

# AWARENESS OF PREVENTIVE MEASURES OF ACCIDENT AMONG PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS IN OYO WEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, OYO STATE

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## Abstract

*This study examined the awareness of preventive measures of accident among primary school pupils in Oyo West Local Government Area of Oyo State with a view to providing pupils' activities in achieving high level safety at all settings. This study adopted the descriptive survey research design. The population for the study consisted of primary school pupils in Oyo West Local Government Area. A total of 240 pupils were selected from eight primary schools Oyo West Local Government Area. The schools were selected using simple random sampling technique. From each school, 30 pupils were selected using purposive sampling technique. Class level was used as stratum. i.e. 10 pupils were selected from each of primaries 4, 5 and 6. A self-developed questionnaire titled 'Awareness of Accident Preventive Measures' (AAPM) was used for this study. Data collected was analysed using simple percentages of frequency count. The findings of the study showed that 208 (86.67%) respondents had high level of awareness level regarding accident preventive measures while 32(13.3%) had low level of awareness. The study concluded that pupils are aware of accident preventive measures.*

**Key Words:** Accident, Preventive measures, Primary school pupils

## Introduction

Each year, many people all over the world, including school-aged children between 6 to 11 years (National Policy on Education) are injured and may live with the consequences of the injuries throughout their lifetimes. These children may experience disability and chronic pains that limit their ability to perform age-appropriate everyday activities over their lifetime; whereas, they are the future of their Nation. According to the **Population Reference Bureau - (PRB, 2015)**, persons within the age range of (0-14 years) comprise one third of the total population of the world and 20% of Nigeria population (Nwankwo, 2004). The life cycle of a child involves the essential component of child survival, child development and child protection (Anant, 2012), and for the child to enjoy these components, the home, school and the community hold certain responsibilities towards him. For instance, the home provides solid background upon which both the school and the community build on. The positive collaboration of these three in bringing up the child, no doubt, contributes to his wellness.

Predisposing factors to accidents among pupils are of two types: Environmental factors and childhood factors. Environmental factors are associated with things in the child's environment (indoor and outdoor). For instance, poorly arranged furniture in the classrooms and at homes can make a child fall and injure himself/herself; unprotected cooking place and poor labelling of school laboratory equipment can lead to burns; fruit trees at home and

school may attract a child to climb, which may result in fall. As a result of uncondusive school and home environments, and the limitations that age places on the children, they are exposed to dangers. Also Gulani (2012) opined that the personality of the children at this period (0-14years) develops and they are exposed to various environmental factors which cause health problems. Furthermore, children and adolescents spend considerable part of their days in the school and home environments, where they are exposed to varieties of physical, emotional and social influences (Miller, Romanod & Spicer, 2000).

Suffice to say that either, at home or school, every location is a place of accident and if these environments are not well managed, death or permanent incapacitation may occur from accidents. The type of accidents experienced could differ from one location to another. For instance, falls occur on staircases, playground etc.; chemical burns are experienced in the laboratories, snake/scorpion bites and stepping on thorns in the farm, and so on. Ayodele (2004) linked accident injuries with dropping out of school. In her submission, accidents and injuries are usually responsible for pupils' absenteeism from school. The period of absence from school (either short or prolonged) may result in the child missing tests and even examinations with the resultant effect of poor performance, backwardness and non-school completion, whereas the social and economic consequences of a child dropping out of school are not usually limited to him alone but extends to his family, community and the society at large.

Several studies have shown that 71–95% of injuries among school-aged persons could have been prevented by simple and reasonable means. For instance, in developed countries such as Australia, Sweden, Britain, and Canada, it was revealed that injury rates were reduced by up to 50% over the past three decades using multi-sectored approaches to prevention (Holder, Peden, Krug, Lund, Gururaj, & Kobusingye, 2001). Personal observations in schools today, especially in primary schools in Nigeria have shown that many accidents that ought to have been prevented and injuries ranging from bruises to death keep occurring. This leaves doubts as to whether or not pupils are actually aware of accident prevention measures. For scientific clarification of such doubts, the researchers examined the awareness of preventive measures as solutions to the challenges of accident prevalence among primary school pupils in Oyo West Local Government Area.

### **Statement of the Problem**

From observation, accidents including falls, burns and poisoning among pupils occur either at home and or school environments. The health and academic implications of accidents range from bodily injuries, poor school performance to non-school completion. Many of these accidents had been attributed to poor supervision by elderly ones and poor accident prevention knowledge possessed by the pupils. To reduce the rate of accidents in the learning many researches have suggested accident prevention awareness creation and practice monitoring among youths, but such researches have been limited to secondary and tertiary level institutions alone, without paying attention to primary schools; hence this study. The following research questions were raised to guide the study:

1. What is the level of awareness of accident prevention measures of primary school pupils in Oyo West Local Government Area at home?

2. What is the level of awareness of accident prevention measures of primary school pupils in Oyo West Local Government Area at school?
3. What is the level of awareness of accident prevention measures of primary school pupils in Oyo West Local Government Area at playground?

### Methodology

This study adopted the descriptive survey research design. The population for the study consisted of primary school pupils in Oyo West Local Government Area. A total of 240 pupils were selected from eight primary schools in Oyo West Local Government Area. The schools were selected using simple random sampling technique. From each school, 30 pupils were selected using convenient sampling technique. Class levels were used as stratum. i.e. 10 pupils were selected from each of primaries 4, 5 and 6. A self-developed questionnaire was the instrument used for this study which was tested for reliability using test-re-test method and the scores were compared using Pearson moment correlation coefficient which yielded 0.78 and was considered high enough for the study. Data collected was analysed using simple percentages of frequency count.

### Results and Discussion

**Research Question 1:** What is the level of awareness of accident prevention measures of primary school pupils in Oyo West Local Government Area at home?

**Table 1: Respondents' awareness of accident preventive measures at home**

N=240				
S/N	Accident Preventive Measures at Home	Yes Freq(%)	No Freq(%)	I don't Know Freq(%)
1.	Do you know it is important to do away with sharp object	230 (95.8)	4(1.7)	6(2.5)
2	Do you know it is important not to play with electrical outlets	181(75.4)	40(16.7)	19(7.9)
3	Do you know why it is important to reach to your elders when injured	228(95.0)	2(0.8)	10(4.2)
4	Do you know why it is important to turn off gas stoves when not in use	224(93.3)	8(3.3)	8(3.3)
5	Do you know why it is important to avoid toys on the floor	225(93.8)	9(3.8)	6(2.5)
6	Do you know why it is important not to handle hot plates/ pot	221(92.1)	5(2.1)	14(5.8)

7	Do you know why it is important not to walk around at night when there is no light	220(91.7)	4(1.7)	16(6.7)
8	Do you know why it is important not to be running around at without caution	191(79.6)	6(2.5)	43(17.9)
Total Average Percentage		89.6	4.1	6.3

Table 1 shows that 95.8% of the respondents knew it was important to do away with sharp object About 93.3% knew why it is important to turn off gas stoves when not in use. It was also seen that 93.8% knew why it was important to avoid toys on the floor, 92.1% knew why it was important not to handle hot plates/ pot, 91.7% knew why it was important not to walk around at night when there was no light and 79.6% knew why it was important not to be running around at without caution. On the average, majority of respondents (89.6%) showed high level of awareness on accident preventive measures at home

**Research Question 2:** What is the level of awareness of accident prevention measures of primary school pupils in Oyo West Local Government Area at school?

**Table 2: Respondents' Awareness of Accident Preventive Measures at School**  
N=240

S/N	Accident Preventive Measures at school	Yes Freq(%)	No Freq(%)	I don't Know Freq(%)
1.	Do you know it is important to walk, not run in the hallways	174(72.5)	26(10.8)	40(16.7)
2	Do you know it is important to avoid playing rough games on the playground	226(94.2)	5(2.1)	9(3.8)
3	Do you know why it is important to follow your teachers instruction	200(83.3)	34(14.2)	6(2.5)
4	Do you know why it is important to report broken equipment to teachers	195(81.3)	9(3.8)	36(15.0)
5	Do you know why it is important not to bring sharp objects to school	216(90.0)	11(4.6)	13(5.4)
Total Average Percentage		84.3	7.1	8.6

Table 2 shows that 72.5% of the respondents knew it was important to walk not run in the hallways while 94.2% knew it was important to avoid playing rough games on the

playground and 83.3% knew why it was important to follow teacher's instruction. It was also revealed that 81.3% of the respondents knew why it was important to report broken equipment to teachers while 90.0% knew why it was important not to bring sharp objects to school. On the average, it was seen that 84.3% of the respondents were aware of accident preventive measures at school. This shows a high level of awareness of accident preventive measures at school in the study area.

**Research Question 3:** What is the level of awareness of accident prevention measures of primary school pupils in Oyo West Local Government Area at playground?

**Table 3: Respondents' Awareness of Accident Preventive Measures at Playground**  
N=240

S/N	Accident Preventive Measures at playground	Yes Freq(%)	No Freq(%)	I don't Know Freq(%)
1.	Do you know why it is important to use playground equipment properly	203(84.6)	18(7.5)	19(7.9)
2	Do you know why it is important to avoid pushing or shoving while playing	215(89.6)	10(4.2)	15(6.3)
3	Do you know why it is important to wait for your turn on the playground equipment	199(82.9)	34(14.2)	7(2.9)
4	Do you know why it is important to follow the playground rules	214(90.0)	14(5.8)	10(4.2)
5	Do you know why it is important to avoid playing near sharp objects	188(78.3)	34(14.2)	18(7.5)
6	Do you know why it is important to play in designated areas on the playground	219(91.3)	12(5.0)	9(3.8)
Total Average Percentage		86.1	8.5	5.4

Table 3 shows that 84.6% of the respondents knew why it was important to use playground equipment properly while 89.6% knew why it was important to avoid pushing or shoving while playing and 82.9% knew why it was important to wait for your turn on the playground equipment. The table shows that 90% knew why it was important to follow the playground rules while 78.3% knew why it was important to avoid playing near sharp objects and 91.3% know why it was important to play in designated areas on the playground. On the average, it was revealed that 86.1% were aware of accident preventive measures on the playground.

**Table 4: Level of awareness on Accident Preventive Measures at Home, School and Playground****N=240**

High awareness: Yes responses greater than 80%

Low awareness: Yes responses 80% or lower

Level of Awareness	Frequency	Percent
Low level	32	13.33
High Level	208	86.67

Table4 shows that 13.33% of the respondents have a low level of awareness on accident preventive measures at home, school and on the playground while 86.67% have a high level of awareness of accident preventive measure in the study area. Hence, it could be concluded that there exist a high level of accident preventive measure in the study area.

### Discussion of findings

This study showed high level of the respondents awareness to the importance of doing away with sharp object, reaching to elders when injured as well as why it was important to turn off gas stoves when not in use. This was buttressed by RoSPA (2017) who reported that the large number of accidents happened in the living rooms, while, the most serious accidents happened in the kitchen or on the stairs. Oyerinde and Obiyemi (2002) and Oladunjoye (2013) itemized physical items that often constitute accidents risks at home as electrical gadgets, objects such as toothpicks, needles, sharp objects and stair cases, climbing of stools and unkempt yard. This was in line with the finding of the studies as it was revealed that the pupils are aware of factors such as high level of the respondents were aware that using electrical appliances with wet hands can result in accident, high percentage being aware that using hard toothbrush can result in accidents while high level of the respondents agreed that walking on slippery floor can result in accident and also high level of the respondent agreed that jumping on the chairs in the sitting room can result into accident, a convincing percentage of the respondents agreed that; dropping peels of banana peels on the floor can cause accident, handling hot plates/ pot carelessly can result in accidents, walking around at night when there is no light can cause accident and running around at home can results in accident.

On accessing awareness of preventive measures in school and playground, the study revealed that on the average, it was seen that most of the respondents are aware of accident preventive measures at school and playground respectively. This shows a high level of awareness of accident preventive measures at school and playground in the study area. The result were in contrast to the findings of Babalobi (2013) and Ologun (2014) which stated that there was a low level of awareness of safety measures among primary school pupils in Nigeria. The differences in these results might be due to differences in the focus of each of the studies, geographical locations, ages and school levels of the respondents in this study.

## Conclusion

- i. The study concluded that primary schools pupils in Oyo West Local Government Area had moderate awareness level of preventive measures and that they practiced accident preventive measures at all settings. Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:
- ii. Both Government and school authorities should invest more on accident preventive measures by providing safety equipment, buildings and other facilities.
- iii. The schools should develop workable strategies for pupils' monitoring in schools especially at break periods and after schools when they usually have their freedom to play on the fields.
- iv. In addition to curriculum-based safety education programmes, pupils should be regularly exposed to community- based accident prevention programmes.
- v. Schools can keep pupils more aware of accident preventive measures through posters and handbills bearing safety information pasted on the boards for pupils to read

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