

**SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTURBANCES AMONG SEXUALLY
ABUSED CHILDREN IN NIGERIA
DISSERTATION**

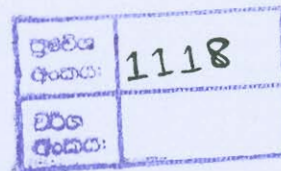
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ABSTRACT

Socio-psychological disturbances among sexually abused children have become a major problem in Nigeria. The rate at which children are sexually abused is increasing to an alarming rate which exposes victims to various socio- psychological effects. The research examines the societal attitude towards sexually abused victims, the chances of victim's exposure to the abuse again and the aftermath of the abuse. The research employed triangulation method of collecting data via quantitative and qualitative method. An in-depth interview and focus group discussions was conducted with key informant. Questionnaire was administered to the sample population of one hundred victims using the simple sampling method. Statistical package of social science SPSS was used in data analysis and Pearson's correlation coefficient was adopted to determine the strength and relationship of variables. The result reveals that 52% victims experience unequal treatment by peers, in school and in their immediate environment living them with the feelings of been stigmatized by the society. As such 45 % of victims become more vulnerable to abuse again by the people who are aware of the incidence which makes them withdraw back to themselves and are isolated with 44% affected as such victims decide to find relief in drug addiction to ease their agony and pains where 39% are affected. The aftermath of the abuse which boils down to the level of socio-psychological disturbances associated with victims which increases the number of juvenile delinquents in Nigerian society and when not truncated it will be harmful to societal wellbeing.

Key words: Socio-psychological, Societal attitude, Sexual abuse, Nigeria, Juvenile delinquents