stood at

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7,084. The sampling technique also known as the sampling method involves the method adopted to select a sample of predetermined size from the accessible population. In line with this study, simple random sampling was employed so that every member of the organization has an equal chance of being selected as a sample. The sample size of the study is determined with Yamani's (1967) formula. By this formula, the sample size is computed approximately as the sample size constituted approximately 400 respondents. The main instrument that was used for data collection in the study of questionnaire to source the information and responses of the respondents. However, the validity of the instrument was measured with the use of exploratory factor analysis using principal Axis Factoring with the aid of IBM SPSS V. 20. While to test the construct validity, the measurement items for each variable were set in line with the operational definitions. To test the reliability of the

data instrument, Cronbach's Coefficient Alpha (RC) was used to determine the internal consistency for items in the questionnaire. In addition to ensuring the reliability of the instrument, the questionnaire was pre-tested on some respondents. The data for this study were gathered from the primary sources of data collection. The representation of the collected data using table and percentage for testing of the research hypothesis chi-square was used to test whether the obtained frequency is different from significant from expected frequency. The items on the questionnaire were summarized and subsequently computed into percentages.

RESULTS

Research Question One: What is the prevalence rate of child abuse among nomads in the Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi State?

Table 1: Analysis of respondents' opinion on the prevalence rate of child abuse among nomads in Alkaleri local government

S/N	Types of child abuse	Prevalence rate of child abuse										X
		VH		H		M		L		VL		
		Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	
1.	Child Labour	68	17.7	98	25.5	100	26.0	90	23.4	28	7.2	3.22
2.	Physical Abuse	74	19.2	84	21.8	96	25.0	100	26.0	30	7.0	3.70
3.	Child Neglect	100	26.0	69	17.9	82	20.8	99	25.7	34	8.8	3.22
4.	Psychological & Emotional Abuse	80	20.8	77	20.0	59	15.3	74	19.2	94	24.4	2.93
5.	Female Circumcision	60	15.6	75	19.5	80	20.8	129	33.5	40	10.4	2.96
6.	Sex Abuse	110	28.6	80	20.8	114	29.6	50	13.0	30	7.8	3.70
7.	Gender discrimination	60	15.6	70	18.2	120	31.2	80	20.8	50	13.0	2.99

Table 1 presents respondents' opinions on the prevalence rate of child abuse among nomadic residents in Alkaleri local government. There were seven items presented to the respondents and they indicated their opinion. Responding to the first item, 68(17.7%) opined that the prevalence rate of child labour was very high, 98(25.5) indicated it was high, 100(26.0%) opined that it was moderate, 90(23.4%) indicated it was low while 28(7.2%) indicated that child labour was very low among nomadic residents in Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi state.

The overall mean for this item is 3.22 which is above the decision mean of 2.50. This implies that there is a high prevalence rate of child labour among nomadic residents in Alkaleri local government.

The second type of child abuse presented in the table was physical abuse. Here 74(19.2%) believed that the physical abuse rate among nomadic residents in the Alkaleri local government area was very high, 84(21.8%) believed it was high, 96(25.0%) indicated that physical abuse was moderate, 100(26.0%) opined it was low while

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30(7.0%) believed physical abuse of children among the nomadic residents in Alkaleri local government was very low. The overall mean for this item is 3.70 which is above the decision mean of 2.50. This implies that there is a high prevalence rate of physical abuse among nomadic residents in Toro local government.

The next item was child neglect which 100(26.0%) believed was very high among the nomadic residents in Alkaleri local government, 69(17.9%) indicated was high, 82(20.8%) indicated was moderate, 99(25.7%) believed was low while 34(8.8%) believed was very low. The overall mean for this item is 3.22 which is above the decision mean of 2.50. This implies that there is a high prevalence rate of child neglect among nomadic residents in the Alkaleri local government.

Another type of child abuse is psychological and emotional abuse which 80(20.8%) believed was very high among the nomadic residents in Toro local government, 77(20.0%) believed was high, 59(15.3%) indicated was moderate, 74(19.2%) opined was low while

94(24.4%) indicated was very low. The overall mean for this item is 2.93 which is above the decision mean of 2.50. This implies that there is a moderate prevalence rate of psychological & and emotional abuse among nomadic residents in the Alkaleri local government.

The table also sought respondents' opinions on the prevalence rate of female circumcision. Responding to this item, 60(15.6%) believed this form of child abuse was very high among the nomadic residents in Alkaleri local government, 75(19.5%) believed was high, 80(20.8%) indicated was moderate, 129(33.5%) believed was low while 40(10.4%) believed was very low. The overall mean for this item is 2.96 which is above the decision mean of 2.50. This implies that there is a moderate prevalence rate of female circumcision among nomadic residents in the Alkaleri local government.

Research Question Two: What are the factors influencing the prevalence of child abuse among nomads in the Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi State?

Table 2: Analysis of respondents' opinions on the factors influencing the prevalence of child abuse among nomads in Alkaleri local

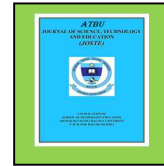
S/N	Factors influencing the prevalence of child abuse	Response								X
		SA		A		D		SD		
		Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	
1.	The high rate of poverty among the nomads contributed to the prevalence of child abuse	162	42.1	152	39.6	39	10.2	31	10.1	3.23
2.	The culture of the nomads is responsible for the prevalence of child abuse.	61	15.8	53	13.8	119	30.9	151	39.3	2.06
3.	The nature of the environment is a causative factor for the prevalence of child abuse in those areas.	51	13.3	49	12.8	107	27.8	177	46.1	1.93
4.	Lack of governmental concern increases the prevalence of child abuse among nomads.	109	28.4	182	47.4	38	9.9	55	14.3	2.89
5.	Low educational levels among the nomads contributed greatly to the prevalence of child abuse.	121	31.5	143	37.2	53	13.8	67	17.4	2.82

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6. Drug abuse and alcoholism among nomads cause child abuse.	86	22.3	63	16.4	176	45.8	59	15.3	2.01
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Table 2 presents respondents' opinions on the factors causing child abuse among nomadic residents in Alkaleri local government. Responding to item 1, 162 (42.1%) of the respondents strongly agreed that the high rate of poverty among the nomads contributed to the prevalence of child abuse, 152 (39.6%) agreed, 39(10.2%) disagreed and 31(10.1%) strongly disagreed with the statement. The overall mean for this item is 3.23 which is above the decision mean of 2.50. This implies that there is general acceptance among the respondents that the high rate of poverty among the nomads contributed to the prevalence of child abuse.

Responding to item 2, 61(15.8%) strongly agreed that the culture of the nomads is responsible for the prevalence of child abuse in the Alkaleri local government, 53(13.8%) agreed, 119(30.9%) disagreed and 151(39.3%) strongly disagreed with the statement. This implies that the majority of the respondents disagreed that the culture of the nomads is responsible for the prevalence of child abuse in Alkaleri local government. The overall mean for this item is 2.06 which is below the decision mean of 2.50. This implies that there is general disagreement among the respondents that the culture of the nomads is responsible for the prevalence of child abuse in Alkaleri local government.

Item 3 on the table showed respondents' opinions on whether or not the nature of the environment in Alkaleri is a causative factor for the prevalence of child abuse in those areas. Responding to this, 51(13.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed, 49(12.8%) agreed, 107(27.8%) disagreed while 177(46.1%) strongly disagreed. The overall mean for this item is 1.93 which is below the decision mean of 2.50. This showed that the majority of the respondents did not see the nature of the environment in Alkaleri local government as a causative factor to the prevalence of child abuse.

The table also presented respondents' opinions as to whether or not low educational

levels among the nomads contributed greatly to the prevalence of child abuse. Here, 121(31.5%) strongly agreed, 143(37.2%) agreed, 53(13.8%) disagreed while 67(17.4%) strongly disagreed with the statement. The overall mean for this item is 2.82 which is above the decision mean of 2.50. This implies that there is general acceptance among the respondents that Low educational levels among the nomads contributed greatly to the prevalence of child abuse.

Finally, the table showed that 86(22.3%) strongly agreed that drug abuse and alcoholism among nomads causes child abuse in Alkaleri local government, 63(16.4%) agreed, 176(45.8%) disagreed while 59(15.3%) strongly disagreed indicating that majority of the respondents disagreed with the statement though a good sum of them believe it is. The overall mean for this item is 2.01 which is below the decision mean of 2.50. This implies that there is general disagreement among the respondents that drug abuse and alcoholism among nomads cause child abuse in Alkaleri local government.

Research Question Three: What are the strategies for addressing child abuse challenges among nomads in the Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi State?

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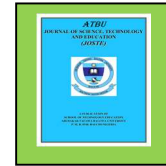


Table 3: Analysis of respondents' opinions on the Strategies for addressing child abuse challenges among nomads in Alkaleri local government

S/N	The Strategies	Response									
		SA		A		D		SD		X	
		Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
1.	Changing attitudes and social norms that encourage child abuse through mobilization and sensitization programmes	84	21.9	82	21.3	110	28.6	108	28.1	2.34	
2.	Providing support services for children by community leaders	165	42.9	99	25.8	70	18.2	50	13.0	2.98	
3.	Implementing laws and policies that protect children	114	29.6	100	26.0	90	23.4	80	20.8	2.64	
4.	Helping children and adolescents manage risks and challenges	115	29.9	119	30.9	110	28.6	40	10.4	2.80	
5.	Providing a supportive family environment	70	18.2	50	13.0	130	33.8	134	31.8	2.14	

Table 3. presents the opinion of respondents on the strategies that are used to address the challenges of child abuse among the nomadic residents in Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi state. Their responses indicated that 84(21.9%) strongly agreed that one of the strategies for addressing child abuse challenges in the area was changing attitudes and social norms that encourage child abuse through mobilization and sensitization programmes, 82(21.3%) agreed, 110(28.6%) disagreed and 108(28.1%) strongly disagreed with the statement. This indicated that the majority of the respondents did not see changing attitudes and social norms that encourage child abuse through mobilization and sensitization programmes as a strategy in use in Alkaleri local government. The overall mean for this item is 2.34 which is below the decision mean of 2.50. This implies that there is general disagreement among the respondents that changing attitudes and social norms that encourage child abuse through mobilization and sensitization programmes is a strategy for addressing the child abuse challenge among nomadic residents in Alkaleri local government.

Responding to the second item, 165(42.9%) strongly agreed that providing support

services for children by community leaders is one of the strategies for addressing the child abuse challenge in Alkaleri local government, 99(25.8%) agreed, 70(18.2%) disagreed while 50(13.0%) strongly disagreed with the statement. This implies that the majority of the respondents believed that this strategy is in use in the study area. The overall mean for this item is 2.98 which is above the decision mean of 2.50. This implies that there is general acceptance among the respondents that providing support services for children by community leaders is a strategy for addressing the child abuse challenge among nomadic residents in Alkaleri local government.

Findings of the Study

The following is the summary of the findings of the study;

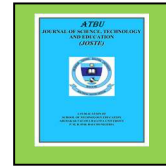
1. The prevalence rate of child abuse among nomads in Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi State was high, especially with regards to sex abuse, child neglect, psychological and emotional abuse, physical abuse and child labour.
2. There are quite several factors influencing the prevalence of child abuse among nomads in the Alkaleri local government area

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- of Bauchi State such as high rate of poverty among the nomads, low educational level among the nomads, lack of governmental concern as well as drug abuse and alcoholism among nomads.
3. There are a lot of negative effects of child abuse among nomads in Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi State especially in the area of depression for the abused, criminal behaviour, poor performance in school and post-traumatic stress disorders.
 4. There are many strategies for addressing child abuse challenges among nomads in the Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi State such as providing support services, implementing laws and policies, helping children and adolescents and changing attitudes and social norms.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The study answered three specific objectives from which the researcher extracted from the research questions. First specific objective of this study was to examine the prevalence rate of child abuse among nomads in the Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi State, second objective was to identify the factors influencing the prevalence of child abuse among nomads in Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi State, third specific objective was to examine the effect of child abuse among nomads in Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi State and the last objective was to examine opinion of the nomads on strategies for addressing child abuse and challenges in Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi State.

The findings of the study indicated that different types of child abuse occur among nomadic residents in the Alkaleri local government area at varying rates. The most pronounced ones were sex abuse, child neglect, psychological and emotional abuse, physical abuse and child labour. Analysis of respondents' responses indicated that all of the identified types of child abuse occur at varying rates. This finding was in line with Mikaeili, Brahmnd and Abdi (2012) who reported that emotional abuse appears to be most prevalent (52.09%) followed by emotional neglect (9.09%),

physical neglect (3.42%), and physical abuse (3.1%). On the whole, 14.85% of the participants were subject to extreme abuse. The finding showed that emotional abuse is more prevalent than physical abuse is not consistent with USDHHS reports (2003), while it conforms to the findings reported in Creighton (2004). A likely reason for this discrepancy is that the USDHHS reports data for official reports of abuse, while the current study presents data based on self-reports. In a recent study, Euser, van IJzendoorn, Prinzie, & Bakermans-Kranenburg (2010), reported neglect as the most prevalent type of child abuse (56% of all cases) and sexual abuse as the least (4%), and these authors pointed to very low parental education and unemployment as the major risk factors. These findings contrast with those of the present study. Apart from sample and methodological differences, socio-cultural factors may have contributed to this difference. As noted by Zhai and Gao (2009) regarding Asian American families, family harmony and reputation, and indulgence to children is emphasized in Iranian culture too.

Therefore, the finding of low rates of neglect is reasonable. Another possibility is that admitting to the use of emotional forms of disciplinary measures may be less embarrassing and may have prohibited the disclosure of other forms of maltreatment such as physical abuse or neglect. A third possible explanation for the high rates of emotional abuse reported by the present study might be indicative of the very general and inclusive operational definition of emotional abuse used in this study, which assessed nearly ubiquitous emotionally aggressive parenting acts such as yelling and calling the child stupid or lazy as instances of emotional abuse, thereby classifying the majority of children as having experienced emotional abuse. Whether the low rate of physical abuse revealed in this study reflects changing public attitudes regarding physical punishment is not known.

The study also revealed that there are quite some factors influencing the prevalence of child abuse among nomads in the Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi State such as high rate of poverty among the nomads, low

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educational level among the nomads, lack of governmental concern as well as drug abuse and alcoholism among nomads. This finding agreed with Faustina (2020) who found that there are different contributing factors for the increase of child abuse among street children, results show that family break-down was the main contributing factor, followed by poverty and others were death of parents, lack of parental skills, enforcement of laws and policies. It also concurred with Nyoni (2007) who found that the major factors that contribute to street children include: divorce, orphanage, poverty and large family size. Kopoka (2000) support these findings that the family as an institution is going through a lot of upheavals. Fewer children have stable and loving family environments. Many families have broken up with children left to fend for themselves; many families are increasingly characterized by absent parents, alcoholism and domestic violence.

In the same vein, the findings of Okeke, Anyachebelu, ANyamene and Adebola (2014) showed that the teachers perceived causes of child maltreatment are parental personality problems, poverty, alcohol intake by parents, and behavioral problems of the child, among others. The findings corroborate with Nweke's findings (2002) whose results showed that the problems of child maltreatment affect all spheres of his/her which include academic performance. This finding also agrees with Latimar (2003) and Goldman et al (2003). They state that parents' personality characteristics, substance abuse, attitude and knowledge of parents, problems in the family, poverty and child personality and community characteristics are interactive, leading to child maltreatment.

The finding was in line with the views of Theoklitou, Kabitsis & Kabitsi (2012). They consider physical abuse as the deliberate infliction of serious injuries or actions that place the child at obvious risk of serious injury or death, to be illegal – bruises, scratches, burns, broken bones, lacerations, as well as reported "mishaps" and rough treatment that could cause physical injury. It could also affect the child's academic performance and interest. Isangedighi (2005) also pointed out that child physical abuse is a global

phenomenon, in the United States of America (USA) for instance, about 14% of children are physically abused yearly and out of those who are abused an estimated 20,000 die as a result of the abuse.

An average of 1,000 to 5,000 children die each year in the USA as a result of injuries arising from maltreatment. Similarly, a long-term study of adults retrospectively reporting adverse childhood experiences including verbal, physical and sexual abuse, as well as other forms of childhood trauma found 25.9% of adults reported verbal abuse as children, 14.8% of adults reported physical abuse, 12.2% of adults reported sexual abuse (Data from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention - CDC). Hence, child physical abuse may result in improper education of the child, loss of opportunities in life, poor performance in school and eventual dropping out of school.

The study also revealed that there are a lot of negative effects of child abuse among nomads in Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi State especially in the area of depression for the abused, criminal behaviour, poor performance in school and post-traumatic stress disorders. These findings are similar to different studies where abused individuals have been found to have increased use of alcohol and some of them end up with alcohol addiction in adulthood. Simantov et al showed the association between Child Physical Abuse and alcohol and tobacco use among the victims of child abuse. Related research indicated an association between neglect and health problems in children and adolescents (Flalorty, et al., 2006, 2009).

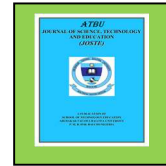
A study by Hussey, Chang and Kotch (2006) found that all types of neglect were associated with 8 of 10 adolescent health risks and that trauma caused by experiences of child neglect can have serious effects on the developing brain, increasing the risk of psychological problems. There is a strong relationship between child neglect and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), learning difficulties, poor academic achievement, and behaviour problems in childhood and adolescence. Maltreated children manifest psychiatric illnesses such as anxiety disorders and

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sleep disorders (Fergusson, et al, 1996; Wolfe, 1999; Trowell et al, 1999; Schore, 2002; Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2014). Complex trauma affects the developing brain and will interfere with a child's capacity to integrate sensory, emotional and cognitive responses to subsequent stress.

Abuse and neglect in the early years of life can seriously affect the developmental capacities of infants, especially in the critical areas of speech and language (Wolfe, 2009). Research has indicated that neglected children perform less well on standard tests and achieve poorer school marks, even when socio-economic status and other background factors are taken into account (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2011, 2014). Hildyard & Wolfe, (2002), found an association between abuse and neglect with internalising behaviours (being withdrawn, sad, isolated and depressed) and externalising behaviours (being aggressive or hyper-active) throughout childhood as well as difficulty in making friends. Neglected children also are at risk for repeating the neglected behaviour with their children. Suicidal thoughts occur most during adolescence (Blum & Nelson-Mmari, 2004). Eating disorders including anorexia and binge-purge behaviour (bulimia), may also be associated with child abuse and neglect.

Finally, the study revealed that some strategies were put in place to address child abuse challenges among the nomadic residents in the Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi state. These strategies include providing support services, implementing laws and policies, helping children and adolescents and changing attitudes and social norms. According to Goldman (2003), these are strategies that may protect the child from vulnerability.

These strategies fail under the following types-preventive strategies, protective, supportive and others which exist at individual, relational and community levels. Preventive strategies should focus on these protective factors such as a supportive family environment, nurturing of parental skills, stable family relationships, parental employment, access to healthcare and social services, community support for parents against child abuse and caring adults outside the family

who can serve as role models or mentors to eliminate the incidence of child maltreatment. Various forms of child maltreatment have been observed in Nigeria that affect the child's academic performance and which presumably make them to be academically backward when compared with their counterparts from other developed countries like Britain, America and others. This study therefore sets out to investigate the causes, forms and strategies for curbing child maltreatment as perceived by primary school teachers.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusion is drawn;

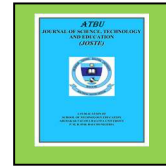
1. The study concluded that there is a high rate of child abuse among the nomadic residents in the Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi state, caused by several factors and has several negative effects on the abused children but can be addressed through mobilization and sensitization, implementing of laws and policies and providing support services.
2. The study indicated that different types of child abuse occur among nomadic residents in Alkaleri local government area at varying rates. The most pronounced ones were sex abuse, child neglect, psychological and emotional abuse, physical abuse and child labour. Analysis of respondents' responses indicated that all of the identified types of child abuse occur at varying rates. This finding is in line with Mikaeili, Brahmnd and Abdi (2012) who reported that emotional abuse appears to be most prevalent (52.09%) followed by emotional neglect (9.09%), physical neglect (3.42%), and physical abuse (3.1%). On the whole, 14.85% of the participants were subject to extreme abuse. The finding showed that emotional abuse is more prevalent than physical abuse is not consistent with USDHHS reports (2003), while it conforms to the findings reported in Creighton (2004). A likely reason for this discrepancy is that the USDHHS reports data for official reports of abuse, while the current study presents data

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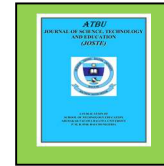
- based on self-reports. In a recent study, Euser, van IJzendoorn, Prinzie, & Bakermans-Kranenburg (2010), reported neglect as the most prevalent type of child abuse (56% of all cases) and sexual abuse as the least (4%), and these authors pointed to very low parental education and unemployment as the major risk factors. These findings contrast with those of the present study. Apart from sample and methodological differences, socio-cultural factors may have contributed to this difference. As noted by Zhai and Gao (2009) regarding Asian American families, family harmony and reputation, and indulgence to children are emphasized in Iranian culture too.
3. Therefore, the study concludes that low rates of neglect are reasonable. Another possibility is that admitting to the use of emotional forms of disciplinary measures may be less embarrassing and may have prohibited the disclosure of other forms of maltreatment such as physical abuse or neglect. A third possible explanation for the high rates of emotional abuse reported by the present study might be indicative of the very general and inclusive operational definition of emotional abuse used in this study, which assessed nearly ubiquitous emotionally aggressive parenting acts such as yelling and calling the child stupid or lazy as instances of emotional abuse, thereby classifying the majority of children as having experienced emotional abuse. Whether the low rate of physical abuse revealed in this study reflects changing public attitudes regarding physical punishment is not known.
 4. The study also revealed that there are quite several factors influencing the prevalence of child abuse among nomads in the Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi State such as high rate of poverty among the nomads, low educational level among the nomads, lack of governmental concern as well as drug abuse and alcoholism among nomads. This study found that there are different contributing factors for the increase of child abuse among street children, results show that family breakdown was the main contributing factor, followed by poverty and others were the death of parents, lack of parental skills, and enforcement of laws and policies. The study also found that the major factors that contribute to street children include: divorce, orphanage, poverty and large family size. The study supports these findings that the family as an institution is going through a lot of upheavals. Fewer children have stable and loving family environments. Many families have broken up with children left to fend for themselves; many families are increasingly characterized by absent parents, alcoholism and domestic violence.
 5. The study showed that the teachers perceived causes of child maltreatment are parental personality problems, poverty, alcohol intake by parents, and behavioral problems of the child, among others. The study showed that the problems of child maltreatment affect all spheres of his/her which include academic performance. They state that parents' personality characteristics, substance abuse, attitude and knowledge of parents, problems in the family, poverty and child personality and community characteristics are interactive, leading to child maltreatment.
 6. The study considers physical abuse as the deliberate infliction of serious injuries or actions that place the child at obvious risk of serious injury or death, to be illegal – bruises, scratches, burns, broken bones, lacerations, as well as reported "mishaps and rough treatment that could cause physical injury. It could also affect the child's academic performance and interest. Isangedighi (2005) also pointed out that child physical abuse is a global phenomenon, in the United States of America (USA) for instance, about 14% of children are physically abused yearly and out of those who are abused an estimated 20,000 die as a result of the abuse.
 7. Similarly, the study retrospectively reporting adverse childhood experiences including verbal, physical and sexual abuse, as well as other forms of childhood trauma found 25.9% of adults reported verbal abuse as children, 14.8% of adults reported physical abuse,

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- 12.2% of adults reported sexual abuse (Data from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention - CDC). Hence, child physical abuse may result in improper education of the child, loss of opportunities in life, poor performance in school and eventual dropping out of school.
8. The study also revealed that there are a lot of negative effects of child abuse among nomads in the Toro local government area of Bauchi State especially in the area of depression for the abused, criminal behaviour, poor performance in school and post-traumatic stress disorders. These findings are similar to different studies where abused individuals have been found to have increased use of alcohol and some of them end up with alcohol addiction in adulthood. Simantov et al showed the association between Child Physical Abuse and alcohol and tobacco use among the victims of child abuse. Related research indicated an association between neglect and health problems in children and adolescents. It found that all types of neglect were associated with 8 of 10 adolescent health risks and that trauma caused by experiences of child neglect can have serious effects on the developing brain, increasing the risk of psychological problems. There is a strong relationship between child neglect and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), learning difficulties, poor academic achievement, and behaviour problems in childhood and adolescence. Maltreated children manifest psychiatric illnesses such as anxiety disorders and sleep disorders. Complex trauma affects the developing brain and will interfere with a child's capacity to integrate sensory, emotional and cognitive responses to subsequent stress.
 9. The study has indicated that neglected children perform less well on standard tests and achieve poorer school marks, even when socio-economic status and other background factors are taken into account. It found an association between abuse and neglect with internalising behaviours (being withdrawn, sad, isolated and depressed) and

- externalising behaviours (being aggressive or hyper-active) throughout childhood as well as difficulty in making friends. Neglected children also are at risk of repeating the neglected behaviour with their children. Suicidal thoughts occur most during adolescence. Eating disorders including anorexia and binge-purge behaviour (bulimia), may also be associated with child abuse and neglect.
10. Finally, the study revealed that some strategies were put in place to address child abuse challenges among the nomadic residents in the Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi state. These strategies include providing support services, implementing laws and policies, helping children and adolescents and changing attitudes and social norms. According to Goldman (2003), these are strategies that may protect the child from vulnerability.

RECOMMENDATIONS

From the foregoing factors mentioned in the findings of this study, it is recommended that:

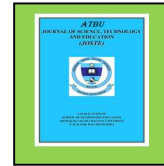
1. Government and non-governmental organizations should intensify efforts and provide support and implement laws to curtail the prevalence rate of child abuse among nomads in the Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi State.
2. Government and non-governmental organizations as well as community leaders should provide an opportunity that will help parents overcome poverty and acquire some level of education and skills since they were found to be the factors causing the menace.
3. The government should provide support to overcome the negative effects of child abuse among nomads in the Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi State especially in the area of depression for the abused, criminal behaviour, poor performance in school and post-traumatic stress disorders.
4. There are several strategies for addressing child abuse challenges among nomads in the Alkaleri local government area of Bauchi State government should exploit them and

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ensure their implementation in the study area as well as other parts of the state.

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