



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES
ON CHILD ABUSE AND ABUSIVE BEHAVIORS AMONG
PARENTS IN IMO STATE, NIGERIA**

ADOLPHUS CHUKWUKA NDUKA

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**MASTER OF SCIENCE
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

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**Thesis submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,
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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to Almighty God for his protection and guidance to me during the rough time of conducting this research. It is also dedicated to my late Dad for his words of encouragements to me during his lifetime. I will always be remembering him telling me to put acquisition of knowledge first because ‘Knowledge is Power’. Dad, though you are gone but you are always in my heart. Your words must be my source of inspirations.



Abstract of thesis presented to the senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

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By

ADOLPHUS CHUKWUKA NDUKA

March 2012

Chairperson: Mariani binti Mansor, PhD

Faculty: Human Ecology

The purpose of this research was to examine the relationships between parents' knowledge of child physical abuse, attitudes towards child physical abuse and the abusive behaviors among parents. The study provided research information on the relationships existing between parents' demographic variables, stress level, cultural values, knowledge of child physical abuse, attitudes towards child physical abuse and the abusive behaviors. A total of 411 respondents were selected through multistage sampling methods to participate in this study. Respondents completed the survey as Dimensions of Disciplinary Inventory (DDI) by Straus and Fauchier (2007) was used to measure parents' abusive behaviors. Parents' attitude towards child physical abuse was measured using Parental Attitudes towards Childrearing Questionnaire (PACR) by Goldberg & Easterbrooks' (1988) while parents' knowledge of child physical abuse was measured using Knowledge of Child Abuse Instrument developed by Garrusi, Safizadeh & Bahramnejad (2007).

The results of this study were analyzed using descriptive statistics, Pearson product moment correlations and multiple linear regressions. The findings in this study showed that parental abusive behavior has significant and positive correlations with number of children in the family, cultural values, stress level and parental attitudes towards child physical abuse. The study also found that parental abusive behavior has significant and negative correlations with family income, parents' years of education and parental knowledge of child physical abuse. Findings of the study further revealed that there is significant and negative correlation between parental attitude towards child physical abuse and knowledge of child physical abuse. Findings from multiple linear regression analysis revealed that 79.5% of parental abusive behaviors were explained by five predictor variables which were parental stress level, parents' years of education, number of children in the family, cultural values, and attitude towards child physical abuse.

Based on the Ecological system theory (Bronfenbrenner, 1979), the complexities of the psychosocial factors (parenting stress level and cultural values), the demographic variables (number of children in the family, parents' years of education and family income level), knowledge of physical child abuse and parental attitudes towards child physical abuse within the context of parent-child relationship were more understandable. Future research can expand on other types of child maltreatment such as sexual abuse, emotional/psychological abuse and neglect.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

HUBUNGAN ANTARA PENGETAHUAN DAN SIKAP TERHADAP PENDERAAN KANAK-KANAK DAN PERLAKUAN DERA DI KALANGAN IBU BAPA DI NEGERI IMO, NIGERIA

Oleh

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Pengerusi: Mariani binti Mansor, PhD

Fakulti: Ekologi Manusia

Tujuan utama kajian ini adalah untuk mengkaji hubungkait antara pengetahuan ibu bapa terhadap penderaan fizikal kanak-kanak, sikap terhadap penderaan fizikal kanak-kanak dan perlakuan dera dalam kalangan ibu bapa. Kajian ini seterusnya bertujuan menyediakan maklumat tentang perkaitan antara tahap tekanan ibu bapa, pemboleh ubah nilai budaya dan demografik yang lain, pengetahuan tentang penderaan fizikal kanak-kanak, sikap terhadap penderaan fizikal kanak-kanak serta perlakuan dera. Seramai 411 responden telah dipilih menggunakan kaedah persampelan secara rawak. Dalam kajian ini, Inventori Dimensi Disiplin (DDI) oleh Straus dan Fauchier (2007) telah digunakan bagi mengukur perlakuan kasar ibu bapa. Sikap ibu bapa terhadap penderaan fizikal kanak-kanak telah diukur menggunakan Soalan Kaji Selidik Sikap Keibubapaan dalam Pemeliharaan Anak-anak (PACR) oleh Goldberg & Easterbrooks' (1988), manakala pengetahuan ibu bapa terhadap

penderaan fizikal kanak-kanak telah diukur menggunakan Instrumen Pengetahuan Penderaan Kanak-kanak yang dibangunkan oleh Garrusi, Safizadeh & Bahramnejad (2007).

Keputusan kajian ini telah dianalisis menggunakan statistik deskriptif, *Pearson Product Moment Correlations* dan *Multiple Linear Regressions*. Kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa perlakuan kasar ibu bapa mempunyai korelasi yang ketara dan positif dengan bilangan anak dalam keluarga, nilai budaya, tahap tekanan dan pengetahuan keibubapaan tentang penderaan fizikal kanak-kanak. Kajian turut menunjukkan bahawa perlakuan kasar ibu bapa mempunyai korelasi yang ketara dan negatif dengan, pendapatan keluarga, jumlah tahun pendidikan ibu bapa dan sikap ibu bapa terhadap penderaan kanak-kanak. Keputusan lain pula menunjukkan hubungkait yang ketara dan negatif antara sikap dan pengetahuan ibu bapa terhadap penderaan fizikal kanak-kanak. Dapatan daripada analisis *Multiple Linear Regressions* menunjukkan bahawa 79.5% daripada perlakuan kasar ibu bapa diterangkan melalui lima pembolehubah peramal iaitu tahap tekanan ibu bapa, jumlah tahun pendidikan ibu bapa, bilangan anak dalam keluarga, nilai budaya dan sikap terhadap penderaan fizikal kanak-kanak.

Berdasarkan teori sistem Ekologi (Bronfenbrenner, 1979), faktor kompleksiti psikososial (tahap tekanan keibubapaan dan nilai budaya), pemboleh ubah demografik (bilangan anak dalam keluarga, jumlah tahun pendidikan ibu bapa dan taraf pendapatan keluarga), pengetahuan berkenaan penderaan fizikal kanak-kanak serta sikap ibu bapa terhadap penderaan fizikal kanak-kanak dari konteks hubungan ibu bapa - kanak-kanak adalah lebih difahami. Kajian mengenai penderaan kanak-kanak di masa akan datang boleh dikembangkan melalui kajian

berkaitan jenis-jenis penderaan yang lain ke atas kanak-kanak seperti penderaan seksual, penderaan emosi dan psikologi serta pengabaian.



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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on **6th March, 2012** to conduct the final examination of Adolphus Chukwuka Nduka on his thesis entitled “**Relationship between knowledge and attitudes on child abuse and abusive behaviors among parents in Imo State, Nigeria**” in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U. (A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Masters of Science degree. Members of the Examination Committee are as follows:

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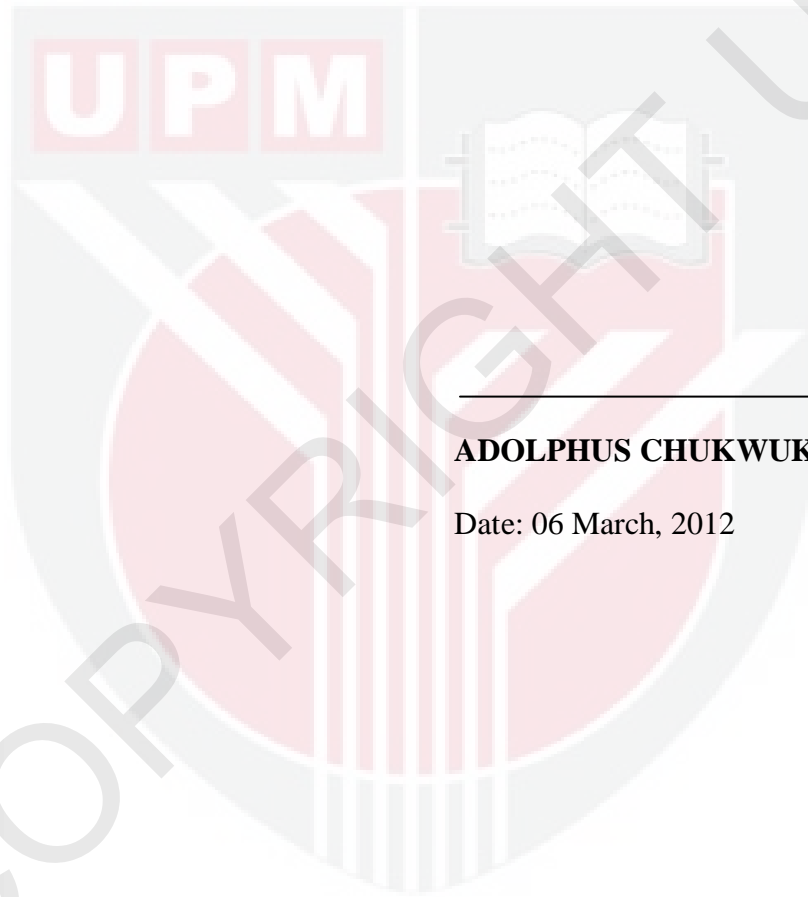
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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or any other institutions.



ADOLPHUS CHUKWUKA NDUKA

Date: 06 March, 2012

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