

# **PREVALENCE AND EFFECTS OF CHILD ABUSE AMONG NOMADS IN TORO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF BAUCHI STATE**

**BY**

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## **Abstract**

This study investigated the prevalence and effects of child abuse among nomads in Toro local government area of Bauchi state, Nigeria. The objectives of the study were: to examine the prevalence rate of child abuse among nomads in Toro local government area of Bauchi State; to identify the factors influencing the prevalence of child abuse among nomads in Toro local government area of Bauchi State; to examine the effect of child abuse among nomads in Toro local government area of Bauchi State; and to examine opinion of the nomads on strategies for addressing child abuse and challenges in Toro local government area of Bauchi State. Four research questions guided the study. The study was premised on one unique theory as its theoretical framework. This is: Behavioural theory propounded by John in 1913. The study adopted the descriptive survey design. The study population were adult residents in Toro local government area of Bauchi State. Specifically, the number that constituted the population of the study was 254,659. The study had a sample of three hundred and eighty-four (384) respondents served as the sample size for the study. The instrument used for data collection was a questionnaire with reliability index of 0.76 on Likert Scale. Data collected were analysed using frequency counts and percentage. The findings of the study were among others that the prevalence rate of child abuse among nomads in Toro 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. Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that there is high rate of child abuse among the nomadic residents in Toro local government area of Bauchi state caused by a number of factors and having several negative effects on the abused children but can be addressed through mobilization and sensitization, implementing of laws and policies and providing support services. The study recommended among others that Government and non-governmental organizations should intensify efforts and providing supports and implementing laws to curtail the prevalence rate of child abuse among nomads in Toro local government area of Bauchi State.

**Keywords:** Prevalence, Effects, Child Abuse, Nomads, Toro Local Government Area

## **INTRODUCTION**

Prevalence of child abuse is a global concern. In many instance, the causes and effect observed to have been shadily neglected by the care givers or parents. Most issues of child abuse is seems 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 including Nigeria. Countries attempt to create their perspectives and perception 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 individual differences are uniqueness, is 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. Obviously, these could be seen as parts of the legal values rooted in the humanistic philosophy of any nation's declaration of independence in particular Nigeria. It is in line with these values that any act of commission by individuals, institutions or the society as a whole, and any conditions which deprive children of equal rights and liberties or interfere with the child optimal development, could be constituted as an act of neglect or abuse.

Economic hardship by most parents in various families could be an underpinning condition that led to the causes of child abuse in many African countries. If child's family failed to provide the basic needs that include the feeding, clothing, school materials, school fees and shelter, the child will have no option than to hawk and survive. The United Nations International Children 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) are unable to meet the cost of sending their children to schools; including buying uniforms, text books and transportation. The right for those children to education is invariably denied. Therefore, the rate of child drop out could possibly 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 basic education in the State, it faced problems of economic hardship, lack of government augmented effort and culture among the people of the State (Adam, 2016).

Prevalence of child abuse is a global problem which have attracted the attention of various researchers, governmental and non-governmental organizations over the years. Child abuse is a social problem which varies from family to family in different cultures and societies, child abuse manifest in different dimension. The situation in nomadic communities is underestimated by poverty, malnutrition, child labour, rural and urban migration, ignorance and lack of education, lack of financial support and maintenance of children.

Bauchi state is characterized by urban and rural areas. The main population of Bauchi people are nomads particularly Toro local government area. Children are fully integrated to cattle routine and movement from place to place, nomadic children are given out by parents as domestic servants and their education is being neglected, many children are taking to street for trading or hawking, of which some have become Almajere, child prostitution, and child trafficking are also prevalent. Children at tender age of 13 years were force to marry sixty years old (60) man who can be their grandfather.

In Nigeria, child abuse remains a major social problem that requires urgent attention. The incidence of child abuse among nomads is becoming alarming in the country and government effort towards combating the social illness have yielded no result. Particularly, parents in Toro local government area gave out their daughters for marriages as early as nine years old. These can lead to adverse effects on the safety, health and moral development of the children.

Child abuse among nomadic children is a significant contemporary community problem. Although nomadic children have been maltreated throughout the history, our community has been silent in defense of abused children. Nomadic children have been subjected to innumerable tasks and many forms of abuse including the physical, emotional, psychological and sexual abuses. The problem of underage labour can also be seeing as prevalence among the nomadic children. The physical abuse denote as willful physical injury inflicted upon the child (Anusiem, 2015). It was also asserted that, it can take the form of shaking, kicking, burning, starving the child and any act that is harmful to the child's body. Emotional/Verbal abuse as injury of psychological self which may be as a result of parental hostility in form of continuous terrorizing, rejection, insult, criticism or in form of humiliation. Sexual abuse which is not largely reported by children may be due to threats, rape, incest, sexual assaults and violation while incest is the most secretive, and discovery is accidental (Anusiem, 2015).

Nomadic children have been denied schooling, engaged in early marriage and experienced excessive hardship to some extends in some communities without thoroughly investigation and any legal actions. In Bauchi State, Toro is one of the communities that have Fulani tribes living

predominantly. In the space, there are Fulani that have settled fully in one place over years and there are Fulani communities that still travel around within or far by distance as pastoralists in Toro local government area. Although, there are communities that settled down in one place for several decades, yet their children are nomads. They usually turned back to the community alone after they havetaking away their animals for grazing. These particular children were at the risk of getting exposed to various forms of child abuses which include among others corporal punishments, female genital mutilation (FGM), kidnapping, early child marriage, and child prostitution. As observed by Agbor (2017), nomadic children are introduced at very early stage of life to routines of cattle rearing and movement from place to place. Quite often they travel long distance in harsh climate and environment exposed to various form of risks such as attack by wild animals, robbers, kidnappers, raiders and rape among other (Toni, 2016).

Therefore, the researcher having being from the nomadic community, and have witnessed many forms of child abuse ranging from compulsory shepherding of cattle to lack of parental care and denial of rights such as basic education, that has made the researcher to developed interest on the research topic. The researcher sought to ascertain prevalence and effect of child abuse among nomads with a view to ameliorate the problem for better future of such nomadic children in Toro local government area of Bauchi State, Nigeria.

Historical accounts suggest that child abuse has been in practice for long as records show, however it seems to have increased in frequency even though there is no clear data on Nigeria. The recent estimates by the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), as cited inKempe (2017) which gave the estimate of 40,000 cases per annum in the USA; A Lancet editorial (2013) suggests 2000 cases per annum in UK. In African and Nigeria in particular it is difficult to estimate the incidences of child abuse and neglect because of the ethno-cultural differences and other intricacies.

Moreover, the right of children has always been at the forefront of the global conventions. This is also in stripe of the United Nations (UN) which held Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) to maximize their protection. The convention was observed to have seeks to provide a common definitional understanding of child abuse and organized a consistent framework for protecting children around the world regardless of tribe, sex, religion, social origin, or country of residence. The causes and effects of child abuse cut-across different categories of children. There are child abuses with effects on gender, tribe, tradition, culture or social statues. In this situation, the effect on child abuse in the context of tribal and social statues can be explicit on nomads living in search for a livelihood.

In Nigeria, child abuse appears in different ways. Children seem to have sufferedfrom various forms of abuse. This does not refute nomadic children who continue to have negative effect on their future that can eventually destroys the image of the country in many ways. Many laws and policies were put into place with the purpose of protecting children including nomads from abuse. However, they appeared not to have been effective for some reasons that may include poor law enforcement mechanisms, poverty and illiteracy among parents, corruption, lack of effective rehabilitation for offenders, negative attitude of parents, and inefficient judicial processes.

For over decades and to date, 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. For this reason, nomadic children are at the risk of getting exposed to various forms of abuses which include corporal punishments, female genital mutilation (FGM), kidnapping, child early marriage and rape. The nomadic children are introduced at very early stage of their life to routines of cattle rearing and movement from place to place. 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 study examined the prevalence and effect of child abuse among nomadsin Toro local government area of Bauchi State.

Nomadic children have been subjected to innumerable tasks and many forms of abuse including the physical, emotional, psychological and sexual abuses. The problem of underage labour can also be seeing as prevalence among the nomadic children. The physical abuse denote as willful physical injury inflicted upon the child (Anusiem, 2015). It was also asserted that, it can take the form

of shaking, kicking, burning, starving the child and any act that is harmful to the child's body. Emotional/Verbal abuse as injury of psychological self which may be as a result of parental hostility in form of continuous terrorizing, rejection, insult, criticism or in form of humiliation. Sexual abuse which is not largely reported by children may be due to threats, rape, incest, sexual assaults and violation while incest is the most secretive, and discovery is accidental (Anusiem, 2015).

Nomadic children have been denied schooling, engaged in early marriage and experienced excessive hardship to some extent in some communities around Toro local government area without thorough investigation and any legal actions. Toro local government area is one of the communities that have Fulani tribes living predominantly. In the space, there are Fulani that have settled fully in one place over years and there are Fulani communities that still travel around within or far by distance as pastoralists in Toro local government area. Although, there are communities that settled down in one place for several decades, yet their children were being abused. Hence, this study covered this existing literature gap following a descriptive survey method that examined prevalence and effects of child abuse among nomads in Toro local government area of Bauchi State.

### **Objective of the Study**

The study sought to achieve the following objectives;

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

### **METHODOLOGY**

The design used in this study was descriptive survey design. A descriptive survey design, describes a given state of affairs at a particular time (Olayiwola 2007). This research design permits the gathering of information through the use of questionnaires and / or interviews from a population based on appropriate sampling techniques. Survey design is relevant to this study because it is useful in describing the characteristics of large and diverse population of prevalence and effect of child abuse among nomads in Toro local government area of Bauchi state. It is also well suited in gathering demographic data that describe the composition of the child abuse among nomads in the study area. The population for the study consists of all adult residents as well as the traditional title holders in Toro local government area of Bauchi state. Based on the figures obtained from the national population commission Bauchi state office, the population of the people living in those areas is 254,659. It is from this population that the researcher constituted the sample for the study.

The sample size of this study was based on Krejcie and Morgan (1970), using this procedure, a total

of 384 was selected from the total population of the study. A sample of 384 comprising of 148 Traditional Title Holders, 129 Adult Residents and 107 adult residents of the nomadic communities were used for the study based on Krejcie and Morgan (1970) table for sample size determination. The study adopted the use of proportionate random sampling technique to draw the sample of the study. This is because the numbers of individuals residing in these districts were not equal. The instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire developed by the researcher titled Child Abuse Prevalence and Effects Among Nomads Questionnaire (CAPAENANQ). Specifically, the instrument used for this study is close ended questions and a four (4) likert scale question. Multiple choice questions allow the respondents to select one or more from the list of answers provided. Likert Scale Question provided respondents with options like “agree, Disagree, strongly agree and strongly disagree” to gauge respondents' opinions and feelings. To determine internal content validity, the instrument was given to three experts, two in the department of Adult and Community Development, Faculty of Education, Bayero University, Kano and one in measurement and evaluation in the faculty of education, Bayero University, Kano, for possible adjustment on the content of the questionnaire and the nature of the questions asked in order to ensure its internal consistency. Their criticism, corrections and suggestions were incorporated into the final draft of the questionnaire. To test for the reliability of the instrument (questionnaire), test-retest was used. The data collected with questionnaires was organized according to the research questions coded and analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Soft-Ware Version 20.0. Descriptive statistics of frequency tables, percentages were used in answering the research questions. Similarly, in terms of percentage and mean, any score above 2.50 is regarded as high/accepted and any score below it is considered low/not accepted.

## RESULTS

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

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

| Types of child abuse               | Prevalence rate of child abuse |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--|
|                                    | VH                             |      | H    |      | M    |      | L    |      | VL   |      | X    |  |
|                                    | 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 |  |

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Table 1 presented respondents' opinion on the prevalence rate of child abuse among nomadic residents in Toro local government. There were seven items presented to the respondents which 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 Toro 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 high prevalence rate of child labour among nomadic residents in Toro local government.

The second type of child abuse presented in the table was physical abuse. Here 74(19.2%) were of the opinion that physical abuse rate among nomadic residents in Toro 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 30(7.0%) believed physical abuse of children among the nomadic residents in Toro 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 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 Toro 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 high prevalence rate of child neglect among nomadic residents in Toro 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 moderate prevalence rate of psychological & emotional abuse among nomadic residents in Toro local government.

The table also sought respondents' opinion 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 Toro 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 moderate prevalence rate of female circumcision among nomadic residents in Toro local government.

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

**Table 2:** Analysis of respondents' opinion on the factors influencing the prevalence of child abuse among nomads in Toro local

| S/N | Factors influencing the prevalence of child abuse                                                             | Response |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--|
|     |                                                                                                               | SA       |      | A    |      | D    |      | SD   |      | X    |  |
|     |                                                                                                               | Freq     | %    | Freq | %    | Freq | %    | Freq | %    |      |  |
| 1.  | 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 in Toro local government.          | 61       | 15.8 | 53   | 13.8 | 119  | 30.9 | 151  | 39.3 | 2.06 |  |
| 3.  | The nature of the environment in Toro 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 increase prevalence of child abuse among nomads.                                 | 109      | 28.4 | 182  | 47.4 | 38   | 9.9  | 55   | 14.3 | 2.89 |  |
| 5.  | Low educational level 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 |  |
| 6.  | Drug abuse and alcoholism among nomads causes child abuse in Toro local government.                           | 86       | 22.3 | 63   | 16.4 | 176  | 45.8 | 59   | 15.3 | 2.01 |  |

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Table2 presents respondents' opinion on the factors causing child abuse among nomadic residents in Toro local government. Responding to item 1, 162 (42.1%) of the respondents strongly agreed that 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 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 Toro local government, 53(13.8%) agreed, 119(30.9%) disagreed and 151(39.3%) strongly disagreed with the statement. This implies that majority of the respondents disagreed that the culture of the nomads is responsible for the prevalence of child abuse in Toro 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 Toro local government.

Item 3 on the table showed respondents' opinion on whether or not the nature of the environment in Toro 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 majority of the respondents did not see the nature of the environment in Toro local government as a causative factor to the prevalence of child abuse.

The table also presented respondents' opinion as to whether or not low educational level 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 level 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 Toro 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 causes child abuse in Toro local government.

**Research Question Three:** What is the effect of child abuse among nomads in Toro local government area of Bauchi State?

**Table 3:** Analysis of respondents' opinion on the effect of child abuse among nomads in Toro local government

| S/N | Effects of child abuse                 | Response |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |
|-----|----------------------------------------|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--|
|     |                                        | SA       |      | A    |      | D    |      | SD   |      | X    |  |
|     |                                        | Freq     | %    | Freq | %    | Freq | %    | Freq | %    |      |  |
| 1.  | Physical Injuries to children          | 84       | 21.9 | 82   | 21.3 | 110  | 28.6 | 108  | 28.1 | 2.36 |  |
| 2.  | Depression for the abused              | 165      | 42.9 | 99   | 25.8 | 60   | 15.6 | 60   | 15.6 | 3.11 |  |
| 3.  | Poor performance in school             | 114      | 29.6 | 100  | 26.0 | 90   | 23.4 | 80   | 20.8 | 2.64 |  |
| 4.  | Criminal behaviour                     | 115      | 29.9 | 119  | 30.9 | 110  | 28.6 | 40   | 10.4 | 2.80 |  |
| 5.  | Drug and alcohol problem by the abused | 70       | 18.2 | 50   | 13.0 | 130  | 33.8 | 134  | 31.8 | 2.14 |  |
| 6.  | Post-traumatic stress disorder         | 119      | 30.9 | 151  | 39.3 | 61   | 15.8 | 53   | 13.8 | 2.87 |  |
| 7.  | Death as a result of abuse             | 55       | 14.3 | 38   | 9.9  | 109  | 28.4 | 182  | 47.4 | 1.91 |  |

Table 3 presented respondents' opinion on the effects of child abuse among nomads in Toro local government. Seven types of negative effects were identified and respondents indicated their opinions on each of them. The first negative effect identified was physical injuries to children. Their opinion indicated that 84(21.9%) strongly agreed that child abuse among nomadic residents in the study area results to physical injuries, 82(21.3%) agreed, 110(28.6%) disagreed, 108(28.1%) strongly disagreed. The overall mean for this item is 2.36 which is below the decision mean of 2.50. This implies that there is general disagreement among the respondents that child abuse result to physical

injuries among the nomadic residents in Toro local government.

The next item on the table was depression for the abused as an effect of child abuse. Here, 165(42.9%) strongly agreed that depression for the abused is an effect of child abuse, 79(20.5%) agreed, 99(25.8%) disagreed, 60(16.5%) disagreed and strongly disagreed. This showed that majority of the respondents viewed depression for the abused as an effect of child abuse among nomadic residents in Toro local government. The overall mean for this item is 3.11 which is above the decision mean of 2.50. This implies that there is general acceptance among the respondents that child abuse result to depression for the abused among the nomadic residents in Toro local government.

The table also showed that 114(29.6%) of the respondents strongly agreed that poor performance in school is one of the effects of child abuse among nomadic residents in Toro local government, 100(26.0%) agreed, 90(23.4%) disagreed and 80(20.8%) strongly disagreed. The overall mean for this item is 2.64 which is above the decision mean of 2.50. This implies that there is general acceptance among the respondents that child abuse result to poor performance in school among the nomadic residents in Toro local government.

The next effect of child abuse presented to the respondents for their opinion was criminal behaviour among the abused children. Responding to this, 115(29.9%) of the respondents strongly agreed that child abuse results to criminal behaviour, 119(30.9%) agreed, 110(28.6%) disagreed and 40(10.4%) strongly disagreed. The overall mean for this item is 2.80 which is above the decision mean of 2.50. This implies that there is general acceptance among the respondents that child abuse result to criminal behaviour among the nomadic residents in Toro local government.

Responding to whether or not child abuse result to drug and alcohol problem by the abused, 70(18.2%) strongly agreed, 50(13.0%) agreed, 130(33.8%) disagreed and 134(31.8%) strongly disagreed that child abuse result to drug and alcohol problems by the abused. This implies that majority of the respondents disagreed with the statement. The overall mean for this item is 2.14 which is below the decision mean of 2.50. This implies that there is general disagreement among the respondents that child abuse result drug and alcohol problems by the abused among the nomadic residents in Toro local government.

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

**Table 4:** Analysis of respondents' opinion on the Strategies for addressing child abuse challenges among nomads in Toro local government

| S/N | Strategies for                                                                                                   | 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 supportive family environment                                                                          | 70       | 18.2 | 50   | 13.0 | 130  | 33.8 | 134  | 31.8 | 2.14 |  |

### Field work 2023

Table 4.presents the opinion on respondents on the strategies that are used to address the challenges of child abuse among the nomadic residents in Toro 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 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 Toro 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 child abuse challenge among nomadic residents in Toro 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 child abuse challenge in Toro local government, 99(25.8%) agreed, 70(18.2%) disagreed while 50(13.0%) strongly disagreed with the statement. This implies that majority of the respondents were of the opinion 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 child abuse challenge among nomadic residents in Toro local government.

### **Findings of the Study**

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

1. The prevalence rate of child abuse among nomads in Toro 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 a number of factors influencing the prevalence of child abuse among nomads in Toro 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.
3. There are a lot of negative effects of child abuse among nomads in 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.
4. There are a number of strategies for addressing child abuse challenges among nomads in Toro 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 four 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 Toro local government area of Bauchi State, second objective was to identify the factors influencing the prevalence of child abuse among nomads in Toro local government area of Bauchi State, third specific objective was to examine the effect of child abuse among nomads in Toro 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 Toro local government area of Bauchi State.

The findings of the study indicated that different types of child abuses occur among nomadic residents in Toro 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 abuses occur at varying rates. This finding is in line with Mikaeili, Brahmand 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 reflect changing public attitudes regarding physical punishment is not known.

The study also revealed that there are quite a number of factors influencing the prevalence of child abuse among nomads in Toro 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 finding agrees with Faustina (2020) who found that there are different contributing factors for the increase of child abuses to street children, results shows 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, 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 the 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 family, poverty and child personality and community characteristics are interactive, leading to child maltreatment.

The finding was in line with the views of The oklitou, 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 academic performance and interest. Isangedighi (2005) also pointed out that child physical abuse is a global phenomenon, in 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 USA as a result of injuries arising from maltreatment. Similarly, in a long term study of adult retrospectively reporting adverse childhood experiences including verbal, physical and sexual abuse, as well as other forms of childhood trauma found 25.9% adults reported verbal abuse as children, 14.8% of adults report 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 to 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 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 (Flalorty, et al., 2006, 2009). A study by Hussey, Chang & Kotch (2006) found that all types of neglect were associated with 8 of 10 adolescent health risk 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, behaviour problems in childhood and adolescent. Maltreated children manifest psychiatric illnesses such as anxiety disorders and 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 child's capacity to integrate to 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 own 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 Toro 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 level. Preventive strategies should focus on these protective factors such as 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 family who can serve as role models or mentors in order 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 makes 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 was concluded that there is high rate of child abuse among the nomadic residents in Toro local government area of Bauchi state, caused by a number of factors and having 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 abuses occur among nomadic residents in Toro 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 abuses occur at varying rates. This finding is in line with Mikaeili, Brahmand 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.

3. Therefore, the study conclude that 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 reflect changing public attitudes regarding physical punishment is not known.
4. The study also revealed that there are quite a number of factors influencing the prevalence of child abuse among nomads in Toro 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 who found that there are different contributing factors for the increase of child abuses to street children, results shows 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. The study also found that the major factors that contribute to street children include: divorce, orphanage, poverty and large family size. The study 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.
5. The study showed that the teachers perceived causes of child maltreatment are parental personality problems, poverty, alcohol intake by parents, behavioral problems of the child, among others. The study showed that the problems of child maltreatment affect all spheres of his/her which include the academic performance. They state that parents' personality characteristics, substance abuse, attitude and knowledge of parents, problems in 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 academic performance and interest. Isangedighi (2005) also pointed out that child physical abuse is a global phenomenon, in 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% adults reported verbal abuse as children, 14.8% of adults report 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 to 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 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 risk 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<sup>t</sup> traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), learning difficulties, poor academic achievement, behaviour problems in childhood and adolescent. Maltreated children manifest psychiatric illnesses such as anxiety disorders and sleep disorders. Complex trauma affects the developing brain and will interfere with child's capacity to integrate to 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 for repeating the neglected behaviour with their own 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 Toro 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 providing supports and implementing laws to curtail the prevalence rate of child abuse among nomads in Toro 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. Government should provide supportive to overcome the negative effects of child abuse among nomads in 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.
4. There are a number of strategies for addressing child abuse challenges among nomads in Toro local government area of Bauchi State government should exploit them and ensure their implementation in the study area as well as other parts of the state.

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