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Effects of Child Abuse on Academic Performance of Primary School Pupils in Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Several factors contributing to the low standard of education in Nigeria where child abuse identified to be an important factor. The study, therefore, investigates the effect of child abuse on the academic performance of primary school pupils in the Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria. The population of the study comprised all primary school pupils and their teachers in the study area. The descriptive research design of survey type employed for the study. A multi-stage sampling technique was used to select ten public primary schools out of fifty seven public primary schools in the study area. Nine hundred and forty-six (946) respondents selected for the study. Researchers developed a questionnaire validated by three experts from the related field was used as an instrument for the study. The findings revealed that child abuse has a significant effect on pupils participation in the class and also had a significant effect on pupils assessment in the Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria. The researchers' recommends among others that the government should carry out an enlightenment campaign through mass media for parents and guardians on the consequences of child abuse on the educational achievement of primary school pupils to improve their participation in classes as well as improve their assessment grades in test and examination.

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INTRODUCTION

Globally, childhood is regarded as a period of sensitivity requiring special attention, care and protection. In the traditional African context, children were not allowed to listen to adults' conversations let alone, make comment or contributions. The problem of child abuse has long been existing in Nigeria and has even become more even devastating to the society as a whole (Life learners, 2018). Child abuse (also referred to as child maltreatment) encompasses all methods physical, sexual or emotional harsh treatment, or any form of neglect that causes actual or prospective harm to the child's health, development, or self-worth (Al Odhayani et al., 2013). Child abuse is one of the most challenging social catastrophes attracting public attention the world over (Alokan and Olatunji, 2014). (Augustin and Abubaker, 2016) lamented that there is no safe place for children anymore because child abuse is rampant everywhere. (Ada and Anake, 2015) opined that child abuse is an act of inflicting serious, physical injury and emotional torture on a child or person, which is intentional or unintentional and could endanger the physical, health, emotional, social, moral and educational wellness of the child. The contributing factor of child abuse can be identified as poverty and ignorance on the part of the parents or guardians and others.

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