

Patterns of Elder Abuse in Okpofe Community Ezinihitte Mbaise Local Government Area, Imo State

Chinyere E. Ngumah

*Community Comprehensive Secondary School Egbu,
Owerri North, Imo State*

Abstract

It is often heard that elder abuse occurs in Okpofe Ezinihitte Mbaise Local Government Area of Imo State. So, the researcher decided to carry out a study in this area.

The study was conducted to investigate the patterns of elder abuse in Okpofe Ezinihitte Mbaise Local Government Area of Imo State. Seven specific objectives were formulated with seven corresponding research questions and six null hypotheses were also postulated to guide the study. The cross-sectional research design was used for the study. The population of the study consisted of all the elders in Okpofe Ezinihitte, Mbaise. While the sample for the study consisted of 203 elders in Okpofe. The purposive sample procedure was used. A structured questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection. The instrument was validated by five experts. Percentage was used to answer research questions while Chi-square statistics was used to test the null hypothesis at 0.5 level of significance ($P = \text{value} = 0.5$). Split half was utilized to establish the reliability of the instrument. The results of the study showed that: Elders of Okpofe experienced physical, emotional, sexual and economic abuses. Temporal physical, emotional, and sexual abuse occurred in the morning, afternoon and evening while spatial physical, emotional, and economic abuse occurred at home, meetings, market and political rallies. There were significant differences in the temporal pattern of elder physical abuse ($\chi^2 = 135.791$, $df = 21$, $P < 0.05$) and spatial pattern of elder physical abuse ($\chi^2 = 374.6783$, $df = 35$, $P < 0.05$). There were significant differences in the temporal pattern of the elder emotional abuse ($\chi^2 = 130.750$, $df = 18$, $P < 0.05$) and spatial pattern of elder emotional abuse ($\chi^2 = 321.917$, $df = 35$, $P < 0.05$). There was significant difference in the temporal pattern of elder sexual abuse ($\chi^2 = 232.273$, $df = 15$, $P < 0.05$). There was significant difference in the spatial pattern of elder economic abuse ($\chi^2 = 559.402$, $df = 20$, $P < 0.05$). Based on the findings the social workers, voluntary agencies, the mass media and concern individuals should be used to disseminate information regarding the elder abuse and also elder abuse should be prohibited by law establishing it as a criminal offence publishing under the law, so as to give hope and protection to the elderly in general.

Introduction

Elder abuse has become a public health problem in contemporary society in both developed and developing countries. However, government in developing countries are not sensitive to the plights of the elders. In Nigeria, many people recognized as "elders" may have lived through difficult times both economically and politically due to the fact the government is insensitive to their plights. Graftstorm (1994), Barnet (1994) and Ageing and Development (2000) reported that such elderly persons are subjected to abuse. The United Nations Population Division (UNPD, 2002) noted that abuse of older people is referred to as elder

abuse. It was first described in British Scientific Journals in 1975 under the term granny battering (mistreatment of the older people). Elder abuse is not restricted to developed nations of the world but also prevalent in developing nations of Asia, Latin America and Africa (UNDP, 2002).

Abuse of elder can manifest in different ways. Gilliland and Picado (2000) asserted that infantilization and overprotection can leave the older person isolated, depressed and demoralized, and can be considered a form of abuse. In some traditional societies, older widows are abandoned and their property seized. Mourning rites of passage for widows in parts of Africa and India include practices that elsewhere would certainly be considered cruel; for example, sexual violence, and forced levirate marriages (where a man is obligated by custom to marry the childless widow of his brother) and expulsion from their homes (Ageing and Development, 2000). In some places, accusations of witchcraft are directed at isolated older women (Gorman & Petersen, 1999). In sub-Saharan Africa, accusations of the practice of witchcraft have driven many elderly women from their homes and their communities to live in poverty in urban areas. These acts of abuse have become firmly entrenched as social customs and may not be considered locally as elder abuse in Nigeria (Ageing and Development, 2000).

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and has the highest older person's population in Africa (Kinsella & Velkoff, 2001). With the largest population in Africa and the sixth in the world, it is estimated that by the year 2025 the population of Nigerians aged 60 and above will constitute 6 per cent of the entire population. Nigeria is not exempted from abuse of the elderly. National Population Commission (NPC, 2006) asserted that abuse of older persons is still regarded as a taboo in Nigerian society which makes it difficult to report cases of elder abuse to the Law Enforcement Agencies. Besides the provisions of the Criminal Code related to crimes of violence and assault, there is yet no law on elder abuse. Though, creation of awareness of abuse as a public health and social issue has been intensified since the first World Elder Abuse Awareness Day took place in most major cities in Nigeria in 2006, it is yet to receive the appropriate attention it deserves from the society and the government (NPC, 2006). Many policymakers, lawmakers, older persons and members of the society have begun to view elder abuse as a menace that needs the attention of all especially as older persons become more vulnerable in the countries with economies in transition (Ajomale, 2007).

Elderly could mean different concepts to different people. Hornby (2005) opined that the elderly is a person that is advanced in age and has influence and authority within the community. On the other hand, Hensil (2009) viewed elderly as a member of a family, tribal group (ethnic), or village who is advanced in years and has influence and authority within the community. In the context of this study, the elderly is a person whose age is from 60 years and above. This group of vulnerable persons because of their frail nature are commonly abuse.

Abuse on the other hand, is a multi-dimensional phenomenon that encompasses a broad range of behaviour, events, and circumstances, unlike random acts of violence or exploitation (National Academies of Sciences, NAS, (2009). Elder abuse is an all intentional actions that cause harm or create a serious risk or harm (whether or not harm is intended) to a vulnerable elderly by a caregiver or other person who stands in a trusted relationship to the elder (NAS, 2009). Elder abuse is the use of something in a way that is wrong or harmful to the elderly (Ageing and Development, 2000).

Elder abuse is perpetrated in diverse forms. NPC, (2006) indicated that elder abuse is of different forms, namely: physical, emotional, sexual, financial abuse and neglect that results in unnecessary suffering, injury, pain, loss, and or violation of human rights and decreased quality of life. Whether the behaviour is labelled as abusive, neglectful, or exploitative may depend on the frequency of the mistreatment, duration, intensity, severity, consequences, and cultural context in which it exists.

Forms of abuse are characterized by misuse of power and control by one person over another who are or have been in an intimate relationship. It can occur in mixed gender relationships and same gender relationships and has profound consequences for the lives of children: individuals and families including communities in Okpofe. It may, as earlier indicated be physical, sexual, economic or material forms. The forms of abusive behaviours occur in one or both partners in an intimate relationship such as marriage; dating; family and friends or cohabitation (Yu, 2007). In the context of this study, all forms of elder abuse as highlighted by Gilliland and Picado, (2000); Kinsella & Velkoff, (2001): and NPC (2006), such as physical, economic, emotional and sexual were examined in this study.

There are many types of physical abuse. These include physical aggression (hitting; kicking; billing; shoving; restraining; slapping and throwing objects), or threats thereof, controlling or domineering; intimidation; stalking; and passive or covert abuse (Yu, 2007). It can also include inflicting physical injury onto other targets, such as children or pets, in order to cause psychological harm to the victim (Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence -ACADV, 2010). Physical abuse also constitutes inflicting physical injuries such as bruises broken bones; head injuries, lacerations, and internal bleeding. These are some of the acute effects of a physical abuse incident that require medical attention and hospitalization (Jones, 1997).

Emotional or psychological elder abuse may encompass threatening the victim with injury or harm, telling victim that he or she will be killed if he or she ever leaves the relationship, and public humiliation (Follingstad, 2000). Constant criticism, name-calling, and making statements that damage the victim's self-esteem are also common forms of emotional abuse often perpetrators use children to engage in emotional abuse by teaching them to harshly abuse criticize the victims as well. ACADV (2010) on the other hand highlighted emotional abuse to include conflicting actions or statements which are designed to confuse and create insecurity on the victim. These

behaviours also lead the victim to question themselves, causing them to believe that they are making up the abuse or that the abuse is their fault.

Economically, elder can be victims of abuse. Tjadan & Theonnes (2000) viewed economic or material abuse of the elderly as when the abuser has unauthorized control over the victim's money and other economic resources. In its extreme form, this involves putting the victim on a strict "allowance", withholding money at will and forcing the victim to beg for money until the abuser gives them some money (Economic Abuse, 2009).

Sexual abuse is devastating. WHO (2002) defined sexual abuse as exploitive behaviours involving threats; force or the inability of the person abused to give consent at any given period and places. NEA1S (2009) opined that sexual abuse of the elderly is non-consensual sexual contact of any kind with an elderly person. ACADV (2010) defined sexual abuse of the elderly person as any situation in which force is used to obtain participation in unwanted sexual activity. Forced sex, even by a spouse or intimate partner with whom non-consensual sex has occurred, is an act of aggression and violence. ACADV (2010) added that categories of sexual abuse may include: use of physical force or compel a person to engage in a sexual act against his or her will, whether or not the act is completed; and attempted or completed sexual act involving a person who is unable to understand the nature or condition of the act, unable to decline participation, unable to communicate or unwillingness to engage in the sexual act, because of overage, illness, disability, or the influence of alcohol or other drugs, or because of intimidation or pressure.

Victims of elder abuse experience many adverse health outcomes. Among victims who are still living with their perpetrators of abuse, high level of stress; fear and anxiety are commonly reported. Depression is also common, as victims are made to feel guilty for provoking the abuse and are constantly subjected to intense criticism. It is reported that sixty per cent of victims meet the diagnostic criteria International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD – 9) for depression, either during or after termination of relationship, and have greatly increased risk of suicide (Barnnet, 2001). In addition to depression, victims of elder abuse also experience long-term anxiety and panic, and are likely to meet the diagnostic criteria for generalized anxiety disorder and panic disorder. The most commonly referenced psychological effect of elder abuse is post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). PTSD (as experienced by victims) is characterized by flashbacks: intrusive images, exaggerated startle response, nightmares, and avoidance of triggers that are associated with the abuse. Vitanza (1995) submitted that symptoms are generally experienced for a long span of time after the victim has left this dangerous situation. (Vitanza 1995) reveals that PTSD is possibly the best diagnosis for those suffering from psychological effects of elder abuse as it accounts for the variety of symptoms commonly experienced by victims of trauma, which can be manifested in different patterns.

Elder abuse can also assume different patterns. Cowie (1990) refers to patterns as the various forms that something may take. As described by Schwartz (1993), a pattern is a design or guide, which appears among people. Hornby (2005) viewed patterns as the regular way in which something happens or is done. Henslin (2009) defined patterns as recurring characteristics or events.

Patterns have been classified into different forms. Pridemore, Andrew and Sprivak (2003) classified patterns into three forms; namely: spatial pattern, temporal pattern and demographic pattern respectively. In this study, spatial and temporal were examined. They identified spatial pattern variation based on geographic region (that is, location which can be urban or rural) in a particular country. Wittenburg (2007) stated that spatial pattern is the co-variation of properties within geographic space, which is characterized by proximal locations that appear to be correlated either positively or negatively. Office of the Management of Budget (2003) corroborated (agreed) with the definition of Pridemore et al. (2003) when they stated that geographic variation can be based on country type, which reflects different levels of urban and rural area. In this study, therefore, the spatial pattern or variation refers to the abuse of the elderly according to location (home, street, and public gathering) in Okpofe community.

Temporal patterns otherwise referred to as T-patterns relate to time. Temporal (T) pattern is connected to things with the real physical world and or limited by time. These things could be physical challenges like neglect, sexual and physical abuses that could serve as impediments to healthy living which happens at a given period and at a particular time. Temporal pattern provides significant advantages over traditional sequence analyses by incorporating time (Magnusson, 2000). Temporal pattern, according to Pridemore et al. (2003), relates to variables such as seasons, months, days-of-the week (Fridays, Saturdays), time of day (mornings; afternoons; evenings and night), public holidays (Easter, Christmas, Sallah), National day celebrations (October 1) and National general election days. In this study, the temporal pattern is the time or period (morning, afternoon, evening, and night) when the elderly is subjected to abuse. The determinants of time in the abuse of the elderly are important for cogent reasons. It would enable one to establish the actual time or period that the elderly is abused so that the perpetrators will be checked and punished accordingly.

On the other hand, demographic pattern includes those factors that may affect human populations especially, with reference to size, density and distribution. These include gender, level of education, rank, marital status, race among others; Houghton (2007) viewed demography as a concept pertaining to features of the population, such as race, sex, age, household size, population growth and density. Social scientists often group populations in two categories based on demographic variables. Some frequently used demographic variables are: age, sex/gender, race/ethnicity, location of residence, socioeconomic status

(SES), religion, and marital status. Ownership language, mobility, life cycles (fertility, mortality, migration). Pridemore et al. (2003) conceptualized on demographic pattern as a pattern which encompasses such variables as age, gender, marital status, level of education, occupation, socio-economic and health status as well as race. Demographic pattern in this study is the regular from (age, gender and ethnicity) in which elder abuse manifests and perpetrated among Okpofe elders.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study was to investigate patterns of elder abuse in Okpofe in Ezinihitte, Mbaise Local Government Area of Imo State.

Research questions

The following research questions were posed to guide the present study:

1. What are the physical, emotional, sexual and economic abuses among elders of Okpofe?
2. What is the temporal pattern of elder physical abuse among elders of Okpofe?
3. What is the temporal pattern of elder emotional abuse among elders of Okpofe?
4. What is the temporal pattern of elder sexual abuse among elders of Okpofe?
5. What is the spatial pattern of elder physical abuse among elders of Okpofe?
6. What is the spatial pattern of elder emotional abuse among elders of Okpofe?
7. What is the spatial pattern of elder economic abuse among elders of Okpofe?

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were postulated and tested at .05 level of significance:

1. There is no significant difference in the temporal pattern of elder physical abuse among elders of Okpofe.
2. There is no significant difference in the temporal pattern of elder emotional abuse among elders of Okpofe.
3. There is no significant difference in the temporal pattern of elder sexual abuse among elders of Okpofe.
4. There is no significant difference in the spatial pattern of elder physical abuse among elders of Okpofe.
5. There is no significant difference in the spatial pattern of elder emotional abuse among elders of Okpofe.
6. There is no significant difference in the spatial pattern of elder economic abuse among elders of Okpofe.

Method

To achieve the purpose of this study, the cross-sectional survey research design was employed. The population of the study consisted of all elders in Okpofe community Ezinihitte Mbaise Local Government Area of Imo States. These elders are basically males and females ranging from sixty years of age and above. The population is homogeneous. The total population of elders in Okpofe as obtained from Office of National Population Commission Owerri (2006) is 2030. The sample for the study consisted of 203 elders representing ten percent of elders of Okpofe in Ezinihitte Mbaise Local Government Area in Imo State. The instrument for data collection was a self-designed questionnaire which was titled "Patterns of Elder Abuse Questionnaire (PEAQ). The instrument comprised of 7 question items on patterns of elder abuse (spatial and temporal). The response options are Yes and No, when and where. The instruments were administered to the respondents and after filling them, the completed copies were collected on the spot from the respondents. The correctly filled questionnaire were sorted and used for the study. Two hundred and three copies of the questionnaire were correctly filled and were used for the study.

The data were analysed on an item by item basis to show responses of frequencies and percentage of elders. The frequencies and percentage were extracted and presented to answer research questions posed on forms and patterns of elder abuse. The Chi-square statistic tool (χ^2) was used to test the formulated hypotheses. Six hypotheses were verified at .05 level of significance where a set of observed data on demographic, spatial and temporal variations were compared with a set of expected frequencies on elder abuses.

Results

Hypothesis One

There is no significant difference in the temporal pattern of elder physical abuse. Data testing this hypothesis are contained in Table 5.

Table 5: **Summary of Chi-square (χ^2) Analysis of Difference in the Temporal Pattern of Elder Physical Abuse.**

Abuse	Period							
	Morning		Afternoon		Evening		Night	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Pushing	87	42.9	34	16.7	46	22.7	36	17.7
Hitting	44	21.7	88	43.3	48	23.6	23	11.3
Beating	51	25.1	54	26.6	29	14.3	69	34.0
Slapping	55	27.1	63	31.0	54	26.6	31	15.3
Kicking	43	21.2	81	39.9	44	21.7	35	17.2
Spitting	39	19.2	67	33.0	67	33.0	30	14.8
Pouring water	78	38.4	62	30.5	38	18.7	25	12.3
Pulling on dress	73	36.0	45	22.2	40	19.7	45	22.2

$$\chi^2 = 135.791, df = 21, p < 0.05$$

Table 5 shows the χ^2 calculated value of 135.791 with a corresponding P – value of .000, which was less than .05 level of significance at 21 degrees of freedom ($\chi^2 = 135.791$, $df = 21$, $p < 0.05$). The null hypothesis of no significant difference was hereby rejected. This implies that there is a difference in the temporal pattern of elder physical abuse.

Hypothesis Two

There is no significant difference in the temporal pattern of elder emotional abuse. Data testing this hypothesis are contained in Table 6.

Table 6 **Summary of Chi-square (χ^2) Analysis of Difference in the Temporal Pattern of Elder Emotional Abuse.**

Abuse	Period							
	Morning		Afternoon		Evening		Night	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Threat of life	69	34.0	58	28.6	45	22.2	31	15.3
Isolation by friends and relatives	67	33.0	73	36.0	22	10.8	41	20.2
Degrading	35	17.2	52	25.6	61	30.0	55	27.1
Humiliation	64	31.5	56	27.6	51	25.1	32	15.8
Constant criticism	40	19.7	69	34.0	43	21.2	51	25.1
Blackmail	31	15.3	75	36.9	53	26.1	44	21.7
Verbal and non-verbal acts that inflicts emotional pain	10	49.8	63	31.0	15	7.4	24	11.8

$$\chi^2 = 130.750, df = 18, p < 0.05$$

Table 6 shows the χ^2 calculated value of 130.750 with a corresponding P – value of .000, which was less than .05 level of significance at 18 degrees of freedom ($\chi^2 = 130.750$, $df = 18$, $p < 0.05$). The null hypothesis of no significant difference was hereby rejected. This implies that there is a difference in the temporal pattern of elder emotional abuse.

Hypothesis three.

There is no significant difference in the temporal pattern of elder sexual abuse. Data testing this hypothesis are contained in Table 7.

Table 7 **Summary of Chi-square (χ^2) Analysis of Difference in the Temporal Pattern of Elder Sexual Abuse.**

Abuse	Period							
	Morning		Afternoon		Evening		Nigh	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Rape	70	34.5	14	6.9	32	15.8	87	42.9
Caressing	16	7.9	59	29.1	42	20.7	86	42.4
Kissing	22	10.8	67	33.0	62	30.5	52	25.6
Fondling	45	22.2	18	8.9	57	28.1	83	40.9
Sodomy	20	9.9	19	9.4	57	28.1	107	52.7
Coerced nudity	34	16.7	41	20.2	32	15.8	96	47.3

$$\chi^2 = 223.273, df = 15, p < 0.05$$

verbal acts that inflicted emotional pains	55	27.1	6	3.0	28	13.8	9	4.4	42	20.7	63	31.0
Chats that inflicted emotional pains	86	42.4	7	3.4	18	8.9	8	3.9	33	16.3	51	25.1

$\chi^2 = 321.917, df = 35, p < 0.05$

Table 9 shows the χ^2 calculated value of 321.917 with a corresponding P – value of .000, which is less than .05 level of significance at 35 degrees of freedom ($\chi^2 = 321.917, df = 35, p < 0.05$). The null hypothesis of no significant difference was hereby rejected. This implies that there is a difference in the spatial pattern of elder emotional abuse.

Hypothesis six.

There is no significant difference in the spatial pattern of elder emotional abuse. Data testing this hypothesis are contained in Table 10.

Table 10: **Summary of Chi-square (χ^2) Analysis of Difference in the Spatial Pattern of Elder Economic Abuse.**

Abuse	Where											
	At home		Along the street		Market		Church		Meetings		Political rally	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Compelling to perform jobs that are poorly remunerated	9	4.4	1	5	34	16.7	5	2.5	19	9.4	37	18.2
Rejection from financially gainful employment	21	10.3	10	4.9	19	9.4	5	2.5	64	31.5	84	41.4
Delay in payment of pensions	107	52.7	16	7.9	6	3.0	2	1.0	95	46.8	75	36.9
Extortion of money or other valuables by relation	136	67.0	7	3.4	7	3.4	16	7.9	24	11.8	13	6.4
Stealing of elder's money	175	86.2	5	2.5	10	4.9	2	1.0	11	5.4	-	-

$\chi^2 = 559.402, df = 20, p < 0.05$

Table 10 shows the χ^2 calculated value of 559.402 with a corresponding P – value of .000, which is less than .05 level of significance at 20 degrees of freedom ($\chi^2 = 559.402, df = 20, p < 0.05$). The null hypothesis of no significant difference is hereby rejected. This implies that there is a difference in the spatial pattern of elder emotional abuse.

Discussion

The findings of the study are hereby discussed under the following headings

1. Physical, emotional, sexual and economic abuses of elders
2. Temporal pattern of elder abuse
3. Spatial pattern of elder abuse
4. Differentials in elder temporal and spatial abuse.

Physical, Emotional, Sexual and Economic Abuse of Elders

Result in Table 1 shows that the respondents agreed that they were pushed, hit, beating, slapped, kicked, spit, poured water and pulled on dress. The findings were expected and not surprising because Yu (2007) asserted that physical abuse such as hitting, slapping and throwing objects were common among elders.

The finding in Table 2 shows that elders experienced emotional abuse of various forms such as threat of life, isolation by friends and relatives, degrading, humiliation, constant criticism, blackmail, verbal and non-verbal acts that inflicted emotional pains and treatment as children. The finding was expected and not surprising, because Follingstad (2002) reported that threatening the victim with injury or harm, telling the victim that they will be killed if they ever leave the relationship, and public humiliation could be dangerous to elder's health.

The results showed that elders experienced various forms of that elder of sexual abuse such as rape, caressing, kissing, fondling, sodomy and coerced nudity (Table3). This finding was expected and not surprising. However, NEAIS (2009) holds that sexual abuse of the elderly is of non-consensual sexual contact of any kind with an elderly person that happens at any period in time (morning, afternoon, evening and night)

Result in Table 4 showed that elders experienced various forms of economic abuse such as compelled to perform job(s) that are poorly remunerated, rejected from financially gainful employment, delayed in payment of pension, extorted money or other valuable by relations and stealing of elder's money. The finding was expected and not surprising because Vida (2000) reported that the most common occurrence of economic abuse is the theft of older person's money and other valuables. Perpetrators sometimes gain power of attorney to get legal control of resources of open joint accounts. Although greed motivates a substantial proportion of financial exploitation, family members who are unemployed or suffer other financial problems may also be motivated to take control of an older person's money or other valuables. This finding is in line with the opinion of Okafor (2009) who stated that it many include harassment intimidation, damage to property, threats and institutions at a given time.

Temporal Pattern of Elder Abuse Among Okpofe Elders

Results in Table 5 show that very substantial proportion of elders suffered physical temporal abuse in the morning, afternoon, evening and night. The finding was expected and not surprising because Mikala (2001) conducted a survey on physical abuse in the family, interviews were conducted with women working in markets, women in other work places, and with girls and young women in secondary school and at university in Lagos state. They were asked about physical abuse in Lagos state, 64.4 percent of the 45 interviewed women in work places said they had been beaten by a partner, boyfriend or husband, Mikala found out that the federal and state governments of Nigeria were partly responsible for these "shocking" numbers. Neither the Lagos government nor the federal government was doing anything to stem the tide of violence – and in some cases they were even condoning it.

Results in Table 6 show that respondents agreed that elders suffered various types of emotional abuse in the morning, afternoon, evening and night. The finding was expected and not surprising because (Follingstad, 2000; Gilliland

& Picado, 2000) reported that generally among victims who are still living with their perpetrators, threat of life, degrading and humiliation are commonly seen. Depression is also common, as victims are made to feel for provoking the abuse and are constantly subjected to criticism.

Results on Table 7 shows that respondents agreed that elders suffered temporal sexual abuse of various types such as rape in the morning, afternoon, evening and night such as caressing, fondling, sodomy and coerced nudity. The findings were expected and not surprising because Foley (2009) observed that increase in crimes like arson, assault, homicide and rape have taken a temporal pattern in U.S, in which disbursements are focused at the beginning of monthly welfare payment cycles and not in jurisdictions in which disbursements are relatively more staggered. These findings indicate that welfare beneficiaries consume welfare related income quickly and then attempt to supplement it with criminal income at the public places. This agrees with Jewkes (2009) that men reported having perpetrated rape, neglect, emotional abuse at homes and other places.

Spatial Pattern of Elder Abuse Among Okpofe Elders

Results in Table 8 show that respondents agreed that elders suffered physical abuse such as pushing, hitting at home, beating at home, kicking at home, pouring of water at home and pulling on dress at home, along the street market, church, meeting and political rallies. The finding was expected and not surprising because Mikala (2011) reported that in Lagos and Oyo states of Nigeria 40 percent of women interviewed on abuse accepted that they had been victims of abuses in their family homes that included physical, sexual and emotional abuses. Also, Lysaght and Besten (2010) asserted that the tendency of abuse and segregation in the Northern Ireland was in the residential division (home). The implication is that research should be conducted among men and women to find out the pattern of the abuse among the populace. Thus, implies that government should sponsor health educators to sensitize the public against domestic abuse of different kinds.

Results in Table 9 show that respondents agreed that elders suffered emotional spatial abuse such as threat of life occurring at home, isolation by friends and relatives, degrading at home, humiliation at home, constant criticism at home, blackmail at home, verbal and non- verbal acts that inflicted emotional pains and chat that inflicted emotional pains at home, along the street, market, church, meeting and political rally. The findings were expected and not surprising because Follingstad (2002) affirmed that emotional or psychological elder abuse may encompass threatening the victim with injury or harm, telling victim that he or she will be killed if he or she ever leaves the relationship, public humiliation and on streets at different period of the day. This was not surprising since man does not exist in isolation, thus it is the desire of everyone to be part of one's social environment. The findings discredit the Ageing and Development (2000) assertion that the society and the ageing individual naturally serve many of their relations. This is most especially true of the elderly in Okpofe where a

person is mostly valued based on the extent of social integration than anything else. Denial of freedom of expression which creates an excellent avenue for people particularly the aged to prove and assert their worth, verbal aggression/castigation, and regarding the elderly as disoriented and confused are forms of emotional abuse that could easily be meted to an elderly person quietly without attracting the attention of neighbours and outsiders (ACADV, 2010). The findings conform with NPC (2007) assertion that disparaging and degrading term or expressions such as "puppucy", "Mummcy", "Kaka", "Dada" and sometimes a more abusive word as witch or wizard are known to be used by the youths and middle aged to address the elderly in Okpofe at home, public and on the street.

Result in Table 10 shows that the respondents agreed that elder suffered economic spatial abuse such as compelling you to perform jobs that are poorly remunerated, rejection from financially gainful employment at home; extortion of money or other valuables by relation and stealing of elder's money at home, along the street, market, church, meeting and political rally. This finding was expected and not surprising because Okoye (2003) pointed out that inadequate and delayed pension was perceived as an economic elder abuse because they saw pension as a right, thus, delay in its payment and failure to upgrade the amount paid in line with the ever escalating price-index of consumer goods and service naturally evoke in the elderly a feeling that the government neglects, exploits them in the public service and compulsory retirement from financially gainful employment. The finding however conforms to the disengagement theory of Cummings and Henry (1961), which insists that the society forces the elderly into involuntary and painfully withdrawal from paid labour force and meaningful social relationships to ensure societal stability.

Differentials in Elder Temporal and Spatial Abuse

The result showed that there was significant difference ($p=.000 < .05$) in the patterns of elder abuse according to physical temporal pattern (Table 5). This was not surprising but expected because Mikala (2011) reported that in Lagos and Oyo state of Nigeria 40 percent of women interviewed on abuse accepted that they had been victims of abuses in their family homes that included physical, sexual and emotional abuses. Also, Lysaght and Besten (2010) asserted that the tendency of abuse and segregation in the Northern Ireland was in the residential division (home). The implication is that research should be conducted among men and women to find out the pattern of the abuse among the populace. Thus, implies that government should sponsor health educators to sensitize the public against domestic abuse of different kinds.

The results showed that there was significant difference ($p=.000 < .05$) in the pattern of elder abuse according to temporal emotional pattern (Table 6). This was expected and not surprising because (Follingstad, 2000; Gilliland and Picado, 2000) reported that generally among victims who were still living with their perpetrators, threat of life, degrading and humiliation are commonly seen.

Depression is also common, as victims are made to feel for provoking the abuse and are constantly subjected to criticism.

The results showed that there was significant difference ($p=.000 <.05$) in the patterns of elder abuse according to temporal sexual pattern (Table 7) was expected and not surprising because Foley (2009) observed that increased in crimes like arson, assault, homicide and rape have taken a temporal pattern in U.S, in which disbursement are focused at the beginning of monthly welfare payment cycles and not in jurisdictions in which disbursements are relatively more staggered. The findings indicate that welfare beneficiaries consume welfare related income quickly and then attempt to supplement it with criminal income at the public places.

The results showed that there was significant difference ($p=.000 <.05$) in the pattern of elder abuse according to spatial physical pattern (Table 8) was expected and not surprising because Mikala (2011) reported that in Lagos and Oyo state of Nigeria 40 percent of women interviewed on abuse accepted that they had been victims of abuses in their family homes that included physical, sexual and emotional abuses. Also, Lysaght and Besten (2010) asserted that the tendency of abuse and segregation in the Northern Ireland was in the residential division (home). The implication is that research should be conducted among men and women to find out the pattern of the abuse among the populace. Thus, implies that government should sponsor health educators to sensitize the public against domestic abuse of different kinds.

The results showed that there was significant difference ($p=.000 <.05$) in the pattern of elder abuse according to spatial emotional pattern (Table 9) was expected and not surprising because Follingstad (2002) affirmed that emotional or psychological elder abuse may encompass threatening the victim that he or she will be killed if he or she ever leaves the relationship, public humiliation and on streets at different periods of the day. This was not surprising since man does not exist in isolation, thus it is the desire of everyone to be part of one's social environment. The findings discredit the Ageing and Development (2000) assertion that the society and the ageing individual naturally serve many of their relations. This is most especially true of the elderly in Okpofe where a person is mostly valued based on the extent of social integration than anything else. Denial of freedom of expression which creates an excellent avenue for people particularly the aged to prove and assert their worth, verbal aggression/castigation, and regarding the elderly as disoriented and confused are forms of emotional abuse that could easily be meted to an elderly person quietly without attracting the attention of neighbours and outsiders (ACADV, 2010). The findings conform with NPC (2007) assertion that disparaging and degrading term or expressions such as "puppucy", "Mummcy", "Kaka", "Dada" and sometimes a more abusive word as witch or wizard are known to be used by the youths and middle aged to address the elderly in Okpofe at home, public and on the street.

The results showed that there was significant difference ($p=.000 <.05$) in the pattern of elder abuse according spatial economic pattern (Table 10) was

expected and not surprising because Okoye (2003) pointed out inadequate and delayed pensions was also perceived as an economic elder abuse because they saw pension as a right, thus, delay in its payment and failure to upgrade the amount paid in line with the ever escalating price-index of consumer goods and service naturally evoke in the elderly a feeling that the government neglects, exploits them in the public service and compulsory retirement from financially gainful employment. The finding, however, conforms to the disengagement theory of Cumming and Henry (1961), which insists that the society forces the elderly into involuntary and painful withdrawal from paid labour force and meaningful social relationships to ensure societal stability.

Conclusions

On the basis of the major findings and discussions, the following conclusions were drawn:

Elders of Okpofe experienced physical, emotional, sexual and economic abuses. Temporal physical, emotional and sexual abuse occurred in the morning, afternoon and evening. Spatial physical, emotional and economic abuses occurred at home, meetings, market and political rallies.

There were significant differences in the temporal pattern of elder physical, emotional and sexual abuses.

There were significant differences in spatial pattern of elder physical, emotional and economic abuses.

Recommendations

Based on the research findings and conclusions drawn, the following recommendations are made.

1. Elder abuse particularly among Okpofe should be prohibited by law, establishing it as a criminal offence punishable under the law.
2. The social workers, voluntary agencies, the mass media and concern individuals should be used to disseminate information regarding the abuse and its consequences of the elder.
3. All the patterns of abuse should be reported, so as to give hope and protection to the elderly in general.
4. Economic exploitation of the elderly should be stopped; the government should establish meaningful and realizable social welfare services, social security and pension packages that should be paid promptly to foster economic independence in the elderly.

References

- Ageing & Development (2000). Witchcraft: A violence threat. USA: *Ageing*, 20(1), 41-47.
- Ajomale, O. (2007). Ageing in Nigeria-Current state, social and economic implications. African gerontological society, ages international. *Sociology of Ageing*, 6(2) 12-17.

- Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence. (2010). *Domestic abuse*. Retrieved April 24, 2010 from <http://www.azeadv.org>
- Barnet, G. (1994). *Elder Abuse: Concepts, Theories and Interventions*. London: Chapman and Hall.
- Barnet, O. (2001). Why battery women do not leave, part 2. External inhibiting factors. Social support and internal inhibiting factors. *Trauma, Violence, and Abuse* 2:3-35. Accessed on 24 /4/2010 from doi:10.1177/152438001002001001.
- Cowie, A. P., (Ed.). (1990). *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Follingstand, D. (2000). Defining psychological abuse of husbands towards wives: Contexts, behaviors, and typologies. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 15(720), 745.
- Gilliland, N. & Picado, E.L. (2000). Disciplinary approach to aging, vol 3.
- Gorman, G.& Peterson, T. (1999). Elder abuse some African Americans Views Interpersonal Violence in England: *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. 14 (9),915-940
- Graftstorm, M, Nordberg A, & Winblad, B. (1994). Abuse is in the eye of the beholder. *Scandinavian Journal of Social Medicine*, 21 (247) 255.
- Holmstrom, K. C. (1994). *Quantitative methods in aging research*. London: Sage.
- Hornby, A. S. (2005). *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*. (7th ed.). New York: U.S.A: Oxford University Press.
- Houghton, E. A. (2007). *Dependence, Power, and Violation Gender issues in abuse of elderly people by formal careers*. Buckingham: Open University Press.
- Jones, R. H. (1997). The American college of obstetricians and gynecologists: A decade of responding to violence against women. *International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics* 58 (1): 43-50. Accessed on 5/7/2010 from doi:10.1016/S0020-7292(97)02863-4. PMID 9253665.
- Kinsella, K. & Velkoff, V. (2001). *An Ageing World*. U. S. Census Bureau series P95/01-1 Government Printing Office, Washington DC:
- Macionis, J. J. (2009). *Social Problems*. (3rd ed.). New Jersey: Pearson Education. Inc.
- Magnusson, C. D. (2000). *Aging, concepts and controversies*. Lagos: Thousand Oaks, Pine Forge Press.
- National Academy of Sciences- NAS (2009). *Science, Evolution, and Creationism*: Abrochure on the book of the same title. NAS, USA.
- National Elder Abuse Incidence Study-NEAIS Final Report (2009). Prepared for the Administration for Children and Families and The Administration on Aging in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services by The National Center on Elder Abuse at *The American Public Human Services Association in Collaboration with Westat, Inc. (Formerly the American Press)*.
- National Population Commission (2006). Population Census of the Federal Republic of Nigeria: *Preliminary Report United Nations Population Division* (2005).
- Nwana, O. C. (2000). Introduction to educational Research. Ibadan: Thomas Nelson, Heineman Educational Publisher
- Office of Management & Budget (OMB) (2003). *Building NO. 03-04: Revised definitions of metropolitan statistical areas, new definitions of metropolitan statistical areas and combined statistical areas, and guidance*

- on use of statistical definitions of these areas. Accessed, Jan, 2009, from <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/bulletins/bo3-04.html>.
- Pillemer, K. A. (1988). Risk factors in elder abuse: results from a case-control study. In: K. A. Pillemer, & R. S. Wolf, (eds). *Elder abuse: conflict in the family*. House. 239-264.
- Profile of Older American (2009). *Administration for Community Living*
- Pridemore, W. A., Andreward, I. & Spivak M. A. (2003). *Patterns of Suicide mortality in Russia*.
- Schwartz, E. (2003). *The chambers Dictionary*. Great Britain: Chambers Harry Publishers.
- Tatara, T. C. (1993). *Elder abuse. Questions and answers*. Washington, D.C: National centre on Elder Abuse.
- Tjaden, P. & Thoennes, N. (2000). Full report of the prevalence, incidence, and consequences of violence against women: *Findings from the national violence against women survey*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. Publication No. NCJ183781.
- United Nations Population Division (2002). *World Youth Report*. Young People's Transition to adulthood: progress and challenges. New York: United Nations.
- Vitanza, S. V. (1995). Distress and symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder in abused women. *Violence and Victims*. 10 (1): 23-34. PMID 8555116.
- WHO (2002). Active Ageing. Geneva: *A growing phenomenon*. The Forum, 18 (1), 1, 16-18, version.
- Wikipedia.answer.com. (2008). *Demographic variables*. Retrieved on 17th/10/2010. <http://wiki.answers.com/demographics>.
- Yu, H. (2007). *Spatio-temporal GIS Design for Exploring*. Interactions of Human Activities.