

# Child Abuse Types and Manners: It's Negativity on The Globe

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## I. INTRODUCTION

In earnest, children's maltreatments from parents/caregiver were generally accepted all over the world for centuries perhaps because under English Common Law, children were seen as the sole property of the parents, as such, could enjoy especially fathers, limitless latitude of decisions over penalties/sanctions to be declared on the Child until 1870s, when an eight year old New York orphan, by name Mary Ellen Wilson protested over what she viewed as maltreatment. In fact, American colonies even incorporated same practice into their early Laws in the United State. Until then, animals were more valued and appreciated than children because of American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animal (ASPCA) law. But from the intervention of attorney for the ASPCA, the judge having listened to the evidence of maltreatment in form of frequent beating, wrongful locking in bedroom and of been asked to lie on the bare floor from Mr. Conollys who happens to be Mary's foster father. Charging them of Assault and Battery, sentenced her fostered mother of a year imprisonment with hard Labour. Then it significant alongside with the publicity of Wilson's case, led to the establishment of New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Then come the following year, the Legislature passed a statute that authorized such society to file complaints of child abuse with law enforcement agencies. From that period henceforth, children's welfare became a thing of concerned to all. First of such is the article from Dr. Henry Kemp in the journal of American Medical Association.

Later on, every state by 1970, enacted laws requiring certain professionals like teachers and doctors to report any kind of child abuse to law enforcement agencies. Beside these agencies, in 1974, another called, Federal Child Abuse Preventive and treatment Act became law authorizing federal funding for state to identify child abuse and to offer protective services for abused children. Based on these various laws, it became imperative to streamline this actual phenomenon called Child Abuse. Despite increased legislation and penalties for child abuse, extreme cases continued to appear and to sustain the debates over child abuse laws. One of such cases include the Schoo case in suburban Chicago, which received widespread media coverage. In December 1992, David Schoo, a 45-year-old electrical engineer, and his 35-year-old wife, Sharon Schoo, a homemaker, flew to Acapulco,

Mexico, for a Christmas vacation, leaving their daughters, nine-year-old Nicole Schoo and four-year-old Diana Schoo, home alone. The Schoos provided their daughters only with cereal and frozen dinners to eat and a note telling them when to go to bed. One day during their parents' absence, the girls left the house when a smoke alarm sounded. As they stood barefoot in the snow, a neighbor found them, learned of their situation, and called the police. The Schoos were arrested while still on the plane that returned them from Mexico nine days after they had left their children. Following their indictment on various state charges of child endangerment and cruelty, a Grand Jury also found evidence that, the Schoos had beaten, kicked, and choked their children in order to discipline them. In April 1993, the Schoos plea-bargained, agreeing to serve two years of Probation and 30 days of house arrest while the girls remained in foster care. In August 1993, the Schoos agreed to give up their parental rights and placed their daughters up for permanent adoption.

Another nationally publicized case that raised questions regarding the effectiveness of child-protective services and implicated social workers charged with protecting the victim was that of Bradley McGee. The two-year old Bradley McGee of Lakeland, Florida, died in July 1989, from massive head injuries after his stepfather, 23-year-old Thomas E. Coe, repeatedly plunged him head-first into a toilet. Coe later testified that, he had become angry when the child had soiled his pants. McGee's 21-year-old mother, Sheryl McGee Coe, pleaded no contest to second-degree murder and aggravated child abuse for allowing her husband to abuse McGee, and received a 30-year prison sentence. Thomas Coe, convicted of first-degree murder and aggravated child abuse, received a sentence of life in prison. The McGee case alarmed the public not only because of the harsh physical abuse that caused the toddler's death but also because of what many perceived to be a failure in the system that is designed to protect children like Bradley McGee. Two months before his death, Bradley had been living with foster parents owing to allegations of abuse at the hands of the Coes. Despite strong objections by the foster parents, caseworkers for Florida's Health and Rehabilitative Services returned McGee to his mother and stepfather, determining them to be fit parents. Public reaction was strong following the news of Bradley's death. Four social workers were prosecuted for negligently handling the case, but only the main caseworker, Margaret Barber, was

convicted for disregarding a report from a psychologist who had warned that, the Coes were unfit parents. The publicity shed light on problems within Florida's child-protective services agency, including severe understaffing and led to new laws that emphasize keeping children safe over keeping families together and that also increase funding for more social workers. A Florida appellate court later overturned Barber's felony conviction but left standing a misdemeanor conviction for failing to report child abuse.

It therefore suffices to state that, child abuse is when parents/caregivers either fail to provide appropriate care (neglect), purposefully inflicts harm on the child or harms a child while disciplining him or her. Survivors of child maltreatment are at greater risk for physical, emotional, work, and relationship problems throughout childhood and into adulthood. Common forms of child abuse include neglect, physical assault, Psychological abuse, Domestic abuse, emotional abuse, and sexual assault. Child abuse risk factors include issues that involve the victim, family, perpetrator/s and community. Victims of child abuse often experience stress in reaction to the abuse as well as symptoms related to the kind of abuse they endured. Child abuse symptoms and signs vary according to the child's developmental stage and age. The treatment for child abuse involves: first securing the safety of the child from further abuse and addressing any physical injuries from which the child may be suffering, then health care professionals assess and address the emotional needs of the child. There are many various ways to prevent child abuse depending on the countries' choice. Some are in form of providing child-abuse reporting hotlines as what is done in every state in the U.S. Whereas in Nigeria my own Country, on top of establishing laws like: Children and Allied Laws (2008), Rape law, Law against female Molestations, Center for gender Violence Report, Center in every Police station designated for Child-abuse Matters, involvement of every Local government Chairman, Paramount Rulers and even all village Heads, play another important means of checking and solving Child abuse matters.

When young humans which range from infancy to puberty are made to undergo unnecessary and undeserved treatment from either relatives or strangers, such actions are refers to as child abuse. The phenomenon called Child abuse does not in any way depends entirely on finance stance of the parent as parent from any socioeconomic status may likely be directly or indirectly involve in this act called child abuse. Rather, some could be controlled by syndromic influence from the fact that, they themselves were once abused or from unknowledgeable perspective surrounding the growth of a child and their periodic developmental demands. These maltreatments can come or happen in different forms. For instance, a situation where parents reverse parental role of care-provider to exposing, making, expecting and/or causing the under aged child/ren to become care provider there by exposing the child to antisocial behavior/practices through promotion of promiscuity attitude. However, these could be direct or

indirect, fortuitous, neglect, deliberate or even caused by ignorance. Be it as it may, whether fortuitous, deliberate or whatever form or way, the abuse can endanger the livelihood of such a child/ren concerned either through ways like unnecessary exposure to different forms of hazards in likeness of colds, heat, burns, beatings, total withholding of food and water or malnutrition, medical care of any nature, name them. On the other hand, some even go up to denial of physical care which promotes the thwarting of the emotional and physical growth of such Child to poisoning and even strangulation, at the same time, denying the child satisfaction of his or her own needs.

The majority of identified abusive parents/caregivers are believed to want professional help in changing their behavior because most of these abusers which most often than non happens to be family member or other caregiver commit this act by inflicting injuries either by punching, kicking, biting, burning, beating, or use of a weapon such as a baseball bat or knife which can result in Physical abuse like bruises, burns, broken bones and these types of physical abuse may instigate internal injury like hemorrhages. The main issue is that, is phenomenon called Child Abuse do lack uniformity in terms of penalties/sanctions as each country has her own way of handling the same matter. Nevertheless, all countries view it as crime and inhuman practice. It is of interest to know what exactly is this Monster called Child Abuse that can destroy all aspect of human beings.

## II. DEFINITION

The phenomenon Child Abuse has been defined in United States as an act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker that results in the death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation of a child which places the child in an imminent risk of serious harm (42 U.S.C.A. § 5106g). This singular article brought about ubiquitous consciousness of child abuse thereby promoted public concern over ways to minimize if not eliminate this menace. Child-abuse laws raise difficult legal and political issues like putting the right of children to be free from harm on one hand against the right of families/parents to privacy and ownership of children on the other hand. By 1970, every state in United States enacted laws, requiring certain professionals, such as teachers and doctors, to report incidents of suspected child abuse to law enforcement agencies. From there, in 1974, the Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C.A. §§ 5105–5106) became law, authorizing federal funding for states to identify child abuse and to offer protective services for abused children. Thereafter, in existent, many Statutes like state's Child – protective services, Child –protective services agency and Reporting statutes implemented the statutes though with variation in States by authorizing certain professionals to report suspected child abuse. But in the case of neighbours, though they were qualified by virtue of community responsibility, they were not expected to report. The increase in number of statutes was not without challenge as same type

of Child abuse was given different meaning leading to misconstruction.

For instance, apart from sexual abuse which all the states never mind whether the child sustained injury or not, but considered any sexual act performed on a child as an abuse. Whereas, type of abuse known as physical abuse raise dust because of it difference of opinion. The point was that, while some state contended that a child must suffer specified type of injury before it can be recognized as physical abuse, other states stood for the opinion that any injury that is not accidental in nature provided is serious is considered as one of physical abuse, yet to others like states statutes, a mere neglect of a child that constitutes risk to such child is acceptable as physical abuse irrespective of lack of evidence of injury. It is worthy of mention that, this multicellular definition did not only posed challenge on classifications only but extended to procedural stages as investigations procedures became enmeshing. For example, while state statutes generally required finding of actual harm before substantiating report of emotional abuse of a child, other statutes believe in determining whether a report of abuse is substantiated, intervene to protect an abused from further harm, maintained records of child abuse reports before inviting the either state's child protective services agency or a law enforcement agency for investigations. Just like what happened in the early Christendom (14<sup>th</sup> century), when region was full of discrepancy in terms of speaking in tongues (Act 2:4) as well as interpreting of the gospel, the laws and statutes that governed Child abuse were full of discrepancy.

This resemblance is drawn from the fact that, while Family Law exempted parents or guardian from investigations with the believe that, they cannot cause none be partaker of the abuse, rather, can instead called or invite law enforcement agencies to investigate the abuse perpetrated by others. In the case of Caseworkers for child-protective services agencies, they generally investigated allegations by visiting and interviewing the child, child's parents or guardians, teachers and even physicians before calling for intervention if they substantiate that, the child has been abused. Unlike States' statute, there investigated when the child's parent or guardian is suspected of causing the abuse or of allowing it to occur. In like manner, in Nigeria, since it is against the Law of the land for a person to be subjected to torture or unhuman or degrading treatment (Section 34,(1) a,b,&c of the Nigeria constitution), any time the notice of Child abuse is made known to the appropriate quarters, arrest and action/s follows immediately irrespective of the relationship of the abuser to the abused. Be it as it may be, Child abuse is any injury intentionally or during discipline inflicted on a child by a caregiver/parents. While the caregiver is usually an adult, most often the mother of the child, it can also include teenagers who are in the caregiving role, like a babysitter or a camp counselor. It is important to understand that, child abuse must involve injury, whether physical or emotional, visible or not immediately visible (karls, 2018). So while most child care

professionals (for example, psychiatrists, psychologists, pediatricians, and teachers) do not recommend the use of corporal punishment due to the risk of emotional damage and accidental physical injury, spanking a child does not automatically constitute child abuse unless the child sustains some kind of injury. Many children worldwide suffer abuse every year, affecting all educational and socioeconomic levels, ethnicities, cultures, and religions.

The most common form of child abuse in the United States is being left at home alone without adult supervision, also called supervision neglect. All forms of neglect account for about 75% of the child-abuse reports made to child welfare authorities. According to Children and Allied Laws, other common forms of child abuse practiced in Nigeria include physical assault, physical neglect, emotional abuse, and sexual assault that involves physical contact. Child abuse has far-reaching negative effects on its victims and on society. Survivors of child maltreatment are at greater risk for physical, emotional, work, and relationship problems throughout childhood and into adulthood. Child abuse is rich in many definitions just as it is the concern of many professionals (Ekereette, 2019). This child abuse which was once viewed as a minor social problem because it was affecting only few children from America can come in any form, way, shape, manner and also has many varieties of names like child maltreatment, neglect, slavery named them. Nevertheless, Effiong (2011), in trying to classify child abuse looked at it under headings such as: Emotional, physiological, Psychological, Physical, Neglect, Sexual and Domestically abuse. Just like child /ren from any tribe, status, and faith can be abused, any class of person ranging from relatives, paid workers, domestic staff, friends, strangers, colleagues, Clergies, instructors/teachers, church members, classmates, neighbours, parents even siblings cannot be say to be completely excluded or exempted from Child abuse of any sort (Johnson & James, 2016).

However, though this phenomenon named child abuse cannot be control by factors like tribes, ethnic, race, or faith but factor like parental statute can be seen as it controllable measures. This can be proof from the point of fact that, irrespective of the fact that, the child abuse act do occur in the household of higher income earner, but the scene or crime occur more in the household of the less income earners. This condition could be due to the pervading insufficiency ways of livelihood that reflect in their low income earning, less Education, less knowledge of services, little or no knowledge of child understanding but with much stress and social difficulties. This child abuse is influenced with some generational element because children whose parents happened to have substance abuse are likely to be abused comparatively. On the other hand, child abuser are likely to be those that were abused while a child. It is of importance to clear that, at times, some children do suffer more than one type of abuse (Edet, 2019). From the assertion of Oyebanji (2019), until late twentieth century, people like helping

professionals, media and law enforcement started taking issues related with and pertaining to the welfare of a child under closer study and this, later led to shape rise in the number of reported cases of child abuse based on the much increase in public and professional awareness. This notwithstanding, it becomes difficult if not completely impossible to arrive at an accurate statistic of abused child as the crime or offence is usually or normally done in private with the intention to hide.

And at the same time, the victims usually feel threatened or frightened to speak out let alone to report. May be due to fear or/and age as they are often too young to take responsibility in that respect. By that act, it becomes difficult if not impossible for accurate child abused data to be handy. Nevertheless, from the report according to the statistics gathered from United States Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families as reported in the findings of United State Child Protective Services (CPS) of 2006, it was reported that, 905, 000 children or on the other hand, in every 1000 children, 12 children were maltreated. According to their findings, while 1,530 children were abused in form of fatalities, nearly three quarters of 905,000 Children suffered repeated maltreatment. The plights of abused Children are very frustrating as they seem to have no earthly help or assistant. This was ascertained from the 2006 report as recorded in United States Child Protective Services (CPS) that, while about three-quarter of the abused Children fall under age four, the largest of such number die under one year. Most unfortunately, parents and some times, in collaborations with other people abused nearly 83% of the children(Imo, 2013). Often caregivers who are abusers have little understanding of child development and have unrealistically high expectations of what young children are capable of doing for themselves and poor anger management skills. Though not always, child abuser are often a regular user of drugs or alcohol (Azuka & Patrick, 2019).

### III. CHILD ABUSE RISK FACTORS

The risk factors for child abuse include issues that pertain to the victim, perpetrator, family, and community situations. Children under 4 years of age and those with special physical, developmental, or mental health needs are at higher risk for being victims of maltreatment. It is common truism that, younger caregivers who had child abuse experience, mental health, or drug problems in their family of origin are more at risk for abusing children. Also, adults who have trouble understanding the needs of children and appropriate parenting skills, as well as those who are single parents, of low socioeconomic status, or have transient other adult caregivers (like the parent's friend, boyfriend, or girlfriend) in the home are also more at risk of becoming child abusers. Family risk factors for child maltreatment include social isolation, fragmentation, or parents under stress, engaging in domestic violence, or the presence of poor parent-child relationships. Community issues that increase the likelihood that child abuse occurs include low community socioeconomic status, high

unemployment rates, high incidence of community violence, high availability of alcohol or other drugs (for example, alcohol through liquor stores or bars), and poor community social connections.

### IV. TYPES

As had earlier mentioned, this issue of Child abuse or Child maltreatment is perpetrated by different categories of persons just as there are of types. Some of these abuse amongst others are Physical abuse, Neglect abuse, Sexual abuse, Domestic abuse and of course, Emotional abuse. It is of interest of proper clarity to mention that, Child abuse can be integrated because a child may be abused in more than one way. This simply means that a child can suffer or experience many types of abuse simultaneously. Most common types of child abuse do occur in form of neglect, physical, emotional, and domestic maltreatment by way of lack of supplying adequate food, shelter, season-appropriate clothing, supervision, medical or mental health care, or a lack of providing appropriate emotional comfort. At times, this could promote or even give birth to sexual abuse. Failing to see that, a child receives proper schooling and medical care also are considered neglect. Perhaps that could be why most of the Child abuse cases reported in America to Child Preventive Service (CPS) and in Nigeria, to various angles that have to do with neglect type of Child abuse matters. However, these different types of Child abuse shall be discussed below seriatim.

#### *Physical Abuse:*

Physical abuse is the non-accidental infliction of physical injury to a child. The abuser is usually/may be a family member or other caregiver, and is more likely to be a male. The injuries can be inflicted by punching, kicking, biting, burning, beating, or use of a weapon such as a baseball bat or knife (Zainadin & Ashari, 2018). For Child abuse to be seen as Physical abuse, it or there must result in bruises, scratches, welts, burns, poisoning, broken bones, and internal hemorrhages. Some of these could be as a result of corporal punishments from parents/caregivers. The usual physical abuse scenario involves a parent who loses control and lashes out at a child. The trigger may be normal child behavior such as crying or dirtying a diaper. Another kind of physical Child abuse occurs when a caretaker inflict physical injury on a child through assault. A rare form of physical abuse is Munchausen syndrome by proxy, in which a caregiver (most often the mother) seeks attention by intentionally making the child sick or appear to be sick. Going by the research conducted by Imo (2008), unexplained or suspicious bruises or burns, skull and other bone fractures often seen on the skin of most children are typical signs of physical abuse. According to Williams (2016), Head injuries are the leading cause of death in abused children. He went further to assert that, Children less than one year old are particularly vulnerable to brain injury from shaking. This collaborates what Akinade (2008) called battered child syndrome or shaken baby syndrome. With this, it becomes a proven fact

that, Physical abuse also causes a wide variety of negative behavioral changes in children.

#### *Psychological Abuse*

Psychological abuse encompasses rejection, ignoring, criticizing, belittling, humiliating, threatening the child with violence, or otherwise terrorizing the child, all of which have the effect of eroding the child's self-esteem and sense of security. It also can include isolating the child from friends or other family members or destroying the child's property. Psychological abuse often accompanies other types of abuse. It is difficult to prove and is rarely reported. Psychological abuse can happen in many settings including at home, at school and on sports teams. Some of the possible symptoms include loss of self-esteem, sleep disturbances, headaches or stomach aches, school avoidance, and anxiety (Effiong, 2011). Psychological abuse is difficult to pinpoint as the child may believe that, the behavior is normal and something all children experience. Psychological abuse often accompanies other types of abuse. It is rarely reported as it is difficult to prove.

#### *Neglect Abuse*

Neglect is the failure to satisfy a child's basic needs. It can assume many forms. Neglect may occur because the parent/guardian experiences strong negative feelings toward the child or because the parent/guardian lacks the ability or strength to adequately provide for the child's needs because he or she is handicapped by drug abuse, alcoholism, mental retardation, clinical depression, schizophrenia, or some other mental health problem. Physical neglect is the failure (beyond the constraints imposed by poverty) to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter for a child/ren or supervision over a child/ren. While Psychological neglect is the failure to satisfy a child's normal psychological needs and/or behavior that damages a child's normal psychological development (e.g., permitting drug abuse in the home). In terms of Supervision neglect, this type of neglect is commonly practiced these days as most parents claimed to be too involved in the day to day struggling as such living the supervisory roles of parenthood into the care and control of a house-help (not minding the age) that lacks adequate know how knowledge thereby causing lots of antisocial behaviours amongst the children which do run into most children's adult life and practices. Hence the multiplications of insurgencies characteristics recently experienced as practiced and demonstrated by the youths all over the Globe. Neglected children often do not receive adequate nourishment or psychological and mental stimulation. As a result, their physical, social, psychological, and mental development is hindered. They may for instance, be underweight, develop language skills less quickly than other children and seem psychologically needy.

#### *Sexual Abuse*

Sexual abuse involves exposing the child to inappropriate sexual content, behavior, or contact. That can include allowing the child to see pornography or sexual acts or a caretaker having sexual contact with the child. Sexual abuse is

any act of a sexual nature performed in a criminal manner, as with a child or with a non-consenting adult, including RAPE, INCEST, oral copulation, and penetration of genital or anal opening with a foreign object. The term also includes lewd or lascivious acts with a child, any sexual act that could be expected to trouble or offend another person, when done by someone motivated by sexual interest. All acts related to sexual exploitation such as, those related to pornography, prostitution involving minors, or coercion of minors to perform obscene acts. According to Nwugogo (2014), sexual abuse is any activity with a child occurring before the age of legal consent that is for the sexual gratification of an adult or a significantly older or dominant child. Factors that may contribute to the sexual abuse of children include alcohol or drug abuse, poor impulse control, and a belief that the sexual behaviors are acceptable and not harmful to the child. The chances of abuse are higher if the child is developmentally handicapped or vulnerable in some way or the other. Sexual behaviors can include touching breasts, genitals, and buttocks while the victim is either dressed or undressed. Whereas sexual abuse behavior also includes exhibitionism, cunnilingus, fellatio, or penetration of the vagina or anus with sexual organs or objects. In addition to all these, pornographic photography is also a form of sexual abuse of children.

Genital or anal injuries or abnormalities, including the presence of sexually transmitted diseases can be signs of sexual abuse. But often, there is no physical evidence that, the child has been sexually abused. Though anxiety, poor academic performance and suicidal conduct are some of the behavioral signs of sexual abuse children but these behaviors, can also be found in children experiencing other kinds of stress. For excessive masturbation and unusually sexually precocious behaviors, there remain a strict indication of sexual abuse. Despite publicity surrounding cases where a child is assaulted by a stranger, almost all sexual abuse against children is perpetrated by a family member (e.g. father, stepfather, aunt, uncle, sibling, cousin) or family intimate (e.g., live-in lover or friend of the parent). A child may be subjected to a combination of different kinds of abuse. It is also possible that a child may show no outward signs and hide what is happening from everyone. Rape, which happens to be one of the sexual abuse that is currently raising its violent occurrence in the society is the perpetration of an act of sexual intercourse when:

- Will is overcome by force or fear (from threats, use of weapons, or use of drugs).
- Mental impairment renders the victim incapable of rational judgment.
- If the victim is below the legal age established for consent.

And should be strongly discouraged and dealt with, as its negative effects can extend to barrenness thereby promote, instigate and perhaps cause the practice of baby factories as well as human-trafficking.

*Domestic Abuse*

Domestic abuse is the type of abuse that occurs when a child (person) is being maltreated by the person such a child is living or staying with. Such domestic abuse may extent to denial of any sort ranging from food, shelter, comfort to fundamental issue like Education whose denial, if care is not properly and carefully applied, can exhibit negative generational menaces. The abuse may take the form of verbal abuse, sexual abuse, physical battering, or psychological (emotional) unavailability. Abuse is a learned behavior and has an escalating cycle which is why the abusive behaviors cut across all racial, ethnic, educational, and socioeconomic standard/ boundaries.

*Emotional Abuse*

Emotional abuse involves statements by a caretaker that can injure a child's sense of self-esteem. Examples of emotional abuse include calling the child negative names, cursing at, or otherwise insulting the child. An abuser may cause a child to suffer or experience Emotional abuse by even abusing the parents of the child, using the child's nature to abuse the child. This could be in form of calling her names like: Big breast, big buttocks, tiny legs, foolish thing, ugly being/and even name likepest. Some form of Emotional abuse may be emanated from Domestic abuse in form of the child been objurgated over or during eating. In the case of a female, another type of Emotional abuse can come in form of molestation of the child by the Mistress's brothers, husband, sons, name them. In fact, this is one of the times or forum where a child suffers enmeshing kind of abuse because what seemed as Emotional abuse has linked to Domestic abuse and of course, can/may lead to Psychological abuse should abortion or death crop up caused by unwanted/unexpected pregnancy.

## V. PROGNOSIS

Prognoses of an abused child/ren are something to be treated with all amount of, not only seriousness but with carefulness, as their outcomes are all be deviling. The prognoses are say to be bedeviling because aside from it /their negative effects being generational, it/there are linking as well since no one child can or have ever suffered only one type of abuse. An abused child calamities are not something to reckon with as there cut across all sphere of life. An abused child of any type or kind retains a negative feelings that affect be it workforce, marital relationship, clericalization, even in education pursuit and this in no small measures turned to affect Gross Domestic Product (G. D. P.) of any country. Child abuse has chained effect that can jeopardize a combination of the child/ren character as well as their conduct. For instance, a child/children that had been abused can want to either practice such abuse (even any other) on someone else by way of retaliating. Some of them can even practice terrorism. Abused children can suffer from brain injury that can promote mental retardation, if not properly handled, may increase the rate of psychiatric problems, concussions, seizures, and death.

Looking at Child abuse critically, it sounds understatement to say that, going behaviorally and emotionally, children may develop a myriad of problems, including depression, anxiety, trouble bonding with others, and issues with controlling their anger. With this, it becomes truism that Adults who were the victims of child abuse are at higher risk for a variety of emotional, economical and physical problems.

The most common physical problems are neurological and musculoskeletal problems, followed by respiratory, heart, and gastrointestinal ailments (Akinade,2008). Compared to adults with no history of child-abuse victimization, those abused as children are at risk for achieving lower levels of education, marital stability, self-esteem, self-concept, employment, income, and assets. Those risks are apparently even greater for women compared to men. Adult survivors of abuse are also at higher risk of incarceration and for family violence occurring in their own homes. Child abuse can have lifelong consequences. Even research shows that abused children and adolescents are more likely to do poorly in school, experience depression, extreme anger, antisocial personality traits and other psychiatric problems. They also are more likely to become promiscuous, some can even practice incest, abuse drugs and alcohol, run away, and attempt suicide. As adults, they often have trouble establishing intimate relationships extending to marriage union. Long-term therapy by professional trained persons in working with abused children and adults need offer the best chance of overcoming childhood abuse through counselling as it occurrence for future sake should not be dismissed by a mere wave of hand.

## VI. CHILD ABUSE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Children who are victims of abuse often experience symptoms of stress in reaction to the abuse, in addition to symptoms that are specific to the kind of abuse they have suffered. The signs and symptoms of abuse often vary according to the age and developmental stage of the child. It is also important to understand that, victims of child abuse suffer abuse in more than one way, so the child may demonstrate symptoms consistent with more than one kind of maltreatment. Examples of less specific signs and symptoms of child abuse include

- A tendency to either avoid, overly please, or ingratiate themselves to the abuser;
- Poor school performance;
- Irritability/quickness to anger;
- Crying more often and/or easily;
- Anxiety or panic;
- Frequent complaints of physical symptoms, like headaches and stomachaches;
- Young kids may act younger than their age or than they had previously (regress);
- Spending more time alone, away from friends and family;
- Becoming more "clingy" and more dependent on certain relationships;

- Expressing thoughts about hurting him or herself or others;
- More risk-taking behaviors and/or showing less concern for their own safety.

Examples of risk-taking behaviors in children include unsafe play, like climbing excessively high or running in the street. More potentially specific signs and symptoms of abuse may include the following:

- Neglect: The child may lose weight or fail to gain weight appropriately for their age. Their energy level and ability to learn will likely decrease. They may become withdrawn and show physical signs of malnutrition, like dry skin or hair or develop thinning hair.
- Physical abuse: A child who is the victim of physical abuse may have repeated physical injuries and emergency room or other doctor's visits with or without adequate explanation. They may claim to be accident prone or provide other stories about how they sustained injuries and may tend to wear excessive clothing to cover injuries or otherwise engage in secrecy in an attempt to protect the abuser from intervention by child welfare authorities and law enforcement.
- Emotional abuse: Emotionally abused children may make negative statements about themselves or others that mimic the abuser, like calling his or herself names or otherwise exhibiting pessimism or low self-esteem.
- Sexual abuse: A sexually abused child may exhibit sexual knowledge or behaviors that are much older than is appropriate for their age. They may also exhibit inappropriately sexual behavior, resulting in their engaging in masturbating excessively or in front of others, as well as participating in inappropriate sexual play with children. They may also respond opposite to that by avoiding bathing, toileting, examination by a professional, or otherwise having to take off their clothes. Medically, sexually abused children may develop genital injuries or sexually transmitted diseases.

Although these signs do not necessarily indicate that a child has been abused, they may help adults recognize that something is wrong. The possibility of abuse should be investigated if a child shows a number of these symptoms, or any of them to a marked degree:

- Being overly affectionate or knowledgeable in a sexual way inappropriate to the child's age
- Medical problems such as chronic itching, pain in the genitals, venereal diseases
- Other extreme reactions, such as depression, self-mutilation, suicide attempts, running away overdoses, anorexia

- Personality changes such as becoming insecure or clingy
- Regressing to younger behavior patterns such as thumb sucking or bringing out discarded cuddly toys.
- Sudden loss of appetite or compulsive eating
- Being isolated or becoming withdrawn
- Inability to concentrate
- Constant hunger
- Poor personal hygiene
- No social relationships
- Constant tiredness
- Poor state of clothing
- Compulsive scavenging
- Emaciation
- Untreated medical problems
- Destructive tendencies
- Lack of trust or fear someone they know well.
- Not wanting to be alone with a babysitter or specific family member.
- Starting to wet bed again, day or night/nightmares
- Become worried about clothing being removed
- Suddenly starting to draw sexually explicit pictures
- Trying to be "ultra-good" or perfect; overreacting to criticism
- Unexplained recurrent injuries or burns
- Improbable excuses or refusal to explain injuries
- Wearing clothes to cover injuries, even in hot weather
- Refusal to undress for gym
- Bald patches
- Chronic running away
- Fear of medical help or examination
- Self-destructive tendencies
- Aggression towards others
- Fear of physical contact; shrinking back if touched
- Sudden speech disorder
- Admitting that they are punished, but the punishment is excessive (such as a child being beaten every night to make him/her study)
- Fear of suspected abuser being contacted
- Physical, mental, and psychological developmental lags
- Continual self-depreciation (e.g. I'm stupid, ugly, worthless)
- Overreaction to mistakes
- Extreme fear of any new situation
- Inappropriate response to pain (e.g. I deserve this)
- Neurotic behavior (e.g., rocking, hair twisting, self-mutilation)
- Extremes of passivity or aggression

## VII. PREVENTION

There are primary, secondary, and tertiary ways of preventing child abuse. Primary intervention involves awareness training for professionals who work with children, policy makers for children's issues, and for the public. Secondary prevention

programs work to alleviate the risk factors that make vulnerable children at risk for abuse. Tertiary prevention programs work with families in which abuse has already occurred in an attempt to decrease the effects of the abuse and to prevent it from occurring again. Attempts at secondary and tertiary prevention of child abuse tend to address the risk factors and strengthen protective factors. Such programs often use approaches that strengthen parenting skills and supports, as well as enhance the ability for the caretaker to provide abuse-free needs to the child by putting in place some checks measures that are known to the parents of the child especially the mothers. The inverse of most risk factors, protective factors for child abuse include having the involvement of supportive family and community, strengthening family and peer relationships, developing healthy coping skills, and improving individual emotional regulation.

While other countries use medium like Government efforts to prevent abuse through home-visitor programs aimed at high-risk families and school-based efforts to teach children how to respond to attempted sexual abuse. Then for Psychological abuse, they decide to involve the media in preventing the abuse. But in Nigeria, we decide to use severally methods ranging from campaigns, seminars, workshops, both electron and print media in forms of jingles and advertisement, alongside involvement of individuals to wage war against it cankerworm because of its unbelievable negative effects. Sensitizations to parents/children in form of information, ideas and advice like but not limited to talks such as: When children reach age three, parents should begin teaching them about "bad touches" and about confiding in a suitable adult if they are touched or treated in a way that makes them uneasy. Parents also need to exercise caution in hiring babysitters and other caregivers by carrying out some kind of investigations as regards such caregiver/babysitter previous life style alongside his/her parental history. These, the researcher believes may go far to minimize if not eliminate the rate of abuse because certain abnormalities can through the investigation be revealed thereby acting as a stoppage to the ugly occurrence/s. On top of all these measures, sensitizations had been made to create awareness that, anyone who suspects abuse should report those suspicions to other various agencies responsible to Child abuse matters in addition to nearest police stations.

#### VIII. DIAGNOSIS

Many health care professionals may help making the diagnosis of child abuse, including licensed mental health therapists, pediatricians, other primary care providers, specialists whom you see for a medical condition, emergency physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, psychiatric nurses, physician assistants, and social workers. One of these professionals will likely perform or refer for an extensive medical interview and physical examination as part of establishing the diagnosis. Child abuse may be associated with a number of other medical conditions, so health care providers often perform routine laboratory tests during the initial

evaluation to rule out other causes of symptoms. Occasionally, an X-ray, scan, or other imaging study may be needed, particularly if physical abuse is suspected. As part of this examination, the sufferer may be asked a series of questions from a standardized questionnaire or self-test to help assess the occurrence of child abuse. Medical professionals may decide to conduct thorough explorations like digging into the previous lifestyles of the abused Child in order to establish distinction between the mental health symptoms and other sources of emotional problems as relate to the Child maltreatment.

Though Doctors and many other professionals who work with children are required by law to report suspected abuse to their states' Child Preventive Services Agencies (C P S A), in Nigeria, abuse matters in terms of monitoring, spying, reporting and investigations seems to be the concern of all groups of human beings irrespective of status, race, religion, professions, gender but not excluding parents, siblings, medical personnel, social workers, police officers, and others. That is why some hospitals and communities maintain child protection teams lead by trained Professionals that respond to cases of possible abuse with proper application of careful questioning of the parents and the Child (where the Child can stand interview) during interviewing to avoid the Child from being more traumatized or giving fake answers in order to please the interviewee. The true is that, physical examination for signs of abuse or neglect is necessary but for accuracy, it/there may include X-rays, blood tests, and other procedures.

#### IX. TREATMENT

The treatment for child abuse involves first securing the safety of the child from further abuse and addressing any physical injuries from which the child may be suffering. As these interventions are occurring, child-welfare services should be working with law enforcement in assessing the safety of the child in the home. This becomes necessary because it is through this that issues of paramount like: whether or not the child should be removed from that home and the potential need for further legal involvement because of the abuse allegations can come to bare. This procedure/s is of high significant as it does not only solve the present matter but takes care of both past and future. These tripartite situations occur because during investigations, if it is established that sexual abuse had occurred (Past), the perpetrator of the abuse is usually required to have their name included on a sexual offenders' registry (Present), which will prevent them from working in settings that involve children and may impose legal penalties if the offender ever had any contact with people under 18 years of age (Future). In order to render complete attention to Child maltreatment in terms of abuse, treatment must be in form of complete package. By this, the healing should be able to cover all sphere of life which are Physical, Psychological and even Emotional which happens to be the most or major wound as it can instigate/promote Suicidal act which is a Taboo. Going by this arrangement, during treatment, Psychology Counsellor should be involve in



order to heal the Emotional and Psychological wound with the use of proper therapy while medical interventions in terms of treating of broken bones, concussion, or other head injury associated with physical abuse, genital injuries, or sexually transmitted disease that may have resulted from sexual abuse must undergo appropriate, serious and adequate treatments through medical attentions by necessary specialists Doctors. In addition to medical and psychological attention, other rearrangements like relocating the Abused Child if/where needful as well as counselling the parents in terms of anger management, drug abuse and jet not overlooking parental skills training become equally necessary. It suffice to mention that, Child maltreatment or abuse treatment should attract attention beyond medical, para-medical, social services to the abuse's future welfare by dabbling into how his/her educational, medical and psychological, alongside with the humans' basis needs will/can be met.

#### X. INTERVENTION

Intervention can mean many different things. Frequently, when the risk of further abuse is immediate and significant, child-protective services agents will place the child temporarily in a foster home. Alternatively, agents may monitor the family or may provide counseling in order to curb the threat of abuse. If a family does not cooperate with the intervention efforts of child-protective services, the agency may take the case before a judge, who may determine that abuse or neglect had occurred. He or she may issue a court order mandating the agency's intervention. In extreme cases, agents may remove the child from the home permanently following a judicial termination of parental rights, then placed such a child on judicial Adoption. Another way of intervening is the keeping of recording of the abused Child by the state child-protective services which by extension, formed what is called or known as the central registry that shall contain both the substantiated and unsubstantiated information which include names, suspected abuser, final determination made by the child-protective services worker. The importance of this central registry cannot be overemphasized based on it multiple benefits as this is a pointer to providing of records necessary for proper handling and management of abuse matters for and in the interest of the abused, abuser, family of the both parties and if need arises, the government. In terms of the abused child/ren, at times, children are traumatized by being taken away from their parents and send on custody based on false allegations of physical or sexual thereby costing the accused time and money in the fight to reclaims their children and their reputations.

On the side of government, prolong practice of Child abuse can be curtailed should the employer of care-day center workers visit the register before employing a worker. And on the other hand, it may/can go along way to direct social welfare workers when it comes to ones' qualification for Child adoption should they check on the central register. Furthermore, this register is of very important value to not only the government but entire society since it can be used to

prevent occurrence of life shortening act. This simply means that, though this register is for public consumption, it is kept on strict confinement only to be visited or inspected on permission should vital information be needed. This system of central register keeping helps agents in investigating current reports of abuse because it allows them to compare any previous accusations, particularly within the same family. The registry also supplies statistics about child abuse, which help the agency and the state legislature to enact appropriate laws and policies and to provide adequate funding for child-protective services. As a matter of practice, intervention though all tiled towards minimizing if not eliminating these menace called child abuse, differs according to state. While some states/countries apply intervention in form of family orientation, others may decide to do that same in form of public enlightenment. In practice, there are several methods or ways of carrying out family interventions.

Some of the most frequently used methods are family oriented interventions for child abuse which involve providing the caretaker with classes on anger management to help them develop healthy ways to manage their anger, parenting classes as a means of improving their knowledge and implementation of parenting approaches that are appropriate for the child's age, developmental level, medical, mental, and emotional needs. Another method of family interventions also involve the use of a parent mentor to provide the caretaker with a role model from whom they can learn appropriate parenting skills. This could be by way of making use of family therapy technic that involves family members meeting with a therapist for help to process and resolve family issues. During that process, if the parent is found to be suffering from a specific mental health condition, in order to cure the Child abuse practice, appropriate medical treatment will be administered so as to cement the intervention purpose. These goes a long way to prevent internal wrangling cases like that of Ceos, Conolleys, and Schoos cases and at the same time, plant peace in each family by extension, the entire world since family is the micro of the macro society.

Whereas other countries which Nigeria, my own country is inclusive, do decide to operate public enlightenment interventions through methods like seminars, workshops, symposiums, campaigns, rallies, public talks, counselling sessions, besides creating public places like social welfare, ministry of women affairs, children's matters department at the police station(depending on the state) all to tackle this cankerworm called Child abuse that aim at destroying human dignity.

#### XI. MANNERS OF CHILD ABUSE

Communication scholars are of the opinion that the world has become a global village. Though this concept began in the 15th century, by Marshall McLuhan, following the invention of Movable types by Johann Gutenberg of Mainz (Omego & Nwachukwu, 2013) and the resulting increase in literacy rate; never has the idea of the globe as a "global village" been so

true than now. This is not just because of the availability of satellite and the world wide web, which has made relationships and interaction possible at differing levels, but because an injury to one has become an injury to all in globe. Little wonder therefore that some communication scholars contend as misnomer the use of the phrase “foreign news” to describe news stories that emanates from outside geographical borders where it is aired or published. The gains of internet and satellite communications cannot be overemphasized in almost all spheres of life including international relations, communication, transportation, trade and general development. These gains however, come with negatives which impugn the merits of the gains accruing there from in the first place. Udoudo & Ojo, (2016) argue that the negatives associated with internet should not be reason enough for it not to be applied in achieving worthwhile course including education.

Since development has so constricted the world, so that nearly everybody lives in the others space, it follows therefore that, what affects one affects another, either as the giver or receiver, sender or recipient. To this end, it becomes imperative that, all be actively involved for the interest of development in the fight against crimes like child abuse that are ravaging the world. One-way child abuse affects the globe is in the area of development. Development has many definitions, depending on the orientation of the scholar, the school of thought, the scholar favours and the point the scholar wants to prove. Some see development as change, others see it as growth and others see it as both change and growth. Elementarily, development defines a change that introduces new ways of doing things or newness in a thing that holds more positives than negatives and is easily maintained.

Development usually follows at least three stages, the initiation stage, the execution stage and the maintenance stage. The initiation stage of development explains when the development idea is birth, the execution stage refers to when the idea is acted upon and maintenance stage refers to the sustainability of the idea so acted upon.

For instance, the absence of a clean source of water may be a development concern. To tackle this concern, the community members may decide to sink a borehole. The idea of tackling this concern with a borehole is the initiation stage of development, the sinking of a borehole, the execution stage while the maintenance stage would constitute, care and regulation of how the borehole is to be used. Child abuse as a global menace, has the capacity of affecting development at all stages. Before attempt is made at justifying the following assertion, let’s look at how a child can be abuse. A child can be abuse by act, inaction or words.

Below are ways in which a child can be abused and how these abuses affect development around the globe.

**Child Labour:** One of the turning issue of child abuse is child labour. So disturbing has the issue been that international

organisations, of global and regional stance; and national government have at various times declared support for and taken steps to fight the menace. The International Labour Organisation has been in the forefront of the fight against this menace since 1997 and has been holding several global conferences the latest being in 2017. The organisation estimates that 152 million children are in child labour and marks June 12 as world day against child labour.

Defining child labour as describing work or task undertaken by a child below 18years for reward in cash or kind, Oyebanji (2019), identified the following as causes of child labour in Nigeria: selfishness, greed, broken family, careless parents and guardian and others as some of the causes of child labour in Nigeria. Child labour has the potential of retarding the child and producing half-baked adults. It often robs a child of education and this affects the child’s community negatively and by extension the globe in no small way. The international trade union during their 2008 conference noted that for an activity to qualify for child labour, it must be “mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children,” it must also “interfere with their schooling by: depriving them of the opportunity to attend school, obliging them to leave school prematurely or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.” To cap it all, Child abuse include but not limited to the under listed ones.

**Sexual Abuse:** This form of abuse is sex related. It ranges from full sexual intercourse to suggestive moves or act that are altogether erotic. It could be perpetrated by a relative or an external person. Inferring from the definition given by Maltz (2002) in Hall & Hall (2011) child abuse is what happens when a child is dominated and exploited by another (child or adult) by means of sexual activity or suggestions. Research works by Zainudin1 & Ashari1 (2018), Hall & Hall (2011) even Johnson & James (2016), have documented the negative effect of sexual abuse on children to include, higher current levels of depression, anxiety, guilt, shame, self-blame, eating disorders, somatic concerns, dissociative patterns, repression, denial, sexual problems, relationship problems and even learning disorders

**Invective:** This is an overt form of abusing a child. It plays out in different ways. Basically it is a word form of abuse. Invective is a form of abuse where rude and insulting words are directed at a child. It reduces the morale of the child and sets him or her up for inferiority complex. This complex would rob the child of self-esteem and belief which would result in either of two lifestyles- Resignation or Aggression. A resigned child technically gives up in life when there is so much to fight and live for. He or she is disposed to believing that, no matter what he or she does, nothing good would come out of his or her efforts. In most cases, it does not follow that, the child does not believe in anything good, or does not believed goodness or success exist, it simple means that, the child does not see his or her self as capable of bringing forth something good. Aggression on the other hand could be

positive or negative. These can take the centre stage in a child's life depending on the stage of the child's life when the abuse was inflicted. A positive aggression spurs the child to go extra miles in the quest to becoming the best he or she can be perhaps to shame those who abused him or her. Where as negative aggression plays out when the child resorts to inhumane and immoral ways to get by, in an effort to massage his or her crushed ego. This can result in gangsterism and a bully lifestyle.

**Reproach:** This is another form of verbal abuse. This happens when a child is criticized and blamed in a way that shows that whosoever is giving the criticism is disappointed in the child. Reproach in itself is not an abuse. There is nothing wrong in scolding a child by way of criticizing and blaming the child in a disappointed way for an offense or misdeed the child is guilty of, but there is everything wrong when such criticism becomes a norm and a constant. Reproach is bad when the person giving the criticism never sees anything good in the child and always finds a way to criticize every effort of the child, even the ones with inherent goodness. For instance, if a child fails in school, there is nothing wrong in allowing your disappointment to show when scolding, blaming and criticizing the child. But if by tomorrow the child tops his or her class and instead of receiving praise, he or she gets something like "You top your class, and so what? Are you the only one or the first person to top our class." Reproach makes a child give up easily in life. The reason that often brings about this attitude is "it does not matter, no matter what I do, I would never be good enough."

**Scurrility or scurrilous:** Scurrilous remarks or articles generally contain damaging and untrue statement about someone. Whether directed at a child or an adult, scurrilous remarks attack one's integrity. Scurrilous remarks not only hurt the child's pride and set the child up for inferiority complex, it equally attempts to bring the child down unnecessarily before right thinking person. Scurrility or scurrilous remarks is likened to a conscious and calculated effort at not just hurting a child, but making others who otherwise should have love the child, hate and hurt him or her.

**Insult:** This explains a rude action or words directed at someone consciously or unconsciously. In the course of discharging their duties, journalists often insult either in actions or in words. For instance, to rudely accost a source for an interview could in some context tantamount to insult. In like manner, referring to a Professor of Astronomy who has been to the moon in a phrase like "The said professor of astronomy who claims to have been to the moon..." can be insulting. Stereotyping and holding prejudice against a child are ways of verbal and action insult. Given in act or words, insults is a potent way of causing damage to a child's personality.

**Opprobrium:** This explains strong public criticism or disapproval of a child. It is public embarrassment and when given early and constantly, destroys the child's self-worth,

rendering him or her a recluse or an outlaw. Opprobrium has the possibility of giving a third party a picture of the child that is not true. This third party opinion when acted upon, limits the potentials of the child.

**Maltreat:** This explains inhumane or cruel treatment. When a child is subjected to do more or less than he or she is capable, it is maltreatment. Cheating a child of any enjoyment or deserved protection tantamount to maltreatment.

**Injure:** In the context of this discourse, injure is a conscious effort at saying unfair or unpleasant things to hurt a child's, pride or feeling or ego.

**Revile:** This is plain hatred expressed secretly or openly in words or actions towards a child.

**Vilify:** This explains deliberate bad writings or sayings towards a child. Sometimes, these sayings and writings are untrue.

**Vituperates:** connotes angry and cruel criticism of a child.

**Asperse or aspersion or asperity:** comes to fore in rough, unkind and judgmental comments.

**Traduce:** Explains to deliberately say things that are not true and pleasant about a child.

**Malign:** To say about someone (Child) damaging and demoralizing unpleasant things that are not true.

## XII. IT'S NEGATIVITY ON THE GLOBE

At the initiation stage, it can lead to the bareness of development initiative. A child with a debase self-esteem or personality, one who has given up hope in life or belief in his or herself courtesy of abuse of any kind, hardly has anything to offer. Even when he or she has something to offer, fear and self-doubt would make him or her hold back, hence a development problem that would have been solved by his or her idea would linger unnecessarily. At the execution stage, it can lead to the bareness of manpower to aid the execution of the agreed upon initiative. A victim of abuse at a tender age who has not yet recovered if at all would be, may equally not be interested in helping any developmental efforts that might expose him or her to the criticism of others, robbing development the required manpower for execution.

The maintenance stage of development otherwise called the sustenance stage is perhaps the most important. For as development communication scholars ask, what is development if it is not sustainable or if it robs future generations of the ability to also develop and meet their ends? (Kadiri et al, 2015 and Imoh, 2013). Child abuse affects negatively this stage of development as it can make nonsense of the development efforts in the first place. This could play out in a number of ways like a situation where nobody is available to oversee the maintenance of the development effort because those available have taken to crime due to debase self-esteem. As such, would rather vandalize, sabotage

or use the development efforts for exploitative gains and selfish interest.

While Johnson & James, (2016) have related the long-term impact of abuse of a child to higher rates of psychiatric disorders, increased rates of substance abuse and relationship difficulties, Azuka, & Patrick (2019) collaborated these when they noted its negative effects on sustainable development. Effect of child abuse is itself a bane to development globally not minding where there occur since injury to one is injury to all. Great men of the past and present whose lives have left positive impact in the globe were once children. Imagine what the world would have missed or suffered if they were abused or if the abuses they suffered got the better part of them? For these reasons therefore, developing of communication globally, be it regional, national, state and even local levels must be channel at not just discouraging the various forms of child abuses, but also helping those who have been abused live a normal life. Therefore, how to seek redress should be highlighted where applicable and issues of child abuse should not be treated with kid gloves by the media.

### XIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

Having come to realize the weight of Child abuse and the extent there can not only go but their level of destruction, it becomes pertinent to address them as one of the dangerous masquerade in the world hence the precautionary mode which can be in form of proactive interventive measures. Therefore, where it is suspected that a child is being abused, laws in most of the United States require that, a professional that is in the role of caring for the child (for example, a teacher, doctor, or daycare provider) make a formal report of the abuse to child-welfare authorities in the state in which it is suspected to have occurred. Those professionals are often called mandated reporters. Both for those professionals and for people who are not mandated reporters, child-abuse reporting hotlines are available in every state in the United States. Whereas in Nigeria, all agencies that are established and kept for handling of Child abuse issues are mandated to be very serious with any of the complain of such nature. For the researcher, having come to discover the depth of Child abuse negativity on all round development, the researcher recommends inter-lia:

1. Counsellors should intensify curative/preventive counselling sessions against Child abuse in public places like hospital during antenatal clinic, tertiary institutions during students' week, churches, market squares, village squares where circling negative effect of Child abuse can be discussed. With proper explanation of how an abused child of today may come to affect his/her neighbours, cousins, nephews, and even the entire village/society negatively come tomorrow, the campaign against Child abuse shall then become a collective affair.
2. Child care should not for any reason be rested solely on babysitter/s.

3. Children should be trained by their parents on the practice of discussing whatsoever happens to them with their parents.
4. Then the last but not the least, the abusers should be made to know how the child they abused today can turn to not only hunt them but destroy their lives and even extent to their relatives starting from their children.

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