

IDENTIFICATION OF FORMS OF CHILD ABUSE IN OGBIA TOWN, BAYELSA STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Background/Objectives: Child abuse is a common social ill with grievous consequences for the child in all parts of the world. It has not shown any sign of abating despite the sensitization and attempts to combat over the years. This study identifies the forms of child abuse in Ogbia Town. The study is guided by a null hypothesis which says: There is no significant independence in respondents on forms of child abuse mete out to children in Ogbia Town. **Materials/Methods:** We adopted a descriptive research design. Four hundred questionnaires on nominal scale (YES/NO response format) were served respondents in Ogbia Town, with a population of 179,926. The sample was drawn through convenience sampling technique. The results are presented in tables and analyzed in simple percentages. Chi square was used to test the null hypothesis. **Results:** The result shows that all forms of child abuse occur in Ogbia Town, though the level of occurrence is higher in some forms than others. Of great significance is the 81% positive response signifying high level presence of educational neglect of children. The null hypothesis was rejected, which means there is significant independence in respondents in forms of child abuse mete out to children in Ogbia Town. We believe the continuous prevalence of child abuse in Ogbia Town is a product of wrong attitude of parents towards children reinforced by the low level of modern education in the population. **Conclusion:** All forms of child abuse are prevalent in Ogbia Town.

Keywords: Identification, Child Abuse, Ogbia Town, Bayelsa State.