



Community-Based Child Protection Mechanisms in Lagos, Nigeria: Early Intervention and Prevention Rates

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Abstract

In Lagos, Nigeria, child protection mechanisms are crucial for safeguarding vulnerable children from abuse and neglect. An ethnographic study involving participant observation, semi-structured interviews with key informants, and focus group discussions among parents and caregivers. Community-based child protection groups reported a significant increase (35%) in the number of cases referred for early intervention compared to previous years. Communities play a pivotal role in detecting and addressing child abuse through their proactive mechanisms, though challenges remain in sustaining resources and training. Public-private partnerships should be fostered to enhance community capacity and reduce reliance on external support. Lagos, Nigeria, Child Protection, Early Intervention, Community-Based Mechanisms

Keywords: *African geography, community mobilization, ethnography, participant observation, child protection, early intervention, qualitative methods*

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