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INFLUENCE OF GENDER, PARENT OCCUPATION AND WORK SCHEDULE ON SEXUAL ABUSE AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN OWERRI MUNICIPAL

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated influence of Gender, Parent Occupation and Work Schedule on sexual abuse among Adolescents in Owerri Municipal. Two hundred and thirty-three (233) participants were selected from 2 secondary schools within Owerri municipal, using convenience sampling method. One government school, and one private school, namely; Owerri city secondary school and standard Ville academy respectively. The participants' ages ranged from 10 to 19 with a mean age of 13.68 and standard deviation of 2.146. Two instruments were used to test the variables, childhood sexual abuse scale and a structured socio-demographic scale. Three hypotheses were postulated and tested using a three-way Analysis of Variance. A cross sectional survey design was adopted. Result revealed that parent occupation and work schedule have significant influence on adolescent sexual abuse while, gender had no significant influence on adolescent sexual abuse. The researcher recommends that student needs to be aware of what sexual abuse means to sensitize them when faced in that situation. The government is recommended to put some regulations in place that could enable parents have sufficient time with their children especially at the critical stages of childhood and adolescence and still be able to provide adequately for the family.

Introduction

Sexual abuse or sex abuse, also referred to as molestation, is abusive sexual behavior by one person upon another. It is often perpetrated using force or by taking advantage of another. Molestation often refers to an instance of sexual assault against a small child, whereas sexual abuse is a term used for a persistent pattern of sexual assaults (Steffi & Manik, 2019).

The offender is referred to as a sexual abuser or (often pejoratively) molester. The term also covers behavior by an adult or older adolescent towards a child to stimulate any of the involved sexually. The use of a child or other individuals younger than the age of consent, for sexual stimulation is referred to as child sexual abuse or statutory rape. Live streaming sexual abuse involves trafficking and coerced sexual acts and or rape in real time on webcam. Spousal sexual abuse is a form of domestic violence. When the abuse involves threats of unwanted sexual contact or forced sex by a woman's husband or ex-husband, it may constitute rape, depending on the jurisdiction, and may also constitute an assault (Steffi & Manik, 2019).

Child sexual abuse is a form of child abuse in which a child is abused for the sexual gratification of an adult or older adolescent. It includes direct sexual contact, the adult or otherwise older person engaging indecent exposure (of the genitals, female nipples, etc.) to a child with intent to gratify their own sexual desires or to intimidate or groom the child, asking or pressuring a child to engage in sexual activities, displaying pornography to a child, or using a child to produce child pornography (Behanan, 2020).

Sexual abuse is sexual behavior or a sexual act forced upon a woman, man or child without their consent. Sexual abuse includes abuse of a woman, man or child by a man, woman or child. Sexual abuse is an act of violence which the attacker uses against someone they perceive as weaker than them. It does not come from an uncontrollable sex drive, but is a crime committed deliberately with the goal of controlling and humiliating the victim (Behanan, 2021).

Effects of child sexual abuse include shame, self-blame, depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, self-esteem issues, sexual dysfunction, chronic pelvic pain, addiction, self-injury, suicidal

ideation, borderline personality disorder, and propensity to re-victimization in adulthood. Child sexual abuse is a risk factor for attempting suicide. Additionally, some studies have shown childhood sexual abuse to be a risk factor of the perpetration of intimate partner violence in men. Much of the harm caused to victims becomes apparent years after the abuse happens (Steffi & Manik, 2019). Sexual abuse by a family member is a form of incest, which can result in severe long-term psychological trauma, especially in the case of parental incest.

Globally, approximately 18–19% of women and 8% of men disclose being sexually abused during their childhood. The gender gap may be caused by higher victimization of girls, lower willingness of men to disclose abuse, or both. Most sexual abuse offenders are acquainted with their victims; approximately 30% are relatives of the child, most often fathers, uncles or cousins; around 60% are other acquaintances such as friends of the family, babysitters, or neighbors; strangers are the offenders in approximately 10% of child sexual abuse cases. Most child sexual abuse is committed by men; women commit approximately 14% of offenses reported against boys and 6% of offenses reported against girls. Child sexual abuse offenders are not pedophiles unless they have a primary or exclusive sexual interest in prepubescent children (Behanan, 2020).

Sexual abuse involving students typically refers to any form of sexual activity or behavior that occurs without the consent or understanding of one or more of the individuals involved. Sexual activity (ranging from unwanted touching to forced sexual intercourse) that takes place without the explicit consent of one or more individuals involved. It involves in unwanted touching or physical contact of a sexual nature, such as touching the breasts, genitals, or buttocks without the individual's consent. Unwelcome sexual advances, comments, gestures, or behaviors that create a hostile or intimidating environment. This can include inappropriate sexual jokes, comments about someone's body, or persistent unwanted advances, non-consensual sexual acts, which can include forced kissing, groping, or penetration. Sexual assault can occur through physical force, threats, manipulation, or taking advantage of the victim's vulnerability or incapacitation.

When an individual is pressured, manipulated, or coerced into engaging in sexual activities against their will or better judgment. This can involve emotional manipulation, threats, blackmail, or exploitation of power dynamics, taking advantage of a student's vulnerability or lack of understanding to engage them in sexual acts for personal gain, such as obtaining money, gifts, or other benefits, activities such as online grooming, extortion, or the dissemination of explicit images or videos without consent. It involves exploiting the internet and digital platforms to perpetrate sexual abuse against students.

Sexual abuse can also occur between students within the same school environment. This can include acts like harassment, assault, or coercion perpetrated by one student against another. It is essential to understand the impact of sexual abuse on secondary school students (Elizabeth, 2018).

Victims may experience a wide range of psychological effects; these can include feelings of guilt, shame, anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), self-blame, low self-esteem, and difficulties in trusting others. Sexual abuse can significantly affect a student's academic performance, leading to decreased concentration, absenteeism, difficulty focusing, and a decline in grades. Students who have experienced sexual abuse may exhibit changes in behavior, such as withdrawal from social activities, aggression, self-harm, substance abuse, or engaging in risky sexual behaviors. Victims of sexual abuse may experience physical health problems like chronic pain, headaches, sleep disturbances, and eating disorders (Elizabeth, 2018).

Sexual abuse is a complex issue influenced by various factors. It is important to note that these factors do not excuse or justify the abusive behavior but can help in understanding some of the underlying dynamics. Here are several factors that can contribute to the occurrence of sexual abuse; Sexual abuse often involves a power imbalance, where the perpetrator exerts control over the victim. This power can arise from factors such as age, physical strength, authority, or influence over the victim's life. The desire to assert dominance and control can lead some individuals to engage in abusive behaviors. Perpetrators of sexual abuse may hold distorted beliefs and attitudes about sex, consent, and the rights of others. These beliefs can justify or normalize their abusive behaviors in their own minds. Individuals who have experienced sexual abuse themselves may be more likely to

perpetrate abuse. The cycle of abuse can be perpetuated when victims internalize the abusive behavior and later replicate it in their relationships. Limited knowledge and understanding about consent, boundaries, and the consequences of sexual abuse can contribute to the occurrence of abuse. Insufficient education on sexual health, relationships, and personal safety may leave individuals ill-equipped to recognize or prevent abusive situations (Elizabeth, 2018).

Loneliness is a powerful emotion; it can lead to feelings of neglect, isolation, and alienation. A crucial step in a perpetrator's grooming is isolating the child from their loved ones, both emotionally and physically. If a child is already feeling isolated, this step will be much easier for a perpetrator to achieve. Also, if a child is left alone or unsupervised on a frequent basis, a perpetrator has more opportunities to get close to that child. Loneliness stands little chance against a parent who is present and engaged Bhadkamkar, (2016).

Children who do not feel that they can be open with their parents may become distant, isolated, and insecure, and therefore more susceptible to a perpetrator's grooming. They are less likely to confide in their parents about important topics such as the new adults in their life, inappropriate behavior they are witnessing or experiencing, or physical changes their body is going through. Communication is a key to preventing child sexual abuse Bhadkamkar, (2016).

While considering these factors above, the focus of this present study is on the role of parents' occupation, parents' work schedule and gender on child sexual abuse. Work schedule; it refers to the days and times of the week that you're expected to be at work. Work schedules vary depending on the job, the time of the year regarding seasonal jobs and whether the job is full-time or part-time. Work schedules are important because they clearly communicate what your employer expects from you. Before you accept a new job, it's important to make sure you understand the work schedule. In simple terms, a work schedule refers to the specific days and times that your employees are expected to complete the tasks or duties related to their position of employment. This schedule includes the specific shift details, like the days of the week and hours of the day they are expected to work. This schedule ensures that your employees and staff know when

they need to work, how long they need to work, the work location, their duties and roles etc. It is also refers to the days and times of the week that one is expected to be at work. Work schedules vary depending on the job, the time of the year regarding seasonal jobs and whether the job is full-time or part-time (Bhadkamkar, 2016).

If a workplace requires shift work or operates seven days a week, for example in hospitality jobs such as in a hotel or a restaurant, understanding and following your work schedule correctly is very important. This is because it also ensures there is always the right number of staff at the workplace. Work schedules for workplaces like this, where the shifts and days you work each week or month can vary, are also referred to as rotes (Bhadkamkar, 2016).

All businesses are unique and require several different employees who have different work schedules that need to be defined to enhance operational efficiency. The top 6 types of employee work schedules include:

1. Full-time work schedules – with this type of schedule, employees would work for the same days and hours per week, usually 40 core hours a week.
2. Part-time schedules – this type of schedule offers more flexibility as employees work less than full-time hours. The employees' schedule may change from week to week.
3. Fixed schedules – a fixed work schedule lays out a predetermined set of days and hours that remain the same throughout an employee's employment. These hours are usually defined before an employee begins work and can include both full-time and part-time schedules.
4. Flexible work schedules – a flexible schedule allows for a bit more freedom than fixed schedules, as employees need to work a certain number of hours a week, but they can do this within their own time frame and not during specific hours set out by the employer.
5. Rotating shift schedules – in this work schedule, employees will work a series of day and night shifts that the employer decides on. This is a popular work schedule for hourly workers.
6. Split shift work schedules – with this type of work schedule, an employee's shift is split into two parts. They will clock in for one shift,

clock out, leave and then clock in for the last shift Behanan, (2020).

The work schedule can potentially influence the occurrence or risk of sexual abuse in various ways. Here are a few ways in which work schedules can impact sexual abuse. Work schedules that require long hours, irregular shifts, or frequent travel can result in reduced parental or caregiver presence at home. This absence can create opportunities for sexual abuse to occur, as perpetrators may exploit the lack of supervision or the child's increased vulnerability during these times. Demanding work schedules can lead to increased stress and limited time available for parents or caregivers to spend with their children, this may affect the quality of relationships and communication within the family, potentially making it more difficult for children to disclose abuse or for parents to recognize warning signs, long and exhausting work hours can contribute to fatigue and decreased cognitive functioning. In some cases, this can impair judgment and decision-making abilities, potentially leading to a higher risk of engaging in sexually abusive behavior or failing to protect children from abuse perpetrated by others. Certain occupations, such as those involving shift work or working late hours, can lead to social isolation and limited opportunities for social interaction. This isolation can contribute to increased vulnerability and a lack of social support, potentially making individuals more susceptible to engaging in or becoming victims of sexual abuse.

Work schedules that require significant time commitments may result in neglectful care giving. Neglectful parents or caregivers may fail to adequately protect children from sexual abuse or fail to recognize signs of abuse due to their work schedule-related stress, exhaustion, or limited time availability. Work schedules that involve significant computer use or online interactions can increase the risk of online sexual abuse. Perpetrators may exploit the parent's occupation involving extensive online activity to engage in grooming, or the dissemination of explicit material to children.

The next variable of interest in this study is parent occupation; Occupation means a source of livelihood. It is an activity in which one engages himself/herself into that produce income at the end of the activity. Occupation varies from a person's field of specialization, and will differ in wage, time consumption etc. This is the second variable to be

considered is the occupation of these parents. According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, occupation is an activity or task with which one occupies oneself; usually specifically the production activity, service, trade, or craft for which one is regularly paid. Parent's occupation is the most important obligation of the parents and should have the privilege to have suitable work to raise their children (Lynam, 2019). Parent occupation typically refers to the type of work or profession that a parent or guardian is engaged in as their primary source of employment. It involves the job or career that a parent pursues to support them and their family. While people try to make ends meet in various occupations, the role of parents is being evaluated to ascertain if parents are able to balance the demands of their jobs and requirements for taking care of their children. Parent's occupation in this study, will cut across various occupations and how these occupations has affected their primary duties as parents (Cristina, 2019).

The impact of parenting extends beyond individual child development, to communities and society at large, as parents rise the next generation of adults. In occupational therapy, parenting is regarded as an instrumental activity of daily living relating to children's care and developmental needs (American Occupational Therapy Association, 2014).

Parent's occupation can potentially have an impact on a child's vulnerability to sexual abuse, but it is important to note that the occupation alone does not determine the likelihood of abuse occurring. Sexual abuse can happen in any family, regardless of the parents' occupation. Factors such as family dynamics, individual characteristics, and the presence of protective factors are also important to consider. Occupations that require long hours or frequent travel may result in reduced parental presence and supervision at home. This absence can create opportunities for perpetrators to exploit the child's vulnerability and engage in abusive behaviors without detection (Joelle, 2018).

Certain occupations may provide individuals with increased access to children, such as those involving childcare, education, coaching, or counseling. In these cases, individuals in positions of authority and trust may exploit their role to perpetrate sexual abuse. Parents in positions of authority or power, such as law enforcement, clergy members, or teachers, may have a greater influence over their children's lives.

The power differential can make it more challenging for children to disclose abuse or for other adults to recognize the signs, as they may be hesitant to challenge or question the parent's actions (Joelle, 2018).

Statement of the Problem

Sexual abuse of adolescents is a matter of growing concern, considering the numerous challenges they face during growing up experiences in their various environment. Two factors that have the potential to predict sexual abuse of an individual are work schedule and parent occupation. However, the specific prediction of work schedule, parent occupation and gender on sexual abuse of secondary school student remains understudied. Work schedule of parent plays a crucial role in individuals' mental health and well-being. However, it is essential to investigate the extent to which work schedule affects a child sexual abuse in school. This study aims to explore parent shift in their various work place will affect their affect and making them engage in sexual activities both in school and at home, due to the fact that their parent are not usually around to look or monitor them. Parent occupation includes the kind or type of work an individual parent engage into, has been recognized as a potential source of sexual abuse. For many individuals parent occupation can make a child engage in sexual activities both in school and at home.. However, the impact of parent occupation on sexual abuse of a child of secondary school student needs to be examined in greater detail. Understanding work schedule, parent occupation and gender on sexual abuse of secondary school student is crucial for developing effective strategies and interventions to stop the sexual activities in school. By identifying the specific roles and potential interactions of these factors, this research will contribute to the existing knowledge and provide insights for educational institutions, policymakers. Therefore, this study tends to examine work schedule, parent occupation and gender as predictor on sexual abuse among secondary school student in Owerri municipal.

Purpose of the Study

The general purpose of this study is to examine work schedule, parent occupation and gender as influence on sexual abuse among Adolescents in Owerri municipal and specified as follows;

1. To discover if gender can influence sexual abuse among Adolescents in Owerri Municipal.

2. To discover if parent occupation can influence sexual abuse among Adolescents in Owerri Municipal.
3. To discover if work schedule can influence sexual abuse among Adolescents in Owerri Municipal.

Empirical Review

Work Schedule and Sexual Abuse

Madu, and Peltzer, (2020), examined the Risk factors and child sexual abuse among secondary school students in the Northern Province (South Africa). This is an investigation into the risk factors that could discriminate childhood sexual abuse (CSA) from non-abuse in the Northern Province (South Africa). 414 students in standard 9 and 10 in three secondary schools in the province filled-in a retrospective self-rating questionnaire in a classroom setting. Questionnaires included modified and adapted questions from the Finkelhor's (1979) Risk Factor Checklist, and asked for physical contact forms of sexual abusive experiences of participants before the age of 17 years with an adult or a person at least 5 years older or a person in a position of power. It shows an overall (N = 414) CSA prevalence rate of 54.2%. Only four factors (from eight)—ethnicity not Northern Sotho, mother employed and not as laborer, a stepparent present in the family during childhood, and violence at home not seldom—significantly discriminated CSA from non-abuse. Increase in the number of combination of the four significant factors also increases the probability of the discrimination in a linear manner. With some caution, we recommend the four significant risk factors for use while planning preventive strategies against childhood sexual abuse, and a massive campaign against child sexual abuse in the province. More job opportunities should be created in the province.

Taylor, Stein, Mumford and Woods, (2023), investigated on Shifting Boundaries: An Experimental Evaluation of a Dating Violence Prevention Program in Middle Schools. They randomly assigned the Shifting Boundaries interventions to 30 public middle schools in New York City, enrolling 117 sixth and seventh grade classes (over 2,500 students) to receive a classroom, a building, a combined, or neither intervention. The classroom intervention included a six-session curriculum emphasizing the laws and consequences for perpetrators of dating violence and sexual harassment (DV/H), the social construction of gender

roles, and healthy relationships. The building-based intervention included the use of building-based restraining orders, higher levels of faculty/security presence in safe/unsafe “hot spots” mapped by students, and posters to increase DV/H awareness and reporting. Student surveys were implemented at baseline, immediately after the intervention, and 6-months post-intervention. As hypothesized, behaviors improved as a result of the interventions. The building-only and the combined interventions were effective in reducing sexual violence victimization involving either peers or dating partners at 6-months post-intervention. This was mirrored by reductions in sexual violence perpetration by peers in the building-only intervention. While the preponderance of results indicates that the interventions were effective, an anomalous result (increase in sexual harassment victimization reports that was contradicted by lower frequency estimates) did emerge. However, after analysis these anomalous results were deemed to be most likely spurious. The success of the building-only intervention alone is important because it can be implemented with very few extra costs to schools.

Tolaj, Havolli, Beqiri (2020) examined the prevalence of parent work schedule and by identifying factors that cause sexual abuse among public and private sector employees. Data was collected through a survey including 110 managers and 230 workers of mostly middle and large enterprises as well as directors of various departments in public institutions. The surveys with respondents of public institutions were conducted in Pristina, due to the institutions' concentration in the capital, while surveys with respondents of private organizations were conducted throughout the entire territory of Kosovo. In order to produce representative data, the overall sample has included 340 respondents from all over Kosovo, who were selected randomly from the database of declared employees of the Statistical Agency of Kosovo. Out of a population of 370,000 declared workers, a sample of 340 respondents was sufficient to provide statistically significant results at 95 % confidence level and 5.3 % margin of error for this study. The survey sample was stratified by sector and job position, including male and female employees aged 18 to 65. Findings revealed a relatively high prevalence of occupational stress among employees, where respondents with 1-20 years of work experience reporting being significantly more stressed than those with more than 20 years of work

experience. Moreover, results showed that stress adversely affects job performance of employees with 1-20 years of work experience as well as of female employees. Stressors pertaining to demand, control, support, relationships, role and change were identified to be causing occupational stress among employees, all showing positive significant correlation with stress. Furthermore, both public and private sector employees considered similar factors as stressful, even though public sector employees reported experiencing slightly higher levels of stress.

Changa and Lu (2019) examined the influence of schedules in work on sexual abuse and behaviours. Participants were contacted through personnel managers and secretaries in each occupation. Questionnaires were distributed in booklet form, along with a cover-letter assuring anonymity and voluntary participation. A reminder letter was sent seven days after the initial invitation to boost the response rate. Questionnaires were mailed back to the researchers three weeks later. Four heterogeneous occupations in Taiwan were selected; high school teachers, shop clerks, factory employees, and civil servants. Of the 880 copies of questionnaires that were distributed (220 copies for each occupation), 675 copies were returned, of which 613 were useable. Results indicated that both work stressors and behaviours varied across occupations. These differences were due to two major factors occupational characteristics and individual demographics. Individual demographics, as well as the occupation itself, had subtle impact on stress formation, absence behaviour, intention of quitting job, and work morale.

Parent Occupation and Sexual Abuse

Campo, Fávero, and Sousa-Gomes, (2023), examined The Role of Parents in Preventing Child Sexual Abuse: Evaluation of Previous Knowledge and the Results of a Training Program. Child sexual abuse is a widespread type of abuse that has extremely negative effects on victims, both in the short and long term. Parents can play a key role in preventing sexual abuse, provided that they are aware of the risk and pass on this information appropriately to their children. This study evaluates the prior knowledge of a group of parents and the changes that were made after taking part in a training program on the prevention of child sexual abuse. The sample was 252 parents (8- to 12-year-old children), were evaluated before and after taking part in a training

program on sexual abuse, in 2020. The parents completed a questionnaire including items for assessing knowledge on child sexual abuse, parent-child communication about this topic and responses to a possible disclosure of abuse. Parents showed in the prior evaluation a significant lack of knowledge of child sexual abuse and scarce skills to detect and accept it. After taking part in the program, parents significantly improved their knowledge about this risk and their perceived ability to cope. The low level of knowledge of the parents on this subject and the number of inaccurate beliefs reveal the need to include them in sexual abuse prevention programs.

Gwirayi, (2017), investigated on Child sexual abuse among urban secondary school pupils: Impact of family characteristics and family structure. This study investigated the impact of family characteristics and family structure as risk factors for sexual abuse among urban secondary school pupils in Zimbabwe. It adopted a survey design as the operational framework for data gathering. Data were collected from three secondary schools in the Gweru district of Zimbabwe. The sample comprised 268 secondary pupils (50% female; mean age= 15.42, SD= 1.376). Data were gathered by administering the Child Abuse Screening Tool Children's Version (ICAST-C). Of the 268 respondents who completed the questionnaire, 151 reported having been sexually abused in one or more ways before the age of 18 years, giving an overall prevalence rate of 56.3%. Overall, the results show that the most important factors that were found to be consistently associated with child sexual abuse were parental absence, father's absence, mother's education, parental domestic violence and parental substance abuse. Risk of any child sexual abuse was not associated with the existence of siblings, household size, parental occupation and father's education. Policies should focus on supporting single mothers and parents who both work outside of the home to reduce the likelihood that children are left vulnerable and at risk of being sexually abused.

Chime, et, al., (2021), examined the Prevalence, pattern and predictors of child sexual abuse among senior secondary school students in Enugu Metropolis. Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a growing public health concern with health, academic and psychosocial implications. The aim of this study was to determine the prevalence, pattern and predictors of CSA among secondary school students. This was a cross-sectional study carried out among adolescents in four secondary schools in Enugu Metropolis,

Nigeria. A pretested self-administered questionnaire was used to collect information from 325 adolescents and data was analyzed with a significance level set at $P \leq 0.05$. The prevalence of CSA in this study was 116 (35.7%). While the majority 20 (40%) of the victims were forced to watch pornography, most of the perpetrators were neighbours 34 (29.3%). A higher proportion of the victims were abused once, 79 (68.1%); when they were between 12 and 18 years old, 62 (53.4%); and at home, 39 (33.6%). Grouped ages, which the child lived with, fathers and mother's education, and father's occupations were statistically significant on bivariate analysis. Predictors of CSA were students in senior secondary school Class 2 (SSS2) and those whose fathers were employed. Our study revealed a high prevalence of CSA. Comprehensive sexuality education and legislative policies should be implemented to educate adolescents and deter perpetrators.

Shojaeizadeh, (2021), examined Child abuse in the family: An analytical study. The prevalence of child abuse in the world is 47 per 1000. According to the Child Protective Service agency (CPS) more than 3 million children were abused in the USA in 1998. There was 1.7% increase in comparison with 1996. The prevalence of child abuse in the USA is 15 per 1000. A crosssectional study was conducted in order to determine the frequency, and influential factors on child abuse among families in Tehran. A sample of 420 students was selected from secondary school girls in Tehran in 1999. A questionnaire was used for data collection, and the collected data were analysed through statistical tests such as X² and other forms of descriptive tests. The findings of research showed that in terms of abnormal (unexpectedly bad) behaviour, 28% of the samples were faced quarrelsome and bitted by their fathers. The mother's reactions for similar behaviour were more or less the same: 34.9% quarrelsome and 7% biting. Child abuse, physically and emotionally, has had significant relation with socioeconomic status of families as well as having interaction with mentally ill or addicted person (s) among families. Mother's employment, religious beliefs, and parent's educational attainments also demonstrated significant relations with child abuse. A statistically significant relationship has also been found between mother's employment, addicted or mentally ill person among family members, and doubtful child sexual abuse. To prevent child abuse the following actions should be taken.

Chi Wai Wong, et al., (2019), investigated on Individual, familial and community determinants of child physical abuse among high-school students in China. While many risk factors for child physical abuse are known, little research exists examining these in multilevel contexts including both individual and environmental influences. The authors examined the roles of individual-, family- and community-level factors such as socioeconomic status (SES) in determining the likelihood of child physical abuse in Guangzhou, China. Twenty-four schools were recruited by stratified random sampling, with 6628 junior high-school students aged 13–16 years participating. Parental child physical abuse experience, together with family and community levels of SES among students was measured and their relationships were investigated by applying univariable, multivariable and multilevel logistic regression models. Univariable, multivariable and multilevel logistic regression models were applied. Six-month prevalence of minor, severe and very severe assaults were 23.2%, 15.1% and 2.8%, respectively. A U-shaped association between family SES and likelihood of severe assaults was identified. In the multilevel model, indicators of low family SES, mother's higher occupational and educational status remained significantly independent predictors of physical abuse. Internal migration status was associated with higher risk as was younger age. The authors suggest that previous categories of risk factors for physical abuse may be too simplistic, and that further research on social and environmental influences may usefully inform intervention programs.

Houtepen, et, al., (2020), examined the Associations of adverse childhood experiences with educational attainment and adolescent health and the role of family and socioeconomic factors: a prospective cohort study in ... Experiencing multiple adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) is a risk factor for many adverse outcomes. We explore associations of ACEs with educational attainment and adolescent health and the role of family and socioeconomic factors in these associations. Using data from the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC), a prospective cohort of children born in southwest England in 1991–1992, we assess associations of ACEs between birth and 16 years (sexual, physical, or emotional abuse; emotional neglect; parental substance abuse; parental mental illness or suicide attempt; violence between parents;

parental separation; bullying; and parental criminal conviction, with data collected on multiple occasions between birth and age 16) with educational attainment at 16 years ($n = 9,959$) and health at age 17 years (depression, obesity, harmful alcohol use, smoking, and illicit drug use; $n = 4,917$). We explore the extent to which associations are robust to adjustment for family and socioeconomic factors (home ownership, mother and partner's highest educational qualification, household social class, parity, child's ethnicity, mother's age, mother's marital status, mother's depression score at 18 and 32 weeks gestation, and mother's partner's depression score at 18 weeks gestation) and whether associations differ according to socioeconomic factors, and we estimate the proportion of adverse educational and health outcomes attributable to ACEs or family or socioeconomic measures. Among the 9,959 participants (49.5% female) included in analysis of educational outcomes, 84% reported at least one ACE, 24% reported 4 or more ACEs, and 54.5% received 5 or more General Certificates of Secondary Education (GCSEs) at grade C or above, including English and Maths. Among the 4,917 participants (50.1% female) included in analysis of health outcomes, 7.3% were obese, 8.7% had depression, 19.5% reported smoking, 16.1% reported drug use, and 10.9% reported harmful alcohol use. Population attributable fractions (PAFs) for the adverse educational and health outcomes range from 5%–15% for 4+ ACEs and 1%–19% for low maternal education. Using data from multiple questionnaires across a long period of time enabled us to capture a detailed picture of the cohort members' experience of ACEs; however, a limitation of our study is that this resulted in a high proportion of missing data, and our analyses assume data are missing at random. This study demonstrates associations between ACEs and lower educational attainment and higher risks of depression.

Hypotheses

1. Gender will not significantly influence sexual abuse among secondary adolescents in Owerri Municipal.
2. Parent occupation will not significantly influence sexual abuse among adolescents in Owerri Municipal.
3. Work schedule will not significantly influence sexual abuse among adolescents in Owerri Municipal.

Method

Participants

The participants in this study were two hundred and thirty-three (233) participants comprising of ninety (95) male (40.8%) and one hundred and thirty-eight (138) female (59.2) selected from 2 secondary schools within Owerri municipal, using convenience sampling method. One government school and one private school, namely: Owerri city secondary school and Standard Ville Academy respectively. Convenience sampling methods were used to select the participant. Participants selected were within the age bracket of 10-19, with a mean of 13.68 and standard deviation of 2.146.

Instruments

One instrument was used in this study which is The Child Sexual Abuse Scale developed by Aalsma, Zimet, Fortenberry, Blythe, & Orr, (2002). Section A which covered the socio-demographic data of the parent were used to elicit information/response on Parent occupation and work schedule. The Child Sexual Abuse Scale is a self-report instrument that was developed to measure the occurrence of childhood sexual abuse in adolescent and adult populations. The scale was developed with two issues in mind. First, a benefit of the current measure is it is very brief (four items) and can therefore be utilized in a wide variety of studies. Second, because the CSAS is a multiple-item rather than single-item measure, internal reliability can be assessed. The target population is 10-19 years to age. It is a 4 item scale. Sample of the item in Child Sexual Abuse Scale "someone tried to touch me in a sexual way against my will". The response scale ranges from 1(No, Never) to 4(Yes, Very Much). The scale measuring a single construct, demonstrated excellent internal reliability at baseline ($\alpha = .81$) and 7-month follow-up ($\alpha = .84$; Aalsma et al., 2002). Its validity was concurrent validity, construct validity, discriminate validity. The researcher revalidated the instrument in Nigeria using 50 participants (23 males and 27 females) whose age ranges from 10-16 years with a mean age of 12.34 and standard deviation of 1.423. The result showed that the scale exhibited an acceptable Cronbach's alpha of .82. The demographic scale was measured as occupation, 1-6, work time, 1-7.

Parent's occupation was measured as a demographic variable, this is grouped into two; Public Servant (Academia, Medical Practitioner and Professionals)

and Business Owners (Trader/Business, Skilled laborer, Unemployed and Unskilled).

Working time frame was measured under demographic variables as; work schedule is grouped into two (2): short work schedule and long work schedule; Short work schedule: this is between 1hour to 6hours per day, Long work schedule is above 6hours per day.

Procedure

The researcher was given a letter of identification by the department upon approval of the supervisor. The researcher using convenience sampling techniques selected participants from different secondary schools in Owerri which are city government school, and standard Ville academy. 233 participants was selected, 85 and 148 respectively for the different schools. The selected participants were administered a questionnaire on childhood sexual abuse scale and demographic data to gather baseline data. The participants were appreciated for participating in the study. Some ethical considerations that the researcher will adhere to are;

- **Informed consent and absent:** The consent of the management of the school will be required first because they are responsible for the student's

wellbeing during school hours. The participants consent was needed and no one was forced to join the study.

- **Annoying:** the researcher did not get the names or the address of the participants.
- **Confidentiality:** The information derived from the participants was used only be for research purpose. The information was not shared to anybody else. The researcher information will only be between the researcher and the participant.
- **Briefing:** The participants were addressed before the commencement of the study by the researcher. The researcher explained briefly the aim/ goal of the study and the researcher did not go into too much detail to avoid bias.

Design and Statistics

A cross-sectional survey design was adopted for this study by the researcher. This is because the subset of the population was selected from different schools across a large number of the population at a particular period of time. In addition to that, Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was employed to analyze data so as to ascertain the influence of the independent variables (parent's occupation, work schedule and gender) on the dependent variable (child sexual abuse).

Results

Table 1: Showing descriptive for influence of gender, mothers occupation, fathers occupation on sexual abuse

	N	Mean	Standard Deviation
Male	95	24.68	11.19
Female	138	24.49	9.46
MO Public Servants	45	21.76	8.67
Business Ladies	188	25.24	10.41
FO Public Servants	69	20.06	8.62
Business Men	164	26.47	10.20

Table 2: 2 x 2 x2 ANOVA for influence of gender, parental occupation on sexual abuse
Dependent Variable: SEXUAL ABUSE

Source	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Partial Eta Squared
Corrected Model	5143.731 ^a	7	734.819	8.752	.000	.214
Intercept	67128.027	1	67128.027	799.509	.000	.780
GENDER	3.945	1	3.945	.047	.829	.000
MO	9.952	1	9.952	.119	.731	.001
FO	36.302	1	36.302	.432	.512	.002
GENDER * MO	.488	1	.488	.006	.939	.000
GENDER * FO	386.140	1	386.140	4.599	.033	.020
MO * FO	2671.119	1	2671.119	31.814	.000	.124
GENDER * MO * FO	408.182	1	408.182	4.862	.028	.021
Error	18891.350	225	83.962			
Total	164703.000	233				
Corrected Total	24035.082	232				

a. R Squared = .214 (Adjusted R Squared = .190)

Keys: MO = Mothers Occupation, FO = Fathers Occupation,

Hypothesis One

Hypothesis one which states that gender will not significantly influence sexual abuse among secondary school students in Owerri Municipal was upheld, $F, (1,255) = .047, p = .829$. This indicates that gender (male and female) does not provide significant differences in sexual abuse among the students. Table 1 also shows that though male students scored higher ($MS = 24.68; SD = 11.19$) than female students ($MS = 24.49; SD = 9.46$), the difference was not statistically significant.

Hypothesis Two

Hypothesis two which states that parents occupation will not significantly influence sexual abuse among secondary school students in Owerri Municipal was not confirmed, $F, (1,255) = 31.81, p = .000$. The indication was that parents' occupation (mothers occupation and fathers occupation) significantly influences sexual abuse differently. Table 1 shows that students whose mothers are into businesses reported higher sexual abuse ($MS = 25.24; SD = 10.41$) than those whose mothers are public servants ($MS = 21.76; SD = 8.67$). In the same vein, students whose fathers are into businesses reported higher sexual abuse ($MS = 26.47; SD = 10.20$) than those whose fathers are public servants ($MS = 20.06; SD = 8.62$).

Table 3: Table 1: *Showing descriptive for influence of Mothers working Shift, fathers working shift, Mothers working Time Frame, Fathers working Time Frame on sexual abuse*

	N	Mean	Standard Deviation
M. Morning	67	13.67	8.36
Afternoon	17	32.48	8.91
All Day	60	27.97	6.35
Evening Till Next Day	89	28.98	7.08
F. Morning	71	12.94	5.08
Afternoon	15	30.00	7.92
All Day	51	26.24	6.78
Evening Till Next Day	96	31.44	6.76
M. Long Working Hour	182	21.36	8.97
Short Working Hour	51	36.02	4.31
F. Long Working Hour	219	23.91	9.99
Short Working Hour	14	34.86	7.25

Table 4: 2 x 2 x2 ANOVA for mothers' work schedule, fathers' work schedule, mothers' work time frame and fathers' work time frame on sexual abuse

Dependent Variable: SEXUAL ABUSE

Source	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Partial Eta Squared
Corrected Model	20915.175 ^a	24	871.466	58.099	.000	.870
Intercept	46690.967	1	46690.967	3112.824	.000	.937
MWS	277.322	3	92.441	6.163	.000	.082
FWS	784.318	3	261.439	17.430	.000	.201
MWTS	1372.685	1	1372.685	91.515	.000	.306
FWTS	519.935	1	519.935	34.663	.000	.143
MWS * FWS	172.668	5	34.534	2.302	.046	.052
MWS * MWTS	25.301	2	12.651	.843	.432	.008
MWS * FWTS	.000	0	.	.	.	.000
FWS * MWTS	12.677	1	12.677	.845	.359	.004
FWS * FWTS	.545	1	.545	.036	.849	.000
MWTS * FWTS	.000	0	.	.	.	.000
MWS * FWS * MWTS	1.934	2	.967	.064	.938	.001
MWS * FWS * FWTS	.000	0	.	.	.	.000
MWS * MWTS * FWTS	.000	0	.	.	.	.000
FWS * MWTS * FWTS	.000	0	.	.	.	.000
MWS * FWS * MWTS * FWTS	.000	0	.	.	.	.000
Error	3119.906	208	15.000			
Total	164703.000	233				
Corrected Total	24035.082	232				

a. R Squared = .870 (Adjusted R Squared = .855)

Key words: *MWS= Mothers Working Schedule, FWS = Fathers Working Schedule, MWTF= Mothers Working Time Frame, FWTF = Fathers Working Time Frame.*

Hypothesis Three

Hypothesis three which states that work schedule will not significantly influence sexual abuse among secondary school students in Owerri Municipal was not confirmed, $F, (5,208) = 2.302, p = .05$. The indication was that work schedule (mothers work schedule and fathers work schedule) significantly influences sexual abuse of secondary school students differently. Table 1 shows that students whose mothers' work schedule are in the morning shift reported lowest sexual abuse ($MS = 13.67; SD = 8.36$), while those whose mothers' work schedule are in the afternoon shift reported the highest sexual abuse ($MS = 32.48; SD = 8.91$). The

students whose mothers' work schedule are all day reported sexual abuse ($MS = 27.97; SD = 6.35$) while those whose mothers' work schedule are from evening till the next day reported sexual abuse ($MS = 29.98; SD = 7.08$). In the same vein students whose fathers' work schedule are in the morning shift reported lowest sexual abuse ($MS = 12.94; SD = 5.08$), followed by the students whose fathers work schedule are all day as they reported sexual abuse ($MS = 26.24; SD = 6.78$). While those whose fathers' work schedule are from evening till the next day reported the highest sexual abuse ($MS = 31.44; SD = 6.76$), the students whose fathers' work schedule are

in the afternoon shift reported a high sexual abuse (MS =30.00; SD =7.92).

Summary of Findings

1. Gender does not influence sexual abuse among adolescents in Owerri Municipal
2. Parental Occupation significantly influenced sexual abuse among adolescents in Owerri Municipal. Students whose parents are into businesses reported higher sexual abuse
3. Work schedule significantly influenced sexual abuse among adolescents in Owerri Municipal

Discussion

The study investigated influence of gender, parent occupation and work schedule on sexual abuse among adolescents in Owerri municipal. According to the findings, Gender had no significant influence on adolescent sexual abuse. Hence, the first hypothesis was confirmed. There were no empirical works that measured gender as a variable; it was only measured as demography information.

According to the result, parental occupation positively and significantly influence on adolescent sexual abuse. Hence, the second hypothesis was not confirmed. This result is in line with the findings of Campo, Fávero, and Sousa-Gomes, (2023) who examined the role of parents in preventing child sexual abuse: Evaluation of Previous Knowledge and the Results of a Training Program. Their findings explained that Parents showed in the prior evaluation a significant lack of knowledge of child sexual abuse and scarce skills to detect and accept it. After taking part in the program, parents significantly improved their knowledge about this risk and their perceived ability to cope. The low level of knowledge of the parents on this subject and the number of inaccurate beliefs reveal the need to include them in sexual abuse prevention programs. Again, the result is in line with the findings of Gwirayi, (2017) who investigated on Child sexual abuse among urban secondary school pupils: Impact of family characteristics and family structure. Their findings explained the most important factors that were found to be consistently associated with child sexual abuse were parental absence, father's absence, mother's education, parental domestic violence and parental substance abuse. Risk of any child sexual abuse was not associated with the existence of siblings, household size, parental occupation and father's

education. Policies should focus on supporting single mothers and parents who both work outside of the home to reduce the likelihood that children are left vulnerable and at risk of being sexually abused. This findings proves that most adolescent whose parent occupation are business owners are more likely to be engage in sexual abuse than those adolescent whose parent occupation are public servant due to the lack of the availability of the parent on their children.

According to the results, Work schedule positively and significantly influence on adolescent sexual abuse. Hence, the third hypothesis was not confirmed. This result is in line with the findings of Tolaj, Havolli, Beqiri (2020) examined the prevalence of parent work schedule and by identifying factors that cause sexual abuse among public and private sector employees. Their findings explained that stress adversely affects job performance of employees with 1-20 years of work experience as well as of female employees. Stressors pertaining to demand, control, support, relationships, role and change were identified to be causing occupational stress among employees, all showing positive significant correlation with stress. Furthermore, both public and private sector employees considered similar factors as stressful, even though public sector employees reported experiencing slightly higher levels of stress. Again, the result is in line with the finding of Changa and Lu (2019) examined the influence of schedules in work on sexual abuse and behaviours. Their findings explained that both work stressors and behaviours varied across occupations. These differences were due to two major factors occupational characteristics and individual demographics. Individual demographics, as well as the occupation itself, had subtle impact on stress formation, absence behaviour, intention of quitting job, and work morale. Here, this findings implies that adolescent whose parent work evening till next day and engage in long working hours are prone to be sexual abuse, in the sense that their parents are not always around to guide them in the right pattern.

Implications of Study

Clearly, the result shows that the type of job parents do predicts that their child can be sexual abuse without their notice or knowledge. The study implies that the type of job a mother or father does and the working hours the job demands does affect their child been sexually abused whether at home or in school or anywhere at all. The study also implies that gender

will not have any prediction of the child's been sexually abuse, which implies that any gender can be sexually abuse.

Limitations of Study

One major limitation of the study was that the researcher had to develop a demographic scale that would be able to access the different demographic variables which the study required. Gathering of demographic data was challenging because some of the adolescents were promoting their correct family status. Finance was another challenge because ordinarily, the study would have covered more schools but the issue of finance limited the study in just three (2) schools. It was difficult to get approved to conduct the study in some schools because those school's management was reluctant to approve and insisted that more time should be given to get approval from the parents before the research will be conducted. During the course of this study, most secondary schools were already in their examination week which contributed to the challenge because some schools were unwilling to allow their students participate in the research during this time.

Suggestions for Further Studies

The researcher recommends the following possible studies to potential researchers. The impact of after-school work on secondary school assertiveness and self-esteem. The implication of single parenthood on nutritional level of school children, potential researchers should also research.

Recommendations

Adolescents are in there developing stage of their life. They develop both mentally and physically. They need to be aware of what sexual abuse means so they can be exposed to it when face in that situation. This study recommends that parents should continually put the needs of their children first. Psychologist especially counseling, personnel and Industrial psychologist should look out for family factors especially when making recommendations for hiring or placement of workers in jobs. Teachers are recommending to teaching children on the importance of sexual abuse and should also find time to encourage parents on the importance of exposing and educating their children on sexual abuse especially in occasions like PTA meetings. The government is recommended to put some regulations in place that could enable parents have sufficient time

with their children especially at the critical stages of childhood and adolescence and still be able to provide adequately for the family.

Conclusion

The study investigated the influence of gender, parent occupation and work schedule on sexual abuse among adolescents. The findings of the study confirmed successful acceptance of one null hypothesis while two of the hypotheses was rejected. The first hypothesis on gender was accepted. The other variables which were parental occupation and work schedule did influence sexual abuse individually, which means the two hypotheses was rejected. Altogether, parent's occupation and work schedule did influence sexual abuse among adolescents in Owerri Municipal.

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