

## **Morality and Child Abuse, Global View**

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### **Abstract**

This paper is broken into two parts, morality education and child abuse. Moral education in this paper is religious education. Morality applies to good or bad conduct as viewed in different societies, religious traditions and codes of conduct. The paper discusses some forms of child abuse, both in the home, society and school. Child abuse is reported daily in the newspapers, radio and television in this contemporary time. It is a common problem in society and in schools. What was discovered in the research was the long term effect of child abuse are fear, anxiety, lack of love and some of the kids may want to abuse others. The method adopted in the research was critical analysis.

### **Introduction**

Historically, there has been a very close connection between morality and religion, for it is likely that religious customs were recognized as such by men before moral customs were distinguished from them (William, 1971). In this way morality may be said to have developed from religion. Religion is very conservative and tends to preserve customs that are no longer socially advantageous.

Morality is derived from the Latin word 'moralis' and the Greek word 'ethikos', meaning the same thing, that is character, conduct, and manners. The terms ethics and moral under which the notion of good and bad, right and wrong, just and unjust are discussed came from Latin words meaning customs (Omatseye, 1992). Omatseye says, quite often one hears another describe something or an action as right or wrong because there has been a departure from the way the thing is customarily done. Moore (2008) writes, to know what is good or goodness, is to know the proper way to conduct oneself. A morally right act is the act that produces the greatest good. Every culture, in time and place possesses certain notion of what it considers 'good' and 'bad', 'right' and 'wrong', 'ought-nots'. Equally, from time to time, and from place to place, there has been diversity of views occasionally as to what is good and bad, right and wrong in human character and moral conduct in different cultures (Warnock, 1961).

Macquarrie (1981) said historically, morality and religion have been thought to be related to each other in four different ways. The first way was that morality is so closely related to religion as in practice, if not in theory, to be distinguished from it. Morality does not only depend on religion; it is an aspect of it. The second view is that morality is independent of religion. This position, seen in embryo in the words of Plato and Aristotle, is a distinctly modern one. Emmanuel Kant is usually considered its first and powerful advocate. The third view sees religion as a mere aspect of morality. The classical expression of this view is Matthew Arnold's statement that religion is 'morality touched with emotion' (Macquarrie, 1981). The fourth view is that morality not only is autonomous and can, and should conduct its work in independence of religion, but even stronger, it holds that ethics can perform the functions formerly assigned to religion.

In theory and in practice, for technical ethicists as for many educated people today, ethics replaces religion. John Dewey while hedging on the autonomy of ethics as regards its dependence on psychology and sociology, was emphatic in advocating that the noun 'religion' should be replaced by the adjective 'religious', and he defined 'religious' in ethical terms. To sum the above up one can say, there is no valid morality in separation from religion. There is secular ethics which is mainly descriptive.

### **Moral Education**

Moral education has been taught since ancient time formally and informally. In the pre-literate society, rulers had difficulty controlling their people, this motivated Hammurabi to collect all the existing laws of the land and added new ones himself. The laws would be thought very harsh but the Babylonians were very pleased with them. The people believed that such good laws could have come from the gods (Adetoro, 1964). Hammurabi's collection of laws was the first in history and he was justly called, the law giver. His laws were based on the principle which one will call "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth". Hammurabi became a king of Babylon in 2025 BC and died in 2067 BC.

In the same way, Moses discovered that the wondering Israelites were very difficult to control hence he wrote the Decalogue (Exodus 20:1-17, and Deuteronomy 5:1-25). And he set up seventy elders to help him in dispensing justice (Exodus 18:13-25). Education at this period was inculcated informally or through apprenticeship system.

The first means of teaching were the oral traditions: the poems of victory; the stories of the ancestors; the memories of great events which were treasured, gathered, and passed on for many generations. These oral treasures were the vehicles by which families preserved their values and their sense of who they were. They remembered their heroes and their villains.

The story teller was a teacher and the story was the medium through which he taught (Tullock, 1997).

Many stories that eventually were to become a part of the old Testament came from the oral tradition of the people who were to be known as Israel. Much of the Old Testament is made up of narrative material, supplemented by other literary forms: Laws, songs, genealogies and lists. Narrative is the principal literary vehicle from Genesis through 2 kings; in major portions of some of the prophetic books including Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Jonah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi; in the work of the chronicler- 1,2 Chronicles, Ezra through Nehemiah; and in addition, Esther, Daniel, and Ruth (Tullock, 1997).

In other parts of the ancient Near East narrative was not a common literary device, instead they had legal codes, poetry of legendary heroes and kings.

Moses was nursed to a good age, the conditions of his people were made known to him before he was taken to the palace. He had Egyptian education in the palace of Pharaoh and was given royal homage (Olatona, 1980). Moses wrote down some laws Exodus 24:3-4, Deuteronomy 31:9, 11 revealed to him. Samuel was dedicated to God, he was in his service in Shiloh where he lived with Eli, the priest (1 Samuel 1:28). He received education under his master, Eli. Eli taught him how to answer God's voice (1 Samuel 3 :9).

A scroll was found in Temple 2 kings 22:8-9. It is thought the book was written in the reign of Hezekiah from Levitical traditions and brought to Jerusalem after the fall of Samaria in 721 BC (Ellis 1968). The written texts that were cantillated and studied in the synagogue were not in what today would be called book form. Originally, these texts were written on sheets of papyrus- to form a scroll that could be rolled up. A scroll ordinarily would be 25 or 30 feet long and about ten inches high. Jesus used such scroll when he read from the prophet Isaiah in the synagogue in Nazareth, Luke 4:17-18, 20 (Foley, 1991). Paul of Tarsus was student of Gamaliel (Acts 22:3) and was received at Ephesus into the school of Tyrannus, a school of the Grecian philosophies (Lake 2009).

Formal education began in the Middle Ages: Education in the Medieval period was gradually becoming formalized. The curriculum of the Medieval education contain poetry, history, oratory, rhetorics, Latin and Greek. The moral teacher took its morality from the sages, its examples from the great, questioning too little whether ultimate goodness will always stand with the official virtues and looking too little at the backsides of its approved heroes (Charles, 1973). Two famous books associated with the Renaissance are: Baldassar Castiglione's *Courtier*. First published in Italian in 1527, it was known to Englishmen in

the original in the early sixteenth century. Later (1561) it was translated by Sir Thomas Hoby into one of the major monuments of Tudor prose. *The Courtier*, starting as a book of manners, looks outward to statesmanship and then to contemplation. It also involves translating the courtly ideal of the accomplished lover into the Platonic ideal of fully sublimated love. The work also points to aristocratic tradition and classicism meeting.

The second book was Sir Thomas Elyot's *Governor* (1531). The very title signifies that the upper class was coming to be seen and idealized as a ruling class. The *Governor* makes general points on: the physical, military, and aesthetic virtues of traditional aristocracy are important, but thorough humanistic learning and moral self-development crown the making of a gentleman (Charles,1973).

The English Universities in the Middle Ages were clerical institutions. They remained so in the sixteenth century but added the important function of providing higher liberal education for significant numbers of gentlemen. The Law schools operated by the Inns of Court in London. It became fashionable for young gentlemen to enroll in the Inns, some to learn the socially eligible trade of a Lawyer. Desiderius Erasmus (C. 1466- 1536 AD) was one of the famous teachers. The famous St. Paul's School in 1510 was in St Paul's Cathedral in London. William Lily was the first headmaster, he also wrote a Latin grammar, *Lily's Grammar* was a pillar of education and the basic textbook of Renaissance England (Charles,1973).

In 1450 Johannes Gutenberg of Mainz invented movable type of printing. This made available to many the books which had been the property of the few- institutions. The result was learning became indestructible. More than 30,000 publications were issued before 1500. The growth of scholarship enabled the masses to read for themselves. The formation of a new reading public was perhaps the most significant effect of the Renaissance (Walker, 1959). This put an end copying of manuscripts written in scrolls.

### **Concept of Child Abuse**

Child abuse is a global issue and it occurs in a variety of ways. UNICEF (1978) sees a child as a person under the age of Eighteen years. Hornby (1974) define abuse as ill-treat, severe, cruel or unjust. Example she has been much abused. There is no generally accepted definition of child abuse as a result of differences in the perception of what is accepted as abusive act. The African Network for Prevention Against child abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) defines child abuse as "the intentional, unintentional or well intentional acts which endanger the physical health, emotional, moral and the educational welfare of children".

Child abuse can be categorized under 'behavioral disorder', there are therapeutics for such. If a child is a thief, there are programs, if one abuses kid, there are programs, if a man of sixty rapes a child of ten, it means there is a psychological problem. Fathers should show little understanding to avoid misconception on children movements. Tom Clancy (1994) gave this case of a child who ran away from home. Pamela Starr Madden was born to a father who was the sort of man to make a Baptist Minister despair. Donald Madden was a man who understood the form of religion, but not the substance, who strict because he did not know how to love, who drank from frustration with life- was angry at himself. When his children misbehaved, he beat them, usually with a belt or a switch of wood until his conscience kicked in, something which did not always happen sooner than fatigue. The final straw for Pamela, never a happy child, had come on the day after her sixteenth birthday, when she had stayed late at a church function and ended up going on what was almost a date with friends, feeling that she finally had the right to do so. There had not even been a kiss at the end of it from the boy whose house hold was almost as restrictive as her own. But that had not mattered to Donald Madden. Arriving home at ten-twenty on a Friday evening, Pamela came into a house whose lights blazed with anger, there to face an enraged father and a thoroughly cowed mother.

The things he said, why? What? When? You idiot? He accused her of committing fornication. She denied it but was given beating. That night Pamela had slipped out of the house through window, walked some distance and caught a bus to the next city. With little money she had saved, she left home into the wide- world. She worked in restaurants, bars, washing plates and met dangerous lovers. She was sexually abused, introduced to drugs and she lost her self-esteem. She blamed herself for being victim. She became undernourished and was taking sleeping pill. There was evidence of physical abuse on her body when she was rescued. She was sexually assaulted, and raped, forced into prostitution. She ran away from a dysfunctional family. The nurse in the hospital showed her motherly affection which she lacked (Clancy, 1994).

### **Forms of Child Abuse**

In this paper child abuse shall be categorized into the following perspectives: first, physical and emotional abuse; under this sub-topic, a pedophile will be considered first. A pedophile is a child molester who pretends to love the child he wants to molest. He tries to fill in the vacuum the child lacks in his family. Pedophiles try to seduce their victims and win them over, to earn their trust. They seek out children from dysfunctional families, children who are unhappy and vulnerable, then finds an opening to fill in the vacuum. If a mother and father cannot afford to give the kid a bicycle, he will provide one. If the kid needs to be treated with respect, he treats him with respect. If the kid does not get enough

attention, he gives him attention. Pedophiles comes from all walks of life- all income brackets, and all occupations. They know what they are interested in, some were molested at their early age. When they grew up, they shifted from being victims to being abusers (Bernhardt, 1996). This is why most pedophiles have a preference for children of particular age. They fixate on children of the same age they were when they were first molested.

According to Bernhardt William, sometimes pedophiles will start grooming a child, coying up to him, before he reaches the target age. There were cases of sexual abuse of infants. He found a case where the pedophiles insisted that the kid had “asked for it,” exposed herself in a provocative manner. Unlike rapists and serial killers, pedophiles rarely grab kids and force themselves on them immediately. The occupation of pedophiles; some are teachers, camp counselors or scout leaders. They intentionally choose professions that put them in contact with children, preferably in some sort of trusted –adviser role. Some pedophiles are situational child molesters, involved in sex crimes including homosexuality.

The particular case reported by William Bernhardt was of Sam and Abie. Abie was an adopted son who did not receive much love from the father. Sam drove out in Abie’s neighbourhood and on two occasion attempts picking the boy as he waited for the father. In the first case the father went out in the morning promising to come before school opens. He was waiting for the father when Sam attempted to help. As he was discussing with the boy, the father came and Sam drove off. The second time Abie ran out of the house as his father spoke harshly to him. He was at the gate when Sam came in his car, he spoke softly to him. The boy joined him and he drove off.

He went with him to centre where he was entertained and watched games. The boy was happy but he did not return him home after some time. He rather took him to where he performed experiments with kids. He took him to an isolated deserted building with a fenced compound, hidden in such a way that he could go about his business unmolested. In this place he took pictures of little boys, eight-to-ten years range. Abie saw souvenirs on the wall of the crime scene, lay pictures of little boys. He was forced to take pictures nude, touched his genitals, filled his body and assaulted him anally. He drugged the boy with sno-kone which made him drowsy. Abie was rescued through the effort of the Police Force. Abie was eleven years old. Sam was a handsome, wealthy, charity- working socialite turns out to be a pedophile who accidentally kills. He appeared to be a photographer. He indulges in deviant dangerous solo-sex (Bernhardt, 1996).

Second, sexual abuse: this is where a male takes undue advantage of subjecting a female child to sexual intercourse for self gratification. There are several different forms of sexual violence, but not limited to: rape or sexual assault, child sexual assault, sexual harassment and masturbation. The danger from rape and sexual assault is compounded because of the prevalence of HIV/AIDS (Sexual violence in South Africa, 2010). There are frequent reports of rape on the Nigerian dailies. Some victims often say, "he showed me a knife and I was afraid, I was just seven years old then. He was sleeping with me every day and I was fearful to talk to anybody. I bled, my sister saw it but I could not tell what happened". Stories like these are in the media almost on a daily basis in Nigeria (Kawu, 2013). There are several cases of rape of minors, between two and eight years, and several cases of fathers abusing their children too. These rapists would blame their action on the devil. Rape is to force a girl into sexual act and abuse her body. The epidemic of rape has deep sociological and even biological factors (Kawu,2013). The Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development, an NGO, reported that in 2012, no fewer than 1,200 girls were raped in Rivers State (Kawu, 2013).

A mother of four in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State shed tears as she lamented the brutal rape of her one year, four months old daughter by a 16-year-old boy. The woman went out to do her normal business living the child with one of her daughters. The girl was careless about the child. The 16-year-old boy staying in the same house carried the baby into his room and raped her. The case was reported at the police station (Okutu, 2017).

A 60- year-old man, Mayegun Alani defiled a 6-year- old girl in Sango area of Ogun State. The matter was reported to the police by the victim's mother who noticed that the girl was in pain while she was bathing her. The suspect first denied when arrested but later confessed to the crime. He had been having carnal knowledge of the little girl for some time (Olaynka, 2016). A 73-year –old retired Army Captain, Basse Ekanem reportedly raped his four –year –old niece in Calabar, Cross River State. The incident occurred in 12 Edim Ibangaha street, Big Qua Town, Calabar. The 73- year- old man said he was under the influence of alcohol and could not understand why he committed the act. The victim violated use to referred to him as grandpa. He lured the little girl into his apartment and started fingering her. It was the victim's brother who is about two years, who told their mother that grandpa put his hand inside her sister's "bum bum" before their mother raised the alarm and the matter was reported to Akim Police Station (Davis Iheamnachor, 2020). Magistrate Court in Osogbo, Osun ordered the remand of one Moses Oloko, 57, for raping a minor. Moses unlawfully and indecently assaulted a 12- year- old girl in Ejigbo. Moses sexually exploited the minor with one hundred naira and had carnal knowledge of her more than ten times. The case went to court (Davis Iheamnachor, 2020).

A 16-year-old boy Paul Ikweheghi abducted a girl of 10 year- old at Nkporo, in Ohafia Council area of Abia State. He took the girl away from her residence at 51, Emeonye street to where he perpetrated the rape. He consumed tramadol, after the rape the girl became paralyzed. The family took the girl to the hospital, she had damage in her anus and wept until she died. The case was reported at the police station, the Abia State Commissioner of Police explained that the reported death of the victim has changed the case from rape to murder (Ugochukwu, 2019). A 18-year-old girl, Barakat Bello of the Federal College of Animal and Production Technology, Apata in Ibadan was raped in her residence at Akinyele Local Government area of the State. She was raped and killed with deep cuts all over her body. It was reported at the Police Station. This Ibadan case came less than seven days after the gruesome murder of a student of the University of Benin, Vera Uwaila Omozuwa, who was raped while reading inside a church of the Redeemed Christian Mission, Eyaen, Uhumuode Local Government area of Edo State. The case was reported at the Police Station (Ebunoluwa Sessou, 2020). The danger from rape and sexual assault is compounded because of the prevalence of HIV/ AIDS and gonorrhoea (Smith, 2012).

Third, Child abduction: Abduct is to take or lead a woman or child away unlawfully by force (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary) There are many cases of this nature too, Ese Oruru, a 14-year-old girl from Delta State was abducted by Yunusa Dahiru in Bayelsa. In August 2015 Ese was abducted and whisked to kano, "married off" by Yunusa without her parents' consent from her mother's shop in Yenagwa Local Government area Bayelsa. She was forcefully converted to Islam and renamed "Aisha". The girl was rescued by the Police Force in kano discovered to be about five months pregnant. She was discovered wearing white hijab. The Nigerian Police Officers and women NGOs expressed anger over the teenager's abduction and pregnancy. The case went to Court, Yunusa Dahiru was arraigned on March 8, 2016 on a five-count charge of criminal abduction, illicit sex, sexual exploitation and unlawful carnal knowledge of Ese. On May 21, 2020 Dahiru was sentenced to 26 years imprisonment (Ndujihe and Abdulsalam, 2016, and Ebunoluwa Sessou, 2020).

A 35-year-old barber, Uche Emeroha deceived two sisters returning from a summer class in Igando area of Lagos State. He took the two girls to prophet Kenneth Alozie who offered six thousand naira if the barber can abduct two children to his church, "Hope in God healing ministry" in the Agboroko area, Iyana Iba. The two girls, Jumia, six years old and Ayomide, four years old were abducted on Olorunfemi in the Igando area around 2.00pm. Their mother was a widow. After abducting the girls, the barber handed them over to a woman named Mama Chioma, who then took them to Alozie's church. The case was reported at the Police Station. When interrogated, he said, he saw the two girls returning

home. He accosted them and lied that their mother asked him to buy some drinks for them. They did not struggle with him. He carried the younger one and held the hand of the second. Mama Chioma was already waiting at Akesan bus stop to receive them. Mama Chioma introduced the two children to the prophet as Emeroha's children and that his wife had abandoned him because of his challenges. Mama Chioma gave the children food and plaited their hair.

When their mother Iya Ayo came home and was crying looking for the children, it was a boy in the area who caught a glimpse of Emeroha escaping with the girls that gave the information. Iya Ayo complained to the Police who traced the Emeroha and the prophet before recovering the stolen children. The Lagos State Police arrested the barber and the prophet (Olaleye and Adewale, 2016).

276 girls were abducted from Government Secondary School Chibok in Borno State. The girls were abducted by Boko Haram Muslims sect. The girls were in the hostels when the kidnappers came one night to steal them away instead of ordinary property or building equipment. The event took place April 14, 2014. The girls were taken to a Sambisa Forest where the insurgents kept their abode (Vanguard, August 19, 2017:7). The abduction was a simple or cheap way to get a wife without payment of dowry. Ese Oruru was discovered pregnant and the girls from Chibok secondary school so far released have been pregnant or with children.

Fourth, gang and cult activities: the word 'cult' is from Latin 'Cultus' used to refer to many new religious groups. Some professional writers, psychiatrists, lawyers, and media reporters have picked on the negative significance attached to the word and have employed it to refer to all those groups they have judged to be deviant, dangerous, corrupt, and pseudo-religious. The result is that the very mention of cults tends to arouse fear and panic, with ensuing endeavors to mobilize social and religious resources to offset their success and to initiate legal actions to curtail or prohibit their activities (Saliba, 1995). Gang is a group of persons going about or working together, especially for criminal purpose. Abraham (1976) saw boys going out to steal at night and sometimes they fought with rival gangs. The boys of about nine to ten years steal from shops in the streets in the evenings about 7.00 to 9.00 pm. Some children longed to steal, as others boys did, from the stalls of the Indian traders. But they always panicked at the last moment. Young boys who were caught while watching for gamblers were sent to a reformatory.

At the age of eleven Abraham was enrolled in a school, this made him withdraw from street boys. After spending three years in school, he saw still the gang but the fun had gone

out of him. When ever they went begging and stealing, he found some excuses for not going with them. He became more interested in what the new things his books had revealed to him. He was now longing for something new.

Many young boys involve themselves in stealing, Pastor Francis Taiwo, 40 years, chained his 9-year-old son, Korede Taiwo for allegedly displaying habits of stealing. The boy was rescued on July 22, by security operatives in a room around the Celestial Church of Christ (Key of joy Parish) where the pastor work in Ajibawo area near Atan, Otta. The Ogun state Police Command arrested the pastor, who confirmed that he chained the boy because of his stealing habit (Olaynka, 2016).

Cultism has become a major security challenge that is of great concern to both government, security agents and the public. Cultists seems to be holding sway with orgies of killings associated with their regular fights. Primary and secondary school students are also into cults. Most of them display their notoriety by engaging rival cult groups in a free- for all fight. Last year, four secondary school students and artisan, alleged to be members of a cult group that has been terrorizing Surulere and its environs in Lagos, were arrested by the Anti-Cultism unit of Lagos group at Eko Boys High School, in Mushin area of the State. The Police recovered axes, cutlasses and knives in their supposed school bags. Upon interrogation, the students, Ajala (13), Femi (17), Dauda (15) and Timilehin (17), said the fifth suspect, Mayowa Rauf (18) was their leader and provider of the weapons in their possession. One of them, Hafiz, a Junior secondary school 1, student of Birch Freeman Junior secondary school, Surulere, said, the cutlass found him was for self-defence. He said again, "we went to play Principal Cup football match with other schools. Fight usually breaks out at the end of a march, as the loser would attack the winning school. So, I had to arm myself with a knife for self defence". The Police in Lagos under various Commissioners of Police, have done all within their abilities to bring the menace of cultism to the barest minimal (Usman, 2019). The student associations that involve the use of knives, weapons and fighting is immoral.

Wa-Thiong'o (1964) portray fear and insecurity on the parts of the youths as they are growing up and in their attempt to receive education. The Colonial masters acquired most of the Lands in Kenya, the natives worked in their farms and plantations. The natives claimed that the Land belonged to them because their ancestors owned the Land before it was acquired by the Colonialists. During the colonial era some of the natives formed a "Mau Mau" movement to fight for independence and the return of the Land taken by the colonialists. Njoroge's father and brother s were cut up in this movement which lead to the detention of his second brother. Njioroge was withdraw from the secondary school

because his family were accused of killing a leader among the colonial masters. His vision of education was ruined and all his previous hopes were dashed (Wa-Thiong'o).

The rate of consumption of marijuana, also called Indian hemp, and alcoholic drinks by youths especially in Lafia metropolis and some parts of Nasarawa State is alarming. Virtually in all major joints in Lafia, one find youths in groups idling away. Many of them really do not seem to know what a classroom looks like, some are school drop outs, others in tertiary Institutions and the unemployed. At public occasions, the boys are seen in groups feasting on hemp with smoke rising from nose. Some times Police Officers who are fed up with the rising smoke go to plead with them to relocate in the interest of second hand smokers at public gatherings. Spots such as Agwan Jaban, Kilema Junction, Tundun Gwandara, Cashew Heaven, Agwan Tiv, Maraba-Akunza and Tundun Kauri is polluted with smoke from their mouth. The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) agents know these areas. The drug ring in Lafia is located among the traders selling legitimate items like tea. They sell their tea but their thriving business of Indian Hemp is under their table. They know their customers; they do not normally sell it to strangers. These Indian hemp consumers and drugs addicts are said to be involved in crimes of all sorts in Nasarawa state. According to a security operative a gang held a meeting one night in a hotel around the Polytechnic before proceeding to rob five houses on two consecutive nights (Abel, 2013). The above falls under intentional and unintentional abuse of human health, it is immoral.

Fifth, child exploitation: often referred to as child labour involves the use of a child in work for the benefit of others. Child exploitation is a systematic process of using children to work with little compensation and consideration for their health and safety (Newton, 2001). A young man of twenty-five picked a boy of ten in a street and took him to a different area unknown to the boy in the city. He forced him into begging expedition, gave him cap and told him to open his arms to passerby. People drop little coins in the boys cap (Abrahams, 1976). Street begging is common in Nigeria; it is easy for parents of children with disabilities to send them out into the streets to beg for alms. Part of the appeal in using children with disabilities in this way is the thought that the sign of such children is quite likely to evoke a sense of sympathy from members of the society. Most of the children exploited are the needy, the poor, the weak and the helpless (Psalms 72:12-14). They were referred to as 'anawin' in the old Testament. The term 'anawin' was applied to the poor (Psalm 22:2-11). Such children rarely benefit from education and some will eventually drop out of school. By the time these children reach adulthood, they are physically, emotionally, and morally damaged.

Street-begging is a localized social problem, a large percentage of street-beggars originated from the Islamic States of northern Nigeria. The questions are: who sent these kids to the main roads to beg for alms? Where are their parents? Is the government unconcerned about the plight of these children? Sending kids to the streets to beg is an abuse. The government need to make education compulsory for children and free. The universal basic education has been implemented and it is free but some children are still on the streets.

### **Data Analysis**

Child abuse can be seen as any act of omission or commission, physical or psychological mistreatment or neglect of a child by its parents, guardians, caregiver or other adults that may endanger the child's physical, psychological or emotional health and development. In this definition, wrongful maltreating a child or selfishly making an unfair use of a child's services by adults responsible for the child constitutes child abuse (Mfonobong, 2010).

There are two assumptions on rape: first, it is the result of idiosyncratic mental disease and it often includes an uncontrollable sexual impulse. Second, rape is always a symptom of some psychological dysfunction. Rapists lack the ability to control their behavior, they are "sick" individuals from "lunatic fringe" of society (Henslin, 2005). Rapists are "sick" aberrations in their own culture, controlled by violent sexual attack (power, anger, sadism). In discussing his decision to rape, one man made this comment. She was a beautiful woman and I wanted to see what she had. The attitude that sex is a male entitlement suggests that when a woman says "no", rape is a suitable method of conquering the "offending" object (Henslin, 2005). Culture is a factor in rape, especially a culture of violence where there is expression of male dominance.

Bullying is another form of emotional abuse that takes place in schools. The senior or older students who should provide emotional support for the younger and new students easily bully them. In schools appearances tells a lot, human qualities are valued such as intelligence, friendliness, sincerity and warmth. The more beautiful or handsome a person is, the more he or she was liked. If a student is ugly, he is not discriminated against as long as his performance is impressive. However, should performance be below par, attractiveness matters: one may be able to get away with inferior work if his/she is beautiful (Ayn Rand, 1993: 327). This can easily affect the children and make them withdrew from associating with other peers.

Incidence of sexual abuse abounds among students in homes, schools and society; this interferes with the normal, healthy development of the child. Some persons lure female students who sometimes transfer their parental affection to them, into having illicit affairs

and relationship. At times, the teachers behave like pedophile deny the students their right and grades for sexual gratification. Child exploitation apart from being carried out at home by parents also takes place in the school. Some teachers use children to work in their farm. Children are also sent out by their teachers to fetch water, cook, and wash plates, and clothes at the time they should be learning. Some of the children are not conversant with these kinds of work, it therefore present challenges. In schools some kids are viewed like this, "Johnny is a dirty bully. He beats up the boys in School". The question of punishment become an ethical problem. It is difficult to punish some kids under any circumstances, because of his fragile body and delicate health (Ayn Rand, 1993).

### **Conclusion**

Child abuse is a serious problem and it is a global issue. Many parents are now in white-collar jobs and this makes them put their children in nursery, primary and secondary schools. The training of children is now transferred from home to schools. Many of the children who would have been home are kept in schools or hostels. The tasks become enormous for the teachers and the school management to carry leading to many children being neglected, despised and abused on a daily basis. This clearly undermines the provision for the right of the child on 'protection against indecent and in human treatment like abuse and neglect' (Mfonobong, 2010). Child abuse is immoral; it is a vicious act rather than a good conduct which is a virtue or moral act. Rape is to force a girl into sexual act and abuse her body. This act has negative consequence such as contacting venereal disease (HIV/AIDS) and gonorrhoea.

Child abuse can lead to betrayal of trust; a child can withdraw from the care taker or peers. When male caretakers finger and play with the student's genitals, they also may force these young ones to play with their own and go ahead to commit homosexual acts. The same also goes for the relationship between female guides and female students especially in girls' schools. Incidence of lesbianism occurs frequently and the students may find it difficult to report these cases. For care takers to allow themselves to descend so low in luring and sometimes forcing students into affairs is contrary to work ethics. Thought and feeling are determinants of conduct, and the same conduct may be determined either by feeling or by thought. When one survey the whole field of religion, one finds a great variety in the thoughts that have prevailed there; but the feelings on the one hand and the conduct on the other are almost always the same, for Stoic, Christian, and Buddhist saints are practically indistinguishable in their lives. The theories which Religion generates, being thus variable, are secondary; and if you wish to grasp her essence, you must look to the feelings and the conduct as being the most constant elements (William,2008). Faith has been among the forces by which men lived. The total absence of it, 'an hedonia', means

collapse. The love of life, at any and every level of development, is the religious impulse. Wrongness in an action takes a moral character and salvation instincts takes a mystical tinge (William James). Morality is about what is right and wrong, independent of justice.

### Recommendations:

- i. All states should implement child rights act to save the girl-child.
- ii. Child marriage in Nigeria should be abolished, as requested by mothers and marginalized advocacy centre (MAMA).
- iii. Criminal justice, stringent punishment and sincere policy should be enacted by government to address reported cases of rape, rape should not be treated with levity.

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