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**An Evaluative Study of Child Welfare Services of
Adoption in Enugu State**

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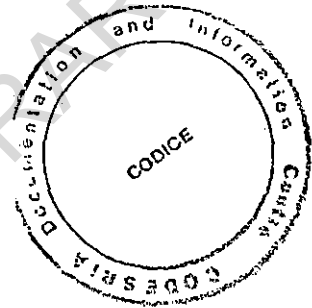
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AN EVALUATIVE STUDY OF CHILD WELFARE SERVICES
OF ADOPTION IN ENUGU STATE

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TITLE PAGE

AN EVALUATIVE STUDY OF CHILD WELFARE
SERVICES OF ADOPTION IN ENUGU STATE

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IN SOCIAL WORK

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The above student has satisfactorily completed the Degree of Master's in Social Work and Community Development. The work embodied in this project is original and has not been submitted in part or full for any diploma or degree or this or other University.

SUPERVISOR

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DEAN OF FACULTY

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my Mother
Madam Elizabeth Nnengwu Ezech, my dear wife
Mrs. Angela Ezech and my children, Chukwunonso,
Ikenna, Nkwachi, Adaeze, Onyedikachukwu, Uriel
and Felicia whose assistance and support led to
the realisation of my dream.

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I also wish to thank all the staff of the Social Welfare Division, Enugu for helping me with vital documents and information relevant to this study.

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ABSTRACT

This study was concerned with the evaluation of the Child Welfare Services of Adoption in Enugu State. The basic aim of the study was to determine the adequacy and effectiveness of adoption services rendered to the adoptive clients by the Enugu State adoptive agency with a view to identifying the inherent constraints and problems of the agency so as to make suggestions that can facilitate and enhance the operations of the adoptive agency.

The study covered all the three senatorial zones of Enugu State, namely: Enugu, Nsukka and Abakaliki.

In order to guide the study, four hypotheses were tested. Four different sets of questionnaires were used to collect data for the study. The findings of the study showed that the level of services offered by the social workers of the adoptive agency did not enhance the success of the adoption programme in the State. The objective of adoption programme, as pursued by the State adoptive agency was narrow and considerably limited the scope of operation of the adoption agency.

Other major findings of the study are as follows:

- (a) Lack of funds, mobility problems, lack of trained social workers and lack of knowledge of what to do greatly constrained the effectiveness of adoption programme.
- (b) Masses of the State generally lack awareness, and are largely ignorant about adoption programme due to ineffective information strategies and channels for informing and educating the masses about adoption.
- (c) Cultural/traditional factors and lack of awareness accounted more for the negative perception of adoption in the State than the religious factors.

- (d) Highly educated people tend to favour the inheritance rights of adopted children more than the less educated ones.
- (e) Reasons for decision to adopt a child by the adoptive parents was independent of their economic status.
- (f) From the study, it was observed that the child welfare services of adoption as carried out by the State adoption agency fall short of expectations in terms of adequacy and effectiveness.
- (g) The observed health conditions of the adopted children interviewed and observed, however, indicated a successful selection of adoptive homes for the adopted children. Hence, by inference, the legal adoptions so far contracted by the adoption agency, to the extent of the findings of this study, in terms of selection of suitable adoptive homes, were successful.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0

1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY:

Concern for the special treatment of children has engaged the minds of both international and national governmental and non-governmental organizations in recent times. This is reflected in the United Nations Declaration on November 20, 1959 that the child by reason of his physical and mental immaturity needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection before, as well as after birth. Similarly, in Nigeria, child welfare services had come on the agenda of both Federal and State Governments in recent years. Thus, both levels of government have involved in organizing conferences, declaring policies on the welfare of children; ratification of both the United Nations Convention on the right of the child, OAU Charter on the rights and welfare of the child, and the promulgation of Decree 30 of October 1990 which established the Nigerian Children Trust Fund.

Child welfare services thus refer to provisions made for the promotion of the mental, physical and moral well-being of children. Description of the quality of care given to children in this respect, according to BECKWITH (1971), "is misleading unless related to the contemporary social background." Hence, in Nigeria, two broad trends are discernible in our social attitude to children: the one leading to the concept of child as valuable because of the benefits he confers on his parents; the other leading to the concept of the child as valuable in himself. Each is closely bound up with the culture, social and economic institutions of our society.

The modern view today is that the child is a unit of society; he has come to be regarded as an individual with characteristic qualities and needs at each stage of growth, with rights which are safeguarded by legislations and by customs. This official concern by the Nigerian

Government with the welfare of children as noted by Jaja (1991:2) "dates back to the end of the second world war when in 1947 the Lagos Colony Welfare Service was inaugurated". The service was then expected to deal with social services problems glarring their ugly heads in the colony at that time. There was obvious increase in the number of children who were in need of care, protection and in some cases, rehabilitation due to the effect of the war. So the Colony Child Welfare Services was expected to provide certain services which were relevant to the welfare of children. At the regional level then (East, West and North), there were also similar efforts to protect the child from the harsh life of the street.

In one sense, child welfare services exist because most children often do not receive the appropriate care during their first years of life. In this sense, child welfare service is an after fact rescue which requires professional handling. This explains why social work has a long and well established concern for the welfare of children. In recent times, particularly, this concern has taken the form of seeking new and expanded social welfare programmes for children and families. Thus, adoption services, among others, as children welfare service come in focus.

By virtue of their immaturity, inexperience and lack of sound judgement, children have been considered unable to act in their own best interest, thus requiring the supervision and control of adults. This responsibility has traditionally rested upon parents, but when parents are incapable or uncaring, "the state has reserved the right to intervene on behalf of the neglected or mistreated child" (Farson, 1974:9). This responsibility is reflected in Article 20 of the U.N. Convention on the rights of the child which provides:

1. A child temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her family environment or in whose own best interest cannot be allowed to remain in that environment, shall be entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the State;
2. State parties shall in accordance with their national laws ensure alternative care for such a child;
3. Such care should include, inter-alia, foster placement, Kafala of Islamic law, adoption, or if necessary, placement in suitable institution for the care of children. While considering solutions, due regard shall be paid to the desirability of continuity in a child's upbringing and to child's ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic background.

The term "fostering and adoption" have one major common feature. They are means whereby persons who are not the natural parents may be legally entitled to take care of the child. However, they differ from each other both in the mode of operation and full legal effect. Adoption, therefore, refers to the process by which the legal relationship between a child and his parents are severed and such relationship established between the child and a third party who is the adopter. The legal effect of this, thus makes the adopter the parent of the child. On the other hand, fostering care refers to the entrusting of the defacto control and custody of a child to a third party who is neither the parent nor guardian for a period which is not permanent (Nwogugu, 1988:1).

By inference, therefore, all children are dependent on home care for food, clothing, shelter, health, recreation and education, but families differ in their ability to provide these needs. When the family is not able to provide the needs carefully and bear the cost, then some kind of child welfare services are needed. When it becomes necessary for a child to receive any of the services from a source other than their natural parents, it then means that something which requires skillful and professional handling by social workers, has happened else it will leave some scars (Fredrickson, 1955:7). Hence,

situations that call for the expediency of the provision of adoption services as child welfare services cover a wide range of, and include situations in which the role of the parent is not performed because of death, desertion, separation, divorce, imprisonment, hospitalisation, etc. Secondly, there could be situations where the role of parents is neglected or rejected as in child neglect or abuse; or the role of parent is inadequately performed because the parent is in the home but ill, emotionally disturbed, mentally deficient in the knowledge of parenting or lacks awareness of adoption as a child welfare services. Whatever the situation, it has been contended that children constitute the greatest asset of a nation, and the future of any nation depends on how well all children of the nation are groomed and cared for through relevant welfare service provision at childhood for adult life (Akinwowo, 1974:1). This underscores the essence of our responsibility to the neglected children both as parents, institutions and governments. Our foremost responsibility, therefore, is to avail the children, to the best of our ability, all the essential needs for their harmonious and healthy development, physically, mentally and spiritually. Moreover, as children are easily susceptible to insecurity, their future lives can be severely handicapped by this scourge if not adequately addressed. Thus, among the most potent means of addressing the needs of our children is the child welfare programme of adoption which should be based on certain principles, values and assumptions. Hence, Reid (1957:3) clarified that "the necessity of having adoption agencies rests on the fact that adoption is not and should not be a private matter"; and that the three parties to every adoption have rights which should be protected, both through legal measures and responsible administration of services by social agencies to which the State acting in its welfare function has delegated responsibility for the welfare of children. Furthermore,

he emphasized that "the administration of social agencies requires professional skills and understanding that have been developed historically in the field of social work". Therefore, the basic responsibility for the administration of adoptive agencies rests with professionally trained and experienced social workers who utilize the help and professional knowledge of several other disciplines.

This study is aimed at evaluating the Enugu State Adoption Agency to see how far these principles, values and assumptions guide the delivery of adoption services in the State.

1.2 STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Child adoption as a subject, has not received much attention by scholars. Cooper (1971:viii) argues that "judgement about adoption will continue to be uninformed and partial, and fear and anxiety rather than joy will be associated with it, so long as there is but limited writings by practitioners and comparatively little research and enquiry".

Adoption agencies are creatures of the government, to fulfil its responsibility to children. Thus, adoption agencies and the profession that is engaged in adoption have a pressing responsibility to clarify their values and principles and to make them known. Tod (1971;xiii) points out that no aspect of social work practice is more before the public, more sensitive, or more controversial than adoption. He stressed also that the social implications of adoption procedures and roles of social workers may be multiferous as they are outrageous not only to the parties involved directly but to the society as a whole. This, according to him, is because when "a child is misplaced in the wrong home and roles or the services of the social workers are not satisfactorily rendered, the life of the parties involved, as well as the entire social fabric of the society will be in jeopardy and

unsettled.

Sharing a similar point of view, Cooper (1971:viii) remarks that "the adopted child and his adoptive parents have rarely been able to escape the aura of mystery or from their own, and other people's expectations that they are different and may even be abnormal". He further contended that adoption like any other problem solving device, cannot be freed from anxiety, tension, risk-taking and chance, yet it may not be overstating the case to suggest that both legal safeguards and mystique tending to attach itself to formal adoption practice have resulted in too great an emphasis on minimising risk and too little on the objective of promoting opportunities for the creation of rewarding personal relationship between adoptive children and their adoptive parents. Thus, Brown (1955:100) stressed that "the careful selection of adoptive home is the first step in guaranteeing a sound placement".

Namara (1975:3) further argued that the rate at which wrong adoptions are done in recent times seems alarming and devastating, hence adoption has become controversial.

Child adoption, an ameliorative programme, though a very old and acceptable custom in the western world, is relatively a very new and strange phenomenon in this part of the world - Igboland. Hence, in spite of the adoption law of Eastern Nigeria 1965, Akukwe (1977:149) reported that as at September 1977, "there is yet no single name in the adopted children's register for the then Anambra State of Nigeria". He further reported that the then Chief and Senior Social Welfare Officers confirmed that inquiries were coming from prospective adoptive parents. Added to that, he maintained, "there were children in the Motherless Babies Home, children wandering in the streets and market places with severely mentally disturbed mothers, children under five

of age begging daily on the streets of our urban centres who could benefit by adoption". But, he went further to reveal that the then Social Welfare Division of the State Ministry of Local Government and Social Development appeared reluctant to encourage the adoption process apparently due to the erroneous belief that adoption is contrary to Igbo tradition and custom.

Currently, however, the situation seems to have slightly improved. This is because, within the period under review, 1980-1992, the adoptive register of Enugu State Adoptive Agency shows that a total of 458 applications for adoption were received, out of which a total of 131 (One hundred and thirty-one) children have been given out for adoption. However, in spite of this slight improvement in the number of adopted children, relative to Akukwe's 1977 experience, a critical study of the adoption services programme in Enugu State is still necessary for several reasons:

- (1) There is a need to investigate how far the agency staff are able to render adoption services effectively to the adoptive clients scattered all over the State;
- (2) There is also the need to evaluate the extent of availability of all necessary resources to the agency and their quality of services rendered to the adoptive clients;
- (3) The information channels employed by the agency and efforts of the agency workers towards the effective mobilisation of potential adopters in Enugu State also need to be understood;
- (4) The processes and criteria adopted by the agency in the selection of eligible adopters need also to be evaluated.

Furthermore, ignorance about the prospects of adoption programmes in the State is highly apparent. Indeed, child abandonment and child neglect resulting from ignorance about adoption and inability to take proper care of children have hardly been ameliorated, while at the same time childlessness, paradoxically, has demised many marriages in spite of the child adoption programme available in the State. These make it imperative for an objective observer to evaluate the overall performance of the State adoption agency.

The major trust of this study, therefore, was to evaluate the child adoption services programme as carried out by the agency (Family and Child Welfare Unit of Social Welfare Division) responsible for adoption services in Enuqu State. This is in order to determine the adequacy, efficiency and effectiveness of services to adoptive clients. This is because governmental programme of this sort which provide social services to the public are generally costly and such programmes have the responsibility to account for their accomplishments not only because of the scarcity of their resources but the sometimes dreadful consequences which can result to the people (adoptive clients) from poorly administered services. In other words, the damage caused by inadequate service is often irreversible. It may also be too late for the victims of poorly administered or inefficiently administered programmes to have deficiencies corrected at a subsequent date.

Thus, in order to accomplish the task of this study, the following aspects of the programme and the agency responsible for it will be examined:

- (1) The organizational structure focussed on the areas of responsibility and channels of communication.
- (2) The staffing positions, qualifications of personnel and their experiences.

- (3) Plans for funding the programme and procurement of other placement resources.
- (4) Built in designs for supervision and quality control measures.

1.3 RESEARCH QUESTION

1. What are the main objectives of adoption services and how far have these objectives been achieved in Enugu State?
2. How do the number of agency workers, their professional training and experience, as well as the level of material resource support affect the quality of service rendered to the adoptive clients and the achievement of the goals of adoption programme in the State?
3. How effective are the information strategies and channels employed by the adoptive agency to educate and inform the masses of the State about adoption?
4. To what extent do the cultural/traditional beliefs and practices affected the acceptance of adoption in Enugu State?
5. How adequate are the criteria established by the adoptive agency for the selection and determination of eligible adopters in Enugu State in order to ensure that the ultimate objective of the adoption programme is fully achieved?
6. What are the problems and constraints that militate against the effective delivery of adoption services in the State, as well as the built-in mechanisms for monitoring the overall performance of the adoptive agency in Enugu State?

1.4 OBJECTIVE OF STUDY

The main objective of this study is to evaluate the child welfare services or adoption as carried out by Enugu State Adoptive Agency (Family and Child Welfare Unit). This is in order to determine the adequacy and effectiveness of services rendered to adoptive clients. This objective could be achieved through the following specific objectives:

1. To undertake a critical examination of the adoption programme in the State.
2. To evaluate the adequacy of the available placement resources meant to ensure effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of adoption services and realization of the programme's goal.
3. To evaluate the effect of cultural/traditional beliefs and practices on the perception and acceptance of the public regarding adoption programme in the State.
4. To observe and evaluate the progress of adopted children in their respective adoptive homes with a view to determining how far the adoptive children and parents have adjusted to each other for fuller family integration.

1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY

This study, as a pioneering work in this part of the world - Igboland, is practically significant. The result of the study will provide useful guide in understanding how far this aspect of child welfare services (adoption) has achieved the goal of protecting the interest and rights of adoptive clients. It will also serve as a point for future research efforts on the subject. This study will also provide adequate groundwork on how the delivery of the adoption services in the State will be made more effective. This is because

if the problems and constraints inherent in establishing ways of achieving effective delivery of this welfare service are properly identified, diagnosed, highlighted and tackled, the majority of the potential beneficiaries who hitherto were denied the opportunity will stand to benefit from the programme.

Furthermore, the systematic and objective evaluation of the programme by an independent researcher will significantly reduce the biases that may have existed in the in-built monitoring and evaluative techniques which could be manipulated by the social workers in the agency. Adoption services in its modern form is relatively a new phenomenon in our socio-cultural milieu and to the best of my knowledge, no empirical studies have been made to evaluate the delivery of adoption services programme in Enugu State. It is this vacuum that this work intends to fill. Hence, the result of this study may perhaps make certain revelations that may motivate the government to pay more attention to the provision of more placement resources to the state adoptive agency.

1.6 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study will cover Enugu State. Information will be gathered from the three senatorial zones of the State, namely: Enugu, Nsukka and Abakaliki. The study will be limited to child adoption services in the state. It will focus on the performance of the family and child welfare unit of Enugu State Social Welfare Division, which is the agency responsible for adoption services for the past twelve years - 1980-92. It is important to note that within the time frame of this study (1980-92), Enugu and Anambra States existed as one State before the creation of Enugu State in 1992. Therefore, the scope of this study will not cover the two States but will concentrate on the adoption cases contracted within the three zones that make up Enugu

State currently.

Also the public perception and the cultural/traditional influences to child adoption in the State will be examined. In other words, the study will examine how people of the State generally understand adoption and their attitudes toward adoption in relation to their cultural/traditional norms. That is to say, whether they now accept adoption as a positive practice or whether they are resistant to it on point of cultural or religious beliefs.

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CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

The relevant literature will be reviewed under the following sub-headings:

1. Recognition and Protection of the Rights of Children
2. Laws relating to children.
3. Adoption Practices.
4. Social Work Practical Effect on Adoption.
5. Cultural/Traditional Influences on Child Adoption in Igboland.
6. Evaluation.

2.1 RECOGNITION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN:

Noting with concern that the situation of most of children in our society remains critical due to the unique factors of their socio-economic, cultural and developmental circumstances, Ekpe (1986:11) pointed out the necessity to evolve a policy aimed at recognizing the right of children to equality, consultations and representation and guarantee of their protection. Similar concern for the well-being of children had been variously expressed.

The various ways of expressing this concern was explained by Farson (1974:9), based on the issue, succinctly, "child advocates now fall into two obviously related groups whose goals both overlap and conflict; on the one hand, there are those who are interested in protecting children, and on the other, those who are interested in protecting children's rights". As observed by Okeke (1988:15), children all over the world are regarded as the future of mankind. They are indeed more valuable than anything else.

In thinking about child neglect, which is a negation of the rights of children, Giovanani and Billingsley (1970:196-204) maintain that efforts to explain child neglect followed three general

approaches - economic, personalistic and ecological. To those pursuing the economic path, poverty is the chief causative factor in child neglect. From a personalistic standpoint, the primary sources of child neglect are the parents character disorders. The ecological approach highlights the family's relation to its environment.

These approaches in the Nigerian context (Enugu State in particular), according to Okeke (1991), "are not mutually exclusive, rather in many unfortunate households, poverty, character neurosis and lack of social support are all present compounding the effects of each other". He went further, "in spite of the United Nations' Convention on the rights of the child which specifies universally accepted minimum standards for the well-being of children ranging from the basic right of survival to the right for development of the child's potentials, the protection of children from neglect, abuse and for providing a suitable home environment for the parentless child, some child advocates have doubted the efficacy of such provisions in our own environment?"

He went further to contend that "judging from the unmet needs of our neglected children, these rights contained in the United Nations' Convention and other laws relating to children represent for the majority of our children a distant goal rather than a current reality". The situation of our children, according to him, "is marked by the interlocking problems of the degrading poverty of their families; the degradation of the environment in which they must grow, and the lack of access to some very rudimentary knowledge and resources to ensure their survival, development and protection.

2.2 LAWS RELATING TO CHILDREN:

The laws relating to the rights and protection of children will be reviewed in the following order:-

- 1) Nigerian Laws;
- 2) African Charter; and
- 3) U.N. (International) Convention on the rights of children.

NIGERIAN LAWS:

(1) ADOPTION LAWS OF ENUGU STATE:

The Federal Republic of Nigeria, according to Akukwe (1977:142) has no adoption law. Of the three former regions of Nigeria, there is no adoption law in the North and in the West. He explained further that Islamic law forbids adoption and there is a very strong Moslem influence in the North and the Western Nigeria. Nwogugu (1988:10) noted that "throughout the colonial period, there was no statutory provision for adoption in Nigeria". The situations continued until 1965 when the government of the then Eastern Region initiated a move to legislate for adoption. Thus, the Eastern Nigeria initiative ultimately matured into the Eastern Nigeria Adoption Law No. 12 of 1965. A supplementary Gazette (Vol. 15, No. 68) which issued the adoption (Juvenile Courts) rules was made in 1966 (see Appendix E).

In accordance with the provisions of that State adoption law, any person may be authorized by the court to adopt a juvenile. The applicant may be the father or mother of the juvenile. Except in the case of joint application by a husband and a wife for an adoption order, in no other case will more than one person be allowed to adopt a juvenile (Section 3). Where the sole applicant is a male, he will not be allowed to adopt a female juvenile unless there are exceptional circumstances which in the opinion of the court would justify the

making of such an order. The essence of this prohibition is to guard against the danger of sexual corruption of the female child. An application for adoption order will not be made unless an applicant or in the case of joint application, one of them is not less than twenty-five years old and least twenty one years older than the juvenile (Section 4).

Where a married person is the sole applicant for an adoption, to preserve the family harmony and ensure that the adoption receives the blessing of both spouses, the court may require that the consent of the other spouse be obtained (Section 6).

Juveniles who could be adopted include:

- (a) juveniles given up voluntarily by the parents, or
- (b) those who the court is satisfied are abandoned, neglected, or ill-treated, or
- (c) those whose parents cannot be found, or
- (d) those whose parents, even though they cannot provide adequate care, are unable to give consent or are withholding consent unreasonably (Section 5).

An applicant or one of them (in case of joint applicants) must be a Nigerian citizen (Section 8). The applicant must be "a person of good repute and commendable character"; no reward or payment will be made to the applicant for adopting the child except what the court may sanction (Section 6). In other words, except in peculiar circumstances where the court sees a need for a reward or payment to the adopter for adopting a child, no payment should be made.

Before making an adoption order, the court must ensure that the necessary pre-requisites have been observed. First, the court should be satisfied that, unless consent is dispensed with, every consent required by law has been obtained and the person consenting understands the nature and effect of the adoption order. It is essential

that parents who give up their children for adoption should be made to understand that the effect of the adoption order is to deprive them permanently of their parented rights. The court is to ensure that if the adoption order is made, it will be for the maintenance, care, education and welfare of the juvenile (Section 7).

Application for adoption order must be forwarded to the high court or the Magistrate Court within the jurisdiction of which the applicant or the juvenile resides, unless contrary rules are made (Section 11).

An adoption order in respect of a juvenile carries a number of legal consequences. In respect of the rights and duties of the natural parents of the juvenile vis-a-vis the adopter,

all rights, duties, obligations and liabilities, including any arising under customary law, of the parents of the juvenile or any other person, in relation to the future custody, maintenance and education of the juvenile (including all rights to appoint a guardian and consent or give notice of dissent to marriage), shall be extinguished, and there shall rest in, and be exercisable by and enforceable against the adopter all such rights, duties, obligations, and liabilities in relation to the future custody, maintenance and education of the juvenile as if the juvenile were a child born to the adopter in lawful marriage (Section 13).

with respect to marriage and succession, the same relationship exists between an adopted juvenile and the adopter as would exist between natural parents and a child (Section 14). Marriage between an adopter or his natural child ^{and a} / juvenile adopted by him is prohibited. The same is true in respect of any juvenile adopted under a separate order. Consequently, an adopted son, for instance, cannot

marry the daughter of his adopter or a female adopted by the same person because the effect of the adoption order is to create blood relationship between them (Section 13).

If after an adoption order has been made, an adopter dies intestate, his estate shall devolve as if the adopted person were his lawful child (Section).

In any disposition of property made by instrument inter vivos or by will after the date of an adoption order, any reference to the child, or children of the adopter includes the adopted person. It is necessary to note that a disposition by will or Codicil takes effect from the date of the testator's death, rather than on the day it was made. Consequently, if a person made a will in May 1989, in September 1990; he adopted a child; he died in June 1991, the adopted child will be entitled to share in any gift or disposition made generally to the children of the adopter. As a corollary, the adopted person ~~comes~~ on his adoption to be regarded as a child of his natural parents in respect of testate and intestate succession. Hence, a person adopted jointly by two spouses will be regarded as a brother or sister to the natural or adopted children of the adopters for the purpose or administration of estate (Section 15). The court may, on an application for an adoption order, postpone the determination of the application and make an interim order granting the custody of the juvenile to the applicant for a probationary period not exceeding two years. The interim order may be made on such terms, in respect of maintenance, education, supervision and welfare of the juvenile, as the court considers appropriate. The juvenile by the order, must be under the supervision of a welfare officer, and should not be taken out of the State without the consent of the court. The consents required for the making of adoption orders apply with equal force to

interim orders. The same is true of the power of the court to dispense with such consents (Section 8).

The law provides for the establishment of an adopted children's register in which such entries as are directed by an adoption order shall contain a direction to the Chief or Principal Registrar to make entries in the register in a specified form which provides for the following information;

Date of entry; name and sex of adopted child; name, surname, address and occupation of adopters.

Date of birth of adopted child and date of adoption order.

A certified copy of an entry in the adopted children's Register if stamped or sealed by the Registrar's Office shall be proof of such adoption as is specified therein.

The Chief or Principal Registrar is also required to ensure that an index of the adopted children's register is made and kept in the registry. Where an adoption order is revoked, the court shall transmit that information to the Registrar who will arrange for the change to be reflected in the register (Section 16).

(2) RULES FOR MAKING OF ADOPTION ORDER:

The "Adoption (Juvenile Courts) Rules" was issued in 1966 by the Chief Justice of the then Eastern Nigeria to guide court proceedings in adoption cases. The various forms to be used during the legal process, for application, for providing information about health of the juvenile, of obtaining consent, for giving notice of court hearing to the applicants and for the adoption order, are provided for in the rules (see Appendix F).

For the welfare of the juvenile, the law requires the court to appoint a guardian *ad litem* (usually the Chief Welfare Officer, Welfare Officer or a Probation Officer, as the case may be) for the

juvenile as soon as the application is made. His duties include: making all necessary investigations into all circumstances relevant to the proposed adoption, to provide all information to ensure that the adoption is properly made and that the juvenile will be happy in the new home. He is to make a confidential report to the court. He informs the court when the juvenile is able to understand the nature of an adoption order in which case the court will demand that the prospective adopter brings the juvenile to the hearing of the application (Section 8-11). Except where the adopter desires that his identity be kept confidential, he must personally attend the court hearing (Sections 4 and 15).

(3) OTHER NIGERIAN LAWS RELATING TO CHILDREN'S RIGHT:

As pointed out earlier, in all actions concerning children, the best interest of the child shall be of primary consideration. Hence, Section 71(1) of the Matrimonial Causes Decree (1979) provides, among other things, that "in proceeding with respect to the custody, guardianship, adoption, welfare, advancement or education of children, the court shall regard the interest of those children as the paramount consideration". In the circumstance, according to the same Matrimonial Causes Decree (1970), the court reserves the right to place the custody of a child in a third party, if the interest of the child so demands.

Under the children and young persons law (1958), the parents of the child in need of care and protection may be deprived of his custody provided that the infant is under the age of 17 years, if the child;-

- (i) has a parent or guardian who does not exercise proper guardianship, or
- (ii) who is found destitute, and has both parents or his surviving parent, undergoing imprisonment; or

- (iii) who is under the care of a parent or guardian who, by reason or criminal or drunken habit, is unfit to have the care of the child; or
- (iv) who is the daughter of a father who has been convicted of the offence of having unlawful carnal knowledge of any of his daughters; or
- (v) where there is reasonable cause to believe that the welfare of a child is endangered by a dispute to which a parent or guardian of the child is a party.

Often these provisions are inhibited by our strings to cultural beliefs and sentiments, thereby allowing a situation which does not, in the real sense, protect the interest of the child to prevail. Hence, under customary law marriage, the custody and care of the child is rather prone to customary law practice, which may not always be in the interest of the child, but will certainly be in the protection of the cultural integrity. This is why any parent or person in loco-parent^{us} has the duty under Section 300 of the Criminal Code of Nigeria to provide the child with necessaries. Thus, if loss of life or health occurs due to an omission to provide adequate necessaries, the person responsible is liable to a criminal offence. It is, therefore, a felony under Section 341 of the Criminal Code for a parent or guardian to abandon or expose a child under seven years of age to a situation that is likely to cause the child grievous harm. In other words, this aspect of the law maintains that where parents (natural or adoptive) cannot meet up with the needs of the child and the interest of the child calls for separation from the parents, the institutional care and adoption placement should be such as to provide suitable environment, positive and stimulating enough to enable the child develop into a normal human being.

INTERNATIONAL LAWS RELATING TO CHILDREN(1) AFRICAN CHARTER ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD:

Now, we look at the African Charter on the rights and welfare of children which may be specific to the African child.

On why there should be a separate charter for the African child, in spite of other general provisions, Okeke (1988:26) pointed out that, based on critical consideration of some factors, which include peculiar African cultural practices and unique historical and traditional factors, there is a compelling need for an African charter. This is because these factors affect the welfare of children. Additionally, the United Nations General Assembly in various resolutions has repeatedly affirmed the value of regional arrangements to promote and protect children's rights.

(2) ARTICLE II - RIGHT TO EDUCATION:

Article II provides for rights of the African child to education. This article sets out these goals towards which the education of the African child should be, following the tradition set by existing international instruments relating to education. This takes cognisance of the urgent need, as expressed in the charter, for governments to adopt policies which aim at providing universal basic education to the young with a view to equipping them with knowledge, skills and expertise that will ensure their meaningful participation in the overall economic and social development of the continent. In order to make this right a reality, the charter requires African States to take measures to make pre-school and primary school education not only free, but also compulsory to encourage the development of secondary school education and progressively make it free and accessible to all and make higher education accessible on the basis of capacity. The rights and duties of parents and legal guardians to choose for their

children schools other than those established by public authorities which conform to such standards as may be approved by the State, to ensure the religious and moral education of the child are recognized.

The article also requires that measures be taken to ensure that a child who is subjected to school discipline is treated with humanity and with respect to the child's inherent dignity and to ensure that girls who become mothers before completing their education are availed the opportunity to continue with their education on the basis of their individual capacity.

(3) ARTICLE 14: RIGHT TO HEALTH:

In Africa, some of the basic issues of immediate relevance to the child are; the right to life, freedom from disease, and want and access to health care. "Africa's mortality rate is higher than any other continent" (Mauch, 1988:3).

This article 14 underscores the need to provide conditions which ensure the child's enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, medical care, and rehabilitation services. In order to achieve this, States have to ensure the provision of the necessary medical assistance and health care with particular emphasis on primary health care. The concept of primary health care places upon the state the responsibility and duty to combat disease and malnutrition and through the application of appropriate technology, the provision of adequate nutritious food and safe drinking water.

The need to provide health care for expectant mothers is also underscored. Other areas of special importance dealt with by the article include: preventive health care, family planning, education and the integration of basic service programmes.

(4) ARTICLE 21:

The article deals with harmful customs and practices. While the charter calls for the preservation of positive cultural values and practices, it also recognizes that there exist certain customs and practices that are harmful to the welfare, and normal growth and development of the child. Such include those customs and practices prejudicial to the health or life of the child. For instance, in some communities, the birth of twins or triplets is considered as extra-ordinary or out of the normal rythm of things, thereby giving rise to the necessity to kill such children. Female genital mutilation is still prevalent in many parts of the continent, so also is certain dietary taboos which prohibit children from eating certain foods or meats. These have negative effect on the health of the children. The charter further identified such other negative customs and practices which are discriminatory to the child on the grounds of sex or other status. Discrimination against female children in matters relating to property, child marriage as well as the betrothal of young girls are some of the practices. This article provides that these practices should be abolished by the State parties which should undertake concerted measures with a view to erradicating them. State parties should also combat these practices by the enactment of legislation which specify the minimum age of marriage and which will make registration of marriage in an official registry compulsory.

It is pertinent to assert here that the adopted children deserve, as other children, to enjoy all the rights and standards of living as provided for in this charter and other laws relating to children. This is why it has become imperative for an objective researcher to evaluate the performance of the adoptive agency in Enugu State to determine how far the agency has, through its services and practices, ensured that the adopted children maximally enjoy these rights.

(5) THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD:

This convention, according to Hon. Justice Nnaemeka Agu (1991:5), is premised on the provisions of the Declaration of the General Assembly of the U.N. on the rights of the child of November 20, 1959 which states, inter-alia, "... the child by reason of his physical and mental immaturity needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection before as well as after birth".

It is not possible to set out and review all the 54 articles of the Convention. However, some of the articles relevant to this work will be reviewed. As provided by the convention, the States parties to the convention are expected to respect and ensure the rights set forth in the convention and extend same to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic, or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status. It went further to charge the States parties to take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment on the basis of status, activities, expressed opinions, or beliefs of the child's parents, legal guardians or family members (Article 2).

On the interest of the child, the convention provides that all actions concerning children, whether public or private social welfare institution, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interest of the child shall be the primary consideration. State parties shall undertake to ensure the child such protection and care as is necessary, ^{to} his or her well-being; shall also ensure that the institutional services and faculties responsible for care or protection of children shall conform with the standard

established by competent authorities, particularly in the area of safety, health, in the number and suitability of their staff and competent supervision (Article 5).

To protect children from abuse and neglect, the convention provides appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child. Included in such measures are foster placement, adoption or if necessary, placement in suitable institutions for the care of children. Moreover, in considering solutions, due regard shall be given to the desirability of continuity in a child's up-bringing and to the child's ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic background (Article 20).

The provisions of the U.N. Convention so far reviewed provides enough safeguards for the protection and welfare of all categories of children. In spite of that, the critical situation of most of our children due mainly to the unique factors of their socio-economic status and observable glaring unmet needs compel an objective evaluation to determine the extent to which the provisions of the convention had been maximised in favour of our children, especially the adoptive children. The review will, therefore, provide the research, the necessary guide in measuring the extent to which the adoptive parents had applied themselves in conformity with the provisions of the convention to the children in the State.

2.3 ADOPTION PRACTICES:

Adoption care services have attracted a considerable amount of discussion from scholars and child advocates. Hence, Wellisch (1962:15) described adoption as the "process by which people take a ^{who} child/ was not born to them and raise him or her as a member of the family". He went further to point out that an adopted child has all the legal rights of a member of the family that raises him or her.

The above description of adoption agrees with the definition offered by the child welfare league of America as "the method provided by law establishing the legal relationship of parent and child between persons not so related by birth, with the same mutual rights and obligations that exist between children and the natural parent".

Kadushin (1971:107) contends that emphasis on child placement for adoption has shifted from the adoptive parents to the child, then to both adoptive parents and the adoptive child and finally to the adoptive parents, the natural parents and the child. Thus, Reid (1957:96) maintains that "the three parties involved in every adoption have rights and must be assured certain protection, both through legal measures and the responsible administration of services by social agencies. This is to protect them from whatever may lead them to unhappiness in the future. Expanding on this, Hurst (1954:4) specified that children need to be protected from being adopted by unsuitable people. The natural parents need to be protected from ill-considered decisions to give up their children or to place their children unsuitably. The adoptive parents need to be protected from accepting responsibilities beyond their abilities or understanding.

Goodcare (1966:121) differentiated three categories of adoption: direct adoption, third party adoption and private adoption. In direct adoption, the parents of the adoptive child select the adoptive parents. This is then followed by the legal process of transferring the rights and obligations. In third party adoption, the natural parents give their child to the adoptive parents through an intermediary (an adoptive agency). The agency selects the adoptive parents and initiates the legal adoption processes. Private adoption on the other hand, is transacted by the people concerned without due regard

to the legality of the process.

Warning against private adoption, Hopeworth (1977:11) maintains that "private adoption warrants appropriate safeguards because the right of the children involved may be in some risk of jeopardy without strict checks.

2.4 SOCIAL WORK PRACTICAL EFFECT ON ADOPTION:

Practically, social work has a vital role in adoption, not only to the adoptive child but also to all the parties of adoption - adoptive clients. These roles range from the selection of adoptive homes for the adoptees, to supervision of the child in the adoptive homes. Thus, Brown (1955:100) points out that the selection of the adoptive home is the first step in guaranteeing a sound placement, and that the initial introduction of the child to the family and the entire placement process are part of the study and selection role of social workers in adoption. The reality of adoption is the child living with his new family and their adjustment to each other. The social work role of supervision, therefore, is the successful integration of the child in the family because adoptive placement is a continuing relationship, beginning with the adopters first letter to the agency and not ending until legal adoption is completed.

Brown (1955:102) went further to articulate that "the aim of social work in adoption is to see the adoptive family established and to help them toward getting along on their own". The approach, therefore, must be positive and helping, rather than only authoritarian. The family should be made to have adequate interpretation regarding the purpose of social work to lessen the anxiety which could be created, and help them to see social workers as a source of security rather than as a threat. She further pointed out that the practical goal of social work in adoption is two-fold:

(1) A protective role toward the child; and

(2) To give help specifically related to the adoption situation.

In the first, according to her, social workers have a responsibility to the child to observe his progress and development during adoptive placement, before giving consent to the legal adoption. It is at this stage, she points out, that "the role of social workers could be authoritarian to the point of removal of the child from the proposed adoptive home, if the problem is sufficiently serious". However, removal of the child from the proposed adoptive home before legal adoption could only be considered for reasons such as a mental break-down, death, serious incapacitating illness or separation of the proposed adoptive parents, etc.

The second goal of social work in adoption, helping the child and parents to form an integrated family, is of utmost importance. This was reinforced by Benard (1945:230) who remarked that "when adoptive parents first meet the child offered by an agency, they face more fully the actuality of parenthood". This sometimes arouses latent conflicts, with marked anxiety and possible rejection of the child, in contrast to previous manifest attitudes. Help based on psychodynamic understanding is, therefore, needed as the couple and agency reevaluate the proposed adoption. He thus advised that "the more skillful social workers become, the more they can play the integrative role, reducing the need for authoritarian action to a minimum. He stressed further that, spotting trouble during the placement process and dealing with it then, is not so threatening to the family as an authoritarian action at a later date.

2.5 CULTURAL/TRADITIONAL INFLUENCES ON CHILD ADOPTION IN IGBOLAND:

Child adoption had, no doubt, contended seriously with cultural/traditional influences before its acceptance (as currently evidenced in the adoption register of the State Adoptive Agency) by the people of this State. This notion is inferred from reports on earlier cultural/traditional practices by some scholars. For instance, as reported by Akukwe (1977:150), "In Igbo tradition, a child belonged to the community from which the father originated, and is cared for within that community". Also the father of the child is not necessarily the biological father, but the legal husband of the mother". On account of this, illegitimacy in the Western sense of the word rarely existed here. In other words, a child is illegitimate only if the mother was not married. Consequently, if an unmarried lady got pregnant, a hurried arrangement is made to get her married, the parents forgoing a substantial part of the bride price as an inducement to the prospective husband.

Akukwe (1977) further pointed out that most Igbo people had some rituals by which a father can retain a daughter in his house to bear children for him with her lovers. Whether widowed, or separated, as long as the bride price was not refunded, a woman's child is for the husband.

Furthermore, continued Akukwe (1977), "If parents (husband and wife) are not able to care for the children, care, by way of adoption, is provided by the next of kin or extended relatives". Also, if a widowed or separated woman is unable to look after her children, she can return them (even those born outside the matrimonial home) to the community from which the husband originated, and they are "adopted" and cared for within the extended family system. Succession to property and participation in certain social events is patrilineal. Only a man's children have a right to his property, the most

prestigious of which is the family land. However, these cultural/traditional practices which were antagonistic to legal adoption had to some extent been overcome, in view of some records of successful legal adoptions in the State, but traces of problems emanating from these cultural/traditional expositions exist here and there.

Such expositions of Igbo cultural/traditional beliefs and practices, for instance, explains to a large extent, the phenomenon reported by Iwueke (1988:3) whereby a child was legally adopted by a particular couple at Uguwaji Awkunanaw, but after the death of the adoptive parents, the child was pushed out and refused any share of his adoptive parents' properties. The case, according to Iwueke (1988) has been pending at Magistrate Court III, Enugu with case No. ENO/84/365.

Iwueke (1988) also reported a related case of unsuccessful adoption due to some cultural/traditional influence in Umunoha, Mbaitoli Owerri, Imo State where an adopted child was used for a ritual appeasement to a family god (juju). The underlying belief behind the act was that only a child not related to the family by blood, should be culturally used for such ritual.

It is these exposed cultural/traditional influences that make some people, as pointed out by Akukwe (1977:150), argue that adoption is not practicable in our cultural milieu based on the understanding that adoption will, somehow, deprive the adopted child of his rights and consequently be traumatizing to the child.

Contrary to the above speculative arguments, the number of adoption cases recorded by the State Adoptive Agency, within the period under study, seems to contest the basis of such arguments in this contemporary period. Therefore, there is the need for this evaluative study to empirically determine the true adoption climate

in the State, so as to counter the above arguments and other historical assertions like that by Akukwe (1977) who pointed out that "in traditional Igbo Society, children are not often abandoned, except for some superstitiously believed 'crimes' such as twin birth, or serious physical birth defects". Even in this case, he continued, when such babies are picked up and reared by families with contrary beliefs, they are always returned to their original homes in their adolescent or early adult years. In effect, according to him, in traditional society, where extended family system is still operating, the need for formal adoption is minimal, for each child already has many parents and each parent many children. How far this holds true in this State will be determined through this work.

2.6 EVALUATION

An evaluative research comprehensively explores both the explicit and implicit objectives of a programme by scrutinizing ends and means simultaneously. The purpose is not just to improve the internal efficiency of the programme but also to relate the programme globally to the underlying social, economic and cultural needs of the target groups among the masses. Hence, Suchman (1967:61-73) gave four criteria for evaluating programmes, namely: (i) Effort; (ii) Performance/Effect; (iii) Adequacy of performance; (iv) Efficiency and process.

According to him, "Effort" refers to the resources or the capability and capacity of the social agency to provide services for the prospective beneficiaries. This, to a great extent, points to the scope or quality of services the agency can provide based on the (in the case of adoption agency) available placement resources - financial, manpower, logistics, etc. "Performance/Effect" deals with the impact of the services delivered. It refers essentially to what

happens as a direct consequences of the services objectives of the programme are being achieved.

"Adequacy of performance" relates to the observed level of services provided by the social agency to the expected. "Efficiency" tries to find out if particular strategies of the agency could be improved to achieve a better output. Thus, it is concerned with finding out alternative methods which are basic to the achievement of the objectives of the programme evaluation. Finally, Suchman (1976:73) refers to "process" as researcher's criterion which deals with finding out how and why a particular programme failed or succeeded.

The deep concern for the welfare of neglected children, child-less couples and parents who are in extreme difficulty implicit in the objectives of the adoption programme coupled with the hitherto apparent apathy in the utilization of or maximisation of adoption services, demand that current perception of, participation by, and commitment of services beneficiaries also be evaluated. Thus, the four criteria mentioned above will be used for the evaluation.

The information seeking aspect of evaluative research has also been emphasized. Thus, Greenberg (1968:260) refers to evaluative research as "the procedure by which programmes are studied to ascertain their effectiveness in the fulfilment of goals". Brooks (1965:34) also enumerated some objectives of evaluation as the determination of (1) the extent to which the programme achieves its goals; (2) the relative impact of Key Variables; and (3) the role of programme as contrasted to external variables. Scriven (1967:40-41) in his own contribution maintains that evaluative research is a methodological activity which combines performance data with a goal scale.

Similarly, Glass (1971:130) stresses that evaluation is an attempt to assess worth or social utility. He further argued that since the desirability of announced programme goals may be questioned, evaluation should include procedures for the evaluation of goals.

In expounding further on different approaches to evaluation methodology, two dimensions were also identified: (1) Informal; and (2) Formal approaches to evaluative studies. Stake (1976:23-24) notes that informal evaluation refers to ^{that} which depends on casual observation, implicit goals, intuitive norms, and subjective judgement. Stake (1967) also describes the variable quality of informal evaluation which he maintains, is sometimes penetrating and insightful, sometimes superficial and distorted. Similarly, Mann (1969:13) notes that observation may provide suggestive leads for interpreting the effects of programmes, but because the extent of their basis is unknown, it is impossible to judge the accuracy of their conclusions.

In discussing formal approaches to evaluative studies, two dimensions are also discernible: those emphasising inputs and those emphasising outputs. Glass (1969:18-27) identified these agencies that use explicit check lists and formulas as basing their evaluative judgements on inputs. Included in this category, according to him, is the programme accounting approach to evaluation which also emphasises inputs or efforts, focusing on the maintenance and quantitative analysis of records of project activities. The extent of actual practitioner client contacts or the number of clients exposed to programmes are typical concerns.

In bringing out clearly the meaning of formal approach to evaluation, Suchman (1969:15) distinguished between evaluation (or informal evaluation) as a "general social process of making judgements of worth regardless of the basis for such judgement" and evaluative

research (or studies) as the "use of the scientific method of collecting data concerning the degree to which some specified activity achieves some desired effect". Similarly Hyman and Wright (1967:742) call for evaluative studies based on "methods that yield evidence that is objective, systematic and comprehensive". Hence, Scriven (1967:55-59) suggests "mediated" evaluation as a way of combining input and output variables as the process through which goals are pursued objectively.

In seeking to further conceptualize additional possible approaches to programme evaluation, two research models stand out: The goal attainment model and the systems model. Thus, James (1962: 1154) describes the goal attainment evaluation process as a circular one which starts with initial goal setting, proceeds to determine measures of the goal, collects data, and appraises the effect of the goal, and then modified initial goal on the basis of the collected data. The model also assumes that specific goals can be evaluated and modified in isolation from other goals being sought by the organization (Sofer, 1961:31). Hence, Etzioni (1960:257-278) points out that the focussing point of goal attainment model or evaluation is the study of a programme's goal or set of goal activities while system model is that of a multifunctional unit.

In his own contribution, Rich (1978:247) maintains that evaluation concerns the understanding of the programme to be evaluated as well as the structure and environment in which the programme is located. He further contends that if evaluators are to possess the capacity to suggest or actually prescribe treatment for improving programmes, they must understand what the ultimate programmatic goals are, in addition to what means are being used to reach those goals. Similarly, Rossi (1979:17) identified two basic activities covered by evaluation research:

- (i) Monitoring Programmes - the collection of data usually from administrative records or administratively required reports from programme operators that permit a description of the programme, the clientele served, expenditures of funds, characteristics of programme personnel, services rendered and so on.
- (ii) Outcome evaluation - attempts to systematically assess the effects of the programme, not the effects of competing factor.

An outcome evaluation according to him, applies a set of criteria for assessing a programme.

2.7 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK:

The study, being an evaluative study, will anchor on the systems model of evaluation as its theoretical framework.

The systems model is described by Etzioni (1960:276) who points out that the starting point in this approach to evaluation is the establishment of a working model of a social unit which is capable of achieving a goal. It recognizes that an organization must fulfill at least four important functions for survival. Added to the achievement of goals and subgoals, he maintains, the systems model is concerned with four main functions:

- (a) the effective co-ordination of organizational sub-units;
- (b) the acquisition and maintenance of necessary resources;
- (c) the adaptation of the organization to the environment and to its own internal demands.

The systems model assumes that some of the resources of the organization must be devoted to such non-obvious function of the organization, such as organizing educational/enlightenment programme by adoptive agency including means employed for maintenance of the organization

itself. From the view point of the systems model, such activities are functional and actually increase organizational effectiveness.

Etzioni further indicates that a key question of the systems model of evaluation is, "under the given conditions, how close does not organizational allocation of resources approach an optimum". Thus, instead of simply identifying the goals of the organization and proceeding to study whether they are attained, the systems model requires that the analyst determines what he considers a highly effective allocation of means. This often requires considerable knowledge of the way in which an organization functions.

Another systems model concept deserving consideration in regard to programme evaluation is feed back mechanisms, that is, the process through which the effects of organizational action are reported back to the organization and compared with desired performance. According to Baker (1966:1) the systems model suggests a variety of linkages and feed back mechanisms which can be used to bridge the gap between research findings and programme modification. Inadequate utilization of research findings, according to him, is an indication of blocked feed back and thus represents an organizational problem legitimately subject to scrutiny. The systems model, therefore, provides not only a more adequate model for determining the types of data to be collected but it also has utility for determining the factors associated with effective or ineffective integration of the findings.

From the above postulations of this evaluation model, the appropriateness of the systems model in providing us with the analytical framework to understand and evaluate the performance of the adoptive agency responsible for the child welfare services of adoption in Enugu State becomes clear. This is more especially as it relates to some specific concepts identified and emphasised or associated with

the systems model of evaluation which include the following: The achievement of goals and sub-goals by the organization. This measures how far the purpose of social work in adoption is being achieved. This includes the ability of the agency workers to ensure balanced and positive adjustment to each other among the adoptive clients. In other words, this relates to how far the adoptive family and how far the family meets with the rights, physical, emotional and psychological needs of the adopted child while also ensuring that the interest of natural family of the child is not jeopardized.

The acquisition and maintenance of necessary resources, which in the case of this study, related to adequate and qualified manpower, logistics support, such as vehicles and other resources that will enhance the workers' ability to embark on effective supervision as well as provide the necessary services to their clients - adoptive clients. The acquisition and maintenance of necessary resources is a sine-qua-non for effective performance of any organization.

Adaptation of the organization to the environment and to its internal demands. This refers to the ability of the organization to establish itself through educational and other enlightenment programmes to the environment. The relevance of this concept to this study is high considering the apparent strangeness of the programme under study (child adoption) due to its unrelatedness to our cultural milieu.

Optimum allocation of means and resources refer to the extent to which the body that set up the organization (in case of this study, the government), provides for it, in terms of funding the adoption agency.

Feed back mechanism as a process of reflecting back on the actions, achievements and problems of the organization will enable the government to properly assess the performance of the agency. This will provide the necessary incentives, motivation and encouragement on the part of the government in allocation of means to the organization.

2.3 HYPOTHESES:

The aim of this evaluative study is partly to establish the relationship between the major dependent and independent variables of the study. Thus, the following hypotheses were tested in this study:

1. There is a relationship between the level of services offered by social workers of the State Adoption Agency and the success of child adoption programme.
2. Religious factors may account more for the negative/unfavourable perception of adoption by the masses of Enugu State, than the cultural/traditional factors and lack of awareness about adoption.
3. People who are highly educated may favour adopted child's right of inheritance more than the less educated people.
4. The reasons behind adoptive parents' decision to adopt a child may differ on the basis of their economic status.

INDEPENDENT VARIABLES	DEPENDENT VARIABLES
Level of services offered	Success of the programme
Religious, cultural/ traditional factors.	Public perception of adoption
Level of education	Acceptance of adopted child's right of inheritance.
Economic level	Decision to adopt

2.9 DEFINITION OF TERMS:

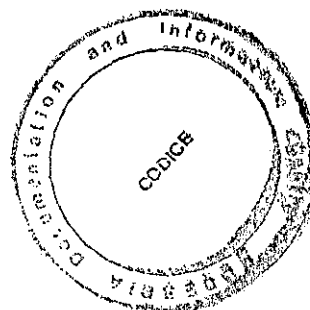
The following terms in the study will be defined as they are used in this work:

1. ADOPTION: Adoption, according to Nwogugu (1981), refers to method provided by law through which legal relationship is established between the child and a third party known as the adopter, thus making him (the adopter) the legal parent of the child on a permanent basis as though the child is his natural offspring.
2. ADOPTIVE CLIENTS: This refers to all the parties to an adoption which include, natural parents, adoptive parents and the adopted child (Reid, 1957).
3. ADOPTION AGENCY: Adoption Agency refers to the body that is responsible for an adoption programme (Reid, 1957). In the context of this study, it refers to the family and child welfare unit of the State Social Welfare Division, Enugu.
4. ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT: Adoptive placement, according to Goodcare (1966) means, "the period when the child is temporarily given to the would-be adoptive parent and closely supervised to ensure the suitability of the proposed adoption before the full legal adoption is finally contracted.
5. ADOPTIVE SERVICES: This refers to all the services rendered to the respective adoptive clients by the adoption agency social workers (Reid, 1957).
6. ADOPTED CHILD: A child who has been given for adoption through the necessary legal processes of adoption (Juvenile Courts Rules 1966).

7. CHILD WELFARE SERVICES: Child welfare services refers to all the services and programmes designed to promote the mental, physical and moral well being of children (Beckwith, 1977).
8. GUARDIAN AD-LITEM: This, according to the adoption (Juvenile Courts) Rules, 1966, of Enugu State, refers to the Chief Social Welfare Officer, Welfare Officer or a Probation Officer as the case may be, usually appointed by the court to investigate and report to the court all circumstances relevant to the proposed adoption. This report guides the court in making decisions with respect to the application for adoption.
9. PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF ADOPTION: Public perception as explained by Chamly (1953) refers to ways and manner in which majority of the masses of the society understand, regard and form opinion regarding adoption issues. In other words, this relates to how positive or negative the public favours adoption.
10. INFORMATION STRATEGIES: This, according to Babara (1977) means channels established or employed to inform and educate a wider audience in a given society. In the context of this work, it conceivably means by which the adoptive agency of the State informs and educates the masses about the prospects of child adoption programme.
11. PLACEMENT RESOURCES: Placement resources refer to both physical and material resources available, for effective discharge of the child welfare services. Such resources include; trained personnel (social workers), funds and required logistics, supports and other necessary institutional facilities for care of children (Glickman, 1957).
12. CHILDLESS COUPLE: This, according to Reid (1957), relates to married couples who have not got any child after many years of marriage.

13. SUCCESS: Success in the context of this study relates not only to the extent to which the adoption agency under-study has achieved the overall objective of adoption programme, but also the extent to which adoption has gained acceptability in our (Igboland) socio-cultural milieu or among the masses of Enugu State (Akukwe, 1977).
14. INCOME LEVEL: This refers to the total earning of a person over a definite period of time and which, according to Ganston (1973), determines the consumption level and standard of living of an individual.
15. EDUCATION: Education refers to the certificated or non-certificated qualifications in learning, attained through formal or informal method of learning.
16. RELIGIOUS FACTORS: Religious factors, according to Hopeworth (1971), pertains to issues related to the religious inclination of an individual based on one's religion's denominational affiliation.
17. CULTURAL BELIEF: The extent of one's adherence to cultural norms and values of his people.
18. SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS: This means a person's social and economic standing in the society. Specifically, this refers to social groupings measured by a person's income, education, occupation and employment conditions (Ganston, 1973).
19. ADOPTIVE HOME: The home where the child is adopted.
20. ADOPTIVE PARENT(S): The parent or parents who have legally acquired the parenthood of a child through adoption (Tod, 1971).
21. NATURAL PARENT(S): This, according to Tod (1971), refers to the biological parents of the child before the child was given to legal adoption.

22. NATURAL HOME: This is the home of the biological parents of the child.
23. PARENTLESS CHILD: A child whose parents cannot be identified or has been abandoned by an undiscovered person.
24. HIGH INCOME GROUP: For the purpose of this work, high income group earners ^{consist} of all civil servants from Grade Level 08-16 and businessmen whose monthly income ranges from ₦2,000.00 and above.
25. LOW INCOME GROUP EARNERS: This consists of all civil servants below Grade Level 07 and businessmen whose monthly income are below ₦2,000.00.
26. HIGHLY EDUCATED: These are, for purposes of this study, those people who hold NCE/Diploma to Higher degrees.
27. LESS EDUCATED: Less educated in this study refer to those with educational qualification ranging from First School Leaving Certificate to W.A.S.C.



CHAPTER FOUR

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

According to Festinger and Katz (1953:18), empirical studies may be classified on the bases of the research design employed. Hence, this study is classified as an Evaluative Study.

The study was based on a survey data of four hundred and thirty-three (433) respondents comprised of adoptive parents, social workers and members of the public in the three Senatorial Zones of Enugu State, namely: Enugu, Nsukka, and Abakaliki Zones. The main focus of the study was child adoption programme as carried out by the State Adoption Agency - The Family and Child Welfare Unit of the State Social Welfare Division. The aim was to evaluate the performance of the adoption agency by comparing both the explicit and implicit objectives of the programme with the achievement of the agency through scrutinizing the ends and means of the agency simultaneously.

3.1 DESCRIPTION OF STUDY POPULATION:

The study population consisted of adoptive parents, adopted children, members of the public and social workers in Enugu State. The children for the study were those children legally placed and given to adoptive parents through legal processes within the last 12 years (1980-1992). The study population is made up of a total number of four hundred and thirty-three persons consisting of two hundred and twenty-four (224) adoptive parents, one hundred and thirty-one (131) adopted children, fifty-five (55) social workers, as well as twenty-eight (28) members of the public selected from the three zones of Enugu State.

This is reflected on Table 1 below:

TABLE 1: STUDY POPULATION

Category of Population	Number	Percentage (%)
Adoptive Parents	224	52
Adopted Children	131	30
Social Workers	55	12
Members of the Public	28	6
T o t a l	433	100

Source: Social Welfare Division, Enugu.

A. ADOPTIVE PARENTS:

There are a total of two hundred and twenty-four (224) adoptive parents within the period (1980-1992) in the three senatorial zones of Enugu, Nsukka and Abakaliki, which now make up Enugu State. A break-down of this number shows that adoptive married couples are one hundred and eighty-six (186) or 83%; single female adoptive parents are thirty-eight (38) or 17%. There is no single male adoptive parent. This information is reflected on Table 2.

TABLE 2: POPULATION OF ADOPTIVE PARENTS ACCORDING TO SEX AND MARITALSTATUS

Categories	Number	%
Married Couples	186	83
Single Male	0	0
Single Female	38	17
T o t a l	224	100

Source: Social Welfare Division, Enugu.

B. ADOPTED CHILDREN:

There are a total of one hundred and thirty-one (131) children adopted in the three zones comprising of Enugu, Nsukka and Abakaliki, which now make up the present Enugu State, within the period under study, 1980-1992. A break-down of the adopted children according to the year of adoption and their sexes shows that a total of fifty-nine (59) or 45% of the adopted children are males, while seventy-two (72) or 55% are females. This information is shown on Table 3.

TABLE 3: SEX OF THE ADOPTED CHILDREN POPULATION BY YEAR OF ADOPTION

Year	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
1980	3	2	6	5	9	7
1981	8	6	0	0	8	6
1982	4	3	4	3	8	6
1983	2	2	6	5	8	6
1984	5	4	6	5	11	8
1985	7	5	5	2	10	8
1986	3	2	6	5	9	7
1987	6	5	3	2	9	7
1988	6	5	6	5	12	9
1989	2	1	6	5	8	6
1990	4	3	7	5	11	8
1991	6	5	13	9	19	15
1992	3	2	6	5	9	7
Total	59	45	72	55	131	100

Source: Social Welfare Division, Enugu.

Further break-down of the adopted children population, according to yearly adoption in the respective zones, shows that a total of one hundred and five (105) or 80% children were adopted in Enugu zone for the period, 1980-1992; twenty-three (23) or 18% in Nsukka zone; and three (3) or 2% in Abakaliki zones, respectively.

This information is shown on Table 4.

TABLE 4: POPULATION OF ADOPTED CHILDREN ACCORDING TO YEAR AND ZONE:

Year	Enugu	%	Nsukka	%	Abakaliki	%	Total
1980	7	5	4	3	3	2	14
1981	8	6	-	0	-	-	8
1982	5	4	2	1	-	-	7
1983	6	5	1	1	-	-	7
1984	3	2	5	4	-	-	8
1985	9	7	2	1	-	-	11
1986	7	5	1	1	-	-	8
1987	8	6	1	1	-	-	9
1988	12	9	-	-	-	-	12
1989	6	7	2	1	-	-	8
1990	9	5	1	1	-	-	10
1991	19	14	1	1	-	-	20
1992	6	5	3	2	-	-	9
Total	105	80	23	18	3	2	131

Source: Social Welfare Division, Enugu.

C. SOCIAL WORKERS:

There are fifty-five social workers in this study. Twenty (20) out of the number are staff of the Social Welfare Division, Enugu among them are three social workers attached to the family and Child

Welfare Unit of the same Division. The other thirty-five are attached to the respective Social Welfare Offices in the three zones of the State. This information is shown on Table 5.

TABLE 5: POPULATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS ACCORDING TO AGENCY:

Social Welfare Agency	No. of Social Workers	%
Social Welfare Division, Enugu	20	36
Nsukka Zonal Office	12	22
Enugu " "	14	26
Abakaliki Zonal Office	9	16
T o t a l	55	100

A further break-down of the population of social workers, according to their sexes and respective local government areas of the three zones, show that in Enugu Zone, Enugu North L.G.A. has 3 (20%) male social workers, 3(34%) female; Enugu South L.G.A. 2(18%) males, - (0%) female; Nkanu L.G.A. 1 (9%) male, 1 (33%) female; Awgu L.G.A. 1 (9%) male, - (0%) female, Udi L.G.A. 2(18%) female social workers respectively.

In Nsukka zone, Nsukka L.G.A. has 2 (22%) male social workers, 1 (33%) female; Isi-Uzo L.G.A. 2 (22%) males, - (0%) female; Igbo-Eze South L.G.A. 1 (11%) male, - (0%) female; Igbo-Eze North L.G.A. 1 (11%) male, 1 (33%) female; Uzo-Uwani L.G.A., 2 (23%) male, 0 (0%) female and Igbo-Etiti L.G.A. 1 (34%) female.

Abakaliki zone, Abakaliki L.G.A., 1 (13%) male, 1 (100%) female; Ikwo L.G.A., 1 (13%) male, - (0%) female; Izza L.G.A., 2 (25%) males, - (0%) female; Izzi L.G.A., 1 (12%) male, - (0%) female; Dhaukwu L.G.A., 2 (25%) males, - (0%) female and Ishielu L.G.A., 1 (12%) male and - (0%) female.

THIS INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED FROM THE SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICES IN THE RESPECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS IN THE ZONES.

A further description of social worker population by rank and sex in the Social Welfare Division, Enugu shows that there are 1 male (6%), Chief Social Welfare Officer, no female; 1 (25) female Principal Welfare Officer and no male; while there are 8 (50%) male and 2 (50%) female Senior Welfare Officers, 7 (44%) male and 1 (25%) female Social Welfare Officers.

Also, a further break-down of the population of social workers attached to the Family and Child Welfare Unit by rank and sex shows that there is no Chief Welfare Officer attached to the Unit. There is 1 (50%) female Principal Social Welfare Officer, 1 (100%) male Social Welfare Officer and 1 (50%) female Social Welfare Officer attached to the Unit.

D. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

A total of twenty-eight (28) persons were selected from the three zones of Enugu State, namely: Enugu, Nsukka and Abakaliki respectively. This comprised eighteen (18) traditional rulers and ten (10) teachers from the various schools attended by the adopted children. This information is shown on Table 6.

TABLE 6: POPULATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Category of Population	Number	Percentage
Traditional Rulers	18	54
Teachers	10	46
T o t a l	28	100

3.3 STUDY SAMPLE:

Babbie (1986:308) maintains that of the most taxing aspects of evaluative research is determining whether the programme under study succeeded or failed. This study is an evaluation of the performance of the adoptive agency, using all the 224 adoptive parents involved in all the adoption cases contracted between 1980-1992 by the Enugu State Adoption Agency to determine the adequacy, efficiency and effectiveness of their services. Also, all the social workers, both in the Social Welfare Division, Enugu and respective zones of the State were used. The rationale for using all the adoptive parents, as well as all the social workers, is because they are not so many as to warrant sampling.

However, a sample of the adopted children will be taken. Thus, half (50%) of all the total adopted children within the study period (1980-1992), was taken. This is because the total number of adopted children is fairly large to be all included in view of the qualitative method of interview/observation used to elicit information from the adopted children as to the extent of care and services given to them, both by the adoptive parents and social workers respectively.

Moreover, a total of twenty-eight (28) persons comprising of traditional rulers and school teachers were purposively selected from the three zones of Enugu State. The purposive selection of these two groups was based on the very important socio-cultural positions they occupy in the society. The traditional rulers, for instance, are the custodians of the people's culture and are in a position to give authentic information on matters bordering on adoption in their areas of authority. Teachers, on the other hand, are closest to children outside homes, including the adopted children; and are, therefore, able to provide useful information about some of the problems of the adopted children.

The study sample, therefore, consists of a total of three hundred and seventy-three (373) persons. This is made up of two hundred and twenty-four (224) adoptive parents; fifty-five (55) social workers, sixty-six (66) adopted children and twenty-eight (28) members of the public as shown on Table 7 below.

TABLE 7: STUDY SAMPLE

Category of Population	Population Size	Sample Size	Percentage
Adoptive Parents	224	224	60
Adopted Children	131	66	18
Social Workers	55	55	15
Members of the Public	28	28	7
T o t a l	438	373	100

3.4 SAMPLING TECHNIQUE:

Cluster Random sampling technique was adopted for the selection of the required number of adopted children for the study. The three zones of Enugu State formed the clusters for the selection. Thus, numbers were assigned each of the adopted children in the three zones and thereafter a table of random numbers was used to select the required number of the adopted children. Half (50%) of all the children adopted in all the zones was selected through this process.

Furthermore, based on purposive sampling technique, all the headmasters of the ten (10) schools attended by the adopted children in the three zones of the State, as obtained from the records of the adoption agency, were selected as respondents. In other words, each of the headmasters in the respective ten (10) schools attended by the adopted children was selected. Also; six traditional rulers were

purposively selected in each of the three zones.

3.5 INSTRUMENTS FOR DATA COLLECTION:

Standard structured questionnaire and interview/observation methods formed the main research instruments used for data collection. In the questionnaire, mainly close ended questions were used. However, some open ended questions were provided to enable respondents to express their opinions. This guided us in making appropriate suggestions and appraising respondents' feelings.

Three sets of questionnaire were constructed, one for the social workers, the others for the adoptive parents and members of the public respectively (See Appendix A, B and C).

Interview/observation schedule as a different instrument was used to assess the adequacy and quality of care given to the adopted children in their respective homes. For this, interview schedule was constructed (See Appendix D). Thus, while interviewing the adopted children, the researcher recorded his observations in the schedule.

Finally, information on the constraints and problems of the adoption agency, as well as other information regarding the funding and provision of other resources for the effective operations of the agency were collected from the adoption records and annual reports, covering the period (1980-1992) of the adoptive agency.

3.6 PROCESS OF DATA COLLECTION:

The instruments were personally administered through guides provided by the social workers who rendered assistance. The questionnaire for the social workers was thus personally distributed to them in their respective offices and collected from them after one week by the researcher.

For the adoptive parents, the researcher also personally distributed the questionnaire in the respective homes of the adoptive parents with the adoption agency social workers leading the way. The completed copies of the questionnaire were collected from them after three days through the same process of assistance of the agency social workers.

As for the adopted children, the interview/observation schedule guided the researcher in recording their responses and also in recording observations on the adopted children in order to fully observe and assess their welfare generally. Focus group interview method was employed in interviewing and observing the adopted children in the identified ten schools where they attended in the three zones of the State. Thus, the researcher in each school involved the adopted children, as well as other children in an interview session, but carefully focused on the target respondents - the adopted children. This helped to avoid unduly or overtly alerting the adopted children of their adoptive status. The questionnaire for the public were also distributed to the respective headmasters of the very schools where the interviews took place and were also personally collected from them the same day. The researcher, however, employed the assistance of his official colleagues (orientation officers) of the affected local government areas in the three zones to distribute and collect back the questionnaire for the public to the respective traditional rulers.

This data collection lasted for a period of one month.

3.7 METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS:

In our analysis of data, the responses as contained in the questionnaire were tallied and recorded on frequency tables and analysed using frequency distribution, mean and percentages.

The use of percentages helped us to present the demographic characteristics and patterns of the various categories of respondents and their perceptions regarding adoption issues. Percentages also helped us to simplify the problem of comparison. Hence, they served to put qualitative characteristics in numerical forms. Inferential statistics, the Chi-square (χ^2) was used.

This measure of association (χ^2) was used to determine the nature and strength of relationship between the various dependent and independent variables in our stated hypotheses. The (χ^2), according to Obikeze (1986:189) is used as a test of significance of differences between observed frequencies and what is expected by chance and also a measure of association between nominal variables.

The qualitative data gathered through interview and observation were also analysed using the "Analytic Induction Method" of data analysis. This, according to Smith (1989:89), refers to the process of inferring a general law or principle from the observation of particular instances or a conclusion derived from induction.

Thus, Analytic Induction Method is an analytical process whereby an attempt is made to develop a theory or an explanatory model that satisfactorily accounts for some phenomena, issues or problems that have assumed prominence from information obtained or observation made in the course of field work. In other words, it is an attempt to provide from the data a generalized explanation of problems or issues which, in the first place, emerged from the same population (Obikeze, 1986:76).

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0

DATA ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the data collected from the study are presented. The chapter is divided into two sections: Section A presents information on the characteristics of the respondents; and Section B presents the answers to the research questions, and hypotheses tested.

4.1 SECTION A:1) DESCRIPTION OF ADOPTIVE PARENT RESPONDENTS

Out of the two hundred and twenty-four adoptive parents to whom questionnaires were distributed, two hundred and two (202) questionnaires were collected back. Out of the two hundred and two adoptive parents used for the study, there are 151 (75%) female and 51 (25%) male. In terms of age, 121 (60%) were 31-40 years; 81 (40%) were 41-50 years. With regard to their marital status, 111 (55%) were married, 30 (15%) were single, and 61 (30%) were either widowed, divorced or separated.

In terms of their educational qualification, 71 (35%) were degree holders, 10 (5%) had higher degree, 50 (25%) had NCE/Diploma; while 71 (35%) had WASC. Occupationally, 101 (50%) were civil/public servants, and 101 (50%) are businessmen/traders. As regards their income level, 151 (75%) belonged to higher income group earners, while 51 (25%) are of low income group.

In terms of religious affiliation, 121 (60%) were Roman Catholics and 81 (40%) were Protestants. None of the respondents practised either African Traditional Religion (ATR) or Muslim Religion.

2) DESCRIPTION OF SOCIAL WORKERS RESPONDENTS:

Out of the 55 social worker respondents, there were 33 (60%) male and 22 (40%) female. On their age, 11 (20%) were 20-25 years, 28 (51%) were 26-35 years, and 16 (29%) were 35-45 years. In terms of

their marital status, 44 (80%) were married, while 11 (20%) were single.

With regard to their working experience, 9 (17%) of the social workers have worked for a period between 1-5 years, 18 (33%) 6-10 years, 18 (33%) 11-15 years and 9 (17%) 16-20 years. In terms of professional training and qualification, 17 (30%) have Diploma in Social Work, 3 (5%) have degree in Social Work. The rest 36 (65%) do not possess any professional qualification in social work. As regards their rank, 3 (5%) are Chief Welfare Officers, 6 (10%) are Principal Welfare Officers, while 47 (85%) are Welfare Officers.

On their stations and sections of operation, 35 (64%) were in the Local Government Areas, while 20 (36%) are within the State Social Welfare Division, Enugu. Furthermore, out of the 20 (36%) of the social workers working within the State Social Welfare Division, Enugu, only 2 (12%) of the social workers work in the Adoptive Agency, (Child Welfare and Family Unit of the Division which is charged with the State Adoption Programme), while the rest work in other sections of the Division.

3) DESCRIPTION OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC RESPONDENTS:

Of the 28 members of the public used as respondents for the study, 20 (70%) were male, while 8 (30%) were female. In terms of age, 11 (40%) were between 31-40 years, 10 (35%) 41-50 years, while 7 (25%) were above 50 years.

Educationally, 3 (10%) of the respondents did not have formal education, 2 (7%) had primary education, 1 (5%) had WASC, 11 (39%) NCE/Diploma; while 11 (39%) had degree. With regard to their occupations, 10 (36%) were civil/public servants, while 18 (64%) were traditional rulers. In terms of their religious affiliation, 13 (45%) were Roman Catholics, 6 (20%) were Protestants, while 10 (35%) practised African

Traditional Religion (MTR).

4) DESCRIPTION OF ADOPTED CHILDREN RESPONDENTS:

Sixty-six (66) adopted children were interviewed/observed for the study; of that number, 30 (45%) were male and 36 (55%) female. With regard to their age, 10 (15%) were 3-5 years; 56 (85%) 6-10 years. In terms of their performance in the class, 26 (40%) performed well, 20 (30%) fairly well, 13 (20%) average and 7 (10%) poor. The findings further showed that reason for poor performance in class was due to natural dullness of all the respondents involved in the poor performance. As regards their health conditions and physical appearance, all the 66 (100%) children were healthy and normal. In terms of love and care of the adopted children in the home, observably, all the 66 (100%) children show evidence of adequate love and care in the home. Also, the educational requirements of all the 66 (100%) adopted children interviewed are adequately met. With regard to the adopted children's activities both in the home and in their extra time, all 66 (100%) recounted the normal domestic chores, such as washing of plates, sweeping the house, fetching of water, etc., as their main activities in the home. Also, all the 66 (100%) of them showed that in their extra time, they are either playing or studying their books. Hence, none of them showed any evidence of hawking wares or used for any other labour-intensive activities.

From the researchers observations, it seems that all the adopted children interviewed and observed were well cared for both in their homes and in the school.

4.2 SECTION 8:

1) RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

Five research questions were used for the study and the answers are shown below;

QUESTION 1: Research question one aimed at finding out what, in the view of the social workers, were the objectives of adoption programme in Enugu State.

It was answered with item 9 of the questionnaire for social workers.

The findings of the study showed that providing children for the childless couples appeared to be the main objective of the programme in the State. This is confirmed by the fact that 80% of the social workers used for the study indicated that the main objective of child adoption programme in the State is to provide children for the childless couples; provide home for the homeless children 10%; serve the interest of the adoptive clients 5%; help natural parents who cannot adequately care for their children 5%.

QUESTION 2: Research question two aimed at finding out the basic information strategies and channels employed by the adoption agency to inform and educate the masses of the State about adoption, also their adequacy and effectiveness. The research question was answered with items 31 of the questionnaire for social workers, question 10 of the questionnaire for adoptive parents and items 17 and 18 of the questionnaire for the public.

The findings of the study showed that the basic information strategies and channels employed by the adoptive agency were: Radio/T.V. adverts 90%, seminars/workshops 5%, use of various social organizations and town unions 5%. As to the effectiveness of the strategies and channels: Not effective 85%, Effective 10%, Very effective 5%. To further ascertain the adequacy of the strategies and channels, the responses of the adoptive parents' respondents (item 10) showed that they knew about adoption through informal discussions 70%, Radio/T.V. 20%, others (studies) 10%.

The findings above showed that Radio/T.V. adverts predominated over other channels and information strategies. Furthermore, the majority of the respondents knew about adoption programmes through informal discussions with other people, hence the ineffectiveness of the strategies and channels.

QUESTION 3: Research question three aimed at finding out the extent to which cultural/traditional influences affected the acceptance, or otherwise, of adoption in the State. It was answered with item 39 of the questionnaire for the social workers and item 10 of the questionnaire for the public.

The findings of the study showed that members of the public major reasons for not accepting adoption are; adoption is against the culture/tradition of the people 60%, religious factors 20%, strangeness of adoption 20%. Equally, the social workers' reasons for their not accepting adoption were; because they perceive adoption to be against their culture and tradition 60%, adoption is a strange phenomenon to them 40%. This means that cultural/traditional influences predominate as the main reason for not accepting adoption in the State.

QUESTION 4: Research question four aimed at finding out the adequacy of criteria that guide the social workers of the adoption agency in the selection of eligible adopters. It was answered with items 22 and 28 of the questionnaire for social workers.

The responses showed that the criteria that most guide the selection of eligible adopters are; Acceptable reasons behind applicants decision to adopt 50%, family background of the applicant 25%, high economic status 10%, high social status 5%, similarity of characteristics between the natural family of the child and that of the applicants 5%, and religious background 5%. Further findings of the study also showed that the means by which the agency social workers

obtained reliable and authentic information on the true background of the applicants are; Reliance on the information supplied by the applicants 70%, gathering information from the applicants' immediate neighbourhood 20%, getting information through the traditional rulers and other opinion leaders in the community 10%.

QUESTION 5: Research question five seeks to explore the problems and constraints that militate against the effective delivery of adoption services in Enugu State. It was answered with items 11 to 21 of the questionnaire for social workers.

The findings of the study showed that the major problems and constraints in the delivery of adoption services in the State included the following: Insufficient funds 50%, mobility problems 25%, insufficient staff training/insufficient knowledge of what to do 25%. Furthermore, all the respondents (100%) agreed that the present number of formally trained social workers engaged in the adoption agency was inadequate and that formal professional training in social work was necessarily essential for adoption agency staff. Also 100% of the respondents agreed that, to minimize the problems of adoption, only formally trained social workers should be employed for adoption services. The major reason behind this position, according to their responses, is that child adoption is a professional field that requires expert knowledge of what to do. Also, 100% of the respondents agreed that the amenities/resources for carrying out adoption agency functions were insufficient and that sufficient supply of such amenities/resources would enhance and facilitate activities of the adoption agency.

Such amenities/resources as indicated by the responses of the respondents are: funds 40%, vehicles for supervision 25%, access to public media houses 15%, items of stationery 15%.

From the above findings of the study, it seems that the adoption agency lacked the basic amenities/resources required for effective delivery of adoption services. The implication of this state of affairs, by inference, is that the State Government, that set up the adoption agency, appear not to have appreciated the full benefits of adoption to citizens of the State, hence it has not demonstrated enough commitment, by way of funding and provision of required placement resources, to the adoption agency.

4.3 SECTION 8

2) HYPOTHESIS

In the study, the result of hypotheses tested are shown below:

HYPOTHESIS 1: Hypothesis one stated that "there is a relationship between the level of services offered by social workers of the State Adoption Agency and the success of child adoption programme". It was tested with item 26 of the questionnaire for adoptive parents which states: "How would you assess the services so far rendered to you by the social workers?" (a) Very efficient; (b) Efficient; (c) Fairly efficient; (d) inefficient.

TABLE 8: ADOPTIVE PARENTS' ASSESSMENT OF OBSERVED LEVEL OF SERVICES OFFERED BY SOCIAL WORKERS

Respondents	Assessment of Observed Level of Services Offered				Total
	Very efficient	Efficient	Fairly efficient	Inefficient	
Male	8	12	26	5	51
Female	30	50	61	10	151
Total	38	62	87	15	202

Table 8, as indicated above, formed the basis of testing of Hypothesis 1. The hypothesis was tested with the Chi-square (χ^2) statistics. The calculated Chi-square value is 3.04. This calculated

value (304) tested at the 0.05 level of significance is less than the table value of 3.841 required to uphold the hypothesis. So, we reject the hypothesis. This means that there is no significant relationship between the level of services offered by the social workers and the success of the child adoption programme.

HYPOTHESIS 2: Hypothesis Two states that "Religious factors may account more for the negative/unfavourable perception of adoption, than the cultural/traditional factors and lack of awareness about adoption by the masses of Enugu State. It is tested with items 34 and 35 of questionnaire for social workers and items 15 and 16 of the questionnaire for the public. Their responses are presented on Tables 9, 10 and 11.

ITEM 34 (QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SOCIAL WORKERS):

How would you assess the general perception of the masses regarding adoption programme?

TABLE 9: SOCIAL WORKERS' ASSESSMENT OF THE MASSES' PERCEPTION OF ADOPTION

Response Category	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Negative	52	95
Positive	3	5
T o t a l	55	100

Table 9 above shows that 95% of the social workers indicated that generally the masses of the State perceived adoption negatively, while 5% indicated that the masses perceived adoption positively.

The responses above, therefore, shows that the social workers are of the opinion that the general perception regarding adoption programme is negative.

ITEM 15 (THE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE PUBLIC)

How does the general public perceive adoption in your area?

TABLE 10: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC'S ASSESSMENT OF HOW ADOPTION IS PERCEIVED BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN THEIR AREA

Response Category	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Unfavourable	19	68
Favourable	9	32
T o t a l	28	100

Table 10 above shows that majority of public respondents (68%) indicated that adoption is perceived unfavourably in their area, while (32%) indicated that the general public in their area perceived adoption favourably.

Table 10, therefore, shows that the general public do not perceive adoption favourably in Enugu State.

To obtain information on the predominating reasons for the negative or unfavourable perception of adoption in the State, the responses of the social workers to item 15 and that of the members of the public to item 16 were cross-tabulated and the information is presented on Table 11.

ITEM 16 (QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SOCIAL WORKERS AND 16 OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC)

"Why or what do you attribute their negative perception to; customs/tradition, religious factors, lack of awareness?"

TABLE 11: RESPONDENTS' REASONS FOR THE NEGATIVE/UNFAVOURABLE PERCEPTION OF ADOPTION

Respondents	Reasons For Negative/Unfavourable Perception of Adoption			TOTAL
	Cultural/Traditional	Religious Factor	Lack of Awareness	
Social Workers	19	19	14	52
Members of the Public	8	7	4	19
T o t a l	27	26	18	71

Table 11 above formed the basis of testing hypothesis 2. The hypothesis was tested with the Chi-Square (χ^2) statistics. FORMULA:

$$\text{Chi-Square } (\chi^2) = \sum \left(\frac{O - E}{E} \right)^2$$

The calculated Chi-Square value is 0.466. This calculated Chi-Square tested at 0.05 level of significance is less than the table value of 3.841 required to uphold the hypothesis. Hence, we reject the hypothesis.

The findings of this study as obtained from both the social workers and members of the public showed that cultural/traditional and lack of awareness, rather than religious factors, accounted more for the negative/unfavourable perception of adoption.

HYPOTHESIS 3: Hypothesis three states that "people who are highly educated may favour adopted child's right of inheritance more than the less educated people. The hypothesis was tested with item 9 of the questionnaire for the members of the public and further the responses was cross-tabulated with item 4 of the same questionnaire for the members of the public so as to classify their responses in terms of their level of education. The results are then presented on Tables 12 and 13.

ITEM 9 (QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC)

Are you in favour of an adopted child's right of inheritance?

Yes ; No

TABLE 12: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC RESPONSES ON THE ADOPTED CHILD'S
RIGHT OF INHERITANCE

Response Category	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	19	68
No	9	32
T o t a l	28	100

Table 12 shows that 19 (68%) of the members of the public indicated that they favoured adopted child's right of inheritance, while 9 (32%) did not favour adopted child's right of inheritance.

ITEM 4: (QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE PUBLIC CROSS-TABULATED
WITH THE PUBLIC'S RESPONSES)

TABLE 13: ACCEPTANCE OF ADOPTED CHILD'S RIGHT OF INHERITANCE
BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Level of Education	R E S P O N S E S		
	Y e s	N o	Total
Highly educated	18	4	22
Less educated	1	5	6
T o t a l	19	9	28

Table 13 above formed the basis of testing hypothesis three.

The calculated Chi-Square value is 8.64. This calculated Chi-square (χ^2) value is higher than the table value of 3.841 required to uphold the hypothesis. Thus, we accept the hypothesis. This finding shows that highly educated people in the State are more prone to

accepting the inheritance rights of adopted children than the less educated people. So, education could be said to be a positive correlate of successful adoption practices.

HYPOTHESIS 4: Hypothesis four states that "the reasons behind adoptive parents' decision to adopt a child may differ on the basis of their economic status". It was tested with item 11 of the questionnaire for adoptive parents. The result is presented on Table 14.

ITEM 11: (QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ADOPTIVE PARENTS)

What was the main reason behind your decision to adopt a child?

(a) Childlessness (b) Need to have a particular sex child (c) Desire to increase the family size (d) To secure more helping hands for domestic work.

TABLE 14: REASONS FOR DECISION TO ADOPT A CHILD BY INCOME LEVEL

Reasons for Decision to Adopt	Higher Income Status	Lower Income Status	Total
Childlessness	75	26	101
Need for particular sex child	65	20	85
Desire to increase family size	11	5	16
Total	151	51	202

Table 14 above forms the basis for testing hypothesis four.

The calculated Chi-Square (χ^2) value is 0.405. This calculated Chi-Square (χ^2) value is less than the table value of 3.841 required to uphold the hypothesis. Hence, the hypothesis is rejected. This finding shows that the decision to adopt a child was not significantly related to economic status of respondents.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0

FINDINGS5.1 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS/CONCLUSION

In this study, an attempt has been made to evaluate the child welfare services of adoption, which is a very important aspect of child welfare services in terms of meeting the needs of homeless and parentless children and that of childless couples. To this ^{end,} ~~and~~ there is a need to ensure that this innovative programme is properly handled in order to achieve the desired end of serving the interest of adoptive clients. It is with this in mind that the researcher deemed it necessary to evaluate the child welfare services of adoption as carried out by the Enugu State adoption agency, in order to determine the adequacy and effectiveness of adoption services rendered to adoptive clients. This is with a view also to identifying the inherent constraints and problems of the agency and hence make suggestions that can facilitate and enhance the operation of the adoptive agency.

The findings of the study showed that the level of services offered by the social workers of the adoption agency did not enhance the success of the adoption programme in the State. The objectives of adoption programme, as pursued by the state adoption agency, was not wholistic, rather one of the objectives, "providing children for the childless couples" predominated over other objectives such as providing homes and parents for the homeless and parentless children and helping natural parents who could not care for their children. The implication of this narrow objective pursuit is that it posed a great limitation on the scope of operations of the adoption agency. Other major constraints and problems identified in the study include lack of enough funds, mobility problems, lack of enough trained social workers and insufficient knowledge of what to do in order to facilitate the operations of the agency. Masses of the State are generally not aware

and largely ignorant of the adoption programme due to ineffective information strategies and channels for informing and educating the masses of the State about adoption programme. Consequently, also, cultural/traditional factors and lack of general awareness accounted more for the negative perception of adoption in the State more than religious factors. Highly educated people tend to favour the inheritance rights of adopted children more than the less educated people. The reason for this may seem obvious because in our culture, child adoption is, to an extent, alien, and it is likely that the less educated of the masses may cling more to their cultural norms and practices than the highly educated. This also points to the need for intensive education and sensitization of the masses. The decision to adopt a child does not depend on the economic status of respondents.

From the study, it was observed that the child welfare services of adoption as carried out by the State adoption agency fell short of expectations in terms of adequacy and effectiveness.

However, the observed high quality of care given to the adopted children both at home and in the school is satisfying. Also from the good health conditions of all the adopted children and their confirmation, through interview, of fair treatment to them in their homes and in the school, it could be inferred that the legal adoption so far contracted by the State adoption agency are successful in terms of the suitability of adoptive homes for the adoptive children.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

(1) The State Government should substantially increase the funding of the State adoptive agency to facilitate the operations of the agency and to enable her to procure the necessary placement resources.

(2) Social workers in the State adoption agency should expand the objectives pursued by the agency so as to increase the scope of their operations.

(3) The adoption agency should employ more professionally qualified social workers and also involve social workers at the respective local government levels in the adoption process. This will enhance the impact of adoption at the grassroot level.

(4) An intensive enlightenment programmes and community education campaign on the prospects of adoption should be mounted, by the adoption agency, through a multi-media approach such as workshops, seminars, church announcements, social organizations, etc. This will create the necessary awareness, in the masses, about adoption programmes and its importance so as to make them perceive adoption positively with a view to benefiting therefrom.

(5) An in-service training programme should also be established for the already serving staff, social workers, in the State Social Welfare Division, so as to enhance their professional competence for effective delivery of adoption services.

5.3 SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Further research could be carried out in the following areas:

1. Factors that impede child adoption in Nigeria.
2. The role of agencies, other than social welfare, such as Motherless Babies Homes, Cheshire Homes and Hospitals in the promotion of adoption in Nigeria.
3. This study could also be repeated in other States of Nigeria.

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APPENDIX A

QUESTIONNAIRE

Department of Sociology/Anthropology
University of Nigeria
Nsukka.

Dear Sir/Madam/Colleagues,

The attached questionnaire has been designed to collect information for the study titled; "An Evaluative Study of Child Welfare Services of Adoption in Enugu State".

The study is purely for academic purposes and any information given will be treated confidentially. Your co-operation by way of completing the questionnaire will be very much appreciated. Kindly ensure that you do not leave any question unanswered.

Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,
(sgd.)
Christian A. Ezeh

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

Please tick (√) against the answer appropriate to you.

Characteristics of the Social Workers:-

1. SEX: (a) Male (b) Female
2. AGE: (a) 20-25 (b) 26-35 (c) 36-45
3. MARITAL STATUS: (a) Single (b) Married
(c) Separated (d) Divorced (e) Widowed
4. EDUCATIONAL STATUS: (a) No formal education
(b) Primary School (c) WASC
(d) Higher School/OND (e) Degree
(f) Others (Specify)
5. PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION: (a) Dip. SWK
(b) B.Sc./B.A. in SWK (c) Others (Specify)
6. WORK EXPERIENCE: (a) 1-5 yrs. (b) 6-10 yrs.
(c) 11-15 yrs. (d) 16-20 yrs. (e) 21 yrs. & above
7. RANK: (a) Principal Social Welfare Officer
(b) Chief Social Welfare Officer (c) Welfare Officer
(d) Others (Specify)
8. Local Government of Operation

9. What are the objectives of adoption programme?
- (a) To provide a home for the homeless child
 - (b) To serve the interests of the prospective adoptive children
 - (c) To provide children for the childless couples
 - (d) To help natural parents who cannot adequately care for their children
 - (e) Others (Specify)

Questions 10-11: Are specifically for the Social Workers in the State Adoption Agency Only - Social Welfare Division, Enugu).

10. Does the adoption unit provide the following services?
- (a) Issue of application forms for adoption. Yes ; No
 - (b) Approval of application for adoption Yes No
 - (c) Pre-adoption interview Yes No
 - (d) Temporary placement of the child Yes No
 - (e) Home visit Yes No
 - (f) Material/Financial help to adoptive clients Yes No
 - (g) Follow up Yes No
 - (h) Others (Specify)
11. Do you have any difficulty in carrying out any of the above services?
Yes No
12. If your answer to 11 above is (a), please indicate which of the categories in question 10 you have difficulty in carrying out;
.....
.....
13. What are causes of such difficulties in carrying out such services?
- (a) Lack of enough funds
 - (b) Mobility problems
 - (c) Insufficient staff training/insufficient knowledge of what to do
 - (d) Not covered in the job description
 - (e) Instruction of the boss that you should not carry them out
 - (f) Others (Specify)
14. Do you think that formal professional training in Social work is necessarily essential for the adoption agency staff?
(a) Yes (b) No
15. Do you think that to minimize the problems of adoption only formally trained social workers are better used for adoption services? (a) Yes (b) No
16. Give reasons for your answer:

17. Is the present number of formally trained social workers engaged in the adoption agency adequate? (a) Yes (b) No
18. Does the agency have adequate and sufficient amenities/resources for carrying out the adoption agency functions? Yes No
19. Do you think that sufficient supply of such amenities/resources will enhance and facilitate the activities of the adoption agency?
(a) Yes (b) No
20. What are these amenities/resources?
(a) Vehicles for supervision (b) Items of stationery
(c) Public address system (d) Access to public media houses
(e) Funds (f.) Others (Specify)
21. What other major problems and constraints affect the effective delivery of services to the adoptive clients by the agency?
22. Which of the criteria stated below most guide your selection of eligible adopters? (a) High economic status
(b) High social status (c) Acceptable reasons behind the applicants decision to adopt (d) Family background of the applicant
(e) Similarity of characteristics between the natural family of the child and that of the applicant(s)
(f) Religious background of the applicant
(g) Others (Specify)
23. Through what major means does the agency get children to be placed for adoption? (a) Volunteering of children by parents who cannot take proper care of their children
(b) Motherless Babies Homes (c) Orphanages
(d) Destitute Homes (e) Children of the beggars and other destitutes on the street (f) Others (Specify)
24. For how long does the adoption agency place the child in the proposed adoptive home before legally giving the child for adoption?
(a) No provision for such placement period in the adoption agency
(b) 1-3 Months (c) 4-6 Months (d) 7mths.- 1 year
(e) Above 1 year
25. How many supervisory visits do you make to the adoptive home after placing the child for adoption?
(a) 1-2 visits (b) 3-5 visits
(c) 6-9 visits (d) 10 visits and above

26. In your opinion, do you think the amount of supervisory visits is sufficient to discover the relevant facts on the basis of which the legal adoption will be made?
- (a) Yes (b) No
27. If your answer to 26 above is (b), what is responsible for the insufficient supervisory visits?
- (a) Insufficient facilities
 (b) Lack of adequate funding
 (c) Others (Specify)
28. During such supervisory visits to prospective adopters, what means do you employ in getting reliable information on their true background?
- (a) Reliance on the information supplied by the clients alone
 (b) Gathering of information from the immediate neighbourhood
 (c) Get information through the traditional rulers and other opinion leaders in the community
 (d) Others (Specify)
29. Have you ever rejected a prospective adopter's application for adoption based on adverse information about the client?
- (a) Yes (b) No
30. If your answer to 29 above is (a), what was the nature of such adverse information? (a) The family of the applicant has had reputation in the community
 (b) The applicant is very poor mentally
 (c) The motive for seeking to adopt a child is not genuine
31. What are the basic information strategies and channels employed by your agency to create public awareness?
- (a) Radio/T.V. adverts (b) Seminars/Workshops
 (c) Use of town criers (d) Through various social organizations and town unions (e) Through churches
 (f) Others (Specify)
32. In your opinion, are the masses of Enugu State sufficiently aware and informed about adoption?
- (a) Yes (b) No
33. Give reasons for your answer
34. How would you assess the general perception of the masses of Enugu State regarding adoption programme?
- (a) Yes (b) No

35. If your answer to 34 above is (b), what do you attribute to their negative perception of adoption to?
- (a) Cultural/traditional factors
- (b) Religious factors (c) Slave trade experience
- (d) General ignorance about the prospects of adoption
- (e) Others (Specify).....
36. Have you been handling marital cases that arise from childlessness of couples in your area? (a) Yes (b) No
37. Have you been counselling them to take recourse to legal adoption? (a) Yes (b) No
38. How do they respond to your suggestion of legal adoption?
- (a) Yes (b) No
39. If your answer to 38 above is (b), what do you understand to be the reason for their negative response to the adoption option?
- (a) Because they perceive adoption to be against their culture and tradition (b) Adoption is a strange phenomenon to them (c) Adopted child has no right of inheritance, hence adoption is not acceptable
- (d) Others (Specify)
40. What would you recommend to the State Government about child adoption programme in Enugu State?
-
-

APPENDIX BQUESTIONNAIRE FOR ADOPTIVE PARENTS

Department of Sociology/Anthropology
University of Nigeria
Nauka.

Dear Sir/Madam,

The attached questionnaire has been designed to collect information for the study titled: "An Evaluative Study of Child Welfare Services of adoption in Enugu State". Any information given will be treated confidentially. Your co-operation by way of completing the questionnaire will be very much appreciated. Kindly ensure that you do not leave any question unanswered.

Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.)

Christian A. Ezeh

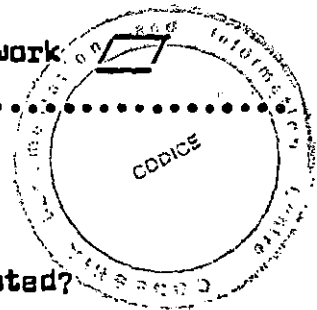
Please tick (✓) against the answer appropriate to you.

1. SEX: (a) Male (b) Female
2. AGE: (a) 20-30 yrs. (b) 31-40 yrs.
(c) 41-50 yrs. (d) 51 yrs and above
3. MARITAL STATUS: (a) Married (b) Single
(c) Separated (d) Widowed (e) Divorced
4. NUMBER OF CHILDREN HAD BEFORE ADOPTION: (a) No child
(b) 1 child (c) 2-4 Children (d) 4 Children & above
5. EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION: (a) No formal Education
(b) F.S.L.C. (c) W.A.S.C. (d) NCE/DIP.
(e) Degree (e) Higher Degree
6. OCCUPATION: (a) Civil/Public Servant
(b) Farming (c) Trading/Business
(d) Artisan (e) Others (Specify)
7. If 6(a) above, tick (✓) your present salary Grade Level:

/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/

8. If not salaried, estimate your monthly income:
(a) Below ₦1,000.00 (b) ₦1,100.00 - ₦2,000.00

8. (c) ₦2,100.00 - ₦2,500.00 (d) ₦2,600.00 - ₦3,000.00
 (e) ₦3,000.00 - ₦3,500.00 (f) ₦3,600.00 - ₦4,000.00
 (g) ₦4,100.00 - ₦5,000.00 (h) Above ₦5,000.00
9. What is your religious denomination? (a) Catholic
 (b) Protestant (c) Moslem
 (d) African Traditional Religion
10. How did you know about the prospects of adoption?
 (a) Radio/TV (b) Public Enlightenment visit by social workers to your area (c) Town carriers
 (d) Informal discussion with friends
 (e) Others (Specify)
11. What was the main reason behind your decision to adopt a child?
 (a) Childlessness
 (b) Need to have a particular sex child
 (c) Desire to increase the family size
 (d) To secure more helping hands for domestic work
 (e) Others (Specify)
12. Did you request for a particular sex child?
 (a) Yes (b) No
13. Were you given exactly the type of child requested?
 (a) Yes (b) NO
14. Did you pay some amount of money to the social workers for giving you the type of child you required?
 (a) Yes (b) No
15. If your answer to 14 above is (a), within what range is the amount paid? (a) Between ₦100-₦500 (b) ₦6,000-₦1000
 (c) ₦1100-₦2000 (d) ₦2100-₦3000
 (e) Above ₦3000
16. What is the sex of your adopted child?
 (a) Male (b) Female
17. What was the age of your adopted child at the time of adoption?
 (a) Below 1 yr. (b) 1 - 2 yrs. (c) 2 - 3 yrs.
 (d) 3 - 5 yrs. (e) Above 5 yrs.
18. How long have you been with the adopted child?
 (a) Below 1 yr. (b) 1 - 2 yrs. (c) 2 - 3 yrs.
 (d) 3 - 4 yrs. (e) 4 - 5 yrs. (f) Above 5 yrs.



19. How has your adopted child adjusted and integrated into your family?
 (a) He feels happy always
 (b) Shows some emotional distress
 (c) Indifferent
20. State other problems you have experienced about your adopted child:

21. Have you brought such problems to the attention of the social worker?
 (a) Yes (b) No
22. Have the problems been solved?
 (a) Yes (b) No
23. How often do social workers visit your home since the placement of your adoptive child?
 (a) Very often (b) Often
 (c) Not often
24. What is the exact interval of the social workers' visit to your home since the placement of the child?
 (a) Weekly (b) Once in two weeks
 (c) Once every month (d) Once in two (2) months
 (e) Once in three (3) months (f) Every six (6) Months
 (g) Once a year (h) Once every two years
 (i) No visit at all
25. What other services did the social worker offer you after placement?
 (a) Assisting the family to adjust properly to each other
 (b) Material/Financial help
 (c) Holding occasional counselling sessions between you and your adopted child to address your problems?
 (d) Others (Specify) !.....
26. How would you assess the services so far rendered to you by the social worker?
 (a) Very efficient (b) Efficient
 (c) Fairly efficient (d) Inefficient
27. Is your spouse a party to the adoption decision?
 (a) Yes (b) No
28. Are other members of your larger family (relatives) aware of the adoption arrangements?
 (a) Yes (b) No

29. Have you ever discussed with them about the rights of your adopted child to inherit your assets?
(a) Yes (b) No
30. Are they in favour of the adoption and the rights of the adopted child to inherit your property?
(a) Yes (b) No
31. If your answer to (30) above is (b), why are they opposed to it?
(a) The custom of the people does not allow it
(b) The adopted child is a female and not qualified to inherit
(c) Others (Specify)
.....

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APPENDIX CQUESTIONNAIRE FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Dept. of Sociology/Anthropology
University of Nigeria
Nsukka

Dear Sir/Madam,

The attached questionnaire has been designed to collect information for the study titled; "An Evaluative Study of Child Welfare Services of Adoption in Enugu State". Any information given will be treated confidentially.

Your co-operation by way of completing the questionnaire objectively will be very much appreciated. Kindly ensure that you do not leave any question unanswered.

Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,

(Sg.)

Christian A. Eze

Please tick (✓) against the answers appropriate to you.

1. SEX: (a) Male (b) Female
2. AGE: (a) 20-30 yrs. (b) 31-40 yrs.
(c) 41-50 yrs. (d) 51 yrs. and above
3. MARITAL STATUS: (a) Married (b) Single
(c) Separated (d) Widowed (e) Divorced
4. EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION: (a) No formal education
(b) FSLC (c) WASC (d) NCE DIP.
(e) B.A./B.SC./B.ED. (f) M.A./M.SC.
5. OCCUPATION: (a) Civil/Public Servant (b) Farming
(c) Traditional Ruler (d) Trading/Business
(e) Artisan (f) Others (Specify)
6. What is your religious denomination: (a) Catholic
(b) Protestant (c) Muslim
(d) African Traditional Religion
7. Are you aware of child adoption programme in Enugu State?
(a) Yes (b) No
8. If your answer to 7 above is (a), are you aware that an adopted child has equal right of inheritance of adoptive parents

8. property as if he is his biological child?
 (a) Yes (b) No
9. Are you in favour of an adopted child inheriting the property of his adoptive parents?
 (a) Yes (b) No
10. If your answer to 9 above is (b), what is your reason?
 (a) It is against the culture/tradition of my people
 (b) Adoption is against my religious belief
 (c) An adopted child is illegitimate
 (d) An adopted child should not be accorded inheritance right?
 (e) Others (Specify)
11. Are there families or couples you know in your area that have adopted children? (a) Yes (b) No
12. Have you noticed any problem resulting from the adoption issue in such families? (a) Yes (b) No
13. What is the nature of such a problem?
 (a) Inheritance problem
 (b) Maltreatment of the adopted child
 (c) Others (Specify)
14. In whose favour was the problem resolved?
 (a) In favour of the adopted child
 (b) Not in favour of the adopted child
15. How does the general public perceive adoption in your area?
 (a) Favourable (b) Unfavourable
16. If your answer to 15 above is (b), why? (a) Religious reasons
 (b) Cultural reasons (c) General lack of awareness about adoption
 (d) Others (Specify)
17. Through what media is child adoption propagated in your area?
 (a) None (b) Radio/T.V. Programmes
 (c) Church announcements (d) Town Crier
 (e) Informal discussions (f) Others (Specify)
18. How effective are such media in enlightening your people about adoption? (a) Very effective (b) Effective
 (c) Not effective

19. Suggest or recommend two (2) most effective strategies in your own opinion, will enable the people of your area become more aware about child adoption programme in Enugu State;

- (1)
- (2)

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APPENDIX DINTERVIEW/OBSERVATIONAL SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTED CHILDREN

1. SEX: (a) Male (b) Female
2. AGE: (a) 1-3 yrs. (b) 3-5 yrs. (c) 6-10 yrs.
3. Class in School:

1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / 6 /

4. Performance in School: (a) Exceptionally well
(b) Well (c) Fairly well (d) Average
(e) Poor
5. Reason for poor performance (if applicable)
6. Health Conditions: (a) Normal (b) Not normal
7. If health condition is not normal, what is the cause?
(a) Natural sickness (b) Malnutrition
8. Physical Appearance: (a) Normal (b) Deformed
(c) Anaemic (d) Unkempt
9. If your answer to 8 above is (b), what is the cause of deformity?
.....
10. Love and care of the child in the home: (a) Adequate
(b) Not adequate (c) Totally lacking
11. Specific problems the child experiences in the home:
12. Educational requirement of the child: (a) Adequately met
(b) Not adequately met
13. What type of activities does the child perform in the home?
.....
14. What else does the child do in his extra time?
15. General treatment of the child at home in relation to other children: