COUNSELLING FOR FAMILY WELL - BEING AND MORAL DEVELOPMENT AMONG STREET GIRLS IN ABUJA MUNICIPAL FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY NIGERIA

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Abstract:

The research investigated counselling for family wellbeing and moral development among street girls in Abuja Municipal FCT, Nigeria. The study adopted descriptive survey research design. Four research questions were formulated to guide the study. The null hypotheses were adopted and analyzed at 0.05 level of significance for the study. The population of the study comprised 180 participants. The sample consisted of 120 respondents made up of 60 street girls, 20 professional counsellors and 40 households randomly selected from the population of the study. This instrument used for the study was questionnaire titled Counselling for Family Wellbeing and Moral Development among Street Girls Questionnaire. The reliability of the instrument was determined using Cronbach Alpha Statistics that yielded 0.72 reliability coefficient index. The data collected were analyzed using mean and standard deviation to answer the research questions while the two hypotheses were tested using t-test statistic at 0.05 level of significance.

The mean cut-off benchmark of 2.50 and above was considered as agreed while below 2.50 was considered as disagreed. The findings revealed that factors influencing the girl child involvement in street activities in the study area include lack of financial resources, unemployment of parents and family disintegration among others. Recommendation was made that –The girl child should be involved in capacity building skills, job opportunities and empowered with self – reliant enterprises to enable them generate incomes as well as become employers of labours positively.

Keywords: Counselling, Family, Wellbeing, Moral Development, Street Girls.

Introduction

There is global concern about reported deterioration in girl child moral wellbeing and street activities during the last two decades and numerous studies have informed that recently girl child's health problems are not as good as those of a few years ago (Collishaw, 2015 Gilligan (2018). On the same note, Collishaw (2015) acknowledged that extent to which observed declines in girl child's wellbeing are consistent across countries is largely unknown and less is known about the developments that could clarify these deteriorations in girl child's moral wellbeing. There is great importance in the study of moral well-being, not only because it describes a person's life quality but also because it has a positive effect on a person's life. Such positive effects include better health and immunity, where happy people tend to be healthier, less frequently ill, tend to live longer, and have better self-control (Collishaw, 2015). Kohlberg (2014), sees moral well-being as the development of moral reasoning through distinct stages, where individuals progress from a self-centered perspective to a principled understanding of justice and human rights. Gilligan (2018) offers a different perspective, linking moral well-being to the ethic of care. Gilligan (2018) emphasizes relationships and the responsibility to care for others as central to moral well-being, contrasting with the justice-based approaches.

Sandel (2019) discusses moral well-being in the context of justice and the common good, arguing that it involves not just individual happiness but the pursuit of a just society where individuals contribute to and are supported by the community. These definitions highlight the multifaceted nature of moral well-being, illustrating how it can be understood from different ethical, psychological, and social perspectives. In general, Moral well-being refers to the state of an individual's moral health or flourishing, which encompasses living in alignment with ethical values, principles, and virtues. It involves the integration of one's actions, decisions, and behaviors with a sense of what is right and good, both for oneself and for others. Moral well-being is one of the critical factors that affect a person's quality of life. This applies to every individual regardless of their gender, age, and socio-economic status. Moral well-being is particularly relevant to vulnerable groups and groups of economically and socially marginalized groups. These people often do not enjoy the fruits of economic development and are also vulnerable to physical, emotional, and psychological exploitation (Ogwo, 2013). Included within this category of vulnerable groups are street girls. The term "street girls" generally refers to young girls or women who live or work on the streets, often in very challenging and unsafe conditions. This term is sometimes used in the context of discussions about homelessness, poverty, and exploitation. Street girls share some of the characteristics of vulnerable groups since they are women, working on the streets, and live in poorly conditioned residential areas. In addition to this, street girls often have to endure a range of hardships, for example, poverty, living without parents, pregnancy, teenage birth etc. (Ogwo, 2013). The researchers defined family wellbeing as the act of living standard lives in standard environments involving shelter, food clothing, education and healthy life-style.

The family, however, is considered to be the primary setting in which children begin to acquire their beliefs, attitudes, values and behaviour (Ogwo, 2013). The family is the support system that adolescents turn to when they are faced with fears and doubts about themselves and

their future (Koen, et al., 2011).Murdock (2017) defined the family as a social group characterized by common residence, economic cooperation, and reproduction. It includes adults of both sexes, at least two of whom maintain a socially approved sexual relationship, and one or more children, own or adopted, of the sexually cohabiting adults. Parsons (2019) defined the family as "a factory which produces human personalities," emphasizing its role in socializing children and stabilizing adult personalities. He focused on the nuclear family as the basic unit within industrial societies. The role of the family, therefore, seems crucial in adolescent development (Koen et al., 2011) as the family is perceived as a working unit that is greater than the sum of its parts; each member affects the family as a whole, while the family members also affect each individual member (Buswell, et al., 2012). It is within the family environment that an individual's physical, emotional and psychological development occurs. Within the family, we learn about unconditional love, understand right from wrong, as well as, gain empathy, respect and self-regulation. These qualities, according to Walker (2013), Families enable us to engage positively at school, work and in society (Department of Social Development, 2013). They are the primary sources of an individual's development and considered as appropriate in society (Ogwo, 2013). While the family is considered central to the socialization of children, not much attention is given to the role of family development in the decision-making styles of street girls.

Family development" refers to the process by which families change and evolve over time. Several scholars have provided definitions and frameworks to understand this concept. Duvall (2017) introduced the concept of "family development" as a series of stages that a family goes through over its life course. Duvall proposed that families progress through predictable stages, each characterized by specific developmental tasks and challenges, from marriage to child-rearing to aging. Hill (2018) on the other hand described family development as a process influenced by internal family dynamics and external social factors. Hill emphasized the role of family crises and how families adapt to changes over time, which can lead to growth or decline. Crapo et al., (2018) defined family development as a sequence of phases through which families move, focusing on the transitions between stages, such as marriage, parenthood, and retirement. She highlighted the importance of role transitions and the adaptation of family members to new roles. Family raises children who grow to be adolescent in their life stage. Adolescent need moral knowledge and development in their family. They should have the process of moral coaching in their family. Their developmental period may experience behavioral shock and they may experience personal and behavioral difficulties. Therefore, their crucial development requires special understanding from their parents and educators (Bawazir, 2009). They could not be separated from their parent's influence and relationship to proceed their life in their growth and development as an adolescent. There are various educational approaches implemented in schools, which support family development. Guidance and Counselling is among the successful educational approaches in supporting family development as it affects adolescent moral wellbeing (girl child) (Duvall, 2017).

Guidance and Counselling is a vital tool for national development. To achieve the above, among other factors, Guidance and Counselling are significant to produce a well-balanced individual who will fit in society and contribute positively for his or her own good and society at

large. According to Gibson (2011), Guidance and Counselling can be defined as a systematic and professional process that involves helping individuals to understand themselves better, explore their potential, and make informed decisions regarding personal, educational, and career goals. In the words of Cormier and Hackney (2012), Guidance and Counselling is a collaborative and supportive approach that facilitates personal growth and problem-solving by providing individuals with emotional support, guidance, and resources to address various challenges in their lives.

Gysbers and Henderson (2006) define Guidance and Counselling as a comprehensive process that encompasses a range of activities aimed at assisting individuals in acquiring skills, knowledge, and attitudes to make effective choices in their educational, vocational, and personal lives. According to Gladding (2017), Guidance and Counselling is a helping relationship that empowers individuals to explore their feelings, thoughts, and behaviors, leading to greater self-awareness and the development of problem-solving and coping skills. For Capuzzi and Gross (2019), Guidance and Counselling involves the application of psychological principles and techniques to facilitate personal and interpersonal growth, foster emotional well-being, and enhance decision-making processes.

Counselling is a professional assistance given by the counsellor to individuals experiencing challenges in life, for them to resource their problems and be useful to themselves and the society. To the mistreated and abused women at women, work places and in the society, counselling is for them to be assertive and affirm to speak out the issues affecting them for assistance to be rendered. Counselling according to Idowu (2016), is the integral part of guidance, a specialized concept, the heart of the core of guidance, the hub of the guidance wheel or the pivotal specific service around which guidance revolves. A problem shared is a problem half solved, seek counselling when the need arises. The researchers defined moral development as the training given to individuals or groups to improve on their behaviours, socially, cognitively, and reasoning abilities for improved personality threats. The researchers defined Counselling as assistant, help or aid rendered to an individual or group of individuals otherwise solved at a given moment the need arises.

Street girls are among the most vulnerable and marginalized members of society, who regularly lack access to basic needs such as shelter, food, health care, safety and education (UNICEF, 2017). World-wide, these street children experience countless problems (UNICEF, 2017). They are exposed to inhumane conditions; suffering hunger, persecution, physical abuse and, are disadvantaged due to lack of basic services like education and health (Kebende, 2015). In order to survive, most of them resort to begging, stealing and prostitution (Menon, 2015). Street girl child are unguarded with regards to contracting HIV/ADS and sexually transmitted diseases because of early exposure to sexual activity, poor use of contraceptives and high chances of partner change while lacking adequate information on sexual activity (Menon, 2015). Sexual abuse is one of the main problems faced by Street girl child in major cities of the world Nigeria inclusive (Menon, 2015). Street girl child are usually regarded as a major obstacle to social-economic progress and a substantial threat to national security. These apparent and real threats triggered the current flow of global interest in street children (Basu & Tzannontos, 2013).

The present condition of Nigeria may have impacted the self believe of adolescents especially

the girl child, leading many to lose confidence in themselves and in the society at large. Some of these girl children may have lost direction, turning to the street as a means of survival. Often, they attribute their actions to factors like unemployment, poverty, and family related issues. As a result, many of them struggle psychologically and engage in erratic behavior in an attempt to cope with their inner mind. There are different educational programs designed and assumed to play important role in family development and moral wellbeing among street girls in Nigeria especially in Abuja municipal, Guidance and Counselling as educational program focuses on family development and moral wellbeing of adolescent as one of its set objectives, butit is not clear if they are compatible or relate to the needs of street girls and how compatibility or lack of compatibility affects family's access to the services. Therefore, there is need to examine the need for counselling strategies for family development and moral wellbeing among street girls in Nigeria especially in Abuja municipal FCT. To achieve this, it is essential to emphasize the significance of Counsellingas the most powerful medium for reaching out to families effectively. The researchers defined street girls as helpless female adolescents who engage in making money using their bodies to help themselves financially, their parents, and siblings to survive in life.

Statement of the Problem

The increasing number of street girls in Abuja Municipal, Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nigeria, poses a significant social challenge, affecting both family wellbeing and moral development. These girls often experience poverty, homelessness, abuse, and exploitation, which can lead to emotional distress, delinquency, and social disintegration. The absence of a stable family structure and moral guidance exposes them to negative influences such as substance abuse, criminal activities, and early pregnancies, further deepening their vulnerability.

Despite various governmental and non-governmental interventions aimed at addressing the plight of street children, there remains a gap in targeted counselling programs tailored to the unique psychological, social, and moral needs of street girls. Many rehabilitation efforts focus primarily on shelter and basic needs, with limited emphasis on structured counselling for emotional healing, family reintegration, and moral development. Without proper counselling support, these girls struggle to reintegrate into society, maintain stable relationships, and develop positive moral values essential for personal and social growth.

This study seeks to examine the role of counselling in promoting family wellbeing and moral development among street girls in Abuja Municipal FCT. It aims to assess existing counselling strategies, identify gaps in intervention efforts, and propose effective counselling models that can facilitate psychological healing, family reunification, and the development of positive moral values. By addressing these gaps, the research will contribute to policies and programs that foster the holistic rehabilitation and reintegration of street girls into society.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to analyse the impact of counselling strategies for family development and moral wellbeing among street girls in Nigeria especially in Abuja municipal FCT.

Specific objectives are to:

i.   Examine the role of family development in the decision-making of the girl child.

ii.   Identify the factors influencing the girl child involvement in street activities.

iii.   1dentify the approaches used by guidance and Counselling in family development.

iv.   Relationship between family development and moral wellbeing of street girl child.

Research Questions

The study will be guided by the following research questions:

i.   What are the role of family development in the decision-making of the girl child?

ii.   What are the factors influencing the girl child involvement in street activities?

iii.   What are the approaches used by guidance and Counselling in family development?

iv.   What is the relationship between family development and moral wellbeing of street girl child?

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated that guided the study and tested at 0.05 level of significance.

H_{01}: There is no significant relationship between family development and moral wellbeing of street girl child.

H_{02}: the approaches used by guidance and Counselling in family development does not significantly influence the level of girl child involvement in street activities.

Methodology

The study adopted descriptive survey research design. This design is the type of research design that describes what exists or the present status of existence where a group of individuals' or items is studied by collecting data through questionnaire or interview and analysing the data to establish fact (Nkwocha & Akanwa, 2017). The design was considered suitable for this study since the researchers made use of questionnaire item to collect data from the respondents. The study was conducted in some selected cities of the study area in the federal Capital Territory Abuja FCT. The population of the study comprised 120 participants made up of 60 street girls, 20 professional counsellors and 40 households. The researchers used questionnaire titled: counselling for family wellbeing and moral development among street girls questionnaire items. The questionnaire was designed by the researchers using four points rating scale of Strongly Agree (SA) 4, Agree (A) 3, Disagree (D) 2 Strongly disagree (SD) 1, respectively. The instrument was validated by three experts from the Department of Guidance and Counselling and Measurement and Evaluation in Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike. The reliability of the instrument was determined using Cronbach Alpha Statistics that yielded 0.72m reliability coefficient index. The data collected were analysed using mean and standard deviation to answer the research questions. The mean cut-off benchmark of 2.50 and above was considered as agreed while below 2.50 was

considered as disagreed. In addition, the two hypotheses were tested using t-test statistic at 0.05 level of significance.

Results

The result of data analysed from research questions answered are presented in tables below.

Research Question 1: what are the role of family development in the decision-making of the girl child?

Table 1: Mean and Standard Deviation of the Respondents' Responses on the role of family development in the decision-making of the girl child in the study area

S/N	Item Statements	$\overline{X}$	SD	Rmks
1.	Encourage the girl child to pursue her educational interests	2.84	1.08	Agreed
2.	Receive financial support for education, extracurricular activities, and other opportunities that develop her decision-making skills	2.81	0.85	Agreed
3.	Encouraged to challenge traditional gender roles, enhancing their decision-making capabilities.	2.98	0.91	Agreed
4.	Positive socialization, where the girl child learns confidence, assertiveness, and the value of her opinions	2.98	0.94	Agreed
5.	Enables the girl child to make informed choices about her body and reproductive health.	3.00	1.07	Agreed
6.	Allow the girl child to express her thoughts and concerns, leading to better decision-making	3.27	0.95	Agreed
7.	Developed families often provide a safe space for the girl child to discuss and navigate societal pressures, helping her make decisions that align with her values and aspirations.	2.87	1.05	Agreed
	Cluster mean	**2.41**	**0.82**	

KEY: $\overline{X}$ = mean, S. D. = Standard deviation, Rmks.= Remarks.

From Table 1, the means response of the respondents ranges from 3.27 to 2.81 which are all above the cut-off point of 2.50. This implies that the majority of the respondents agreed with the listed items as the role of family development in the decision-making of the girl child in the study area. Also the standard deviation of all the items ranges from 0.85-1.08 which shows that the responses of the respondents are close to one another in their responses and that they were not far from the mean.

Research Question 2: what are the factors influencing the girl child involvement in street activities?

Table 2: Mean and Standard Deviation of the Respondents' Responses on the factors influencing the girl child involvement in street activities in the study area

S/N	Item Statements	$\overline{X}$	SD	Rmks
1.	Lack of Financial Resources	2.82	1.04	Agreed
2.	Unemployment of Parents	2.79	1.10	Agreed
3.	Family Disintegration	2.72	1.10	Agreed
4.	Lack of Access to Education	1.45	0.98	Disagreed
5.	Peer Pressure	0.98	0.97	Strongly Disagreed
	Cluster Mean	**2.15**	**0.83**	

KEY: $\overline{X}$ = mean, S.D. = Standard deviation, Rmks.= Remarks.

Table 2 shows the factors influencing the girl child involvement in street activities. From the result above, the means response of lack of financial resources, unemployment of parents, family disintegration ranges from 2.72-2.82 which are all above the cut-off point of 2.50. This implies that the respondents' majority of the respondents in the study area lack of financial resources, unemployment of parents and family disintegration as factors influencing the girl child involvement in street activities. While the mean response of lack of access to education and peer pressure were below the cut off make of 2.50 indicating that the respondents in the study disagree that lack of access to education and peer pressure to be factors influencing the girl child involvement in street activities. Also the standard deviation of all the items ranges from 0.97-1.10 which shows that the responses of the respondents are close to one another in their responses and that they were not far from the mean. The study therefore the study concludes that lack of financial resources, unemployment of parents, family disintegration are factors influencing the girl child involvement in street activities in the study area.

Research Question 3: what are the approaches used by guidance and counselling in family development.

Table 3: Mean and Standard Deviation of the Respondents' Responses on the approaches used by guidance and Counselling in family development in the study area N =120

S/N	Item Statements	$\overline{X}$	S.D	Rmks
1.	Moral coaching approach	2.61	1.02	Agreed
2.	Social welfare approach	2.67	1.00	Agreed
3.	Motivational guidanceapproach	2.61	1.09	Agreed
4.	Follow-up and Monitoring approach	2.63	1.06	Agreed
5.	Referral to Support Services approach	1.99	0.84	Disagreed
6.	Highlighting Consequencesapproach	1.93	0.86	Disagreed
	Cluster Mean	**2.00**	**0.96**	

KEY: $\overline{X}$ = mean, S.D= Standard deviation, Remarks.= Remarks.

Table 3 shows the approaches used by guidance and Counselling in family development, from the result above, the means response of the respondents on moral coaching approach, social welfare approach, motivational guidance approach, follow-up and monitoring approach ranges from 2.61-2.67 which are all above the cut-off point of 2.50. This implies that the guidance and Counselling agents in the study area uses moral coaching approach, social welfare approach, motivational guidance approach, follow-up and monitoring approach as family development approaches. While referral to support services approach highlighting consequences approach were rarely used approaches by the guidance and Counselling agents in the study. Also the standard deviation of all the items ranges from 0.84-1.09 which shows that the responses of the respondents are close to one another in their responses and that they were not far from the mean.

Test of Hypotheses
The null hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance:

Hypothesis One
$H0_1$**:** There is no significant relationship between family development and moral wellbeing of street girl child.

Table 4: t-test Analysis of mean ratings on the relationship between family development and moral wellbeing of street girl child.

Variables	N	Mean	S.D	df	t-cal.	t-crit.	Decision
Family development	56	2.95	0.93				
				64	1.59	0.44	**Accepted**
Moral wellbeing of street girl child	10	2.83	1.09				

The data in Table 4 above shows that the calculated t-value is 1.59 while the t- critical value is 0.44 at 0.05 level of significant and at 78 degree of freedom. Since the calculated value is greater than the t-critical value, the null hypothesis which states that there is no significant relationship between family development and moral wellbeing of street girl child in the study area is therefore rejected. The alternate hypothesis is therefore accepted.

Hypothesis Two

H0$_2$: The approaches used by guidance and counselling in family development does not significantly influence the level of girl child involvement in street activities.

Table 5: Correlation

	Measure of Coefficient Correlation	approaches used by guidance and counselling	level of girl child involvement in street activities
approaches used by guidance and counselling	Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N	1 120	0.76 0.001
level of girl child involvement in street activities	Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed) N	0.76 0.001	1 120

Source: field survey 2024

From the Correlations result in table 5, it can be seen that the correlation coefficient (r) equals 0.76, indicating a strong positive relationship between the approaches used by guidance and counselling in family development and the level of girl child involvement in street activities at a probability level of $p < 0.01$ which indicates that the coefficient is significantly different from zero (0). It can be concluded that there is evidence that the approaches used by guidance and counselling in family development has a direct and positive relationship with the level of girl child involvement in street activities in the study area (r = 0.76, p<0.001).

Summary of Correlation Output for Hypothesis I

Pearson correlation (r)   = 0.76

N   = 120

Sig. (2 –tailed)   = 0.001

Decision Rule:

Compare the p- value with 5% significance level (0.05), if;

P – Value < 5% level of significance; reject the Null hypothesis (H$_o$)

P – Value > 5% level of significance; accept the Null hypothesis (H$_o$)

Therefore, since p value (0.001) < 0.05; we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis. By accepting the alternative hypothesis, we be concluded that there is evidence that the approaches used by guidance and counselling in family development has a direct and positive relationship with the and the level of girl child involvement in street activities in the study area.

Discussion of Results

The discussion of findings was done based on the results of the data analysed to answer the research questions.

The findings from the study revealed that the majority of the respondents agreed with the listed items as the role of family development in the decision-making of the girl child in the study area.

The finding is related with the study of Letvak (2012) who found that developed families often provide a safe space for the girl child to discuss and navigate societal pressures, helping her make decisions that align with adolescents' values and aspirations which is in agreement with the present study.

The findings on factors influencing the girl child involvement in street activities in the study area revealed that the majority of the respondents in the study area lack financial resources, unemployment of parents and family disintegration as factors influencing the girl child involvement in street activities. While the mean response of lack of access to education and peer pressure were below the cut off make of 2.50 indicating that the respondents in the study disagree that lack of access to education and peer pressure to be factors influencing the girl child involvement in street activities. The findings further revealed that also the standard deviation of all the items ranges from 0.97-1.10 which shows that the responses of the respondents are close to one another in their responses and that they were not far from the mean. The study therefore concluded that lack of financial resources, unemployment of parents, family disintegration are factors influencing the girl child involvement in street activities in the study area.

The findings on the approaches used by guidance and counselling in family development

in the study area revealed that the guidance and Counselling agents in the study area used moral coaching approach, social welfare approach, motivational guidance approach, follow-up and monitoring approach as family development approaches. While referral to support services approach highlighted consequences approaches were rarely used by the guidance and counselling professionals in the study. Also the standard deviation of all the items ranges from 0.84-1.09 which shows that the responses of the respondents were close to one another in their responses and that they were not far from the mean.

The Null Hypothesis which states that There is no significant relationship between family development and moral wellbeing of street girl child in the study area was tested and result revealed that the that the calculated t-value is 1.59 while the t- critical value is 0.44 at 0.05 level of significant and at 78 degree of freedom. Since the calculated value is greater than the t-critical value, the null hypothesis which states that there is no significant relationship between family development and moral wellbeing of street girl child in the study area is therefore rejected. The alternate hypothesis is therefore accepted. The alternate hypothesis is therefore accepted.

The Null Hypothesis which states the approaches used by guidance and Counselling in family development does not significantly influence the level of girl child involvement in street activities in the study area were also tested the result revealed that a strong positive relationship between the approaches used by guidance and counselling in family development and the level of girl child involvement in street activities at a probability level of $p < 0.01$ which indicates that the coefficient is significantly different from zero (0). It can be concluded that there is evidence that the approaches used by guidance and counselling in family development has a direct and positive relationship with the level of girl child involvement in street activities in the study area ($r = 0.76$, $p<0.001$).

Conclusion

The study therefore concludes that there is a significant relationship between family development and moral wellbeing of street girl child in the study area, Family interpersonal relationship provide resources that can help girl child cope with stress, engage in healthier behaviors, and enhance self-esteem, leading to higher psychological well-being, The girl childhas strong motivation to end street life if given the proper care and advice but they were unable to make strong tangible efforts, which implies that they need assistance mechanisms before they change. Therefore, the findings call for concerted efforts from various stakeholders to develop programs to change the life situation of street girl child especially in the study area.

The researchers identified the implications of street girls' activities to include:

1. Psychological Implications: Psychologically, this group of girls are seen as shame in their families with high level of inferiority complex which sometimes create anxiety and confusion in them making them to be poor instead of being rich.

2. Health Implementation: Street girls of this group are mostly challenged by health issues

such as HIV AIDS, Gonorrhea and other infectious diseases that are capable of leading them to death.

3. Social Implications: Socially, street girls face the challenges of falling into the hands of ritualist. They sometimes run mad or get killed. They are also faced with the challenges of indecent dressing, over-bleaching and bad odors that make other responsible people to run away from them.

4. Educational Implications: Educationally, these group of girls are mainly drop-outs from schools, record poor academic achievements and failures. They are never-do-well in vocation and careers.

5. Cognitive Implication: They are highly characterized by irrational thoughts and irrational though processes hence their lack of positive reasoning make them to get involved in alcohol use and abuse, going naked on the street dragging and fighting for men publicly.

Recommendations

Based on the result of the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Moral and family development seminars and workshops should be made compulsory for girls and newly married couples especially in the study area.

2. The study findings have also shown that the approaches used by guidance and counselling in family development has a direct and positive relationship with the level of girl child involvement in street activities in the study area. It is therefore necessary for the Ministry of Education to fund and organize in-service training for administrators, teachers and guidance and Counselling teachers on how other guidance and Counselling approaches should be used to manage the level of girl child involvement in street activities as well as good family development.

3. Consequently, effective guidance and counselling orientation programmes educational services/approaches should be put in place as essential part of training in schools at all levels in the society. Furthermore, the government and policy makers should come up with a functional guidance and counselling department which encourages counsellors at all level to be trained and get equipped with guidance and Counselling new skills, techniques and theories for Counselling services.

4. Future studies should be conducted to address the effects of family environment and girl child psychological wellbeing in other states and urban settings in the country. Studies on adults' psychological wellbeing in view of the relationship with adolescents should be conducted. It is important for such a study to establish whether girl child's psychological wellbeing is affected by the way they relate with their parents.

5. The girl child should be involved in capacity building skills, job opportunities and empowered with self – relation enterprises to enable them generate incomes as well as become employers of labours positively.

6.   Government should have strategic plans for accommodating the girl child financially before their graduation from secondary school levels especially from adolescents' period from 18years and above thereby catching them young in responsible acts before the older street women will catch them.

7.   The Government should strive to control those factors that make parents to be jobless as well as assist them to create enabling environments for their integrations.

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