

Parental Age and Parity as Predictors of Child Neglect in Bauchi State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Literature has revealed that there is child abuse and neglect in Nigeria including Bauchi State. The study therefore assessed predictors of parental child neglect of age and parity in Bauchi State, Nigeria. Two research objectives and the corresponding research questions and one null hypothesis guided the study. The correlation research design was utilized for this study. The population for the study consisted of all secondary school students in Bauchi State (550,421). A sample size of 1,549 secondary school students was drawn from the population using a multi-stage sampling procedure. A structured Predictors of Child Neglect Questionnaire (PCNQ) was used for data collection. Cronbach Alpha was used to determine the internal consistency of the PCNQ and an index of .88 was obtained. Data were analysed using Pearson correlation (r) and linear multiple-regression model at .05 alpha level. Findings revealed that there was a very low relationship between age of parents and child neglect. There was a very low relationship between parents' parity and PCN. Father's age and mother's age ($p < .05$) were significant predictors of child neglect. Findings suggest that Bauchi State Ministry of Education in collaboration with State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) should adopt the Child Abuse and Neglect Preventive Measures State wide for inclusion and implementation in the secondary schools. This can be achieved through employing the train the trainer's workshops by experts to train Principals, Health Educators, which will help them to detect children who are potentially at risk; and will help religious teachers to guide students on good moral instruction; and Guidance Counsellors, will be equipped with skills to handle issues that concerns child neglect.

Keywords: Predictor, Parents, Child Neglect, Age, Parity.

Introduction

Neglect is a serious public health problem and occurs in varying proportions or magnitudes, resulting to burden imposed on children by parents or adults. Cases involving approximately 4.5 million children were referred to Child Protective Services throughout the country each year for investigation into allegations of neglect. Of these reported cases, 30 per cent were neglect of children (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [USDHHS], 2013).

In many African countries, the child neglect rate in rural areas is at least twice as high as that in urban areas and neglect in educational settings leads to high rates of school dropouts and low rates of school enrolment in this region, especially among girls (United Nations International Education Fund [UNICEF], 2012). In Nigeria, child neglect by parents seems to be relatively high. In Bauchi State, it was revealed that 59.8 per cent of school girls were neglected from being enrolled in schools (Targeted States High Impact Project [TSHIP], 2012). From the foregoing statistics, there are evidences of child neglect in the developed and the developing nations of the World including Nigeria and Bauchi State in particular.

The Nigerian Child Right Act bill was passed into law in July 2003. It received the assent of the then President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, in September 2003 and was promulgated as the Child Rights Act 2003. Report showed that there is lack of enforcement of the act by law makers and judiciary (UNICEF, 2012). Child neglect is inability to provide basic needs of the child by care givers, parents or any person that has trusted relationship.

Neglect occurs when a care giver fails to provide basic needs, such as: adequate food, sleep, safety, supervision clothing, or medical treatment. Neglect is a persistent failure to meet a child's basic

physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children [NSPCC], 2014). Contextually, child neglect is the failure of parents or caregivers to provide for the child's basic needs, such as: clothing, medical care, love, and school uniform among others. This means that any neglectful act or deed meted on any person under the age of twenty is regarded as child neglect in Bauchi State. Majorly, neglect is classified into four, which include: physical, emotional, educational and medical (USDHHS, 2013).

Neglected children are also at considerable risk. These children are more likely than other children to suffer from a serious physical injury due to an accident such as falling, drowning, fire, or ingesting poison. They are also at a greater risk than other children of being physically and sexually abused from an unrelated caregiver, often times a significant other or friends to their parent(s) (Greenfield, 2010).

Predictor is any attribute or characteristic that can show what will happen in the future. Collins (2005) posited that predictor is a fact or data point that can be used to foretell an outcome. In other words, to predict means to state, tell about, or make known in advance about a given phenomenon especially on the basis of special knowledge. Contextually, predictors refer to potential attributes or characteristics that can be used to foretell the occurrence of child neglect. Examples of predictors in any given population may include: gender (male or female), marital status (married, single, divorced, separated, widowed) and other variables, such as: age, socio-economic status (income, occupation) and residential location. In this study, attributes, such as: parental age and parity were investigated.

Age and parity have been implicated as predictors of abuse and child neglect. Lange (2008) reported that parents were less likely to yell if they are older, thus age might be a predicting factor. Malik (2010) found age as one of the demographic determinants of child abuse and neglect.

Having so many children is seen as much achievement by many tribes especially the people of Bauchi State. It is believed that mothers with too many pregnancies (Grand multigravidae) are exposed to health problems, including social health problem of child neglect. Malik (2010) posited that neglect is related to the family size (number of children in a family). Large family sometimes makes parents especially mothers, feel frustrated and overwhelmed which might lead to child abuse and neglect. The effect of belonging to a large family on child neglect has never been investigated thoroughly by researchers, although it was considered that large families are far more common among the poor, socially and culturally deprived families. Children from families with greater number of children faced more child neglect as compared to children from the families with lesser number of children. The finding by Malik is consistent with UNICEF-Eastern Caribbean Area (2014) who posited that evidence has showed that neglect was found to be related to the larger family size. This means that children from larger families face physical abuse and neglect as well as psychological neglect due to a large number of family members to be taken care of by the parents.

A parent may be a man, woman, young or old who takes care of a child. A parent is the child's mother, father or another person who exercises parental control over the child (Department of Justice Attorney General, 2014). However, a person temporarily acting in the place of the parent is not considered to be a parent. Parents in this study are people (biological or non-biological) who take care of children that are of secondary school age in Bauchi State. Parents may not be biological related to their children. Adoptive parents are those who nurture and raise the offspring of other biological parents, but can take care of children and protect them from child neglect.

A child is a male or female human being under the care of a parent, guardian or dependent on significant others for survival. UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO) (2012) defined a child as in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) to include a human being below the age of 18 years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier. In Nigeria, Child Rights Act (CRA) 2003 incorporates all the rights and responsibilities of children; consolidates all laws relating to children into a single law; and specifies the duties and obligations of government, parents and other authorities, organizations and bodies. Some of the basic provisions of the Act include: No Nigerian child shall be subjected to physical, mental, emotional injury, abuse, neglect, maltreatment, torture, inhuman or degrading punishment, attacks on their honour or reputation. Every Nigerian child is entitled to rest, have leisure and enjoyment of the best attainable state of physical, mental and spiritual health. The Act also provides for medical and health care, prohibited betrothal

and early marriage, tattoos or marks as well as female genital mutilation which are all punishable offences under the Act. The Act mandates parents, guardians, institutions and authorities in whose care children are placed to provide the necessary guidance, education and training to enable the children to live up to expected responsibilities.

Regrettably, it was observed that parents in Bauchi State still send their children to hawk, farm for longer period of the day while girls are given out in early marriage, and children are treated with herbs when they fall sick instead of going to the health facilities for proper diagnosis and treatment. Children are forced to abandon western education for quaranic education (in form of boko haram) and so on. Children appear to be facing diverse forms of neglects, such as: educational neglect, medical neglect, physical neglect and emotional neglect in most of the communities in Bauchi State. Parents regard these as means or acceptable ways of instilling discipline in children. Literature has also revealed that there is evidence of child neglect in Nigeria including Bauchi State. However, there is the need to investigate some attribute capable of predicting child neglect in Bauchi State. The study aimed to investigate parity and age of parents as predictors of child neglect in Bauchi State, and it was hypothesized that parity and age of parents are not significant predictors of child neglect in Bauchi State.

Method

The study employed the correlation research design. Gall, Gall, and Borg (2007) defined correlation research design as investigation that seeks to discover the direction and magnitude of the relationship among variables through the use of correlational statistics. The design is highly useful for studying problems in education and in other sciences, enables researchers to analyse the relationship among large number of variables in a single study and it provides information concerning the degree of the relationship between the variables being studied.

The population for the study consisted of public and private secondary school students in Bauchi State which was 550,421 (public=356,391; private=193,830) (Bauchi State Annual School Census/ Report, 2013/2014). The sample size consisted of 1,549 public and private secondary school students in Bauchi State, Nigeria drawn using multi-stage sampling procedure. The sample size for the study was computed using Bennett et al. (1991) and Sarnda and Swensson (2003) sample size determination formula as follows:

$$n = \frac{Z^2 p 1 - p (DEEF)}{e^2}$$

Z= The standard normal deviate for a 96% confidence interval (1.96)

Where:

n = Required sample size

P = Proportion of children that experienced abuse and neglect in Bauchi State, which is 59.8% (TSHIP, 2012).

e = Level of absolute precession (0.05).

DEEF = Estimated design effect for using cluster sampling (4.0) (Benneth, 1991).

Attrition/non-response rate = 5% (Gorard, 2003).

$$n = \frac{3.841 \times 0.6 \times (0.4) (4.0)}{(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{3.841 \times 0.6 \times 1.6}{0.0025}$$

$$= \frac{3.68736}{0.0025}$$

$$1,474.94$$

$$n = 1,475$$

Attrition/non-response rate = 5%

$$\therefore = \frac{5}{100} \times \frac{1475}{1} = \frac{7375}{100} = 73.75 = 74$$

Thus, n = 1475 + 74

$$n = 1,549$$

Multi-stage sampling procedure was used to draw the sample size. Stage one involved drawing the three education zones (Bauchi South, Bauchi Central and Bauchi North) in Bauchi State. Hence, no sampling was done in this stage. Stage two involved the use of simple random sampling technique of balloting without replacement to select two local government areas (LGAs) from each Education Zone, making it a total of six LGAs in Bauchi State.

The third stage involved the use of simple random sampling technique of balloting without replacement to select eight schools out of 143 schools in Bauchi LGA; eight schools out of 98 schools in Tafawa Balewa LGA; eight schools out of 55 in Ningi LGA; eight schools from Darazo LGA; 8 schools from 57 in Katagum LGA and 8 schools from 23 in Jama'are LGA. At the end of this stage a total of 48 schools were selected out of the 414 secondary schools in Bauchi State. The fourth stage four involved the use of non-proportional stratified random sampling technique to select: 204 (4%) of students in the selected urban schools and 239 (5%) of students in the selected rural schools in Bauchi LGA; 69 (4%) of students in the selected urban schools and 172 (5%) of students in the selected rural schools in Tafawa Balewa LGA; 117 (4%) of students in the selected urban schools and 102 (7%) of students in the selected rural schools in Ningi LGA; 60 (3%) of students in the selected urban schools and 148 (8%) of students in the selected rural schools in Darazo LGA; 103 (5%) of students in the selected urban schools and 64 (6%) of students in the selected rural schools in Jama'are LGA; and 144 (4%) of students in the selected urban schools and 127 (5%) in the selected rural schools in Katagum LGA. However, 1,549 students were drawn for the study.

A structured 32-item Predictors of Child Neglect Questionnaire (PCNQ) was used for data collection. The PCNQ consisted of 32 items divided into two parts: A and B. Part A contained two items on socio-demographic (parents' age and parity) characteristics of the respondents. Part B contained 30 items on child neglect experience. The items' response options were assigned "Always (AL, 3), Sometimes (ST, 2), Occasionally (OC, 1) and Never (NE, 0)". The items were weighted as 'always' (3.50-4.00), sometimes (2.50-3.49), 'occasionally' (2.00-2.49), and 'never' (1.00-1.99). However, items were interpreted item by item to mean whether the neglect has occurred always, sometimes, rarely or has never occurred.

Five experts from the Departments of Human Kinetics and Health Education, Psychology and Science Education (Measurement and Evaluation Unit), University of Nigeria, Nsukka validated the PCNQ (face and construct). Cronbach Alpha technique was used to determine the internal consistency of PCNQ, and a reliability index of .88 was obtained and was adjudged reliable for the study.

In order to gain access to the respondents, a letter of introduction on field work obtained from the Head, Department of Human Kinetics and Health, University of Nigeria, Nsukka was presented to the respective school principals who introduced the researchers to the Heads of Department, and class teachers. Also, the Ethics Committee of Faculty of Education Research Grants, University of Nigeria, Nsukka approved the study. The researchers explained the objectives of research for the participants and the latter were assured about the privacy of their personal data, and after getting the consent, they filled out the questionnaires. The researchers administered 1,549 copies of the questionnaire to the respondents with the help of the teachers. The filled-out copies of the questionnaire were collected on the spot to ensure high return rate, and the returned rate of 91.5 per cent was obtained. This means that 132 copies of PCNQ were not properly filled out and therefore were discarded. Only 1,417 copies of PCNQ duly filled out were used for analyses.

The IBM Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23.0 software (SPSS Inc., Chicago, Illinois, USA) was used for all the statistical analyses. The standard descriptive statistics of Pearson correlation (r) was applied to describe the relationship statuses of the data. The normality of the data was checked with Kolmogorov-Smirnov (K-S) test. Linear multiple regression was used to assess the socio-demographic factors of parents' age and parity as predictors of child neglect. All the tests were 2-tailed, and the probability values less than .05 ($p < .05$) were considered significant.

The criteria adopted for interpreting relationship of data are thus: .01 - .19 was considered very low relationship, .20 - .39 was considered low relationship, .40 - .69 was considered moderate relationship, .70 - .89 was considered high relationship, .90 - .99 was considered very high relationship and 1.00 was considered perfect relationship.

Results**Table 1"Relationship Between Age of Parents and Child Neglect (n =1,417)**

S/N	Items statement	Correlation (r) value	P-value	Decision
Father's Age and Physical Child Neglect				
1	Clothes	.171	.000	Very low relationship
2	Soap for bathing	.075	.005	VLR
3	Good shelter	.056	.034	VLR
4	Enough food	.117	.000	VLR
5	Security	.170	.000	VLR
6	Good supervision at home	.163	.000	VLR
7	Shoes	.114	.000	VLR
8	Personal hygiene	.135	.000	VLR
	Cluster Value	0.125	0.004	VLR
Mother's Age and Physical Child Neglect				
9	Clothes	.093	.000	VLR
10	Soap for bathing	.047	.078	VLR
11	Good shelter	.106	.000	VLR
12	Enough food	.101	.000	VLR
13	Security	.132	.000	VLR
14	Good supervision at home	.104	.000	VLR
15	Shoes	.091	.001	VLR
16	Personal hygiene	.150	.000	VLR
	Cluster Value	0.103	0.009	VLR
Father's Age and Emotional Child Neglect				
17	Love	.121	.000	VLR
18	Warmth	.075	.005	VLR
19	Care	.123	.000	VLR
20	Assistance	.125	.000	VLR
21	Affection	.118	.000	VLR
22	Inspiration	.094	.000	VLR
23	Comfort	.105	.000	VLR
24	Happiness	.050	.062	VLR
	Cluster Value	0.101	0.008	VLR
Mother's Age and Emotional Child Neglect				
25	Love	.086	.001	VLR
26	Warmth	.094	.000	VLR
27	Care	.124	.000	VLR
27	Assistance	.112	.000	VLR
29	Affection	.115	.000	VLR
30	Inspiration	.107	.000	VLR
31	Comfort	.158	.000	VLR
32	Happiness	.092	.001	VLR
	Cluster Value	0.111	0.000	VLR
Father's Age and Education Child Neglect				
33	School fees	.094	.000	VLR
34	Books	.083	.002	VLR
35	Pocket money to school	.155	.000	VLR
36	Uniform	.110	.000	VLR
37	Games wear	.136	.000	VLR
38	Provisions	.117	.000	VLR
39	Moral support	.178	.000	VLR
40	School levy	.087	.001	VLR
	Cluster Value	0.12	0.000	VLR
Mother's Age and Education Child Neglect				
41	School fees	.175	.000	VLR
42	Books	.160	.000	VLR

43	Pocket money to school	.113	.000	VLR
44	Uniform	.178	.000	VLR
45	Games wear	.128	.000	VLR
46	Provisions	.104	.000	VLR
47	Moral support	.162	.000	VLR
48	School levy	.099	.001	VLR
	Cluster Value	0.139	0.000	VLR
Father's Age and Medical Child Neglect				
49	Transport to the hospital	.130	.000	VLR
50	Money for treatment	.092	.001	VLR
51	Dental care and immunization	.132	.000	VLR
52	Insurance services/scheme	.124	.000	VLR
53	Money for drugs at the right (appropriate) time	.139	.000	VLR
54	Competent health professionals	.102	.000	VLR
	Cluster Value	0.119	0.000	VLR
Mother's Age and Medical Child Neglect				
55	Transport to the hospital	.135	.000	VLR
56	Money for treatment	.109	.000	VLR
57	Dental care and immunization	.128	.000	VLR
58	Insurance services/scheme	.122	.000	VLR
59	Money for drugs at the right (appropriate) time	.119	.000	VLR
60	Competent health professionals	.117	.000	VLR
	Cluster Value	0.122	0.000	VLR
	Overall Value	0.118	0.003	VLR

Table 1 shows overall correlation value ($r=0.118$; $P=0.003$) which falls between .01-.19 which indicates a very low correlation between age of parents and child neglect. The Table further shows the correlations values and the corresponding P values for father's age and physical child neglect -PCN ($r = 0.125$, $P = .004$), mother's age and PCN ($r = 0.103$, $P = 0.009$); father's age and emotional child neglect- ECN ($r = 0.101$, $P = 0.008$), and mother's age and ECN ($r = 0.111$, $P = 0.000$). These imply that there was very low relationship between father's and mother's age and PCN and ECN respectively since these values fall between .01 and .19.

The Table also shows the correlation values and the P – values for father's age and educational child neglect -EdCN ($r = 0.12$, $P = .000$), mother's age and EdCN ($r = 0.139$, $P = .000$), fathers' age and medical child neglect-MCN ($r = 0.119$, $P = 0.00$) and mother's age and MCN ($r = 1.222$, $P = .000$). These imply that there was very low relationship between father's and mother's age and educational and medical child neglect respectively since these values fall between .01 and .09.

Table 2: Relationship between Parent's Parity and Child Neglect (n =1417)

S/N	Items statement	Correlation(r) value	SD	Decision
Parents' Parity and Physical Child Neglect				
1	Clothes	-.008	.761	Very low relationship
2	Soap for bathing	.022	.412	VLR
3	Good shelter	-.044	.100	VLR
4	Enough food	.000	.994	VLR
5	Security	-.003	.915	VLR
6	Good supervision at home	-.008	.759	VLR
7	Shoes	.029	.283	VLR
8	Personal hygiene	-.008	.775	VLR
	Cluster Value	-0.003	0.625	VLR
Parents Parity and Emotional Child Neglect				
9	Love	.076	.004	VLR
10	Warmth	.058	.028	VLR
11	Care	.041	.128	VLR

12	Assistance	.053	.048	VLR
13	Affection	.055	.040	VLR
14	Inspiration	.060	.024	VLR
15	Comfort	.077	.004	VLR
16	Happiness	.101	.000	VLR
	Cluster Value	0.065	0.035	VLR
Parents' Parity and Education Child Neglect				
17	School fees	.009	.723	VLR
18	Books	.010	.702	VLR
19	Pocket money to school	.036	.182	VLR
20	Uniform	-.017	.535	VLR
21	Games wear	.001	.956	VLR
22	Provisions	.039	.147	VLR
23	Moral support	.013	.629	VLR
24	School levy	.018	.488	VLR
	Cluster Value	0.011	0.545	VLR
Parents' Parity and Medical Child Neglect				
25	Transport to the hospital	.042	.111	VLR
26	Money for treatment	.072	.007	VLR
27	Dental care and immunization	.055	.039	VLR
28	Insurance services/scheme	.041	.199	VLR
29	Money for drugs at the right (appropriate) time	.026	.323	VLR
30	Competent health professionals	.031	.251	VLR
	Cluster Value	0.045	0.142	VLR
	Overall Value	0.029	0.337	VLR

Table 2 shows the correlation values and the corresponding P value for parents' parity and physical child neglect – PCN ($r = -0.003$; $P = 0.626$). This value falls below .01 - .19, implying that there was very low negative relationship between parents' parity and PCN. The Table further shows the correlation and the corresponding P – values for parents' parity and ECN ($r = 0.045$; $P = 1.42$), parent's parity and EdCN ($r = 0.011$; $P = 0.545$) and parents' parity and MCN ($r = 0.029$, $P = 0.337$) respectively. These values fall between .01 - .19 which imply that there was very low relationship between parent's parity of ECN, EdCN and MCN and child neglect in Bauchi State. The Table also reveals overall correlation value ($r = 0.029$; $P = 0.337$) which falls between .01 - .19 which indicates a very low relationship between parents' parity and child neglect.

Table 3: Multiple Regression Analysis of Parents' Age and Parity and Child Neglect

Model	Summary		Test for Coefficients				
	R ²	F-cal	P-value	Coefficient	Beta (B)	t-cal	P-value
.033	4.758	.000	Constant	16.385	16.169	.000	Rejected
			Father's age	.768	3.821	.001*	Rejected
			Mother's age	.559	3.300	.001*	Rejected
			Parity	.264	1.535	.125	Accepted

Table 3 reveals that the regression model was significant indicating that the relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variable is strong, $F=6.249$ ($.001 < .05$). The R^2 of .033 shows that in the regression model, the independent variables (parents' age and parity) account for 3% of the variance in the dependent variable (Child Neglect), which is small, that is, the regression model is modest Findings revealed that father's' age ($B=.763$, $p=.001 < .05$) and mother's age ($B=.559$, $p=.001 < .05$) were significant predictors of child neglect. Findings further revealed that parity ($B=.264$, $p=.125 > .05$) was not a significant predictor of child neglect.

Discussion

The finding in Table 1 revealed that the relationship between age of parents and child neglect was very low. This finding was expected and therefore not surprising. It is expected because some parents are experienced, they marry early and may have been employed and might have known the principles of child rearing, and therefore providing the needs of their children becomes very important. This finding agrees with that of Epstein (2001) who found that parents' age child neglect was very low. The Table further showed that the relationship between father's age and physical child neglect was very low. This finding was not surprising but expected. This finding contradicts that of Stith and Colleagues (2009) who revealed that there was moderate relationship between parents' age and physical child neglect. The Table also showed that the relationship between mother's age and physical child neglect was very low. This finding was not surprising but expected because it agrees with that of Allen (2008) who noted that age of mother and physical child neglect was very low.

Furthermore, the Table showed that the relationship between father's age and emotional child neglect was very low. This finding was expected and therefore not surprising because ideally fathers are the head of the family that are expected to provide a conducive environment for children to be free, which allow children to interact feely with their fathers. This finding was in line with that of Sedlak et al. (2010) who submitted that fathers who are living with their biological children had very low rates of emotional child neglect. The Table also showed that the relationship between mother's age and emotional child abuse was very low. This finding was expected and therefore not surprising because the finding contradicts that of Sedlak et al. (2010) who found that single mothers who live with their children had the highest rate of emotional child neglect. The result also revealed that the relationship between father's age and educational child neglect was very low. This finding was expected and therefore not surprising. This finding agrees with the finding of Budd, Holdsworth and Hogan Bruen (2006) who found that age of fathers had very low relationship with the payment of their children school fees.

The Table further revealed that the relationship between mother's age and educational child neglect was very low. This finding was not surprising but expected. In Bauchi State, culture and beliefs determines mothers' educational attainment, some mothers who were opportune to attain school assist greatly in providing educational needs of their children. This finding agrees with that of NSPCC (2014) who reported that mothers who are 35 years of age exhibited very low relationship with their children's education. In other words, mothers of the above age cater for the education of their children. The Table also showed that the relationship between father's age and mother's age and medical child neglect was very low. This finding was expected and therefore not surprising because the finding was in line with that of Schutte et al. (2013) who found that father's age and mother's age had low relationship with access to medical services for their children. The finding also concurs with that of Roberts, Izuka, Ekanem, and Mabogunje (2013) who reported that proportion of children who had received routine immunization was 99.7 per cent, for those whose parent's ages was from 50 and above. This finding also agrees with the finding of Schutte et al. (2013) who reported that father's age and mothers' age had low relationship with those children who had been immunized with PCV at Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LUTH).

The finding in Table 2 showed that overall, the relationship between parents' parity and child neglect was very low. This finding was not surprising but expected. The reason is that religion and beliefs in Bauchi State allow men to marry many wives and children, because there is the consequence of having many children and for that reason, they would like to limit the number of children they will cater for. This finding was in line with that of Ogundele and Ojo (2007) who found that large family size contributes greatly to child neglect. This finding also agrees with that of Prinz, Sanders, Shapiro, Whitaker, and Lutzker (2009) who found that the few number of children in the family had low relationship with child neglect. Furthermore, the Table showed that the relationship between parents' parity and physical child neglect was very low. The finding was expected and therefore not surprising. The finding contradicts with the submissions and thoughts that high parity is considered as one of the most important factors leading to physical child abuse in the family. The Table also showed that the relationship between parents' parity and emotional child neglect was very low. This finding was not surprising but expected because Begle, Dumas, and Hanson (2010) noted that few numbers of children in the home had very low association with emotional child neglect.

The Table also showed that the relationship between parents' parity and educational child neglect was very low. The finding was not surprising but expected. Ideally, people respect this adage which said "if you say education is hard you can try ignorance". This means that educated parents are aware of the consequences of not practicing the right type of parity for a family could cause. This finding disagrees with the opinion of the public that there is a high relationship between increasing number of children in the family and parents' educational child neglect. The Table further showed that the relationship between parents' parity and medical child neglect was very low. The finding was not surprising but expected. This was in line with that of Stolk et al. (2008) who noted that primiparas (i.e., first time mothers) showed a very low relationship towards medical attention of their children. This implies that the governments should enhance efforts of parents by putting good policy in place to regulate number of children and reduce child neglect in Bauchi State.

Finding in Table 3 showed that father's age was a significant predictor of medical child neglect. The finding was expected and therefore not surprising because National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) in 2005 reported that fathers who are older are not common victims of medical child neglect in the United States. This finding agrees with that of USDHHS (2013) who found that father's age significantly predicted medical child neglect. Data in the Table also revealed that mother's age was a significant predictor of medical child neglect. The finding was not surprising and therefore expected because the finding agrees with that of Jenny (2007) who found that mother's age was adequate for predicting medical child neglect. These imply father's age and mother's age are capable of predicting child medical neglect in Bauchi State.

Implications of the Study Findings

The finding on child neglect has implication for proactive rather than active to child neglect by parents. Hope is not lost if government through health educators and social workers in their various work places will organize seminars, workshops and health education, it is then, perpetuation of child abuse neglect will be reduced.

The findings on child neglect indicated that it is sometimes perpetuated, which have consequences on the rights of children. However, there is the need for designing intervention programmes through seminars, workshops, home visits by social welfare workers and health educators and awareness to help reduce the neglect of children which is very necessary.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The findings have shown that the relationship between parents' age and parity and child neglect were very low and fathers' age; and mothers' age were significant predictors of child neglect. Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. The Bauchi State Ministry of Education in collaboration with State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) should adopt the Child Abuse and Neglect Preventive Measures State wide for inclusion and implementation in the secondary schools. This can be achieved through employing the train the trainer's workshops by experts to train Principals, Health Educators, which will help them to detect children who are potentially at risk; and will help religious teachers to guide students on good moral instruction; and Guidance Counsellors, will be equipped with skills to handle issues that concerns child neglect.
2. The Bauchi State Ministry of Education in collaboration with the Ministries of: Youth and Sport, Information, Culture and Tourism, and Higher Education should lend logistic and manpower support to the secondary schools in the implementation of the Child Abuse and Neglect Preventive Measures in schools, considering parental age associated factor and other underlying factors.

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