The Causes and Consequences of Child Abuse
(Case in Rigachikun Community of Kaduna State)

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Abstract: The purpose of this research is aimed at examining the causes and consequences of child abuse in Rigachikun Community of Kaduna State. Related literatures were reviewed and Marxist perspective was used to explain the causes and consequences of child abuse. Questionnaires and in-depth interview were used to collect data from the respondents. The findings revealed that, the causes and consequences of child abuse are poverty and child abuse leads to child molestation respectively. Therefore, the study recommended that; government should tackle poverty by providing available job opportunities to parents in order to sustain their families. And also, education should be made compulsory to both parents and their children.

Keywords: Consequences, marxist perspective, child abuse, job opportunities & education.

1. INTRODUCTION
1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY
Child abuse is an intentional act that results in physical or emotional harm to children. The term child abuse covers a wide range of behaviour, from actual physical assault by parents or other adult caretakers to neglect of a child’s basic needs. Child abuse is also sometimes called child maltreatment.

The need to sustain the continuity of human race and the incontrovertible fact that the younger generations naturally take over the mantle of societal control from their older counterpart is perhaps one of the strongest reason why the right of a child have become a common refrain globally. Child abuse means the physical or mental injury, sexual abuse, negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child under the age of eighteen by person who is responsible for the child’s welfare is under circumstances which indicate that the child’s welfare is harmed or threatened. (ANPPCAN pp. 96-103)

A child of any age, sex, race, religion and socio-economic background can fall victim to maltreatment which may include both acts of commission and those of omission. Media (ARM PRESS 1979) stress tends to highlight the sensational aspects of child abuse and neglect: babies abandoned or
killed by their mother; toddlers beaten by their parents: school-aged children who are subjected to sexual abuse. While such stories attracted tremendous interest in empathy for the victims, these accounts fail to reveal the complex interplay of factors that influence the origin and consequences of child maltreatment. In fact, we know that no single risk factor provides the overriding catalyst for child abuse and neglect. Multiple stresses conditions are implicated in contributing to abusive or neglectful behavior (National Research Council 1993).

Although the extent of child abuse is difficult to measure, it is recognized as a major social problem, especially in industrialized nations. It occurs in all levels of socio-demographic characteristics such as; income, racial, religious, and ethnic groups and in urban and rural communities. It is, however, more common in some groups, especially those with lower status in the society.

Cultures around the world have different standards in deciding what constitutes child abuse. In Sweden, for example, the law prohibits any physical punishment of children, including spanking. By contrast, in some countries of Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean, parents are expected to punish their children by hitting them.

Child abuse is a social problem which subjects thousands of kids to physical, sexual and emotional abuse and its effects are usually severe. Parke and Collmer (1975) stated the lack of consensus about a definition reveals primitive theoretical level of child abuse research without a standard definition, research findings and data are misleading because identical table are used to describe different phenomena as a result, policy makers find themselves faced with the impossible task of solving a problem whose magnitudes, roots and solutions remain undefined.

Child labour is a fundamental factor of child abuse; this violent (child labour) exhibit children grow up to become criminals in the society within which they live, hence set back in the society because the increase in number of crime that is being attributed to increase of criminals in the society.

Child labour is increasingly recognized as a crime against rights of the child. The labour is likely to interfere with the education and normal development of the children which can be harmful to their health and morals. Child labourer’s risk to be exposed for abuse, violence and hazards which can be dangerous to their life. Effects of labour on children are not the same as on adults as there are major psychological, physical and social differences between the two groups. Children may be seriously harmed by work which makes little or no risk to adults. Hazardous work during development and growth during the childhood can have lasting effects which can affect the children for the rest of their lives.

There is strong evidence of the harmful short-term and long-term effects of child abuse. All aspects of the child's health, development and well-being can be affected. The effects of child abuse can last throughout adulthood and include anxiety, depression, substance misuse, and self-destructive, oppositional

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There is strong evidence of the harmful short-term and long-term effects of child abuse. All aspects of the child's health, development and well-being can be affected. The effects of child abuse can last throughout adulthood and include anxiety, depression, substance misuse, and self-destructive, oppositional
or anti-social behaviours. In adulthood, there may be difficulties in forming or sustaining close relationships, sustaining employment and parenting capacity. Physical abuse may result in life-long disability or physical scarring and harmful psychological consequences, and may even be fatal. The National Service Framework (NSF) for Children, states 'The high cost of abuse and neglect both to individuals (and to society) underpins the duty on all agencies to be proactive in safeguarding children.'

Child abuse is a complex issue and various factors behind the abusing predominate in different contexts. To be able to combat child abuse in Rigachikun community of Kaduna State, the underlying causes must be understood. In-depth understanding of the situation must include special attention to the children’s own views which the study believes are the most important source of information, therefore, this study wants to investigate the underlying causes and consequences behind child abuse in Rigachikun community of Kaduna State, mainly from the children’s own perspective.

1.3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS
(1) What is the nature of Child Abuse?
(2) What are the causes of Child Abuse?
(3) What are the consequences of Child Abuse?
(4) What are the solutions to Child Abuse?

1.4 AIMS & OBJECTIVES
The research is aimed at examining Child Abuse in Rigachikun community of Kaduna State. The specific objectives are as follows:
(1) To identify the nature of child Abuse in Rigachikun community of Kaduna State;
(2) To find out the causes of child abuse in Rigachikun community of Kaduna State;
(3) To identify the consequences of child abuse;
(4) To proffer lasting solution to the problems of child Abuse.

1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY
This research work would bring to the fore, the need to protect the young ones from this act of child abuse. The research will also help policy makers to make law on a possible way to educate parents to stop the act of child abuse. Lastly, the result of the study will serve as a stepping stone to other researchers who wish to conduct similar study.

1.6 SCOPE AND DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY
The scope of the study focuses on the causes and consequences of child abuse and it is limited to Rigachikun community of Kaduna State. The research work focuses on some selected areas within the Rigachikun community. Therefore, the researcher will not able to touch on the cases of child abuse in all areas of Rigachikun community.

Subsequently, this study is face with time constraints; the researcher has little time to reach out to all the subdivisions within Rigachikun community to collect more information and opinions of the public on the subject. Financial constraint is another problem that poses challenge for the researcher to have detailed information.

However, it is hoped that the effects put by the researcher to come up with the study will go a long way to help parents, society and government to know the ways; these forms and causes of child abuse could be controlled and minimized.

1.7 DEFINITION OF TERMS
Abuse:- to hurt or injure by maltreatment, or to misuse the power accompanying an office or position. Abuse does not necessarily involve mistreatment of others.
Child:- an infant between 0-18 years, who is still under parental control or guardianship.
Child abuse: - it consists of any act or failure to act that endangers a child physically, emotionally, health and development.
Child labour: - is work that is essentially exploitative and injurious to the physical, social, cognitive and moral development of the child.
Maltreatment: - to behave unkindly cruelly or to use one roughly.
Neglect: - treating one carelessly by paying no attention to him or denial of basic right and need of child by parents, peers, schools, cultural community and government eight by act of omission or commission.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK
2.1 INTRODUCTION
The chapter dwelt on literature related to the research work. The areas covered are nature, types, causes, consequences, solution to the problems (child abuse) and theoretical framework.

2.2 NATURE OF CHILD ABUSE
Folzenlogen (2011), parental belief systems and lifestyle choice have a significant impact on the present and future welfare of innocent children. In some cases, these victims are denied access to proper healthcare or education while in others, poor habits such as overeating, tobacco use and inactivity are instilled. Many children are indoctrinated various forms of discrimination, whether based on race, gender or sexual orientation and ingrained religion dogma is a common source of fear, guilt and low self esteem.

Various factors increase the risk that a child will be abused or neglected. Children who are cared for by families with limited knowledge about how to care for a child are at increased risk for abuse and neglect. Children in families with the following are also at increased risk: strained or bad relationships, drug abuse, and social isolation (not having friends or family around to help). Poverty, too, increases the chance that a child will be abused or neglected. Many children are abused or neglected by adults who were themselves abused as children.

2.3 TYPES OF CHILD ABUSE
Physical Abuse
This refers to situation in which a child is subjected to serious injury other than an accidental means. Newton and Julie, (2010) physical abuse is not just deliberate beatings and assault. It can be severe discipline or physical punishment, as well. It involves situations where an adult hurt or injuries a child’s body. The abuse may be intentional, such as when a parent or caregiver hits a child while angry and throws a chair that accidentally hits a child.

Lubeck(1986), states, the need for child protection explained that the physical injuries include; beating, punching, slapping, flogging, etc. Physical abuse is the most obvious form of abuse. It is an act that results in physical injury to a child. Punching, beating, kicking, biting, burning, breaking bones, hair pulling and shaking a baby are examples of physical abuse.

Sexual Abuse
Sexual abuse is any misuse of a child for sexual pleasure or gratification. It is the involvement of children in sexual activities that they do not fully comprehend, that they are unable to give informed consent to and/or that violates societal taboos.

- Non-touching sexual abuse - Indecent exposure or exhibitionism, exposure to pornographic material or any sexual act, including masturbation.
- Touching sexual abuse – Fondling, making a child touching adult’s or another child’s sexual organs, penetration of a child’s vagina or anus by an adult or an object, and any other sexual act with a child.
- Sexual exploitation - Engaging a child for the purposes of prostitution or using a child to film or photograph pornographically.
Turton (2008), sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, including prostitution, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact including penetrating (e.g. rape, buggery, or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually in appropriate way.

Kano State Government carried out a systematic survey on abuse of children as recorded in police files, juvenile courts, magistrate courts, welfare offices, indicate that about 60% of reported cases involved in sexual abuse are female children who are below the age of 12 years (Kano State Government 1988).

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA 2010), sexual abuse is the employment, use, persuasion, inducement, enticement, or coercion of any child to engage in, or assist any other person to engage in, any sexually explicit conduct or simulation of such conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct; or the rape, and in cases of caretaker or inter-familial relationships, statutory rape, molestation, prostitution, or other form of sexual exploitation of children, or incest with children.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is a pattern of behavior that can seriously interfere with a child's positive development, psyche and self-concept. Emotional abuse is hard to identify due to no physical evidence.

- **Rejection and Ignoring** – Telling a child in a variety of ways that he or she is unwanted, having a lack of attachment, showing no interest, not initiating or returning affection, and/or not listening to the child. Not validating feelings. Breaking promises. Cutting the child off while he or she is speaking. Pretending to hear concerns, but then disregard them.

- **Shame and Humiliation** – Telling a child he or she is stupid, etc. or evoking criticism when performance is not perfect. Judging what the child does as wrong, inferior, or worthless. Using reproaches such as "You should be ashamed of yourself," or "Stop crying or I'll give you something to cry about." Pride is also a feeling that is often met with shameful condemnations, such as “Who do you think you are, Mr. Big Shot?”

- **Terrorizing** – Accusing, blaming, insulting, criticizing, punishing and threatening with abandonment, physical harm, or death. Sabotaging success by making unreasonable demands or labeling the person as a loser. Taking advantage of the person’s weakness or manipulating.

- **Isolating** – Not allowing the child to engage with peers or activities, keeping a child in a room or small area, and not exposing the child to stimulation.

- **Corrupting** - Engaging children to witness or participate in criminal acts such as stealing, drug dealing etc. Telling lies to avoid justifying actions or ideas.

Emotional abuse is also known as verbal abuse, mental abuse, and psychological maltreatment. It includes acts or the failures to act by parents or caretakers that have caused or could cause, serious behavioral, cognitive emotional, or mental trauma. This can include parents or caretakers using extreme and/or bizarre forms of punishment, such as confinement in a closet or dark room or being tied to a chair for long periods of time or threatening or terrorizing a child. Less severe acts, but no less damaging, are belittling or rejecting treatment, using derogatory terms to describe the child, habitual tendency to blame the child make him/her a scapegoat (kacker, et al., 2007).

Kalu (1980), reported that emotional abused children often seek relief from the situation by seeking to please the offender parents even at that price of committing other crimes because of the dependency on adults. When the avenues of redress are blocked, they tend to utilize different mechanisms like victimizing someone else, displacement (someone else is always at fault), saying out “roaming” around most of time, crying easily or hitting others frequently.
Child Neglect
Neglect is a failure to provide for the child’s basic need including inadequate provision of food or clothing appropriate for season or weather, lack of supervision, abandonment.

- **Physical neglect** – Includes abandonment or inadequate supervision, and failure to provide for safety or physical needs. Includes failure to thrive, malnutrition, unsanitary conditions, or injuries from lack of supervision.
- **Educational neglect** – Includes not enrolling child in school, or allowing child to engage in chronic truancy.
- **Emotional neglect** - Includes withholding of affection or attention, failure to provide psychological care, ignoring the child’s emotional needs.
- **Medical neglect** – Includes delay or denial of dental or health care, or withholding medical care due to religious beliefs. Some states will not prosecute due to withholding of health care due to religious beliefs but court orders are occasionally obtained to save a child’s life.

Child Labour

Child work should be distinguished from child labour. By child work is meant in which the primary emphasis is learning, training or socialization. By child labour is meant work that is essential exploitative and injurious to the physical, social, cognitive and moral development of the child. The actual number of child involved in exploitative or hazardous work in Nigeria is unknown, due to the wide dispersion of child workers in the informal sector and in agriculture (Mbakogu, 2004).

Child labour is work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity; work that exceeds a minimum number of hours; work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and work that interferes with their schooling. In some cases this work happens in the home community environment, when factors such as poverty, gender discrimination or cultural norms keep children labouring. However, there are also numerous trafficking cases where children are forced to work in various industries.

Child work; Not all children who work are engaged in child labour. There can be benefits for children who work, provided their schooling is not compromised and their mental and physical development is not affected. If children are above the minimum age to work, are employed for a limited number of hours in safe conditions, are paid fairly and the work does not impact on their mental, physical or social development, working may be beneficial to both themselves and their families.
Under the right conditions, some work can be a positive experience for children. Part-time work or assisting in a family business for example, can help a child’s personal development, by teaching them life skills and developing their levels of responsibility and maturity.

Child Begging

Begging is widespread in the north where alms giving are widely regarded as religious duty. The largest category of baggers in this part of the country is associated with the Almajiri system. One of the most serious charges leveled against Almajiri was that it subjected its client to a condition of beggary.
The Kano state committee on Almajiri aptly captured the mood when it stated that “the agony of a five to ten years old child having to live barely on his own with virtually no visible means of support for his livelihood other than the little sadaqah (charity) he gets from Samaritans is a real one (Kano state, 1988).

2.4 CAUSES OF CHILD ABUSE

There is no single known cause of child maltreatment. Nor is there any single description that captures all families in which children are victims of abuse and neglect. Child maltreatment occurs across socio-economic, religious, cultural, , and ethnic groups. While no specific causes definitely have been identified that lead a parent or other caregiver to abuse or neglect a child, research has recognized a number of risk factors or attributes commonly associated with maltreatment. Professionals who intervene
in cases of child maltreatment must recognize the multiple, complex causes of the problem and must tailor their assessment and treatment of children and families to meet the specific needs and circumstances of the family (U.S Department of Health and Human Services, 2010).

**Parents Maltreatment**
Kalawole (1993) reported that parents themselves are more under stress nowadays than before. They often so tense, frustration or exhausted that more often than not they do not have the energy to spend quality time with their children. He said the problem is more glaring in a single parent family. A person’s childhood history plays a large role in how he or she may behave toward his or her family of procreation. Individuals with poor parental role models or those who did not have their own needs met may find it very difficult to meet the needs of their children. While the estimated number varies, child maltreatment literature commonly supports the finding that some maltreating parents or caregivers were victims of abuse and neglect themselves as children. Children who either experienced maltreatment or witnessed violence between their parents or caregivers may learn violent behavior and may also learn to justify violent behavior as appropriate (Goldman, et al., 2003). According to Jostens (1979), the actual incidence of abuse is highest among families in which the stress of low income and high unemployment is present. He also mentioned that there are higher incidences of child abuse among children born pre-martially, extra-martially from unplanned pregnancies.

**Poverty**
According to Taiwo (1993), it is common thing nowadays to see children hawking different items after school when they supposed to rest and get well prepared for the next school day. They hawk and roam the streets to generate some revenue from the sales that will complement the meager resources of the parents as a result they are exposed to all forms of stress and temptations while the young school female children are not spared of sexual activities at this tender age. He said he is not surprised that juvenile delinquency is still on the increase. Some children are given out as wards to earn money and a good living. This is viewed as slavery and the ordeal is quite pathetic. In Nigeria from the researcher’s observation, many children suffer child abandonment, sexual abuse, child neglect, wandering, kidnapping and hawking. Gill, (1979) explain his findings on causes of child abuse and argued that the socio-economic pressure on the lower classes weaken the caretakers psychological mechanism of self control. He feels that the poverty of the lower classes produces frustration that is released in a physical attack on the child.

**Urban and Environmental Stress**
Children within families and environments in which these factors exist a higher probability of experiencing maltreatment. It must be emphasized, however, that while certain factors often are present among families where maltreatment occurs, this does not mean that the presence of these factors will always result in child abuse and neglect. For example, some researchers noted the relation between poverty and maltreatment, you must be noted that must people living in poverty do not harm their children (U.S Department of Health and Human Services, 2010).

**Family Disintegration and Dysfunction**
Specifically life situations of some families such as marital conflict, domestic violence may increase the likelihood of maltreatment. They frequently contribute to negative patterns of family functioning. Children living with single parents may be at higher risk of expediency physical and sexual abuse and neglect than children living with two biological parents. Single parent households are substantially more likely to have incomes below the poverty line. Chronically neglecting family often are characterized by a chaotic household with changing constellations of adult and figures e.g., a mother and her children who live on and off with various others, such as the mother’s mother, the mother’s sister, or a boyfriend, (Goldman, et al., 2003).
The Nigerian traditional culture has been greatly affected and a major source of the maintenance of culture namely the extended family system where by one is his brother’s keeper in the large family is disintegrating (Ebigbo, 1993).

**Family Size**

The function of the family is influenced by the number of sex and spacing of children. These factors must be considered not only in the view of their effects on parents-child interaction but also of the influence it has on siblings that is sister and brothers on others. When the family size increases opportunities for a variety of interaction with siblings expand.

Gerbner, (1972) pointed out that child abuse has been found to be associated with a variety of demographic variables. Male abused children seem to be more violent than female may be more verbally aggressive, male are physically more aggressive.

2.5 **CONSEQUENCES OF CHILD ABUSE ON THE CHILD, PARENTS AND SOCIETY.**

**Consequences on the child**

Abuse of a child, could be physical, verbal, emotional, sexual abuse or neglect adversely affect the child’s physical cognitive and emotional development. Any form of abuse perpetrated on a child effect the child emotionally. The severity of the effect however depends on the age of the child. Abusive constitute attack on the child’s self concept and make the child feel self conscious, sober, unhappy and psychopathic. The victim also suffers the feeling of anxiety, mistrust, guilt, anger, fear, obsession and depression. Behavior such as enuresis (bed wetting), encompasses, crying and clinging. Abuse child also experience poor self image and develops poor relation with peers and adult who often leads to withdrawal and later, inadequate adult life. NCANDS collects case-level data on child facilities due to maltreatment in the child file. Additional counts of child facilities, for which case-level data are not known, are reported through the agency file and the SDC (U.S Department of Health and Human Services, 2010).

**Consequences on the parents**

The stigma of abuse is one of the effects of child abuse and the family. A child who is not cared for, love and respect, manifest on his own children. Thus, it becomes a various circle passed from generation to generation. Abusive child is likely to turn delinquent, becomes a problem for the family. The child may eventually through his bad ways bring shame and disgrace on the family (Goldman, etal., 2003).

**Consequences on the Society**

Environmental factors are often found in combination with parent, family, and child factors. Environmental factors include poverty and unemployment, social isolation and community characteristics. It is important to reiterate that most parents or caregivers who live in these types of environments are not abusive. However, poverty particularly when interacting with other risk factors such as depression, substance abuse and social isolation can increase the likelihood of maltreatment (Goldman, etal., 2003).

2.6 **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK: MARXIS THEORY**

Wilmot (1985) theory is a system of related ideas that enable one to explain and predict a certain phenomenon. Therefore, for the purpose of this study, Marxist theory is adopted to serve as framework for the understanding of this problem under study. Marxist theory was founded by the German philosopher, economist, sociologist and reformist Karl Max (1818-1883).

The basic assumption of Marxism is that man must survive and for him to survive, man must produce, for man to produce, he must enter into a social relationship with others, and this social relation, there is bound to be contradiction which eventually leads to conflict. This conflict is based on the Marxist basic postulation that the society is made up of social groups with different interest, the continual existence of which will inevitably lead to conflict. Conflict results due to the existence of an unjust class social arrangement which tend to give one class (bourgeoisie) to exploit and oppress the other class (proletariat).
Marxist theory believes that as long as class and power relation remain unequal and unjust, conflict becomes irritable in the society. He made a distinction between forces of production and relation of production.

In addition to that, the higher rates of child abuse are more common among the lower class (proletariat) than among the upper class (bourgeoisie) who receive better treatment form of the society in general and has access to a better and quality education.

3. METHODOLOGY
3.1 INTRODUCTION
This chapter describes the location of the study area, population and sampling techniques of the study, types and sources of data, data analysis as well as the problem encountered in the field.

3.2 LOCATION OF THE STUDY
The location of the study is Rigachikun Community of Kaduna state; Rigachikun is found between the latitude 10° 37’57” North and longitude 7° 28’22 East and it is located at an elevation of 596 meters above sea level (Bureau for land and survey, 1998). Rigachikun is bounded in the North by Maraban Jos, in the South by Unguwan Gwari, in the West by Kirama/ Air force base and in the East by Kukkumake. The population of the area according to the (2006 census report) was 147,544. It is found within the Sahel savannah region of the country with an annual rainfall of 50 centimeters with a land mass of 32,567 sq kilometers. The main ethnic groups in the area are Hausa, Gbagyi (Gwari), and Fulani.

The major occupation of the community include: commercial activities, civil service and farming. Agricultural production of the area include maize, rice, beans, fish, vegetables, fruits, dairy products and animal rearing. The community is also a host to different academic institutions like, National Open University, National Teachers’ Institute, Petroleum University (behind trade-fair), Keyson Bank Training Center (formerly Habib bank)

3.3 TYPES AND SOURCES OF DATA
The sources of data for this research consist of primary and secondary data. The primary data include questionnaires and in-depth interview (IDI). While the secondary data were generated from review of relevant literature such as journals, published books, internet and dictionaries.

3.4 POPULATION AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUES
The population of the study consists of both male and female adults of Rigachikun community. The community was divided into six (6) subdivisions which are; Unguwan Kaji, Barakallahu, Unguwan Dankande, New layout (Rigachikun), Unguwan Kudu and National Teachers’ Institute. These subdivisions represent clusters. Four (4) clusters were selected using simple random sampling this is done by having existing list of the areas on pieces of paper then fold and four divisions were picked by a child. The four (4) clusters selected include: Barakallahu, Rigachikun (New layout), Unguwan Kaji, and Unguwan Kudu. The four (4) clusters were further subdivided into streets, in order to select the number of streets proportionally for the easy representation of the entire area, a total number of five (5) streets were selected for the study in Barakallahu, six (6) streets were selected in Rigachikun (new layout), five (5) were selected in Unguwan Kaji, and four (4) streets were selected in Unguwan Kudu.

However, two (2) households were selected from each street in Barakallahu and three (3) questionnaires were administered in each household to adult members and spouses. Three (3) households were selected from each street in Rigachikun and two (2) questionnaires were administered in each household to couples. Two (2) households were selected from each street in Unguwan Kaji and three (3) questionnaires were administered in each household to adult members of the family. Also, two (2) households were selected from each street in Unguwan Kudu and three (3) questionnaires were administered in each household to adult members of the house.
Therefore, a total of forty-six (46) households and a sample size of 120 respondents were used to represent the whole population of Rigachikun Community of Kaduna State. The questionnaires were distributed as follows: Barakallahu 30, Rigachikun 36, Unguwan Kaji 30, while in Unguwan Kudu 24 was administered. Also, the questionnaires were administered to adult community members of both males and females in Rigachikun community.

Apart from the above, four (4) opinion leaders were selected for the in-depth interview (IDI) based on the topic of the study. The key informants consist of four (4) heads of the community and that were purposive selected, and fifteen (15) married adults of both male and female were selected from each division.

3.5 METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION

The researcher used quantitative and qualitative methods to source for information. In the quantitative method, questionnaires were used and in-depth interview guide was used for the qualitative method. Questions in the questionnaire include: Closed ended, and Multiple choice questions. The reason for the close ended questions is to restrict the respondents to select among the various options provided in the questionnaires, while for the multiple choice questions is to allow the respondents to tick many options among the various options listed. The first section of the questionnaire is on the bio-data or socio-demographic data, while the later parts comprised all the specific objectives of the study. For the respondents that cannot read and write, it was administered in a form of interview, that is, the researchers read and translate the questions in the language of the respondent and filling the option they selected. The second technique of data collection was qualitative technique, that is, in-depth interview was conducted by the researcher in all the selected divisions in Rigachikun Community of Kaduna State.

3.6 METHODS OF DATA ANALYSIS

The data collected from the field during the research work through the use of questionnaire after going through a process known as data cleaning and manual coding. The quantitative data collected were also processed with the aid of a code book, a coding sheet, a computer, and a micro-soft excel programming, the data generated were analyzed in frequencies (f) and percentages (%) and also some of the responses were tabulated and inferences were deduced from the outcome of each finding represented so as to statistically measure the information.

3.7 METHODOLOGICAL CHALLENGES

At the course of this research, the researcher encountered many problems ranging from language differences, the inability of some respondents to understand the topic in view; as such the 120 questionnaires distributed were not all retrieved but only 113 questionnaires were finally collected by the researcher. Many respondents complained of time, some were nowhere to be found after given them the questionnaires. Also, the researcher was faced with the problem of time and monetary problem.

4. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with the analysis and interpretation of data collected from the fieldwork. One hundred and twenty (120) questionnaires were administered but only 113 were retrieved. The data collected through the questionnaires and the in-depth interviews were analyzed and interpreted. The chapter is divided into five sections namely: Socio-demographic attributes of respondents, Nature of child abuse, Causes of child abuse, Consequences of child abuse, and Possible solutions to child abuse.

4.2 SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC ATTRIBUTES OF RESPONDENTS

This part look into the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondent which include: Sex, Age, Marital status, Religion, Occupation, Formal educational attainment.
| Table 4.2.1 Socio-Demographic Attributes of Respondents |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| **Sex**                         | **f**  | **%**  |
| Male                            | 73    | 64.6  |
| Female                          | 40    | 35.4  |
| Total                           | 113   | 100   |

| Age                             | **f**  | **%**  |
| 20 years and below              | 26    | 23    |
| 21 - 30 years                   | 61    | 54    |
| 31 - 40 years                   | 19    | 16.8  |
| 41 years and above              | 07    | 6.2   |
| Total                           | 113   | 100   |

| Marital Status                  | **f**  | **%**  |
| Separated                       | 10    | 8.8    |
| Married                         | 41    | 36.3   |
| Divorced                        | 07    | 6.2    |
| Single                          | 55    | 48.7   |
| Total                           | 113   | 100    |

| Religion                        | **f**  | **%**  |
| Christianity                    | 36    | 31.1   |
| Islam                           | 70    | 61.9   |
| Tradition                       | 06    | 5.3    |
| Others                          | 01    | 0.9    |
| Total                           | 113   | 100    |

| Occupation                      | **f**  | **%**  |
| Civil servant                   | 29    | 25.7   |
| Business                        | 62    | 54.9   |
| Student                         | 22    | 19.5   |
| Total                           | 113   | 100    |

| Formal Educational Attainment   | **f**  | **%**  |
| Primary                         | 04    | 3.5    |
| Secondary                       | 41    | 36.3   |
| Tertiary                        | 56    | 49.6   |
| No formal education             | 12    | 10.6   |
| Total                           | 113   | 100    |

Source: Field Survey

Table 4.2.1 shows the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents. The sex distribution from the Table shows the majority of the respondents were male. The age distribution of the respondents from which 21 – 30 years has the highest percentage (54%), while 41 years and above has the lowest percentage.
The Table shows that majority (48.7%) of the respondents are single while only 6.2% of the respondents were divorced. The religion background from the Table shows that majority (61.9%) of the respondent are Muslims, while 31.1% are Christians. The occupational distribution from the Table shows that majority (54.9%) of the respondents involved in business activities, while the least (19.5%) are students. The table shows the educational attainment of the respondents, 49.6% were in Tertiary Institutions, while only 3.5% were in Primary Schools.

4.3 NATURE OF CHILD ABUSE

This section explains the nature of child abuse. It shows respondents views on: age category of children likely to be abused, categories of children most likely to be abused, how children are abused physically, how children are abused emotionally, how children are abused sexually, the nature of child labour experienced, and the form of child abuse common in the area.

Table 4.3.1 Age Category of Children Mostly Abused

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>f</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 years and below</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>20.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 – 9 years</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>42.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 – 13 years</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>31.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 – 17 years</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>113</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey

Table 4.3.1 shows that majority (42.5%) of the children abused are from ages 6 – 9 years, and then followed by ages 10 – 13 years which has 31.9% in Rigachikun Community of Kaduna State. The interview held with the District Heads of Rigachikun opined that: “Children from 15 years and below are the ones mostly abused in Rigachikun Community of Kaduna State”.

However, almost all the key informants interviewed share the same opined that children from ages 10 and below are mostly abused in Rigachikun.
Table 4.3.2 Categories of Children Mostly Abused

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>f</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orphans</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>51.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children that are living with their relatives</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Househelp</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>17.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled children</td>
<td>09</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey

Table 4.3.2 shows that majority (51.3%) of children mostly abused are ‘Orphans’. However, ‘Disabled ones’ are less likely abused (8.0%)

Table 4.3.3 How are Children Abused Physically

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>f</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beating</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>59.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporal punishment</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>20.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refusal to feed them properly</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>18.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refusal to clothe them properly</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey

Table 4.3.3 shows that majority (59.3%) of the children abused physically are by ‘beating’, and then followed by ‘corporal punishment’ which has 20.4% in Rigachikun Community of Kaduna State. Base on the interview held with the District Head in Rigachikun revealed that:

“The nature of physical abuse experienced by children in Rigachikun Community of Kaduna State include: unnecessary beatings, corporal punishment, refusal to feed and clothe them properly”.

However, from the interview held with the key informants shared the same opinion with the District Head of Rigachikun. Nevertheless, few key informants shared different opinion that cultivating people’s land or farm is the nature of physical abuse experienced.
Table 4.3.4 How are Children Abused Emotionally

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>f</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Using insulting words on them</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>78.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using derogative words on them</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>21.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>113</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey

Table 4.3.4 above shows that majority (78.8%) of the children abused emotionally are by ‘using insulting words on them’, and then followed by ‘using derogative words on them’ which has 21.2% in Rigachikun Community of Kaduna State. Base on the interview held with the District Head in Rigachikun revealed that:

“The nature of emotional abuse experienced by children in Rigachikun Community of Kaduna State include: using insulting words on a child like; stupid person, worthless person, poor person, insensitive person etc. and using derogative words on a child like; batty boy, barrow boy, dwarf boy, black boy etc. However, from the interview held with the key informants shared the same opinion with the District Head of Rigachikun. Nevertheless, few people shared that hard labour affect children emotionally.

Table 4.3.5 How are Children Abused Sexually

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>f</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raping</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>54.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They experience unwarranted physical touch in their private part</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>19.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They are forced into sexual activities by adults</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>24.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>113</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey

Table 4.3.5 shows that majority (54.9%) of the children abused sexually are by ‘raping’, then followed by ‘forced into sexual activities’ which has 24.8% in Rigachikun Community of Kaduna State. Base on the interview held with the District Head in Rigachikun revealed that:

“The nature of sexual abuse experienced by children in Rigachikun Community of Kaduna State revealed females in particular, are the ones prone to this form of abuse, which includes: raping, unwarranted touch in their private part, forced into sexual activities etc”. However, from the interview held with the key informants shared the same opinion with the District Head of Rigachikun.
Table 4.3.6 Types of Child Labour Experienced

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>f</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Begging</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>31.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawking</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>43.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultivating people’s farm</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus conductor</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menial jobs</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey

Table 4.3.6 shows that majority (43.4%) of the children are involved in child labour by ‘hawking’, then followed by ‘begging’ which has 31.9% in Rigachikun Community of Kaduna State. Base on the interview held with the District Head in Rigachikun revealed that:
“The type of child labour experienced by children in Rigachikun Community of Kaduna State include: hawking, cultivating people’s land, bus conductor, menial jobs etc”.
However, from the interview held with the key informants shared the same opinion with the District Head of Rigachikun.

Table 4.3.7 The Most Common Form of Child Abuse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>f</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical abuse</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>33.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional abuse</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual abuse</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child labour</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>28.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey

Table 4.3.7 shows that the most common (33.6%) form of child abuse is ‘physical abuse’, and then followed by ‘emotional abuse’ which has 23% in Rigachikun Community of Kaduna State. Base on the interview held with the District Head opined that:
“The common form of child abuse in Rigachikun Community of Kaduna State is the physical abuse which includes: severe beating, hawking, begging, cultivating people’s land etc”.
However, from the interview held with the key informants shared the same opinion with the District Head of Rigachikun.
Table 4.4 CAUSES OF CHILD ABUSE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Causes of Child Abuse</th>
<th>A   (f) (%)</th>
<th>SA (f) (%)</th>
<th>D  (f) (%)</th>
<th>SD (f) (%)</th>
<th>UN (f) (%)</th>
<th>TOTAL (f) (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poverty causes child abuse</td>
<td>74 (65.5)</td>
<td>26 (23)</td>
<td>10 (8.8)</td>
<td>02 (1.8)</td>
<td>01 (0.9)</td>
<td>113 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family disintegration causes child abuse</td>
<td>51 (45.1)</td>
<td>45 (39.8)</td>
<td>11 (9.7)</td>
<td>04 (3.5)</td>
<td>02 (1.8)</td>
<td>113 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban and environmental stress(inequalities, regional disparities, pollution etc.) cause child abuse</td>
<td>40 (35.4)</td>
<td>43 (38.1)</td>
<td>24 (21.2)</td>
<td>02 (1.8)</td>
<td>04 (3.5)</td>
<td>113 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large family size causes child abuse</td>
<td>35 (31)</td>
<td>48 (42.5)</td>
<td>17 (15)</td>
<td>10 (8.8)</td>
<td>03 (2.7)</td>
<td>113 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illiteracy among adults causes child abuse</td>
<td>56 (49.6)</td>
<td>39 (34.5)</td>
<td>07 (6.2)</td>
<td>09 (8.0)</td>
<td>02 (1.8)</td>
<td>113 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural belief causes child abuse</td>
<td>49 (43.4)</td>
<td>19 (16.8)</td>
<td>22 (19.5)</td>
<td>13 (11.5)</td>
<td>10 (8.8)</td>
<td>113 (100)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey

Table 4.4.0 shows the respondents’ view on the causes of child abuse. The majority (65.5%) of the respondents ‘agreed’, while the least (1.8%) ‘strongly disagreed’ poverty as the cause of child abuse. The Table above shows the respondents’ view on family disintegration causes child abuse. The majority (45.1%) of the respondents ‘agreed’, while only 3.5% of the respondents ‘strongly disagreed’. The Table above shows the respondents’ view on urban and environment stress cause child abuse. The majority (38.1%) of the respondents ‘strongly agreed’, while only 1.8% of the respondents ‘strongly disagreed’. The Table above shows the respondents’ view on large family size causes child abuse. The majority (42.5%) of the respondents ‘strongly agreed’, while 8.8% of the respondents ‘strongly disagreed’. The Table above shows the respondents’ view on illiteracy among adults causes child abuse. The majority (49.6%) of the respondents ‘agreed’, while only 6.2% of the respondents ‘disagreed’. The Table above shows the respondents’ view on cultural belief causes child abuse. The majority (43.4%) of the respondents ‘agreed’, while 11.5% of the respondents ‘strongly disagreed’. Base on the interview held with the District Head in Rigachikun opined that:

“The possible causes of child abuse in Rigachikun Community of Kaduna State include: poverty, family disintegration, large family size, ignorance of parent and the government- by not providing available employment opportunities in the society”.

However, from the interview held with the key informants shared the same opinion with the District Head of Rigachikun.
Table 4.5 CONSEQUENCES OF CHILD ABUSE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consequences of Child Abuse</th>
<th>A (f) (%)</th>
<th>SA (f) (%)</th>
<th>D (f) (%)</th>
<th>SD (f) (%)</th>
<th>UN (f) (%)</th>
<th>TOTAL (f) (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child abuse lead to child molestation</td>
<td>78 (69)</td>
<td>31 (27.4)</td>
<td>02 (1.8)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>02 (1.8)</td>
<td>113 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child abuse lead to poor academic performance of children</td>
<td>51 (45.1)</td>
<td>52 (46)</td>
<td>05 (4.4)</td>
<td>05 (4.4)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>113 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child abuse increases social vices in the society</td>
<td>47 (41.6)</td>
<td>55 (48.7)</td>
<td>09 (8.0)</td>
<td>02 (1.8)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>113 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child abuse lead to poor upbringing</td>
<td>57 (50.4)</td>
<td>43 (38.1)</td>
<td>05 (4.4)</td>
<td>06 (5.3)</td>
<td>02 (1.8)</td>
<td>113 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child abuse lead to death of victims in some cases</td>
<td>76 (67.3)</td>
<td>28 (24.8)</td>
<td>03 (2.7)</td>
<td>03 (2.7)</td>
<td>03 (2.7)</td>
<td>113 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child abuse lead to trauma and psychological problems</td>
<td>57 (50.4)</td>
<td>45 (39.8)</td>
<td>05 (4.4)</td>
<td>02 (1.8)</td>
<td>04 (3.5)</td>
<td>113 (100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child abuse lead to withdrawal and low self-esteem among victims</td>
<td>74 (65.5)</td>
<td>28 (24.8)</td>
<td>05 (4.4)</td>
<td>02 (1.8)</td>
<td>04 (3.5)</td>
<td>113 (100)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey

Table 4.5.0 shows the respondents’ view on child abuse leads to child molestation. The majority (69%) of the respondents ‘agreed’, while 1.8% of the respondents ‘disagreed’.

The Table above shows the respondents’ view on Child abuse leads to poor academic performance of children. The majority (46%) of the respondents ‘strongly agreed’, while only 4.4% of the respondents ‘strongly disagreed’.

The rate of social vices is said to cause by child abuse as majority (48.7%) of the respondents ‘strongly agreed’, while only 1.8% of the respondents ‘strongly disagreed’.

Similarly, respondents’ view on poor upbringing shows that majority (50.4%) of the respondents ‘agreed’, while only 4.4% of the respondents ‘disagreed’.

The Table above shows the respondents’ view on Child abuse leads to death of victims in some cases. The majority (67.3%) of the respondents ‘agreed’, while only 2.7% of the respondents ‘disagreed’.
The Table above shows the respondents’ view on child abuse leads to trauma and psychological problems. The majority (50.4%) of the respondents ‘agreed’, while only 1.8% of the respondents ‘strongly disagreed’.

The Table above shows the respondents’ view on Child abuse leads to withdrawal and low self-esteem among victims. The majority (65.5%) of the respondents ‘agreed’, while only 1.8% of the respondents ‘strongly disagreed’. Base on the interview held with the District Heads in Rigachikun as most of them opined that: “The consequences of child abuse include; child abuse leads molestation, poor academic performance, poor upbringing etc. and children will also grow up and continue abusing other children. Therefore, it increases social vices in the society”.

However, from the interview held with the key informants shared the same opinion with the District Head of Rigachikun.

### Table 4.6 POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO CHILD ABUSE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Solutions to Child Abuse</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>f</td>
<td>(%)</td>
<td>f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment of family education on child abuse</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>(91.2)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment of counseling centers for child abuse control</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>(44.2)</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designing curricular on child abuse education</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>(50.4)</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campaign against child abuse</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>(45.1)</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey

Table 4.6.0 shows the respondents view on the measures that can be taken to address the issue of child abuse. From the findings, majority 91.2% of the respondents viewed that, the best measure is ‘establishment of family education on child abuse’ then followed by ‘designing curricular on child abuse education’ in the society. Base on the interview held with the District Head in Rigachikun opined that: “The possible solutions toward averting child abuse include; establishment of family education, counseling centers, campaign against child abuse. Also, parents should send their children to where they can learn handworks not to where they will be abused anyhow. And, government should provide job opportunities and punished those parents that abuse their children anyhow”.

However, from the interview held with the key informants shared the same opinion with the District Head of Rigachikun.

### 5. DISCUSSION, SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

#### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter discussed and summarized the major findings of the entire research work. The general conclusion and recommendation were based on the research findings.

#### 5.2 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The aim of the first objective of the study was to know the nature of child abuse in Rigachikun Community of Kaduna State. The study shows that the issue of child abuse has been on the increase in our society. Therefore, there is a serious need to put every aspect of the people’s life into consideration in
determining and protecting children. As Folzenlogen, (2011) said: parental belief systems and lifestyle choice have a significant impact on the present and future welfare of innocent children. In some cases these victims are denied access to proper healthcare or education while in others, poor habits such as overeating, tobacco use and inactivity are instilled.

The second objective was to find out the causes of Child Abuse. The findings have revealed that children are being abused because of poverty and family disintegration. This is in line with what Goldman, (et al 2003) said that children who either experienced maltreatment or witnessed violence between parents or caregivers may learn violent behavior and may also learn to justify violent behavior as appropriate. And also Justen (1979), said the actual incidence of abuse is highest among families in which the stress of low income and high unemployment is present.

The third objective of the study was to identify the consequences of Child Abuse. The findings revealed that child abuse leads to child molestation and increases social vices in the society. This is in line with what Ebigbo, (1993), said that the Nigerian traditional culture has been greatly affected and the major source of the maintenance of culture, namely the extended family system whereby one is his brother’s keeper in the large family is no longer in existence.

The forth objective of the study was to proffer solution to the problem of Child Abuse. The findings revealed that establishment of family education and designing curricular on child abuse education will be responsible for tackling the problems of child abuse in Rigachikun Community of Kaduna State. Also, the government should put more effort in sanitizing and enlightening the populace on the rights of the child and stiff penalty should be prescribed for those who fail to observe the rights of their children.

5.3 SUMMARY

The research work was conducted in Rigachikun Community of Kaduna State. The study examined the Nature of Child Abuse, Causes of Child Abuse, Consequences of Child Abuse and Solutions to Child Abuse. The data were collected through questionnaires and in-depth interviews.

From the findings, majority of the respondents are male. Majority of the respondents fall within ages 21 – 30 years. And majority of the respondents are single in terms of marital status. Also, majority of the respondents are Muslims. Majority of the respondents involved in business activities. And have educational attainment of various levels with tertiary certificate being the dominant.

From the analyzed data on the nature of child abuse, revealed that majority of the respondents believed that children that fall within ages 6 – 9 years are mostly abused. The findings also shows that “Orphans” are the category of children mostly abused. The areas that children are mostly abused include: unnecessary beatings, abused emotionally by using insulting words on them like; stupid boy, worthless boy, poor boy etc. raping and hawking. In all majority of the respondents believed that “physical abuse” is the most common form of child abuse.

From the analyzed data on the causes of child abuse revealed that poverty, family disintegration, urban and environmental stress, large family size, illiteracy and cultural belief cause child abuse.

From the findings on the consequences of child abuse revealed that child abuse leads to; child molestation, poor academic performance, increases social vices, poor upbringing, death of victims, trauma and psychological problems, and withdrawal from school and low self-esteem among victims.

From the analyzed data on the solutions to child abuse. Majority of the respondents believed that the issue of child abuse can be tackled by establishing family education on child abuse, establishing counseling centers for child abuse control, designing curricular on child abuse education, and campaign against child abuse.

5.4 CONCLUSION

The findings in the research work shows that the issue of child abuse has been on the increase in our society. Therefore, there is a serious need to put every aspect of the people’s life into consideration in determining and protecting children. Also, parental belief system and lifestyle choice have a significant impact on the present and future welfare of innocent children. Also, the research shows that there is
applying legal framework to sanitize this practice, the condition and needs of the family must be identified and appropriate steps must be taken to protect the child from further abuse as well as to protect the family from abusing the child.

5.5 RECOMMENDATION

In order to effectively contain the menace of child abuse, the following recommendations are suggested:

a. The urgent need for a fundamental change in the socioeconomic structures of the country that subordinate children and their caregivers. The government should tackle poverty which is the root cause of the problem and invest greatly in development. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which is the world’s time-bound and quantified targets for addressing extreme poverty and its many dimensions with basic human rights of people to health, education, shelter and education must be strongly embraced by the governments at all levels.

b. The traditional approach of curbing the problem of street children through punitive measures and repression should be discouraged and discarded by the various agencies of the government responsible for this. Instead of beating and incarcerating them, approved schools and good rehabilitation centers should be built where these children can be retrained.

c. Also, several aspects of culture of the people that encourage child labour and alms begging should be discouraged. Some children who were initially sent to streets to beg for alms and hawk by parents/caregivers later became street based children after discovering unfettered freedom on street.

d. It would be proper for parents to have an educational insurance for their children. It is not good enough to encourage such educational endowment programmes, but for the government to pass law making it compulsory for all parents to purchase such educational endowment policy for their children.

e. Finally, the children that are still educable and willing to go back to school and others that are willing to be assisted in the area of procuring tools needed to work with should be assisted by the governments, individuals, and institutions to realize their ambitions and goals. Opportunities for formal, non-formal education and apprenticeship training which will give hope for better future should be provided.

6. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I first of all thank Almighty Allah for granting me the opportunity to enable me to undertake this course.

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