

# AN INVESTIGATION ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF CHILD ABUSE ON SPORTS DEVELOPMENT IN EDUCATION DISTRICT IV OF LAGOS STATE

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## **Abstract**

*Evidence in literature and reports showed that both male and female athletes are sexually, physically, and emotionally abused in their course of participating in sports. The purpose of the study was to investigate on the implication of child abuse on sports development among public junior and senior secondary school students in Lagos State. A descriptive research design and multi-stage sampling technique was employed for the study. A 24-item structured questionnaire was used to generate data from student athletes (N=3,000) which included males (n=1,456) and females (n=1,544) in junior (n=1,500) and senior (n=1,500) secondary schools. Data analysis was based on students who indicated that they participate in sports either at grassroot or amateur levels and have experienced one form of abuse or the other in sports. Percentage was used to analyze the data. Results showed that there were significant associations in emotional, physical, child neglect and sexual abuse which has a serious negative implication on sports development among secondary school students.*

**Key words:** *Abuse, Child, Development, Sports*

## **Introduction**

Sport participation should provide children with the joy of play, and with the required opportunity for physical and mental development. However, abuse is too often a part of the child athlete's experience. As a result, sport has been a cause of pain, fear, and distress for many children. Sports help children develop physical skills, get exercise, make friends, have fun, learn teamwork, learn to play fair, and improve self-esteem (The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, 2018). It is an essential part of a child's physical and mental development and growth. Sport can not only have physical and mental health benefits, but it is also widely enjoyed. Sport is a refuge through which they can not only learn physical skills, but also develop other essential skills such as tolerance and teamwork which they'll utilize throughout life (Rivers-Cochran & Hamilton, 2021). Unfortunately, many children are maltreated and abused in a sporting environment, and this continues to go unchecked.

Abuse is known to be a pattern of physical, sexual, emotional, or negligent ill-treatment by a person in a caregiver capacity (eg, parent, coach) resulting in actual or potential harm to the athlete. The four major recognized types of abuse include physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect (Stirling, Bridges, Cruz & Mountjoy, 2011). Fortier, Parent and Lessard (2018) mentioned that, young athletes are at risk of experiencing sexual maltreatment, physical

maltreatment and psychological maltreatment in the context of practicing their sport.

Young athletes are particularly vulnerable to this form of violence due to the unique characteristics of the sport environment, such as the importance placed on the coach–athlete relationship, the intensity of youth sport, the demands of competition, the interest of the media in young athletes, time spent in distant training centres, recruitment procedures of young athletes, and the distance from home or school environment (Fortier, Parent & Lessard, 2018). While Bjørnseth and Szabo (2018) opined that, child abuse and maltreatment happen in many sports, and girls, minorities and higher-level athletes are most often the victims.

Moreover, although coaches are generally the perpetrators, Bjørnseth and Szabo (2018) argued that new research suggests that “peer-athletes may precede the coach”. Based on a study by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, conducted between June 2016 and March 2020, out of 3,939 survivors of sexual abuse who came forward, 64 described child sexual abuse that took place in a sporting environment, and 91% of those 64 reported being sexually abused by a sporting coach or volunteer in a sports organisation this is because sport provides a conducive environment for physical contact, due to children most often being away from their parents and defenseless (Wrack, 2020).

In Nigeria, a new public opinion poll conducted by NOIPolls (2022), has revealed that child abuse is prevalent in Nigeria, as disclosed by 88 percent of adult Nigerians nationwide. Although not reported, there are cases of child abuse in sports which lead to parents not consenting to their female children participation in sports. In an interview at the Lagos International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Classics at the Molade Okoya-Thomas Hall, Teslim Balogun Stadium, Lagos, Former Nigeria table tennis player, Kasali Lasisi was admonishing parents to allow their female children to participate more in sports and dismiss the fear that they could be abused. Though her appeal may be of good intention, it doesn’t override the fact that athletes are physically, sexually, emotionally abuse and neglected (Vanguard, August 31, 2013).

### **Statement of the Problem**

The menace of child abuse has remained a challenge and has consequential implications on the development of sports in the country. Abuse in the sports context ranges from sexual abuse to emotional and physical abuse. Physical violence as a coaching technique has a long tradition in sport, often seen as essential to achieving excellence in competition and in personal character. This dangerous tradition has made the eradication of physical abuse in sport especially difficult. Coaches, parents, and even some players hold onto the mistaken belief that physical abuse in sport has value and children suffer as a result.

Sports at grassroot level is supposed to be the bedrock of development; at this level, talents are identified and groomed from amateur to professional

thereby producing athletes that will represent the country at international levels. With the level of unannounced and unreported cases of child abuse in Nigerian sports, children are constantly battling with psychological problems trying to cope with various abuses they suffer from their handlers and this can have long-lasting and persistent negative effects on the child. Since optimal sports performance is tied to psychological boost and encouragement, the negative effect of this trauma (child abuse) can lead to impair physical development, sexually transmitted diseases, low self-esteem, depression, anxiety, traumatic stress, mistrust of others, poor peer relationships, difficulty regulating emotions, self-harming behavior, including cutting and suicide attempts, suicide, increased risk of violent behavior, juvenile delinquency, involvement in crime in adulthood, and substance abuse.

Therefore, this study was carried out to investigate the implications of child abuse on sports development in Lagos state.

### **Research Questions**

The following research questions were developed and answered in the course of the study:

1. Will emotional abuse have any negative implication on sports development among secondary school students in Lagos state?
2. Will there be any difference in participants' response on the implication of child neglect on sports development in Lagos state?
3. How significant will physical abuse affect sports development among secondary school students in Lagos state?
4. Will there be any difference in participants' response on the implication of sexual abuse on sports development among secondary school students in Lagos state?

### **Research Hypotheses**

The following research hypotheses were tested during the course of the study:

1. Emotional abuse will have no significant association on sports development among secondary school students in Lagos state.
2. There will be no significant association in participants' response on the implication of child neglect on sports development in Lagos state.
3. Physical abuse will have no significant association on sports development among secondary school students in Lagos state.
4. There will be no significant association in participants' response on the implication of sexual abuse on sports development in Lagos state.

### **Methodology**

The descriptive research design was used in this study. The population of the study comprised all senior secondary school students in Education district IV of Lagos state. According to the Lagos State School Census Report (2019), there

were 32,733 students in total. During the sampling, a total of three thousand (3000) students were selected using the multi-stage sampling technique. There are three zones in Education district IV Apapa (12 secondary schools), Surulere (24 secondary schools) and Mainland (58 secondary schools). First stage: The stratified random sampling technique was used to select twelve (12) secondary schools from the three zones of the education district. Second stage: The simple random sampling was used to select two hundred fifty (250) students each from the twelve schools. Third Stage: The purposive sampling was employed to select students who participated in sports at grassroot and amateur levels. A self-structured questionnaire on the implication of child abuse on sports development (IOCASD) was used in the research to extract responses. The data was analyzed using the descriptive statistics of frequency counts, percentages the inferential statistics of Chi-square was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

### Data Analysis

The data was analyzed using the descriptive statistics of frequency counts, percentages the inferential statistics of Chi-square was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

### Results

#### Research Question 1:

**Table 1: Responses on negative implication of emotional abuse on sports development among secondary school students**

SN	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD	Total
1	I always do well in sports when my coach / sports master or mistress complain bitterly about my performance.	747 (24.9%)	1089 (36.3%)	556 (18.5%)	608 (20.2%)	3000 (100%)
2	Each time my coach / sports master or mistress embarrasses me, I always do well during the sports competitions.	493 (16.4%)	710 (23.6%)	804 (26.8%)	993 (33.1%)	3000 (100%)
3	When am teased by my coach / sports master or mistress, it makes me win in sports.	442 (14.7%)	671 (22.3%)	928 (30.9%)	959 (31.9%)	3000 (100%)
4	My coach / sports master or mistress bullies me and that makes me want to perform well in sports.	311 (10.3%)	443 (14.8%)	827 (27.6%)	1419 (47.3%)	3000 (100%)
5	I always do well in sports when my coach / sports master or mistress shouts at me.	419 (14%)	802 (26.7%)	892 (29.7%)	887 (29.6%)	3000 (100%)

6.	I give my best anytime my coach / sports master or mistress rains curses on me	177 (5.9%)	261 (8.7%)	674 (22.5%)	1888 (62.9%)	3000 (100%)
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Table 1 (item 1) indicates that 747 (24.9%) of the total number of respondents who participated in the study, strongly agreed that they always do well in sports when my coach/sports master or mistress complain bitterly about my performance; 1089 (36.3%) agreed; 556 (18.5%) disagreed while 608 (20.2%) strongly disagreed. On item 2, 493 (16.4%) of the total number of students, strongly agreed that, each time their coach / sports master or mistress embarrasses them, they always do well during the sports competitions; 710 (23.6%) agreed; 804 (26.8%) disagreed while 993 (33.1%) strongly disagreed. Item 3 shows that 442 (14.7%) strongly agreed that when teased by their coach / sports master or mistress, it makes them win in sports; 671 (22.3%); 928 (30.9%) disagreed while 959 (31.9%) strongly disagreed. Item 4 shows that 311 (10.3%) strongly agreed that when their coach / sports master or mistress bullies them, it makes them want to perform well in sports 443 (14.8%) agreed, 827 (27.6%) disagreed while 1419 (47.3%) strongly agreed.

Item 5 indicates that 419 (14%) strongly agreed that they always do well in sports when their coach / sports master or mistress shouts at them; 802 (26.7%) agreed; 892 (29.7%) disagreed while 887 (29.6%) strongly disagreed. On item 6, 177 (5.9%) strongly agreed that they always do well in sports when their coach/sports master or mistress shouts at them; 261 (8.7%) agreed; 674 (22.5%) disagreed while 1888 (62.9%) strongly disagreed.

**Table 2: Chi-square representation on emotional abuse**

<b>o</b>	<b>e</b>	<b>o-e</b>	<b>(o-e)<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Σ(o-e) / e</b>
747	431	316	99856	231.6845
493	431	62	3844	8.918794
442	431	11	121	0.280742
311	431	-120	14400	33.41067
419	431	-12	144	0.334107
177	431	-254	64516	149.6891
1089	662.6	426.4	181817	274.3993
710	662.6	47.4	2246.76	3.390824
671	662.6	8.4	70.56	0.10649
443	662.6	-219.6	48224.16	72.7802
802	662.6	139.4	19432.36	29.32744
261	662.6	-401.6	161282.6	243.4086
556	780.1	-224.1	50220.81	64.3774
804	780.1	23.9	571.21	0.732227

928	780.1	147.9	21874.41	28.04052
827	780.1	46.9	2199.61	2.819651
892	780.1	111.9	12521.61	16.05129
674	780.1	-106.1	11257.21	14.43047
608	1125.6	-517.6	267909.8	238.0151
993	1125.6	-132.6	17582.76	15.62079
959	1125.6	-166.6	27755.56	24.65846
1419	1125.6	293.4	86083.56	76.47793
887	1125.6	-238.6	56929.96	50.57743
1888	1125.6	762.4	581253.8	516.3946
			$\Sigma(o-e) / e = 2095.927$	

**Hypothesis 1:** Emotional abuse will have no significant association on sports development among secondary school students.

**Table 3: Chi-square summary table showing that emotional abuse will have no significant association on sports development among secondary school students**

Response	Frequency	Percentage	Df	Table Value	X <sup>2</sup> Value
Strongly Agreed	2589	14.4 %	15	24.996	2095.927
Agreed	3976	22.1%			
Disagreed	4681	26%			
Strongly Disagreed	6754	37.5%			
Grand Total	18000				

Significant Level = 0.05, df = 15, X<sup>2</sup><sub>tab</sub> = 24.996

Table 3 shows the Chi-square that Emotional abuse will have no significant association on sports development among secondary school students. The calculated result  $X^2_{cal} = 2095.927 > X^2_{tab} = 24.996$  indicated a significant difference in participants' responses. Therefore, the null hypothesis (H<sub>0</sub>) which states that emotional abuse will have no significant association on sports development among secondary school students is, therefore, rejected.

**Research Question 2:****Table 4: Responses on the implication of child neglect on sports development among secondary school students**

SN	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD	Total
7	I perform well in sports when am being maltreated by my coach/sports master or mistress.	235 (7.8%)	349 (11.6%)	1001 (33.4%)	1415 (47.2%)	3000 (100%)
8	I give my best during sports competitions when my coach / sports master or mistress doesn't give me food to eat.	245 (8.2%)	450 (15%)	913 (30.4%)	1392 (46.4%)	3000 (100%)
9	Each time I am injured and have wound on any part of my body, my coach / sports master or mistress asks me to take part in competition because am the best player on the team, I do perform well.	271 (9%)	476 (15.9%)	971 (32.4%)	1282 (42.7%)	3000 (100%)
10	Even if my coach / sports master or mistress does not care if I fail my exam, but wants me to come for training, I will and also give my best instead of staying at home to read.	133 (4.4%)	209 (7%)	692 (23.1%)	1966 (65.5%)	3000 (100%)
11	Whenever I come to training looking dirty, my coach / sports master or mistress doesn't complain and yet I do well in sports.	231 (7.7%)	529 (17.6%)	1150 (38.3%)	1090 (36.3%)	3000 (100%)
12	My coach / sports master or mistress does not ask or care if I have taken my bath or brush my teeth and that makes me want to give my best.	162 (5.4%)	298 (9.9%)	974 (32.5%)	1566 (52.2%)	3000 (100%)

Table 4 (item 7) indicates that 235 (7.8%) of the total number of respondents who participated in the study, strongly agreed that they perform well in sports when they are being maltreated by my coach / sports master or mistress.; 349 (11.6%) agreed; 1001 (33.4%) disagreed while 1415 (47.2%) strongly disagreed. On item 8, 245 (8.2%) of the total number of students, strongly agreed that, they give their best during sports competitions when their coach / sports master or mistress doesn't give them food to eat; 450 (15%) agreed; 319 (30.4%) disagreed while 1392 (46.4%) strongly disagreed. Item 9 shows that 271 (9%) strongly agreed that each time they are injured and have wound on any part of their body, their coach / sports master or mistress asks them to take part in competition because they are the best player on the team, they do perform well; 476 (15.9%); 971

(32.4%) disagreed while 1282 (42.7%) strongly disagreed. Item 10 shows that 133 (4.4%) strongly agreed that even if their coach/sports master or mistress does not care if they fail their exams, but wants them to come for training, they will and also give their best instead of staying at home to read; 209 (7%) agreed, 692 (23.1%) disagreed while 1966 (65.5%) strongly agreed.

Item 11 indicates that 231 (7.7%) strongly agreed that whenever they come to training looking dirty, their coach/sports master or mistress doesn't complain and yet they do well in sports.; 529 (17.6%) agreed; 1150 (38.3%) disagreed while 1090 (36.3%) strongly disagreed. On item 12, 162 (5.4%) strongly agreed that their coach / sports master or mistress does not ask or care if they've taken their bath or brush their teeth and that makes them want to give their best.; 298 (9.9%) agreed; 974 (32.5%) disagreed while 1566 (52.2%) strongly disagreed.

**Table 5: Chi-square representation on child neglect**

<b>o</b>	<b>e</b>	<b>o-e</b>	<b>(o-e)<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Σ(o-e) /e</b>
235	212.8	22.2	492.84	2.315977
245	212.8	32.2	1036.84	4.872368
271	212.8	58.2	3387.24	15.91748
133	212.8	-79.8	6368.04	29.925
231	212.8	18.2	331.24	1.556579
162	212.8	-50.8	2580.64	12.12707
349	385.1	-36.1	1303.21	3.384082
450	385.1	64.9	4212.01	10.93744
476	385.1	90.9	8262.81	21.45627
209	385.1	-176.1	31011.21	80.52768
529	385.1	143.9	20707.21	53.77099
298	385.1	-87.1	7586.41	19.69984
1001	950.1	50.9	2590.81	2.726881
913	950.1	-37.1	1376.41	1.4487
971	950.1	20.9	436.81	0.459752
692	950.1	-258.1	66615.61	70.11431
1150	950.1	199.9	39960.01	42.05874
974	950.1	23.9	571.21	0.60121
1415	1451	-36	1296	0.893177
1392	1451	-59	3481	2.399035
1282	1451	-169	28561	19.68367
1966	1451	515	265225	182.7877
1090	1451	-361	130321	89.81461
1566	1451	115	13225	9.114404
			Σ(o-e) /e = 678.593	

**Hypothesis 2:** There will be no significant association in participants' response on the implication of child neglect on sports development.

**Table 6: Chi-square summary table showing that there will be no significant association in participants' response on the implication of child neglect on sports development**

Response	Frequency	Percentage	Df	Table Value	X <sup>2</sup> Value
Strongly Agreed	1277	7.1 %	15	24.996	678.593
Agreed	2311	12.8%			
Disagreed	5701	31.7%			
Strongly Disagreed	8711	48.4%			
Grand Total	18000				

Significant Level = 0.05, df = 15, X<sup>2</sup><sub>tab</sub> = 24.996

Table 6 shows the Chi-square that there will be no significant association in participants' response on the implication of child neglect on sports development. The calculated result X<sup>2</sup><sub>cal</sub> = 678.593 > X<sup>2</sup><sub>tab</sub> = 24.996 indicated a significant difference in participants' responses. Therefore, the null hypothesis (H<sub>0</sub>) which states that there will be no significant association in participants' response on the implication of child neglect on sports development is, therefore, rejected.

### Research Question 3:

**Table 7: Responses on effect of physical abuse on sports development among secondary school students**

SN	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD	Total
13	I do well in sports when am being punished like an animal.	159 (5.3%)	206 (6.9%)	715 (23.8%)	1920 (64%)	3000 (100%)
14	If my coach / sports master or mistress hits me with a racket of boot on my head, I will not feel bad but, be motivated to do better.	319 (10.6%)	460 (15.3%)	789 (26.3%)	1432 (47.7%)	3000 (100%)
15	I don't care if my coach / sports master or mistress beats me up during training because it makes me do my best in competitions.	538 (17.9%)	842 (28.1%)	715 (23.8%)	905 (30.2%)	3000 (100%)
16	If I make a little mistake during training, and my coach / sports master or mistress beats and injures me, I will not relent in	277 (9.2%)	476 (15.9%)	714 (23.8%)	1533 (51.1%)	3000 (100%)

	coming to training to give my best in order to win trophies.					
17	Flogging and slapping me for little mistakes during training makes me strong.	214 (7.1%)	433 (14.4%)	935 (31.2%)	1418 (47.3%)	3000 (100%)
18	Whenever my coach / sports master or mistress ask me to take risk that will affect my life, I will not hesitate to do so.	127 (4.2%)	239 (8%)	589 (19.6%)	2045 (68.3%)	3000 (100%)

Table 7 (item 13) indicates that 159 (5.3%) of the total number of respondents who participated in the study, strongly agreed that they do well in sports when being punished like an animal; 206 (6.9%) agreed; 715 (23.8%) disagreed while 1920 (64%) strongly disagreed. On item 14, 319 (10.6%) of the total number of students, strongly agreed that, if their coach / sports master or mistress hits them with a racket of boot on their head, they will not feel bad but, be motivated to do better; 460 (15.3%) agreed; 789 (26.3%) disagreed while 1432 (47.7%) strongly disagreed. Item 15 shows that 538 (17.9%) strongly agreed that they don't care if their coach / sports master or mistress beats them up during training because it makes them do their best in competitions; 842 (28.1%); 715 (23.8%) disagreed while 905 (30.2%) strongly disagreed. Item 16 shows that 277 (9.2%) strongly agreed that if they make a little mistake during training, and their coach / sports master or mistress beats and injures them, they will not relent in coming to training to give their best in order to win trophies; 476 (15.9%) agreed, 714 (23.8%) disagreed while 1533 (51.1%) strongly agreed.

Item 17 indicates that 214 (7.1%) strongly agreed that flogging and slapping them for little mistakes during training makes them strong; 433 (14.4%) agreed, 935 (31.2%) disagreed while 1418 (47.3%) strongly agreed. On item 18, 127 (4.2%) strongly agreed that whenever their coach / sports master or mistress ask them to take risk that will affect their life, they will not hesitate to do so; 239 (8%) agreed; 589 (19.6%) disagreed while 2045 (68.3%) strongly disagreed.

**Table 8: Chi-square representation on physical abuse**

<b>o</b>	<b>e</b>	<b>o-e</b>	<b>(o-e)<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Σ(o-e) / e</b>
159	272.3	-113.3	12836.89	47.14245
319	272.3	46.7	2180.89	8.009144
538	272.3	265.7	70596.49	259.26
277	272.3	4.7	22.09	0.081124
214	272.3	-58.3	3398.89	12.48215
127	272.3	-145.3	21112.09	77.53246
206	442.6	-236.6	55979.56	126.4789

460	442.6	17.4	302.76	0.684049
842	442.6	399.4	159520.4	360.4165
476	442.6	33.4	1115.56	2.52047
433	442.6	-9.6	92.16	0.208224
239	442.6	-203.6	41452.96	93.65784
715	742.8	-27.8	772.84	1.040442
789	742.8	46.2	2134.44	2.873506
715	742.8	-27.8	772.84	1.040442
714	742.8	-28.8	829.44	1.11664
935	742.8	192.2	36940.84	49.73188
589	742.8	-153.8	23654.44	31.84496
1920	1542.1	377.9	142808.4	92.60645
1432	1542.1	-110.1	12122.01	7.860716
905	1542.1	-637.1	405896.4	263.2102
1533	1542.1	-9.1	82.81	0.0537
1418	1542.1	-124.1	15400.81	9.986907
2045	1542.1	502.9	252908.4	164.0026
			$\Sigma(o-e) / e = 1613.842$	

**Hypothesis 3:** Physical abuse will have no significant association on sports development among secondary school students.

**Table 9: Chi-square summary table showing that physical abuse will have no significant association on sports development among secondary school students**

Response	Frequency	Percentage	Df	Table Value	X <sup>2</sup> Value
Strongly Agreed	1634	9%	15	24.996	1613.842
Agreed	2656	14.8%			
Disagreed	4457	24.8%			
Strongly Disagreed	9253	51.4%			
Grand Total	18000				

Significant Level = 0.05, df = 15, X<sup>2</sup><sub>tab</sub> = 24.996

Table 9 shows the Chi-square that physical abuse will have no significant association on sports development among secondary school students. The calculated result X<sup>2</sup><sub>cal</sub> = 1613.842 > X<sup>2</sup><sub>tab</sub> = 24.996 indicated a significant association in participants' responses. Therefore, the null hypothesis (H<sub>0</sub>) which

states that physical abuse will have no significant association on sports development among secondary school students is, therefore, rejected.

#### Research Question 4:

**Table 10: Responses on the implication of sexual abuse on sports development among secondary school students**

SN	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD	Total
19	If am being raped by my coach / sports master or mistress, I will still have the courage to attend training.	70 (2.3%)	117 (3.9%)	399 (13.3%)	2414 (80.5%)	3000 (100%)
20	My coach/sports master or mistress kisses me during training, although I don't like it, but it makes motivates me to come to training every day.	135 (4.5%)	223 (7.4%)	789 (26.3%)	1853 (61.8%)	3000 (100%)
21	I love going to training to give my best because my coach/sports master or mistress always tells me he/she wants to marry me.	71 (2.4%)	81 (2.7%)	766 (25.5%)	2082 (69.4%)	3000 (100%)
22	Some athletes including myself feels comfortable when our coach/sports master or mistress touches us indiscriminately.	69 (2.3%)	127 (3.7%)	534 (17.8%)	2270 (75.7%)	3000 (100%)
23	Am okay with my coach / sports master or mistress touching my buttocks, chest or chick during sports practice.	63 (2.1%)	112 (3.7%)	433 (14.4%)	2392 (79.7%)	3000 (100%)
24	No matter the pressure to have sex by my coach, I will still continue to attend training.	66 (2.2%)	110 (3.7%)	352 (11.7%)	2472 (82.4%)	3000 (100%)

Table 10 (item 19) indicates that 70 (2.3%) of the total number of respondents who participated in the study, strongly agreed that being raped by their coach / sports master or mistress, they will still have the courage to attend training; 117 (3.9%) agreed; 399 (13.3%) disagreed while 2414 (80.5%) strongly disagreed. On item 20, 135 (4.5%) of the total number of students, strongly agreed that, their coach / sports master or mistress kisses them during training, although they don't like it, but it makes motivates them to come to training every day; 223 (7.4%) agreed; 789 (26.3%) disagreed while 1852 (61.8%) strongly disagreed. Item 21 shows that 71 (2.4%) strongly agreed that they love going to training to give their best because their coach / sports master or mistress always tells them he/she wants to marry them; 81 (2.7%); 766 (25.5%) disagreed while 2082 (69.4%) strongly disagreed. Item 22 shows that 69 (2.3%) strongly agreed that some

athletes including feels comfortable when coach / sports master or mistress touches them indiscriminately; 127 (4.2%) agreed, 534 (17.8%) disagreed while 2270 (75.7%) strongly agreed.

Item 23 indicates that 63 (2.1%) strongly agreed that they are okay with their coach / sports master or mistress touching their buttocks, chest or chick during sports practice; 112 (3.7%) agreed, 433 (14.4%) disagreed while 2392 (79.7%) strongly agreed. On item 24, 66 (2.2%) strongly agreed that no matter the pressure to have sex by their coach, they will still continue to attend training; 110 (3.7%) agreed; 352 (11.7%) disagreed while 2472 (82.4%) strongly disagreed.

**Table 11: Chi-square representation on sexual abuse**

<b>o</b>	<b>e</b>	<b>o-e</b>	<b>(o-e)<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Σ(o-e) /e</b>
70	79	-9	81	1.025316
135	79	56	3136	39.6962
71	79	-8	64	0.810127
69	79	-10	100	1.265823
63	79	-16	256	3.240506
66	79	-13	169	2.139241
117	128.3	-11.3	127.69	0.995246
223	128.3	94.7	8968.09	69.89938
81	128.3	-47.3	2237.29	17.43796
127	128.3	-1.3	1.69	0.013172
112	128.3	-16.3	265.69	2.07085
110	128.3	-18.3	334.89	2.61021
399	545.5	-146.5	21462.25	39.34418
789	545.5	243.5	59292.25	108.6934
766	545.5	220.5	48620.25	89.1297
534	545.5	-11.5	132.25	0.242438
433	545.5	-112.5	12656.25	23.20119
352	545.5	-193.5	37442.25	68.63841
2414	2247.1	166.9	27855.61	12.39625
1853	2247.1	-394.1	155314.8	69.11789
2082	2247.1	-165.1	27258.01	12.13031
2270	2247.1	22.9	524.41	0.233372
2392	2247.1	144.9	20996.01	9.343603
2472	2247.1	224.9	50580.01	22.50902
			<b>Σ(o-e) /e = 596.1838</b>	

**Hypothesis 4:** There will be no significant association in participants' response on the implication of sexual abuse on sports development.

**Table 12: Chi-square summary table showing that there will be no significant association in participants' response on the implication of sexual abuse on sports development**

Response	Frequency	Percentage	Df	Table Value	X <sup>2</sup> Value
Strongly Agreed	474	2.6%	15	24.996	596.1838
Agreed	770	4.3%			
Disagreed	3273	18.2%			
Strongly Disagreed	13483	74.9%			
Grand Total	18000				

Significant Level = 0.05, df = 15, X<sup>2</sup><sub>tab</sub> = 24.996

Table 12 shows the Chi-square that there will be no significant association in participants' response on the implication of sexual abuse on sports development. The calculated result X<sup>2</sup><sub>cal</sub> = 596.1838 > X<sup>2</sup><sub>tab</sub> = 24.996 indicated a significant difference in participants' responses. Therefore, the null hypothesis (H<sub>0</sub>) which states that there will be no significant association in participants' response on the implication of sexual abuse on sports development is, therefore, rejected.

## Discussion of Findings

### *Negative implication of emotional abuse on sports development*

The findings of research question 1 and hypothesis 1 indicate that emotional abuse has significant implication on sports development among secondary school students. The study is in line with Stirling and Gretchen (2013), they explore the effects of elite athletes' experiences of emotional abuse in the coach-athlete relationship. The findings raise questions about the ethics of condoning or justifying emotionally abusive coaching practices and support the need for athlete protection measures in order to develop sport.

### *Implication of child neglect on sports development*

The findings of research question 2 and hypothesis 2 indicate that child neglect has significant implication on sports development among secondary school students. The study is in line with Charlotte (n.d), statement that, abuse and neglect can have long-lasting and persistent negative effects on the child such as changes in motivation and reduced enjoyment (possibly leading to burnout and quitting sports), impaired focus, and difficulties with gaining new skills and such as diminished performance.

### ***Implication of physical abuse on sports development***

The findings of research question 3 and hypothesis 3 indicate that physical abuse has significant implication on sports development among secondary school students. The study is in line with Timpka, Janson, Jacobsson, Dahlström, Spreco, Jan, Bargaría, Mountjoy and Svedin (2018), in their study, they examined the associations between lifetime sexual and physical abuse, and the likelihood of injury within and outside sport in athletes involved in competitive athletics. The result showed that lifetime sexual and physical abuse were associated with an increased likelihood of injury among female athletes which affects their development in sports.

### ***Implication of sexual abuse on sports development***

The findings of research question 4 and hypothesis 4 indicate that sexual abuse has significant implication on sports development among secondary school students. The study is in line with Margot (2022) statement, which stated that, “all forms of physical and emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child’s health, survival, development or dignity, in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power”.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions were drawn: that the level of abuse in grassroot sports can be so devastating to athletes’ development as it raises questions about the ethics of condoning or justifying emotionally abusive coaching practices and support the need for athletes’ protection measures in order to develop sport. The child’s motivation and enjoyment are reduced (possibly leading to burnout and quitting sports), impaired focus, and difficulties with gaining new skills, diminished performance, increased likelihood of injury among female athletes and potential harm to the child’s health, survival, development or dignity, in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power.

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made.

1. Children engaging in sports under the supervision of a coach or instructor that is of opposite sex should be educated on sexual issues, and to report any suspicions of abuse, bullying behaviour. Even if abusive behaviour happens in another setting, the offender should be reported.
2. There should be a safeguarding policy by sports federations to put in place integrity code of conduct that will cover athletes, to protect them from abuse, harassment and exploitation.
3. The government should establish a Center for Safe Sport, an independent administrative body that will be saddled with the responsibilities for

addressing child abuse in country's sport and any allegation of child athlete abuse within organized sport in the country.

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