

PARENTS' PERCEPTION OF MEDIA REPORTS ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE A STUDY OF OTA, OGUN STATE

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Abstract

Child Sexual Abuse is on the increase in Nigeria as six out of ten children in Nigeria according to UNICEF experience sexual assault before the age of eighteen. Evidently, parents are the first contact of socialization for a child. Therefore, this study which is carried out in Ota in Ogun state seeks to find out the perception of parents to media reports on child sexual abuse. It examines parents' source of information about CSA, the level of knowledge about CSA among parents, the attitude of parents to information about CSA in the media and the perception of parents on the adequacy of media information on CSA. The survey method of research was used to obtain data using the instrument of the questionnaire. The researcher used the multi-stage sampling method to determine the study area and population of respondents to represent the total population of parents in Ota Area. Results obtained were presented and interpreted using tables showing percentage. Findings revealed that parents in Ota have a good knowledge of child sexual abuse through media reports. The result also shows that parents believe that child sexual abuse is a social problem involving children of both sexes. The result also shows that parents do not agree with the myth of 'strangers only sexually abuse children', indicating that sexual abuse of a child also happens among family members. However, the knowledge of the Child Rights Act is still lacking. In conclusion, the lack of Child Rights knowledge may be the reason for the ineffectiveness in finding a solution to CSA; therefore there is a need to make for the awareness of Child Rights Act by the media.

Keywords: *Parents, Perception, Media, Reports, Child, Sexual, Abuse, Child Rights Acts.*

INTRODUCTION

Media have an indispensable responsibility in socially constructing the problem of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) as a foremost societal predicament that is becoming rampant. The media in recent years have laid the groundwork for the perception of Child Sexual Abuse through news programs, talk shows, TV dramas, and films. Kitzinger (2004, p.36) argues that the reportage of sexual abuse of children in the media has reached saturation. However, highlighting the importance of the media, McGee (2002) in Breen (2007) acknowledge the media's function in developing a precise and comprehensive grasp of sexual violence (Child Sexual Abuse) among the general public. Media reports on sexual abuse changed public awareness, as well as, had intense implication for private understanding. In her research, Kitzinger (2001, p.94) notes that, up until the mid-1980s, victims of CSA often struggle to understand what had been done to them within the insufficient information accessible to them at that time. She also explained that the culture of silence about the issue of incest, made victims try comprehending their experiences without words to define what was happening. Reid (2002, p.140) expresses that the media is to ensure that the society through effective



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media profiling, take collective responsibility to deal with the issue. Kitzinger and Skidmore (1995) discover that media coverage had more effect in confronting CSA than comments from friends. They concluded with the argument that practical report on CSA by the media, made people both to disclose and to question such experience (Kitzinger and Skidmore, 1995). But Daramola (2008), explains that the media aside from its information function it has no effort to change people's attitude through persuasion. He states that communication cannot by itself bring about the change required. Therefore, the media are to engage and activate responsiveness of the society towards any social issue of concern.

A parent or guardian is considered the protector and caregiver for a child. The first contact for social interaction for a child is the parent. To Walsh and Brandon (2011) parents are seen to be often readily accessible by the children. In a family setting, the parent is expected to be in charge of the proper development of the child. Therefore, the proper knowledge of the parent or guardian concerning the reasons, remedies, and prevention of the sexual abuse of children is a great deal. Parents' understanding of CSA as a social problem may cause an intervention. Taylor-Browne (1997) notes that child sexual abuse can only be discussed if it is acknowledged as a significant social problem.

Sexual abuse of children is on the increase in Nigeria. According to UNICEF Nigeria national survey findings, six out of every ten Nigerian children, experience sexual exploitation earlier than the age of eighteen. The survey showed that respondents between the ages of 18-24 had one in four girls and one in ten boys who experienced sexual violence before they turn 18. While aged 13-17 had a figure of one in seven girls and one in eleven boys who had reported sexual violence in the past 12 months. The report also shows that those who experience child sexual abuse also reported multiple incidents. Respondents aged 13-17 were found to have their first incident of CSA at age 13 or earlier (Violence against Children Survey 2014, p117-118). The brief data is shocking as it shows the prevalence of this social vice of child sexual in the Nigerian society. Due to the vulnerability of children who have no ability to make the rational decision it is important that parents or guardians act as protectors against pedophiles who seek to ruin the proper emotional development of the child. The meaning decoded from media message by parents goes a long way to affect attitude and practice. How the parents receive and perceive this media information about CSA is great to deal and will determine how this social problem will be solved.

Therefore this research seeks to tackle the issue from the standpoint of Parents perception to media reports on Child Sexual Abuse. This study seeks;

1. To find out the source of information of Child Sexual Abuse among parents.
2. To find out the level of knowledge about Child Sexual Abuse among parents.
3. To find out the attitude of parents to media reports on Child Sexual Abuse in the media.
4. To find out the perception of parents on the adequacy of media information on child sexual abuse.



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LITERATURE REVIEW

Child abuse is a broad term that involves different types of abuse involving the child. According to one Child International 2010, Child Abuse involves 4 grouping; namely, bodily abuse (physical), sexual abuse, neglect, and expressive (emotional) abuse. Gupta and Aggarwal (2012, p.417) also mention neglect, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and physical abuse as the major types of child abuse. Further explaining that these types of abuse cannot be engaged in isolation, as there is mostly a combination of two types of abuse in practice. Interestingly, UNICEF (2001, p.192) referring to Kempe's 1980 definition of child abuse mentions sexual child abuse as a serious type of child abuse, which is our focus in this study.

Child Sexual Abuse

"Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) is defined as any use of a child for sexual gratification by another person. It can be perpetrated by an adult, an older or more developmentally advanced child, or even a child of the same age if coercion is present" (Olafson 2011, p.8). It is sexual abuse of a child directly involving a child in sexual activities with the intention of getting sexual satisfaction, without his or her informed consent, regarding the child is not mature enough to be involved or associated with such practice, and that violates the law or social norm of a society (Abdulkadir, Musa, Umar, Musa, Jimoh, Aliyu, and Na'uzo, 2011). Osadan and Reid (2015, p.21) were more detailed in their definition, giving a clear picture of various types of child sexual abuse such as exposing the child to pornography, initiating undesired touching with sexual overtones, attempting intercourse, voyeurism with the child victim, or the use of objects to penetrate the child's private part and Taking photos of the child for pornography. "However, the focus on CSEC in the Developing World has meant that the more pervasive sexual abuse of children in their own homes, neighborhoods, and communities, frequently at the hands of peers, teachers, parents, and other relatives has been neglected" (Lalor 2003, p.404). Sexual violence against a child is often hidden and largely denied and is repeatedly undetectable to society. The use coercion and intimidation, perpetrators silence their child victims, who often refuse to denounce their abusers (Maldonado 2007).

Child Sexual Abuse: A Social Problem

Child sexual abuse (CSA) is gaining growing impact as a human rights problem. The World Health Organization in 2002, referred to Sexual Abuse of a young person as an "epidemic and a public health crisis" (Ige and Fawole, 2011, p.695). According to Taylor-Browne (1997, p.4), for the sexual abuse of youngsters to be addressed, it has to be recognized as a major societal setback. This will result in the possibility of having a continuing discussion about the origins of, and remedies for, the problem of youngster sexual abuse. Without such a dialogue, current social policy in child sexual abuse will continue to be seen as adequate for dealing with the problem.

Child abuse is seen as an aspect of other social occurrence or situations, rather than as phenomenon in its own right (Dada 2013, p.115). Obviously, there are structural features to child sexual abuse that make understanding the problem around the experience difficult. Abuse most times may always engender a sense of loneliness, disarticulation, and perplexity.

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Complex thoughts can be spawning by abusers' exploitation of what seem real and their assertion on secrecy (Kitzinger 2001, p. 94). "A child's age, dependent status, and inability to consent to make nonviolent CSA both criminal and wrong, even when the child does not appear to be physically or emotionally damaged by the encounter" (Olafson, 2004, p. 152). "One of the reasons for the lack of information and low interest in the topic may have been the privacy of the act usually occurring within families and involving father and daughter or between close relatives, other acquaintances and strangers" (Ezeh, Abamara, Ndukaihe and Ikwuagwu 2013, p.58). In simple terms, the vulnerability and powerlessness of children as such escalate the fact and possibility of being victimized. The effect of the abuse of youngsters is far-reaching into families and communities, with vast economic impacts for societies in terms of rehabilitative health, welfare, and justice system costs, (Taylor *et al.*, 2008). Ezeh *et al.* (2013, p. 59) lament the fact that sexual abuse by an unknown person or a stranger is more often reported than for example, incest between father -daughter or even brother-sister and even between family relatives. This is a criminal case which should be frowned at and as such be generally brought to the knowledge of the law enforcement agents, such as the police and the law courts through reporting. Allnock (2010, p.1) describes child sexual abuse as "silent and witness free crime", which leaves no physical or substantial indication, as a result of being concealed by the perpetrator. Abdulkadir *et al.* (2011, p.16) posit that non-reporting is associated with the complexity, involving various factors. These factors may include the connection between the person responsible for the abuse and the victim, the age of the violated, the victim's gender, a seriousness of the abused and consequences associated with the abuse.

Media Reportage of Child Sexual Abuse

Cheit, Shavit, and Reiss-Davis (2010) mention that there are two ways of analyzing media coverage of sexual abuse of a young person. These two ways involve what is referred to as, Case Reporting and Frame Analysis (p.100). Case Reporting focuses on reporting crimes and bridge of conduct within and without the society. Newsworthiness specifically is a factor that determines what nature of criminal stories should be reported and for how long (Cheit, *et al.*, 2010, p. 100). Newsworthiness is measured by its seriousness, the presence of sentiments and human interest angle. Media reportage on the sexual abuse of a child engages the newsworthy factors as a depth for coverage. In agreement Skidmore (1995) opined in his research that child sexual abuse information is influenced by the universal news standards of proximity, drama, and most times sensationalism (p.89). The author further explains that CSA reports are linked with the reporting of crime and deviance within the frame of newsworthiness (Skidmore 1995, p. 90).

Framing analysis simply explains how the media over the years have covered news stories in frames of board topics over the years. Framing is important in news report because it performs the important function in the process of actual reporting and defining social construct regarding social problems in the society. Framing promotes highlights, explains, and interprets definite occurrences of events giving connections within them to give a particular understanding, evaluation and evidently providing solutions to the problem. Mejia, Cheyne, and Dorfman (2012) explain news media frames as portrays of social concerns in the society through an intricate procedure of organizing information creating meaning. Framing

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mostly raises the profile level of any social problem which determines audience perception. Cheit et al (2015) explain Beckett's 1996 news magazine framing on CSA. Beckett divided news magazine coverage of child sexual abuse into three broad frames which are positive pedophilia, collective denial, and false accusation.

The media in the 1960s paid little attention to the subject of child abuse and neglect (Weatherred 2015). Basannavar (2016) attested to the above claims explaining that press coverage of sexual crime in the mid-1960s in Britain was heavily coloured by allusions, euphemisms, and displacement, that is, the media failed to engage directly the sexual nature of the crime rather, through psychological profiling used demonic language and imagery in their reports (para. 3). The term "Battered Child Syndrome" became the interest of the media in 1962, following a publication by Henry Kempe. This was the foundation of media profiling of child sexual abuse. This media breakthrough leads to the second and third stages of media coverage between 1980-1989 and 1990-1999 respectively (Whetherred, 2015 p.20). Powell and Scanlon (2014, para.4) stated that the media had a ground break in 1986 with the "Child Watch Programme", which became a major BBC program. This program increased public attention to CSA. Whetherred (2015) points out that celebrities, like Oprah Winfrey, began to disclose past victimizations, (p.20). Cases involving child sex offenders lead to sex offenders' restriction laws, as media coverage became intense and horrific. Most importantly the media began to debate the effectiveness of the laws in preventing child sexual abuse (Whetherred, 2015). Oyero (2011) posits the relevance of mass media campaigns and report as an essential for placing child abuse issues on public and political agenda. "The media especially newspapers, radio, and television, are powerful tools in raising awareness or as partners in an advocacy campaign to promote children's rights" (Choudhury 2014, p.9). The Media function of education, information and entertainment offer a lot to the society. The media have over the years has become an important reference in profiling the importance of a child in the society.

Parents Perception of CSA

Parents are considered as guardians and caregivers of children as of right of birth or blood-tie. "The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in Paragraphs 2 and 3 of its Preamble, reiterates the conviction that the family is the fundamental unit of the society. Thus, parents provide the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all their immediate family members, including children" (Obiechima, 2014, p.152). The parents or guardians have the responsibility to protect their children from sexual victimization.

According to Chen & Chen, (2005) and Hansen, (2005), "parental beliefs or practices have been shown to impede the actual occurrence of CSA by directly influencing their child's prevention knowledge and self-protection practices" (cited in Sika-Bright and Nnorom 2013) explains that we all have different reactions and actions towards sexuality and how it should be expressed. It is important to know that public opinion especially that of parents concerning CSA are important. "Parents perceptions of CSA reflects the way that parents understand or think about CSA, such as how they define CSA, and how they think about the risk of CSA, such as how they respond to CSA cases, as well as how they discuss CSA prevention with

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their children” (Xie, Qiao and Wang 2016, p.1000). It is important for parents to understand and make good judgment that will aid their knowledge of the risk of sexual abuse in their children.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The study adopts Hall’s (1980) Encoding and Decoding model of communication stating that "the degrees of 'understanding' and 'misunderstanding' in the communicative exchange - depend on the degrees of symmetry/asymmetry... between the positions of the 'personifications', encoder-producer and decoder/receiver" (Livingstone, 2000). Encoding and Decoding are simply the translation of a message for simple understanding. The producer or sender prepares and sends a media message with the intention to disseminate specific information of interest. This message is received by the receiver and then decoded in a way not intended by the sender. Due to preexisting values, the audience can interpret media message as they rely on social context. This posits that mass media is not sufficient enough to cause audience responsiveness to media message instead of the media functions among other mediating factors such as culture, gender, religion, educational background and so on. Individual difference leads to variations in perception, making for selective interpretation, retention, and response to media messages. Therefore, mass media messages meant for the audience is interpreted differently by each unique individual. In the case of child sexual abuse, the media according to Weatherred (2015) shape, public perception of child sexual abuse; in part by the way news reports are formed. However, Daramola (2008) argues that the media has no power to change people’s attitude through persuasion. The view of the author is has a result of individual difference and interpretation of child sexual abuse reports by the media. McCartan, Kemshall, and Tabachnick (2015) recognize that child sexual abuse is affected by current societal framings and understandings. There is the presence of societal perceptions, which precedes media, professional and public interpretation of child sexual abuse. Burr, states that social constructs revolves around four basic ideas and they are “(1) that knowledge is developed through experience, (2) that everything is culturally and historically specific, (3) that social processes sustain current knowledge, and (4) that the complex processes of social interaction construct reality” (Burr, 1995 in McCartan *et al.*, 2015, p.100). For example in Nigeria were some cultures believe in girl child marriage media reports on child sexual abuse will be strange to them and they will take the message as hostile going against their culture. Therefore, in such situations, media messages will be interpreted to suit the already existing culture of the people.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology that will be adopted for this study will be the quantitative method of research.

Study Design

The research design for this study involved survey method (quantitative).

Population of Study

The population study consists of parents who reside in Ota Area. The researcher selected this population because the study seeks to find out the perception of parents to media reports on

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child sexual abuse. Parents also have the necessary capability to respond to the questions raised by the research instrument.

Sample Size

According to Ogun state government, the population of Ota is about 527,242 with male population as 261,523 and Female Population as 265,719, (National Population Commission, 2006). As a result of lack of data in determining household population in Ota, the researcher decided to distribute 50 questionnaires in the each of the study areas, making a total of 400. The study areas were determined by ballot system and eight communities were picked out of 16 communities in Ota using simple random sampling technique.

Table 1.0: Selected study areas in Ota.

COMMUNITY	SAMPLE SIZE
Ota 1	50
Ota 111	50
Sango	50
Ijoko	50
Ado-Odo 1	50
Alapoti	50
Ilogbo	50
Agbara/Ejila Awori	50
Total	400

Sampling Technique

Multistage Cluster Sampling Technique, which comprised of three stages of sampling, was used in this study. The reason for the choice of Multistage Sampling is because; the researcher is working with a large study area that comprises of many units. Ota area is divided into sixteen (16) Communities, namely, Ota 1, Ota 11, Ota 111, Sango, Ijoko, Atan, Iju, Ilogbo, Ado-Odo 1, Ado-Odo 11, Ere, Alapoti, Kute/Adie Owe, Igbesa, Agbara 1 and Agbara/Ejila Awori, (Aririguzuh, 2014).

For the first stage, simple random sampling was used to select 8 communities out of the 16 communities in Ota. The reason for choosing 8 communities was to select 50% representation of the total number of communities. The communities were selected by ballot system, and they are; Ota 1, Ota 111, Sango, Ijoko, Ado-Odo 1, Alapoti, Ilogbo and Agbara/Ejila Awori. For the second stage, the Researcher randomly selected 2 sub-communities each within the larger communities. The 2 sub-communities where chosen because they are residential areas, which comprises of households where parents can be reached.

The third stage the researcher counted the number of residential buildings within the residential sub-communities and the average number of residential buildings was 20 in each street/close. The researcher selected every 5th building in every street to represent the

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household which represented the total population of households in the sub-communities. The reason for adopting this method is to have a systematic representation of the households in each sub-community.

Instruments of Data Collection

The questionnaire was used as an instrument for data collection in this study. The questions asked were informed by the objectives of the research. The questionnaire was drafted using the five-point Likert scale.

Method of Data Presentation and Analysis

This study made use of descriptive statistics, which involved the use of graphical tabulations which will thoroughly examine, summarize and interpret data obtained from the survey of this study.

RESULT AND ANALYSIS

Question 1: What is the Source of the Information of CSA Among Parents?

The findings show 97.1% of respondents has heard of child sexual abuse. The result indicates that child sexual abuse is a popular issue that most parents in Ota have heard about from different sources of information. 27.2% heard about child sexual abuse for the first time in the school. However, majority representing 41.6% heard about child sexual abuse from media report and information. This indicates the information function of the media in giving awareness to the society about the social problem of child sexual abuse in Ota. For further proof, 89.1% of the respondents agree to have come across media reports on child sexual abuse. 33.1% gets their information from the radio, 24.3% from television, 22.4% from Newspapers, 18.4% from social media and 1.9% from another medium such as billboards, flyers, posters etc. this shows that the radio is the major medium of information for child sexual abuse in Ota. Findings reveal 53.9% respondents agree that the news is the major media content where information is derived from. However, 65.4% agree that child sexual abuse reports are not regular in Ota.

Question 2: What is the Level of Knowledge About CSA Among Parents?

Most respondent representing 70.1% of the sample population in Ota believes that Children of both sexes can be sexually abused. Parents' response of 74.9% majority suggests that there is high-level awareness to the fact that children are most likely to be sexually assaulted by those close to them. It is also interesting that the result showed 70.1% majority of parents agree to the fact of abuse within the close family bond. The fact that child sexual abuse is a hidden and silent problem in the society is not disputable has 54.1% agree to the facts that they cannot really identify when a child is victimized. The vulnerability of children is expressed by the response of 61.1% respondents as they agree that most children cannot make out meaning from the abuse. This is a crucial fact because it is a wake-up call for parents as guidance to ensure the safety of their children from such violation of their rights which the child basically cannot exercise. Results further show that 38.9% majority agree that children who experience sexual abuse once are likely to have several more experiences, while 32,6% disagree. This confirms the fact that children need to be protected. The identification

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of child sex abusers is difficult as pointed out by 68.8% respondents. The study further shows that most parents represented by 77.8% believe that children are scared to tell about the abuse. Most respondents 69.9% agree that child sexual abuse is not punishable by law. This may be due to lack of knowledge or a way of pointing out laxity in the law in punishing child sexual abuse offenders. It is of interest that the result showed that majority of the parents 50.9% in Ota are not aware of child rights act. This indicates the lack of knowledge of the rights and privileges accorded to the Nigerian child and the extent of protection a child needs against abuse in general. If parents do not know, these rights, abuse is cannot be inevitable. This is a problem because the knowledge of the rights of a child will give parents a firm ground to protect and fight against any form of child violence including sexual abuse.

Question 3: What is the Attitude of Parents to Information About Child Sexual Abuse?

In finding out parents' attitude to information about CSA in the media it was discovered that 74.6% of parents agree that they listen to or watch media programs on child sexual abuse. However, media reports are listened to or watched only when parents coincidentally stumble on such information. This fact was made known as 64.5% respondents disagree to a personal look out for media reports and information on child sexual abuse. Basically, 81.9% parent respondents claim to understand and as well believe in the existence of CSA as portrayed by the media. 54.6% believed that there are no justifications for the crime of sexually abusing a youngster. This entails a strong belief against child sexual abuse among parents in the Local Government Area. Therefore, respondents showed support for media reports as 66.1% disagree that media reports on child sexual abuse are overrated. This result showed the positive value accorded to media reports on CSA by parents in Ota. To validate the value placed on media reports, 59.4% parents agreed to the facts that media report and information had a positive impact on them. Also, 67.7% acknowledge media information as a good education about CSA. The result further showed that 67.2% parents as a result of media report protect their child more and 63.0% parents relate more with their children. However, 50.4% parents disagree to involving their child in sex education. 51.7% parents agree to be watchful of signs that may indicate victimization or sexual abuse in their children due to the media report. 59.7% Parents also agree that media report has made them watchful of those who are close to their children. The result shows that 93.3% parents will report a stranger and 75.2% will report a family member who dares to sexually abuse a child.

Question 4: What is the Perception of Parents on Adequacy of Media Reports?

Although most respondents agree that media information is detailed enough, a good number of 43.7% disagree that media messages or information are not detailed enough. It is interesting to find out that 63.5% parents in the Local Government see CSA as a social problem as portrayed by the media. Also, the respondents believe that media information and reports are a way for the media to fight against the issue of child sex molestation. 53.9% Parents in Ota believe that the media give extensive education to the society about child sexual abuse. Therefore, it was agreed by 87.7% majority that the media should do more in giving in-depth information about child sexual abuse.



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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The above findings suggest that the media is the major source of information of child sexual abuse among parents in Ota. The media functions as a channel of information to the society, thereby bringing awareness to social problems to facilitate change. Parents in Ota have a good level of understanding of sexual abuse of a child, but yet lack knowledge about the Child Rights Acts. Results show that parents in Ota have a positive attitude to media reports on CSA. Parents value media reports on CSA as it has informed the way they respond to protecting their children from CSA because of their exposure to media information. Parents believe the media are doing well but from the result, they advocate for the media to do more in the dissemination of information about child sexual abuse.

SUMMARY

The prime purpose of this study was to determine parents' perception to media reports on child sexual abuse. Therefore, to achieve this purpose, the study properly laid a background in explaining that parents are majorly the first contact for socialization with a child. The proper understanding of parents about the issue of CSA is the great deal to find a solution. Also, the media play a role in enhancing understanding of CSA through proper profiling. Communication may give out information but it takes active responsiveness to get results. In the literature review, child abuse as a general social issue was introduced, pointing out child sexual abuse as a type of the four forms of child abuse. The study explained child sexual abuse as a social problem which causes a sense of loneliness, displacement, and confusion in a victim. Consequently, the sexual abuse of youngster is a silent and hidden problem, resulting in the problem of disclosure which the study discussed. Identifying common misconceptions, which are improper understanding and believes will explain the reason child sexual abuse is on the increase.

Child Rights are a vital topic to look into when discussing child sexual abuse. for that reason, the study, explained child rights versus child sexual abuse, with the underlining fact that children have the right no to be subjected to any form of violence, maltreatment or exploitation instead, the provision for the good environment for learning, proper development and survival in the society. Child rights and the media was also discussed in the study. The media role in ensuring child rights is embedded in its function as a persuasive instrument in the struggle for self –liberation, and development. The media also help to project CSA through media reportage. Parents perception was discussed and similar studies were reviewed.

Once the basic foundation was laid the research surged. This chapter, therefore, looked at the conclusions and recommendations that were found out in this study. The research employed survey method, using the instrument of the questionnaire to obtain responses to research questions from parents in Ota as the study area. Parents respondents were asked to identify their source of information about CSA. The study also seeks to find out the level of knowledge about CSA among parents, the attitude of parents to information about CSA in the media and the perception of parents on the adequacy of media information on CSA.



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CONCLUSION

As identified in the statement of the problem child sexual abuse is on the increase. In Ota, the knowledge of child sexual abuse is no news as findings show that the people of the local government especially parents are very well aware of the problem of child sexual abuse. Therefore it is right to conclude from findings that the issue of child sexual abuse is not a problem of awareness, as the result shows that the media is the major source of information about child sexual abuse among others. The population is informed and they see it as a social problem as portrayed by the media.

Results show that parents in Ota have overall a good enlightened perception about child sexual abuse and media reports on CSA. Although, it is disturbing that the knowledge of child rights acts is lacking among parents. This study concludes that the lack of knowledge about the child right acts may be the reason for the ineffectiveness in the finding a solution to the problem of child sexual abuse in Ota.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The reason for this study is to find the solution to the problem identified in the statement of the problem. Therefore the following recommendations are offered

1. The media should extensively give more information and education on the issue of Child Rights Act and its provisions.
2. Media campaigns should focus more on encouraging parents to report abuse.
3. Parents also should be encouraged to see the need to give sex education to their children as a way to protect their child out of sight from their parents.
4. A counseling and rehabilitation center should be provided for in Ota to provide for more interaction with parents and children alike.

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