

ADVOCATING FOR PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN NIGERIA.*

Abstract

Child violence is a pattern of coercive controlling behaviour that negates the right of the child in every sphere. Children are targeted because they are very vulnerable and can hardly defend themselves. It is therefore necessary to prevent and eliminate violence for adequate protection of children. This work advocates for prevention of violence amongst children in every sphere. The study adopted doctrinal and empirical mode of research. The work analysed factors that exacerbate violence amongst children and analysed some legal frameworks that provide for their protection. Hence, the work reveals that violence against children is a global menace that cuts across gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, social standing and immigration status. The work reveals that despite numerous legislations at the national and international levels, violence against children still persist due to many factors that impede their rights. The work finds that violence thrives on poverty and lack of awareness on the need to prevent child violence. Consequently, the work notes that violence against the child can be protected. Hence, the work recommends the use of law as a tool of social engineering in order to establish viable structures that will protect the rights of the child in every sphere. Accordingly, Government should collaborate with non-governmental organisations for proper elimination of violence. Further, effective monitoring system and accurate data collection should be employed to prevent child violence. Also the Government should domesticate all the international treaties and conventions that safeguard the rights of children. Finally, all the obnoxious customary and religious laws that hamper these rights should be eradicated.

Key Words: *Advocacy, Violence, Prevention and Human Rights*

1. Introduction

The word “violence” has been defined as the use of physical force, accomplished by fury, vehemence or outrage, unlawfully exercised with the intent to harm.¹ Violence against children include all forms of violence against people under 18 years old, whether perpetrated by parents or other caregivers, peers, romantic partner or strangers.² Globally, it is estimated that up to 1 billion children aged 2-17 years, have experienced, physical, sexual, or emotional violence or neglect in the past years. In Nigeria, six out of every ten children suffer one or more forms of physical, sexual or emotional violence before they reach eighteen years. In fact, seventy percent of today’s children experience violence repeatedly.³ Violence against children is quite a very sensitive matter. In view of this, the writer makes the following proposal: firstly, whether

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¹ C, Arinze-Umobi, *Domestic Violence Against Women in Nigeria: A Legal Anatomy* (Nigeria: Folmech Printing & Pub. Co. Ltd, 2000) p.1.

² *ibid*

³ UNICEF Report 2017, www.unicef.org/media accessed 23/9/2020

violence against children can be prevented. Secondly, whether law, can be used as a tool of social change to eradicate and prevent violence against children. Thirdly, whether government can collaborate with non-governmental organisation for enhancement of children's right. Finally, whether review of international, regional and domestic legislation is apposite for prevention of violence against.

1.1 Legal Framework for Protecting Children from Violence

1.1.1 The Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended)

The Constitution, provides for the protection of children in every sphere.⁴ However, Chapter (II) which provides for socioeconomic right is not justiciable. This is because section 6 (6) of the Constitution does not extend judicial powers of the courts to "any issue or questions as to whether any act or omission by any authority or any judicial decision is in conformity with the Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principle of State Policy set out in Chapter II of this Constitution." In the case of *Okogie v Logos State*,⁵ the plaintiff/applicant sought to rely on the provisions of section 13 of 1979 Constitution⁶ to compel the defendant (government) to enforce the Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy. The court held that section 13 has not made chapter 2 justiciable. Also that the directive principles of state policies can be converted into justiciable rights if it can be linked to violations of rights protected in Chapter IV on fundamental rights and freedoms.

Additionally, the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights, which Nigeria has ratified and transformed to a municipal legislation, may be relied upon to enforce some of the provisions of the Fundamental objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy in Nigeria. This is because some rights stipulated in the Charter, such as the right to enjoy the best attainable state of physical and mental health, and the right to education, respectively, has corresponding provisions in Chapter II of the Nigerian Constitution, 1999. The rights to health and education are undoubtedly very critical for the development of children. Many jurisdictions have made these rights justiciable in their Constitution.⁷ It is therefore apposite that Nigeria should borrow a leaf from other jurisdictions to actualize enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights.

1.1.2 The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child 1990

At the regional level, the African Charter⁸ on the Rights and Welfare of the Child makes copious provision on the protection of the child. The fundamental principles guiding implementation of these rights includes: non-discrimination,⁹ best interest of the child¹⁰, survival and development of the child¹¹ and child's participation in matters that concerns him.¹² Accordingly, the charter focuses on children in African who are affected by diverse kind

⁴ *Ibid*

⁵ (1981)2NCLR337

⁶ (which is the same as section 13 of 1999 Constitution)

⁷ Such as South Africa, Finland, Argentina. See also Ogunniran, 'Enforceability of Socio- Economic Rights: Seeing Nigeria Through The Eyes of Other Jurisdictions', *Journal of International Law and Jurisprudence* Vol. 1 September, 2010, pp. 73-88.

⁸ African Charter also called the ACRWC or Children's Charter was adopted by the organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1990 (in 2001, the OAU legally became the African Union and was entered into force in 1999.

⁹ *ibid*

¹⁰ *ibid*

¹¹ *ibid*

¹² *ibid*

of abuse, economic and sexual exploitation, gender discrimination in education and access to health and their involvement in armed conflict.¹³ It recognises the socio cultural and economic realities particular to African children.¹⁴ Hence, it emphasises the need to include African cultural value in the rights of the child.¹⁵

It further, challenges traditional African views which often conflict with children rights such as child marriage, parental rights and obligation towards their children and children born out of wedlock.¹⁶ Hence, it prohibits cultures that conflicts with provision of the charter for instance, it prohibits the recruitment of the children (under 18 years old) in armed conflict and deals with conscription of children into the armed force, it prohibits marriage or betrothals involving children and use of children as beggars.¹⁷ It grants girls, the right to return to school after pregnancy.¹⁸

1.1.3 UN Convention on The Rights of the Child.

At the International, sphere, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child¹⁹ is the most widely human rights treaty in history, currently ratified by most State parties in the world.²⁰ It focuses on the best interest of the child, non-discrimination, participation, implementation of child's right which includes (economic, social and cultural right) to the maximum extent of available resources.²¹ It also made provision for the rights to life survival and development of children.²² Article 19 provides that State parties shall take all appropriate legislative administrative social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence injury or abuse, neglect or exploitation including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent legal guardians or any other person who has the care of the child. Such protective measures should be, appropriate and include effective procedure for the establishment of social programmes to provide necessary support for the child and those who have to care for the child.

1.1.4 The Child Rights Act 2003

This is a major legislation to provide and protect the rights of a Nigeria child. Nigeria adopted the Child's Right Act in 2003 giving legal consent to both the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child²³ and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.²⁴ The Child's Right Act 2003 expands the scope of human rights bestowed to citizens in the Nigeria 1999 Constitution to children. Nigeria operates a federal system of government. The implication is that although this law was passed at the federal level, it does not automatically

¹³ *Ibid*

¹⁴ African Charter of Human Right on the Rights and Welfare of the Child 1990, Article 3

¹⁵ *Ibid*

¹⁶ The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child 1990, Article 4

¹⁷ The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child 1990, Article 5

¹⁸ The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child 1990, Article 11

¹⁹ United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by general Assembly Resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989. Entry into force 2 September 1990, in accordance with Article 49.

²⁰ *Ibid*

²¹ *Ibid*

²² *Ibid*

²³ United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by general Assembly Resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989. Entry into force 2 September 1990, in accordance with Article 49.

²⁴ Child's Right Act, 2003. This Act sets out the rights and responsibilities of a child in Nigeria and provides for a system of child justice administration and the care and supervision of a child, among other things.

become applicable in all of its thirty-six States. In terms of the Constitution, children issues are the preserve of the constituent States.²⁵ Each State legislature must make the national law applicable within its territory. This purports that the CRA will only be effective if all State assemblies within Nigeria codify it.²⁶ It is worthy to be noted that the Child Rights Act contradicts other national laws by its definition of “child” to be person under 18 years. The Young Person Act designates a “child” as an individual below 13 and under 17 years.²⁷ Whereas the Young person Act deems ages 13-17 as young people, the Childs Right Act designates ages 18 below to be a child.²⁸ The definitions created by these laws are in tension with each other and pose issues in matters of interpretation. Although the provision within the CRA should be seen as overruling to any other law. The fact that the CRA is not ratified in all Nigerian States makes this difficult.

2 Factors that Impede the Rights of the Child in Nigeria

2.1 Legal Factors

2.1.1 Non Domestication of Legal Instrument

For a treaty concluded between Nigeria and any other country to have the force of the law, it must be enacted into law by the National Assembly. Such a treaty necessarily requires to be explicitly incorporated into national law, through an Act of the National Assembly in order for it to be enforceable.²⁹ The Child’s Right Act, met serious opposition from the Supreme Council for Sharia. Hence, all the Sharia Practising States in Nigeria have refused to domesticate the law in their States.

Currently, it is only practiced in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and has been adopted by only twenty –five States out of thirty –six States in Nigeria.³⁰ Eleven States have opted not to adopt the Act, on grounds of religious beliefs. Yet, the CRA was neither ratified nor consented to by all the States of the Federation before its enactment hence the need to adopt the CRA or enact similar laws by the States House of Assembly. Also, the problem is further compounded by the fact that even the States that have adopted the Act are merely paying lip-service to the provisions of the Act and have not really shown enough political will with regard to implementations.

2.1.2 Corporal Punishment

In Nigeria, six out of every ten children suffer one or more forms of physical, sexual or emotional violence before they reach eighteen years. Seventy percent of Nigerian children experience violence repeatedly. For instance various studies reveal that many children have died as a result of corporal punishment in the recent times because of its acceptance by our

²⁵ (only 25 out of 36 States in Nigeria have localised the CRA. Currently, 11 States, all in the northern Nigeria, have yet to domesticate the Act.

²⁶ Child’s Right Act, 2003 *ibid*

²⁷ Child’s Right Act, 2003 *ibid*

²⁸ Child’s Right Act, 2003 *ibid*

²⁹ The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, section 12 CFRN 1999; *Abacha v Fawehinmi* (2001) WRN vol. 51, pp.165-166.

³⁰ A Olayinka ‘Legal Impediments to the Practical Implementation of the Child Right Act 32003’ *International Journal of Legal Information* 37, 388.

customary laws and our extant laws.³¹ In Nigeria apart from Sharia Law,³² Penal Code³³ and Criminal Procedure Code³⁴, the Criminal Code,³⁵ Criminal Procedure Act³⁶ and the Prison Act³⁷ all provide for corporal punishment. Hence, despite, the provisions of international treaty, Nigerian legislation is still conducive for corporal punishment. This attitude has led to death of many children, for instance in Zamfara State, a teenage girl Bariya Ibrahim Magazu was sentenced to 180 lashes for premarital sex in September, 2002.³⁸ While the Sharia Court in Kebbi State ordered a fifteen years old Abubakar Aloyu's hand to be amputated for stealing.³⁹ This practice is not peculiar to Nigeria, as studies reveal that other Islamic State like Iran rank high in execution of children for committing serious offences.⁴⁰

2.1.4 Ineffective Juvenile/Child Justice Administration.

Child or juvenile justice administration is a track within the criminal justice administration that provides special proceedings for children, particularly those that are in conflict with the law. It has a basic principle that provides for the welfare of the child, even were the child commits a heinous crime. However, recent studies reveal that this principle are not upheld.⁴¹ With respect to the police unit, recent findings show that laws for children protection within the system are not complied with. This unit, ought to be trained in child's matter for maximum efficiency but many States in Nigeria do not have them.⁴² Hence, exposing them to violence.

Apart, from the police the children also suffer a lot of violence in correctional institutions because of dearth of remand institution in Nigeria. Studies reveal that many children in adult prison are used as homosexuals again because instead of becoming better, most children become a threat to the society.⁴³ The need for urgent reform of criminal justice in Nigeria can never be over emphasized.

2.2 Economic Factors

The rights of children have been hampered by harsh economic realities prevalent in our time, hence children are exposed to severe violence such as child trafficking, child pornography, child labour etc.

2.2.1 Child Trafficking

Child trafficking expose children to all manner of violence such as prostitution, child labour, child pornography and removal of organs.⁴⁴ In 2000, the UN, established the protocol to

³¹ N.O, Umejiaku & S.C, Ifemeje, 'An Appraisal of the Role of Nigerian Police in Child/Juvenile Justice Administration in Nigerian, *African Journal of Constitution and Administrative Law*, 2017, Vol. 1 pp.115-144.

³² *op. cit*

³³ Penal Code (Northern States) Cap345, LFN1990.

³⁴ Criminal Procedure Act, Cap 80, LFN, 1990.

³⁵ Criminal Code Act, Cap77, LFN, 1990.

³⁶ Prison Regulation and Standing Orders of the Prison 's Act.

³⁷ Sharia Penal Code of the (Amendment) Law 2000, section 98.

³⁸ *ibid*, section 95(1)(a) and (b). See a similar provision the section 95 of the Kebbi State Penal Code (Amendment) Law 2000.

³⁹ This Day vol.8 No.2695 8th September, 2010.

⁴⁰ N.O,Umejiaku & C N Uzoka, 'An Appraisal of the Right of the Child Offender under the Customary and Sharia Law in Nigeria', *Unizik Law Jonal* 2019, Vol. 15, pp . 1-19.

⁴¹ *ibid*

⁴² *Ibid*

⁴³ O Benjie, 'Terrorism Act and the Boko Haram Activities in Nigeria: An Appraisal', *University of Jos Law Journal*, 2015, Vol. 10, No. 1, pp.179-196. 2011.

⁴⁴ LA, Steverson, 'Human Trafficking', www.britanica.com/topic/human-trafficking accessed 22/20/2020

prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons especially in women and children. This provided a commonly accepted, working definition of human trafficking and called upon countries to promulgate laws to combat the practice, to assist victims, and to promote coordination and cooperation between countries.⁴⁵

Child trafficking is caused by harsh economic realities prevalent in Nigeria such as poverty, illiteracy and unemployment. Edo State in Nigeria is recognised internally as a major hub in Nigeria for children trafficking.⁴⁶ Edo State has long been an internationally recognized sex trafficking hub, with built in infrastructures and networks which support the sale of human bodies. Recently, police arrested 15 suspects child traffickers in Rivers for harbouring young pregnant ladies, selling their children and settling them.⁴⁷

Despite, established legislation to combat trafficking, child trafficking still thrive in Nigeria due to poverty.⁴⁸ Estimates released by the Global Slavery index in July 2018 indicate that there are 40.3 million victims of modern slavery worldwide, 71% of whom are women and girls and 25% of which are children.⁴⁹ It is noteworthy that the UNODCS estimates the number of children in slavery at almost 1/3 of all global victims of commercial sexual exploitation.⁵⁰ Women and girls represented 84% of the 15.4 million people in forced marriage, and 59% of those in private forced labour.⁵¹

Nigeria remains a source, transit and destination country when it comes to human trafficking.⁵² Nigeria is the third most common crime in Nigeria after drug trafficking and economic fraud. International Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Person NAPTIP have provided shelters but these shelters are very inadequate as they lack the necessary facilities and equipment to assist the victims to recover and reintegrate into the society. Consequently, they lack medical and psychosocial care, lack of job training, and inadequate food, lack of soap or body lotion. Hence, to prevent trafficking in Nigeria, consistent awareness should be made to alert people on the adverse effect of trafficking. It is needful to enact robust laws that will safeguard the rights of the people. Also the economic situation of Nigeria should be improved upon by the government for effective protection of the citizens.

2.2.2 Child Pornography

Child pornography is illegal in Nigeria and punished by 3 to 5 years in prison.⁵³ Child Right Act makes child pornography illegal.⁵⁴ Regrettably, the Child Rights Act has not been adopted

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

⁴⁶ *ibid*

⁴⁷ A, Godwin, 'Police Arrest 15 Suspected Child Traffickers in Rivers', *The Guardian Newspaper*, 01 October, 2018, guardian.ng/tag/child-trafficking accessed on 23/9/2020

⁴⁸ N.O, Umejiaku, 'An appraisal of Existing Legal Framework Aimed at Combating Human Trafficking in Nigeria', *International Review of Law and Jurisprudence*, 2019, Vol. 1 No.3 (www.nigeriajournalonline.com).

⁴⁹ S, Nezan, 'Three Jailed for Trafficking', *NAPTIP*, 2018. Available at www.naptip.gov.ng/three-jailed-for-child-trafficking accessed on 23/9/2020 Further report shows that the Federal Port-Harcourt has convicted and sentenced three persons to jail for human trafficking, just as NAPTIP and relevant agencies intensify search for the missing child. The suspects, Olujimi Mayokun, Peace Eze, and Adaugo Okafor, were arraigned on 13th November 2018 by the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) on a six-count charge of child abduction and sale of person, act which contravene sections 13 and 21 of the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act, 2015.

⁵⁰ January 7, 2019 Report (UNODC, 2019)

⁵¹ (8.7 Alliance 2017 Report).

⁵² Global Slavery Index (2018) Report.

⁵³ Child Rights Act 2003, Part III sect21-40

⁵⁴ *ibid*

by many States in Nigeria, hence exposing many children to violence. There is therefore an urgent need for adequate measures to be put in place to safeguard the security of children in visual activities (including online activities). Unlike Nigeria, most jurisdictions like Sweden, United States of America and United Kingdom have comprehensive legislation on pornography.⁵⁵ Nigerian courts are yet to ground a conviction on pornography related issue.

2.3 Health Factor

2.3.1 Violence Against Children with Disability

Current studies reveal that children with disability are at much higher risk of violence than their non-disabled persons⁵⁶ According to two systematic review recently published by lancet,⁵⁷ children with mental or intellectual impairments appear to be among the most vulnerable and at a higher risk of sexual violence than their non-disabled peers.⁵⁸ Nigeria has a good number of children with disability whose rights are violated with impunity. Factors which places children with disability at higher risk of violence include stigma discrimination, discrimination and ignorance about disability, as well as lack of social support for those who care for them, placement of people with disability institutions also uncrack their vulnerability to violence.⁵⁹ The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability reinforces the need to protect the disabilities and ensure their full and equal participation in society. This includes avoiding the adverse experience resulting from violence which are known to have a wide range of detrimental consequences on health and wellbeing. It is therefore necessary that awareness be created in communities, particularly in the Northern part of Nigeria. It is also important to adequately protect children with disability by enactment and effective implementation of relevant laws.

2.3 Harmful Cultural and Traditional Practices

In Nigeria, many cultural practices that hamper the rights of children are condoned. They child marriage female genital mutilation.⁶⁰ These practices are hinged on obnoxious cultural practices, hence those that practice it do not see them as violence.⁶¹

2.4.1 Child Marriage

⁵⁵ The Court in *Osborne v Ohio and Pope v Illinois* unanimously, criminalised the sending of obscene or indecent materials to minor over the internet

⁵⁶ N.O, Umejiaku , O.C, Aduma & C.A, Okaphor, ‘Advocating for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Nigeria, Need for More Legislative Intervention’, *Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka Journal of Public and Private Law*, 2018, Vol.8, pp.141-159.

⁵⁷ The reviews were carried out by Liverpool John Moore University Centre for Public Health, a WHO Collaborating Centre for Violence prevention, and WHO’s department of violence and injury prevention and Disability. These are the first studies to confirm the magnitude of the strongest available evidence on violence against children and adults with disabilities. The study shows lack of data on this topic from low- and middle-income countries. Further reveals that children with disabilities are 3.7 times more likely than non-disabled children to be victims of any sort of violence and 2.9 times more likely to be victims of sexual violence.

⁵⁸ WHO Report, www.who.int/disabilities/world-report/2011/..accessed on 23/9/2020.

⁵⁹ *ibid*

⁶⁰ S C, Ifemeje & N O, Umejiaku, ‘Critique of Incessant Violations of Women’s Health and Reproductive Rights in Nigeria’ *Journal of Law, Policy and Globalization*, 2013, Vol. 2, pp 2224-324.

⁶¹ Example corporal punishment hide under the cloak of reprimanding children to violate their rights.

Early marriage can be defined as giving a child to marriage before the age of eighteen years, without her consent.⁶²This has tremendous impact on their health because of premature exposure to sexual intercourse and pregnancy. Hence, it violates their reproductive health rights and economic rights hence the girl children are denied education that equip them for the future. This violates international, regional and domestic laws.⁶³

2.5 Social Factor

2.5.1 Covid 19

The current global pandemic has negatively affected the rights of children in every sphere particularly in Nigeria. The lock down prevented at least nineteen million children from accessing education.⁶⁴This has consequently led to drop in skill acquisition. Children were hooked to the internet which expose many to online predators that engage them in sexual grooming. Globally, many are exposed to sexual violence; for instance, Nigeria witnessed the highest number of rape cases and sexual violence in this era. In fact, the high prevalence of rape caught the attention of Government to review extant laws on rape. However, children are still preyed upon by many because they are vulnerable, hence more erratic measures should be adopted to protect children.

2.5.2 Children in Armed Conflict

Armed conflict is a torrid time for children because of incessant harm that is meted out to them such as sexual violence, recruitment into the army by insurgents, police or other society agents.⁶⁵In Northeast Nigeria many children have remained displaced internally displaced.⁶⁶ Many of them have lost contact with their parents. Despite the promulgation of Terrorism Act,⁶⁷ terrorism abound in Nigeria.⁶⁸This ugly situation offends and is therefore inconsistent with established principle of States.⁶⁹

2.5.3 Cyber Bullying

The current explosion on internet and cyber world has negatively affected the child, by exposing him to violence. Studies reveal that around 130 million or one in three children world

⁶² C Arinze-Umobi, 'Domestic Violence Against Women IN Nigeria: A Legal Anatomy (Onitsha: Folmech Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd., 2008) p89.

⁶³ such as Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), 1948, the Convention on Consent of Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages, 1964, African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 1990, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Others are the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and other such related conventions.

⁶⁴ A, Okunola, 'Four Things Nigeria Can Do to Help Out of –School Children Back into Education as Schools Reopen

The socio-economic impact of Covid-19, on the Nigerian education system is limiting millions of kids from accessing quality education, Global Goal 4 seeks to provide quality education for all, as part of the effort to end extreme poverty by 2030.

⁶⁵ J, N Ezeilo, *Women, Law & Human Rights, Global and National Perspectives*, (Enugu: ACENA Publishers, 2011) p34.

⁶⁶ *ibid*

⁶⁷ *ibid*

⁶⁸ H, Okoeguale, 'Applying Human Rights-Based Approach to Criminal Justice Reforms in Nigeria', *Abuad Journal of Public and International Law*, 2017, Vol. 3, No. 1, pp.214-235.

⁶⁹ article 3 common to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, which provide for the minimum standards to be respected and requires human treatment without adverse distinctions of all persons not or no longer taking part in hostilities. It prohibits murder, mutilation, torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, hostage and unfair trials.

wide experience some form of bullying.⁷⁰ To address these negative impacts experts and decision-makers are lacking sufficient data to form evidence based strategies and programmes. Effects of bullying is tremendous, victims experience interpersonal difficulties depression, loneliness anxiety low self-esteem and to suffer academically, but all actions including by standers, and the school climate as a while are affected detrimentally cyber bullying involves the posting or sending of electronic message including pictures or videos, aimed at harassing, threatening, or targeting another person. A whole gamut of social platform including chat rooms blogs and instant messaging are used in cyber bullying.

3. Conclusion

The work finds that violence against the child is a global menace, that cuts across nations of the world. Hence, State Parties are mandated to use law as a tool of social engineering to establish measures that prevent violence against children. This works notes that children are target of violence because they are vulnerable, hence the need to give them maximum protection by the society. This principle is encapsulated by so many legal instruments at national and international levels. Consequently, the study notes that child violence can be prevented by collaboration of the government, non- government organisations and citizens of Nigeria.

4. Recommendations

The study makes the following recommendations for prevention of child violence in Nigeria: Implementation and enforcement of laws and policies. This cannot be effected without positive domestication of extant laws that protect the rights of children in Nigeria as required under the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Justiceability of chapter ii of the CFRN is cardinal to the enforcement of the child rights. This will undoubtedly safeguard the rights of children. When for instance a child's right to education is justiceable, government, NGO, stakeholders will afford quality opportunities for the both formal and informal education of children.

There will also be provision for the acquisition of life and social skills training of children. This will afford income and economic strengthening for children. These are very necessary in the prevention of violence and will also improve their economic states as violence thrive more in poverty or poor environment.

⁷⁰ The United Nations States reiterated that being protected from bulling is a fundamental human right. Analysis of data from Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam reveal that violence in schools include physical and verbal abuse by teachers and by other students is the most common reason given for disliking schools and significantly, it is associated with lower scores in mathematics with lower self-esteem.