ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC -PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IN REDUCTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN CROSS RIVER STATE

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Abstract

The study was centered on assessing public-private partnership in reduction of violence against children in Cross River State. To achieve this purpose two research questions were raised for the study. Review of literature was carried out empirically and theatrically according to the sub variables of the study. The research design adopted for this study was a descriptive survey research design. Descriptive research design is a design that is used to describe or explain the characteristics of the respondents that is studies in an accurate information. It is a design where information that is obtained can be used to explain in detail the behavior of the set of respondents in the study. Data is often collected using questionnaires, observation, interview, case study among others. A quota and purposive sampling technique were adopted to selected a total 584 staff selected from eight agencies which was 10% of the total number of staff. A questionnaire titled "Assessment of Violence Reduction Questionnaire (AVRQ) was used for data collection. The questionnaire was validated and data collected by the researcher with the help of trained research assistants. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics and the result showed that on average responses, 36.4% of the responses agreed that violence reduction through public education has been carried out, while 63.6% of the responses disagreed that violence among children have been reduced through the public education. Also that agencies in-charge of child reinforcement right has not helped in reducing the issues associated with the child abuseBased on the findings of the study, it was recommended that public education as a strategy for reducing violence among Upper Basic Social Studies students should be intensified and that agencies involved in the enforcement of the child right like the judicial system and police should intensify their effort to ensure that cases abuses on the school children are dealt with according to the weight of the law.

Keyword: Assessment , Public-Private Partnership, Violence

Introduction

The child is an essential member of the society; imbued with great abilities and potentials that can help in the development of the society. The child has the potentials to enhance the continuity of the society by acquiring the skills, values, norms and traditions that are cherished by the society. This is because as days are rolling by, adults grow older and the only member that can ensure the continuity of societal values, create a peaceful world for co-existence, respect human lives and sanity, promotes religious tolerance, is the child. The child's experiences at the childhood stage plays a crucial role in his/her later life. However, where there is no experience of peace, love, affection in the early development of the child, it becomes difficult to be assured of the survival of the society.

The child therefore, constitutes an important segment of the society and should be treated with care and love. He/she is a legal member of the society and must enjoy the right and other privileges as any other being does in the society. According to the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child, (UNCRC, 1990), the child has the right to life, survival and development, right to freedom of association in conformity with the law and subject to necessary guidance and direction of parents or guardian, right to freedom of thought conscience and religion which parents or guardians shall provide guidance where necessary, right to private and family life, right to freedom of movement subject to parental control, right to freedom from discrimination by reason of place of origin, religion or opinion, right to dignity not to be subjected to torture or inhuman degrading treatment or punishment, right to parental care protection and maintenance according to their means, right to universal primary education and many others. Therefore, violence against children is a fundamental human right abuse and should not be tolerated in the society. Unfortunately, every year, millions of children in Nigeria and Cross River State in particular, suffer physical, emotional, social and sexual violence as reported by the Technical Working Group on Violence Against Children (TWGVA), (End Violence Against Children 2016).

A multi sectoral survey on violence against children between 2014-2016 identified prominently three types of violence; (a) physical violence, (b) sexual violence and (c) emotional violence.

Physical violence ranges from fatal to non-fatal, which includes all corporal punishment, all forms of torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment. It also includes physical bullying and hazing by

adults or other children as well as harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation or cutting, amputations, binding, and degrading initiation rites. While, sexual violence is another level of violence faced by children and this includes the inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful or psychologically harmful sexual activity including unwanted comments and advances, such as commercial sexual exploitation, child prostitution, sexual slavery, sexual prostitution in child trafficking for purpose of sexual exploitation, and inducement or coercion or arrangement of a child into forced early marriage. However, emotional Violence according to United States Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS, 2007) stated that though this does not leave physical scars, it can have a huge impact on the child's confidence and self-esteem because it does not give equal importance about feeling and experience.

The presence of these forms of violence in the society leaves one in continual search for the causes of these problems. World Health Assembly Resolution(2014), identified a lot of factors which include being unwanted, or failing to fulfill the expectations of parents or having special needs, crying persistently or having abnormal physical features.

The effect of this problem is that violence causes stress that is associated with disruption in early brain development. Extreme stress can impair the development of the nervous and immune systems. The United Nations International Children Fund (UNICEF, 2015) opined that in every five minutes, a child dies as a result of violence, in every year at least one billion children are exposed to violence, four out of five children are subjected to some form of violent discipline in their homes. Consequently, as adults, maltreated children are at increased risk of behavioral, physical and mental health problems such as perpetrating or being a victim of violence , depression , smoking , obesity , high-risk sexual behaviors , unintended pregnancy, alcohol and drug misuse. Beyond the health and social consequences of child maltreatment, there is an economic impact, including costs of hospitalization, mental health treatment, child welfare, and longer-term health costs.

Government and Non-Governmental Agencies (NGO's) have all made attempts to reduce and if possible, eliminate all forms of violence among children. The Cross River State Ministry of Women Affairs, The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Social Welfare, the Nigeria police, Ministry of Justice, National Bureau for Statistics, Nigeria Prison service, National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, as well as the Private sectors like the Child Protection Network, legal aid providers, religious groups and civil society are in a campaign to prevent and strengthen response to end violence against children. The Cross River State Government has launched a priority action plan with relevant stakeholders such as the Media, Child Protection Workers and Educationists to ensure that these issue of violence against children is addressed Presently, groups of children are often found on the streets of Calabar particularly around bus stops, Automated Teller Machines (A.T.M) stations, markets, fast food joints, and even hotels. Most of these children have ended up being labeled as witches, armed robbers, some have resorted to prostitutions, some picked up for rituals, while others have resorted to home care affinities and menial jobs. Many of them are homeless and are found sleeping in open spaces as well as filling stations. It has therefore become necessary that these agencies both private and public be assessed to determine the extent to which they are contributing to violence reduction among school children. The researcher is then asking, what should be done to solve this problem? Could assessment of public and private agencies contribution to violence reduction among school children in Cross River using the following strategies(public education, enforcement of child right, counseling services, service provision measures and coordinated community response) bring violence to the barest minimum? It is in the attempt to provide answers to these questions that this research effort is meant.

Public and Private agencies is a conceptual arrangement which is found between public and private sectors playing a key role in the development, financing, overseeing and operation of facility or service. Public and private resources are pooled together and responsibilities divided so that the partners' effort's are complementary, It is an attractive development globally to overcome the challenges for sustainability. The private sector in such an understanding usually make a substantial cash or equity investment in the project and the public sector gain access to new revenue or service delivery capacity and enactment of public policies. Okoga (2001), noted that, the public and private agencies relate to perceptions and practices affecting public and private relationships in ensuring national/global health, development and wellbeing of the society.

The rationale for these, is largely due to the fact that the government alone even at the best of times cannot afford to provide all mechanism needed to fight violence among school children. Helping Nigerian children will require building strategies of concern, cooperative alliances that include government involving community associations, the corporate sector, the educational establishment, religious groups, parents groups, everyone who has a stake in the future of our children clearly; that is, every Nigeria. To achieve this, different strategies may be relevant in curbing this child menace. In this study, the following strategies, namely public education, enforcement of child right, counseling services, service provision measures and coordinated community response, was examined to ascertain if they could be used to reduce or stop violence among Upper Basic Social Studies Students in the state.

Statement of the problem

There is growing interest among social workers, social scientist , non-government organizations and civil societies over the current range in child violence experience in Nigeria. It is obvious that child violence has grown geometrically over the last decades. Children are exposed to a lot of torture, humiliation, rape. name calling, insulting and dissatisfaction with physiological needs abandonment, neglect, and lack of care in our communities. Most of these children are found on the street, some are hawking while other are in school and a lot of them currently in capital of Cross River State used for a lot of obnoxious purposes. This situationhave become so worrisome in that most of the children are found dead on streets without anybody to even gather their corps. Some have been impregnated by unknown men and others are heavily brutalized by cultist. The worst scenario is that these children have turned in to something else in a bid to get what to survive with. A lot of them have been convicted for crimes and more are susceptible criminality as they lack the source of livelihood to be sustained with. Government and non-governmental efforts, over time have not yielded the right result. The researcher is asking could public public-private collaboration (PPC) in the form of public education and enforcement of child right reduce the rate of violence against the child? It was in a bid to answer this question that this study was carried out.

Literature review

Shamsideen and Ajayi (2015), carried out a study on Curbing violence among school children through Adult Education Programmes in Lagos State, Nigeria. It was noted that Children constitute a significant proportion of any nation's population and they are the inheritors of the society. In Nigeria, children hold a great thrust for the future. The paper examined various methods by adult educators in curbing violence among children through various adult education programmes such as literacy education, fundamental education etc. The study was a survey designed to investigate causes, effects and ways of curbing violence among children in Nigeria. Three research questions were formulated and tested for the study. A total of 200 respondents comprising of both teachers and students were selected from 10 public junior secondary schools in Ikeja Local Government Area of Lagos State. An instrument titled "Curbing Violence among Children" was used to collect data. Data were analyzed using frequency tables and percentages. The result revealed that children's violence is mostly caused by family background, peer influence, exposure to pornographic films, emotional instability and poor child upbringing. Opportunity for sports and other recreational activities, games, debate, excursions, club activities, public education,   visitation to schools by parents, establishment of Guidance and Counselling units are some of the strategies suggested for curbing violence among children in the state.

Another study on reducing violence among school children through the provision of social services in Tanzania was done by Constance (2013). The study was guided by three research questions and three hypotheses. Literature was reviewed according the variables of the study. The study adopted a descriptive survey design with a purposive sampling technique to select a total of 298 respondents. A questionnaire titled reducing Violence among children through social services scale (RVACSSS) was used for data collection. The data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics of simple percentage and bar graphs. The result showed that provision of education, mass media and enforcement of child right act were responded high to be variables in reducing violence among children.

Experiencing or witnessing violence in public education institutions can have lasting consequences for children. Children exposed to violence are more likely to hold gender inequitable views in adulthood and to accept violence either as a victim or perpetrator in future relationships. Most incidence of violence in schools go unreported. Usta (2011) again observed that, given the authoritarian structure of schools in the region, children fear complaining about violence committed by teachers, staff and older peers. For children who face violence in educational settings, the promise and pleasure of learning and discovery can quickly turn into pain, trauma and fear. Such experiences not only ruin their present but also threaten their future, as those who experience violence in childhood are more likely to become perpetrators of violence as adults.

In a related study on strategies for curbing violence against children in Lagos state, Ali, Dada, Isiaka, and Salmon (2014), carried out a research. The study adopted a survey research design. The population covers ministries, parastatals who were regarded as stakeholders of the school system. The sample size of ninety (90) respondents was randomly selected across the groups of administrators, in government ministries and parastatals. The data collected by structured questionnaires were analyzed using descriptive statistics, while analysis of variance (ANOVA) and t-test of independent samples were employed as statistical tools to test the four hypotheses. The findings of this study revealed that various acts of violence were prevalent against children . It was also gathered that several factors like the poor knowledge of child development, lack of education, child sex factors, poor legislation implementation contributed greatly to the acts of violence against children. It was also found that reduction strategies employed by various government are not effective and as a result, the study recommended among other things that a wholesome approach to manage child violence should be adopted by the administrators and other stakeholders of the welfare of the child.

Children in education settings in most countries experience and witness various forms of violence. Corporal punishment is the most widely reported form of violence among children (VAC) in education settings. Physical violence, as well as sexual violence, abuse and harassment, are also prevalent in school settings across the region. At the psychological and emotional level, one of the most common forms of violence experienced by school children is being locked up in toilet, bullying etc. With increased access to the Internet and mobile phone technologies, many children, especially young adolescents, have become vulnerable to a relatively new phenomenon called 'cyber bullying'. Some sources indicate that children in religious schools are not always safe from violence either, (Balding, Regis, Wise, Bish and Muirden 1996).

Due to lack of awareness certain forms of violence are widely accepted in the region as part of 'normal' life. In education settings, violence is often tolerated as a means to enforce discipline or just another element of the rough and tumble of school life. Corporal punishment and other humiliating acts against children are always from teachers and school staff, and even peers, to establish their authority and power. In some cases, teachers and staff, as well as senior students, have been found to abuse their authority over children in the form of sexual coercion. Accepting attitudes towards violence, combined with the authoritarian structure of schools, even counselors will not reveal VAC in education settings thereby allow such acts to often go unreported (Nabeel,2011).

Nabeel (2011), further stated that, some forms of violence in education settings are not considered abusive, while others may be tolerated or simply dismissed. Mirsky (2003) cites a study on sexual harassment in Delhi University, India, which showed that female students regarded 'eve-teasing' as a 'milder form of sexual harassment but a violation all the same, male students regarded it as 'light in nature', 'flattering' and 'fun'. The so-called eve teasing was found to be so common that it could be 'screened off with a cultivated sense of indifference. In fact the very term 'eve teasing' misleadingly conveys a spirit of playfulness and light-heartedness hurtful behaviour (e.g., bullying and aggression towards peers). In some cases, perpetrators of sexual coercion may be older students. A study conducted in 12 educational institutions in South Asia found that children considered physically stronger or dominant routinely had sex with weaker or passive children. Such incidents of abuse often go unreported due to children poor knowledge to report such cases and lack of trust and confidence in school structures and fear of being blamed (Frederick, 2008).

In a study on factors promoting child violence in sub African society by Kwame (2007), the survey research design was adopted for the study. A sample of 285 respondents was randomly selected through the stratified random sampling technique for the study. A well validated instrument titled 'Public awareness and violence reduction among school children questionnaire' was used for data collection. The instrument was validated by experts in Measurement and Evaluation. The reliability estimate of the instrument was established through the split-half reliability method. Data were collected personally by the researcher with the help of two research assistants. Data collected were analyzed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis. From the result it was revealed that there is significant correlation between witnessing violence at home and children mental health. Parental level of education has over the years proved to be a factor in child violence experiences. It was recommended that, public awareness will help in curbing child violence.

Children's rights are the human rights of children with particular attention to the rights of special protection care afforded to minors. The 1989 convention on the right of the child (CRC) define a child as any human being below the age of eighteen years. According to the united nation convention of the right of a child (UNCRC) (1990) children's rights includes their rights to life survival and developments, association with both parent, human identity as well as the basic needs physical protection, food, universal state-paid education, health care and criminal laws appropriate for the age and development of the age and development of the child, equal protection of the child's civil rights and freedom from discrimination on the basis of child race, gender, sexual orientation gender identity, national origin, religion, disability, colour, ethnicity or other characteristics.

Interpretation of children's rights ranges from, allowing children the capacity for autonomous action to the enforcement of children being physically, mentally and emotionally free from abuse or violence. As minors by law children do not have autonomy or the right to make decisions on their own for themselves in any known jurisdiction of the world. Instead their adult caregivers, including parents, social worker, teacher and others are vested with that authority, depending on the circumstances (CRSCRL 2009).

According to the law, children have two types of human rights under human right law. They have the same fundamental human rights as adults, although some human rights, such as the rights to marry are dormant, until they are of age, secondly they have special human rights that are necessary to protect them during their minority. Children's rights are defined in numerous ways, including a wide spectrum of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, rights tend to be of two general types, those advocating for children as autonomous persons under the law and those placing a claim on society for protection from harms perpetrated on children because of their dependency. These have been labelled as the right of empowerment and the right to protection. However the United Nations educational guide for children classify the rights outlined in the convention on the rights of a child as the "3P's" Provision, Protection and Participation.

In a study carried out by critical analysis on the violation of children's rights in Tanzania by Omar(2014), the author noted that the first international human rights instrument to address the rights of children (the 1924 Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child), which was adopted by the League of Nations was drafted in 1924 by EglantyneJebb (1876–1928), a social reformer and founder of Save the Children stated that children worldwide experience varied forms human rights violations, exploitation and abuse. They are forced to fight in wars or labour in intolerable conditions; they are sexually abused or subjected to violence as a punishment; they are forced into child marriage or trafficked into exploitative conditions of work; they are needlessly placed in prisons, detention facilities and institutions. This study investigated the forms of children's rights violation with specific reference to Tanzania. This was done by investigating the forms of children's rights violation, the causes of children's rights abuse and analyzing the various measures put in place to protect children from rights violation in Tanzania. This study used secondary data in analyzing the variables. The findings were analyzed through content analysis. The study found that children in Tanzania continue to suffer violence, abuse and exploitation as a result of poverty and common understanding as to who is a child. Poverty has come out as one of the main sources of child exploitation in Tanzania, many children who are involved in prostitution, child labour and many other forms of child abuse come from poor families. Consequently, there are programmes from the collaboration by the government and international actors to protect and save children from various forms of exploitations in Tanzania.

In a similar study, on strategies for reduction of violence among children in South Sudan by Fred, (2010), it was a descriptive study with a small aspect of inferential statistics. The study was guided by three research questions with three hypotheses. A total of 154 respondents were drawn using accidental sampling technique. A questionnaire titled strategies for reduction of violence among children (SRVAC) was used for data collection. Data collected were analysed using simple percentages and population t-test. The findings of the study showed that public education, judicial activities have been potent tools in curbing violence among children.

Purpose of the study

Assessment of Public and Private agencies contribution to violence reduction among Upper Basic Social Studies students in Cross River State. The study specifically sought to determine:

i.   The extent to which public education contribute to violence reduction among Upper Basic Social Studies students.

ii.   The extent to which enforcement of child right contribute to violence reduction among Upper Basic Social Studies students.

Research questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the study;

i.   What is the contribution of public education to violence reduction among Upper Basic Social Studies students?

ii.   How does enforcement of child right contribute to violence reduction among Upper Basic Social Studies students?

Methodology

The research design adopted for this study was a descriptive survey research design. Descriptive research design is a design that is used to describe or explain the characteristics of the respondents that is studies in an accurate information. It is a design where information that is obtained can be used to explain in detail the behavior of the set of respondents in the study. Data is often collected using questionnaires, observation, interview, case study among others. A quota and purposive sampling technique were adopted to selected a total 584 staff selected from eight agencies which was 10% of the total number of staff. A questionnaire titled "Assessment of Violence Reduction Questionnaire (AVRQ) was used for data collection. The questionnaire was validated and data collected by the researcher with the help of trained research assistants. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics and the result is presented below
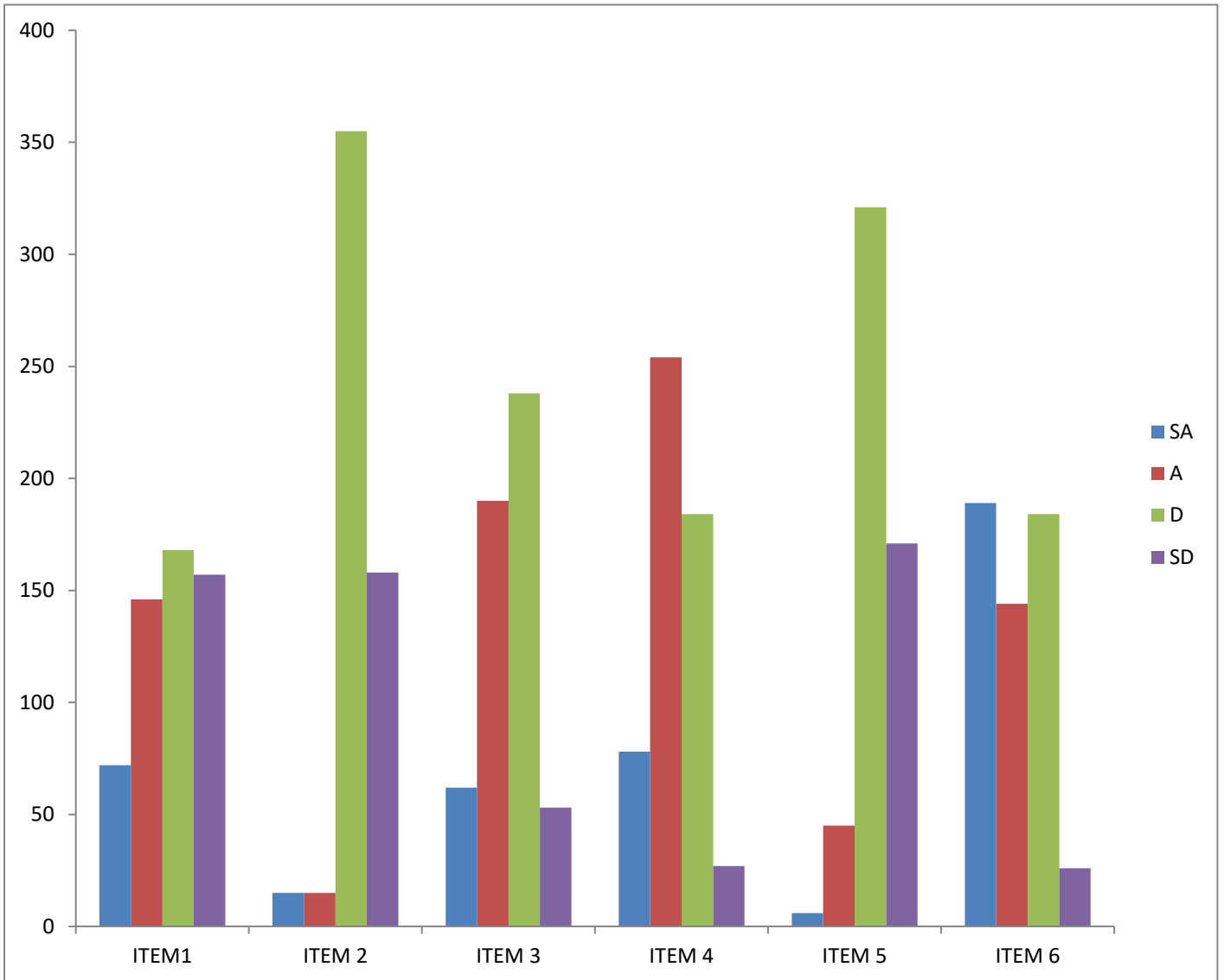
4.2. Presentation of result

Research question one

To what extent does public education help in violence reduction among Upper Basic Social Studies students in Cross River State?. The variable in this question is reduction of violence among children through public education. To answer this research question, simple percentage and bar graphs were used and the result as presented in Table 6 showed that for item 1 which was there has been no sensitization awareness-raising campaigns on combating violence among school children in Cross River State , 72 respondents representing 12.1% strongly agreed to it , 196 respondents representing 25.5% agreed to it, 168 respondents representing130.5% disagreed with the item, while 157 respondents representing 28.5% strongly disagreed with the item. For item 2, mass media tools have been used to advocate for children right protection, 15 respondents,

representing 2.7% strongly agreed, 15 respondents representing 2.7% agreed, 355 respondents representing 64.4% disagreed with the item, while 158 respondents representing 28.5% strongly disagreed with the item for item 3 which was Parent Teachers Association (PTA) have been used to educate parents on the need of protecting children from harm, 62 respondents representing 11.3% strongly agreed, 190 respondents representing 39.5% agreed, 238 respondents representing 43.2% disagreed while 53 respondents representing 9.6% strongly disagreed. For item 4 which was that seminars are often organized by ministries in schools, homes on the relevance of protecting the child from violence, 78 respondents representing 14.2% strongly agreed, 254respondents representing 46.1% agreed, 184 respondents representing 33.4% disagreed while 27 respondents representing 4.9% strongly disagreed with the item. For item 5 which was that government have never made any effort to educate citizens on the need to avoid violence among children. 6 respondents representing 1.1% strongly agreed, 45 respondents representing 8.2% agreed, 321 respondents representing 58.3% disagreed and 171 respondents representing 31.0 strongly disagreed with the item. For item 6 which was that no agency does organize training programme for P.T.A. on positive parenting and the use of positive discipline., 189 respondents representing 34.3% strongly agreed, 144 respondents representing 26.1% agreed, 184 respondents representing 33.4 % disagreed while 26 respondents representing 4.7% strongly disagreed with the statement. On average responses, 36.4% of the responses agreed violence reduction through public education has been carried out while 63.6% of the responses disagreed that violence among children have been reduced through the public education. The result is further presented in Fig 1. The bars with green colour shows the level of disagreement to each of the item by the respondents and it can be pictorially seen that the responses for item 1, 2, 3, 5 shows level of disagreement as the percentage responses is greater than 50% which implied that these activities have not been carried out in relation to curbing violence among Upper Basic Social Studies students.

TABLE 1Simple percentage analysis of the respondent's responses to reduction of violence among Upper Basic Social Studies students through public education

S/No	Items	SA	A	D	SD
1.	There have been no sensitization awareness-raising campaigns on combating violence among Upper Basic Social Studies students in Cross River State.	72 12.1%	146 26.5%	168 30.5%	157 28.5%
2.	Mass media tools are used to advocate for children right protection.	15 2.7%	15 2.7%	355 64.4%	158 28.5%
3.	Parent Teachers Association (PTA) is used to educate parents on the need of protecting children from harm.	62 11.3%	190 34.5%	238 43.2%	53 9.6%
4.	Seminars are often organized by agencies in schools, on the relevance of protecting the child among violence.	78 14.2%	254 46.1%	184 33.4%	27 4.9%
5.	Agencies have never made any effort to educate citizens on the need to avoid violence among children.	6 1.1%	45 8.2%	321 58.3%	171 31.0%
6.	This agency does organize training programmes for P.T.A. on positive parenting and the use of positive discipline.	189 34.3%	144 26.1%	184 33.4%	26 4.7%

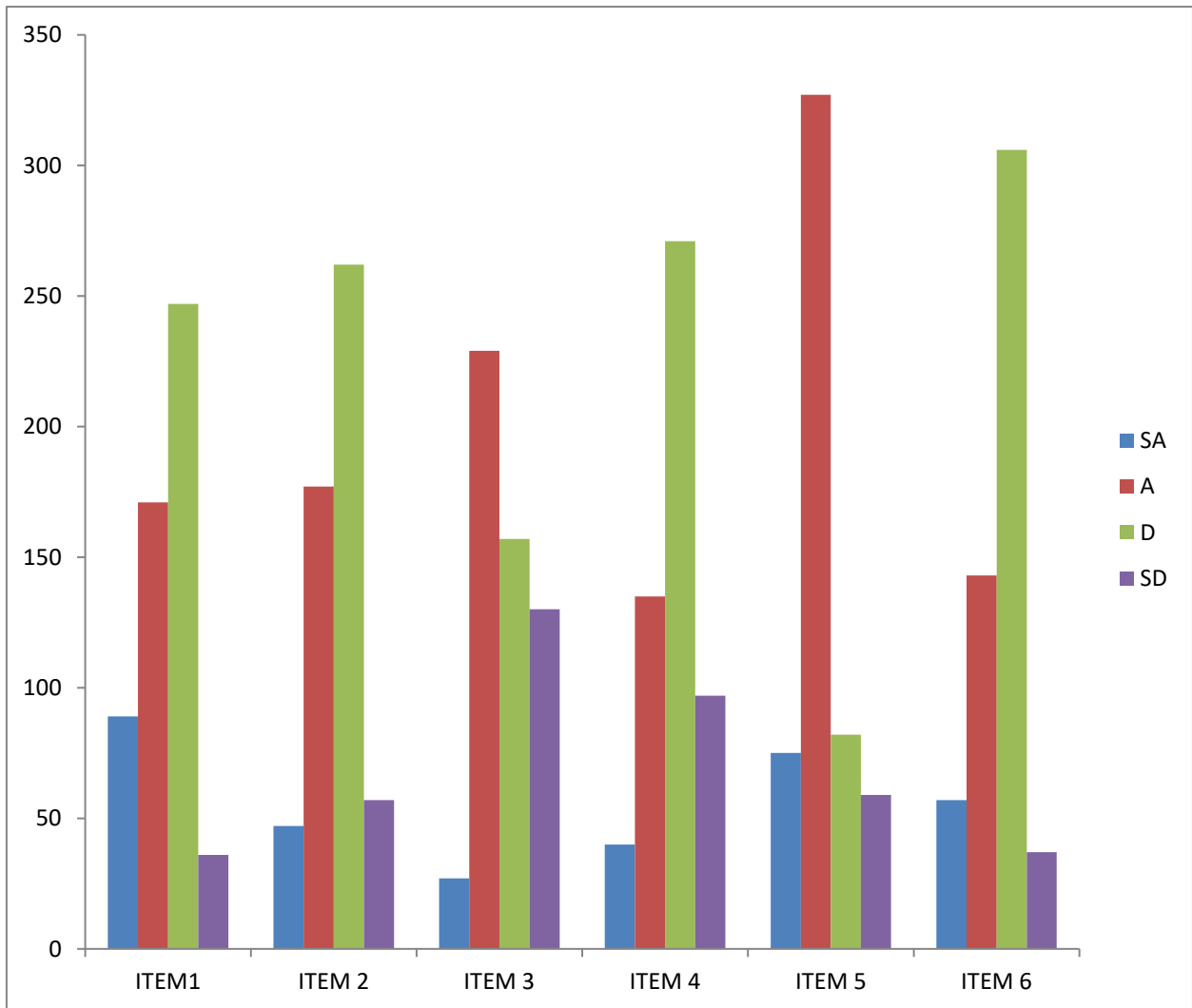**FIG. 1: Bar Graph showing responses to violent reduction among Upper Basic Social Studies students**

Research question two

To what extent does enforcement of child's right help in the reduction of violence among Upper Basic Social Studies students in Cross River State? . The variable in this question is reduction of violence among school children through enforcement of child's right. To answer this research question,, simple percentage and bar graphs were used and the result as presented in Table 7 showed that for item 1 which was that violence among children has been handled adequately by the police., 89 respondents representing 16.2% strongly agreed to it, 171 respondents representing 31.0% agreed to it, 247 respondents representing 44.8% disagreed with the item while 36 respondents representing 6.5% strongly disagreed with the item. For item 2 which was that the judicial system has been effective in dealing with cases of violence among children, 47 respondents representing 8.5% strongly agreed, 177 respondents representing 32.1% agreed, 262 respondents representing 47.5% disagreed with the item while 57 respondents representing 10.3% strongly disagreed with the item . For item 3 which was there had been no case among children that have not been taken seriously by the police in the state , 27 respondents representing 4.9% strongly agreed, 229 respondents representing 41.6% agreed, 157 respondents representing 28.5% disagreed while 130 respondents representing 23.6% strongly disagreed. For item 4 which was that most children are abused and agencies do not do anything about it., 40 respondents representing 7.3% strongly agreed, 135 respondents representing 24.5% agreed, 271 respondents representing 49.2% disagreed while 97 respondents representing 17.6% strongly disagreed with the item. For item 5 which was cases concerning child abuse are mostly not reported for adequate measures to be taken , 75 respondents representing 13.6% strongly agreed, 327 respondents representing 59.3 % agreed, 82 respondents representing 14.9% disagreed and 59 respondents representing 10.7% strongly disagreed with the item. For item 6 which was that Culprits of child violence are made to face the law, 57 respondents representing 10.3% strongly agreed, 143 respondents representing 26.0% agreed, 306 respondents representing 55.5 % disagreed while 37 respondents representing 6.7% strongly disagreed with the statement. On average responses, 45.9% of the responses agreed that violence reduction through enforcement of child's right has been carried out while 54.1 % of the responses disagreed that violence among children have been reduced through enforcement of the child's right. The result is further presented in Fig 2. The graphs colours shows that for item 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, the level of agreement to the items that measures the activities of agencies that enforces children right act is greater than 50% which implies that enforcement of child's right act has been on.

TABLE 2 Simple percentage analysis of the respondent's responses to reduction of violence among Upper Basic Social Studies students through enforcement of child's right

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD
1	Violence among children has been handled adequately by the police.	89	171	247	36
		16.2%	31.0%	44.8%	6.5%
2	The judicial system has been effective in dealing with cases of violence among children	47	177	262	57
		8.5%	32.1%	47.5%	10.3%
3	There has been no case among children that has not been taken seriously by the police in the state.	27	229	157	130
		4.9%	41.6%	28.5%	23.6%
4	Most children are abused and agencies do not do anything about it.	40	135	271	97
		7.3%	24.5%	49.2%	17.6%
5	Cases concerning child abuse are mostly not reported for adequate measures to be taken.	75	327	82	59
		13.6%	59.3%	14.9%	10.7%
6	Culprits of child violence are made to face the law.	57	143	306	37
		10.3%	25.0%	55.5%	6.7%

Fig. 2: Bar Graph showing responses to violent reduction among Upper Basic Social Studies students through enforcement of child right

Discussion of findings

Research question one was aimed at examining the extent to which violence among school children have been reduced through public education. The result showed that on average responses, 36.4% of the responses agreed that violence reduction through public education has been carried out, while 63.6% of the responses disagreed that violence among children have been reduced through the public education. This implied that the utilization of public education have been very poor. This could be since government and non-governmental agencies have not been able to carry out this responsibility the way they ought to. Most agencies believe that the school are equipped and position and to carry out this sensitization process but as shown in the study, they hardly carry out this important responsibilities and this could account for why students are still abused at schools, homes and even community. The teachers are also committed about corporal punishment, and the use of positive discipline. The avenues such as utilization of mass media like the television, radio and billboards have been very poor and this accounts for issues in violence among school children.

The findings of the study were in line with that of UNICEF (2010) on establishing the baseline data on the situation of violence among children in Basic Education in Nigeria. The findings revealed that the existing types of violence in schools are physical, psychological, sexual, gender and health-based violence. The findings showed that public education, mass media and use of judicial system were adjudged to be potent in curbing violence among school children.

4.3.2. Reduction of violence through enforcement of child's right

Research question two was aimed at examining the extent to which violence among school children have been reduced through enforcement of child right. On average responses, 45.9% of the responses agreed that violence reduction through enforcement of child's right has been carried out while 54.1 % of the responses disagreed that violence among children have been reduced through enforcement of the child's right. This implies that agencies in-charge of child reinforcement right has not helped in reducing the issues associated with the child abuse. This could be since in Nigeria, the legal system is porous and the police who would have helped in curbing most of the violence that are exhibited on children are often nonchalant especially when it concerns a relative. This is expressed in most cases where issues that ordinary would have warranted legal attentions are dribbled with legal equipment and culprit go unpunished. This has not helped to serve as a deterrent to other offender. In most cases, where the issue involved concerns any one from the wealthy family, they tend to use government influence to close the case. More so, most of the police personnel who probably may have wanted to take the matter serious, are threatened from office and by some members of the society. The result could also be due to the fact that cases that concerns children are most times not reported for adequate measures to be taken. More so, the institutions were these violence cases do take place will prefer to net the culprit.

The findings of the study was in line with that of Omar(2014), who carried out a study onprotecting children from abuse and not neglected but crucial priority for the international child right agenda. The findings of the study showed that child right act have been established and the right have not been enforced. However, it was noted that the child right act have not been fully enforced on the area and that the effect have not been fully expressed in the reduction of violence

The findings of the study were in line with that of Fred(2010),strategies for reduction of violence among children in South Sudan . The findings of the study showed that public education, judicial activities have been potent tools in curbing violence among children.

Conclusion /recommendation

Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that Public education as a strategy for reducing violence among Upper Basic Social Studies students should be intensified through the use of school clubs, mass media, religious and community based programmes and that agencies involved in the enforcement of the child right like the judicial system and police should intensify their effort to ensure that cases relating to physical, sexual and social abuse on the school children are dealt with according to the weight of the law.

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