

The Relationship between the Attachment Behaviours of Children in Some Nigerian Institutionalized Homes (Orphanages) and their Emotional and Social Development

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Abstract:-The study examined the relationship between the attachment behaviours of children in institutionalized home (orphanages) and their emotional and social development. In some orphanages in Nigeria. A cross cultural survey design was adopted in the study, using accidental sampling method three instruments were used for data collected. A total of 25 children from orphanages were used. The hypotheses were tested using t-test. The results revealed that there are significant relationship between children from institutionalized homes attachment behavior and their emotional and social development. Based on the findings of the study the researcher recommended the adoption of children into foster care families among other things.

Key words: Institutionalized Home, Orphanage Emotional Development and social Development

I. INTRODUCTION

The most important aspect of human beings is their capacity to form relationship and be able to maintain these relationships that are necessary for human survival throughout life. These relationships are in different forms, the most cherished and painful of these relationships are those with family, friends, and loved ones. Within these relationships, we become bonded with each other through what is called "emotion". Our ability to form and; maintain these relationships differs. Some individuals have natural tendencies of loving, which helps them in forming intimate caring relationships and drive pleasure, while others don't care and have little or no feelings in forming intimate relationships and therefore have little or no pleasure being close to others, have less attachment with family, have few friends and have incomplete emotional bond to any person in some cases.

Deprivation during infancy is usually characterized by disturbed and inappropriate attachment behaviours where a child rarely turns to a specific attachment figure for comfort support, protection, and nurturance. Early childhood Mental Health Fact sheet (2007). The child has limited chance, of forming primary attachment and is usually emotionally withdrawn show high level of irritability, sadness, fear and

most of the time will not participate in social and emotional responsibilities. Deprivation arises from lack of sensitive nurturing. Thus, individual's development continues throughout life and is environmentally structured. (Okoli, 2017). Therefore, institutionalization of infants and young children provides an environment that is equipped with poor emotional care, poor stimulation and lack of sufficient care giving. Institutionalized children have difficulties in forming relationships that are successful.

Institutional (orphanage) care is mostly outside the normal human beings type of care giving in which the primary caregiver usually the mother is always there to attend to the needs of the child. In institutions (orphanage) the caregivers are employed paid by organizations or individuals to take care of the children, they rotate shifts and take care of large number of children. These rotating of shifts usually results in continuous instability of care giving for the children and also makes care giving in institutions (orphanage) to lack quality and quantity which is enough to hinder appropriate social and Emotional development. Most orphanages in some parts of Nigeria are substandard due to lack of caregiver child warmth, responsive social-Emotional interactions and the opportunity to experience relationship with few, caregivers. (Perry, 2001).

In some orphanages (Institutions), most of the children are unable to form attachment with anyone in the institutions because of lack of nurture and quality of actual relationship. This attachment creates bonds which are connections between one person and another characterized by certain qualities of a special bond in maternal - infant or infant caregiver relationship. It is absent during emotional relationship with a specific person which brings safety comfort, soothing and pleasure to individual. (Mobulagi, 2017). These characteristics are best seen in maternal-child relationship and most of the time absent in institutionalized (orphanage) children who most of the time has poor attachment with the primary caregivers which makes them develop fear and insecure attachment in the presence of visitors. They become isolated and don't socialize with other children outside the

institution (orphanage) because they are emotionally touched and therefore feel neglected and rejected. They grew up with the trauma that they were abandoned and rejected by their parent that is why they are institutionalized. The act of holding, singing rocking, kissing and other behaviours necessary in caring for infants and children are not there because of large number of children with few caregivers. Thus, all infants cannot defend their selves but rely on a caregiving adult for survival. Mothers' presence in the life of an infant is very important because she smells, cuddle, rock, and gaze at her infant and in turn the infant will respond by smiling and this also brings pleasure and satisfaction to the mother. Without adequate responsive and nurturing care giving, the infant will lack the entire necessary requirement for normal attachment which is mostly the case of institutionalized (orphanage) children.

In another research conducted by (Abalaka, 2016) on the effects of Early social-Emotional and relationship experience on the development of young orphanage children, he reported that one attribute of the orphanage environment such as very limited caregiver-child social-Emotional interactions and lack of opportunity to develop caregiver-child relationships, can be responsible for delays in most major domains of development in institutionalized children.

Therefore, the need to investigate the issue of maternal deprivation, attachment and social- Emotional development of orphanage children becomes important because it will a long way in improving the quality of child - caregiver relationship so as to help deal with the entire developmental problem encountered by children in the orphanages.

II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Children need a solid social - Emotional development at an early stage in order to form good attachment with the mother, caregiver or any adult member they may come in contact with in the process of development. Most children, in orphanages tend to show fear, anxiety and sadness towards strangers because of heightened emotion as a result of absence of mother child relationship at an earlier stage of life. Most of the children in Nigerian orphanages are illegitimate children abandoned by their mothers because they, cannot take care of them and the father have in most cases denied the pregnancy, while others are either born by mothers in the asylum or those in shows that Children in institution (orphanage) tend to have low IQ and are unfriendly than those adopted and restored back to the irnatural mothers. This is so because of the environment they live. In most orphanages, the children are many that the staff-child ratio is not enough to cater for the children's need in terms of social - Emotional development. A child that is socially and emotionally unstable may be angry, sad, and afraid, will not be able to form good relationship with peers outside the orphanage unlike the child that is socially and emotionally stable in the mix of family members and level ones. Children in orphanages have poor attitude towards strangers and their

only friends are those in the orphanage because they believe they have a common characteristic "abandoned" by their parents, as such, they grow up with that trauma in their minds.

It is based on this that the study is trying to investigate whether there will be a relationship between maternal deprivation, attachment and social - emotional development of these children so as to propose solutions and steps to be taken by the government, educationists, and other stake holders in improving the quality of environment in the orphanages, to provide conducive atmosphere like that of the family with enough staff to cater for their social - Emotional development for them to develop properly and become useful members of the society like any other child.

III. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The general purposes to this study are to find out:

1. The significant difference between materials depreciation and attachment of children in institutionalized home (orphanage)
2. If there is any relationship between materials deprivation and emotional development of children in institutionalized home (orphanage)
3. Whether material deprivation has any relations with the emotional home. (orphanage)

IV. RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

The study is guided by the following hypotheses, stated at 0.05 level of significance.

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between materials deprivation and attachment of children in the orphanage.

H₀₂: There are no significant relations between material deprivation and emotional development of the children in the orphanages.

H₀₃: There is no significant relationship between material deprivation and social development of the children in the orphanages.

V. INSTRUMENTS FOR DATA COLLECTION

Three instruments used for data collection, are Child Behavior Rating Scale (CBRS) Early Childhood Temperament Questionnaire (ECTQ) and Caregivers Questionnaire (CA) will be used in the study while observation was used in respect to the orphanage environment.

Description of the Instrument

The child behaviour checklist consisted of questions like interpersonal skills marked on a 5-point likert scale from 1 (never) to 5 (always). Temperaments in early childhood was also be marked on a 5-point likert scale ranging from 1 (almost always untrue of you) to 5 (almost always true to you). Care givers questionnaire was also marked on a 5 point

likert construct and content validity was conducted for the instrument, scale (1 never to 5 always) judgment, the initial draft was obtained from articles reviewed. Child Behaviour Rating Scales (CBRS) were adapted from (Adewole 2016).

Early childhood temperament questionnaire (ECTQ) by (Chukwu 2016) and Child gives questionnaire (CQ) (Emeka 2016). Senior lecturers in educational psychology were also asked to validate the instruments by deleting any irrelevant item and adding relevant ones. To validate the reliability of the construct for the study, a pilot test was conducted with 50 participants and a Cronbach alpha of 0.76, 0.77, 0.76 was obtained respectively. Based on the reliability the scale items were adopted for the research.

VI. PROCEDURE FOR DATA COLLECTION

The researcher collected data using the instrument from all the sample of the population both in school within the orphanages as well as in the afternoon during their normal activities in the orphanages.

VII. METHODS DATA ANALYSIS

Correlation coefficient was used to determine whether there is a relationship between the variable in the study using 0.05 level of significance.

VIII. RESULTS

Data analysis and Presentation of Results

The results of the analysis of this- project will be presented using tables and figures, also to test the hypotheses of this research, the correlation coefficient and the t- test of significance of correlation will be employed. Hypothesis One:

There is no significant relationship between maternal deprivation and attachment of orphanage children.

Table 1: Correlation between maternal deprivation and attachment of the orphanage children.

Correlation Coefficient	t-calculated	t-tabulated	Df	N	P-Value
-0.490	-3.092	-2.060	23	25	0.013

From the above table, -0.490 indicates that there is a negative correlation between maternal deprivation and attachment of the children in the orphanage. This implies that when there is an increase in maternal deprivation on these children, it will result in a decrease in attachment of these children. The significance of this relationship was tested using the t-test of significance of correlation, the calculated value of t was obtained as -3.092, P-Value = 0.013 and t-tabulated was -2.060 using 23 degree of freedom. Since the calculated value of t is less than t-tabulated and the P-Value is less than 0.05, then we reject the hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between maternal deprivation and attachment of children in the orphanage and conclude that there is a significant relationship between maternal deprivation and

attachment of the children in the orphanage at 5% level of significance.

Hypothesis Two: There is no significant relationship between maternal deprivation and emotional development.

Table 2: Correlation between Maternal Deprivation and Emotional Development.

Correlation Coefficient	t-calculated	t-tabulated	Df	N	P-Value
-0.490	-2.317	-2.060	23	25	0.03

From the table above, the strength of relationship between maternal deprivation and emotional development was calculated to be -0.435. This correlation coefficient indicates that there is a negative relationship between the two variables. This means that maternal deprivation reduces, there will be an increase in emotional development. This significance of correlation coefficient was investigated using t-test of significance and the t-calculated - 2.317, P-Value = 0.03 and t-tabulated -2.060 with 23 degrees of freedom. Since the calculated value of t is less than tabulated value of 5% significance and P-Value is less than 5% ($0.03 < 0.05$), then we reject the stated hypothesis and conclude that there is a significant relationship between maternal deprivation and emotional development at 0.05 level of significance.

Hypothesis Three: There is no significant relationship between maternal deprivation and Social development.

Table 3: Correlation between Maternal Deprivation and Social Development.

Correlation Coefficient	t-calculated	t-tabulated	Df	N	P-Value
-0.400	-2.093	-2.060	23	25	0.048

The correlation coefficient between maternal deprivation and social development is -0.400. Therefore, we say that there is a negative relationship between the two variables. Decrease in maternal deprivation will result in an increase in social development of the children in the orphanage. T-test was used to investigate the significance of the relationship. The computed t-test was determined to be -2.093, t-tabulated -2.060 with 23 degree of freedom and P-Value -0.048. So the t-calculated is less than the Tabulated and P-value is less than 0.05 ($0.048 < 0.05$), then we reject the stated hypotheses and conclude that there is a significant relationship between maternal deprivation and emotional development.

IX. DISCUSSIONS

From the above result and findings; we can see that maternal deprivation has a significant effect in the overall development of an individual, especially during the early years of life. At this time of life usually referred to as the critical period, infants need to be cared for by someone who is capable of satisfying their basic needs of feeding, nurturance, love, care, understanding especially the mother or any responsive and capable caregiver in the absence of the mother who can ensure the survival of the infants under their care.

When all these conditions are not satisfied especially in extreme condition of raising children like that of the orphanage where the caregivers-child ratio is very poor children will fail to develop attachment that is secure based thereby tempered with their social as well as emotional development.

Children that spend most of their life in the orphanage especially sub-standard orphanage grow up with different types of attachment, hardly socialize with other children outside the orphanage, have poor interpersonal relationship, don't mind hurting other as a result of poor emotional development, hardly come to anyone when in distress and hardly form attachment with any caregiver in the orphanage because most of the time the caregivers are charging due to lack of good wages to keep them and motivate them to work. They most of the time form attachment to a caregiver that is sensitive to their needs.

These type of behaviours seen in children raised in orphanage is similar to other children raised outside the orphanage by a caregiver that is not responsible they most of the time grow up with disorganized type of attachment, poor interpersonal relationship and deficient in emotional development. In most cases, children that grow into adolescence under these conditions 'will grow up to become problematic in the society especially boys. The environment children grow up in helps in determining the type of attachment they form because the experience a child had with a particular caregiver relates to the type or quality of the attachment formed. Children raised in orphanage setting most of the time recover from these deprivation symptoms and develop healthy relationship later in life when they are adopted into responsive and sensitive foster care family that are always there to satisfy the children's basic needs. They gradually begin to socialize with other children, learn how to label their emotions and form secure base attachment. Thus, they grow up having healthy relationship and become useful members of the society.

The ability of children raised in orphanages this is in agreement with Okoli (2017). To recover from early deprivation and form healthy relationships depends on the environmental conditions.

It was observed that the environment these children grew up in is below the quality needed for proper physical adequate nutrition, no stimulation, poor consistent and supportive caregiver-child relationship, lacks adequate toys and books. All these results in poor development especially with respect to attachment and social emotional development in these children.

The result from table 1 shows a significant relationship between maternal deprivation and attachment of children in the orphanage. This means that children that experience high level of maternal deprivation especially lack of sensitivity, stimulation, responsiveness and nurturance will develop series of attachment problems such as mobility to run

or turn to the caregiver when in distress, as well as mobility to trust anyone. The issue of early sensitivity and nurturance becomes of paramount importance in the life of every individual as it helps in laying the foundation of all healthy developments in the Individual's life. Thus, early deprivation can have a long term, effect on the overall development. (This is in consonant with Mobulagi's findings)

Table 2 shows a significant relationship between maternal deprivation and emotional development. This is so because most of the caregivers in the orphanage are not responsive and sensitive to the emotional needs of the children.. Due to the environmental condition surrounding the orphanage, such as poor child-to-caregiver ration, multiple shift by the caregivers and frequent changing of the caregivers, children in the orphanage grow with no one to teach them how to table and control their emotions. They are always scared and afraid and in most cases cry easily and become highly irritated. Children in the orphanage experience deficits in emotional interaction as a result of poor' caregiver-child relationship and emotional neglect. Therefore; they display emotional delays and in most cases have higher frequencies of extreme behaviours and problems because they don't care if they hurt anybody as that feeling of care is not there. Thus, the mother or other responsive adults in the life of the child, play's a major role in the development of healthy emotional experiences. This is in agreement with (Okoli 2017).

Table 3 shows a significant relationship between maternal deprivation and social development. This implies that children reared in institutions (orphanage) experience limited care giver-child social relationship and lacks the opportunities to develop these relationships because of high child-to-caregiver ratio. While an average family is expected ;to provide adequate environment full of opportunities where a child can explore the environment as well as protective and caring care giving that wilt- enable the child socialize and form healthy relationships later in life. This is in agreement with (Abalaka, 2016), characterized with poor caregiver-child ration, inadequate nutrition, lack of toys for children to play with, I3ck of availability of books to simulate overall development of these children. Most of the time children are left alone to socialize with one another without any responsive adult to socialize with them/ Children are seen hiding away from strangers showing insecure type of- attachment when they are asked why? They responded by saying "they are here to look at us because we are abandoned and in most cases children referred to us as illegitimate children". They grow up with this pain deep inside their hearts.

Therefore, maternal deprivation has a lot of impact in the lives of children. Thus, no matter how well-structured as orphanage is, it is better to grow up in a poor home in the mix of family members and loved ones that are always there to respond to the child's basic needs, help him/her to socialize and form healthy relationships as well as help them in understanding and labeling their emotion than to grow up in

as orphanage. Even though children with early deprivation tend to catch up in terms of developmental aspects, it takes time to receiver and in most cases these wealthy relationships exceeds into adulthood.

X. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the data collected and analyzed, the following recommendations were made:

1. There is the need for community, Government participation in solving all issues concerning the problems encountered by these children in the orphanage in terms of providing their basic needs of life.
2. Caretakers working in the orphanage should be enlightened on how to foster healthy social-emotional development in these children by, ensuring good caregiver-child interaction that will lead to development of healthy relationships rather than allowing the children socialize on their own.
3. Government, community, NGOs and other philanthropists should come together and provide adequate wages for the caretakers that will motivate them to stay and take care of the children adequately instead of giving them poor wages that makes then leave frequently thereby disrupting the attachment formed by the children to the caregivers.
4. Psychologists such as child psychologist, Health psychologist and counseling psychologist should be employed in the orphanage to supervise, inspect and make sure that the children are treated like other children raised at home to ensure proper development of healthy relationships and the ability to adjust and fit into the wider society.
5. Government, Non Governmental organizations and the community should ensure that the environment is well structured by providing books and other reading materials, toys for the children to play ad play ground for other extra curricula activities that will foster proper development of these children.
6. Children should be allowed to go on excursion and field trip frequently to enable them interact and play with other children because this helps in developing the child socially.
7. Caregivers should be encouraged and trained on how to teach the children interpersonal relationship such

as sharing, turn taking, and labeling emotions in order to develop a healthy relationship with others and become useful and responsible members of the society.

8. Adoption into foster care families should be encouraged. This will go a long way in helping those with early deprivation, to overcome their difficulties, adjust gradually and form, healthy interpersonal relationships thus, it is better to live in the poorest home with internal sensitivity than to live in a well structure orphanage.

XI. CONCLUSION

The rearing of children in the orphanage especially where there is poor stimulation, poor caregiver child interaction and absence of maternal stimulation falls below what is expected for proper and healthy attachment formation as well as healthy social emotional development that lays a foundation for future interpersonal relationships.

The problems of poor caregiver-child ratio, constant change of caregivers and neglect can lead to poor attachment formation, affect social emotional development and in most cases affect the overall development of these children. Therefore, children should be taken care of, nurtured with love, affection and kindness so that they can form proper attachment and social emotional development as well as good and healthy relationship. Thus, it is better to live in the poorest home with family and love ones than to grow in awe structured orphanage without maternal sensitivity and stimulation.

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