

Impact of Child Abuse on Delinquent Behaviors in Uyo Local Ggovernment Area, Akwa Ibom State

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Abstract

This study explored the impact of child abuse on delinquent behaviours in Uyo local Ggovernment Area, Akwa Ibom State. The study adopted the cross-sectional research design. Four specific objectives and four research questions with corresponding hypothesis guided this study. The target population was all young children aged 12-18 and young adults aged 18-25 who have experienced different degrees of child abuse in the study area. The stratified sampling technique was utilized to ensure a diverse participant pool, representing various socioeconomic status, urban and rural settings, and family structures. The sample size was 300 participants who have experienced at least one form of child abuse. The Adverse Childhood Experiences Questionnaire was used for data collection. Pearson Product Moment Correlation Statistics was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 alpha level. The results of the four hypotheses tested in this study showed that child abuse in the forms of physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and child neglect significantly relate to the probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years. In conclusion, it is imperative to implement comprehensive initiatives that involve families, educational institutions, community organizations and the justice system in order to effectively control child abuse and avoid delinquency in teenage years. It was recommended among others that parents, guardians and caregivers should manage their emotions and stress so as not to physically abuse children but create a safe and stable environment for children.

Keywords: Child abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, delinquent behaviours

Introduction

Child abuse, encompassing physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, as well as neglect, is a significant public health concern that can profoundly impact psychological development and behavioural patterns. Unaldi (2023) defined child abuse as a form of maltreatment that can be physical, emotional, sexual, or involve neglect and exploitation. This abuse can cause actual or potential harm to a child's health, development, or dignity. Azuka and Patrick (2019) expanded on this definition by outlining specific types of child abuse in Nigeria, which include child labour, physical abuse, neglect, child marriage, female genital mutilation, molestation, and emotional and psychological abuse. Additionally, Oladosu, Abiodun and Tunde-Ayinmode (2021) highlighted the prevalence of physical abuse against children in Nigeria. Child abuse is a widespread social issue with profound implications that go beyond the physical and emotional harm suffered by victims. The aftermath of such trauma can resonate in a person's life, affecting their mental growth, social connections, and general behaviour.

Physical abuse is a complex and devastating form of child maltreatment that requires improved understanding and prevention efforts (Palusci, 2022). It refers to any intentional act that causes physical harm or injury to a child. This includes actions such as hitting, kicking, burning, or inflicting pain and physical trauma in other ways. While physical abuse is often associated with visible signs like bruises, fractures, or other injuries, it can also occur without obvious physical evidence. The consequences of physical abuse can be severe, affecting not only the child's physical health but also their psychological well-being and development.

Emotional abuse is a form of child maltreatment that is strongly linked to various mental and behavioral health problems, with psychopathology being the most common outcome (Korolevskaia & Yampolskaya, 2022). Psychological abuse, which is the most prevalent type of child maltreatment, consists of non-physical interactions by a caregiver that can put a child at risk for emotional harm (Kimber & MacMillan, 2017). Emotional abuse also referred to as psychological abuse, includes behaviors that damage a child's self-worth and emotional well-being. Emotional abuse is a form of mistreatment that manifests through various damaging behaviors directed at a child. This can include verbal insults, where a caregiver belittles or demeans the child, as well as constant criticism that undermines the child's sense of self-worth. Labeling children as witches in Akwa-Ibom State, Nigeria, leads to physical, verbal, psychological, and sexual abuse, with capital accumulation as the main reason for abuse (Isioma, 2019). Threats may be used to instil fear and control, while rejection can involve ignoring the child or making them feel unwanted. Humiliation, often executed in front of others, can further exacerbate a child's feelings of inadequacy.

Additionally, emotional abuse often entails the withholding of essential love, support, or affection. When caregivers fail to provide warmth and validation, children may internalize feelings of unworthiness and insecurity, leading to profound impacts on their emotional development. Although the scars of emotional abuse are not visible like those from physical abuse, they can be deeply entrenched and long-lasting. These negative experiences can significantly affect a child's mental health, leading to issues such as chronic anxiety, persistent feelings of sadness or depression, and challenges in forming healthy relationships later in life. Children who endure emotional abuse may struggle with self-image, finding it difficult to see themselves as deserving of love and respect. Over time, these effects can permeate various aspects of life, influencing not just emotional well-being but also social interactions and overall quality of life.

Sexual abuse plays a significant role in the development of borderline personality disorder, particularly among women. It is associated with more severe clinical presentations and poorer prognoses. According to Ferreira, Pereira, Benevides and Melo (2018), child sexual abuse is a major public health issue with high rates of under-reporting. Additionally, Ajaegbu, Madubuike, Ezeonwu, Uchendu, Obidike & Ajaegbu (2023) noted that sexual molestation, including rape and incest, is on the rise, often committed by close neighbors, uncles, pastors, imams, teachers and fathers. Sexual abuse occurs when a child is involved in sexual activities that they do not fully understand, are unable to consent to, or that violate social taboos or laws. This type of abuse can include acts such as fondling, rape, or exposing a child to inappropriate sexual content or behavior. Sexual abuse may also encompass exploitation, such as child trafficking or child pornography. The impact of sexual abuse on a child's development is profound, often leading to trauma, trust issues, and significant long-term mental health challenges.

Child neglect and juvenile delinquency in Nigeria have similar prevalence of parental separation, family transition, and exposure to traumatic events, but differ in neurological disorders and anthropometric profiles (Atilola, 2012). Child neglect is a complex interaction of risk factors in children and their care environment, leading to long-term health, cognitive, emotional, and social consequences (Avdibegović & Brkić, 2020). Neglect is the failure of a caregiver to meet a child's basic needs, including adequate food, shelter, clothing, education, medical care, and emotional nurturing. It is the most common form of child maltreatment and can have serious consequences for the child's physical and emotional development. Neglect can take many forms, including physical, supervisory, emotional, educational, or psychological (Maguire & Naughton, 2016). Neglect, which

could be, withholding affection and support, healthcare and education from a growing child, can lead to developmental delays, social withdrawal, and an increased risk of mental health issues.

Delinquent behaviour may be associated with factors such as parents' financial status, cultural practices, and levels of parental literacy. Adeleke (2019) reported that child delinquency affected by communal conflict in south-western Nigeria is significantly linked to various factors, including family communication gaps, deficiencies in regulation and control mechanisms, institutional and social failures, excessive drug abuse, and economic hardship. Delinquent behaviour which is an indicator of future adult criminal behaviour, encompasses a range of actions that violate established social norms or legal standards, particularly among minors, typically defined as individuals under the age of 18. But proper upbringing can correct causes of juvenile delinquency, such as anti-social attitudes, values, low educational and professional skills, and innate tendencies to aggression, according to Huzik (2021). Delinquent behaviour is classified into two categories, status and delinquent acts. According to Jaros (2019), status offenses are juveniles who commit noncriminal acts considered law violations due to their minor status, such as truancy, ungovernability and curfew violations. While delinquent acts are more serious crimes that would be considered offenses regardless of the individual's age, such as theft, assault, or drug-related crimes.

Several theories explain the pathways from childhood experiences that lead to delinquent behaviours. Social learning theory, a general framework for understanding human behavior, emphasizing cognitive and information-processing capacities. Bandura's social learning theory suggests that people learn by observing others' behavior, attitudes, and outcomes, using observation, imitation, and modelling. These children who are exposed to violence or criminal behaviour in their respective homes or neighbourhoods, learn and imitate such behaviour as a way to handle conflicts or achieve goals. Attachment theory plays a crucial role in understanding and promoting psychological development and wellbeing in children and adults, with a focus on assessing attachment patterns and providing close, intense and emotional therapeutic relationships.

According to attachment theory, individual differences in the availability and responsiveness of close relationship partners, beginning in infancy, and the resulting formation of stable attachment orientations are crucial for understanding the ways people experience and regulate emotions. These insecure or corrupt attachments as a result of neglect or abuse can impair a child's ability to form healthy relationships and trust others, often leading to withdrawal or aggression. This involves investigating how early life events shape an individual's psychological and behavioural development, which in turn influences their inclination towards engaging in delinquent behaviors.

Research repeatedly points out that negative or traumatic incidents in childhood, such as abuse, neglect, or exposure to violence, can significantly boost the probability of engaging in delinquent behavior in adolescence and adulthood. Emotional traumas, such as early abuse and neglect, can lead to problems in emotional regulation and alter the structure and function of the prefrontal cortex (Giotakos, 2020). A study by Cross, Fani, Powers & Bradley (2017) concluded that child abuse can negatively impact executive function, emotion regulation, and dissociation, increasing the risk for depression. Fava, Meldrum, Villar, Zucker & Trucco (2022) argued that adverse childhood experiences contribute to later delinquency through indirect mechanisms of sleep problems and low self-control in early and middle adolescence. Animasahun & Aremu (2015), in a study, stated that age, family warmth, and school connectedness have a significant relationship with juvenile delinquency among secondary school adolescents. Aliyu & Mburza (2018) in another study, submitted that children's education level, age and gender significantly contribute to juvenile delinquency. Persistent communal conflicts in Nigeria are significantly

related to child delinquency due to factors like family communication gaps, regulation deficiency and social lapses, according to Adeleke (2019). Esiri & Ejechi (2021) on their study claimed that juvenile delinquency is predated by child labor, which can lead to criminal behavior and jeopardize the future of the child and the nation.

The effect of child abuse goes further to affect the way a child processes information and interprets social cues, oftentimes, leading to misjudgements and misinterpretations, always leading to violent, behaviours. Others are seen indulging in substance in order to cope with the pain of past trauma, leading to delinquent behaviours. A study on development pathways from abusive parenting to delinquency by You and Lim (2015) concluded that parental abuse and neglect significantly impact children's aggression and depression. These factors, in turn, mediate the relationship between abusive parenting and delinquent behaviours. Thus, it is crucial to explore the connection between child abuse and delinquent behaviour. Understanding this relationship is essential as it involves multiple fields, including psychology, criminology, and social policy. Research indicates that children who experience abuse often face various challenges that can lead to the development of delinquent behaviours later in life.

These challenges can appear in different forms, such as emotional trauma, difficulty in establishing healthy relationships, and issues with impulse control. Such negative experiences can create a cycle of behaviour where the child may struggle with aggression, substance abuse, or even criminal activity as a way to cope or seek attention. By thoroughly analysing both the direct consequences of early abuse such as the undeniable effects of violence and neglect and the indirect repercussions, including the significant impact on mental health and social functioning, one can confidently grasp the profound and lasting effects these experiences can have. This comprehensive understanding is essential for crafting impactful interventions and policies that effectively prevent delinquency and provide robust support for at-risk children. With this knowledge, we are well-equipped to foster healthier environments where vulnerable children can truly thrive. The formative years of childhood are crucial for an individual's cognitive, emotional, and social development. If these years are affected by abuse, be it physical, emotional, sexual, or through neglect the developing brain may experience chronic stress. This stress can disrupt emotional regulation, hinder the ability to form attachments, and impact decision-making processes.

Disruptions in emotional or social functioning can result in maladaptive behaviors, which are responses that are counterproductive or harmful. These behaviors often include impulsivity, where individuals act without considering the consequences, and aggression, which can manifest as verbal or physical confrontation. Additionally, there may be a noticeable decline in the capacity for empathy, making it difficult for individuals to understand or relate to the feelings of others. As time progresses, these maladaptive behaviours can solidify into established patterns that may be associated with delinquent conduct. This delinquency can manifest in various ways, ranging from minor infractions, such as petty theft or vandalism, to more serious issues like substance abuse or involvement in criminal activities. Ultimately, this evolution reflects a growing disconnect from societal norms and an increasing tendency to engage in behaviours that can have detrimental effects on both the individual and the community.

The effects of child abuse on subsequent delinquency are observable not only in behavioral outcomes but also in the structural and functional alterations in the brain, which contribute to an increased risk of maladaptive coping mechanisms. Socioeconomic, environmental, and familial factors can further intensify these risks, thereby creating a complex landscape that illustrates how early trauma can predispose individuals to deviate from social norms and legal standards. While not all children exposed to abuse will follow this trajectory, those

who do frequently experience a cycle of repeated offenses, involvement with the justice system, and additional victimization, thus perpetuating a continuous cycle of trauma and criminal behaviour.

Research in this field emphasizes the critical significance of early intervention and comprehensive support systems designed to alleviate the enduring effects of child abuse. Initiatives that focus on trauma-informed care aim to provide nurturing environments, foster community engagement, and offer specialized psychological services. These programs have shown promise in decreasing the likelihood that victims of abuse will later engage in delinquent behaviours. Moreover, it is essential to explore the factors that contribute to resilience in individuals, enabling some to navigate and overcome the profound challenges posed by early traumatic experiences. By identifying these resilience factors, targeted policies and interventions that not only address immediate needs but also promote long-term healing and rehabilitation, ultimately breaking the cycle of trauma and reinforcing positive outcomes for affected individuals may be developed.

There is need to comprehensively explore the complex relationship between child abuse and delinquent behavior. It is important to delve into the specific mechanisms by which childhood trauma can impact an individual's actions later in life. This includes examining psychological factors such as attachment issues, emotional dysregulation, and the development of maladaptive coping strategies that may stem from adverse childhood experiences. Hence, this study examined impact of child abuse on delinquent behavior in Uyo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State.

Statement of the Problem

In Uyo LGA, the capital city of Akwa Ibom State, research has highlighted the significant and lasting effects of childhood trauma, which encompasses physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, as well as neglect. Numerous studies have established a connection between adverse childhood experiences and their detrimental impacts on mental health, emotional regulation, and behavioral outcomes. Despite this understanding, there remains a notable gap in the research regarding how these abusive experiences specifically contribute to the development of delinquent behavior, especially within diverse populations with varying socioeconomic backgrounds. This underscores the need for further investigation into the relationship between child abuse and delinquency among these groups.

Despite the increasing recognition of the relationship between child abuse and delinquency, existing interventions and policy frameworks frequently fail to comprehensively address the underlying trauma that predisposes youth to engage in delinquent behaviour. This oversight often results in a cycle of punitive measures that do not confront the root causes of the issue, thereby perpetuating recidivism and obstructing affected individuals from achieving rehabilitation and resilience. Moreover, the absence of trauma-informed practices within the justice system exacerbates the challenges faced by young individuals with a history of trauma, leading to outcomes that are misaligned with effective treatment and prevention approaches. This study aimed to address the existing knowledge gap by examining the relationship between child abuse and delinquent behaviour in Uyo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between child abuse and delinquent behaviour in Uyo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State. The specific objectives of the study were to:

1. Assess the relationship between physical abuse and the probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years.
2. Determine the relationship between emotional abuse and the probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years.
3. Ascertain the relationship between sexual abuse and the probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years.
4. Assess the relationship between child neglect and the probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years.

Research Hypotheses

1. There is no significant relationship between physical abuse and the probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years.
2. There is no significant relationship between emotional abuse and the probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years.
3. There is no significant relationship between sexual abuse and the probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years.
4. There is no significant relationship between child neglect and the probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years.

Methods

The research adopted the cross-sectional design. This design facilitated the identification of associations between child abuse. The target population was young children aged 12-18 and young adults aged 18-25 who have experienced different degrees of child abuse in the study area. The stratified sampling technique was utilized to ensure a diverse participant pool, representing various socioeconomic statuses, urban and rural settings, and family structures. The sample size was 300 participants who have experienced at least one form of child abuse. The Adverse Childhood Experiences Questionnaire was employed for data collection. Pearson Product Moment Correlation was conducted to examine the relationship between child abuse and delinquent behavior. The resulting analysis was used to test hypothesis at 0.05 alpha level. The magnitudes of coefficient of correlation put forward by Udoh (2019) was used to explain the nexus between the independent variables and the dependent variable, which are .00 to .20 (very low relationship), .21 to .40 (low relationship), .41 to .60 (moderate relationship), .61 to .80 (high relationship) and .81 to 0.99 (very high relationship). The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences was the software used for analysis.

Results

Hypothesis one

There is no significant relationship between physical abuse and the probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years.

In order to test hypothesis one, Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used and the result is presented in Table

Table 1: Pearson Product Moment Correlation of physical abuse and the probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years

		Physical abuse	Probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors
Physical abuse	Pearson Correlation	1	.732**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	n	300	300
Probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors	Pearson Correlation	.732**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	n	300	300

* Significant at $P < 0.05$

The result in Table 1 indicates a positive and strong relationship between physical abuse and the probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years with a coefficient of correlation of .732. This result means that physical abuse strongly contributes to probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years. The result further reveals that p-value of .000 is significant at $p < 0.05$ alpha level, which means that physical abuse significantly relates to probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years.

Hypothesis two

There is no significant relationship between emotional abuse and the probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years.

In order to test hypothesis two, Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used and the result is presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Pearson Product Moment Correlation of emotional abuse and the probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years

		Emotional abuse	Probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors
Emotional abuse	Pearson Correlation	1	.715**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	300	300
Probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors	Pearson Correlation	.715**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	300	300

* Significant at $P < 0.05$

The result in Table 2 indicates a positive and strong relationship between emotional abuse and the probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years with a coefficient of correlation of .715. This result means that emotional abuse strongly contributes to probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years. The result further reveals that p-value of .000 is significant at $p < 0.05$ alpha level, which means that emotional abuse significantly relates to probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years.

Hypothesis three

There is no significant relationship between sexual abuse the probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years.

In order to test hypothesis three, Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used and the result is presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Pearson Product Moment Correlation of sexual abuse and the probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years

		Sexual abuse	Probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors
Sexual abuse	Pearson Correlation	1	.706**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	300	300
Probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors	Pearson Correlation	.706**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	300	300

* Significant at $P < 0.05$

The result in Table 3 indicates a positive and strong relationship between sexual abuse and the probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years with a coefficient of correlation of .706. This result means that sexual abuse strongly contributes to probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years. The result further reveals that p-value of .000 is significant at $p < 0.05$ alpha level, which means that sexual abuse significantly relates to probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years.

Hypothesis four

There is no significant relationship between child neglect and the probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years.

In order to test hypothesis four, Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used and the result is presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Pearson Product Moment Correlation of child neglect and the probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years

		Child neglect	Probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors
Child neglect	Pearson Correlation	1	.799**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	300	300
Probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors	Pearson Correlation	.799**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	300	300

* Significant at $P < 0.05$

The result in Table 4 indicates a positive and strong relationship between child neglect and the probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years with a coefficient of correlation of .799. This result means that child neglect strongly contributes to probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years. The result further reveals that p-value of .000 is significant at $p < 0.05$ alpha level, which means that child neglect significantly relates to probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years.

Discussion of Findings

The results of the four hypotheses tested in this study showed that child abuse in the forms of physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and child neglect significantly relate to the probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years. The findings reveal a compelling connection between child abuse and a marked increase in delinquent behaviour among children and adolescents. This finding is in agreement with that of Palusci (2022) who reported that physical abuse makes a child to be a bully and disrespectful. Child abuse and

neglect appear to influence the course of development by altering many elements of biological, cognitive, psychosocial, and behavioral development; in other words, child abuse and neglect “get under the skin” to have a profound and often lasting impact on development. Brain development is affected, as is the ability to make decisions as carefully as one's peers, or executive functioning; the ability to regulate physiology, behavior, and emotions is impaired; and the trajectory toward more problematic outcomes is impacted. Effects are seen across domains, with the interplay across brain and behavioral systems being particularly striking. Risk and protective factors across multiple levels of a child's ecology interact to influence outcomes related to child abuse and neglect. Factors that influence resilience across these domains are important to an understanding of how to protect children from the adverse outcomes discussed in this chapter.

This finding agrees with that of Kimber and MacMillan (2017) who found that child abuse affects the emotional and psychological well-being of a child. Evidence suggests that the timing, chronicity, and severity of the abuse or neglect matter in terms of outcomes. The more times children experience abuse or neglect, the worse are the outcomes. It is not enough to know whether an event happened; one must also know how ongoing the problem is. The committee sees as hopeful the evidence that changing environments can change brain development, health, and behavioral outcomes. There is a window of opportunity, with developmental tasks becoming increasingly more challenging to negotiate with continued abuse and neglect over time. Without effective coping strategies and a reliable support system, these individuals are more likely to experience repeated encounters with the justice system, perpetuating a cycle of trauma and systemic involvement.

This finding also supports that of Ajaebuet et al. (2023) who reported that sexual abuse influences children development. The insights gained from these findings can provide a comprehensive understanding of how children perceive and navigate their abuse. It may become evident that the presence of positive coping mechanisms, such as resilience, adaptive problem-solving, and healthy emotional expression combined with access to supportive networks like family, friends, mentors, and community resources can serve as significant protective factors against negative outcomes, including involvement in delinquent behaviors in the society. Similarly, this finding is in line with that of Avdibegović and Brkić (2020) who found that child neglect leads to children misbehaviours in the society. Young people who do not have these supportive elements in their lives may experience heightened abusive responses, leading to increased emotional distress and behavioral issues. This highlights the critical importance of fostering both positive coping strategies and robust support networks to mitigate the impacts of abuse on children. The findings highlight the pressing need for proactive early intervention strategies and underscores the vital role of protective factors, such as nurturing relationships and accessible community resources. These elements are essential in alleviating the harmful effects of child abuse and fostering resilience in young individuals facing adversity.

Conclusion

This research has highlighted the strong relationship that exists between child abuse (such as physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and child neglect) and probability of exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years. Controlling child abuse requires a multi-faceted approach that involves individuals, families, communities, organizations and governments so as to avoid children exhibiting delinquent behaviors in teenage years. It is imperative to implement comprehensive initiatives that involve families, educational institutions, community organizations, and the justice system in order to effectively disrupt the connection between child abuse

and delinquency. By prioritizing early detection, providing holistic support, and enacting systemic reforms, society can significantly enhance its capacity to support at-risk youth, decrease recidivism rates, and promote healthier developmental trajectories.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Parents, guardians and caregivers should manage their emotions and stress so as not to physically abuse children but create a safe and stable environment for children.
2. Parents, guardians and caregivers should develop healthy parenting skills, such as active listening, empathy and positive reinforcement as these skills will guide against emotional abuse of children.
3. Parents, guardians and caregivers should ensure adequate supervision of children at all times, especially in public places or online so that children will not be sexually abuse. Parents, guardians and caregivers too should not abuse children sexually.
4. Parents, guardians and caregivers should model healthy and responsible parenting behaviours, such as providing basic needs, emotional support and supervision. These behaviors will make children to be trained appropriately without neglect.

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