



The Influence of Home Violence on Psychosocial Adjustment of Junior Secondary School Pupils in Ijebu North Local Government, Ogun State Nigeria

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Abstract. Psychosocial adjustment can be demonstrated as young ones strive to progress or pull through in their social and cultural environment. It is a practical term summarizing both the overall physical condition of a person and series of changes taking place in a definite manner in reaction to situations. The purpose of this study was to bring to fore the influence of home violence on psychosocial adjustment of pupils in junior secondary school.

The study employed survey research design of correlational type. The two instruments used for this study were adapted scales, the instruments used were home violence scale and psychosocial adjustment scale. Using simple random sampling technique, two hundred and fifty (250) pupils were selected from ten junior secondary schools in Ijebu North Local Government. The data collected were thus analyzed using multiple regression analysis and T-test statistics. The findings of the study revealed there is a significant effect of home violence on psychosocial adjustment of pupils in junior secondary school in Ijebu North Local Government and also there is a significant difference of home violence on psychosocial adjustment of male and female pupils in junior secondary schools in Ijebu North Local Government.. The study therefore recommends that parents should be mindful of the presence of their children when there is a disagreement and they should not let it degenerate into violence.

Schools should organize seminars for parents to enlighten them on the consequences of home violence on pupils.

1. Introduction

Transitioning from primary school to the junior secondary school could be very stressful and demanding for the child. This is expressed in anxiety over increased school workload; having to deal with many subject teachers and classmates (Hanson, 1997; Way, Reddy & Rhodes, 2007). There is therefore need for the child to be psychologically and socially adjusted in order to cope with the school routines and expectations.

Psychosocial adjustment can be demonstrated as young ones strive to get along or pull through in their social and cultural environment (Lazarus, 1966). It is a practical term summarizing both the overall physical condition of a person and series of changes taking place in a definite manner in reaction to situations (Hoyt & Stanton, 2012). Besides the stress that children experience in school, there are other factors that induce stress for the child; this includes peer pressure, fear of neglect, poverty, chronic illness, social isolation, uncertainty, home violence, etc. This paper will focus on influence of home violence on psychosocial adjustment of children.

In recent times, the issue of home violence has become a major concern globally and it is not peculiar to Nigeria (Osofsky, 1995). Women and children are mostly the victims of home violence (Garcia-Moreno, Janson, Ellsberg, Heise & Watts, 2006).. Previous investigations indicate that subjection of children to home violence enlarges the chances of emotional health complications in children (Ellonen, Piispa, Peltonen, & Oranen, 2013). Studies also submits that exposure to violence in the home can make children vulnerable to various unfavorable outcomes for instance, misconduct, anti-social behaviour, psychological dysfunction, irrational and physical unfitnes outcomes (Kernic, Wolf, Holt, McKnight, Huebner & Rivara, 2003; Onyskiw,2003; Wolfe, Crooks, Lee, McIntyre-Smith, & Jaffe, 2003)..

Despite the fact that numerous studies establish a correlation between exposure to home violence and adverse result, a portion of the children who are exposed do not develop such result. Kitzmann, Gaylord, Holt and Kenny (2003) found 37% of children exposed to home violence displayed outcomes that are identical to or superior to those children not exposed to home violence. This suggests that there is a controversy on effects of home violence on behavior of children and particularly the psychosocial adjustment of children. Based on this premises, this study set out to examine the influence of home violence on psychosocial adjustment of junior secondary pupils. It also examined if there are differences in the way home violence affects psychosocial adjustment of male and female pupils in Ijebu North Local Government Area of Ogun State, Nigeria.

2. Research Hypotheses

The following research hypotheses were formulated to guide the study:

Ho1. There is no significant effect of home violence on psychosocial adjustment of junior secondary school pupils in Ijebu North Local Government Area of Ogun State.

Ho2. There is no significant difference of home violence on psychosocial adjustment of male

and female pupils in Ijebu North Local Government Area of Ogun State.

3. Methodology

3.1 Research Design

Survey research design of correlational type was adopted to carry out this study. The population comprised the entire junior secondary school pupils in Ijebu North Local Government Area. Simple random sampling technique was used to select two hundred and fifty (250) junior secondary school pupils in Ijebu North Local Government.

Two instruments used to collect data for this study are: Home violence scale.This 13 item scale was adapted from some items in Nursing Students' Attitude Towards Domestic Violence Questionnaire developed by Blideman (2010). It assesses the disposition of pupils to home violence with items like The amount of home violence in the media today strongly influences the husband to physically assault his wife. Home violence is a result of wives being regarded as property by our society, A husband who assaults his wife should be locked up for the act. A husband who physically assaults his wife is "mentally ill" or psychologically disturbed. Participants responded by indicating their agreement to the 13 statements using a four-point scale ranging from 1(Strongly Disagree) 2(Disagree) 3(Agree) 4(Strongly Agree). In order to determine the reliability of the instrument, a test-retest reliability method was used and a coefficient of 0.86.

3.2 Psychosocial Adjustment Scale

The scale consists of 17 items adapted from Psychological adjustment scale designed by Wang (2009). The items are in conformity with the likert response format ranging from 1=strongly disagree and 5= strongly agree. The items were modified and revalidated by using concurrent validity method. Psychology Adjustment was administered to 30 junior secondary school pupils along with psychosocial adjustment scale modified by the researcher. The scores obtained from the two scales were

correlated using the Pearson product moment correlation coefficient. The concurrent validity of the instrument gave a correlation index of 0.74.

3.3 Procedure for Data Collection

The scales were personally administered on the participants in their schools by the researcher

and these were collected back immediately after completion. All the returned (250) scales were checked to ensure that they were adequately filled. After collation of the scores, the multiple regression and T-test statistics were used to analyze the data.

4. Results

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant effect of home violence on psychosocial adjustment of junior secondary school pupils in Ijebu North Local Government.

Table 1: Regression analysis of effect of home violence on psychosocial adjustment of junior secondary school pupils in Ijebu North Local Government'

Multiple R=.500 ^a R Square = .250 Adjusted R Square = .247 Std. Error of the Estimate = 4.24002						
Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Remarks
Regression	1484.018	1	1484.018	82.548	.000 ^b	Reject H ₀
Residual	4458.482	248	17.978			
Total	5942.500	249				

a. Dependent Variable: Psychosocial Adjustment
b. Predictors (Constant):Home Violence

Table 1 revealed a significant effect of independent variable, home violence in the prediction of the dependent variable, psychosocial adjustment of junior secondary pupils.(F_(1,248)=82.548; P<0.05). This means that home violence predicted the psychosocial adjustment of junior secondary pupils. The analysis also yielded a co-efficient of multiple regression of .500 and multiple R Square of .250 and Adjusted R Square of .247 indicating that the independent variable (home violence) accounted for 25% of the total variance in the pupils psychosocial adjustment. Thus, there is a significant effect of home violence on psychosocial adjustment of junior secondary pupils in Ijebu North Local Government.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant difference of home violence on psychosocial adjustment of male and female pupils in Ijebu North Local Government.

Table 2: T-test analysis of significant difference of home violence on psychosocial adjustment of male and female pupils in Ijebu North Local Government.

Respondents	N	Mean	SD	Df	T	Sig of t
Male	100	64.90	8.99	248	-3.179	.002*
Female	150	70.00	14.19			
Total	250					

*indicate significant t at p<0.05

The result in table above revealed significant outcome (t = 3.179, p<0.05). This outcome implies that the sampled male does differ significantly from the sampled female pupils in the effect of home violence on pupils' psychosocial adjustment. The mean difference of home violence on psychosocial adjustment on

pupils' score of 64.90 recorded by the male is less than that of the female pupils who recorded a mean score of 70.00 and the difference is statistically significant. As a result the null hypothesis 2 was rejected. Hence, there is a significant difference of home violence on

psychosocial adjustment of male and female pupils in Ijebu North Local Government.

5. Discussion

The result of this study revealed that there is a significant effect of home violence on psychosocial adjustment of junior secondary school pupils in Ijebu North Local Government. This implies that the psychological well-being and the ability of the pupils to relate with significant others correlates with home violence. This supports the study of the findings of Ellonen, Piispa Peltonen and Oranen (2013) that revealed that children who witnessed and experienced physical violence at home significantly displayed adjustment problems. This is also in consonance with the findings of Moylan, Herrenkohl, Sousa, Tajima, Herrenkohl and Russo (2010) that shows that children exposed to domestic violence have higher levels of emotional and behavioural problems. The findings above may be as a result of exposure of the children to the abusive and physical violent acts of their parents or guardians which affects their mental and social behavior. This may be responsible for the aggressive and violent behavior of children in the junior secondary school.

The findings of the second hypotheses revealed that there is a significant difference of home violence on psychosocial adjustment of male and female pupils in Ijebu North Local Government. This is consistent with the findings of .Kilzai, Ramanauskiene and Dumciene, (2019). that revealed that psychosocial adjustment among students of junior high school age was stronger for females than males.

6. Conclusion

This study has revealed that home violence has a major influence on the psychosocial adjustment of junior secondary pupils. It implies that the changes that occur in the lives of pupils are mostly caused by their experiences and exposure. Also, the way pupils are been affected by home violence varies according to their gender. Hence, this study concludes that home

violence has an adverse effect on the psychosocial changes experienced by junior secondary school pupils in Ijebu North Local Government.

7. Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are given so as to reduce the occurrence of home violence among parents and in the community:

- Parents should be mindful of the presence of their children when there is a disagreement and they should not let it degenerate into violence.
- Parents should endeavor to settle their differences in the absence of their children or wards so as to help the psychological and social lives of their children.
- Schools should organize seminars for parents to enlighten them on the consequences of home violence on pupils.

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