

**NEW TECHNOLOGY AND INDIGENOUS GAMES AS
CORRELATES OF SOCIAL INTERACTION OF CHILDREN.
(ORU REFUGEE CAMP, NIGERIA EXPERIENCE)**

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Outdoor play

- ▶ Play is a natural, instinctive activity of children, involving movement, exploration, and the strengthening of relationships
- ▶ 76% of Liberian refugees living at the ORU camp have suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder. This has lasting impact on the well-being of their families and the social interaction with their children.
- ▶ Engaging in outdoor activity and natural exploration provide psychological and physiological relief and is therapeutic for the children



- ▶ The UN report (2017) states that 3.5 million refugee children all over the world have no access to education, these children at the camp are inclusive or may not.
- ▶ UNHCR Chief Filippo Grandi “*the education of refugee children is critical to the future of peaceful and sustainable development of the places that have welcomed them and to the future prosperity of their own countries*”
- ▶ *When children play they learn*



Reason for the study:

Closeness to the camp (20minutes drive)

Motto: *Teaching,*

Research and Community service.

- **What type of games or play do the children engage in ?**
- **How does it impact on their social skills?**



Target Population : *14 children (3-14 years: 7 boys and 7 girls)*

Children born at the camp



How did I conduct the study? (using qualitative method using social skills checklist with the help of 3 research assistants)

- ▶ In depth interviews (working directly with 10 children who were free to answer questions))
- ▶ Observation during play time
- ▶ Key informants(5)
- ▶ Actual playing with the children





Findings: Types of games/play

Skipping: alone or in twos' and three's

- Develops team spirit,
- Communication skills they learn to take turns
- Sharing of play equipment
- Teaches balance and physical fitness



Pretend play enhances social skills



David and Raphael play time



Rhythmic leg

Young girls mostly play this game and it does not involve any thing apart from themselves.

The rules are simple and it is played by at least two girls.

There is a rhythmic interval of clapping of hands, followed by interlude of leg activity, and the counting of numbers.

It helps in problem solving,

It encourages observation

Enhances communication



LABA

Here there are s two teams and members supplies their footwear to be arranged in an horizontal manner.

A ball is thrown by a member of the team and anyone whose foot wear is hit is automatically out of the game.

The number of the remaining footwear is counted and the last footwear remaining belongs to the winner.



New Technology (as explained by Comfort a self- appointed teacher)

- Children have heard of them but have no access to them
- Few children play games on their parents phone (few)
- It does not involve all of them since it is only a few men that have such phones
- Their parents are afraid they will spoil their
- Phones
- It is restricted to availability of electricity
- It makes them feel inadequate.



Way forward.....this is an ongoing research...

To enhance their environment /play spaces and make it safe for them providing equal access and stimulating enough to develop all domains



Their play space now.....later.

