



THE ANATOMY OF CHILD ABUSE: STUDENTS' PERCEPTION AND
IMPLICATIONS

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated students' perception of child abuse and personality development. The study adopted a survey research design. Four hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. A structured questionnaire "Child Abuse and Personality Questionnaire (CAPQ)" was used for data collection. Target population comprised all registered adolescent students aged between 10-17 years in public secondary schools in Port Harcourt metropolis, Nigeria. Simple random sampling technique was used to select a sample of 200 respondents from 14 schools. Data generated was analysed using ANOVA, chi-square, mean, standard deviation and independent t-test. Results indicated that physical abuse, child labour, emotional abuse is significant to personality development. There is a significant relationship between child neglect and personality development, sexual abuse and personality development and the perception of child abuse is not affected by gender. Child abuse impacts negatively on the personality development of the child, concerted efforts should be made to safeguard these human assets.

Keywords: Child Abuse, Child's Rights, Personality Development.