

## **AN ABSTRACT OF THE PRESENTATION ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE FOR TEENS**

**BY ROSEMARY OSHIOMAH OGEDENGBE.**

**INTRODUCTION** The word child abuse refers to any act or behaviour, aimed at a child- any one who is below 18 years - that is capable of inflicting either immediate or future physical, emotional, psychological, mental, social, economic or spiritual harm on the child or negatively affect their development. It includes verbal abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and others. Among the various forms of abuse mentioned, sexual abuse can be said to be the most harmful as a result of its devastating consequences on the child.

### **WHAT DOES CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE REALLY MEAN?**

When we say that a child is sexually abused, we mean that someone has had sexual contact with the child or has acted in a manner that could sexually expose the child.

It can be in any of the following ways:

- Touching a child's genitals
- Trying to force an object or any part of the body into a girl's vagina.
- Kissing a child.
- Making a child to touch another person's genitals.
- Lying on a child or making them to lie on someone.
- Touching or trying to put an object into the anus of a child.
- Touching or sucking a child's breasts.
- Playing with a child's buttocks.
- Making a child to view pictures, movies or magazines that contain naked people.
- Exposure of the buttocks, breasts or genitals by an adult to a child

**WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF SEXUAL ABUSE ON A CHILD?** The consequences include:

- Physical pains
- Contraction of sexually transmitted diseases(STD.s) such as Gonorrhoea Warts, Herpes, Hepatitis B and HIV/AIDS.
- Their reproductive organs may be damaged, thereby making it difficult for them to bear children in the future.
- Urinary tract damage
- Predisposition to cervical cancer
- Unplanned pregnancy and parenthood
- Emotional problems such as anxiety, depression , etc
- Reduced concentration on academics as a result of emotional problems
- Spiritual problems such as loss of faith
- Social problems such as suspicion, withdrawal, etc

## **HOW MANY CHILDREN ARE AT RISK?**

The World Health Organisation [WHO] warns that 1 out of 3 girls and 1 out of 6 boys will be sexually abused before they become 18 years old.

## **ANY CHILD CAN BE AFFECTED**

Both boys and girls can be affected. It does not matter whether they are from poor or rich families or whether they live in a city or in a rural community. It also doesn't matter whether they are black or white kids or whether they are Christians, Muslims or of other religions and whether they are very intelligent or not. Every child should therefore learn how to avoid it.

## **CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CAN TAKE PLACE ANY WHERE**

It can happen in the school, in lonely places in the neighbourhood, around the church or mosque, in the farm, at the stream, swimming pool, in the doctor's examination room or even in the home. It can also happen in those small shops down the street. One can also get abused in a party. Every child must be on the watch.

## **WHO CAN SEXUALLY ABUSE A CHILD?**

Most children are abused by people that they know. Sometimes they are people that the child really trusts such as uncles, aunts, teachers, family doctors, pastors, drivers, house keepers, family friends, guards, and in some cases, older siblings, guardians and parents. Children can also be abused by strangers.

**WHAT YOU NEED TO DO AS A CHILD-** There are many things you can do as a young person to protect yourself against sexual abuse. Some of them are listed below.

- Never allow anyone to touch your private parts ( buttocks, breasts, genitals, around your genitals, etc) no matter who they are or how close they are to you and even if they are of the same gender like you.
- Report anyone who touches or tries to touch any of your private parts to your parents guardian, or school counsellor.
- If any of your parents tries to touch any of your private parts, report to your other parent. If it is your guardian, report to your parents or school counsellor.
- Do not follow your friends to their homes after school.
- Avoid playing around in lonely places in the school and in your neighbourhood.
- Do not view movies or read literature that contain pictures of naked people . If anyone asks you to do so, please, report them to your parents. If it happens in the school, report them to your teacher or school counsellor.

EXTRACTED FROM THE BOOKS:

\* **HOW TO AVOID THE DANGEROUS CHILD ABUSE**

\* **DO NOT BE A VICTIM OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

AUTHOR – *ROSEMARY OSHIOMAH OGEDENGBE*

