OLDER ADULTS ABUSES AND SOCIAL WORK INTERVENTION STRATEGIES IN OREDO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, EDO STATE.

BY

Glory Oluwaloni ODEKUNLE
SSC2106091

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN
BENIN CITY

OCTOBER, 2025.

OLDER ADULTS ABUSES AND SOCIAL WORK INTERVENTION STRATEGIES IN OREDO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, EDO STATE.

BY

Glory Oluwaloni ODEKUNLE
SSC2106091

A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK, FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY, NIGERIA, IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B. Sc) DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK

OCTOBER, 2025.

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this project work was undertaken by **Glory Oluwaloni ODEKUNLE** with Matriculation Number **SSC2106091** and has been approved as meeting the required standards in both scope and quality for the partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of a Bachelor of Science (B. Sc) Degree in social work at the University of Benin City, Nigeria.

DR.O.J. EGHAREVBA	**DR.(MRS) H.E.EWEKA**
(PROJECT SUPERVISOR)	**(HEAD OF DEPARTMENT)**
DATE	**DATE**

DEDICATION

This research work is dedicated to My heavenly Father who has been my strength and shield all the way and even till the conclusion of this project.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My sincere appreciation goes to God for the mercy, strength and provision that sustained me throughout this academic journey.

My profound gratitude goes to my supervisor, Dr.O.J. Egharevba for his selfless service and then the patience and support despite my flaws. His understanding and care enabled me to implement this project with ease, for this I am grateful.

A big appreciation to my Head of Department Dr.(Mrs) H.E.Eweka and to all my lecturers Dr (Mrs.) T.B.E. Omorogiuwa, Dr. E.O. Ugiagbe, Dr (Mrs.) H.E. Eweka, Dr. S.O. Omige, Dr. O.J. Egharevba, and Dr. O. Ukponahiusi for the years of impactful knowledge and the frequent life advice you readily impacted to us. The roles you played have greatly impacted me and I will forever be grateful.

I'm extremely grateful to my parents Mr & Mrs. Odekunle and my siblings Bro Lanre, Deborah and Emmanuel, I love all of you greatly. To my Amazing uncle and elder brothers, Bro Adeola, Bro Dennis, Bro Efe, Bro Isaac I'm exceptionally grateful for the encouragement and support you provided during the course of this project.

I also appreciate every member of CPMCF and GADITES for their amazing support and constant check ups in ensuring that my project was a success. Special Thanks to my Brethren; Divine, Peace, Excellence, Blessing, Ada, Chialuka, Chima, Precious, Amarachi, Honour, Happiness, Ose, Orema, Pastor Esther and Pastor Chioma.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title Page - - - - - - - - - - i

Certification - - - - - - - - - - ii

Dedication - - - - - - - - - - iii

Acknowledgements - - - - - - - - - iv

Table of Contents - - - - - - - - - v

List of Tables - - - - - - - - - viii

Abstract - - - - - - - - - - ix

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION - - - - - - 1

1.1 Background to the Study - - - - - - - 1

1.2 Statement of Research Problem - - - - - - 3

1.3 Objectives of the Study - - - - - - - 5

1.4 Research Questions - - - - - - - - 5

1.5 Significance of the Study - - - - - - - 6

1.6 Scope of the Study - - - - - - - 10

1.7 Definitions of Terms - - - - - - - - 11

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW - - - - - 12

2.1 Concept of Elder Abuse - - - - - - - 12

2.1.2 Elder Abuse: An Increasing Common Norm - - - - 17

2.1.3 Prevalence of Elder Abuse - - - - - - - 18

2.1.4 Factors Contributing to Elder Abuse - - - - - - 24

2.1.5 Strategies to Combat Elder Abuse - - - - - - 26

2.1.6 Roles of Social Workers in addressing Elder Abuse - - - - 28

2.1.7 Social Work Intervention Strategies - - - - - - 32

2.2 Empirical Studies - - - - - - - - 33

2.3 Review of Theories - - - - - - - - 36

2.3.1 Activity Theory - - - - - - - - 36

2.3.2 Disengagement Theory - - - - - - - 39

2.4 Theoretical Framework - - - - - - - 41

2.4.1 Continuity Theory - - - - - - - - 41

2.4.2 Strengths-Based Perspective Theory - - - - - - 43

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY - - - - 46

3.1 Preamble - - - - - - - - - 46

3.2 Research Design - - - - - - - - 46

3.3 Area of Study - - - - - - - - - 46

3.4 Population of the Study - - - - - - - 47

3.5 Sample Size and Sample Techniques - - - - - - 48

3.6 Instrumentation for Data collection - - - - - - 49

3.7 Method of Data Collection - - - - - - - 50

3.8 Reliability and Validation of the Instrument - - - - - 50

3.9 Method of Data Analysis - - - - - - - 50

3.10 Ethical Considerations - - - - - - - 50

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS - - 51

4.1 Social Demographic Characteristics of Respondents - - - 51

4.2 Data Presentation and Analysis according to the Research Objectives - 54

4.3 Discussion of Findings - - - - - - - 59

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS- 63

5.1 Summary of Findings - - - - - - - - - 63

5.2 Conclusion - - - - - - - - - - 64

5.3 Recommendations - - - - - - - - - 65

5.4 Suggestions for Further Study - - - - - - 66

5.5 Contribution to Knowledge - - - - - - - - 66

REFERENCES - - - - - - - - - - 67

APPENDIX - - - - - - - - - - 74

LIST OF TABLES

TABLES **PAGES**

Table 4.1: Socio-Demographic Information of Respondents - - - 51

Table 4.3: Prevalence and types of Elder Abuse in Oredo - - - - 54

Table 4.4: Roles of Social Workers in Preventing and Responding to Elder Abuse - 55

Table 4.5: The Effectiveness of Intervention Strategies Implemented by a Social Worker 56

Table 4.6: Ways to Improve Social Work Intervention - - - - 58

ABSTRACT

This study investigates the prevalence and nature of elder abuse in Oredo Local Government Area, Edo State, Nigeria, and evaluates the effectiveness of social work intervention strategies. It explores the socio-economic, health, and cultural challenges faced by older adults, including financial insecurity, inadequate healthcare access, and social isolation. The erosion of traditional family support systems due to urbanization and migration has left many elderly individuals vulnerable to neglect and mistreatment, highlighting the urgent need for formal care structures and culturally sensitive interventions.

Using a quantitative research approach, 280 questionnaires were distributed, with 266 valid responses analyzed through descriptive statistics using SPSS. The findings reveal that psychological abuse is the most prevalent form of elder mistreatment, and that cultural values significantly influence caregiving practices. While informal care remains central, the study emphasizes the importance of integrating cultural understanding into social work practice to enhance the quality of care and support for older adults.

The study concludes that effective social work interventions such as advocacy, counseling, caregiver training, and community sensitization are essential to improving the well-being of older adults. It recommends collaborative efforts among stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and community organizations, to develop sustainable elder care systems. These insights contribute to policy development, professional training, and future research aimed at safeguarding the dignity and rights of Nigeria's aging population.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Older adults, typically defined as individuals aged 60 and above, constitute a growing segment of Nigeria's population. While aging is a natural process, it comes with social, economic and health challenges that require strategic policy interventions in Nigeria, older adults contribute significantly to society through their experience, cultural wisdom and continued participation in economic activities (Owie Ukponahiusi, 2003). Nigeria has a predominantly young population, but the proportion of older adults is increasing.

According to the National Population commission (NPC, 2020), older adults constitute approximately 5% of the total population, a figure projected to rise due to declining fertility rates and improvements in healthcare. According to the National Population Commission (NPC, 2003), there were over 4.5 million persons aged 60 years and above, representing 5.2% of the total population, in Nigeria in 1991. This figure according to the report, was to reach 5.8 million in 2005, 16 million by 2030, and 47 million by 2060. There is also a differential in the internal spread of the percentage of the elderly population within the country and Edo state was named among the states having higher percentage of elderly population than the National average. Other states in this category are clustered in the Eastern, North Central and Southern Geopolitical zones. The United Nations (UN, 2022) estimates that Nigeria's elderly population will continue to grow necessitating comprehensive policies to address aging-related challenges. Most older

adults in Nigeria reside in rural areas, relying on informal support from family members. However, rapid urbanization and modernization have weakened traditional family structures, increasing the vulnerability of elderly individuals to neglect and economic hardships (Ajayi & Oyetunde, 2018). Culturally, the family, which is the basic unit of social structure of the society becomes most highly important to the elderly as it is incumbent on the family to bear the whole burden of caring for them (Ekot, 2016; Atchley & Baruseh, 2004).

The children of the elderly are traditionally saddled with the responsibility of supporting their parents when they becomes aged. The aged then becomes fully dependent on their families for daily needs and activities. Other relatives also play important roles, especially in Nigeria where the extended family system is predominant. However, due to the changing nature in the world and the structure of the family tends to be eroding the efficacy of the primary care of the giving role of the family (Adeleke, 2014). Socially, the older adults face challenges such as isolation, neglect, and discrimination. The erosion of extended family structures, coupled with migration patterns, has led to increased cases of elder neglect and abuse. Studies indicate that older women are particularly vulnerable due to socio-cultural factors and economic disparities (Ogunniyi et al., 2020). In some instances, victims of elder abuse hardly speak out or report their plights particularly for fear of being rejected or abandoned by other members of the family (Jesmin & Ingman, 2011). It is against this background that the study attempts a critical look at the issue of elder abuse in relations to evolving effective intervention strategies targeted at victims of elder abuse in Oredo local government area, Edo state, Nigeria.

1.2 Statement of Research Problem

In Nigeria, the issue of elder abuse is an emerging but under-researched social problem, despite the increasing population of older adults. Elder abuse in Nigeria includes physical violence, psychological and emotional abuse, financial exploitation, and neglect, often perpetrated by family members or caregivers. Cultural beliefs that view older adults as burdens or associated aging with witchcraft further compound the vulnerability of this demographic (Ajomale, 2007). The issue is often masked by societal norms that revere elders, leaving victims and even perpetrators in denial, while abuse manifests in both family and institutional settings (Muhammad, 2022; Edge Funders, n.d.). Quantitative studies reveal one-year prevalence rates around 13-15% in Benin city, with psychological abuse being most common (Oze et al., 2022), whereas qualitative data from southwestern Nigeria show elder abuse is both perceived and experienced as disrespect and neglect (Ejegwa & colleagues, 2014). The lack of structured welfare systems, poverty, inadequate health care and social isolation have left many older persons exposed to neglect and mistreatment.

Although Nigeria has enacted frameworks such as the National Policy on Ageing (2021) and established the national Senior Citizens Centre, implementations gaps persist. Informal caregivers mostly family members are often untrained and unsupported, compounding elder vulnerability (Punch Healthwise, 2024), while social work interventions remain scarce and localized. A study in Ukhun (Edo state) stresses and caregiver training to curb elder abuse (Imudia & Ukponahusi, 2023). Similarly, policy recommendations urge recognition and support

for informal caregivers, including training, respite, healthcare access, and financial resources (Ikeorji & Ubani, 2024).

According to the National Population Commission (NPC, 2019), the population of Nigerians aged 60 and above is projected to rise steadily, highlighting the urgent need to address the challenges faced by the elderly. However, elder abuse remains largely hidden due to stigma, fear of retaliation, and limited legal and institutional protection mechanisms. There is also a notable absence of robust elder care policies or enforcement of existing rights-based frameworks in the Nigerian context (Ogunniyi et al. 2021). Therefore, the research problem is: How can social work strategies be effectively designed and implemented in Nigeria to prevent elder abuse and support both older adults and their caregivers within the existing cultural, economic and institutional landscape? This problem is significant because the elderly population in Nigeria already among the highest in Africa is projected to continue growing (Punch Healthwise, 2024), and without effective interventions, elder abuse will remain concealed, damaging the well-being and dignity of a vulnerable demographic.

Social workers, by their training and mandate, are critical to addressing elder abuse. Their roles include case assessment, advocacy, counselling and coordinating support services. Nevertheless, social work practice in Nigeria faces significant limitations such as low public awareness, inadequate training in gerontology, and the marginalization of social work as a profession in policy making processes (Akinyemi, 2020). This study aims to examine the prevalence and nature of elder abuse in Nigeria and explore effective social work intervention

strategies. By identifying existing gaps in service delivery and proposing culturally appropriate solutions, it sees to promote the well-being and dignity of older persons in the country.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study was to evaluate Older Adults Abuses and social work intervention and strategies in Oredo communities. The specific objectives were to:

i. identify the different forms of elder abuse in Oredo communities.
ii. examine the prevalence of older adults abuses in Oredo Local Government Area
iii. assess the current roles and capacities of social workers in addressing elder abuse in Oredo L.G.A.
iv. evaluate existing social work intervention strategies and support services targeted at preventing or responding to elder abuse in Oredo L.G.A
v. propose culturally appropriate and effective intervention strategies to enhance the protection and well-being of older adults in Oredo L.G.A

1.4 Research Questions

i. What are the common forms and prevalence of elder abuse in Oredo community ?
ii. What are the prevalence of older adults abuses in Oredo Local Government Area ?
iii. What roles do social workers currently play in preventing and responding to elder abuse ?
iv. How effective are the existing intervention strategies employed by social workers in cases of elder abuse ?

v. What strategies can be adopted to improve social work interventions in protecting older adults from abuse?

1.5 Significance of the Study

The study of elder abuse and social work intervention strategies in Oredo is growing importance, especially in the context of Nigeria's rapidly aging population and changing socio-economic landscape. Traditionally, older adults in Nigeria enjoyed protection and reverence within extended family systems. However, with increased urbanization, economic hardship, migration, and the breakdown of traditional family support structures, many elderly persons are now vulnerable to various forms of abuse – including physical, emotional, financial, and neglect (Ajomale, 2007). Elder abuse remains a largely underreported and misunderstood issue on Nigeria, partly due to cultural taboos, inadequate awareness, and limited legal protections. The stigmatization associated with reporting familial abuse also contributes to the invisibility of the problem. Research into this area is therefore crucial to illuminate the hidden dimensions of elder abuse and to advocate for institutional support and legislative reforms.

The problem is likely under-reported in many countries where formal reporting systems, social services and public awareness are limited. This study which examine the prevalence, patterns, risk factors and social work responses to elder abuse in Oredo is therefore timely and important for multiple, interrelated reasons.

First, the study fills a local empirical gap. While global estimates provide useful context, interventions are best designed from data that reflect local sociodemographic patterns, cultural

norms, house-hold structures and resources constraints. The Benin city comparative study by Okojie, Omuemu, and Uhunwangho (2022) demonstrates that elder abuse exists in both rural and urban communities in Edo state, with psychological abuse particularly common. Building on and extending such local investigations will generate up to date, context specific prevalence estimates and typologies that are essential for evidence-based planning and resources allocation (Okojie et al., 2022).

Moreover, the study has direct practical implications for social work. Social workers play a crucial role in preventing, identifying, and addressing elder abuse by conducting case assessments, providing counseling, mediating family disputes, making referrals, and advocating for victims. An organized evaluation of the strategies presently employed in Benin City, their effectiveness, and the obstacles to implementation (such as gaps in workforce training, insufficient referral pathways, and resource limitations) will yield practical recommendations for practitioners.. The WHO highlights caregivers support, helplines multi-disciplinary teams, and money-management programmes as promising approaches; however, local adaption is needed to ensure feasibility and cultural acceptability (WHO, 2022; WHO,2024).

Also, the study is policy-relevant, Nigeria approved a national framework to address ageing and the welfare of older persons, but translating national policy into functioning local services requires empirical evidence that pinpoints priority problems and service gaps (federal ministry of humanitarian affairs, disaster management and social development [FMHADMSD], 2023). Insights gained from Oredo City can guide municipal and state policy initiatives—for

instance, setting up local reporting systems, providing funding for community outreach and caregiver assistance, or establishing inter-agency protocols connecting social welfare, health, legal, and community stakeholders. Policy briefs derived from this research can assist in bridging the gap between national policy pledges and local community conditions. The research enhances prevention by fostering community awareness and empowerment. The stigma, secrecy, ignorance of older people's rights, and insufficient awareness of support resources contribute to the underreporting of elder abuse. Documenting lived experiences and common abuse pathways enables the design of targeted public-education materials, faith-community outreach programs, and caregivers training modules that increases recognition, reporting, and early intervention (WHO, 2024). Engaging local community organizations in evidence-based prevention will decrease acceptance of abusive behaviors and foster safer social settings for older individuals.

The study advocates for vocational training and enhancing skills. Recognizing competency gaps will help prioritize training for social workers, primary-care providers, and community volunteers, highlighting essential training areas such as gerontological assessment, trauma-informed care, risk evaluation, and multidisciplinary coordination. Incorporating study suggestions into social work programs and ongoing professional training will enhance workforce preparedness to effectively prevent and address elder abuse. Additionally, the research promotes objectives related to human rights and social justice This aligns with international initiatives such as the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030), which calls for stronger data, reduced ageism, and the scaling up of cost-effective solutions to abuse of older people (WHO, 2022). Ultimately,

the research establishes a basis for ongoing investigation and observation. Methodological efforts to validate culturally modified measurement instruments, initial prevalence assessments, and outcome indicators will facilitate longitudinal tracking, program assessment, and comparative research among Nigerian states. This type of evidence is crucial for evaluating the lasting effects and cost efficiency of suggested social work programs and for guiding decisions regarding national expansion.

The importance of social work in this scenario is essential. Social workers serve as primary responders capable of recognizing abuse, offering counseling and mediation services, and linking elderly victims to community-based and institutional resources. In a society where geriatric care is poorly developed and government social services are limited, social work interventions provide a lifeline for older adults experiencing abuse (Olayinka & Adepoju, 2021). Exploring social work intervention methods aids in assessing current reactions to elder abuse and in creating more culturally relevant, sustainable solutions. These consist of programs for community awareness, incorporation of elder care into primary health services, and formation of advocacy groups to push for policy reform. Social workers aid in raising public awareness and in educating caregivers on respectful and non-abusive practices for elder care. Additionally, the research promotes wider human rights and social justice initiatives by guaranteeing that the elderly are included in national progress. It enhances the development of intergenerational relationships and community unity, which are crucial for preserving the dignity and welfare of elderly individuals.

In conclusion, this research is important as it tackles a poorly documented yet urgent issue in Oredo, with evident consequences for social work practice, community prevention, policy initiatives, professional education, and human rights advocacy. It involves not just tackling a frequently overlooked element of social policy but also enhancing the professional skills of social work in Nigeria to safeguard one of the most at-risk groups in society.

1.6 Scope of the Study

This study focuses on exploring the prevalence, types and underlying causes of elder abuse in Oredo communities, as well as examining the effectiveness of social work intervention strategies aimed at preventing and responding to such abuse. The geographical scope covers selected urban and rural areas to provide a comparative understanding of elder abuse across different social and cultural setting within the country. The study is limited to individuals aged 60years and above, in line with the united nations classifications of older persons. It also includes caregivers, family members, social workers and professionals involved in elder care services. In terms of intervention strategies the study will examine the roles of social workers in advocacy, counselling, community education and institutional response. It will also assess the capacity of existing social welfare structures and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) involved in elder care. The research is focused on the older adults in Oredo local government. However, the study will not cover clinical or medical interventions outside the scope of social work practice.

1.7 Definitions of Terms

Older Abuse: Individuals typically aged 60 or 65 and older, often considered to be in the later stage of life

Abuse: The intentional act of causing harm, injury, or distress to another person. It can be physical, emotional, sexual, financial or psychological.

Social Work: Social work is a practice-based profession and Academic discipline that promotes social changes and development, social cohesion and empowerment and liberation of people.

Intervention: An action or set of actions designed to improve a situation, especially to prevent harm or provide support in cases like abuses or neglect.

Social Strategies: Planned approaches or methods used to address social issues, promote well-being, or support individuals and groups in a community setting.

Elder Abuse: Any intentional or negligent act by a caregiver or other person that causes harm or serious risk of harm to an older adult. This includes physical, emotional, sexual, financial abuse and neglect.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

Preamble

The abuse of older adults in Nigeria has become a significant social issue, exacerbated by socio-economic pressures, weakening family ties, a lack of institutional care systems. Constructive engagement with the literature reveals gaps in knowledge, practice challenges, and opportunities for social work intervention. This review critically examines the nature of elder abuse in Nigeria and evaluates the role and effectiveness of social work strategies aimed at combating it.

2.1 Concept of Elder Abuse

Elder abuse is a growing concern globally, especially as populations age and older adults become more vulnerable to mistreatment. The World Health Organisation (WHO, 2002) defines elder abuse as a "single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person" (p. 126). This definition emphasizes both acts of commission and omission, recognizing that neglect can be just be harmful as physical aggression. There are several recognized forms of elder abuse. These include physical abuse, which involves the infliction of pain or injury; emotional or psychological abuse, which includes verbal assaults, threats or social isolation; sexual abuse defined as any non-consensual sexual contact, financial or material exploitation, which refers to the misuse of an elder's financial or material exploitation, which refers to the

misuse of an elder's financial resources; and neglect, which is the failure to provide necessary care (Centers for Diseases Control and prevention [CDC], 2016). All these types of abuse can lead to severe outcomes for older adults, including physical injury, emotional distress, and a heightened risk of mortality. Trust is a vital element in comprehending elder abuse. Usually, the offenders are those who share a close or caregiving bond with the elderly, including relatives, caregivers, or healthcare professionals. This dynamic complicates the detection and reporting of abuse, as victims may be reluctant to accuse those on whom they depend for daily care or companionship (WHO, 2002). Grasping the significance and extent of elder abuse is essential for creating effective prevention measures and safeguarding policies. With the aging global population, it is essential for communities to create conditions where older individuals can reside securely, with honor and consideration.

The starting point for this review is to explore what we mean by 'abuse'. This is well-trodden ground with implicit dangers of entering an academic debate with limited practical consequences or value. In the context of this review, however, understanding the place of an older adults and their function in the society. What do we mean by 'abuse'. According to the United Nations considers abuse as a violation of human rights, emphasizing that it involves degrading treatment and power imbalance (United Nations, 2016). Elder abuse, is a complex and multifaceted social problem that affects older individuals across various settings, including homes, communities and institutions. repeated act- or lack of appropriate action – occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an

older person" (WHO, 2015). This definition highlights two key elements: the expectation of trust and the harm or distress caused. Abuse may be intentional or unintentional and can occur in both domestic and institutional settings. According to Dong (2015), Elder abuse can be categorized into several forms:

- **Physical Abuse:** The inflicting of physical force causes discomfort, pain, and injury and its through acts such as hitting, rough handling, physical assault(shaking, pushing, pulling, slapping, hitting and even restricting the movement of elderly.
- **Verbal Abuse:** The types of verbal abuse were similar in the rural and urban areas and included complaining or grumbling when an older person asks for help, snapping, talking back at or insulting an older person.
- **Emotional or Psychological Abuse:** Any action or behavior that may diminish a senior's sense of well-being, dignity or self-worth. Emotional abuse includes failure to treat a senior as an adult imposed social isolation including shunning or ignoring or lack of acknowledgement, handling without respect and it includes verbal assaults, threats, isolation, and insults.
- **Sexual Abuse:** Its any non-consensual sexual contact of any kind, or interaction with an older adults. It can come in ways of unwanted touching, coerced nudity or sexual acts.
- **Financial or Material Abuse:** Any theft or improper use of money or property like household goods, clothes or jewelry. It can also include withholding funds and/ or fraud.

Note: the most commonly disclosed form of elder abuse is financial abuse. It includes forcing a person to sell possessions, wrongful use of power of attorney, forcing someone to change his/her will and not spend money on aged.

- **Neglect:** It's a failure to provide essential care or protection and its mostly from the end of the caregiver neglect of responsibilities. It can be withholding food, water, medication or hygiene, leaving the elder unattended in an unsafe conditions.

Identification of Older People Experiencing Abuse

The signs described as pointers that an older person was a possible victim of abuse were similar in the rural and urban communities.

- **Lacking Support to Complete Tasks**

It is anticipated that elderly individuals will have younger people nearby to help them with tasks and supply their needs, particularly when they become too weak and less mobile. Elderly individuals who have been overlooked lack support and may be found in public managing their own tasks, like purchasing food if they cannot prepare meals on their own. Some individuals facing financial difficulties might turn to begging as stated in the following quotes.

…if you see an older person that brings a plate to the food seller to buy food. That should not be, when they have people that should be taking care of them. They are not supposed to be going out to buy things. But since there is nobody to help, the elder may be hungry and beg for money

- **Unkempt Appearance and Environment**

The absence of support can also be evident in the outward appearance of elderly individuals who have been overlooked. Their garments might be soiled and their surroundings disheveled. We identify an elderly individual not receiving proper care by observing that their living space is unclean. The garments they put on will also be soiled. The lack of extensive social protection measures and restricted access to healthcare further intensify their vulnerability. Additionally, the absence of formal frameworks for elder care in Nigeria fosters the normalization and invisibility of elder mistreatment. In Oredo, the conceptualization of elder abuse also includes cultural abuse, especially through accusations of witchcraft, which disproportionately affect elderly women. This form of abuse, rooted in traditional belief systems, often results in social exclusion, physical violence and in extreme cases, death (Ajomale, 2007). The weakening of extended family support systems due to urban migration and economic hardship leaves many older adults vulnerable and dependent, increasing their risk abuse (Owoaje, Oyemade, & Adebiyi, 2012). According to Adediran and Odukoya (2020), elder abuse in Nigeria is underreported due to cultural taboos, fear of retaliation and lack of awareness about the rights of older persons. The legal framework to address elder abuse is still evolving, with limited enforcement of existing protections under the Nigerian constitution and policies like the National policy on Ageing.

2.1.2 Elder Abuse: An Increasing Common Norm

Millions of older persons around the world are impacted by the alarming and widespread problem of elder abuse. Elder abuse is defined as any act or neglect that causes injury to an elderly person. It might include financial, exploitation, psychological abuse, physical aggression, and neglect. Elder abuse is not always treated with the urgency or concern that it merits in many countries; instead, it frequently becomes a "creeping norm" a conduct that is gradually tolerated and becomes less frightening as time goes on. The idea that elder abuse is becoming more commonplace will be covered in this research, along with its social and cultural underpinnings and possible preventative and awareness raising tactics.

The Growing Acceptance of Elder abuse

Elder abuse can often go unnoticed because elder abuse usually takes place in the setting of familial care where the perpetrators are generally family members or close caregivers, it can often go unreported. Mistreated is frequently seen as a regrettable, though occasionally unavoidable, consequence of providing care. This normalizing process could take place as a result of caregivers, who are frequently under financial, emotional, and physical stress, starting to view abuse as an acceptable or required coping strategy, These behaviors have the potential to solidify over time as a "creeping norm" behavior that is no longer seen as abuse but rather as a normal aspect of providing care. According to a study by the World Health Organization (WHO), nearly 1 in 6 older adults worldwide experience some form of abuse, but the problem remains largely underreported (World Health Organization, 2021). This may be because many caregivers

view their actions as appropriate, or because older adults themselves may not perceive their experiences as abusive, As a result, elder abuse becomes embedded in caregiving relationships, and society, in general, may fail to recognize it a serious issue.

Social and Cultural and Social Factors Contributing to the Common Norm

Various cultural and social elements play a role in the acceptance of elder abuse. Initially, certain cultural beliefs and patriarchal systems can lead to the elderly, especially women, becoming more susceptible to neglect and abuse, stemming from their marginalization within family and community frameworks. A cultural concern revolves around the conventional role of older individuals in the family. Nigerian families are generally extended, with several generations residing together. This setup frequently imposes considerable caregiving duties on children, particularly daughters-in-law. However, the economic pressures of modern life, particularly in urban areas, mean that many younger Nigerians are unable or unwilling to fulfill these responsibilities. As a result, elderly family members who require care may experience neglect ,isolation or abuse at the hands of caregivers who are overwhelmed or resentful of their responsibilities (Ogunyemi & Adedji, 2018).

2.1.3 Prevalence of Elder Abuse

The prevalence of elder abuse in Oredo due to the insights from a comparative study done in Oredo put forward useful information on elder abuse and its prevalence. The study revealed that the lifetime prevalence of elder abuse was 18.6% in rural areas and 17.6% in urban areas. The one year prevalence was 14.7% in rural areas and 13.3% in urban areas. These

statistics demonstrate that a substantial number of older individuals face abuse, underscoring the need for focused action. Emotional abuse was most common (86%), while sexual abuse was least reported (Ogunmola & Akinyemi, 2022).

Comparative studies from other regions in Nigeria provide additional context. A study in Ile-Ife, Osun state, reported a moderate prevalence of abuse (28.3%) among older adults with emotional (18%) and verbal (82%) abuse being the most common types. Another study in Zaria, Northern Nigeria, found that while elder abuse was uncommon, 35.6% of participants experienced neglect, particularly in terms of personal care and hygiene. In ekiti State, financial abuse was found to be the most prevalent, affecting up to 13.8% of respondents (Ogunlade et al., 2023). Abuse rates increased significantly in people aged 85 years and above. In Akwa Ibom, over 47% of older persons reported physical abuse and neglect, with emotional and financial abuse also highly prevalent (Iniodu et al., 2017). According to a systematic review by Ojo et al., (2022), prevalence across various Nigerian regions ranges from 30% to as high as 81%, depending on location and method of reporting.

In Oredo, the senior citizens frequently encounter various stereotypes that influence their societal perception and treatment. Although these stereotypes may be deeply entrenched in cultural values, they adversely impact the social integration, mental health, and general well-being of older adults. In Nigeria, the perception of aging has changed over time due to societal transformations, urban growth, and altered family dynamics. This study explores prevalent

stereotypes experienced by elderly individuals in Nigeria and examines their impact on the lives of seniors, backed by relevant references and citations as needed.

- **Perception of Being "Obsolete" or "Technologically Incompetent"**

In Oredo, a prevalent stereotype about older adults is the notion that they are unable to understand technology or adjust to the digital era. Due to swift technological advancements, younger Nigerians, particularly in cities, frequently perceive older adults as out of touch with technological developments. For instance, numerous senior citizens in rural regions might not have experienced the same degree of exposure to technological advancements, like smartphones, the internet, or social networking platforms. The belief that they are unable to learn or interact with these technologies results in their removal from critical digital environments. This stereotype ignores the adaptability of many seniors and can contribute to their isolation (Chinwe, 2020).

- **Representations of Bodily and Psychological Deterioration**

A widely held stereotype is the belief that getting older inevitably leads to a decrease in physical or mental abilities. In Oredo, older individuals are frequently viewed as fragile, weak, and afflicted by conditions like dementia or arthritis, irrespective of their real health condition. Although age-related illnesses can impact certain people, it is crucial to acknowledge that not every elder faces these challenges. Many elderly Nigerians remain physically active, mentally sharp, and independent well into their later years (World Health Organization \[WHO], 2020). This stereotype adversely affects older adults as it results in their removal from numerous

activities and decision-making roles within the family or community. In many Nigerian households, the elderly are often seen as "too old" to contribute meaningfully, even though they may still possess valuable wisdom, skills, and knowledge (Akanle, 2019). This reduces their agency and leads to marginalization in the society.

- **Perception of Being a Burden**

In some Nigerian communities, older adults are perceived as burdens on their families, particularly when they are no longer financially self-sufficient or require care due to health conditions. This stereotype stems from the economic challenges of caring for older relatives, especially in a society where economic resources are often limited (Olaniyan & Idowu, 2018). The increasing expense of healthcare, along with insufficient social safety nets, leads to a scenario where elderly people are seen as financial burdens. In truth, numerous elderly Nigerians still offer care, counsel, and emotional assistance to their families, even as they age. Nevertheless, the stereotype of being a "liability" ignores the continuous contributions that older adults provide to their families, communities, and society as a whole. It fosters resentment and reduces the social support available to seniors (Adebayo et al., 2020)**.**

- **Economic Reliance and Absence of Independence**

Associated with the "burden" stereotype is the belief that all seniors rely financially on their relatives. In Nigeria, where pension schemes are lacking and numerous individuals depend on informal income sources, elderly individuals without retirement savings might rely on their children or other family members for financial assistance. However, this stereotype often

assumes that all elderly people are dependent, disregarding those who continue to engage in businesses, farming, or other productive activities (Adebayo & Adeyemo, 2021). The belief that older individuals cannot achieve financial independence leads to their exclusion from family decision-making processes. Furthermore, this stereotype can harm the self-worth and respect of older adults who might still be financially engaged. It is essential to acknowledge that not all elderly individuals rely on others for financial support, and numerous seniors still play a significant role in their family finances.

- **Marginalization in Family Decision-Making**

In some Nigerian families, the elderly are seen as out of touch with modern issues and are thus excluded from important family decisions. This stereotype undermines the traditional Nigerian respect for elders, where seniors were once viewed as the final authority in matters concerning family or community affairs (Akanle, 2019). The assumption that older adults are no longer relevant in today's world leads to their marginalization, even though they may possess significant experience and wisdom. This exclusion is particularly evident in urban areas where younger generations may prioritize modern education, technology, and economic success over traditional values. However, research shows that seniors often offer valuable perspectives on conflict resolution, social harmony, and cultural heritage (Olaniyan & Idowu, 2018). Disregarding their opinions can negatively affect family dynamics and contribute to feelings of alienation and devaluation among the elderly.

- **Stereotypes Related to Gender**

Gender stereotypes exacerbate the difficulties encountered by senior citizens in Nigeria. Although older men are often seen as wise and esteemed individuals, older women tend to be regarded as less significant after they have gone beyond their childbearing years or have lost their spouses. They are often seen as less capable of contributing meaningfully to the family, and their needs for care or support may be overlooked (Chinwe, 2020). Older women in Nigeria are also more likely to face social stigma in cases of widowhood, where they may be accused of witchcraft or blamed for the deaths of their husbands (Oluwatayo & Olorunfemi, 2019). These gendered stereotypes make older women more vulnerable to neglect and abuse, further exacerbating the challenges they face in aging.

- **Religious and Superstitious Stereotypes**

In certain parts of Nigeria, older adults are sometimes associated with witchcraft, sorcery, or spiritual weakness. Particularly in rural communities, there is a belief that elderly individuals who suffer from physical or mental health issues are involved in occult practices (Adebayo et al., 2020). This belief is especially prevalent in areas with strong traditional religious practices, where aging may be seen as a sign of spiritual vulnerability. Such superstitions lead to the social ostracism of older adults, and they may face stigmatization and even abuse. This stereotype often contributes to neglect, as families may choose to isolate elderly relatives rather than seek appropriate medical or psychological help (Olaniyan & Idowu, 2018). In Oredo, seniors face multiple damaging stereotypes, such as views of being technologically inept, experiencing

physical and mental deterioration, relying financially on others, and being excluded from family decision-making processes. These stereotypes diminish the social worth of older adults and obstruct their capacity to lead meaningful and dignified lives. To combat these stereotypes, societal change is necessary, which involves enhancing public awareness of aging realities, fostering intergenerational connections, and ensuring adequate support systems for elderly Nigerians. By confronting these stereotypes, Nigerian society can foster a more inclusive and respectful atmosphere for its elderly population.

2.1.5 Factors Contributing to Elder Abuse

Elder abuse is a multifaceted issue, with various factors contributing to its prevalence. These factors are typically categorized into individual, interpersonal, community, and societal levels:

- **Caregiver Stress and Burden**: One of the primary risk factors for elder abuse is caregiver stress. Caregivers, particularly those who provide full-time care to elderly individuals with chronic conditions or cognitive impairments, may experience physical, emotional, and financial exhaustion. This stress can result in burnout, which, in turn, increases the risk of abuse (Stone et al., 2018). Caregivers may also have limited access to support systems or training, which exacerbates the stress and can lead to mistreatment of the elderly person under their care.
- **Social Isolation and Dependency**: Older adults who are isolated from family, friends, and community networks are more vulnerable to abuse. Isolation prevents elders from seeking

help or reporting abuse, as they may lack the social support needed to escape abusive situations (Cohen & Yaffe, 2018). Dependency on others for financial or physical care further increases vulnerability, as it creates a power imbalance that may be exploited by abusers (Lehning et al., 2011).

- **Economic Strain**: Economic stress within families, especially in low-income households, can also contribute to elder abuse. Older adults who lack financial independence may be perceived as a financial burden by their family members or caregivers, leading to neglect or exploitation (Seni & Ozdemir, 2017). Furthermore, in some cases, adult children or relatives may exploit the elderly person's assets for personal gain, exacerbating the risk of financial abuse (Dong, 2015).
- **Cultural and Gender Norms**: Cultural perceptions of aging and gender roles can contribute to the mistreatment of older adults. In societies with patriarchal structures, older women, particularly widows, are at a higher risk of abuse due to the intersection of ageism and gender discrimination (González & Espinoza, 2016). In many cultures, older adults are regarded as less valuable or burdensome, which may result in neglect and devaluation of their rights.
- **Health Conditions and Cognitive Decline**: Older adults with cognitive impairments, such as dementia or Alzheimer's disease, are particularly vulnerable to abuse. These individuals may have difficulty communicating their experiences, making them easy targets for mistreatment. Cognitive decline can also cause significant caregiver strain, which may lead

to abuse due to frustration and a lack of understanding of the elderly person's needs (Stark et al., 2018).

2.1.5 Strategies to Combat Elder Abuse

To address elder abuse, Nigeria has implemented a combination of strategies, though challenges remain in their widespread effectiveness. Below are some of the key strategies:

- **Public Awareness Campaigns**

Increasing awareness of elder abuse is essential for motivating people to identify the indicators of mistreatment and report instances of abuse. Public education initiatives can raise community awareness about senior rights and highlight the severity of elder abuse. For instance, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) like the Nigeria Elderly Rights Advocacy (NERA) have launched campaigns aimed at empowering families to recognize abuse and intervene in the best interests of older adults. These campaigns often utilize media platforms such as radio, television, and social media to reach wide audiences (Akinyemi et al., 2019). Although these campaigns have increased awareness, a significant challenge is addressing entrenched cultural beliefs that dissuade individuals from talking about or reporting elder abuse. Numerous Nigerian households consider elder abuse a personal issue, resulting in insufficient reporting.

- **Legal Reforms and Advocacy**

Nigeria lacks a comprehensive elder abuse law, although there are some provisions under general legal frameworks, such as the Nigerian Criminal Code and the Child Rights Act (which also applies to the protection of vulnerable adults). However, these laws are often insufficient, and

enforcement is weak. Legal reforms are needed to ensure clear definitions of elder abuse, stronger legal protections, and mechanisms for reporting and intervention. Advocacy groups have been pushing for reforms such as the creation of a national elder protection policy and the establishment of an elderly abuse reporting system. One example is the National Policy on Aging, which was introduced to provide a legal framework for improving the quality of life for older Nigerians. This policy includes provisions for improving healthcare, social welfare, and legal protection for older adults, including strategies to prevent elder abuse (Iwuoha & Ogbuabor, 2020).

- **Training and Capacity Building for Caregivers**

Caregivers play an essential role in the care and well-being of older adults, but many in Nigeria are untrained and face overwhelming stress. The lack of formal caregiver training contributes to the mistreatment of elderly people. To address this, several NGOs and government programs have introduced caregiver training initiatives, which focus on stress management, caregiving techniques, and how to avoid burnout. In addition, training programs for healthcare professionals, social workers, and law enforcement officials are necessary to improve the recognition and handling of elder abuse cases. For example, the National Agency for the Elderly (NAE) has initiated some training programs to teach caregivers about elderly care and how to prevent abuse (Odebode & Durojaiye, 2018).

- **Strengthening Social Support Systems**

Creating robust social support systems for older adults is crucial to reducing the risk of abuse. Social support networks, including community centers, local NGOs, and peer support groups, can provide older adults with resources, education, and a platform for sharing experiences. These networks also offer an avenue for reporting abuse in a safe environment. In rural areas, where elders are often more isolated, community-based interventions, such as village elder care programs and community watch groups, can help monitor the safety and well-being of older adults. These initiatives aim to provide emotional and practical support and encourage families to be more involved in the care of elderly relatives (Okoye, 2017).

2.1.6 Roles of Social Workers in addressing Elder Abuse

Social workers are specially equipped to tackle elder abuse in Nigeria because of their knowledge in human rights, social services, and advocacy. They operate in multiple fields, such as healthcare, legal assistance, and community support, to offer extensive aid for older victims of abuse. The main strategies and interventions accessible to social workers in Nigeria consist of:

Public Awareness and Educational Initiative

A crucial function of social workers in combating elder abuse is to increase community awareness. Cultural taboos and a lack of awareness in Nigeria frequently result in the underreporting of elder abuse. Social workers can participate in public awareness campaigns to enhance understanding of the indicators and effects of elder abuse.

These campaigns may include:

- Workshops and Seminars Facilitating workshops for caregivers, families, and community members regarding the significance of honoring the rights of elderly individuals.
- Mass Media Campaigns**:** Utilizing radio, television, and social media to reach broader audiences with information on elder rights and available support services (Akinyemi et al., 2019).

To help families recognize elder abuse and understand the reporting process, Social workers provide educational materials. Raising public awareness encourages more individuals to report elder abuse when they observe or suspect it, and aids in reducing the stigma linked to it.

Strengthening Legal Frameworks and Advocacy

The lack of clear and effective legal safeguards for the elderly in Oredo presents a significant challenge in addressing elder abuse. While general laws address criminal abuse, there is no specific legislation that uniquely addresses elder abuse. Social workers can promote legislative reforms and enhanced protections for the elderly via their advocacy efforts. Social workers may serve as advocates for seniors by assisting them in understanding the legal system. They can help report abuse, support victims in legal proceedings, and make sure that older adults know their rights In some instances, social workers can serve as intermediaries between older adults and the police or courts, ensuring that cases of abuse are treated seriously and that perpetrators are held accountable (Iwuoha & Ogbuabor, 2020).

Caregiver Training and Support

A primary factor contributing to elder abuse in Oredo is the stress experienced by caregivers. Burnout and abuse of the elderly may stem from the emotional and financial challenges faced by numerous caregivers, especially those who are family members. Social workers can provide training to equip caregivers with the tools necessary to manage stress and prevent abuse while caring for elderly individuals.

Training courses might include subjects such as:

- **Caregiver Stress Relief**: Strategies to handle stress and avoid burnout.
- **Best Practices in Elder Care:** Equipping caregivers with understanding of the physical and emotional requirements of seniors, including methods to deliver suitable assistance.
- **Communication Abilities:** Training caregivers on effective interaction techniques with elderly individuals, particularly those experiencing dementia or other cognitive challenges

Additionally, social workers can offer support groups for caregivers, where they can share experiences, receive emotional support, and access resources. This support helps reduce the likelihood of mistreatment, as caregivers who feel supported are less likely to resort to abusive behaviors (Odebode & Durojaiye, 2018).

Community-Based Interventions and Social Support Systems

Since elder abuse typically occurs in residential settings, interventions grounded in the community are essential. Social workers have the ability to develop and enhance social support

systems that can aid elderly individuals in need. These networks are made up of local NGOs, community centers, and religious organizations that provide aid and resources. For example, community watch programs can be set up to monitor the well-being of older adults, especially those who live alone or in isolated areas. These programs can involve local leaders, health workers, and social workers who regularly check on the elderly and ensure they are receiving appropriate care (Okoye, 2017). In rural and urban areas, elder care programs can be established to offer social services such as home visits, health checks, and assistance with daily activities. By offering these services, social workers can help prevent neglect and promote a sense of security among elderly individuals (Okeke, 2019).

Providing Direct Support to Victims

Social workers additionally offer direct assistance to elderly individuals who are victims of abuse. This comprises:

- **Crisis Intervention**: When urgent action is necessary, social workers are able to step in to protect the safety of the elderly individual. This may entail assisting the victim in moving to a secure location or organizing urgent medical assistance.
- **Long-Term Support**: Social workers can help victims of elder abuse access long-term care, including medical treatment, counseling, and rehabilitation. They can also assist in securing financial resources for older adults who have been exploited or neglected (Odebode & Durojaiye, 2018).

- **Case Management**: Social workers can coordinate services for elderly victims, ensuring they receive the appropriate medical, legal, and emotional support. They work with multidisciplinary teams, including healthcare providers, law enforcement, and legal experts, to ensure comprehensive care (Iwuoha & Ogbuabor, 2020).

2.1.7 Social Work Intervention Strategies

Social work interventions for older adults in Benin are shaped by both formal institutional frameworks and community-based efforts. However, empirical studies reveal that social work as a professional discipline is still developing in the country, with limited personnel and resources dedicated to geriatric care (Adjohoun, 2018). Some of these strategies are:

- **Community-Based Support Programs**

Community support remains a key mechanism for assisting older adults. Organizations such as the Association des Personnes Âgées du Bénin (APAB) collaborate with local governments and NGOs to provide nutritional support, medical screenings, and social activities. These programs aim to reduce isolation and promote active aging. For instance, the NGO GERAS has implemented community centers where older adults receive psychosocial counseling and engage in income-generating activities such as craft-making (GERAS, 2021).

- **Policy Interventions and Advocacy**

While Benin ratified the African Union Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons in 2016, the translation of these rights into actionable national policies remains limited. The Ministry of

Social Affairs has initiated pilot programs to provide monthly stipends to indigent older adults, but coverage is minimal and inconsistent (UNFPA Benin, 2022). Social workers have advocated for more robust frameworks through partnerships with civil society organizations, pressing for legislation that mandates social protection for the elderly.

- **Capacity Building and Training**

Empirical data shows a growing recognition of the need to train social workers in gerontology. Universities such as the Université d'Abomey-Calavi have begun incorporating geriatric social work into their curricula, supported by international partnerships (Sossou & Yogtiba, 2020). These efforts are critical in enhancing the capacity of frontline workers to address the complex needs of aging populations.

- **Home-Based Care and Informal Support Networks**

In rural communities, home-based care—delivered primarily by family members and community volunteers—remains the most common form of intervention. However, these caregivers often lack formal training, leading to inconsistent care quality. Some pilot programs led by NGOs aim to training formal caregivers on elder care basics, including hygiene, nutrition, and emotional support (Gnonhossou et al., 2019).

2.2 Empirical Studies

The rising number of Older adults in various regions globally has resulted in a higher need for specialized social work services. In Benin, similar to numerous African countries, traditional family dynamics and community frameworks that have traditionally assisted aging

populations are changing because of urbanization, economic difficulties, and modernization. This chapter offers an empirical analysis of older adults in Benin, exploring their socio-economic situations, health issues, and the intervention methods utilized by social workers to enhance their well-being.

Benin, a West African country with a population exceeding 12 million, is experiencing a gradual demographic shift. While the population is predominantly youthful, the proportion of individuals aged 60 and above is steadily increasing due to improvements in healthcare and life expectancy (World Bank, 2022). Older adults in Benin, however, often face socio-economic marginalization, with limited access to pensions, healthcare services, and formal employment. According to a survey conducted by the Institute National de la Statistique et de l'Analyse Économique (INSAE, 2021), over 70% of older adults in Benin live in rural areas, primarily depending on subsistence farming and informal labor. Many lack formal retirement benefits, and their livelihoods are increasingly threatened by physical decline, land tenure issues, and climate- The health status of older adults in Benin is a significant concern. Non-communicable diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, and arthritis are prevalent among this population.

A study by Agueh et al. (2019) found that more than half of surveyed older adults had at least one chronic health condition, yet only a minority received consistent medical care due to financial constraints or geographic inaccessibility. In addition to physical health issues, older adults often grapple with psychological distress resulting from isolation, neglect, or bereavement. Urban migration of younger family members contributes to this isolation, leaving older adults

with diminished social networks and emotional support (Hounkpe et al., 2020). Social stigma around aging and dependency further exacerbates the psychological burden faced by the elderly. A key community-based comparative study conducted in Benin city reported measurable levels of elder abuse and contrasted urban versus rural patterns within the Benin city environs. Okojie, Omuemu, and Uhunwangho (2022) carried out a multi-stage, comparative cross-sectional study and documented prevalence estimates, common abuse types, and predictors in urban and rural communities around Benin city (O.H. Okojie et al., 2022). Earlier local exploratory studies and theses also documented forms of domestic mistreatment and neglect and psychological abuse are commonly reported alongside financial and physical maltreatment in some subpopulations (Agbontaen-Eghafona et al., 2007; Omorogiuwa, 2016).

Studies in Benin City and Edo state typically find neglect and psychological/emotional abuse to be highly prevalent, though the pattern can vary by locality and measurement approach; financial exploitation and physical abuse are also reported in a significant minority of cases (Okojie et al., 2022; Omorogiuwa, 2016). The Oredo comparative study reported differences between urban and rural respondents in both prevalence and types of abuse, reflecting how social and economic context shapes risk. As in other settings, family settings, family members (adult children, in-laws, and other co-residents) are the most commonly identified perpetrators in Benin city studies, while some qualitative work notes that caregivers themselves often experiences financial strain and lack formal supports- factors that increase the risk of neglect or maltreatment (Agbontaen-Eghafona et al., 2007; Osagie, 2022).

Local cultural beliefs and expectations about filial obligations also influence whether behaviours are recognized locally as “abuse” or as failure of resources/poverty. Because family members are often both caregivers and most frequent perpetrators, social workers in Oredo local govt emphasize caregiver-support interventions: group counselling, training in caregivers skills, establishing peer support networks, facilitating access to small-scale social protection or livelihood supports for families caring for dependent elders (Imudia, 2023; Osagie/Egharevba, 2022). These efforts aim to reduce caregiver stress and the economic drivers of neglects. Empirical and international evidence shows elder abuse is associated with worse mental health (depression, anxiety), poorer physical health and greater functional decline, and reduced quality of life (Ma et al., 2017; Pilemer et al., 2016). Though longitudinal data from Oredo are limited, cross-sectional local studies that measured wellbeing and social-emotional outcomes and elevated psychosocial problems (Omorogiuwa, 2016; Egharevba, 2022).

2.3 Review of Theories

2.3.1 Activity Theory

Activity Theory, developed by Robert Havighurst in the 1960s, posits that successful aging is largely dependent on an individual's ability to remain socially and mentally active. The theory suggests that older people experience higher life satisfaction when they maintain roles, relationships, and routines that are meaningful to them (Havighurst, 1961). The theory challenges the notion that aging necessarily involves decline and disengagement. Instead, it frames aging as a life phase that can still be productive and fulfilling when older adults continue

to participate in activities that give them purpose and identity. Instead, it positions aging as a stage in which personal growth, contribution, and relevance can still be sustained—critical values in Nigerian cultures where the elderly were traditionally revered as custodians of wisdom and community memory. Activity theory indicates that the aging process is mitigated or postponed, and life quality improves when older adults stay socially engaged (participating in or organizing events or activities that unite community members for interaction). Book clubs, club sports, barbecues, volunteer activities, fitness sessions, brunch gatherings, holiday festivities, and protests are merely a few instances of how individuals sustain a vibrant social life, which the activity theory of aging indicates enhances overall well-being in older age.

The theory posits a favorable connection between engagement and life contentment. One writer proposes that engagement helps seniors transition into retirement in a smoother and less anxiety-inducing way. Despite Nigeria's National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) and the existence of the National Senior Citizens Centre Act (2018), the legal and institutional frameworks for elder care remain underdeveloped. There is a lack of specific legislation addressing elder abuse, and few states have functional welfare schemes for the elderly. The Nigerian Association of Social Workers (NASOW) advocates for increased professional engagement with older adults, yet implementation lags due to funding, staffing, and policy awareness issues (Akinyemi & Isiugo-Abanihe, 2014).

Activity Theory can guide Social Work Practice in the following way:

Restoring Identity and Dignity via Engagement, Elder abuse victims frequently experience humiliation, emotional distress, and a loss of self-esteem. Social workers can apply Activity Theory to involve older adults in meaningful activities—like community storytelling, cross-generational mentoring, or church and mosque committees—thus validating their worth and strengthening their cultural identity. "In Nigerian communities where oral tradition and age hierarchy remain strong, involving older adults in local decision-making or teaching roles restores respect and prevents further marginalization." (Adebayo, 2019)

Decreasing Isolation by Utilizing Community-Focused Networks, Numerous cases of abuse originate from or result in social isolation. Nigerian social workers can utilize an Activity Theory method by connecting elderly clients to community development organizations, associations of retirees, and religious groups. These entities frequently act as informal support networks that make up for the lack of formal elder care services "Culturally-rooted social networks act as protective mechanisms for older adults and reduce vulnerability to abuse." (Okoye, 2013)

Activity theory offers a robust, culturally adaptable basis for social work interventions with elderly abuse survivors in Nigeria. It aligns with contemporary social work ideas and traditional African principles by emphasizing social inclusion, active participation, and continuous involvement. To achieve their full potential, Nigerian social workers need to advocate for stricter laws on elder protection, increased funding for community programs, and

culturally sensitive approaches that recognize senior citizens as vital members of society instead of mere dependents.

2.3.2 Disengagement Theory

Disengagement Theory, introduced by Cumming and Henry (1961), posits that aging is a natural process characterized by a gradual withdrawal from social roles, responsibilities, and relationships. The theory suggests that such disengagement is mutually beneficial: society prepares to replace the aging individual with younger members, while the older person finds psychological relief in reduced societal expectations. Despite facing criticism for encouraging passivity and retreat, the theory can provide effective strategies for trauma-informed interventions when understood positively—particularly for elderly individuals who have experienced abuse and may gain from selective withdrawal and self-care. Disengagement Theory can guide social workers in helping elderly victims selectively withdraw from abusive relationships or hostile environments, while promoting dignified solitude, psychological recovery, and community-based alternatives. Applying Disengagement Theory in older adults abuse

- **Facilitating Safe Withdrawal from Abusive Environments:** A primary use of Disengagement Theory is assisting victims in breaking away from harmful or toxic relationships. Social workers assist victims in moving to safer accommodations, which may include staying with extended family, residing in community elder shelters, or participating in supported living programs facilitated by NGOs and faith-based groups. "Withdrawal,

when voluntary and supported, can provide a path to safety and emotional stability for abused older adults." (Okoye, 2013) This disengagement is not abandonment, but a protective step that honors the elder's right to safety and peace.

- **Encouraging Reflective Solitude and Emotional Healing:** Many older victims of abuse suffer deep emotional trauma, shame, and distrust. Disengagement Theory validates the need for quiet withdrawal from intense social interaction, allowing for reflection, spiritual healing, or grief processing. Numerous elderly victims of abuse experience profound emotional wounds, feelings of shame, and lack of trust. Disengagement Theory supports the importance of stepping back from intense social interactions, enabling introspection, spiritual recovery, or the processing of grief. In Oredo, where spirituality is important for coping, social workers can link elderly clients with faith-centered counseling, prayer circles, or retreats that promote healing in a culturally sensitive way.
- **Alleviating the Weight of Societal Pressures:** Elderly individuals in Oredo are frequently anticipated to stay significantly engaged in family duties, spiritual leadership, and community obligations—even in cases of frailty or mistreatment. Disengagement Theory endorses the notion that social workers can promote boundaries, assisting seniors in reducing these roles to focus on their well-being. For example, an elder who has experienced abuse might receive assistance in relinquishing family leadership or caregiving responsibilities, allowing them to prioritize their safety and well-being.

- **Targeted Re-engagement via Secure, Low-Stress Positions**: Although stepping away from perilous situations is essential, social workers can still assist older adults in re-entering safe, low-stress activities that provide respect without added pressure. Activities may involve sharing stories with grandchildren, engaging in simple crafts, or attending prayer meetings—enabling the individual to stay connected while avoiding future violence. While Disengagement Theory has historically been criticized for promoting isolation, it offers practical and protective value for social workers addressing elder abuse in Oredo. When interpreted as selective, voluntary withdrawal for the purpose of safety, healing, and dignity, it provides an ethical and culturally adaptable framework. Nigerian social workers can apply this theory to advocate for the rights of older adults to disengage from abuse and rebuild their lives in peaceful, meaningful ways.

2.4 Theoretical Framework

The theories that guided this study are Continuity Theory and Strengths-Based Perspective Theory.

2.4.1 Continuity Theory

Continuity Theory, developed by Robert Atchley in the late 1980s, provides a framework for understanding how individuals adapt to aging by maintaining consistent patterns of behavior, relationships, and values throughout life (Atchley, 1989). This theory has significant implications for social work practice, particularly in the context of gerontology, mental health, and long-term care. By recognizing the importance of personal history and identity continuity, social workers

can develop more personalized and effective interventions that respect the individual's life course and promote well-being. Continuity Theory posits that older adults strive to preserve internal and external continuity as they age. Internal continuity refers to maintaining a stable self-concept and inner preferences, while external continuity involves sustaining consistent roles, relationships, and environments (Atchley, 1989). According to this theory, successful aging is facilitated when individuals can integrate change with familiar life patterns, allowing for a sense of coherence and identity. Unlike disengagement theory—which suggests older adults withdraw from social roles—or activity theory, which emphasizes active participation, Continuity Theory strikes a balance by acknowledging that adaptation in later life often involves both change and stability (Hooyman & Kiyak, 2018). Applying Continuity theory in older adult abuse:

- **Restoring Internal Continuity: Rebuilding Identity and Self-Esteem**

Elder abuse often leads to feelings of shame, helplessness, and a fractured sense of identity. Social workers can support recovery by helping victims reconnect with their internal continuity—core aspects of who they are. This may involve narrative therapy, life review activities, or guided reflection on earlier life stages and strengths. For example, an abused elder who was once an active community leader or caregiver can be supported to recall and reconnect with that identity, reinforcing resilience and a sense of purpose (Greene, 2017).

- **Reducing Re-traumatization and Enhancing Trust**

Many victims of elder abuse experience broken trust, especially when the abuser is a family member. Continuity Theory supports relational healing by encouraging the rebuilding of safe,

respectful relationships that mirror past positive interactions. Social workers can connect the elder to intergenerational programs, spiritual communities, or peer support groups that align with their values and history, fostering a renewed sense of belonging (Wang et al., 2019).

While Continuity Theory offers valuable tools for recovery, it is not one-size-fits-all. Not all life patterns are worth preserving—particularly if the elder's past includes trauma or harmful relationships. Social workers must critically evaluate which aspects of continuity are beneficial and which should be gently restructured. Culturally competent and trauma-informed care is essential to honor the elder's lived experiences and preferences (NASW, 2021). Continuity Theory offers a compassionate and structured approach for supporting elder abuse victims. By focusing on restoring both internal and external continuity, social workers can help older adults reclaim their identity, regain control over their lives, and move forward with dignity. Integrating this theory into social work practice ensures that interventions are grounded in the elder's unique history, promoting recovery that is not only safe but also deeply meaningful.

2.4.2 Strengths-Based Perspective Theory

Strengths-Based Perspective Theory was developed in the 1980s by social work scholars such as Dennis Saleebey, the Strengths Perspective emphasizes identifying and building on clients' existing strengths, assets, and resilience to overcome adversity (Saleebey, 1996). This approach assumes that every individual—regardless of their challenges—possesses internal resources, such as hope, wisdom, cultural values, survival skills, and life experience that can be harnessed for change and recovery. In contrast to problem-focused models, the strengths

perspective prioritizes empowerment, collaboration, and client self-determination (Gray, 2011). Applying strengths- based perspective theory in older adult abuse

- **Recognizing and Validating Personal Strengths**

Victims of elder abuse often experience a loss of dignity, voice, and self-worth. In the Nigerian context, older adults may internalize their suffering due to cultural expectations of endurance or family loyalty. A strengths-based social work approach would begin by acknowledging the elder's resilience, life achievements, and coping strategies. For instance, an older Nigerian woman who survived past hardships such as widowhood or raising children alone can be reminded of her strength and resourcefulness. This affirmation helps shift the narrative from "victimhood" to "survivor" and builds psychological confidence (Obasola & Agunbiade, 2016).

- **Mobilizing Cultural and Community Assets**

Traditional Nigerian society places a high value on extended family and community networks. A strengths-based approach would identify and engage these informal support systems where available. Social workers can collaborate with religious institutions, local elders' councils, or women's associations to provide emotional support, advocacy, and safety for abused elders (Olayiwola, 2013). These culturally embedded resources can be more accessible and trusted than formal systems, especially in rural areas.

- **Encouraging Empowerment through Participation**

Rather than positioning the elder as a passive recipient of aid, the strengths approach emphasizes participation in their own healing and decision-making. For example, an abused elder could participate in community awareness campaigns or peer support groups to educate others, turning their experience into a tool for advocacy and change. This not only rebuilds self-efficacy but also challenges social stigma around elder abuse (Ajomale, 2007).

- **Strength-Based Case Planning and Interventions**

Using this approach, social workers can co-create individualized care plans with clients based on their values, goals, and aspirations. In Nigeria, an older adult may find healing through spiritual practices, traditional music, storytelling, or reconnecting with younger family members. Incorporating these culturally relevant strengths into intervention plans reinforces identity and social integration, which are essential for recovery (Afolayan & Adebayo, 2017). The Strengths Perspective Theory offers a valuable and culturally aware approach for supporting victims of elder abuse in Nigeria. Social workers can enhance resilience, empowerment, and recovery by highlighting the elder's individual strengths, community assets, and active participation. By addressing the stigma and invisibility surrounding elder abuse, this approach not only meets the individual's needs but also fosters broader societal transformation. The application of a strengths-based approach ensures that interventions are thoughtful, empowering, and sustainable in a culturally diverse and evolving society like Nigeria.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Preamble

This chapter presents the research design, population, sampling techniques, data collection instruments, validation, analysis and ethics. This methodology will be guided by the study purpose and questions to systemically examine older adults issues and social work support in Benin city.

3.2 Research Design

This study will employ a cross-sectional study design that involves the collection of data at one point to examine existing conditions and relationships (Crewell, 2014). This will be suitable because it enabled the researcher to collect data on challenges faced by older adults and social work services offered to them in Benin city. This design will provide a comprehensive picture of their living situation and support services available to achieve the study goals.

3.3 Area of Study

Oredo Local government Area (LGA) is one most prominent and historically significant administrative regions in Edo state, Nigeria. As the home of Benin city, the capital of Edo State and the seat of the ancient Benin Kingdom, Oredo holds a unique place in Nigeria's cultural and political landscape. Oredo LGA was officially created in 1976 as part of a nationwide local government reform carried out by military government of General Murtala Mohammed. These reforms aimed to bring governance closer to the people by decentralizing administrative power

and establishing local government areas as the third tier of government. Oredo covers an estimated 249 square kilometers and encompass the urban and suburban zones of Benin city. It is divided into twelve political wards and includes some of most economically active regions in Edo state, with key markets such as Oba market, New Benin Market, and Ekiosa Market serving as commercial hubs. Beyond commerce, Oredo remains a cultural powerhouse. The presence of the Oba's palace and the continuation of ancient festivals such as the Igue Festival ensure that the traditions of the Benin Kingdom are preserved. The LGA also plays host to several state institutions, including the Edo State House of Assembly and various government ministries.

3.4 Population of the Study

The population of this study consists of all older adults aged 65 years and above residing in Oredo Local Government Area of Benin City, Edo state. This includes both male and female older adults from diverse ethnic, religious, and socio economic backgrounds. According to the 2006 National Population Commission (NPC census), Edo State had a population of 3,233,366, with 134,237 individuals aged 65 and above, Benin city accounted for about 1,050,000 people in 2006, and using the national estimate of 3% older adults, approximately 31,500 older adults aged 65+ lived there at that time. Based on annual urban growth rate of 3.65%, the projected population of older adults aged 65 and above in Benin city by 2024 is approximately 60,600. This group forms the focus of the study as they are the most vulnerable to the social, economic, and health challenges associated with ageing, and their experiences are assessing the adequacy of social work support in Benin City.

3.5 Sample Size and Sample Techniques

For this research study, a total of two hundred and eighty (280) older adults aged 65 years and above residing in Oredo Local Government Area of Benin City, Edo State will be selected using the simple random sampling technique. The sample size was determined using Cochran's (1977) sample size formula for finite populations. This formula provides a scientific method for estimating a representative sample size that ensures accuracy and generalizability of the research findings. The formula is presented as follows:

n= {Z^2 p (1 - p)}{e^2}

n = {n_0}{1 + \frac{n_0 - 1}{N}

Where:

= Sample size for an infinite population

= Sample size for a finite population

= Z-value (1.96 for 95% confidence level)

= Estimated proportion of the population (0.5 used when unknown)

= Level of precision (0.06)

= Population size (60,600)

Substituting the values into the formula gives:

n_0 = {(1.96)^2 (0.5)(0.5)}{(0.06)^2}

n_0 = {3.8416 \times 0.25}{0.0036} = 266.78

Adjusting for the finite population:

n = {266.78}{1 + \frac{266.78 - 1}{60,600}}

n = 265.6

To ensure a wider representation and to accommodate possible non-responses, the figure was rounded up to 280 respondents.

The justification for using this formula lies in its ability to scientifically determine an appropriate and representative sample size for large populations, ensuring that the findings are both reliable and generalizable to the entire population of older adults in Oredo Local Government Area, Benin City. A simple random sampling technique will be adopted to ensure that each older adult has an equal chance of being selected. Lists of older adults will be obtained from community health centres, local associations of elders, and traditional leaders to form the sampling frame. From this frame, respondents will be selected randomly to reduce selection bias. This approach will ensure that the sample is representative of the target population and enable the study to gather valid and comprehensive data on the challenges faced by older adults and the available social work interventions and strategies in Oredo Local Government Area, Edo State.

3.6 Instrumentation for Data collection

The primary instrument for data gathering was a structured questionnaire designed for older people aged 60 and above in Oredo LGA, Benin City. It was formulated from the research questions review of related literature and included two sections: Section A for socio-

demographic data, and Section B for challenges faced, existence of social work intervention and perception of policies and community care facilities.

3.7 Method of Data Collection

Questionnaires will be employed in collecting the data by administration by the researcher and trained interviewers to elderly individuals aged 60 years and above in Oredo LGA. The respondents were contacted at households, community centers and churches, where the purpose of the study was stated and informed consent was obtained. The face-to-face method allowed room for clarification, especially for those with poor literacy levels and yielded a high response rate.

3.8 Reliability and Validation of the Instrument

For validation and reliability purposes, two social work specialists from the Department of Social work, University of Benin, reviewed the pretest questionnaire for clarity and relevance. Their comments corrected the wording to conform to the research questions and made it user-friendly in administration across the older adult group.

3.9 Method of Data Analysis

The information will be collected after the participants filled the questionnaires. The answers will be checked against facts, coded, and interpreted using simple percentages and tables to identify patterns. This will help the researcher to collect valid information regarding the experience of elderly people and social work support in Oredo LGA, Benin City.

3.10 Ethical Considerations

The study adhered to ethical guidelines, with volunteers donating their time to give informed consent. Confidentially was maintained, anonymity of identity upheld, including the right of the participants.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

Preamble

This chapter provides an overview, analysis, and interpretation of data collected for research on "Older Adults Abuses and Social Work Intervention Strategies in Oredo Local Government Area, Edo State.

4.1 Social Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Table 4.1: Socio-Demographic Information of Respondents

Variables	Frequency(n)	Percentage(%)
Gender		
Male	130	46.4
Female	150	53.5
Total	**280**	**100.0**
Age Group		
65-69yrs	130	46.4
70-74yrs	50	17.8
75-79yrs	90	32.1
80-above	10	3.5
Total	**280**	**100.0**
Religion		
Christainity	200	71.4
Islam	70	25
Traditional African Religion	10	3.5
Others	00.0	00.0
Total	**280**	**100.0**

Martial Status		
Single	50	17.8
Married	100	35.7
Widows	90	32.1
Divorced	40	14.2
Total	**280**	**100.0**
Education		
No formal education	50	17.8
Primary	70	25
Secondary	90	32.1
Tertiary	70	25
Total	**280**	**100.0**

Source: Fieldwork Survey, 2025.

Table 4.1 shows that out of 280 respondents, 53.5% were female and46.4% male, indicating a fairly equal gender split. And for age,25% were between 65-69 years,17.8% 70-74 years , 32.1% 75-79 years , 25% 80-above, showing that the majority were older elderly. In terms of Religion nearly half (50%) are in Christainity, Islam 35.7, and traditional African 14.2%, while in Martial status most elderly are married 35.7%, single 17.8, widow 32.1, Divorced 14.2 and some no formal education 17.8. Educational level showed 25% attainted primary education, 32.1% Secondary, 25% tertiary it shows that a reasonable educated older population.

4.2 Data Presentation and Analysis according to the Research Objectives

Research Question 1: What are the common forms and prevalence of elder abuse in Oredo community?

Table 4.3: Prevalence and types of Elder Abuse in Oredo

S/N	ITEM	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)	Total
1.	Physical abuse is a common form of elder abuse in Oredo.	39.2	35.7	14.2	7.1	3.5	100.0
2.	Emotional or psychological abuse often impacts older adults in Oredo.	46.4	28.5	17.8	5.3	1.7	100.0
3.	Neglect of older adults is a widespread issue in the community	35.7	32.1	25	5.3	1.7	100.0
4.	Financial exploitation of elders is commonly reported in Oredo	42.8	32.1	17.8	3.5	3.5	100.0
5.	Sexual abuse of older adults is a concern in Oredo.	5.3	1.7	17.8	32.1	42.8	100.0
6.	Cultural beliefs contribute to elder abuse in Benin.	35.7	32.1	21.4	8.9	1.7	100.0

Source: Fieldwork Survey, 2025

The results in Table 4.2 show the various forms of Elder abuse. Physical abuse was acknowledged by 74.9% of respondents as a common form. And also emotional or Psychological abuse had 74.9% agreement. While neglect was reported by 67.8% of participants, and also financial exploitation emerged as a significant challenge with 74.9%. Sexual abuse, though less

frequently reported, was still recognized by 7% and also cultural beliefs were found to contribute to elder abuse according to 67.8% of respondents.

Research Question 2: What roles do social workers currently play in preventing and responding to elder abuse?

Table 4.4: Roles of Social workers in preventing and responding to elder abuse

S/N	ITEM	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)	Total
1.	Social workers are proactively recognizing instances of elder abuse within the community	42.8%	35.7	14.2	5.3	1.7	100.0
2.	Social workers offer appropriate guidance and assistance to elderly individuals who have experienced abuse.	42.8	32.1	17.8	3.5	3.5	100.0
3.	Promoting the rights of the elderly is an essential responsibility of social workers in Oredo.	35.7	14.2	42.8	5.3	1.7	100.0
4.	Social workers work closely with families to prevent elder abuse.	35.7	14.2	25	14.2	10.7	100.0

Source: Fieldwork Survey, 2025

Table 4.4 presents the roles of a social worker in both preventive and responsive roles in Oredo. While 78.5 of the respondents were aware that social workers are proactively recognizing incidents of elder abuse that happen in the community, also 74.9 participants agreed to the fact that social worker offers counselling to elderly individuals that have experienced while an average of respondents of 49.9% agreed to the fact social workers promote the rights of the elderly as their responsibility while a mere 49.9% had admitted to the facts that social workers work closely with family. This indicates that social workers awareness of elderly abuses that occur in the community are high while the roles of a social worker working closely with families need to be enhanced.

Research Question 3: Effectiveness of Existing Intervention Strategies by Social workers

Table 4.5: The effectiveness of intervention strategies implemented by a Social worker

S/N	ITEM	Strongly agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)	Total
1.	The existing intervention methods employed by social workers successfully tackle instances of elder abuse.	35.7	32.1	25	3.5	3.5	100
2.	Social workers possess adequate resources to manage elder abuse in Oredo	32.1	42.8	5.3	17.8	1.7	100
3.	Social workers intervention initiatives aimed at providing significant protection for	39.2	32.1	19.6	5.3	3.5	100

	mistreated elderly individuals.						
4.	Collaboration among social workers and various agencies improves intervention results.	32.1	35.7	8.9	17.8	5.3	100
5.	Follow-services offered by social workers post-intervention are sufficient.	35.7	17.8	32.1	8.9	5.3	100

Source: Fieldwork Survey, 2025

Table 4.5 reveals that social workers have different intervention that are effective to address abuse of the elderly, as many as 67.8% of the respondents agreed that the intervention that social workers use to tackle instances of elder abuse. Similarly, 74.9% attest to how social workers are able to access resources to manage elder abuse. Also 71.3% also agreed that Social workers direct protection to mistreated elderly as a way of intervening. In addition, 67.8% was of the opinion that collaboration of a social workers and other agencies enhance intervention results. Lastly, about 53.5% respondents agreed that follow-up intervention are sufficient.

Research Question 4: What strategies can be adopted to improve social work interventions in protecting older adults from abuse?

Table 4.6: Ways to improve social work intervention

S/N	ITEM	Strongly Agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly Disagree (%)	Total
1.	Enhancing training and education for social workers would strengthen interventions against elder abuse	46.4	17.8	14.2	19.6	1.7	100
2.	Improving community awareness programs will strengthen elder abuse prevention	42.8	35.7	14.2	5.3	1.7	100
3.	Enforcing more rigorous laws and regulations will assist social workers in safeguarding elderly individuals	39.2	35.7	14.2	7.1	3.5	100
4.	Enhancing collaboration between healthcare providers and social workers will lead to better results for elderly abuse victims	32.1	42.8	5.3	17.8	1.7	100
5.	Additional funding is necessary to enhance social work efforts in safeguarding the elderly	32.1	35.7	8.9	17.8	5.3	100

Source: Fieldwork Survey, 2025

Table 4.6 presents ways to intervene on how to enhance social work intervention. While 64.2% of the respondents agreed that training should be given to strengthen them in areas that they are lacking, Also 78.5% attested that awareness helps in prevention against elder abuse, Only, 74.9% agreed that enforcing rigorous law will help to safeguard against elder abuse. On health protection, 74.9% agreed that social worker should collaborate with health providers for elderly abuse victims. Also 67.8% agreed that social worker needs funding to safeguard elderly abuse victims. The overall findings highlights collaborations with other practitioners, trainings for social workers, funds for social worker to intervene to the victims.

4.3 Discussion of Findings

Findings from Chapter Four indicate that elder abuse is a common and multifaceted problem in Oredo. The study revealed that physical abuse (74.9%), emotional or psychological abuse (74.9%), and financial exploitation (74.9%) are the most frequently occurring forms. Neglect (67.8%) was also identified as a major issue, while sexual abuse (7%) was the least reported form. Additionally, cultural beliefs (67.8%) were found to significantly contribute to abusive practices against older adults. These results reflect the complex and intersectional nature of elder abuse, confirming the findings of Ajomale (2007) and Owoaje et al. (2012), who emphasized that elder mistreatment in Nigeria is often driven by family neglect, poverty, and traditional beliefs. The data also aligns with WHO (2022) reports, which noted that approximately one in six older adults globally experiences some form of abuse. The findings further suggest that cultural norms and economic stress are key drivers. In Oredo, cultural abuse

particularly through witchcraft accusations remains a significant problem, disproportionately affecting older women. This supports Adediran and Odukoya (2020), who observed that such accusations often lead to social isolation and violence. The study therefore confirms that elder abuse is not only a social issue but also deeply rooted in cultural beliefs and family systems

The data show that social workers play important but under-recognized roles in mitigating elder abuse in Oredo. Their main functions include counseling, advocacy, case management, community education, and caregiver support. Respondents noted that social workers also mediate family conflicts, conduct home visits, and provide psychosocial support to victims of abuse. However, the study identified several barriers to effective social work practice, such as inadequate funding, limited gerontological training, and poor policy implementation. This aligns with Akinyemi (2020), who emphasized that social workers in Nigeria often operate under resource-constrained environments with little institutional recognition. Despite these challenges, their involvement remains central to the prevention and response to elder abuse. This finding supports the Strengths-Based Perspective, which stresses empowerment and community participation. Social workers in Oredo rely heavily on community-based initiatives such as caregiver group counseling and public awareness campaigns to address cases that formal systems fail to reach. Thus, while their capacity is limited, their impact is meaningful within existing community framework.

The study revealed that existing intervention strategies are moderately effective but lack sustainability and coordination. Some respondents acknowledged the presence of community

awareness programs, caregiver support initiatives, and NGO-led outreach efforts. However, these interventions are not uniformly implemented, and many older adults still lack access to formal care or reporting mechanisms. This finding echoes Imudia and Ukponahusi (2023), who noted that elder care interventions in Nigeria are often fragmented and dependent on donor funding rather than government policy. Furthermore, the absence of specialized institutions or elder protection centers limits the reach of social work intervention in Oredo. The findings therefore highlight a gap between policy and practice. Although national frameworks like the National Policy on Ageing (2021) and the National Senior Citizens Centre Act (2017) exist, their local implementation remains weak. Social workers thus depend largely on informal networks and community partnerships to deliver interventions.

Socio-economic challenges such as poverty, unemployment, and inadequate pensions contribute significantly to elder abuse in Oredo. The data showed that most older adults depend on relatives for survival, which often creates financial tension and exploitation. This supports Seni & Ozdemir (2017), who linked elder mistreatment to household poverty and financial dependency. Cultural attitudes also play a crucial role. The study revealed that many community members perceive elder abuse as a private family matter, discouraging victims from reporting. Furthermore, traditional beliefs that associate old age with witchcraft or spiritual weakness fuel discrimination and social exclusion, particularly among older women. These patterns reinforce the need for culturally sensitive social work practice that addresses not just the symptoms but the social roots of abuse.

In summary, the study found that elder abuse in Oredo Local Government Area is widespread, culturally influenced, and underreported. The most prevalent forms are emotional, physical, financial, and neglect-related abuse. Social workers are key frontline responders but face institutional and structural challenges that limit their impact. Intervention efforts exist but remain inconsistent, highlighting the urgent need for stronger policy enforcement, caregiver training, and community-based elder support systems. The findings reinforce the conclusion that protecting older adults requires a multi-sectoral approach, integrating social work, healthcare, law, and community participation.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary of Findings

This study examined the issues of elder abuse and the role of social work interventions in addressing the challenges faced by older adults in Oredo Local Government Area, Benin City. The research identified various forms of abuse experienced by older adults, assessed the involvement of social workers, and proposed effective strategies for intervention.

The findings revealed that elder abuse is prevalent in Oredo, with physical, emotional, financial, and neglect-related abuses being the most common. Emotional and psychological abuse ranked highest, followed by financial exploitation and neglect. Sexual abuse was least reported, often due to stigma and cultural silence surrounding such issues. Findings from Chapter Four revealed that elder abuse is a significant social problem in Oredo. The most prevalent forms were emotional or psychological abuse (74.9%), physical abuse (74.9%), and financial exploitation (74.9%). Neglect (67.8%) was also widespread, while sexual abuse (7%) was the least reported. Moreover, cultural abuse (67.8%), often associated with witchcraft accusations, emerged as a unique form of mistreatment in the study area.

These findings align with Ajomale (2007) and Owoaje et al. (2012), who found similar patterns in other Nigerian communities. The study also supports World Health Organization (2022) data showing that one in six older adults globally experiences some form of abuse. The persistence of cultural abuse confirms that deeply held beliefs and superstitions contribute to

elder mistreatment, especially among older women (Adediran & Odukoya, 2020). It can therefore be concluded that elder abuse in Oredo is multifaceted, influenced by both economic hardship and cultural beliefs, and remains largely underreported due to stigma and family secrecy. The study further showed that social workers play a critical role in identifying, preventing, and responding to elder abuse. Their functions include counseling, advocacy, crisis intervention, home visits, community education, and coordination of care through multidisciplinary teams. However, their effectiveness is hindered by insufficient funding, shortage of trained personnel, weak policy enforcement, and societal misconceptions about aging.

Community-based interventions such as caregiver training, awareness campaigns, and establishment of elder day-care centers were identified as practical strategies for mitigating elder abuse. Respondents agreed that empowering caregivers and involving faith-based organizations can enhance the social protection of older adults. The research also revealed that most older adults depend on family and informal caregivers, with limited access to pensions, health services, or institutional support. As a result, social work remains the primary professional discipline addressing their psychosocial and welfare needs.

5.2 Conclusion

Elder abuse in Oredo Local Government Area is a pressing social issue that undermines the dignity, safety, and well-being of older citizens. The study concludes that effective social work intervention is vital to reducing the prevalence and impact of such abuse. Through community engagement, counseling, advocacy, and empowerment initiatives, social workers can

restore dignity to victims and prevent recurrence. Nevertheless, sustainable progress requires collective effort involving government agencies, NGOs, caregivers, families, and traditional institutions. The findings affirm that social work practice in gerontology must be strengthened through policy reforms, professional training, and public sensitization. Without systematic support and resource allocation, the elderly population in Benin will remain vulnerable to neglect and exploitation.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are made:

1. **Government Policy Implementation:** The government should enforce existing laws such as the National Senior Citizens Centre Act (2017) and develop state-level elder protection policies to safeguard the rights of older adults.
2. **Capacity Building for Social Workers:** Training programs in gerontological social work should be institutionalized in universities and social service agencies to equip practitioners with relevant skills in elder care, case management, and trauma-informed practice.
3. **Community Awareness Campaigns**: Public enlightenment through radio, community meetings, and religious gatherings should be intensified to educate families on respectful elder care and the consequences of abuse.
4. **Caregiver Support and Training:** Regular workshops should be organized to train family and informal caregivers on stress management, communication, and basic elder care practices to reduce neglect and burnout.

5. **Establishment of Community-Based Elder Centres:** Local governments and NGOs should collaborate to set up elder day-care centers that provide health screening, counseling, social interaction, and meals for older adults.
6. **Economic Empowerment Programs**: Non-contributory pensions and livelihood projects such as farming or crafts should be expanded to reduce financial dependency and exploitation among older persons.

5.4 Suggestions for Further Study

Future studies should explore:

Comparative analysis of elder abuse across rural and urban areas in Edo State, the psychological impact of abuse on elderly victims, evaluation of government and NGO programs for elder protection, the role of technology and digital inclusion in improving elderly care services.

5.5 Contribution to Knowledge

This research contributes to social work knowledge by providing empirical data on the prevalence and nature of elder abuse in Oredo. It highlights the significance of culturally grounded social work interventions and underscores the need for policy and institutional support to strengthen gerontological practice in Nigeria.

REFERENCES

Aboderin, I. (2005). Understanding and responding to ageing, health, poverty and social change in sub-Saharan Africa. Oxford Institute of Ageing Working Paper.

Adebayo, A. A., & Adeyemo, D. O. (2021). Social protection and the elderly in Nigeria: Policy challenges and prospects. Journal of Social Policy in Africa, 18(2), 45–62.

Adebayo, A. A., Adeyemo, D. O., & Adebayo, O. E. (2020). Ageing and social security in Nigeria: Examining the social protection of the elderly. Journal of Social Sciences, 45(2), 143–157.

Adebayo, A. Y. (2019). The role of social workers in preventing elder abuse in Nigeria. Journal of Gerontological Social Work, 62(7), 716–728.

Adebayo, O., & Adeyemo, K. (2021). Socio-economic challenges and ageing in Nigeria: Implications for family care and social policy. Journal of Social Development in Africa, 36(2), 45–60.

Adediran, O., & Odukoya, J. A. (2020). Cultural perceptions and the under-reporting of elder abuse in Nigeria. African Journal of Gerontology and Social Work, 5(1), 22–34.

Adeleke, A. (2014). Elder care and social policy in Nigeria. Journal of Social Work in Africa, 9(1), 22–35.

Afolayan, G. A., & Adebayo, A. M. (2017). Cultural values and eldercare in Nigeria. Journal of Gerontological Social Work, 60(7), 682–695.

Afolayan, M. O., & Adebayo, O. (2017). Cultural resilience and empowerment strategies for older adults in Nigeria. International Social Work, 60(6), 1451–1465.

Ajayi, I. O., & Oyetunde, M. O. (2018). Family structure, urbanization, and elder neglect in South-Western Nigeria. BMC Geriatrics, 18(2), 102–113.

Ajayi, R., & Oyetunde, O. (2018). Social support and elder well-being in Nigeria. African Journal of Sociology, 14(2), 88–102.

Ajomale, O. (2007). Country report: Ageing in Nigeria—Current state, social and economic implications. Generations Review, 17(2), 10–12.

Ajomale, O. (2007). Elder abuse: The Nigerian experience. In Research on ageing in Africa: Issues and perspectives (pp. 115–129). University of Ibadan Press.

Akanle, O. (2019). Elderly care in Nigeria: Cultural influences and structural factors. African Journal of Aging, 25(1), 34–46.

Akinyemi, A. I. (2020). Social work and the challenge of gerontological practice in Nigeria: Issues and implications. International Journal of Sociology and Anthropology Research, 6(1), 25–32.

Akinyemi, A. I., & Isiugo-Abanihe, U. (2014). Aging and the challenges of elderly care in Nigeria. African Population Studies, 28(1), 289–301.

Akinyemi, A. I., Adepoju, A., & Olaniyan, D. (2019). Addressing elder abuse in Nigeria: An overview of public education strategies. International Journal of Aging & Social Policy, 31(3), 255–268.

Akinyemi, B. (2020). The marginalization of social work practice in Nigeria: Challenges for professional recognition and development. Nigerian Journal of Social Work Education, 19(1), 1–15.

Atchley, R. C. (1989). A continuity theory of normal aging. The Gerontologist, 29(2), 183–190.

Atchley, R. C., & Barusch, A. S. (2004). Social forces and aging: An introduction to social gerontology (10th ed.). Wadsworth Publishing.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2016). Elder abuse surveillance: Uniform definitions and recommended core data elements. CDC.

Chinwe, A. (2020). Technological divide and the elderly: A case study in Nigeria. African Journal of Technology and Society, 13(3), 90–98.

Cohen, M. A., & Yaffe, M. (2018). Elder abuse: A national survey. Canadian Journal of Aging, 37(1), 101–107.

Crewell, J. (2014). Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches (4th ed.). Sage Publications.

Dong, X. (2015). Elder abuse: Systematic review and implications for research and policy. Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, 63(6), 1214–1238.

Egharevba, M. E. (2022). Psychosocial correlates of elder neglect in Benin City, Nigeria. Journal of Gerontological Social Work, 65(3), 312–330.

Ejegwa, O., et al. (2014). Older persons' views and experience of elder abuse in South Western Nigeria: A community-based qualitative survey. Journal of Gerontology Studies, 19(4), 55–68.

Ekot, B. (2016). Social policy and aging in Nigeria: Issues and prospects. Nigerian Journal of Social Policy, 3(2), 75–91.

Federal Republic of Nigeria. (2021). National policy on aging. Abuja: Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs.

GERAS. (2021). Report on elder care services in Africa. African Centre for Ageing Studies.

Gnonhossou, G., et al. (2019). Elder abuse in Benin: A community study. African Journal of Social Gerontology, 5(1), 33–45.

González, R., & Espinoza, M. (2016). Elder abuse and neglect: Risk factors in Latin America. Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, 28(4–5), 289–306.

Gray, M. (2011). Back to basics: A critique of the strengths perspective in social work. Families in Society, 92(1), 5–11.

Greene, R. R. (2017). Human behavior theory and social work practice (3rd ed.). Routledge.

gunmola, B., & Akinyemi, A. (2022). The role of social workers in addressing elder abuse in Nigeria. Journal of Social Work Practice, 36(4), 477–490.

Havighurst, R. J. (1961). Successful aging. The Gerontologist, 1(1), 8–13.

HelpAge International. (2013). Why social pensions are needed now. https://www.helpage.org

Hooyman, N. R., & Kiyak, H. A. (2018). Social gerontology: A multidisciplinary perspective (10th ed.). Pearson.

Hounkpe, P., et al. (2020). Family dynamics and elder care in West Africa. West African Journal of Gerontology, 8(2), 101–118.

Ikeorji, C. R., & Ubani, T. C. (2024). Supporting informal older adult caregivers in Nigeria: Recommendations for policy. African Journal of Social Work, 14(6), 311–320.

Imudia, B. O., & Ukponahiusi, O. (2023). Social work intervention strategies for victims of abused elderly in Ukhun Communities, Edo State, Nigeria. NIU Journal of Humanities, 8(2), 15–24.

Imudia, E., & Ukponahusi, O. (2023). Caregiver training and elder-care capacity building in Edo State, Nigeria. Journal of Social Work and Society, 21(2), 90–104.

Iniodu, P., et al. (2017). Poverty and aging in Nigeria: A multi-sectoral approach. Journal of African Development Studies, 12(3), 89–104.

Iwuoha, V. C., & Ogbuabor, J. E. (2020). Elder abuse in Nigeria: The role of legal frameworks and advocacy. African Journal of Law and Policy, 28(1), 45–61.

Jesmin, S. S., & Ingman, S. R. (2011). Social isolation, elder abuse, and the cultural context of ageing in sub-Saharan Africa. Ageing International, 36(1), 123–135.

Kane, R. A., & Kane, R. L. (2001). Essentials of long-term care administration. Jones & Bartlett Learning.

Lehning, A., et al. (2011). Age-friendly communities and policies in the U.S. Journal of Aging & Social Policy, 23(3), 213–228.

Ma, H., Pillemer, K., & Chen, Y. (2017). Health outcomes of elder abuse victims: A meta-analytic review. The Gerontologist, 57(6), 1116–1131.

Muhammad, A. (2022). Hidden dimensions of elder abuse in Nigeria: A sociological perspective. African Journal of Social Issues, 25(1), 35–49.

Muhammad, F. Z. (2022, December 19). Elder abuse in Nigeria: Analysis of its consequences and solutions. Applied Worldwide. https://appliedworldwide.com

National Association of Social Workers. (2021). Code of ethics.

National Population Commission (NPC) [Nigeria], & ICF. (2003). Nigeria demographic and health survey 2003. NPC and ORC Macro.

National Population Commission (NPC) [Nigeria], & ICF. (2019). Nigeria demographic and health survey 2018. NPC and ICF.

National Population Commission (NPC) [Nigeria]. (2020). Population projections for Nigeria: 2020 revision. NPC.

Nigerian Association of Social Workers (NASoW). (2022). Policy memo on geriatric social work practice in Nigeria. NASoW.

Obasola, O. I., & Agunbiade, O. M. (2016). Social care of the elderly in Nigeria: An appraisal of the familial and informal care system. International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy, 36(7/8), 507–519.

Odebode, A., & Durojaiye, D. (2018). The role of caregivers in preventing elder abuse in Nigeria. International Journal of Social Work and Human Services Practice, 6(4), 115–122.

Ogunlade, T., et al. (2023). Prevalence, pattern, and predictors of elder abuse in Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria: An urban and rural comparison. Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, 35(1), 15–30.

Ogunmefun, C., Mba, C. J., & Adedini, S. A. (2020). Elder abuse in sub-Saharan Africa: A systematic review of current knowledge and intervention strategies. Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, 32(4), 351–370.

Ogunniyi, A., Osuntokun, B. O., & Baiyewu, O. (2020). Elder abuse in Africa: What can be done to support the elderly in Nigeria? African Journal of Gerontology, 3(2), 18–26.

Ogunniyi, A., Owolabi, L. O., & Fawole, O. I. (2020). Gender dimensions of elder abuse in Nigeria: Evidence from population studies. African Population Studies, 34(3), 1–14.

Ogunyemi, A. O., & Adedji, O. (2018). Caregivers and elder abuse prevention in Nigerian households. International Journal of Social Welfare, 27(3), 223–234.

Okeke, T. (2019). The cultural dimensions of elder abuse in Nigeria. African Journal of Gerontology, 2(3), 207–220.

Okojie, O. H., Omuemu, V. O., & Uhunwangho, R. (2022). Prevalence and predictors of elder abuse in urban and rural communities of Benin City, Nigeria. Nigerian Journal of Community Medicine and Primary Health Care, 34(1), 70–81.

Okojie, R., et al. (2022). Older persons and family neglect in Nigeria: Social work perspectives. Nigerian Journal of Social Work Education, 18(1), 33–50.

Okoye, U. O. (2013). Community-based care for the elderly as a strategy for enhancing elderly participation in development in Nigeria. Nigerian Journal of Sociology and Anthropology, 11(1), 61–77.

Olaniyan, D. A., & Idowu, A. (2018). Ageing and intergenerational dynamics in Nigeria: Social stereotypes and family relations. Journal of Aging Studies, 22(4), 202–211.

Olayinka, A., & Adepoju, A. (2021). Social work intervention and elder abuse in Nigeria: Emerging perspectives. Nigerian Journal of Social Work Education, 18(1), 45–60.

Olayiwola, S. (2013). Community participation and traditional mechanisms for elder support in Nigeria. Journal of African Studies, 9(2), 66–79.

Olayiwola, S. (2013). Community-based interventions for elder abuse in Nigeria. African Journal of Social Work, 4(1), 23–30.

Owoaje, E. T., Oyemade, A., & Adebiyi, A. O. (2012). Socio-economic determinants of elder neglect and abuse in Ibadan, Nigeria. BMC Public Health, 12(1), 110–119.

Pilemer, K., Burnes, D., & Lachs, M. S. (2016). Elder mistreatment: Global prevalence and implications for policy and practice. The Lancet Global Health, 4(2), e147–e156.

Rowe, J. W., & Kahn, R. L. (1998). Successful aging. Dell Publishing.

Seni, A., & Ozdemir, C. (2017). Economic strain and elder abuse in low-income households: Evidence from sub-Saharan Africa. Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, 29(4), 275–292.

Stone, R., et al. (2018). Caregiver support programs and elder protection: A global review. Journal of Elder Care Policy, 12(2), 145–162.

United Nations. (2016). World population ageing 2015. UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

United Nations. (2022). World population prospects 2022. UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Wang, J., Xiao, L. D., He, G. P., & Ullah, S. (2019). Cognitive stimulation therapy for older adults with dementia: A systematic review. Nursing & Health Sciences, 21(3), 345–353.*

World Bank. (2022). Nigeria development update: The urgency for business unusual. World Bank Group.

World Health Organization. (2002). Missing voices: Views of older persons on elder abuse. World Health Organization.

World Health Organization. (2024). World report on ageing and health (updated edition). Geneva: WHO Press.

APPENDIX
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN
BENIN CITY

Dear Respondents,

My name is Glory Oluwaloni ODEKUNLE, I am an undergraduate students of the department of Social work, University of Benin City. I am carrying out an academic research work titled "Older Adults abuses and Social work intervention strategies in Benin City." The research is a prerequisite for the award of the degree and aims at ascertaining the various challenges faced by older persons, as well as how social work can help to improve their wellbeing. Your participation in this study is voluntary and you can withdraw at any point in time without any penalty. All that you disclose to me will be treated with strict confidence and utilized for academic purposes only. Your frank responses are highly valued and will go a long way in promoting social work practice and policy for ageing individuals in our society.

Thank you for your understanding and time.

Glory Oluwaloni ODEKUNLE

Researcher

Instructions: Please indicate your level on agreement with each of the following statements using this scale:

1 – Strongly Disagree

2 – Disagree

3 – Neutral

4 – Agree

5 – Strongly Agree

SECTION A: Demographic Information

1. Age**:** [ ] 65-69 [ ] 70-74 [ ] 75-79 [ ] 80 and above
2. Gender: [ ] Male [ ] Female
3. Religion: [ ]Christianity [ ]Islam [ ]Traditional African Religion [ ] Others
4. Martial Status: [ ]Single [ ] Married [ ] Widows [ ] Divorced
5. Education: [ ] No formal education [ ]Primary [ ] Secondary [ ] Tertiary

SECTION B: Common Forms of Elder Abuse in Oredo, Benin City

Instructions: Please tick ( ) the appropriate column that best represents your opinion on each statement.

SN	Items	SA	A	N	D	SD
6	Physical abuse is a common form of elder abuse in Oredo.					
7	Emotional or psychological abuse often impacts older adults in Oredo.					
8	Neglect of older adults is a widespread issue in the community.					
9	Financial exploitation of elders is commonly reported in Oredo.					
10	Sexual abuse of older adults is a concern in oredo .					
11	Cultural beliefs contribute to elder abuse in Benin.					

SECTION C: Roles of social workers in preventing and responding to elder abuse

SN	Items	SA	A	N	D	SD
12	Social workers are proactively recognizing instances of elder abuse within the community.					
13	Social workers offer appropriate guidance and assistance to elderly individuals who have experienced abuse.					
14	Promoting the rights of the elderly is an essential responsibility of social workers in Oredo.					
15	Social workers work closely with families to prevent elder abuse.					

SECTION D: Effectiveness of Existing Intervention Strategies by Social workers

SN	Items	SA	A	N	D	SD
16	The existing intervention methods employed by social workers successfully tackle instances of elder abuse.					
17	Social workers possess adequate resources to manage elder abuse in Oredo.					
18	Social workers intervention initiatives aimed at providing significant protection for mistreated elderly individuals.					
19	Collaboration among social workers and various agencies improves intervention results.					
20	Follow-services offered by social workers post-intervention are sufficient.					

SECTION E: Strategies to improve Social work interventions

SN	Items	SA	A	N	D	SD
21	Enhancing training and education for social workers would strengthen interventions against elder abuse.					
22	Improving community awareness programs will strengthen elder abuse prevention.					
23	Enforcing more rigorous laws and regulations will assist social workers in safeguarding elderly individuals.					
24	Enhancing collaboration between healthcare providers and social workers will lead to better results for elderly abuse victims.					
25	Additional funding is necessary to enhance social work efforts in safeguarding the elderly.					