

Child Abuse in Nigeria: Film as the Window of Advocacy and Information

Dr. Somtoo Obiefuna Arinze-Umobi

Senior Lecturer, Department of Theatre and Film Studies,
NnamdiAzikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria;

Email addresses: s.arinze-umobi@unizik.edu.ng, umobisomtoo@gmail.com;

Mobile numbers:+2347033569974

&

Onyinye Chiweta-Oduah

Lecturer, Department of Mass Communication,
NnamdiAzikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria;

Email addresses: opc1@stir.ac.uk, umobip@gmail.com;

Mobile numbers: +447424299474, +2348036600408

Abstract

The unexplainable rise of child abuse in Nigeria in recent times has drawn concerns many people from all walks of life. Almost on daily basis, children are maltreated and subjected to all forms of inhumane/ dehumanizing treatments by those who are supposed to protect, love, and care for them. These abuses range from- emotional, Psychological, physical, child trafficking, child marriages, kidnapping, ritual killings, beating, maiming, torture, to mention but a few. We provided insight into this ugly phenomenon in Nigeria by bringing to the fore the fundamental human rights of every child including the provisions of the Child's Rights Act; we also defined who a child is, what child abuse is, causes and effects of abuse on children; we established the importance of film in curbing and addressing this menace by looking at studies that have been conducted on child abuse and films in Nigeria. We found that child abuse and film are under researched areas, and that very few studies have exposed the importance of film in addressing the issue of child abuse in Nigeria. Our study therefore recommended the massive use of film by Nollywood filmmakers in raising awareness on the ills of child abuse in Nigeria, as well as call for the use of film to address the issue of non-enforcement of the Child's Rights Act of 2003 in Nigeria.

Keywords: Film; Child Abuse; Fundamental Human Rights; Child

Introduction

Fundamental human rights are defined as basic rights and freedoms a person is entitled to in the world from birth until death. These rights are applicable to individuals regardless of their origin, beliefs, and in general, their ways of life. These rights cannot be taken away from them, although by certain actions and inactions can sometimes be restricted (Equality and Human rights Commission, n.d). in Nigeria, every individual is entitled to certain rights, duties, liabilities, and privileges entrenched under several existing laws, although certain laws are guaranteed constitutionally under Chapter IV of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and are referred to as inalienable rights (Adu&Randel, 2022). In other words, these rights cannot be taken away from you, given to someone else, and denied.

The Federal Republic of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution, which is applicable to all individuals and authorities, is Nigeria's highest and most important law. All citizens, both adults and children, are guaranteed their rights under the Constitution. It outlines a few fundamental and fundamental rights that are required for a society's welfare and progress to be maximised as well as for the preservation of citizens' rights against governmental or private intervention. Due to the inherent weaknesses of youth and to shield children from adult and governmental

dictate and pity, the constitutional protections are especially helpful in protecting children's rights (see Constitution Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (As Amended); Osita, 1999; Etannibi et al., 2001).

For the purposes of this paper, there is a need to first explore the fundamental human rights briefly as enshrined in Chapter IV of the 1999 constitution, as these would better enhance our understanding of the rights that are inalienable to every Nigerian citizen. The following are inalienable rights of every Nigerian as contained in the 1999 Constitution of the federal Republic of Nigeria: Right to life (Section 33); Right to dignity of human persons (Section 34); Right to personal liberty (Section 35); Right to fair hearing (Section 36); Right to private and family life (Section 37); Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion (Section 38); Right to freedom of expression and the press (Section 39); Right to peaceful assembly and association (Section 40); Right to freedom of movement (Section 41); Right to freedom from discrimination (Section 42); Right to acquire and own immovable property (Section 43); Compulsory acquisition of property (Section 44); Restriction on and derogation from fundamental human rights (Section 45); and Special jurisdiction of High Court and Legal aid (Section 46s).

These two rights- right to life (section 33); and the right to dignity of human persons (section 34) would be defined to help advance the problem statement that necessitated the writing of this article by authors. According to the 1999 Nigerian Constitution, every individual has a right to life and this should not be deprived or taken away by anyone except for certain situations and/or circumstances: (i) in the execution of a sentence of court in relation to a criminal offence which he has been found guilty of in Nigeria; (ii) if dead as a result of force reasonably used from unlawful violence of for the defence of property; (iii), to effect a lawful arrest or to prevent the escape of a person lawfully detained; or to (iv), to suppressing a riot, insurrection or mutiny.

The Right to dignity of human persons maintains that everyone is entitled to his or her dignity and no person is subject to any form of torture, slavery or be required to perform forced labour. More so, a look at the 2003 Child's Rights Act reveals certain other rights that a Nigerian child is entitled to. The Child Right Act was passed to acknowledge children's rights as fundamental, and it gives children's welfare and best interests top priority in relation to legal protection. The Act is modelled after the African Union Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Act ensures that children have the right to life, growth, protection, and participation (Child's Rights Act, 2003. No.26).

Section 12 of the Child's Rights Act maintains that every Nigerian child is entitled to rest and leisure, and is also entitled to engage in play, sports, and recreational activities. This right is to be upheld by not just the government but institutions, service, agency etc. What this implies is that everyone, be it parent or legal guardian, has no right to deprive a child this right; section 15 (right of a child to free compulsory and universal primary education etc.) of the above mentioned act maintains that every child has the right to free, compulsory and universal basic education and it shall be the duty of the government in Nigeria to provide such education; section 28 (prohibition of exploitative labour) subsection c of the same 2003 child's rights Act maintains that no child shall be required, in any case, to lift, carry or move anything so heavy as to be likely to adversely affect his physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development (see sections 12, 15, and 28 of the 2003 Child's Rights Act).

What these rights suggest in the context of this paper, is that every child (who this study revolves around) deserves the right to life (live, love, cared for...), has the right to dignity, deserves to play, enjoy, socialise, be educated, and should not be subjected to any form of hard labour that would maim him/her. In other words, do not deserve to be abused, bullied, maltreated, neglected, subjected to any form of hardship and slavery, or engage in forced labour, or deprived of any right by parents or legal guardians.

For this paper, the authors would explore these afore-mentioned rights as contained in the 1999 Constitution of the federal Republic of Nigeria, and in the 2003 Child's Rights Act in relation to the prevalent rate of child abuse in Nigeria. This would aid in the better understanding of what is obtainable in the Nigerian society concerning child abuse, and to also to help proffer best solutions towards curtailing and curbing this ugly menace which has eaten so deeply into the fabrics of society. It is pertinent to note here that the crux of this paper is not to solely analyse the constitutional rights that are contained in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal republic of Nigeria, but to shed light into some of these rights in order to aid in the advancement of the concerns and/or social vices (child abuses) that this paper aims to address.

Having looked at some of the human rights that are applicable to every individual in Nigeria, both young and old in preceding sections, the following section would be used to define who a child is, what child abuse is, and the different forms of child abuse, causes of child abuse and the effects of child abuse. The definitions of these terms, as well as exposition of the causes and effects of child abuse, would provide the readers a better understanding of the subject matter- prevalence of child abuse in Nigeria.

Who is a Child?

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, a child is defined as a young person especially between infancy and puberty. A child is defined as any person under the age of 18 (UNICEF, nd). Although the meaning of a child is one idea that has undergone definitional particularity (Onuche&Onuche, 2021), for this paper, a 'child' would be defined as any young person who has not reached the age of making decisions and relies on adults to make decisions for him/her.

Child Abuse

Child abuse, otherwise known and referred to by many as child maltreatment, includes all forms of physical and emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect, and exploitation that result in actual or potential harm to the child's health, development, or dignity (Ibrahimova, 2014).

The World Health Organisation (2022) defines Child maltreatment as the abuse and neglect that occurs to children under 18 years of age. It includes all types of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect, negligence and commercial or other exploitation, which results in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development, or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust, or power.

Child maltreatment is defined as:

all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect, or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power (Butchart, Putney, Furniss, and Kahane, 2006, p.9).

According to Alokun (2010) Child abuse includes any behaviour which neglects the child's survival and development needs, causes physical or emotional injury, harassment or subjects the child to measures, situations and experiences which interfere with the healthy development towards adulthood (p. 240).

Child abuse takes different forms, and most times, parents and guardians are the worst offenders of this crime. Child abuse can take the form of neglect; Physical abuse; Psychological abuse; Emotional abuse; sexual abuse; child labour; vagrancy; female genital mutilation; child marriage; kidnapping, and the list is endless, especially in Nigeria (see Akpan&Oluwabamide, 2010;Ede &Kalu, 2018). Some of these abuses especially the ones that are highly prevalent in Nigeria would be defined below.

Neglect is simply defined as the failure to provide age-appropriate care, such as housing, food, clothing, education, supervision, medical attention, and other necessities needed for the development of a child's physical, intellectual, and emotional capacities, is referred to as child neglect. Child abandonment, inadequate supervision, rejection of a child resulting in expulsion from the home and failing to adequately provide for the child's safety and physical and emotional needs are examples of physical neglect. Other common types of child neglect include educational, emotional, and medical neglect (Ibrahimova, 2014).

Physical Abuse can be characterised as any act that causes non-accidental harm or physical injury. In other words, physical abuse is perpetrated with the aim of maiming, punishing, or hurting a child. This type of abuse is considered that most obvious form of child abuse. The most common definition of physical damage is inappropriate, severe corporal punishment or unjustified punishment. This type of abuse typically occurs when a parent or legal guardian punches, shakes, throw, or pushes a child out of frustration or rage. Physical abuse can be done through punching, kicking, beating, biting, burning, pouring of hot water, hitting, dragging, slapping, to mention but a few...It is advisable for the right authorities to consider physical abuse if the explanation and reasons given by a child about a particular bodily injury do not commensurate with the injury (Ibrahimova, 2014).

Psychological abuse is defined as the routine and intentional use of a variety of words and non-physical actions with the intent to inflict emotional pain or distress, control, hurt, weaken, or frighten an individual mentally and emotionally; and/or distort, confuse, or influence an individual's thoughts and actions in their daily lives, changing their sense of self and harming their wellbeing. This could take the form of verbal assault, insults, threats, intimidation, refusal to communicate (see, SafeLives,nd; Simone et al., 2016).

Emotional abuse is directed at constantly harming or hurting a child's emotion through constant humiliation, criticisms, isolation. Usually, this type of abuse is hard to prove because there is no physical evidence to prove this. According to an article written by Gordon (2020), emotional abuse involves controlling another person by using emotions to criticize, embarrass, shame, blame, or otherwise manipulate them. While most common in dating and married relationships, mental or emotional abuse can occur in any relationship—including among friends, family members, and co-workers.

Sexual Abuse is a form of child abuse whereby and an adult uses a child for sexual stimulations. As averred by Theoklitou (2012), child sexual abuse refers to the participation of a child in a sexual act aimed towards the physical gratification or financial profit of the person committing the act.

Child Labour is defined by The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) as "work that is mentally, physically and socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children and deprives them opportunities for schooling and development". According to Adedapo (2004), child labour in Nigeria also entails the engagement of under aged children below the age of eighteen in the manner that restricts or prevents them from basic education and development. Child labour remains a major source of concern in Nigeria.

Child Marriage can simply be defined as a union in which minors (the girl children) are made spouses. This type of marriage automatically turns a girl into a woman as they are supposed to perform the duties of a woman- childbearing and rearing at a very tender age (under the age of eighteen years). Child marriage is widespread around the world but is particularly prevalent in parts of Asia and Africa, including Nigeria. Although young children are normally incapable of giving valid consent to enter marriage, such marriages are typically arranged and frequently coerced. There is a high likelihood that marriages between people under the age of majority will involve child abuse (Ede & Kalu, 2018).

Regrettably, child abuse has become a global phenomenon, and in Nigeria, highly prevalent (Alokan, 2019; Uzuegbu, 2010) and being perpetrated almost daily by parents, carers; thus, has drawn concerns from many from all walks of life in Nigeria (scholars, government, non-governmental organisations, and all those concerned about the welfare of children).

Although many laws and policies (see previous sections) have been enacted to protect the rights of children in Nigeria, and protect children from all forms of torture, inhuman, or degrading treatment (Olusegun and Idowu, 2016), these laws and policies have not been very effective and have yielded little or no result (Akpan & Oluwabamide, 2010). A situation described as alarming by Akpan and Oluwabamide (2010). Children are constantly abused by their parents, carers, friends, neighbours, and communities at large. Unfortunately, despite the rate at which these abuses are perpetrated, they are under reported and are underrepresented in films.

Causes of Child Abuse

Scholars had discussed certain causes of child abuse in Nigeria- economic; cultural; social; personal (Uzuegbu, 2010; Dubois and Miley, 2010; Sossou and Yogtiba, 2008); poor economy; lack of education; ignorance; socio-economic problems; stress (Ugoji, 2004). In addition to the causes of child abuse as already discussed by other scholars in their studies and listed above, the authors identify poverty; mental instability; parents/ caregivers past experiences and/or developmental training, lack of knowledge of the child protection law/ policies/ Child's Rights Act; Non-enforcement of the Child's Rights Acts by the authorities; Lack of parental capacity assessment; misinterpretation and misuse of parental rights and power, as causes of child abuse in Nigeria. These causes are explained below.

Poverty is one of the major causes of child abuse in Nigeria. Most parents and caregivers due to their inability to fend for their children or wards, send out children to become domestic helps to other people at a very tender age. The resultant effect of them being sent out as domestic helps is abuse. Most children end up being abused, maltreated, and subjected to all kinds of inhuman treatment; simply because their biological parents cannot take care of them. In Nigeria today, a large majority of domestic helps (children) are tortured, starved, deprived of education, sent out to the streets to hawk whilst their mates are in school, disfigured, used for money rituals...

Mental instability is one of the major causes of child abuse in Nigeria. This is due to lack of self-control, mood swings, inability to control stress and situations and think rationally. Most children fall prey to such parents, legal guardians and they end up abused and sadly, killed in the process.

Parents/ caregivers past experiences and/or developmental training. Individuals reflect what they experienced, and they exhibit them consciously or unconsciously. Children are abused by parents and legal guardians who have in one way, or the other been abused or exposed to domestic violence or abuse. When an individual's development stage is full of violence, he or she ends up perpetrating such acts on others believing that the norm is ideal and right.

Lack of knowledge of the child protection law/ policies/ Child's Rights Act. Most parents and legal guardians are not aware of the provisions of the law in relation to children's' rights and protection. Most are ignorant of these laws and consequences; thus, perpetrating these ills, believing that they are acceptable and right in the society.

Non-enforcement of the Child's Rights Acts by the authorities. This simply contributes to the high rate of child abuse in Nigeria. Although these laws and policies have been enacted to protect the fundamental human rights of children, the authorities barely enforce these laws. Most times, the culprits get away with their crimes and as such, more people engage in such evil acts.

Lack of parental capacity assessment. Most parents believe that parenthood is all about biologically owning a child. Most parents, unfortunately, do not have the capacity to parent children. Some lack the knowledge of good parenting, some do not have the capacity, and some lack the experience. And due lack of these assessments in Nigeria, the issue of child abuse is on the roof.

Misinterpretation and misuse of parental rights and power. Child abuse also is caused by the misinterpretation and inappropriate enforcement of parental rights and power. Most parents abuse their children in the cause of punishing them. For instance, a parent can ask a child to kneel down and carry a heavy load meant for an adult, all in the name of punishment. Most times, parents/ legal guardians over emphasize these parental rights, thus, causing harm and damage to the child.

Effects of abuse on a child and in the country

The negative effects of child abuse in any country especially in Nigeria (study scope) cannot be over emphasised given the rate at which it affects the future of children, as well as mares the image of the country. Children are referred to as the future and leaders of tomorrow and are moulded and/or formed by the experiences they are exposed to in their early stages of life. In other words, children are reflections of what they are exposed to. Corroborating this further, Alokun (2019) averred that although childhood is not a cure-all for social evils, but it is the period when children are solely dependent on their parents, guardians, carers, and when major physiological changes take place that lay the groundwork for the development of a child's attitudes and habits. In the same vein, Sossou and Yogtiba (2008), maintained that Childhood is a time when talents are still developing, thus it should be a time when children's bio-psychosocial, emotional, and mental growth is nurtured rather than when they are abused, neglected, or exploited.

Undoubtedly, when they are abused and deprived of these fundamental rights and opportunities they ought to have gained, they are underdeveloped, and would lack certain developmental opportunities- educational opportunities, social opportunities, economic opportunities, that they need to whether the storm and contribute to their nation's development. In other words, when children are deprived of their rights and opportunities, the country inevitably suffers.

Effects of abuse on the child

An abused child is timid; lacks confidence; afraid of the future; withdraws from the society; emotionally and psychologically disturbed; a societal nuisance/ misfit; lacks the ability to make good decisions and judgement; is violent; fidgets in front of adults; unable to express his/ her self; lacks the ability to make and keep a good home as an adult; cannot make a good leader; juvenile delinquent or adult criminals; and in the worst case scenario, maimed for life or dead. More so, Orjiakor et al., (2020) identified anxiety, agitation, guilt feelings, neurotic disorders as some of the effects of abuse on children. They also averred that majority of the dare-devil criminals present in our societies were young delinquents of yesterday.

Film as a mass medium for Addressing Child Abuse in Nigeria

The mass media have always been veritable channels by which societal events/ happenings are relayed to the populace and/or citizens of any country. Anorue and Onyebuchi (2011) demonstrated this point when they maintained that without a question, the mass media is effective at spreading innovations and enlisting the public in a cause that is beneficial to the country, and that the public can be educated and mobilised through the media about the importance of taking part in the implementation of the campaign against child abuse. For the purposes of this paper, the authors would look at the place of film as a medium of addressing the menace of child abuse. Thus, to effectively achieve this, the authors would first, ascertain what has been written on child abuse and film in Nigeria by scholars, this is to help establish gaps in literature and aid in proper recommendations.

Although the power of film is unreckonable compared to other media of communication, due to its visual advantage and its power to mirror societal events to the society, and leave lasting impressions, films, unfortunately, have not been properly utilised in the fight against child abuse in Nigeria. There appears to be limited literature that addressed the importance of film in child abuse awareness creation in Nigeria. Thus, making this area an under researched area that needs to be explored by scholars, as there appears to be a dearth of knowledge. Nwaolikpe (2018) conducted a cross sectional study that examined the influence of Nollywood films in creating awareness of sexual violence and influencing the perception and attitude on sexual violence of secondary school female teenagers in Lagos, Nigeria. The study concluded that campaign initiatives on sexual violence be launched through Nollywood Films.

Another study by Orjiakor et al., (2020) on the effectiveness of radio programmes in campaign against child abuse in Imo State, recommended the need for persistent use of radio to report issues of public importance like child abuse. As this would help in the improvement and the increase in the level of awareness and knowledge. This study, however, discovered the importance of radio (medium of mass communication) in child abuse creation and campaign. Ejiofor et al., (2019) based their study on the role of Nigerian film in the fight against child abuse. The study concluded that the government in conjunction with Nollywood Film industry is competent to fight the menace of child abuse in Nigeria.

Ibrahim and Haruna (2018) also looked at the use of film/cinema in the fight against drug abuse in Northern Nigeria. Notwithstanding the fact that these studies, except for Ejiofor et al., (2019), were not aimed at child abuse and films, they exposed the importance of film in the awareness creation of societal ills, due to its power of sensitisation, education, enlightenment, towards behavioural change as a result of its persuasive, manipulative nature (Arinze-Umobi and Chiweta-Oduah, 2020).

Recommendation/ Conclusion

The film is recommended as an important medium for addressing the menace of child abuse in Nigeria. The reason for this recommendation is because films mirror societal happenings and leave lasting impressions in the minds of audience. We are what we watch. The love for Nigerian movies by a good majority of Nigerians, even those in diaspora, should be effectively leveraged on by Nollywood filmmakers in the production of child abuse-related movies, as this would boost awareness. The authors have isolated films from all other forms of mass media as a vital medium for the fight against child abuse in Nigeria, given that it is among the most popular entertainment medium.

Nigerian film makers should address the menace of child abuse in Nigeria by mirroring the vices and ugly consequences of child abuse to not just the child, but to the entire nation; portraying the various causes and forms of child abuse; creating contents, shedding light and educating the citizens about the provisions of the law in relation to child protection; by providing solutions and the best ways of treating and handling children in order for them not to be abused.

The film should also be used to educate people and create awareness on the need for parental capacity assessment, as this would help inform and educate individuals on what is expected of an ideal parent. This can be achieved by the Nollywood film makers by thoroughly researching on child abuse, provisions of the laws regarding child abuse in Nigeria, as this would aid in the writing, production, and portrayal of child abuse and possible solutions and remedies. Films should also be used to address the issue of non-enforcement of the set child's rights and protection.

References

- Adedapo, I. (2004). Nigeria still in the throes of child labour. *Punch*, June 4, 2004
- Adu, D. and Randel, E. (2022) **Nigeria: Fundamental Human Rights Under The 1999 Constitution (As Amended)**. Accessed 26 February 2022. Retrieved from <https://www.mondaq.com/nigeria/human-rights/1221232/fundamental-human-rights-under-the-1999-constitution-as-amended>
- Alokan, F. B. (2010). Broken homes and child abuse: *Pakistan Journal of Social Science* 7 (3), 240-243.
- Alokan, F (2019). Child Abuse, Its Impact And Social Problem. *SSRG International Journal of Humanities and Social Science (SSRG-IJHSS)*. 6 (4), 80-83.
- Anorue, L.I., Obayi, P.M., & Onyebuchi, C.A. (2011). The influence of media coverage of government programmes on poverty alleviation in Nigeria. *International Journal of Arts & Humanities*, 3(2)
- Akpan, N., & Oluwabamide, A. J. (2010). The menace of child abuse in Nigeria: A case study of street hawking in Uyo, AkwaIbom State. *Journal of Social Sciences*, 24(3), 189-192.

- Arinze-Umobi, S.O. and Chiweta-Oduah, O. (2020) COVID-19 crisis response strategies: The place of mass media. *International Journal of Advanced Research*, 8, pp. 1102-1109.
- Butchart, A., Putney, H., Furniss, T. and Kahane, T. (2006) Preventing child maltreatment: a guide to taking action and generating evidence. Geneva: World Health Organisation.
- Constitution Federal republic of Nigeria 1999 (As Amended)
- Child's Rights Act 2003. Accessed 28 February 2023. Retrieved from <http://citizenshiprightsafrika.org/wp-content/uploads/2003/05/Nigeria-Child-Rights-Act-2003.pdf>
- DuBois, B., & Miley, K. (2010). *Social Work, An Empowering Profession*. Boston: Pearson Education, Inc.
- Ede, V. I., & Kalu, D. Z. (2018). Child abuse in Nigeria: Responses of Christian churches and the way out. *International Journal for Innovative Research in Multidisciplinary Field*, 4(4), 46-53.
- Ejiofor, A., Ojiakor, I., & Nwaozor, A. (2019). The role of Nigerian film in the fight against child sexual abuse. *NNADIEBUBE JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (NJSS)*, 1(1), 70-80.
- Equality and Human Rights Commissions (n.d). What are human rights? <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/human-rights/what-are-human-rights#:~:text=Human%20rights%20are%20the%20basic,choose%20to%20live%20your%20life>.
- Etannibi E.O., Victor A.O., and Nimi W. J. (2001). Civil and Human Rights Education for Nigerian Students, (LEADS-Nigeria 2001).
- Gordon, S. (2020). What is Emotional Abuse? Signs and Red Flags of Emotional Abuse. Accessed 5 March, 2023. Retrieved from <https://www.verywellmind.com/identify-and-cope-with-emotional-abuse-4156673>
- Ibrahimova, G. (2014). Child Abuse Advocacy. Accessed 1 March 2023. Retrieved from https://www.academia.edu/8022956/Child_Abuse_Advocacy
- Ibrahim, M. M., & Haruna, A. (2018). FILMS FOR REFORM: CINEMA AND THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE IN NORTHERN NIGERIA.
- Merriam-Webster dictionary. Accessed 1 March 2023. Retrieved from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/child>
- NWAOLIKPE, N. O. (2018). Viewership of Nollywood Films and Public Awareness of Sexual Violence among Teenage Girls in Lagos State, Nigeria. *Ebonyi State University Journal of Mass Communication*. 5, (1), 12-24.
- Ojiakor, I. C., Anyanwu, B. J. C., Nkwam-Uwaoma, A., & Duru, C. C. (2020). Effectiveness of radio programmes in campaign against child abuse in Imo State. *American Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Research*, 4(8), 161-170.
- Olusegun, O. O., & Idowu, A. A. (2016). Child Abuse in Nigeria: Dimension, Reasons for its Persistence and Probable Solutions. *Child & Fam. LJ*, 4, 1.
- ONUCHE, E. I., & ONUCHE, S. O. (2021). RIGHTS OF THE NIGERIAN CHILD: THE LAW, MYTHS AND REALITY. *African Journal Of Law And Human Rights*, 5(1).
- Osita N.O. Human Rights Law and Practice in Nigeria: An Introduction, CIDJAP PRESS (Enugu, Nigeria:1999).
- SaveLives (nd). Psychological Abuse. Accessed 2 March 2023. Retrieved from <https://safelives.org.uk/psychological-abuse#:~:text=Psychological%20abuse%20involves%20the%20regular,everyday%20lives%2C%20changing%20their%20sense>

- Simone, L., Wettstein, A., Senn, O., Rosemann, T., & Hasler, S. (2016). Types of abuse and risk factors associated with elder abuse. *Swiss medical weekly*, 146(0304), w14273-w14273.
- Sossou, M., & Yogtiba, J. (2008). Abuse of Children in West Africa: Implications for Social Work Education and Practice. *British Journal of Social Work*. Retrieved July 6, 2010 from [doi:10.1093/bjsw/bcn0](https://doi.org/10.1093/bjsw/bcn0)
- Theoklitou, D. et al, (2012). Physical and emotional abuse of primary school students by teachers. *Child Abuse and Neglect* 36 (1), 64-70..
- UNICEF, Child labour. <http://www.unicef.org/nigeria/> Accessed on 3/9/2015.
- UNICEF (nd). The Convention on the Rights of the Child: The Children's Version. Accessed 1 March 2023. Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention/convention-text-childrens-version>
- Ugoji, F. (2004). Child Abuse: Dimensions, causes and Effects. Accessed 3 March 2023. Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/342814364_CHILD_ABUSE_DIMENSIONS_CAUSES_AND_EFFECTS.
- Uzuegbu, C.N (2010). Culture And Child Abuse In Nigeria. *International Journal of Research in Arts and Social Sciences*. 2, 201-206
- World Health Organization (2022), Child Maltreatment. Accessed 28 February 2023. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/child-maltreatment>