

Child Custody Disputes and Socio Psychological Effect on Children in Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria

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Abstract

It is an open secret that parents often forget or neglect the interest of their children when considering divorce. Children constitute the dependent part of the society and they need constant and continued care. As far as their divorce is successful, parents consider it a “clean break-up.” But this leads to the disruption of the lives of the products of the marriage. Based on this observation this study sought to assess the effect of child custody disputes on the children. A survey design adopted for the study admitted a total of 300 respondents, consisting of 150 males and 150 females aged 21 to 46 years. A multi-stage sampling technique was used to select participants. Out of 14 electoral Wards, we randomly selected 8; and three Polling Units from each Ward. At each of the Polling area, convenience sampling technique was used to administer structured questionnaires on respondents. Four research questions guided the study. Frequencies, percentage, means and standard deviations were employed to answer the research questions. It was found that 84.8 per cent of changes in child’s behaviour can be traced to frequency in parental child custody disputes, while 95 (31.6%) of the respondents agreed that children suffered from unsatisfied needs and lack self-reliance from parental child custody disputes. It was recommended, among others, that family therapy and alternative ways of reaching families affected by conflicts should be developed by social workers.

Key words: Child custody, disputes, divorce, social and psychological life.

Les litiges de la garde des enfants et les effets sociaux psychologiques sur les enfants à Jos, Etat du Plateau, au Nigeria

Résumé

Il est un secret de polichinelle que les parents oublient ou négligent souvent l'intérêt de leurs enfants lors durant le procès du divorce. Les enfants constituent la partie dépendante de la société et ils ont besoin de soins constants et continus. En ce qui concerne leur divorce qui est couronné de succès, les parents le considèrent comme un «propre rupture.” Mais cela conduit à la perturbation de la vie des produits du mariage. Sur la base de cette observation, cette étude visait à évaluer l'effet des litiges en matière de garde sur les enfants. Une conception de l'enquête adoptée pour l'étude a admis un total de 300 répondants, composés de 150 hommes et 150 femmes âgées de 21 à 46 ans. Une technique d'échantillonnage en plusieurs étapes a été utilisée pour sélectionner les participants. Sur les 14 circonscriptions électorales, nous avons choisi au hasard 8; et trois unités de vote dans chaque quartier. A chacune de la zone d'interrogation, la technique de

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commodité d'échantillonnage a été utilisée pour administrer des questionnaires structurés sur les répondants. Quatre questions de recherche ont guidé l'étude. Fréquences, pourcentage, les moyens et les écarts-types ont été utilisés pour répondre aux questions de recherche. On a constaté que 84,8 pour cent des changements dans le comportement de l'enfant peut être attribuée à la fréquence des litiges parentales de la garde des enfants, tandis que 95 (31,6%) des répondants ont convenu que les enfants souffraient de besoins non satisfaits et manquent d'autonomie de parents conflits de garde des enfants. Il a été recommandé, entre autres, que la thérapie familiale et d'autres moyens d'atteindre les familles touchées par les conflits devraient être élaborés par les travailleurs sociaux.

Mots clés: la garde des enfants, litiges, divorce, effets sociaux, la vie psychologique.

Introduction

Child custody is simply the right to have a child with you, especially when that is granted through an order issued by a court hearing dissolution of marriage. Child custody disputes are situations where divorcing or separating parents contest who keep (custody) the children. This has become a common phenomenon in modern societies especially where the couples are still very young. It has been reported that over 200 cases of parental child custody disputes cases occur each day in the United States (Agopian, 1984). Sixty per cent of all children in the United States now spend some time in a single parent home in the single parent. According to one study, the intent of the abducting parent was to alter permanently custodial access by concealing the child or taking the child out of the state or out of the country.

Many times people rush into marriage, with big dreams for happy endings to live with their spouses forever, till death. Unfortunately, marriage is no fairy-tale. These days, basically, the only perfect marriages are those we see in movies. Believe it or not, the rate of divorces in Nigeria and all over the world is on the increase, year after year.

Marriages tend to break down for reasons ranging from adultery, lack of communication, intolerance, high expectations from both or either of the couples, loss of physical attraction, lack of commitment, family pressure and family background . When all efforts to make the marriage work fail and the union cannot be saved, the only option is usually divorce.

In Africa and, particularly, Nigeria, tender-aged children are often very attached to their mothers. Given this knowledge fathers always insist on taking the child (ren) away from the mother, in order to get back at her. On the other hand, the mothers would want to use the children as financial conduit, in order to get money from the father in the name of 'child support'.

When marriages stand on the brink of collapse, attention is given to the irreconcilable differences between couples. Needless time and effort are spent on pre-litigious considerations. This is sometimes at the expense of the total wellbeing of the children of the marriage. Couples seeking a Decree of *Order Nisi* for a Judicial Separation, Nullity or a Dissolution of Marriage tend to be more engrossed in the legal burden of proving that the marriage "has broken down irretrievably", so that the children of the marriage, who are often viewed as the spoils of war in the circumstance, are left uncared for, and if at all, inadequately catered for. In most cases, couples in separation usually do not bicker over who takes custody of the children, especially if they are still infants or minors. The presumption is that the mother will usually have custody of them. It has been held in a decided Supreme Court case of *Odogwu v. Odogwu* (1992) 2 NWLR (pt. 225) 539 that this presumption is however rebuttable and can be impeached if, during court proceedings, for instance, it can be shown that the mother is immoral, she has an infectious

disease, she suffers insanity or is cruel to the child. The issue of custody of the children of the marriage is only secondary to the issue of the welfare, wellbeing and maintenance. These in fact may guide the courts in awarding custody to either of the parties before it, whether the father or the mother. The issues are however not as straightforward and simple.

There appears to be little or no legal provisions as to the welfare and maintenance of children who are caught up in such peculiar circumstances under the Matrimonial Causes Act. However, the Child Rights Act, (2003) and other related legislations in Nigeria have come to the rescue of children who are caught in this situation, and in need of adequate maintenance and welfare. Research all over the world has shown that divorce affects children the most. In Nigeria, only few extensive researches have been carried out on the effect of divorce on children. In Chika's (2005) study, she discovered that, of all the respondents randomly sampled, 70 per cent of them were products of disrupted marriages. Their parents were found to be either separated or out rightly divorced. To corroborate her research, Chika interviewed some inmates at the Kuje Prison, Abuja, where eight out of 10 inmates she interviewed were products of disrupted families.

It has been proven that divorce can cause children to harbour ill-feelings for one of the parents; and can also form aggressive behavior (Gardner, 1982). Children from divorce homes are more aggressive than those from in-intact homes; and can suffer more depression. Evidently, younger children suffer most, because of their vulnerability. Following from the foregoing, the paper:

- (i) Assessed the prevalence of child custody disputes in Jos metropolis,
- (ii) Examined the effect of child custody disputes on the behaviour of the children, and
- (iii) Identified the socio cultural factors in child custody disputes.

Literature Review/Theoretical Framework

Most people probably associate child custody with divorce actions, but child custody issues are also common in actions involving paternity, guardianship, termination of parental rights and juvenile delinquency. Child custody not only involves the physical custody and control of the child, but the parental rights, privileges, duties and powers connected to child rearing.

The "best interests of the child" is the universal standard used in determining child custody issues. How child custody issues are treated by the courts today reflects changes in the decisions issued by the courts, states statutes, society and psychological research findings.

The "best interests of the child" is the court's main consideration when determining a child custody issue. A court looks at the facts and circumstances of your case, presumes that the child's best interests are served by granting custody to a parent and seeks to find the custodial arrangement that best meets the child's physical, psychological and emotional needs.

This standard, which has been emphasized since the late 1970's, is much different from the old presumption for maternal custody. The old standard was based on the idea that mothers were better suited for giving the necessary nurturing for young children. Joint custody is the presumed or preferred form of child custody in many states. This preference reflects societal changes such as mothers working outside of the home and fathers taking a more hands-on role in child rearing. While joint custody can be simply defined as "shared custody," there are many forms of joint custody in which parents share both physical custody of the child and the legal rights connected to child-rearing decisions.

Child custody determinations are affected by both state and federal legislation. Marriage contracts which are entered under recognized forms of marriage, including statutory, customary, or Islamic, are legal. In the event of a divorce or a separation, matters related to custody of children are addressed under the procedural and substantive norms of the appropriate regime governing the

type of marriage. If the parents entered a statutory marriage, celebrated under the federal Marriage Act, custody decisions will be issued by a High Court and governed by both Nigerian legislation and received English law. Parents who entered a customary marriage, custody of their children is governed by the diverse customs in the different geographical regions of the country and the customary courts created by statute to enforce these customary laws. If the parents entered an Islamic marriage, the custody of their children is governed by Sharia law, which is applied by the Sharia courts operating in the northern parts of the country.

Characteristics of parents in conflict fighting for custody and children in disputes are not restricted to any specific socioeconomic or ethnic group. However researchers have identified some shared characteristics among both parents and children. (i). Ages of child and parent: Finkelhor, Hotaling, and Sedlack (1990) found that more than half of children in disputes were under 8 and about a quarter were under age 4. Other studies indicated that children between the ages of 3 and 5 were likely to be under disputes. Data from quantitative studies of both domestic and international cases reveal that conflicted parents fighting for custody of children tend to be in their thirties. Finkelhor, Hotaling, and Sedlack (1990) found in their studies that a larger percentage of boys (58 per cent) than girls (42 per cent) were victims of parental child custody disputes, although the differences were not statistically significant. Data also indicate a higher frequency of male children custody (72 per cent) than the female children custody disputes (28 per cent), with former husbands and boyfriends constituting the largest group (42 per cent).

In their study, Hegar and Grief (1994) reported high rates of cross-cultural or international marriage among 371 families that experienced parental child claim disputes. Forty-seven (13 per cent) of these disputes involve couples who differed in race or ethnicity. Both Grief and Hegar (1993) and Finkelhor, Hotaling, and Sedlack (1990) found high numbers (41 per cent and 54 per cent, respectively) of parental child custody disputes taking place during the period between separation and divorce, a time when much conflict can occur.

The findings of Johnston, Campbell, and Mayes (1985) suggested that children in families having high levels of on-going parental conflict (e.g.: abduction, physical or verbal aggression directed by one parent toward the other, or the formation of a parent-child alliance that excludes other parent) are at risk for child custody disputes. Child custody, which encompasses the care, control, guardianship, and maintenance of a child, may be awarded to one of the parents in a divorce or separation proceeding. Joint custody is an emerging concept that involves the apportionment of custody between the parents during specified periods of time. For example, a child may reside with each parent for six months each year.

Reasons for home child custody disputes have severally been cited. For instance, Sagatun and Barrett (1990) observed that some parents are motivated to dispute their child custody from the other parent in an effort to force reconciliation or to continue interaction with the left-behind. In order instances, Agopian (1981) and Sagatun and Barrett (1990) found that conflicted parents over child custody may have a desire to blame, spite, or punish the other parent. Conflicting parents (particularly fathers) may fear losing legal custody or visiting rights, thereby facing a diminished parenting role with their child. Janvier, Mc Cormick and Donaldson (1990) and Sagatun and Barrett (1990) have also identified this as a motivation for parental child custody disputes. The motivation to dispute child custody may also be an attempt to protect the child from a parent who is perceived to molest, abuse, or neglect the child, and in some cases, this may be a legitimate concern.

Johnston (1994) and Sagatun-Edwards (1996) conducted research to identify factors that indicate the condition under which children may be at risk of parental child custody disputes. The

custody compared 50 families in which children had been in dispute with 57 families that were under going very contentions divorce and abductions involving high levels of litigation. Their findings indicated that many conflicting parents over child custody disputes share characteristics such as having low socioeconomic status (including unemployment), being young parents (many never having been married), and having young children. In addition, many parents had prior criminal arrest records. Combinations of these social factors were found to increase the risk of parental child custody disputes; the act of child custody disputes was an attempt to 'rescue' the child from the other parent.

Plass (1997) identified demographic and family characteristics that appear to have a bearing on whether or not a risk of parental child custody disputes exists. The study found an increased risk of custody disputes in families with white children, younger children (under 5 years old), or a history of violence between parents in the household. Larger family size (i.e: families with three or more children) was associated with a decreased risk of parental child custody disputes. Although many potentials important psychological characteristics may also be predictors of parental child custody disputes, this study focused specifically on sociological characteristics.

Grief and Hegar (1993), Hatcher, Barton and Brooks (1993), and Kiser (1987) all found that domestic violence was reported in more than half of the parental child custody disputes cases they studied. Grief and Hegar (1993) found that about 75 per cent of male and 25 per cent of female conflicting parent had exhibited violent behaviour in the past. Johnston's (1994) study found that the level of domestic violence was not significantly different for families who were involved in parental abduction and families involved in contentions levels of custody litigation.

Theoretical Framework

This study adopts the Role Theory of symbolic interaction. Role Theory has many intellectual antecedents other than Cooley, Dewey, Thomas and Mead. The emphasis in Role theory is on overt role playing and on the researchable relation between role expectation and role performances, on the role taking, on the interior processes of the self, and what Shibutani (1962) calls the sentiments are often ignored.

Manis and Meltzer (1972) summarized the role theory to mean that 'people tend to play the roles assigned to them'. The relevance of role theory for this paper at hand is what goes on in the family concerns interaction among micro-system units like individuals: father, mother, children, who perform different but necessary roles for the survival of the family. Some of the roles that could be performed within a family context include maintenance of children: a father is under a duty to maintain his children; physical protection: there is a statutory role on the parents to protect it against physical or mental injury; service: the parents of a child are entitled to his services while he resides with them; custody or upbringing of a child; education: the parents of a child who has attained the age of six years shall do all in his power to ensure that the child is enrolled. Other roles to be performed within the family include bread-winning, reproduction, socialization, emotional support, inspiration and so on. Just like society, the family also has its ups and downs, problems, contradictions, disputes, and when these roles are inadequately performed within the family context and when the expectations are lacking, this way breakdown the family and the fight for the custody of children follows. This therefore breaks also the cohesion of the family and every part in the family system (father, mother, and children) is affected by the departure.

Methods

The study area was Jos North Local Government Council of Plateau State, Nigeria. It was carved out of the old Jos Local Government Council during the 1991 Local Government Council creation. It has Jos town as the Council headquarters with a population of 540,000 persons based on the 2006 National Census. The metropolitan nature of the council area provides it an added advantage, as there is tremendous availability of physical infrastructure like good roads, pipe-borne water, electricity supply, etc., throughout the area.

Data for this paper were collected as part of a larger study on the response of couples to child custody disputes. Participation in the study was voluntary and respondents were assured of their total anonymity and of the complete confidentiality of the information requested of them. Three hundred respondents completed and returned their questionnaires. Of the 367 questionnaires that were collected, 67 were excluded from further analysis because their responses to the question would not yield the needed data for the realization of the objective of the study. The exclusion left us with 300 questionnaires which represented 81.74 per cent response rate.

The questionnaire elicited responses which covered socio-demographic, prevalence of parental child custody disputes among couples, the extent to which parental child custody disputes influence the behaviour of children, socioeconomic and cultural factors that make child custody to be a dispute and the consequences of home child custody disputes on a child. The dependent variables in this study include frequency of parental child custody disputes, behavioural changes. The independent variables are defined in Tables 6, 7, 9 and 12. We estimated the contribution of each independent variable to the dependent variables by mean-rating of the respondents. In the regression models Table 10, we examined the extent to which the independent variables influence the dependent variables (frequency of parental child custody disputes) and hence the prevalence of parental child custody disputes.

Results

Socio-Demographic Characteristics

Demographic and social characteristics of the respondents are presented in Table 1. More women (58, 3%, N = 175) than men (41.6%, N = 125) participated in the study. Although there was disparity in sex, the finding suggests that many females were willing to participate in the study than males. The male gender was not only difficult to reach out but exhibited tricks that included refusal to complete the questionnaire and partial completion of the questionnaire.

Table 1: Socio demographic characteristics of respondents, N = 300

Variables	N	%	Mean score	SD
Age			33.19	1.40
21 – 25	53	17.6		
26 – 30	36	12.0		
31 – 35	80	26.6		
36 – 40	72	24.0		

41 – 45	51	17.0
≥ 46	8	2.6
Gender		
Male	125	41.6
Female	175	58.3
Marital status		
Single	60	20.0
Married	50	16.6
Divorced	12	4.0
Widow/Widower	84	28.0
Separated	94	31.3
Level of education at intake		
No formal education	40	13.3
Completed primary	63	21.0
Completed Junior secondary	50	16.6
Completed Senior secondary	40	13.3
Some college education	52	14.0
Tertiary	55	18.3
Occupation at intake		
Private sector	27	9.0
Manufacturing	31	10.2
Public utilities	47	15.6
Building construction	28	9.6
Self employed	52	17.3
Civil servant	85	28.3
Banking finance	30	10.0

The marital characteristics of the respondents revealed that 31.3 per cent (N = 94) of them were separated from their spouses. A little over 28.0 per cent (N = 84) were widow/widower, while 20.0 per cent (N = 60) were single. Occupationally, the survey showed that majority (28.3%, N = 85) of the respondents were civil servants. The rest were employed in public utilities (15.6%, N = 47), banking finance (10.0 %, N = 30), self-employed (17.3%, N = 52) and building construction (9.6%, N = 28). Those employed in private sector constituted (9.0%, N = 27), while the manufacturing were 10.2 per cent (N = 31).

Prevalence of Child Custody Disputes

In order to answer the research question, respondents were tested on the frequency of parental child custody disputes, reasons for disputing a child for custody and the custody disputes influence on behavioural change of children. A summary of the finding is presented in Table 2 above. In the area of the frequency of parental child custody disputes, about 36.0 per cent (N = 108) of the respondents were always in a disagreement with their spouse about who will have custody of the children. Other respondents (32.6%, N = 98) were most of the time in child custody disputes with their partner. The survey also showed that about 19.3 per cent (N = 58) of the respondents were often not in parental child custody disputes, while about 12.0 per cent (N = 36) had never engaged in parental child custody disputes.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents by prevalence of parental child custody disputes among young couples in Jos North Local Government Area, N = 300

Variables	N	%	Mean	SD
Frequency of parental child custody disputes			2.07	1.01
Always	108	36.0		
Most of the time	98	32.2		
Not often	58	19.3		
Never	36	12.0		
Reasons for parental child custody disputes at intake			3.63	2.06
Finances/household mismanagement	56	18.6		
Cruelty/marital conflict	72	24.0		
Sexuality	20	6.6		
Parental acts of misconduct	32	10.6		
Family breakdown	60	30.0		
Desertion/abandonment	19	6.3		
Dissolution of marriage	41	13.6		
Behavioral change at intake			4.96	2.59
Viewing one parent all 'good' and the other all 'bad'	42	13.6		
Distorted beliefs and perceptions	20	6.6		
Emotional distress and anxiety	25	8.3		
Rejecting the other parent	55	18.3		
Nightmares/sleep disturbance/fearfulness	22	7.3		
Uncontrollable crying/loss of bladder/eating problems	59	19.6		
Poor peer relationships/withdrawal	13	4.3		
Difficulty in trusting people/regression	21	7.0		
Thumb sucking/aggressive behavior	43	14.3		

Source: Field survey

Socio cultural factors in Child Custody Disputes

The survey showed that about 62.3 per cent (N = 187) of the respondents agreed that parental child custody disputes greatly occur in broken romantic relationships, while those who disagree, were 12.6 per cent (N = 38) and the undecided respondents were 25.0 per cent (N = 75).

Table 3: Respondents' distribution of socio-economic, cultural factors and parental child custody disputes

Variables	Responses (%)		Responses (%)		Responses (%)	
Socioeconomic, cultural factors	A (%)		D (%)		UD (%)	
Separation/divorce/abduction	92	30.6	152	50.6	56	18.6
Low socioeconomic status	97	32.3	136	45.3	67	22.3
Children under 5 years old	153	51.0	56	18.6	91	30.3

Unemployment and employment	125	41.6	85	28.3	90	30.0
Oppressive marriages	159	53.0	54	18.0	87	29.0
Young parents	119	39.6	99	33.0	82	27.3
History of violence	151	50.3	61	20.3	88	29.3
Small family size	172	57.3	72	24.0	56	18.6
Broken romantic relationships	187	62.3	38	12.6	75	25.0
Traditional customs	182	60.6	42	14.0	76	25.3

Source: Field survey

About 60.6 per cent (N = 182) of the respondents agreed that traditional customs play a critical role in parental child custody disputes, while those who disagreed represented only 14.0 per cent (N = 42) and about 25.3 per cent (N = 76) were undecided. About 57.3 per cent, (N = 172) of the respondents agreed that small family size is a major contributing factor to parental child custody disputes, while 24.0 per cent (N = 72) of the respondents disagreed and few of them (18.6 %, N = 56) were undecided. The proportion of those who agreed that oppressive marriage provide good cause of parental child custody disputes was 53.0 per cent (N = 159), while those who disagreed represented 18.0 per cent, (N = 54) and those who were undecided represented 29.0 %, (N = 87). About 51.0 per cent (N = 153) of the respondents agreed that young children under 5 years old were contributing factors to home child claim disputes, while 18.6 per cent (N = 56) of the respondents disagreed and about 30.3 per cent (N = 91) were undecided. The survey also revealed that about 50.3 per cent (N = 151) of the respondents agreed that history of violence between parents in the household contribute to home child custody disputes, while about 20.3 %, (N = 61) of them disagreed and only 29.3 per cent (N = 88) were undecided.

In Table 4 below, mean and standard deviations of the rating of parental child custody disputes by types of behavioural changes is shown. The mean of the frequency of parental child custody disputes is 2.07 with a standard deviation of 1.01. Child viewing one parent all ‘good’ and the other all ‘bad’ (X = 1.37, SD = .87); child internalizing distorted beliefs and perceptions (X = 1.36, SD = .86); child suffering from emotional distress and anxiety (X = 2.87, SD = 1.60); child rejecting the other parent and extended family (X = 3.09, SD = 1.65); child suffering from nightmares, sleep disturbance and fearfulness (X = 3.49, SD = 1.70); uncontrollable crying, loss of bladder control and eating problems (X = 3.27, SD = 1.72); poor peer relations/ withdrawal (X = 3.93, SD = 1.96); difficulty in trusting people and regression (X = 3.60, SD = 1.89). In all the findings suggest that “poor peer relationship/withdrawal” followed by difficulty in trusting people and nightmares/sleep disturbance” were significant behavioural changes that children suffered as a result of parental child custody disputes. “Uncontrollable crying/loss of bladder” and rejecting the other parent were also frequently cited by respondents.

Table 4: Mean, standard deviation of the rating of parental child custody disputes by types of behavioural changes, N = 300.

Variables	Mean	Std Deviation	N
Frequency of parental child cust disp	2.07	1.01	300
Viewing one parent all ‘good’	1.37	0.87	300

Distorted beliefs and perceptions	1.36	0.86	300
Emotional distress and anxiety	2.87	1.60	300
Rejecting the other parent	3.09	1.65	300
Nightmares/sleep disturbance	3.49	1.70	300
Uncontrollable crying/loss of bladder	3.27	1.72	300
Poor peer relations/withdrawal	3.93	1.96	300
Difficulty in trusting people	3.60	1.89	300

Discussion

The purpose of this study was to examine the impact of parental child custody disputes on social and psychological life of children in Jos North LGA. We proposed four related questions. Our discussion tries to provide answer to these questions and present evidence of behavioural pattern that can be followed in order to avoid parental child custody disputes in Jos North LGA and hence the reduction of the breakdown of marriage.

Prevalence of parental child custody disputes was explained by respondents' experiences from children custody disputes. The factors that contribute to and perpetuate parental child custody disputes were explained as respondents offered reasons that are responsible for child custody disputes. Such reasons include family finances and household mismanagement, cruelty and marital conflict, sexuality, parental acts of misconduct, family breakdown, desertion and abandonment, and dissolution of marriage. Grief and Hegar (1994) observed that parental child custody disputes take place during the period between separation and divorce as a result of conflict arising from low socioeconomic status (including unemployment), being young parents (many never having been married), and having young children.

Social and psychological impact of parental child custody disputes on the behaviour of the child: were found to include children becoming social misfit; they do not seem to belong in a place because they are very different from the other people in the community. The negative effect is timidity; as the children may not have courage or confidence in themselves. There is also shyness; the child may become very shy, unable to face realities in life and find solutions for their problems. Children may failed to develop the right attitudes to life because he or she does not live with the parent. There is also inability to socialize especially when the child had to live with relatives who abuse him or her by making him or her to sell on the streets. At times the child had to live with a parent or custodian parent who does his or her best to inculcate the best value in the child.

Conclusion/Recommendation

The purpose of the study was to illuminate on the effect of parental child custody disputes on social and psychological life of the child in Jos North Community. Unlike previous studies on the parental child custody, these findings represent bottom-up input. Based on these, we recommend the followings:

- (i) Government should implement its policy on education which says that any parent that does not send his or her child to school, or any school age child seeing around will be followed to find out where that child is residing and then the parent will be prosecuted.

- (ii) Also the government should take full responsibility over what happens to the child at a certain age. If Nigerian government adopts such policy here and follows it up, it will work, it will help.
- (iii) In addition, government should enroll children who are not able to go to school to learn hand work such as sowing, carpentry, tailoring, hair dressing.
- (iv) Also government should provide employment, basic amenities, social services, free education, tools or equipments for training.

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