

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 examined Predictors of Parental Child Neglect of Age and Parity in Bauchi State, Nigeria. To achieve these purpose two research objectives were posed with two corresponding research questions and one null hypotheses was postulated to guide 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 1549 secondary school students was drawn from the population using a multi-stage sampling procedure using appropriate techniques was used. Instrument used for this study was designed by the researcher and subjected for validation by five experts from the Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education, Psychology, and Science Education all from University of Nigeria, Nsukka. The cronbach Alpha method of reliability index of was .88. Research questions were answered using multiple-regression analysis. The ANOVA statistic was used to test hypothesis at .05 level of significance. The findings reveal that the relationship between age of parents and child neglect was very low (overall $r = 0.118$, $P = 0.003$) while Fathers' age and PCN ($r = 0.125$, $P = .004$), mother age and PCN ($r = 0.103$, $P = 0.009$) was very low, father age and - ECN ($r = 0.101$, $P = 0.008$), and mother age and ECN ($r = 0.111$, $P = 0.000$). Fathers' age (P -value = .000) and mothers' age (P -value = .001) were significant predictors of medical child neglect. 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. The Bauchi State Ministry of Education in collaboration with Ministry of Youth and Sport, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and Ministry of 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.

Keywords: *Parental Predictors, 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 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. For example In Bauchi State, evidence showed 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 is evidence 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 one aspect of the Act. Child by care giver, parents or any person has trusted relationship.

Child neglect is inability to provide basic of the child by care giver, parents and any person in a trusted relationship. Neglect occurs when a caregivers fails to provide basic needs such as adequate food, sleep, safety, supervision clothing, or medical treatment. National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children-NSPCC (2014)viewed it as 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. This study refers to child neglect as used here is the failure of parent or caregiver to provide for the child's basic needs such as clothing, medical care, love, 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.

Neglect has been classified into four different forms, This include physical, emotional, educational and medical (USDHHS, 2013). Child neglect is categorized into four forms, namely: physical, emotional, educational and medical.

Neglected children are 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 ingestion of 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) Literature indicates that children are often neglected at home, school and other settings by parents and other caregivers. This neglect would emanate from a number of factors called predictors.

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. In this study, 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, socioeconomic status (income, occupation) and residential location. This study investigated of attributes age and parity of parents in relation to child neglect.

Age varies with individuals. Lange (2008) reported that parents were less likely to yell if they are older, thus age might be a predicting factor. Malik (2010),found that there was no significant relationship between socioeconomic class and use of physical abuse against children in Paskistini family. This may be common among parents with many children who may not be able to carter for.

Parity has to do with number of deliveries or childbirth a woman had. 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 problem, than older women in their first pregnancies (*primigravidae*). Sadeghi et al. (1998) added that high parity is also considered to be one of the most important factors leading to child abuse and neglect. Parity is the number of children in a family. The larger the family the more the parent's responsibility. Malik(2010) posited that neglect is related to the family size (number of children in a family). Continue to be a effect of belonging to a large family on child abuse continue to be subject of investigation. It is 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 abuse 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 the greater the number of children in a family, the more likely the parents, especially, mothers feel frustrated and overwhelmed that may lead to child abuse. It 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. The smaller the family the better for the family to be managed. However, this study examined parity if it is a potential variable for predicting child neglect by parents among secondary school students in Bauchi State. There are factors to consider in relation to perpetration of child neglect by parents.

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. Parent in this study are people who (i.e., biological or non-biological) take care of children who are of secondary school age in Bauchi State. Parent may not be biological related

to their children. Adoptive parents are those who nurture and raise the offspring of biological parents, but can take care of children and protect them from child neglect.

UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO, 2012) defined 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 this study, a child is any person in primary and secondary schools in the area of study.

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 include: No Nigerian child shall be subjected to physical, mental, emotional injury, abuse, neglect, maltreatment, torture, inhuman or degrading punishment, attacks on their honor or reputation. Every Nigerian child is entitled to rest, leisure and enjoyment of the best attainable state of physical, mental and spiritual health. The act provides for medical and health care, prohibited betrothal and early marriage, tattoos or marks as well as female genital mutilation 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 children to hawk, farm for longer period of the day while girls are given out for 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 (meaning boko haram) and other unacceptable act by the society. They also faced 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 acceptable ways of instilling discipline in children. Literature has also revealed that there is child abuse and neglect in Nigeria including Bauchi State. However, what predicts this was uncertain as the question then arose if parity and age were capable of predicting child neglect by parents and child care givers in Bauchi state. One hypothesis was formulated to guide the study. Thus Age and parity were not significant predictor of child neglect

Method

The study employed the correlational research design. Gall, Gall and Borg (2007) defined correlational research design as investigation that seeks to discover the direction and magnitude of the relationship among variables through the use of correlational statistics. The use of the design are highly useful for studying problems in education and in other sciences, enable researchers to analyze the relationship among large number of variables in a single study and it provide information concerning the degree of the relationship between the variables being studied. This design has successfully been utilized by Budd, Holdsworth, and Hoganbruen (2006) to examine whether parenting variables (childrearing beliefs, quality of parent-child interactions, and child abuse risk) and personal adjustment variables (emotional distress and social support) at initial assessment predicted parenting stress. This suggests success in its application in the present study.

The population for the study consisted of public and private secondary school students in Bauchi State which was 550,421 (public = 356391; private = 193830) (Bauchi State Annual School Census/ Report, 2013/2014).

The sample size for this study consisted of one thousand five hundred and forty nine (1,549) public and private secondary school students in Bauchi State, Nigeria and 20 experts from Departments Psychology, Human Kinetics and Health Education, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. The sample size for the study was computed using Bennett et al. (1991) and Sarnda, and Swensson (2003) sample size determination formula resulted in sample of 1549 secondary schools students. of Predictors of Child Abuse and Neglect Questionnaire was the instrument for data collection questionnaire. The questionnaire consisted of consisted of the respondent's on neglect and parity of parents. The items in were assigned "Always (AL), Sometimes (ST), Occasionally (OC) and Never (NE)" which were weighted as 4,3,2 and one respectively. Real limits of numbers were used to answer the research questions as follows.

Reliability of the instrument

To determine the reliability of the instrument split half method was used. Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias (2006) explained split half as a method of assessing the reliability of an instrument by dividing the items into two equal parts and correlating the scores in one part with scores in the other. For this study, twenty (20) copies of questionnaire were administered on twenty (20) respondents in Government Secondary School Dengi, Kanam LGA Plateau State who were not included in the study but who have the same characteristics (religion, language) with the study population. The reason for using split half was to estimate the internal consistency (Gall, & Borg, 2007). Spearman Brown was applied to make it a complete test. The reliability of the instrument for section B was established through the use of Cronbach Alpha technique, since the items of the instrument were polychotomously scored (Nwogu, 2006). The was given to 5 experts in Health and Physical Education Department University of Nigeria. The result of the reliability was .88 therefore the instrument was adjudged reliable and suitable for this study.

In order to gain access to the respondents, a letter of introduction was obtained from the Head, Department of Health and Physical Education, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, and was presented to the respective school principals who introduced the researcher to the heads of department, and class teachers. The researcher administered (1,549) copies of the questionnaire to the respondents with the help of teachers. The teachers were briefed on the modalities of completing the instrument. The researcher and the teachers supervised the respondents to ensure that there was no exchange of ideas during the process of completing the questionnaire. The completed 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. One hundred and thirty two were not properly filled and therefore were discarded.

Research questions were analyzed using multiple regression. In this regard, .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. The hypothesis was tested using ANOVA statistics at .05 level of significance.

Results

Table 1:

Relationship Between Age of Parents and Child Neglect (n =1417)

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 age and PCN ($r = 0.103$, $P = 0.009$); father age and emotional child neglect- ECN ($r = 0.101$, $P = 0.008$), and mother 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 were 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	
3	Good shelter	-.044	.100	
4	Enough food	.000	.994	
5	Security	-.003	.915	
6	Good supervision at home	-.008	.759	
7	Shoes	.029	.283	
8	Personal hygiene	-.008	.775	
	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 n 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 parent's 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 parent's parity and PCN. The Table further shows the correlation and the corresponding P – values for parent's parity and ECN ($r = 0.045$; $P = 1.42$), parent's parity and EdCN ($r = 0.011$; $P = 0.545$) and parent's 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 of ($r = 0.029$ worth $P = 0.337$) which falls between .01 - .19 which indicates a very low relationship between parent's parity and child neglect.

Table 3

Summary of Multiple Regression Analysis Testing the Null Hypothesis that are not Significant Predictors of Child Neglect.

Model	Summary		Test for Coefficients				Decision
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	.000	Rejected
			Mother's age	.559	3.300	.001	Rejected
			Parity	.264	1.535	.125	Accepted

Table 3 reveals that R^2 is equal to .033. This implies that the demographic variables (age, marital status, level of education, religion, location, occupation and parity) explained medical child neglect by 3.3%. The Table further reveals F-cal is 6.249 with P – value = .000 which is less than .05 level of significance, implying that the model is adequate and can be used to predict child abuse. Furthermore, data in the Table show that the P-value for parents parity (.125) was greater than .05 level of significance. This implies that parents parity was not significant predictors of child neglect. On the other hand, the P-values for fathers' age (.000) and mothers' age (.001) were less than .05 level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected. This implies that fathers' age and mothers' age were significant predictors of child neglect by parents in Bauchi State. Fathers' age and mothers' age can be used to predict MCN in Bauchi State.

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 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 for their children becomes very important. This finding agrees with that of Epstein (2001) who found that the relationship of parents' age and child neglect was very low. The Table further shows 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 shows that the relationship between mother's age and physical child neglect was very low. This finding was not surprising because it agrees with that of Allen (2008) who noted that age of mother and physical child neglect was very low.

Furthermore, the finding showed that the relationship between father's age and emotional child neglect was very low. This finding was expected and because ideally fathers are the head of the family who are expected to provide a conducive environment for children to promote social and emotional health. This finding is 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 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. In Bauchi State, culture and beliefs determine mothers' educational attainment, some mothers who are opportune to attained school assist greatly in providing educational needs of their children. This finding agrees with that of NSPCC (2012) which reported that mothers who are 35 years of ages exhibited very low relationship with their children's education. The finding also shows that the relationship between father's and mother's age and medical child neglect was very low. This finding was expected and because the finding is 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 agrees with that of Roberts, Izuka, and Ekanem and Mabogunje (2013) who reported that proportion of children who had received routine immunization was 99.7%, for those whose parent's age was from 50 years and above. This finding also agrees with their 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 University Teaching Hospital.

The finding in Table 2 showed that the generally the relationship between parents' parity and child neglect was very low. This finding was not surprising because religion and cultural beliefs in Bauchi State allow men to marry many wives and have children merely, This finding is in line with that of Ogundele and Ojo (2007) who found that large family size contribute 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 relationship between parent's parity and physical child neglect was very low. This finding contradicts with that of Sadeghi et al. (1998) who submitted that high parity is considered as one of the most important factors leading to physical child abuse in the family. The finding of very low relationship between parent's parity and emotional child neglect was not surprising but expected because Begle, Dumas and Hanson (2010) noted that few number of children in the home had very low association with emotional child neglect.

The finding of very low relationship between parent's parity and educational child neglect was not surprising expected. Ideally, people respect this adage which says "if you say education is hard you can try ignorance". This means that educated parents are aware of what consequences of not practicing the right type of parity for a family could cause. This finding disagrees with that of Bolanle et al. (2005) who reported that there was high relationship between increasing number of children in the family and parent's education and child neglect. The finding further showed that the relationship between parent's parity and medical child neglect was very low. The finding was not surprising but expected. This is 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.

Finding in Table 3 showed that father's age was significant predictor of medical child neglect. The finding was expected and therefore not surprising because National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System – NCANDS (2005) found 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) which noted that father's age significantly predicted medical child neglect. Data in the Table also revealed that

mother's age was significant predictor of medical child neglect. The finding was not surprising because the finding agrees with that of Jenny (2007) who found that mother's age was adequate for predicting medical child neglect. These imply fathers' age and mothers' age are capable of predicting child medical neglect in Bauchi State.

Implication of the Study

The finding may have the following implications on the secondary school child in Bauchi State as follows:

1. 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 mount seminars, workshops and health education, it is then, perpetuation of child abuse and neglect will be reduced.
2. The findings on child neglect indicated that it is sometimes perpetuated, which have consequences on the rights of children. However, need for designing programme through seminar, workshops, home visits by social welfare workers and health educators and awareness to help reduce the neglect is necessary.

Conclusions

Based on the findings and the discussion of the study, the following conclusions were made

1. The relationship between parents' age and parity and child neglect were very low
2. Fathers' age; and mothers' age were significant predictors of child neglect.

Recommendations

Based on the finding of the present study, the discussions, and conclusions thereof, 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 trainers workshops by experts to train principals, Health and Physical Educators, This will help them to detect children who are at potentially at risk; and it will help to guide student on the right moral instruction; and Guidance Counsellors, will be equipped with skill in handling issues that concerns child neglect.
2. The Bauchi State Ministry of Education in collaboration with Ministry of Youth and Sport, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and Ministry of 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.

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