

**Appraisal of Children Welfare Programs in Selected Orphanage Homes in
Ibadan, OyoState (2019 to 2025)**

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Relations, Faculty of Management & Social Sciences,
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Certification

This is to certify that **Lydia ADEBAYO** with the matriculation number **LCU/PG/005884** carried out this research titled “Appraisal of Children Welfare Programs in Selected Orphanage Homes in Ibadan, Oyo State (2019 to 2025)” in the Department of Politics & International Relations, Faculty of Management & Social Sciences, Lead City University Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria for the award of Master of Science Degree (MSc) in Public Administration and that this has not been previously submitted.

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Dedication

To God Almighty, who is, who was and who is to come, the source of life, strength, wisdom and help for this achievement.

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Acknowledgement

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Even though the above-mentioned institutions and persons have assisted in the process of this research work, the researcher alone stand responsible for the errors, if any, found in the work.

Abstract

This study examined the effectiveness of child welfare programs namely, the Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Program, the Child Participation Program, and the Poverty and Protection (PnP) Program in relation to the management of children's welfare in Nigeria. It also assessed public perceptions of service delivery across critical sectors and identified systemic challenges hindering the successful implementation of child welfare initiatives. Using a quantitative research design, data were collected from 12 respondents through structured questionnaires. Descriptive statistics were used to determine levels of satisfaction, while inferential statistics, including multiple regression analyses, were used to test the study. Findings indicate a high level of satisfaction with the PnP and OVC programs. However, the grand mean score of 2.6 across health, nutrition, and education sectors suggests a mixed to moderately unsatisfactory perception of public service delivery. Additionally, a grand mean score of 2.8 revealed widespread concerns about systemic, legal, and infrastructural challenges in child welfare administration. Study testing revealed that while the Child Participation Program showed a notable and positive relationship with child welfare management, the effect was not statistically significant at the 5% level ($p = 0.085$), leading to the acceptance of the. Similarly, the OVC Program alone did not significantly predict the management of child welfare. When both programs were combined in a multiple regression model, the result also failed to reach statistical significance, indicating that neither program, independently or jointly, significantly explains the variance in the management of children's welfare. The study contributes to knowledge by providing empirical evidence on the limitations of current child welfare interventions and highlighting the importance of adopting a more systemic and participatory approach. It recommends institutional reforms, improved service delivery, and further research involving larger sample sizes and qualitative approaches to explore the underlying dynamics of child welfare administration in Nigeria.

Keywords: Child welfare, Orphans, Orphanage Homes, Vulnerable Children Program, Oyo State

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Table of Contents

Content	Page
Title page	i
Certification	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgement	iv
Abstract	v
Table of Contents	vi
List of Tables	viii
List of Figures	ix
List of Acronyms	x
Chapter One: Introduction	
1.1. Background of the Study	1
1.2. Statement of the Problem	8
1.3. Aim and Objectives of the Study	10
1.4. Research Questions	10
1.5. Significance of the Study	11
1.6. Scope of the Study	12
1.7. Limitation of the Study	12
1.8. Operational Definition of Terms	13
Endnotes	15
Chapter Two: Literature Review	
2.1. Conceptual Review	17
2.1.1. Child Welfare	17
2.1.2. Public Administration	23
2.1.3. Ministry of Women Affairs	38
2.1.4. Management of Children Welfare	45

2.2. Theoretical Framework	58
2.2.1. Ecological Systems Theory	58
2.3. Review of Empirical Studies	60
2.3.1. Ministry of Women Affairs and Management of Children Welfare	60
2.4. Conceptual Model	70
2.5 Summary of Gap in Literature Reviewed	72
Endnotes	76
Chapter Three: Methodology	
3.1 Research Design	85
3.2 Population of the Study	85
3.3 Sample and Sampling Technique	87
3.4 Description of the Research Instrument	87
3.5 Validity of Research Instrument	88
3.6 Reliability of the Research Instrument	89
3.7 Administration of the Instrument	89
3.8 Method of Data Collection	89
3.9 Method of Data Analysis	89
3.10 Ethical Consideration	90
Endnotes	92
Chapter Four: Results and Discussion of Finding	
4.1 Response Rate of the Respondents	93
4.2 Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents	93
4.3 Analysis of Research Questions	95
4.4 Discussion of Findings	109
Endnotes	118
Chapter Five: Conclusion	
5.1 Summary of Findings	120

5.2 Conclusion of the Study	121
5.3 Recommendation	121
5.4 Contribution to Knowledge	122
5.5 suggestion for Further Studies	123
Bibliography	124
Appendix I	136
Appendix II	143
Bio-data	150
The University Compliance Certification	152

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List of Tables

Table	Page
3.1 Population of the Study	85
4.1 Response Rate of the Respondents	93
4.2 Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents	93
4.3 Effectiveness of Policies and Programs	95
4.4 Effectiveness of Children Welfare Management	99
4.5 Factors that Hamper the Effectiveness of Ministry of Women Affairs	106

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List of Figure

Figure	Page
2.1 Conceptual Model	70

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List of Acronyms

Abbreviation	Meaning
ACF	Administration for Children and Families
ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
ADHD	Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
COCHIN	Coalition of Orphanages in Nigeria
CPIMS	Child Protection Information Management Systems
CPS	Child Protection Services
CRA	Child Rights Act
CRC	Rights of the Child
CWS	Child Welfare Services
DOJ	Department of Justice
EPI	Expanded Programme of Immunization
HHS	Health and Human Services
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NCWWI	National Child Welfare Workforce Institute
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
NPM	New Public Management
OJP	Office of Justice Programs
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PPPs	Public-Private Partnerships
PnP	Promotion, Protection and Participation
SAP	Structural Adjustment Project

SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SOS	Save our Soul
UBE	United Basic Education
UN	United Nations
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Funds
WAD	Women and Development
WHO	World Health Organization
WOTCLEF	Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation

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Chapter One

Introduction

1.1. Background of the Study

Child welfare practices refer to a range of services and policies aimed at ensuring the safety, well-being, and development of children. Globally, child welfare has evolved significantly over the past century, shaped by international conventions, socio-political dynamics, and humanitarian concerns. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) of 1989 is widely considered the cornerstone of modern child welfare, as it legally binds ratifying countries to uphold children's rights to survival, protection, development, and participation¹. Global efforts are coordinated by international bodies such as UNICEF, World Health Organization (WHO), and Save the Children, which work to reduce child mortality, eliminate child labour, promote access to quality education, and protect children from abuse, exploitation, and neglect. In many high-income countries, robust systems are in place to monitor and intervene in cases of child maltreatment, supported by legislation, child protection agencies, foster care, and adoption services². However, child welfare remains a major concern worldwide. Despite progress, challenges such as poverty, armed conflict, child trafficking, forced migration, and systemic inequalities continue to undermine children's well-being in many parts of the world, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

In Africa, child welfare practices are deeply influenced by both traditional structures and modern institutional systems. African countries have demonstrated commitment to child rights through frameworks such as the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) of 1990, which complements the UNCRC by emphasizing African cultural values and addressing issues such as child marriage, child soldiers, and

harmful traditional practices³. Despite these frameworks, Africa continues to face daunting child welfare challenges. Issues such as high child mortality rates, widespread poverty, low access to quality education, child labour, child marriage, gender-based violence, and poor health care infrastructure pose significant threats to child development. In many countries, government social welfare systems are underfunded or fragmented, while reliance on extended families and community based care persists, often without adequate oversight or support. Non governmental organizations (NGOs) and international agencies play a vital role in supporting African governments through programs focused on nutrition, vaccination, psychosocial support, legal protection, and education. However, political instability, weak governance structures, and lack of data often hamper effective child protection and service delivery⁴.

In Nigeria, child welfare is both a pressing need and a constitutional commitment. Nigeria ratified both the UNCRC and ACRWC, and domesticated the provisions of these instruments through the Child Rights Act (CRA) of 2003. The CRA guarantees rights to survival, development, protection, and participation for every Nigerian child⁵. However, its implementation remains uneven, as several states mainly in the northern region are yet to domesticate the Act due to religious and cultural resistance⁶. Nigeria's child welfare landscape is shaped by pervasive challenges, including poverty, malnutrition, inadequate healthcare, out-of-school children, armed insurgency in the North-East, and child abuse⁷. About 10.5 million Nigerian children are out of school the highest in the world⁸.

Governmental structures such as the Federal and State Ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development are tasked with child welfare responsibilities, but they are often underfunded, poorly coordinated, and lacking trained social workers⁹. Meanwhile,

non-state actors, including faith-based and community organizations, play an essential role in providing care, especially in underserved communities.

Since it is the responsibility of the ministry of women affairs to cater for the needs of children. The ministry has a department for child care. The department has two dimensions based on their programs, namely, Child Promotion and Participation programs or division and the Orphans and Vulnerable Children Division. The Promotion and Participation division has the responsibility for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, taking into account the best interest of the child and its right to protection from discrimination and enhancing the child's ability to participate in decision-making processes. The division has two branches namely: Promotion & Participation and Child Survival, Care & Social Services, each with its own areas of interventions. Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Division: The mandate of the Division is to coordinate, facilitate, monitor and evaluate multi-sectoral national response to OVC phenomenon. It also has the responsibility to coordinate care and support services for OVC, building capacities of stakeholders including families, Communities, Civil Society Organizations to improve welfare and wellbeing as well as protect vulnerable children using integrated approach¹⁰. The researcher therefore measures the public administration using the two dimensions and programs, namely, child promotion and participation program and orphans and vulnerable children programs.

The well-being of children is a critical determinant of a society's future, emphasizing the importance of effective management of child welfare. Public administration, as a system responsible for implementing government policies, plays a significant role in shaping and sustaining child welfare programs. In this context, public administration

serves as a vehicle through which government agencies and public institutions strive to ensure that children receive adequate protection, health services, education, and social support¹¹.

Child welfare management refers to the systematic efforts by public institutions, social services agencies, and non-governmental organizations to protect and promote the well-being of children. It involves a range of policies, programs, and practices designed to ensure that children grow up in safe, supportive, and nurturing environments. Effective child welfare management focuses on preventing child abuse and neglect, providing care for children who cannot safely remain with their families, and supporting families to meet their children's needs¹². According to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), child welfare encompasses services and policies aimed at promoting the well-being, protection, and development of children¹³. Child welfare management, therefore, involves overseeing and coordinating these services to achieve specific objectives such as safeguarding children from harm, addressing the needs of vulnerable children, and promoting their overall development.

The management of child welfare is a multifaceted issue influenced by various social, economic, and political factors. Public administration's ability to create public value, maintain legitimacy and support, and develop operational capabilities is crucial in effectively managing children's welfare¹⁴. According to the Public Value Theory, the performance of public administration can be assessed by examining how well it creates benefits for citizens, gains political and legal support, and demonstrates operational efficiency¹⁵. In assessing the management of children's welfare, Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory offers a comprehensive framework. This theory posits that a child's development is shaped by multiple layers of environmental influence, from

immediate family interactions (Microsystem) to broader social, cultural, and policy contexts (Macrosystem). These systems interact to affect a child's growth, indicating that child welfare management must address these interconnected dimensions to be effective¹⁶. Furthermore, the Chronosystem highlights how changes over time, such as policy shifts or family transitions, impact child welfare¹⁷.

The management of children's welfare can be understood through the lens of Ecological Systems Theory developed by scholar¹⁸. This theory proposes that a child's development is influenced by multiple interconnected systems namely, the microsystem, mesosystem, exosystem, macrosystem, and chronosystem. Each of these systems represents different levels of interaction that affect a child's experiences and development. The microsystem level includes the immediate environments where children directly interact, such as family, schools, and peers. Effective management of children's welfare at this level involves interventions aimed at strengthening family structures, improving school environments, and fostering positive peer relationships. The mesosystem consists of the interconnections between the different elements of the microsystem, such as the relationships between family and school. For example, child welfare agencies often focus on bridging gaps between families and schools by implementing family support programs and school outreach services¹⁹.

The exosystem encompasses broader social structures that indirectly impact the child, such as parents' workplaces, community organizations, and local government agencies. Public administration plays a significant role at this level by designing and implementing policies that address issues such as parental leave, child labour laws, and community services. Macrosystem level includes the overarching cultural, political, and economic contexts that shape the child's environment. In Ibadan, public

administration must consider macro-level factors such as cultural attitudes toward child protection, the availability of social safety nets, and poverty alleviation strategies to effectively manage children's welfare²⁰. The chronosystem captures changes over time in a child's life, such as socio-political transitions or economic downturns. Public administration must adapt policies to reflect these changes, ensuring that child welfare services remain responsive to evolving societal needs.

To measure children welfare management of this study, the researcher uses some notable dimension based on the assumed responsibilities of public administration. The dimensions and indicators were selected to monitor the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): access to safe drinking water, access to improved sanitation, and health, nutrition and education²¹. Children using unimproved sanitation facilities such as pit latrine without slab, open pit latrine, bucket toilet, and hanging toilet. Children living in a house with no flooring (i.e., a mud or dung floor) or inadequate roofing. Children who have not been immunized by 2 years of age. A child is deprived if the child has not received eight of the following vaccinations, bcg, dpt1, dpt2, dpt3, polio0, polio1, polio2, polio3, and measles, or did not receive vitamin A supplementation. Children who are more than two standard deviations below the international reference population for stunting (height for age) or wasting (weight for height) or are underweight (weight for age)²². It is the responsibility of public administrators to ensure that all these amenities are available to ensure the wellbeing of the children.

The Ministry of Women Affairs plays a critical role in advancing gender equality, empowering women, and addressing the unique challenges faced by women and children within the context of public administration. As an essential arm of public

administration, the ministry is typically tasked with formulating and implementing policies, programs, and initiatives that promote the socio-economic and political inclusion of women in society. The ministry designs and advocates for gender-sensitive policies aimed at eliminating discrimination and promoting women's rights. This includes addressing issues such as gender-based violence, economic marginalization, and access to education and healthcare²³. To empower women economically, the ministry often develops training programs, provides access to microfinance, and promotes women's entrepreneurship. These initiatives aim to reduce poverty and improve women's participation in the workforce²⁴. The ministry collaborates with other government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and international bodies to implement programs that benefit women and children. This multi-stakeholder approach ensures a holistic response to gender issues²⁵. More so, as part of public administration, the ministry monitors and evaluates the impact of gender-focused programs and policies to ensure accountability and effectiveness. This process helps in aligning national strategies with global commitments like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)²⁶. The ministry provides support for vulnerable populations, including victims of domestic violence, orphans, and widows. Through shelters, counselling services, and legal aid, it ensures that the rights and dignity of these groups are upheld²⁷.

Recently, the Oyo state commissioner for women affairs and social inclusion, Alhaja Faosat Sanni in her address said drastic but necessary steps have been taken within the time the new administration arrived to address the economy and social empowerment of families, eradicate poverty, provide free and compulsory quality education as well as access to good health for children in the State²⁸. She further stated that in the pursuit of economic advancement, many individuals unknowingly neglect family care, leading to the abandonment of young ones. Without appropriate welfare

measures, social structures deteriorate, resulting in increased juvenile delinquency. The government, therefore, has a duty to provide social services and correctional institutions to mitigate these challenges,” she stated. Alhaja Sanni also commended Boyz Quarters Africa for supporting the government’s efforts and urged parents to be more attentive to their children to prevent circumstances that could lead to regret in the future.

In Ibadan, one of Nigeria’s largest cities, effective public administration is vital to managing the welfare of children amidst challenges such as poverty, limited access to education, and inadequate healthcare facilities. However, the extent to which public administration can enhance children’s welfare depends on its ability to create public value by delivering beneficial programs and services, maintaining legitimacy through transparent and accountable practices, and demonstrating operational capability by efficiently utilizing resources and coordinating efforts²⁹. Therefore, this study appraises the child welfare programs in selected orphanage homes in Ibadan, Oyo state (2019 to 2025)

1.2.Statement of the Problem

The effective management of children’s welfare is a critical function of ministry of women affairs as an essential arm of the public administration, especially in cities facing socio-economic challenges such as Ibadan. Despite efforts by governmental and non-governmental agencies to enhance child welfare, there remains a significant gap in the adequacy and effectiveness of these services. Ibadan, as a rapidly urbanizing city, is confronted with issues such as poverty, inadequate infrastructure, limited access to quality education and healthcare, and weak social safety nets. These challenges often

contribute to the increasing vulnerability of children, exposing them to risks such as neglect, abuse, and exploitation.

Oyo State, ministry of women affairs like every other ministry, is tasked with creating public value, maintaining legitimacy, and optimizing operational capacity to effectively manage children's welfare. However, the current public administration strategies in Ibadan may not be sufficiently responsive or holistic in addressing the diverse needs of children regarding housing, sanitation, education, health and nutrition. There is a lack of coordination and integration between government policies and community-based interventions aimed at protecting and promoting children's well-being.

Furthermore, limited public administrative capacity, inadequate resource allocation, and insufficient public support for child welfare programs have been observed as a factor that undermined the effectiveness of interventions in Ibadan. Without a comprehensive and systematic approach, the public administration may struggle to address the underlying factors affecting children's welfare at different levels. Therefore, there is a need to investigate how child welfare programs set up by the ministry of women affairs influences the management of children's welfare in Ibadan, Oyo State.

This study aims to address the gaps in the ministry of women affair program's effectiveness in managing children's welfare in Ibadan by exploring the role of public value creation, legitimacy and support, and operational capability in influencing child welfare management via the provision of necessary amenities like housing, sanitation, nutrition, education and so on. Understanding these dynamics is essential to developing policies and administrative strategies that can better safeguard children's well-being in Ibadan.

1.3.Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of the study is to appraise the effectiveness of Oyo State ministry of Women affairs in the management of children welfare in Ibadan, Oyo State. The specific objectives were to:

- i. Appraise the effectiveness of programs developed by ministry of women affairs for the management of children's welfare in Ibadan Metropolis, Oyo State.
- ii. Examine the effectiveness of children welfare management in the provision of social and basic needs of children in Ibadan Metropolis, Oyo State.
- iii. Ascertain the influence of Oyo state's ministry of women affairs on children's welfare management in Ibadan, Oyo State.
- iv. identify the factors that influences the effectiveness of the Ministry of Women Affairs in managing children's welfare, in Ibadan Metropolis, Oyo State.

1.4. Research Questions

The Study provided answers to the following research questions

1. What is the effectiveness of the programs developed by the Ministry of Women Affairs for the management of children's welfare in Ibadan Metropolis, Oyo State?
2. What is the extent of effectiveness of children welfare management in the provision of social and basic needs of children in Ibadan Metropolis, Oyo State?
3. What are the factors that hamper the effectiveness of the Ministry of Women Affairs in managing children's welfare, in Ibadan Metropolis, Oyo State?

1.5. Significance of the Study

The study titled "Appraisal of Children Welfare Programs in Selected Orphanage Homes in Ibadan, Oyo State (2019 to 2025)" holds significance for various stakeholders by providing valuable insights and recommendations for improving the management of children's welfare. Its relevance to key groups is outlined below: For the Ministry of Women Affairs, the study will provide evidence-based insights into the effectiveness of the Ministry's policies and programs aimed at safeguarding children's welfare. It will identify gaps and challenges in current strategies, offering practical recommendations for improvement. The findings will support the Ministry in aligning its activities with international frameworks and national development goals, thereby enhancing its accountability and performance.

For Public Administrators, the study will deepen public administrators' understanding of their role in ensuring children's welfare, highlighting best practices in policy implementation and service delivery. It will provide guidance on leveraging available resources and building partnerships with stakeholders to address challenges affecting children. Public administrators can use the findings to enhance their capacity for strategic planning and advocacy in managing welfare programs.

For Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the study will serve as a resource for NGOs involved in children's welfare, helping them understand how public administration frameworks affect their interventions. It will highlight opportunities for collaboration with government agencies, including the Ministry of Women Affairs, to maximize the impact of their programs. NGOs can use the findings to design complementary programs that address identified gaps in public administration efforts.

For Researchers, the study will contribute to the body of knowledge on public administration and social welfare, serving as a reference for future studies on related topics. It will identify emerging trends, challenges, and innovations in the management of children's welfare, inspiring further academic exploration. Researchers can build upon the findings to explore comparative studies, policy analysis, or the role of other sectors in children's welfare. By addressing the needs of these stakeholders, the study aims to promote a more effective and coordinated approach to the management of children's welfare, ultimately contributing to societal development and the well-being of future generations.

1.6.Scope of the Study

The title of the study is the appraisal of ministry of women affairs and the management of children welfare in Ibadan, Oyo State. The study would be carried out in Ibadan metropolis, a city in Nigeria within six months. The timeframe is 2019 – 2025. The respondents of the study are staff of welfare houses in Ibadan, Oyo State.

1.7.Limitation of the Study

The major limitation encountered during the course of the study is in the area of administration of questionnaire where respondents appear unwilling or lackadaisical. The researcher however overcame this limitation through tenacity and consistency as well as patience.

1.8.Operational Definition of Terms

Child Promotion and Participation Program (PnP): This has the responsibility for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, taking into account the best interest of the child and its right to protection from discrimination and enhancing the child's ability to participate in decision-making processes.

Legitimacy and Support: Encompasses the legal, political, and public backing for the actions of women affairs in Ibadan.

Management of Children Welfare: Is an organized system set up by the ministry of women affairs in Ibadan to see to the betterment of children welfare schemes and program

Ministry of Women Affairs:Is the area of practice set up by the state government, that focuses on the implementation of government policies and the management of public programs like management of children welfare in Ibadan, Oyo State

Operational Capability: Is the ability of the public institution(Ministry of women affairs in Ibadan, Oyo State) to efficiently deliver services using available resources.

Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Program: The mandate of the Division is to coordinate, facilitate, monitor and evaluate multi-sectoral National response to OVC phenomenon. It also has the responsibility to coordinate care and support services for OVC, building capacities of stakeholders including families, Communities, Civil Society Organizations to improve welfare and wellbeing as well as protect vulnerable children using integrated approach.

Public Administration: Is the area of practice that focuses on the implementation of government policies and the management of public programs like management of children welfare in Ibadan, Oyo State

Public Value Creation: Is the degree with which the services of public administrators (ministry of women affairs) impact and benefits citizens and society in Ibadan, Oyo State.

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Chapter Two

Literature Review

This chapter examines the existing studies relating to the subject of the current study. It focuses on empirical studies reviewed works, government documents and other relevant information sources necessary to provide a context for the current study. The review examine literature in order to identify trends, patterns, theories and research methods adopted by previous scholars and studies. This is necessary in order to show research gaps and justification for this study.

2.1. Conceptual Review

2.1.1. Child Welfare

Child welfare management refers to the organized administration, coordination, and oversight of policies, programs, and services that safeguard the well-being, development, and rights of children. It encompasses preventive and responsive interventions that protect children from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and deprivation, while promoting their access to essential services such as education, health care, nutrition, shelter, and psychosocial support¹. Effective child welfare management is essential for achieving sustainable development goals, particularly SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

Child welfare management involves a multi-dimensional framework that integrates legal, institutional, and social service systems to respond to the needs of children. It includes the formulation of child-centred policies, strategic planning, resource allocation, training of personnel (e.g., social workers, caregivers), monitoring and evaluation of services, and collaboration with stakeholders such as families,

communities, NGOs, and international organizations². Central to child welfare management is the principle of the “best interests of the child”, a concept derived from Article 3 of the UNCRC, which mandates that children's welfare must be a primary consideration in all decisions and actions affecting them. This principle underscores the need for tailored interventions based on a child's individual circumstances, rather than generalized approaches³.

Literatures have highlighted key component of child welfare scheme which includes policy and legal framework, service delivery systems, case management and social work, monitoring, and evaluation, community and family engagement. Effective child welfare begins with robust legislation and policies. Laws such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) provide foundational rights and obligations for states. Nationally, countries like Nigeria have adopted instruments like the Child Rights Act (CRA) 2003, which outlines legal protections and the responsibilities of government and society in child care and protection⁴. However, the enforcement and domestication of these laws are inconsistent, particularly in federal states with diverse religious and cultural practices.

Service Delivery Systems: Child welfare services encompass a broad array of interventions such as child protection, family support, foster care, adoption services, juvenile justice, and residential care. These services are typically delivered through a combination of government ministries (for example, Ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development), NGOs, community-based organizations, and international agencies. Effective management requires a coordinated and integrated approach to avoid service fragmentation and ensure continuity of care⁵.

Case Management and Social Work: Social workers play a central role in identifying vulnerable children, assessing their needs, planning interventions, and monitoring outcomes. Case management involves structured procedures for intake, needs assessment, planning, implementation, and follow-up. In many African countries, including Nigeria, the child welfare workforce is underdeveloped and under-resourced, leading to caseload overload and limited reach⁶. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) are critical to ensure that child welfare services are effective, accountable, and responsive. M&E involves the use of data systems, indicators, and reporting mechanisms to track the performance of programs and inform policy adjustments. However, many low-income countries lack comprehensive child welfare information systems, which hinders timely decision-making and evidence-based interventions⁷.

Families and communities are the primary caregivers and protection agents for children. Therefore, child welfare management must include strategies that strengthen family capacities through economic empowerment, parenting education, mental health support, and conflict resolution mechanisms. Community-based child protection committees, religious institutions, and traditional leaders can also contribute to localized care and early warning systems⁸.

Several barriers hinder the effective management of child welfare, especially in developing countries. One of the most critical challenges is the persistent lack of adequate funding for social welfare services and child protection mechanisms, which significantly limits the capacity of governments and agencies to respond to children's needs⁷. In addition to financial constraints, there is a widespread shortage of qualified human resources, including trained social workers, psychologists, and child rights advocates. This scarcity undermines the delivery of professional care and support services to vulnerable children.

Cultural practices and deep-rooted social norms also pose serious obstacles to child welfare efforts. In many communities, harmful practices such as child marriage, corporal punishment, and child labour are still prevalent and, in some cases, socially accepted, thereby complicating intervention strategies⁹. Furthermore, weak coordination among service providers often leads to fragmented responses and inefficiencies in case management. The lack of multisectoral integration across education, health, justice, and social services contributes to service duplication and gaps in protection².

Compounding these issues is the impact of conflict and displacement, particularly in regions affected by insurgency or communal violence. Armed conflict disrupts the functioning of welfare systems and increases the vulnerability of children, especially those who are internally displaced or separated from their families¹⁰. Addressing these barriers requires comprehensive, multisectoral strategies, strong political will, and sustained investment in child welfare systems.

In response to the numerous challenges confronting child welfare management, several best practices have emerged that offer promising approaches to improving outcomes. One such practice is integrated service delivery, which involves combining health, education, and child protection services within one-stop centres or through coordinated case management systems. This holistic approach enhances accessibility and ensures that children and their families receive comprehensive support tailored to their needs³. The use of technology has also become a vital tool in strengthening child welfare systems. Digital platforms, such as Child Protection Information Management Systems (CPIMS), facilitate real-time data collection, case monitoring, and service tracking, thereby improving accountability, coordination, and informed decision-making⁷.

Another critical practice is child participation, which emphasizes the involvement of children in decisions that affect their lives. In line with Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), this approach not only respects children's rights but also leads to more meaningful and effective interventions, as children can provide valuable insight into their own experiences and needs. Furthermore, the promotion of public-private partnerships has shown considerable promise in advancing child welfare objectives. By fostering collaboration among governments, civil society organizations, and the private sector, such partnerships enhance resource mobilization, encourage innovation, and expand the reach and quality of services delivered to vulnerable children and families¹¹.

Child welfare programs vary widely across countries, reflecting differences in economic capacity, cultural values, and government priorities. In Sweden, one of the most generous systems in the world provides 480 days of paid parental leave per child, with a portion reserved specifically for fathers. This approach promotes both child development and gender equality in caregiving responsibilities. France, on the other hand, has developed a universal childcare system that ensures affordable, high-quality care for children from three months to three years of age. The system is subsidized by the government, with parents paying on a sliding scale according to their income. In Canada, childcare subsidies are targeted toward low-income families, increasing accessibility, though critics argue that these subsidies may not fully cover costs or address all family circumstances. Japan has prioritized after-school programs run by municipalities, offering supervised environments and developmental activities that support working parents and contribute to children's social growth¹².

In Slovenia, a comprehensive approach to child welfare combines fully paid parental leave, substantial child allowances, and universal access to school meals and holiday

programs. These measures have helped the country achieve one of the lowest child poverty rates in Europe, although challenges remain for marginalized communities. Across the Nordic countries, including Iceland, Sweden, Norway, and Denmark, the Barnahús (“Children’s House”) model has been adopted to provide a child-friendly, one-stop centre for abuse investigations, medical examinations, and social support. This integrated approach minimizes trauma and ensures a coordinated response to child protection cases¹³.

In Africa, Rwanda stands out with its ambitious “Let’s Raise Children in the Family” initiative, which aims to make the country orphanage-free by 2026. The program places children into safe, supportive family environments through networks of trained foster parents known as “Guardian Angels,” replacing institutional care with family-based solutions¹⁴.

Nigeria has also seen notable developments in child welfare through both government and non-governmental efforts. SOS Children’s Villages Nigeria provides alternative care options such as family-like homes, foster care, small group residences, and supervised independent living. They also work toward family reunification and provide access to education, healthcare, and emotional support. The Coalition of Orphanages in Nigeria (COCHIN) coordinates nationwide efforts to offer child protection, education, health and wellness services, vocational skills training, and support for adoption or reunification¹⁵. In 2024, UNICEF supported the launch of Nigeria’s National Guidelines for Alternative Care of Children, which sets standards for caring for vulnerable children, including those in the Almajiri system or children on the move, aiming to protect them from neglect and exploitation¹⁶.

Other Nigerian organizations address specialized needs. The Winford Centre for Children and Women advocates for children with developmental disabilities such as autism and ADHD, and in 2024 it gained observer status with the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. The Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF), active since 1999, works to prevent child trafficking and labour through advocacy, rescue operations, and rehabilitation, influencing national policy in the process¹⁷.

Overall, child welfare programs across countries range from parental leave and childcare provision in developed nations to family-based care reforms and protection against exploitation in developing contexts. While strategies differ, the central aim remains the same: ensuring children grow up in safe, nurturing environments that promote their physical, emotional, and social well-being.

2.1.2. Public Administration

Contemporary public administration takes various forms, with institutions and organizations operating semi-autonomously while delivering essential public services and addressing social issues. These entities are interdependent, requiring collaboration to navigate complex challenges and adapt to the evolving needs of the communities they serve. The primary and ongoing challenge they face is ensuring high-quality public administration that effectively meets societal demands amidst uncertainty and change. Public Administration, in broad terms, involves the development, implementation, and analysis of government policies. It is dedicated to promoting the public good and strengthening civil society by ensuring that public services are efficient, fair, and effective in achieving the goals of the state. As a discipline, Public Administration is deeply connected to advancing social justice and enhancing civil

society, striving to improve the quality of life for citizens. This is accomplished through the efforts of officials within government institutions, ensuring these institutions function effectively at local, regional, and national levels to fulfil their objectives.

Public administration lacks a universally accepted definition, as various scholars have noted its complexity and evolving nature. Scholars all highlight the difficulty in defining and describing public administration comprehensively¹⁸. A scholar further emphasizes that providing examples of public administration does not equate to defining it¹⁹. However, multiple definitions have emerged based on different theoretical perspectives, including the open system approach described by some authors which views public administration as: A system of structures and processes operating within a given society to facilitate the formulation of appropriate governmental policies and A mechanism for efficiently executing these formulated policies²⁰.

A scholar provides several definitions of public administration: Public Administration as Government Operations: Public administration encompasses the executive branch of government, the civil service, and bureaucracy. It involves the formulation, implementation, evaluation, and modification of public policy. This definition underscores the role of public administration in promoting government-society relationships, advancing policies that address social needs, and ensuring managerial efficiency within public bureaucracies².

Public Administration as Government Decision-Making and Leadership: Public administration involves various functions such as decision-making, planning, establishing goals, and collaborating with legislative and civil organizations to secure public support and funding for government programs. Additionally, it includes organizational structuring, employee supervision, leadership provision, communication,

performance appraisal, and control mechanisms. This perspective highlights public administration as the practical means through which governmental objectives are realized².

Public Administration as a Multifaceted Field of Activity: Public administration consists of various activities performed by officials within public institutions, aimed at delivering goods and services to benefit society. These activities fall into three categories: **Generic administrative functions:** policy-making, financing, organizing, staffing, work procedure determination, and control methods. **Functional activities:** specific services such as education, public health, defence, and public works. **Auxiliary functions:** decision-making, data processing, planning, and communication, which support the execution of both generic and functional activities².

From these definitions, public administration can be understood as a set of activities distinct from legislative and judicial functions, primarily focused on implementing public policies. The ultimate goal is to effectively mobilize human and material resources to achieve governmental objectives, such as providing essential services to improve societal well-being. The efficiency of public officials in executing policies significantly influences the success or failure of public administration. Moreover, the environment in which public administrators operate affects their capacity to achieve governmental goals.

Various scholars debate the distinction between administration and management, with some arguing that they are fundamentally the same but applied in different contexts²¹. Scholars posit that administration applies to civil service, while management is associated with the industrial sector; however, both concepts revolve around similar principles and functions. The study of public administration is inherently historical, as

it aims to understand its origins and evolution. A scholar defines administrative history as "the study of the origins and evolution of administrative ideas, institutions, and practices²²." Similarly, some authors describe it as "the study of structures and processes in and ideas about government as they have existed or have been envisioned in the past, along with the role of public officials therein"²³.

The development of public administration as a discipline and practice has been influenced by historical frameworks of community service. This historical evolution is evident in the scholarly literature that has contributed to the recognition of public administration as a scientific field of study. Public administration is a dynamic and multifaceted discipline that plays a crucial role in governance. While definitions vary, scholars generally agree that it involves the execution of government policies, decision-making, and resource management to enhance public service delivery. Furthermore, its historical development provides insight into its evolution as both a field of study and a practical function of government institutions.

A researcher's work on public administration is considered the first scientific approach to the field, as he integrated perspectives from sociology, political science, administrative law, and public finance. He demonstrated that public administration is a discipline that blends both theory and practice. His contributions are particularly relevant to this study because the success of any policy proposal depends on how well it addresses the needs of its intended beneficiaries. Policy implementation serves as the crucial interface between policy formulation and service delivery²⁴. Another scholar classified as one of the 'First-Generation' writers, played a significant role in shaping the science of public administration. His influential arguments include: The separation of politics and public administration; The consideration of government from a

commercial perspective and A comparative analysis of political and private organizations, emphasizing the necessity of effective management through training civil servants and assessing their performance²⁵.

In a seminal essay, "The Study of Administration" a scholar argued that civil servants should possess knowledge of taxation, statistics, and administration, as government policies heavily depend on revenue generated from taxes. Furthermore, he asserted that policy expenditures should be aligned with the population they aim to serve. His notion of separating politics from administration influenced the Second-Generation writers, such as researcher, who adopted Henri Fayol's scientific management principles to enhance efficiency in both private and public institutions²⁶.

Third-Generation writers challenged the separation of politics and public administration. During this period, debates about bureaucracy intensified, particularly in the United States, following the Watergate scandal and the failed American intervention in Vietnam. Some scholars suggested that national bureaucrats aimed to expand their budgets, while pluralists argued that officials primarily served the public interest. This debate extended to public school funding and the allocation of resources²⁷. These generational debates within public administration have raised critical questions regarding governance and efficiency. The evolution of public administration has been explored in this study to categorize various schools of thought and to understand the intellectual foundations that shaped different authors' contributions to the field¹⁰.

From all the definitions, it is clear that the authors have viewed them from two perspectives: (1) The narrow perspectives (2) The broad perspectives. Those in the narrow perspective category simply views public administration as only having to do with those activities concerned with the executive branch of government while those in

the broad perspective category consider it to include all governmental activities having for their purpose the fulfilment of public policy. All said, the following could be deduced as the characteristics of public administration anywhere in the world.

Characteristics of Public Administration

- i. It is found in a political setting.
- ii. It operates within a political context.
- iii. It cuts across all organs or arms of government.
- iv. It has its own organizational structures and machinery for carrying out its tasks or put in another way it is bureaucratic.
- v. Though its main role is to implement government policies, it is also involved in policy formulation and evaluation.
- vi. It is the totality of government in action or the action part of government.
- vii. It manages government business or all that government wants to do or not to do.
- viii. In carrying out its tasks, it plans, organizes, staff, directs, coordinates, reports and prepares budgets for achieving set goals.
- ix. It is the means by which the policy decisions made by authoritative political decision-makers are carried out.
- x. It is any kind of administration in the general public interest.
- xi. It engages in the systematic ordering of public affairs and data gathering.
- xii. It is a cooperative group effort for achieving goals in a public setting.
- xiii. It is a network of human relationships and associated activities for accomplishing the life of the society.
- xiv. It is concerned with "the what" and "the how" of government for example, what a government does, how a government organizes its staff, finances and work¹⁰.

A scholar provides a similar overview or summary of public administration this way:

Public administration is:

- (i) decision making;
- (ii) planning the work to be done;
- (iii) formulating objectives and goals;
- (iv) working with the legislative and citizen organizations to gain public support and funds for government programmes;
- (v) establishing and revising organization;
- (vi) directing and supervising employees;
- (vii) providing leadership;
- (viii) communicating and receiving communications;
- (ix) determining work methods and procedures;
- (x) appraising performance;
- (xi) exercising controls, and other functions performed by government executives and supervisors²⁸.

In this study, Public Administration is measured by the three constructs of Public Value Theory by Mark Moore which are public value creation, Legitimacy and support and Operational capability of the ministry of women affairs, a governmental organization that sees to the affairs of child and children development and care. Mark H. Moore's Public Value Theory introduces the "Strategic Triangle," a framework comprising three interdependent components: Public Value, Legitimacy and Support, and Operational Capacity. This model guides public managers in creating value for society through strategic public sector initiatives²⁹.

The public value as a component of public value theory focuses on defining the societal benefits that a public initiative aims to deliver. It involves identifying specific outcomes that represent improvements in public welfare, moving beyond mere service delivery to achieving meaningful societal impact. Public managers or public administrators are encouraged to articulate clear public value propositions that outline the intended benefits of their actions. This requires a deep understanding of what constitutes "progress" or "improvement" in a given context and how such outcomes can be measured³⁰.

Legitimacy and Support as a component of public value theory which iterates that public initiatives to succeed, they must garner legitimacy and support from stakeholders, including citizens, elected officials, and other relevant parties. This involves building and maintaining a coalition that authorizes and sustains the initiative, ensuring it aligns with public values and receives the necessary backing. Without such support, even well-conceived projects may struggle to secure funding or political approval, hindering their implementation.

This component pertains to the practical means and resources required to deliver the desired public value. It encompasses the skills, technologies, partnerships, and organizational structures necessary to implement public initiatives effectively. Public managers must assess existing capacities and, when necessary, develop new capabilities or collaborate with other organizations to achieve their objectives. This ensures that the initiative is not only well-supported and valuable in theory but also feasible and sustainable in practice. The interplay among these three components is crucial³¹. A public initiative must offer clear value, be supported by legitimate authority, and possess the operational means to achieve its goals. Aligning these elements enables

public managers to navigate complex environments, make strategic decisions, and effectively serve the public interest.

Effectiveness of ministry of women affairs is seen and observed from difference social amenities provided for and enjoyed by the citizens. Some of the dimensions and indicators were selected to monitor the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): access to safe drinking water, access to improved sanitation, and health and nutrition as well as access to education³².

To start with housing, a home is universally recognized as a space where a child should be able to eat, laugh, play, and live in security and dignity. However, despite this fundamental expectation, more than 198 million children in sub-Saharan Africa experience severe shelter deprivation, lacking access to safe and adequate housing. Housing is a critical component of material well-being, and the right to decent housing is acknowledged by most governments and international organizations³³. Research indicates that children living in substandard housing conditions are nearly twice as likely to experience poor health outcomes compared to their peers in better living environments³⁴. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, which is legally binding for its 41 signatory nations, including Nigeria, explicitly addresses the right to adequate housing for children. According to the United Nations, a child is considered housing-deprived if their household lacks improved flooring, roofing, or wall materials. Further, housing deprivation is not merely an issue of basic living standards; it significantly impacts physical and mental health, as emphasized by scholars and the World Health Organization³⁵. Given the well-documented relationship between inadequate housing and adverse health effects, addressing childhood housing

deprivation must be a priority for policymakers and humanitarian organizations to ensure sustainable child well-being.

Children have an inherent right to safe drinking water and proper sanitation facilities. Beyond being a fundamental human right, access to adequate water and sanitation services plays a crucial role in children's health, education, well-being, and social development. Furthermore, improvements in these areas contribute significantly to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), previously known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)³⁶. Ensuring access to these basic services enhances quality of life, health outcomes, and educational opportunities, ultimately increasing economic productivity and social inclusion for disadvantaged populations³⁷. Public utilities, particularly water supply and sanitation, are essential for poverty reduction and improving living standards at the household level³⁸. Studies have consistently demonstrated a strong correlation between access to clean water and sanitation and reductions in childhood morbidity and mortality. Despite this, many African countries fell short of meeting the MDG targets, and basic utility access remains a critical challenge. Globally, more than one billion people face extreme water deprivation, and approximately 40% of the population lacks access to clean sanitation services³⁹.

Moreover, Oyo State Government has been lauded for its commitment to the welfare of the less privileged, particularly through the revitalization of correctional centres for juvenile and neglected children. In a recent development, the State Government has doubled the feeding allowance for children in government-controlled juvenile homes and homes for children with special needs. This follows its effort to evacuate many vulnerable children across the State, place them in these centres, and enrol those of

school-going age in public schools. The founder of Boyz Quarters Africa, an organization dedicated to supporting juveniles in correctional homes and those behind bars, Mr. Solomon Ayodele, commended the State for its proactive approach in addressing youth restlessness and crime. Speaking during a program titled "Rising Beyond the Odds of Life", organized by Boyz Quarters Africa at the Juvenile Correctional Institution and Child Care Unit in Ijokodo, Ibadan, Ayodele praised the government's strides in child welfare. "Oyo State is taking the lead in caring for juvenile and neglected children in Nigeria. We have visited various correctional homes and observed significant improvements. While there is still room for growth, the State has made commendable efforts," he said⁴⁰.

He emphasized the importance of societal reintegration for juveniles, stating, "If every community prioritizes rehabilitating these young ones and providing them with proper care, issues like insurgency reported in the northern part of the country will become a thing of the past. In developed countries, welfare programs ensure that less privileged children and those who have made mistakes are reintegrated into society. This is an approach we must adopt." The Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Inclusion, Alhaja Faosat Sanni, highlighted the government's commitment to economic and social empowerment, poverty eradication, free and compulsory quality education, and accessible healthcare for children. She stressed that basic human needs should be provided at no cost, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children, youths, and women²³.

According to UNICEF and WHO, access to safe drinking water is determined by the percentage of the population using "improved" water sources, including piped household connections, public standpipes, boreholes, protected dug wells, protected

springs, and rainwater collection systems⁴¹. A household is considered water deprived if it lacks access to a household pipe, a neighbour's pipe, a public outdoor tap, or a protected well—and all household members are consequently affected. Similarly, improved sanitation facilities play a vital role in ensuring environmental sustainability and reducing disease transmission. These facilities include connections to public sewers, septic systems, pour-flush latrines, simple pit latrines, and ventilated improved pit latrines⁴². Enhancing access to these critical services is essential for safeguarding children's rights, promoting public health, and advancing global development goals.

Another indicator of effective administration is the provision of good healthcare system. Improving the health of children is a key factor in tackling poverty. The need to focus on infancy and childhood is paramount, given that increasing evidence from developmental health research suggests that the early years of development play a vital role in creating and maintaining socioeconomic health inequalities through to adulthood⁴³. For the purpose of this study, a child was considered severely health deprived if they had not received any of the eight immunizations recommended by the WHO's Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) and have not received vitamin A supplementation.

Availability of food is one of the major factors of survival and good living that must be taken care of by public office holders. The lack of proper nutrition, particularly during the early years of a child's life, can have irreversible consequences inhibiting the potential of a child to lead a healthy and productive life. Out of the 10 countries contributing to 60% of the world's wasted children under five, Nigeria ranks the second (Malnutrition is measured using three well-recognized parameters: stunting (height for age), wasting (weight for height), and underweight (weight for age)).

Education is a fundamental pillar of public administration, serving as a critical tool for social development, economic growth, and governance effectiveness. Public administration plays a crucial role in ensuring equitable access to quality education, which directly influences human capital development, poverty reduction, and national progress⁴⁴. As a public good, education is often managed, regulated, and funded by government institutions to foster national development and enhance civic participation. Governments, through public administration structures, design education policies, allocate resources, and implement strategies to ensure inclusive and equitable education for all citizens. These efforts are aligned with global development goals, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 4), which advocate for quality education and lifelong learning opportunities⁴⁵.

Some group of scholars summed that 'early investments in children's health, education, and development have benefits that compound throughout the child's lifetime, for their future children and society as a whole. Also, that successful societies invest in their children and protect their rights, as is evident from countries that have done well on health and economic measures over the past few decades⁴⁶.

Two critical measures in child welfare management are Child Participation Programs and Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Programs. These initiatives aim to protect children's rights, promote their well-being, and enhance their ability to contribute meaningfully to society. Child participation refers to the process of actively involving children in decision-making processes that affect their lives. This approach is grounded in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), particularly Articles 12 and 13, which emphasize the right of children to express their views and have them considered in matters concerning their welfare. The objectives of

the programs include: Empowerment of Children- these programs provide children with the necessary skills and confidence to express their opinions and advocate for their rights. Improved Policy and Service Delivery: Policies and programs that include children's perspectives tend to be more effective and relevant to their needs. Enhancement of Social Responsibility: Encouraging children to engage in community development fosters a sense of responsibility and belonging. Protection from Abuse and Exploitation: By allowing children to participate in discussions about their safety and rights, these programs help to identify and address issues of abuse and neglect.

Examples of Child Participation Programs: Children's Parliaments: Platforms where children can voice their concerns and propose solutions to issues affecting them. School-Based Child Rights Clubs: Groups that educate children on their rights and responsibilities while promoting peer-to-peer advocacy. Youth Advisory Committees: Panels where children provide input on policies and services designed for them as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), particularly Articles 12 and 13⁴⁷.

Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Programs focus on providing care, support, and protection to children who are deprived of parental care due to various circumstances, including HIV/AIDS, armed conflicts, natural disasters, and extreme poverty. Objectives of OVC Programs includes Provision of Basic Needs: Ensuring access to food, shelter, clothing, and healthcare for orphans and vulnerable children. Access to Quality Education: Supporting educational opportunities through scholarships, school feeding programs, and provision of learning materials. Psychosocial Support and Counselling: Addressing emotional and psychological needs to help children cope with trauma and loss. Economic Empowerment: Providing

vocational training and livelihood support to older children to enhance their self-sufficiency. Legal Protection and Advocacy: Ensuring that children's rights are upheld through legal interventions and advocacy efforts³⁸.

Examples of OVC Programs: Community-Based Care Initiatives- Foster care systems and extended family support structures. HIV/AIDS Support Programs- Comprehensive care for children affected by HIV/AIDS, including medical treatment and social support. Education and Skills Training- Programs that equip OVC with technical and vocational skills for future self-reliance. Cash Transfer and Social Protection Schemes- Direct financial support to families and caregivers to reduce economic hardship³⁸.

Overall, both Child Participation Programs and OVC Programs are essential components of child welfare management. While child participation empowers children to be active stakeholders in their communities, OVC programs provide much-needed care and protection to the most vulnerable. Implementing and strengthening these programs ensures that children, regardless of their circumstances, are given the opportunity to thrive and contribute to society.

In summary, public administration is a complex and evolving field, making it difficult to define comprehensively. Scholars have approached it from different theoretical perspectives, including the open system approach, which views public administration as both a mechanism for policy formulation and an efficient system for executing policies. Public administration is often associated with government operations, decision-making, and leadership, playing a crucial role in governance by mobilizing resources, implementing policies, and ensuring service delivery. Some scholars differentiate administration from management, arguing that the former applies to public institutions while the latter is linked to the industrial sector. However, both share

common principles such as decision-making, planning, and resource management. Historically, public administration has developed as a discipline influenced by political science, sociology, and administrative law. The field has been shaped by foundational thinkers who introduced concepts like the separation of politics from administration, efficiency in governance, and bureaucratic accountability.

Over time, public administration has evolved through various generational debates. Early scholars emphasized administrative efficiency, scientific management, and the training of civil servants. Later, the Second-Generation scholars integrated management principles into public administration, while the Third-Generation scholars challenged the strict separation of politics from administration, particularly in response to governance crises such as the Watergate scandal. These discussions have led to two main perspectives on public administration: the narrow perspective, which focuses solely on executive branch activities, and the broad perspective, which includes all government functions aimed at fulfilling public policy. Despite varying definitions, key characteristics of public administration worldwide include policy execution, resource management, bureaucratic structure, and its dynamic role in addressing public needs.

2.1.3. Ministry of Women Affairs

The Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Welfare plays a crucial role in addressing issues related to women and children, focusing on empowerment, protection, and welfare. Various countries have established ministries or departments dedicated to these causes, implementing policies and programs to improve the lives of women and children. The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development is a key part of the Federal Ministries of Nigeria, dedicated to promoting the development and well-being of women and children in the country⁴⁸. The Ministry is headed by a Minister

appointed by the President and is supported by a Permanent Secretary, who is a career civil servant. The Ministry's primary objectives include: Encouraging the civic, political, social, and economic participation of women; Coordinating and monitoring women's programs; Providing technical and financial support to women-focused Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), particularly the National Council of Women Societies.

The establishment of ministries dedicated to women and child welfare highlights the importance placed on these issues by governments. For instance, the Ministry of Women Family and Community Development in Malaysia was formed in 2004, emphasizing child protection and welfare¹. Similarly, in India, the Ministry of Women and Child Development collaborates with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to improve child nutrition.

In Indonesia, the Ministry of Female Empowerment and Child Protection focuses on preventing sexual violence against women. The ministry implements policies and programs to change societal mindsets about patriarchal culture and collaborates with various parties to reduce sexual violence⁴⁹. In Nigeria, the Ministry of Gender Affairs plays a role in preventing illegal child adoption, working with social workers to ensure proper adoption processes and follow-up for child safety. The Ministry of Women's Affairs in Côte d'Ivoire, led by Jeanne Gervais, focused on gender complementarity rather than feminism, aiming to empower women while aligning with cultural values⁵⁰. In Zimbabwe, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development reflects a national commitment to gender equality, although its broad scope may dilute focus on gender-specific issues⁵¹. The Ministry of Social Welfare and Development in the Philippines, reorganized in 1987, includes bureaus

dedicated to family, community, women, and child welfare, providing services like day care and centres for vulnerable groups⁵². In Maharashtra, India, the Women and Child Welfare Department provides education, training, and protection services, focusing on empowering women through self-help groups and addressing the needs of vulnerable populations⁵³.

Ministries dedicated to women and child welfare are essential for implementing policies and programs that address the unique challenges faced by these groups. They play a critical role in promoting gender equality, preventing violence, and ensuring the welfare and development of women and children across various regions. These ministries often face challenges such as societal norms, resource allocation, and the need for intersectoral collaboration to achieve their goals effectively.

Historically, the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development was established in response to the United Nations' agreement to create institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women. It evolved from the National Commission for Women, which was formed in 1989 through a decree. The creation of the Commission was spearheaded by Dr. Mrs. Maryam Babangida, the wife of the then Head of State. Initially, the Commission operated as a government institution but faced challenges such as insufficient funding and dependence on initiatives led by the First Lady. One such initiative was the Better Life Programme for Rural Women. In 1995, the Commission was elevated to the status of a full-fledged Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development. This upgrade aligned with the critical goals of the Beijing Platform for Action. However, the Ministry continued to face challenges, such as inadequate budget allocations and a lack of technical cadre, which affected its credibility and ability to function on equal footing with other ministries⁴⁸.

Subsequent First Ladies, such as Mrs. Maryam Sani Abacha, introduced initiatives like the Family Support and Economic Advancement Programme. However, these efforts were often welfare-focused, addressing immediate needs without integrating gender awareness into mainstream national development planning. The Ministry aims to build a Nigerian society that ensures equal access to social, economic, and wealth creation opportunities, regardless of gender. It prioritizes the protection and empowerment of vulnerable groups, including children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. The Ministry is responsible for:

1. Reviewing laws that impact women and advocating for legal reforms.
2. Implementing economic empowerment programs, such as bee-keeping, pottery, and vegetable oil production, by providing equipment and training to women's cooperatives.
3. Advising the government on issues related to gender equality, children, persons with disabilities, and the elderly.
4. Leading gender mainstreaming efforts at both the national and international levels.
5. Promoting literacy and health programs for women.
6. Developing workplace policies, including the 2007 policy on HIV/AIDS, to support affected individuals⁴⁸.

To achieve its objectives, the Ministry:

- Conducts research on women's activities and achievements;
- Serves as a databank on Women and Development (WAD) in Nigeria;
- Assists in policy formulation across employment, health, agriculture, and finance sectors;
- Provides training in skills development, income generation, and leadership;
- Establishes forums for guidance, counselling, and mobilization of women in both urban

and rural areas; Collaborates with national, regional, and international agencies involved in women's development programs⁵⁴. Through these efforts, the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development continues to play a crucial role in enhancing gender equality and promoting the well-being of Nigerian women and children.

Moreover, the child development department is one of the programme departments of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development. The mission of the department is to provide an enabling environment that will ensure the maximum and holistic development of the Nigerian child through well-articulated policies, projects and programmes that would enhance the quality of his/her life and enable him/her contribute towards national development. The department is the national mechanism established to handle all matters relating to the total well-being and development of the Nigerian child. It is to give visibility to children, coordinate activities, monitor progress and promote a comprehensive and integrated agenda for the realization of children's rights. The child in this regard refers to any person below 18 years, in line with UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which the 'Child Right's Act, 2003 upholds.

The Department is strategically structured into two divisions namely: Promotion, Protection and Participation (PnP) and Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC). The various interventions of the department are grouped under four (4) pillars of Child Rights viz; Survival, Development, Protection and Participation³⁸.

The Promotion and Participation division has the responsibility for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, taking into account the best interest of the child and its right to protection from discrimination and enhancing the child's ability to

participate in decision-making processes. The division has two branches namely: Promotion & Participation and Child Survival, Care & Social Services, each with its own areas of interventions. Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Division: The mandate of the Division is to coordinate, facilitate, monitor and evaluate multi-sectoral National response to OVC phenomenon. It also has the responsibility to coordinate care and support services for OVC, building capacities of stakeholders including families, Communities, Civil Society Organizations to improve welfare and wellbeing as well as protect vulnerable children using integrated approach⁵⁵.

In the United States, child or children welfare services are intended to, prevent the abuse or neglect of children; ensure that children have safe, permanent homes; and promote the well-being of children and their families. As the U.S. Constitution has been interpreted, states bear the primary responsibility for ensuring the welfare of children and their families. In recent years, Congress has appropriated just above or below \$8 billion in federal support dedicated to child welfare purposes. Most of those dollars (97%-98%) were provided to state, tribal, or territorial child welfare agencies (via formula grants or as federal reimbursement for a part of all eligible program costs). Federal involvement in state administration of child welfare activities is primarily tied to this financial assistance.

The remaining federal dollars dedicated to child welfare purposes are provided, primarily on a competitive basis, to a variety of eligible entities to support research, evaluation, technical assistance, and demonstration projects to expand knowledge and improve child welfare practice and policy. At the federal level, child welfare programs are primarily administered by the Children's Bureau, which is an agency within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) at the U.S. Department of Health and

Human Services (HHS). However, three competitive grant programs (authorized by the Victims of Child Abuse Act) are administered by the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) within the Department of Justice (DOJ)⁵⁶.

In summary the Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Welfare plays a vital role in addressing issues related to the empowerment, protection, and welfare of women and children. Various countries, including Nigeria, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the United States, have established ministries or departments dedicated to these causes. In Nigeria, the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development evolved from the National Commission for Women, established in 1989, to promote gender equality, economic empowerment, and child protection. It is responsible for legal reforms, economic empowerment programs, gender mainstreaming, and literacy and health initiatives. The ministry also supports NGOs and collaborates with international organizations to improve women's and children's welfare. However, challenges such as inadequate funding, resource allocation, and societal norms affect its effectiveness.

The child development department within the ministry focuses on ensuring the holistic growth and rights of Nigerian children, especially through policies aligned with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It operates through two divisions: Promotion, Protection, and Participation (PnP) and Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC). These divisions work on legal protection, child participation in decision-making, and support for vulnerable children. Similarly, in the U.S., child welfare services, primarily managed by the Children's Bureau under the Department of Health and Human Services, aim to prevent child abuse, ensure safe homes, and support child well-being. Funded mainly through federal and state resources, these services include competitive grants for research and technical assistance. Despite efforts globally, ministries

dedicated to women and children's welfare often face challenges that require strong intersectoral collaboration and sustained government commitment.

2.1.4. Management of Children Welfare

Children's welfare management is a critical aspect of social development that involves the protection, care, and well-being of children to ensure their physical, emotional, and psychological needs are met. Effective management of children's welfare includes policy formulation, implementation of child protection programs, provision of healthcare, education, and social support services. Various international organizations, such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as local governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), play a crucial role in ensuring children's rights and welfare are safeguarded⁵⁷.

Child welfare is defined as a set of government and private services primarily designed to protect children from child maltreatment, encourage family stability, and, when necessary, arrange foster care and adoptions and child protection services (CPS) as a narrower set of services within child welfare that investigate allegations of child⁵⁸. The opposite is Child maltreatment which includes physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, neglect, and children's exposure to intimate partner violence. It is a prevalent experience with many potentially serious negative consequences, such as injuries, developmental delay, anxiety and mood disorder symptoms, poor peer relationships, substance use and other risky behaviours⁵⁹.

Looking at the seriousness of child welfare management Scholars, have identified two distinct approaches to addressing child maltreatment: the child safety approach and the

child and family welfare approach. The child safety approach places primary responsibility for handling cases of child maltreatment on government agencies, which focus on investigation and intervention to ensure the immediate safety of children⁶⁰. In contrast, the child and family welfare approach takes a broader perspective, with child welfare organizations not only responding to allegations of maltreatment but also addressing the needs of other vulnerable children through preventative and supportive services. This approach emphasizes family-centred interventions aimed at reducing risks before maltreatment occurs. At the time of their study, countries such as Canada, the United States, and Australia had adopted the child safety approach, prioritizing investigative procedures. Meanwhile, nations including New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and various western European countries had implemented the child and family welfare approach, focusing on early intervention and service provision to support children and families holistically⁶¹.

A significant portion of the economy in developing countries operates within a non-monetary framework, particularly among the rural poor⁶². This reality makes assessing child deprivation more complex, as children generally lack financial autonomy and are dependent on their households' economic conditions for well-being. Since children cannot be considered full economic agents capable of securing their own income or making independent consumption decisions, their deprivation must be examined in relation to their households' status. Children are highly susceptible to deprivation due to their reliance on public goods and services for meeting their basic needs, particularly in areas such as health, nutrition, education, and sanitation⁶³. Research has highlighted the severe impact of deprivation on child welfare. For instance, 25% of households with children under the age of seven experience stunted growth due to malnutrition. In Nigeria, where the total child population is approximately 59.1 million, 44% suffer

from water deprivation, 26% from inadequate sanitation, and 45.1% from a lack of proper shelter⁶⁴.

Failure to address these fundamental multidimensional deprivations puts children at risk of exploitation, rights violations, and dehumanization⁶⁵. Therefore, a comprehensive approach that considers the economic, social, and environmental factors influencing child deprivation is crucial for ensuring sustainable child welfare policies.

Children in Nigeria often face many problems such as poor health, lack of access to quality education, food and social insecurity, and lack of care. Scholars reported that 52.6% of the total children in the country in the year 2000 were deprived of the basic human needs⁶⁶. Nearly fifty per cent of Africa's children live in some form of housing deprivation. Each year in Nigeria, nearly one million children die before their fifth birthday. One-quarter of these children, 241,000, die in the first month of life as newborns. In spite of effort to reduce infant mortality, Nigeria still maintains a high ranking of under-five mortality rate in the world⁶⁷. UNICEF also reports that 43% of children in sub-Saharan Africa do not have safe, accessible drinking water. 64% of children in sub-Saharan Africa do not have adequate sanitation. The United Nations System's Survey on Nigeria reveals that although only 52.8% of Nigerians have access to adequate sanitation, the rural areas are most hit⁶⁸. The African Development Report also put Nigerian rural dwellers among the most deprived Africans in terms of sanitation. Too many poor children die from avoidable diseases, and millions die or fall sick for lack of food and safe drinking water⁶⁹.

In lieu of the above, Child wellbeing must be looked into as it is closely linked to the activities of government, community, organizations, family, and parents to protect them. Thus, fulfilling their rights and values at early stage of childhood would certainly

transform them to achieve their full potentials and to participate actively in the society. A scholar asserted that child deprivation specifically should be looked at in several dimensions as it is multidimensional⁷⁰.

Child welfare management encompasses a range of strategies and practices aimed at ensuring the safety, well-being, and development of children and their families. This field is characterized by a systematic approach to addressing individual needs through case management, policy reform, and collaborative efforts among various stakeholders. Child welfare services represent a continuum of support designed to promote positive outcomes for children. These services include prevention programs, family support initiatives, and interventions for those at risk of maltreatment. The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) plays a vital role in funding and providing technical assistance to state and tribal child welfare programs, ensuring that families receive the necessary support⁷¹.

The management of children's welfare is based on several fundamental principles: Best Interests of the Child: Policies and programs should prioritize the child's best interests in all circumstances. Protection from Harm and Abuse: Children should be safeguarded from neglect, abuse, exploitation, and violence. Access to Education and Healthcare: Every child has the right to quality education and healthcare. Family and Community Support: Strengthening families and communities is essential in ensuring the proper development of children. Participation and Rights of the Child: Children should have the right to express their opinions in matters affecting them⁷².

Key Aspects of Children's Welfare Management includes child protection services, education and development programs, healthcare and nutrition, family and community support. Child protection services are designed to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect,

and exploitation. These services include: Social work interventions and foster care programs; Child protection laws and enforcement mechanisms and Community-based programs to prevent child trafficking and child labour. Access to quality education is a fundamental right of children and plays a vital role in their development. Effective education and development programs include: Early childhood education initiatives; School feeding programs to address malnutrition and Special education programs for children with disabilities. More so, proper healthcare and nutrition are crucial for children's growth and overall well-being. Strategies include: Immunization programs to prevent diseases; Nutritional programs to combat malnutrition and access to mental health services for children experiencing trauma. Family and community support systems play a vital role in ensuring children's welfare. Programs include: Parenting education and support groups; Community-based interventions for child welfare; Economic empowerment programs for families to reduce child poverty⁷³.

Case management in child welfare is a structured method for organizing and delivering services tailored to the specific needs of children and their families. It aims to address issues systematically and timely, ensuring that interventions are appropriate and effective. This approach is particularly crucial in both emergency and developmental contexts, where child protection concerns arise. The case management process typically follows several key steps: Assessment: Identifying the needs of the child and family. Planning: Developing a tailored intervention strategy. Implementation: Coordinating services and supports. Monitoring: Tracking progress and making adjustments as necessary. Evaluation: Assessing outcomes to inform future practices. These steps are guided by principles such as prioritizing the best interests of the child, ensuring accountability, and fostering family empowerment⁷⁴.

Collaboration between child welfare agencies, public health organizations, and community services is essential for identifying at-risk families early and connecting them with preventive resources. By fostering partnerships that reflect community diversity, child welfare systems can enhance their effectiveness in serving vulnerable populations

Management of child welfare will be measured using the two programs of the ministry of women affairs namely, promotion and participation (PnP) division: The Promotion and Participation division has the responsibility for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, taking into account the best interest of the child and its right to protection from discrimination and enhancing the child's ability to participate in decision-making processes. Promotion & Participation and Child Survival, Care & Social Services, each with its own areas of interventions. orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) division: The mandate of the division is to coordinate, facilitate, monitor and evaluate multi-sectoral National response to OVC phenomenon. It also has the responsibility to coordinate care and support services for OVC, building capacities of stakeholders including families, Communities, Civil Society Organizations to improve welfare and wellbeing as well as protect vulnerable children using integrated approach³⁸.

In summary, Children's welfare management is a crucial aspect of social development that involves safeguarding the well-being of children through policy formulation, child protection programs, healthcare, education, and social support services. Organizations such as UNICEF and WHO, along with local governments and NGOs, play a vital role in addressing child maltreatment, which includes physical abuse, neglect, and exposure to violence. Scholars have identified two primary approaches to child welfare: the child

safety approach, which focuses on intervention and investigation, and the child and family welfare approach, which emphasizes early intervention and support services. In developing countries like Nigeria, child deprivation is a significant challenge, with high rates of malnutrition, poor sanitation, and inadequate healthcare leading to high child mortality rates. Addressing these deprivations requires a multidimensional approach that considers economic, social, and environmental factors influencing child well-being.

Effective child welfare management is based on key principles such as prioritizing the best interests of the child, ensuring protection from harm, access to education and healthcare, and strengthening family and community support. Child welfare services include child protection interventions, education programs, healthcare initiatives, and social support systems to reduce child poverty and improve quality of life. Case management plays a critical role in organizing and delivering services, following steps such as assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Collaboration among child welfare agencies, public health organizations, and community services enhances the effectiveness of interventions. In Nigeria, the Ministry of Women Affairs oversees child welfare programs through divisions such as the Promotion and Participation division, which protects children's rights and encourages their participation in decision-making, and the Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) division, which coordinates care and support services for at-risk children.

2.1.4.1 Challenges Faced in Managing Children's Welfare

Child welfare management is fraught with numerous challenges that hinder effective service delivery. These challenges range from systemic and structural issues to resource constraints and workforce-related difficulties. A concern that calls for urgent attention

in Nigeria is poor child welfare system or the absence of implementation of child welfare policies. This is because the Nigerian child tends to lack care and protection, amidst a non-responsive child welfare system⁷⁵. Amidst different factors, a scholar found that neo-liberalism is a monster that has caused a great damage to Nigeria child welfare scheme as enshrined in the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The rise of neoliberal economic policies as the dominant policy framework in Nigeria reduced child welfare policies to nothing, especially in the area of education and health. It was found that so many children are out of school, hawking and doing all sorts of things because they cannot afford exorbitant school fees. To buttress this point, the introduction of the neoliberal economy has led to a decline in school enrolment among children. The attributing factor is the economic situation of their parents who battle with static salaries, “no work no pay” issues due to strike actions. Also, constant strikes in Nigerian government schools affect the academic performance of children of poor masses while children of the rich, politicians, and legislators attend private schools in Nigeria or abroad.

Most important dimensions of neoliberal economic policies in Nigeria which are relevant in understanding the problem of child welfare issues are privatization in the area of education and health, removal of government subsidies, and outsourcing of government functions, among others. These seem to have affected Nigerian children and their families in more negative ways. Privatization is one of the components of neoliberal economic policies that undermine child welfare policies in Nigeria. Privatization does affect child's education in a negative way because it gives power to the ruling elite by making them richer at the expense of the poor masses. This is because education is poorly funded in annual budgets since 1986. For instance, privatization of schools has led to increased fees, which affect children from poor

homes. Through UBE, it is expected that children will attend school without pay but it's no longer so. Children in public primary schools pay at least 5,000 naira, while those in secondary schools pay at least 50,000 for school fees per term. This high school fee affects those children whose parents cannot afford it⁷⁶.

Privatization undermines access to quality and affordable education. Structural Adjustment Project (SAP) did not do much to improve the educational sector at all. Poor school funding, dilapidated buildings and poor remuneration of teachers resulting in poor teaching and learning are everyday issues in schools⁷⁷. In some schools in Bayelsa and all over the country, pupils and students sit on the bay floor and under the trees to learn which explains the state of public education in Nigeria⁷⁸.

Privatization of healthcare has its own devastating effect on child welfare policies in Nigeria. The findings of the study reveal that the removal of government subsidies has made it difficult for citizens, especially children to access both public and private health facilities. The vast majority of hospitals are operated on a profit-oriented basis by the government, industries, and voluntary agencies. The respondents argued that children often face many problems such as poor health and lack of access to quality healthcare⁷⁹. In addition, many children in Nigeria lack adequate nutrition, in part due to challenges ranging from removal of government subsidies, negative effects of privatization, and poverty which leads to major nutritional problems. Removal of government subsidies was identified as another component of neoliberal economic reforms that has an impact on the child welfare policies in Nigeria. Removal of subsidies has dealt with the poor masses especially the children in a way that lots of families cannot afford essential services when subsidies are removed⁸⁰.

More so, some scholars found that public policy often imposes administrative burdens that constrain people's ability to access benefits and affirmatively exercise fundamental rights. It was opined that the administrative burden framework to argue that the state also places burdens on people who have involuntary contact with coercive state institutions, such as the child welfare system. Just as administrative burdens lock "undeserving," marginalized populations out of benefits, administrative burdens also lock such populations into coercive intrusion⁸¹. This means that families involved with child welfare systems often face significant administrative burdens, including learning, compliance, and psychological costs, which can hinder their ability to maintain parental rights and access necessary services.

Economic constraints significantly impact child welfare decisions, often resulting in unnecessary placements in substitute care due to financial hardship rather than actual neglect or abuse. Many families struggle to meet their children's basic needs due to poverty, which can be misinterpreted as neglect by child protection agencies. Research indicates that economic deprivation increases the likelihood of child welfare involvement, as parents facing financial difficulties may struggle with housing instability, food insecurity, and access to essential services such as healthcare and education⁸². Therefore, providing families with economic resources can help prevent unnecessary out-of-home placements by addressing the root causes of instability. Financial assistance programs, such as cash transfers, housing subsidies, and employment support, can empower families to provide adequate care for their children, reducing the need for state intervention.

Another challenge found is the lack of leadership skills. There is a notable lack of leadership training among child welfare managers, which affects their ability to adapt to policy changes and manage complex situations effectively. Leadership development

programs have shown positive impacts on improving management skills in this sector⁸³. However, a contradictory study found that Child welfare leaders face complex and paradoxical demands, such as balancing contradictory requirements and managing tensions between different stakeholders, which can reduce their managerial discretion and challenge professional judgment⁸⁴. Therefore, a multicomponent leadership academy based on adaptive change leadership principles significantly improves the leadership skills of mid-level managers in child welfare agencies. In order to curb this challenge a country set up a theNational Child Welfare Workforce Institute (NCWWI) which has developed a comprehensive approach to leadership and workforce development, fostering adaptive leadership, promoting evidence-informed practices, and enhancing well-being of staff and families⁸⁵.

It was also found that effective collaboration among various organizations involved in child welfare is often hindered by procedural, engagement, and environmental challenges. These include negotiating roles, resource allocation, and adapting to political and policy shifts. Challenges in inter-organizational child welfare practice include process and procedural issues (e.g., the 'cost' of collaborating), engagement challenges (e.g., negotiating roles and resources), and environmental issues (political and policy shifts).

Moreover, according to scholars a major challenge in child welfare management is the lack of sufficient funding and resources. Many child welfare agencies operate with limited financial support, which restricts their ability to provide essential services such as foster care, family support programs, and child protection interventions⁸⁶. Limited resources also affect the hiring and retention of qualified social workers, leading to high caseloads and burnout among professionals in the field⁸⁷. Child welfare agencies

often face workforce shortages, resulting in high caseloads for caseworkers. Excessive workloads can negatively impact the quality of care provided to children and families, as overburdened social workers may struggle to conduct thorough investigations, provide timely interventions, and offer adequate support services. High turnover rates among child welfare professionals further exacerbate this issue, creating instability in service delivery and reducing continuity of care⁸⁸.

Complex legal frameworks and bureaucratic processes can delay service delivery in child welfare systems. Policies aimed at protecting children may sometimes create unintended barriers to timely intervention, particularly in cases where legal proceedings take extended periods. Additionally, inconsistencies in child welfare laws across jurisdictions can complicate case management and hinder collaboration among agencies⁸⁹. Engaging families in child welfare processes can be challenging, especially when parents are reluctant to cooperate due to fear of losing custody of their children. Cultural differences, language barriers, and distrust of government agencies further complicate efforts to involve families in intervention programs. Moreover, efforts to reunify children with their biological families can be hindered by issues such as substance abuse, domestic violence, and economic instability.

Many children in the welfare system have experienced trauma, including abuse, neglect, or exposure to violence. Addressing their mental health needs requires specialized services, which may not always be available due to shortages in mental health professionals and inadequate funding for therapeutic interventions⁹⁰. Insufficient trauma-informed care can lead to long-term psychological and emotional difficulties for affected children. Effective child welfare management requires robust data collection and analysis to track cases and evaluate program outcomes. However, many

agencies struggle with outdated information systems, lack of interoperability between databases, and challenges in maintaining data accuracy⁹¹. Inadequate data management can lead to miscommunication, delays in service delivery, and difficulties in measuring program effectiveness.

Research has shown that children from racial and ethnic minority groups are disproportionately represented in the child welfare system. African American, Indigenous, and Latino children, for example, are more likely to be placed in foster care and face longer stays in the system compared to their White counterparts⁹². Systemic biases, structural inequalities, and socioeconomic disparities contribute to these disproportionalities, making equity a persistent challenge in child welfare management.

Child welfare management in Nigeria faces systemic challenges, including the failure to implement child welfare policies, economic constraints, and neoliberal policies that undermine access to education and healthcare. The privatization of schools and healthcare facilities has increased costs, making essential services inaccessible to many children, particularly those from impoverished backgrounds. Government subsidies have been removed, worsening financial hardships for families and limiting children's access to education, healthcare, and nutrition. Additionally, administrative burdens in the child welfare system hinder families' ability to access benefits, maintain parental rights, and receive necessary support. Economic deprivation often leads to misinterpretations of neglect, resulting in unnecessary child placements in welfare institutions. Addressing these issues requires financial assistance programs, increased government intervention, and leadership training for child welfare managers to adapt to policy changes and improve service delivery.

Furthermore, insufficient funding, workforce shortages, and legal complexities hamper effective child welfare management. Many child welfare agencies lack financial resources to provide essential services, leading to high caseloads and burnout among social workers. Inter-organizational collaboration is hindered by procedural and political challenges, while inconsistencies in child welfare laws create bureaucratic delays. Cultural and socioeconomic barriers further complicate family engagement, and trauma among children in the welfare system remains inadequately addressed due to shortages in mental health professionals. Additionally, racial and ethnic disparities persist, with minority children disproportionately placed in foster care. Addressing these challenges requires improved funding, workforce development, policy reforms, and robust data collection systems to ensure equitable and effective child welfare management.

2.2. Theoretical Framework

2.2.1. Ecological Systems Theory

Ecological Systems Theory, developed by Bronfenbrenner in 1979, provides a framework for understanding how various environmental systems influence human development⁹³. The theory posits that individuals do not develop in isolation but are shaped by multiple interrelated systems, including immediate family, community institutions, and broader societal structures. This perspective is particularly relevant in the appraisal of Ministry of Women affairs and child welfare, as it highlights the complex interplay between government policies, social services, and children's well-being.

Public administration is responsible for implementing policies that affect individuals at various levels of society. The ecological perspective underscores the importance of considering multiple levels of governance in policymaking, as well as their interconnectedness in service delivery⁹⁴. Government agencies, non-profit organizations, and community stakeholders function within a system where their interactions impact child welfare outcomes. Public administrators must therefore ensure that policies and services account for the dynamic relationships between different systems.

For instance, public policies affecting child welfare operate at multiple levels:

- i. **Microsystem:** This includes direct interactions between children and their caregivers, teachers, and social workers. Effective public administration should ensure that frontline service providers, such as child protection officers, are well-trained and resourced to meet children's needs⁹⁵.
- ii. **Mesosystem:** This involves the relationships between different microsystem actors, such as coordination between schools and social services. Public administrators can foster collaboration among agencies to ensure comprehensive support for vulnerable children.
- iii. **Exosystem:** This refers to broader institutions that indirectly impact children, such as parental workplaces and welfare programs. For example, public policies that provide parental leave or financial assistance influence child well-being, even if children are not directly involved.
- iv. **Macrosystem:** This encompasses societal values, cultural norms, and legal frameworks. Child welfare policies must align with human rights principles and ensure equitable access to essential services.

- v. Chronosystem: This dimension considers the impact of time and historical context. Changes in public policies, such as shifts in welfare funding or child protection laws, shape long-term child welfare outcomes⁹⁶.

Child welfare policies and interventions must be designed with an understanding of how different systems interact to shape children's lives. Research shows that a holistic approach integrating family support, education, healthcare, and social services yields better outcomes for children. For instance, in Nigeria, government initiatives targeting child welfare must consider systemic barriers such as poverty, inadequate social services, and weak institutional frameworks⁹⁷. Public administrators play a crucial role in coordinating policies that address these challenges, ensuring that interventions at different ecological levels work cohesively to support children's development. Ecological Systems Theory offers a valuable lens for understanding the interconnected factors that influence child welfare. In public administration, applying this theory enables policymakers and service providers to design holistic and responsive child welfare programs. By addressing the multiple levels of influence ranging from direct family interactions to national policies, governments can enhance social protection and improve child welfare outcomes.

2.3. Review of Empirical Studies

2.3. 1. Ministry of Women Affairs and Management of Child Welfare

In the context of globalization and rapid social change, there is an increasing demand for efficient, transparent and accountable governance which is achievable through government apparatus like ministries and commissions. A study aims to comprehensively explore and describe the concept and scope of governance. This includes identifying the characteristics, functions, and underlying principles of public

administration, as well as analysing its role in governance, policy formulation, and public service delivery. The method used is to examine the evolution and rise of public administration, focusing on its meaning, definition and scope in different countries. The research recognizes the importance of bureaucracy, including systems of hierarchy, training, recruitment, promotion, and retirement, in the field of Publicadministration. The results showed importance of administration in economic progress and overall nation building.

The research emphasizes the need for efficient public administration through ministriesto achieve the goals of the modern concept of welfare. In addition, the research highlights the scope of public administration, which attracts the attention of students in academic and professional programs in the role of public relations⁹⁸. It became evident that government organizationsplay an important role in national development and sets the framework for achieving welfare goals. It is imperative to study and understand public governance to bring about positive changes in government administration.

In the context of child welfare, this entails designing policies and programs that are responsive to the needs of children and their families, as well as fostering conditions that promote the holistic development of children.Child welfare systems often impose significant administrative burdens on families, particularly those from marginalized communities. These burdens include learning, compliance, and psychological costs, which can hinder parents' ability to retain custody of their children. The responsibility for these burdens should be shifted from families to government agencies to alleviate the strain on resource-deprived families⁹⁹. Public child welfare systems have historically intervened disproportionately with children and families of colour, raising

concerns about systemic racism. Administrators recognize the need for strategies to promote racial equity and antiracist practices. These strategies include engaging community and university partners to address existing inequities and implement effective approaches¹⁰⁰.

The debate over centralized versus decentralized administration in child welfare systems is ongoing. Research indicates that centralized systems tend to achieve better outcomes, particularly in rural contexts, although both structures exhibit outcome disparities. Centralization may offer advantages, but it is not a comprehensive solution to all challenges faced by child welfare systems. More so, the organizational structure of child welfare agencies is often criticized for being inefficient and not well-suited to meet the diverse mandates of child welfare. The structure has evolved in response to various internal and external factors, but it may not effectively support the agencies' goals. Additionally, the dual role of child welfare agencies in both helping and policing families has been problematic, suggesting a need for restructuring to focus more on family preservation and support¹⁰¹.

Another key dimension of government agencies is legitimacy and support, which refers to public trust and acceptance of the policies and actions of government institutions. This trust is built through transparent decision-making, responsiveness to citizens' concerns, and equitable service delivery¹⁰². In Ibadan, legitimacy and support are essential for child welfare management, as communities need to trust that child protection agencies and government institutions are committed to safeguarding children's interests. Finally, the operational capability of public administration is critical in determining the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery. Operational

capability includes the administrative structures, human resources, and financial capacity necessary to implement and monitor child welfare policies and programs¹⁰³.

Governmental ministries like the ministry of women affairs plays a crucial role in managing child welfare systems, which are designed to protect and support children and families. Effective management of these systems involves addressing administrative burdens, ensuring equitable service delivery, and fostering public-private partnerships. Administrative burdens in child welfare systems can significantly impact families, particularly marginalized populations. These burdens include learning, compliance, and psychological costs that parents must navigate to retain their parental rights. The suggestion is to shift these burdens from families to government entities to alleviate the strain on resource-deprived families¹⁰⁴.

Scholars from different perspective and based on their findings on the negative influence of bureaucratic structures on the child welfare reported that it is time for public child welfare to be built from the needs of vulnerable families up rather than from the desires of political leaders, civil servants, and public employee unions down. For child welfare organizations to meet contemporary challenges, they must have a competent, committed workforce and an organizational structure that can recruit, select, and maintain people with the knowledge, skills, and values required by the work¹⁰⁵.

Experts recommend an integrated approach to child welfare management that includes public-private cooperation. This involves legislating children's rights, establishing coherent administrative systems, and expanding welfare policies to include entire families. The focus should be on sustainable development and creating a cooperative network that reflects children's voices¹⁰⁶. More so, the debate between centralized and decentralized child welfare systems continues, with evidence suggesting that

centralized systems may achieve better outcomes, particularly in rural areas. However, both systems exhibit performance disparities, indicating that centralization alone is not a complete solution¹⁰⁷.

A researchin university of Utah Whether public services are better delivered through centralized or decentralized administrative systems is one of the most enduring debates in public administration. The article contributes to the debate with a study of program outcome achievement in U.S. child welfare services. The researchers examine whether centralized state-administered or decentralized county-administered systems are more successful at realizing desired outcomes, which exhibit greater performance equity, and which are more successful at securing program outcomes in rural settings. Using a coarsened exact matching approach to quasi-experimental research, the researchers find that centralized child welfare systems exhibit greater success at achieving desired outcomes—in both rural contexts and overall. No discernible difference is found in centralized and decentralized systems' performance equity; outcome disparities exist under both structures. The study thus lends credence to centralization arguments, but at the same time cautions that centralized administration is not a structural panacea¹⁰⁸.

Over the years, peer support programs in child welfare have been implemented to enhance family involvement in case decision-making, amplify parents' voices, encourage engagement with services, and ultimately improve child and family outcomes. These programs utilize peer advocates parents with first-hand experience in the child welfare system who provide support and advocacy for parents currently navigating the system. This study assessed the impact of the Parent Advocacy Initiative in Initial Child Safety Conferences at the New York City Administration for Children's Services on case outcomes for families assisted by parent advocates. A multivariable analysis compared cases that received the intervention in 2016 (n = 3224) with cases

from the pre-intervention period in 2013 (n = 5598) and cases that did not receive the intervention in 2016 (n = 3450). The study examined whether having a parent advocate was linked to positive case outcomes, including (a) a decrease in foster care placements and (b) stable or lower rates of repeat indicated maltreatment investigations within six months of the initial investigation. Findings indicated that the presence of a parent advocate significantly reduced out-of-home placements, leading to higher rates of children remaining at home. When out-of-home placements were necessary, there was a notable decline in non-relative foster care placements and an increase in kinship care placements. However, the rate of repeat indicated maltreatment investigations within six months remained unchanged. These findings highlight the potential of parent advocacy in influencing placement decisions and improving child and family outcomes¹⁰⁹.

Looking at the various challenges that faced child welfare management, Scholars, asserted that research consistently identifies challenges in inter-organizational relationships in child welfare practice, yet studies typically examine partnerships among two or three organizations in siloed domains (e.g., child protective services and education) rather than the more encompassing inter-organizational landscape. Using a mixed-methods design, including a quantitative survey (n = 80 organizations) and 67 qualitative interviews with directors/administrators, this study sought to clarify and broaden a systemic understanding of challenges experienced among a comprehensive network of organizations community-wide. The sample included child protective services, schools, courts, law enforcement, domestic violence shelters, advocacy programs, hospitals, health clinics, mental and behavioural health providers, civic groups, religious groups, housing and homelessness services, youth mentorship and recreation programs, food banks, and more. In all, 15 challenges were evidenced and

were organized into three clusters: (1) six process and procedural challenges (e.g., the 'cost' of collaborating), (2) six engagement challenges (e.g., negotiating roles and resources), and (3) three environmental challenges (e.g., political and policy shifts)¹¹⁰. This means that Challenges in inter-organizational child welfare practice include process and procedural issues (e.g., the 'cost' of collaborating), engagement challenges (e.g., negotiating roles and resources), and environmental issues (political and policy shifts).

Looking at the problem from children angle, a scholar with the intention to discuss conditions for developing participatory relationships with children in child welfare services (CWS) asserted that in recent years, child protection and CWS have seen a growth of interest in children's participation, but research shows that children often do not participate when their families are in contact with the CWS. Participatory practice tends to be messier and complicated than the policy rhetoric suggests. Discussion about the reasons for lack of children's participation has mostly been related to the social worker's competence or willingness to involve children in participatory practice. In our research, we have found that social workers are interested in involving children in participation, but that they often meet with organisational structures and material design of offices that represent barriers to children's participation, for example, to children's access to information and help, and to the development of relationships with children over time¹¹¹.

More so, specifically, administrative support plays a crucial role in the effective functioning of orphanages, impacting the care and development of children residing in these institutions. The presence and quality of administrative support can influence various aspects of orphanage care, from educational opportunities to emotional well-being. It is clear that orphanages are key aspects of child welfare and it is also the duty

of public administrators to improve and ensure that orphans enjoy the citizens' benefits like every other citizen. Worldwide, about 140 million children are identified as orphans as they have lost one or both parents. Of this global figure, over a quarter (52 million) live in Africa¹¹². The children may have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS, conflicts, disasters and famine, leading to several authors suggesting that the continent has an orphan crisis. Furthermore, other African children, often referred to as social orphans, are orphaned on account of abandonment and poverty¹¹³.

A research investigated the role of caretakers insupporting the continuance of the children's education, the obstacles face by the caretakers in carrying out the role, and caretakers attempt in overcoming the obstacles. Usingdescriptive methods. With the techniques of data collection used are direct observation techniques, direct communication techniques and documentary studies techniques, while the tools of data collection are observation, interview and documentation. The analysis conducted using qualitative descriptive with 7 participants consist of 2 orphanage caretakers, 2junior high student's orphans, 2 senior high student's orphans and 1 university student orphan. The roles of the orphanage caretakers in supporting the continuance of the children's education is as the motivator, facilitator, mentor, and a foster parent as a replacement of the families or parents of the children. The obstacles faced by the caretakers in carrying out its' role is derived from the children's own self and funding. The efforts of the caretaker used to resolve existing obstacles is by approaching the child, finding donors to help the orphanage funding and facilitate all the needs of the children in the orphanage¹¹⁴.

Sub-Saharan Africa is experiencing a growth in the number of children who need formal alternative care. One of the principal factors contributing to this is orphan hood. While most orphans live with their extended families, many end up in privately-run

orphanages that operate outside of the government's regulation and funding. Without government assistance and being the costliest care option, the orphanages have to come up with mechanisms to get the finances that they need. However, relatively little evidence exists on the funding streams of orphanages in sub-Saharan Africa. Drawing on the literature from Ghana and other low-income countries, the study explores the funding of orphanages and its implications for orphans in Ghana. The evidence from the literature shows that the funding for most orphanages comes from donations by private organisations and individuals, mostly from the developed world. This funding system is generally unsustainable and carries negative ramifications for the social-emotional progress and rights of orphans residing in orphanages, such as abuse, unnecessary institutionalisation, and stigma. Policy and practice recommendations include increasing government's subsidy to the orphanages, regulating donations to and volunteering in orphanages, and helping unlicensed orphanages to transition to the provision of family-strengthening services.

Orphanages play an important role in helping children get protection, education, and care for children who have lost their parents or are separated from their parents. One of the main challenges faced by these orphanages is affection, which can have a serious impact on children's development. With this study, we used a qualitative descriptive approach to understand, describe and analyse the problem of lack of affection at the Hanifa III Kampuang Orphanage. The results of the study reveal that lack of affection can cause children to feel lonely, anxious, and have difficulty in forming healthy social relationships. The important role of administrators and social workers in providing affection should not be ignored. To overcome this problem of lack of affection, the solution is to increase the number of administrators, provide training to them about the importance of affection and invite the community to participate in helping to support

the orphanage¹¹⁵. The results show here that the responsibility of taking care of orphan is not only shouldered by public administration although they may do well to implement a systemic training session to welfare workers to instil into them the core of human relations and childcare. More so, the government will have to work hand in hand with social workers to implement a formidable program for child and orphanage support.

Administrative support is integral to the success of orphanages and child welfare houses, influencing educational, financial, and emotional aspects of care. Effective administration can lead to improved outcomes for children, though challenges remain in securing sustainable funding and providing comprehensive psychosocial support. Addressing these challenges through training, community involvement, and policy changes can further enhance the care provided in orphanages. Orphanages with strong administrative support tend to be more efficient in providing care, managing resources, and collaborating with other organizations. This efficiency can lead to better living conditions and more comprehensive care for orphans. Administrators and caregivers play a vital role in providing emotional support and fostering a nurturing environment. Training and support for caregivers can reduce stress and improve their relationship with children, leading to better developmental outcomes for the children. It was asserted that despite the benefits, orphanages face challenges such as administrative constraints and limited psychological guidance. Continuous support from government and NGOs, along with improvements in administrative practices, can enhance the quality of care¹¹⁶.

In summary, in recent years, there has been growing interest in children's participation in child welfare services (CWS), yet research indicates that children are often excluded from decision-making when their families engage with these services. While social

workers express a willingness to involve children, organizational structures and office environments frequently act as barriers to meaningful participation. Additionally, administrative support plays a crucial role in the operation of orphanages, directly affecting the education, emotional well-being, and overall development of children. Orphanages are vital in providing care and protection for children who have lost their parents due to HIV/AIDS, conflicts, poverty, or abandonment. However, many operate outside government regulation, relying on private donations, which often leads to funding instability and negative social-emotional consequences for orphans. Research highlights the necessity of government intervention, increased subsidies, and the regulation of donations and volunteer activities to ensure sustainable and ethical care.

Orphanage caretakers serve as motivators, facilitators, and mentors, helping children continue their education despite financial and personal challenges. However, affection remains a critical issue, as a lack of emotional support can lead to loneliness, anxiety, and difficulties in forming relationships. Strengthening administrative support, increasing caregiver training, and fostering community involvement are recommended solutions. Additionally, public administration, social workers, and policymakers must collaborate to establish comprehensive child welfare programs. While orphanages play an essential role in child protection, sustainable funding, proper training for caregivers, and systemic policy improvements are necessary to ensure the well-being and development of children in institutional care.

2.4. Conceptual Model

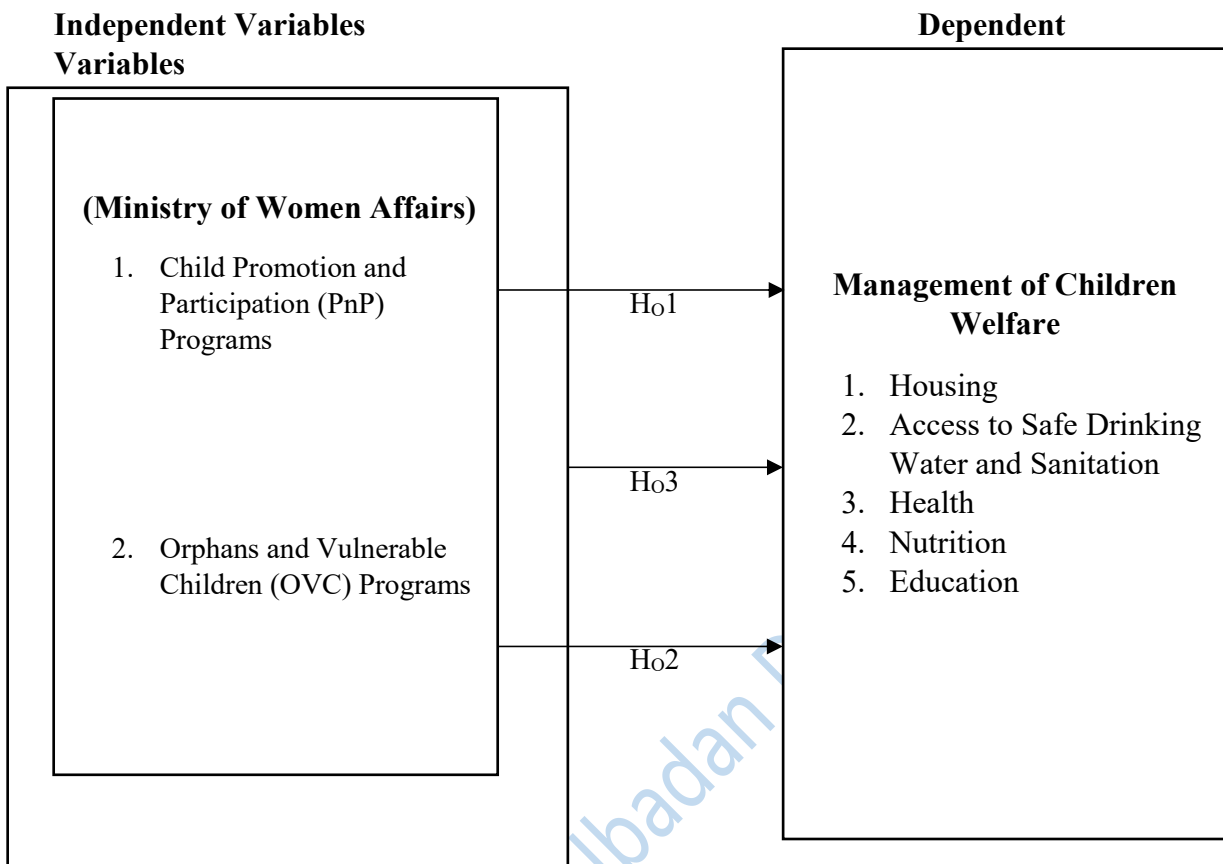


Fig. 2.1. Conceptual Model

Source: Researcher, 2025

The figure 2.1 above presents a conceptual framework showing the relationship and interdependencies that exists between Ministry of Women Affairs and Management of Children Welfare.

Ministry of women affairs (Independent Variables). This section represents the government's role in child welfare management, particularly through the Ministry of Women Affairs. It highlights two key intervention programs: Child Promotion and Participation (PnP) Programs: These programs aim to empower children by promoting their rights, participation in decision-making, and access to opportunities for growth and Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Programs: These initiatives focus on

providing support to children who lack parental care due to factors like poverty, disease, or abandonment.

Management of Children Welfare

This section lists the five key aspects of child welfare that are influenced by the interventions from ministry of women affairs: Housing Providing safe and stable shelter for children, especially vulnerable ones; Access to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation Ensuring children have access to clean water and proper hygiene facilities; Health Improving medical care and health services for children; Nutrition Addressing food security and ensuring children have access to balanced diets; Education Enhancing access to quality education for children, particularly orphans and vulnerable children. The table suggests that ministry of women affairs policies and programs directly impact the management of children's welfare by addressing critical areas such as housing, health, and education. The structure would be used to test hypotheses on how government interventions influence child welfare outcomes. More so, the figure underscores the importance of government-driven programs in enhancing child welfare and suggests the need for effective implementation and monitoring.

2.5 Summary of Gap in Literature Reviewed

A review of existing literature on Appraisal of Children Welfare Programs in Selected Orphanage Homes in Ibadan, reveals several gaps that highlight areas requiring further research and policy attention. These gaps exist in theoretical frameworks, empirical studies, policy implementation, inter-agency collaboration, and the effectiveness of child welfare programs. Below are the major gaps identified during the course of literature reviewed.

i. Limited Integration of Public Administration Theories in Child Welfare Studies

Many studies on child welfare management focus on social work, psychology, and human rights perspectives while neglecting public administration theories such as bureaucratic efficiency, governance models, and administrative accountability. The application of theories like New Public Management (NPM), Public Value Theory, and Institutional Theory in understanding how administrative structures influence child welfare policies remains underexplored.

ii. Lack of Empirical Studies on the Impact of Public Administration on Child Welfare Outcomes

While several studies examine the role of government agencies in child welfare, there is limited empirical research assessing the direct impact of public administration processes (e.g., budgeting, resource allocation, and intergovernmental relations) on child welfare outcomes such as education, health, and social protection. Studies often focus on policy descriptions rather than providing data-driven analyses of their effectiveness.

iii. Weak Analysis of Institutional Capacity and Public Sector Efficiency

There is insufficient research on how institutional capacity, administrative structures, and governance efficiency affect child welfare programs. Key questions remain unanswered, such as: How does the bureaucratic structure of child welfare agencies impact service delivery? What role do decentralization and local government autonomy play in improving child welfare management? How do corruption and mismanagement within public institutions affect the implementation of child welfare policies?

iv. Inadequate Examination of Policy Implementation Gaps

Many studies discuss child welfare policies at the national or international level but fail to investigate policy implementation challenges at the grassroots level. Issues such as: Lack of coordination between federal, state, and local governments. Limited funding and resource constraints affecting program execution. Bureaucratic delays in service delivery.

There is a need for research that evaluates how public administration mechanisms can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of child welfare policy implementation.

v. Insufficient Studies on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Child Welfare

The role of public-private partnerships (PPPs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in child welfare management is understudied. While NGOs often supplement government efforts, there is limited research on how collaborative governance, contractual arrangements, and shared responsibilities between public and private entities impact child welfare outcomes.

vi. Limited Studies on Data-Driven Decision Making in Child Welfare Management

Most child welfare studies focus on qualitative narratives without incorporating data analytics, performance metrics, and evidence-based decision-making approaches. Public administration research could contribute by examining: The role of big data and digital governance in child welfare management. How monitoring and evaluation

(M&E) systems improve service delivery. The effectiveness of predictive analytics in identifying vulnerable children.

vii. Lack of Focus on the Influence of Political Will and Leadership

The role of political leadership, advocacy, and stakeholder engagement in shaping child welfare policies is often overlooked. Further research is needed to examine: How political ideologies influence child welfare funding and prioritization. The impact of legislative support on child welfare administration. The role of public administrators as policy entrepreneurs in advocating for children's rights.

viii. Underrepresentation of Comparative Studies Across Different Administrative Models

Most studies on child welfare management focus on single-country analyses, limiting comparative perspectives on how different public administration models affect child welfare outcomes. There is a need for research that: Compares developed and developing countries in terms of public administration effectiveness in child welfare. Examines regional variations in child welfare policies and outcomes. Evaluates the impact of international governance frameworks (e.g., UNCRC, SDGs) on national child welfare programs.

The literature on public administration and child welfare management has significant gaps, particularly in the integration of public administration theories, empirical studies on governance efficiency, policy implementation challenges, and the role of data-driven decision-making. Addressing these gaps requires interdisciplinary research that combines public administration, social work, law, and economics to develop holistic strategies for improving child welfare management. Future research should focus on

institutional capacity building, comparative analyses, the role of political leadership, and evidence-based policy approaches to ensure the effective administration of child welfare programs.

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Chapter Three

Methodology

3.1 Research Design

The study adopted a descriptive survey research design. This is a quantitative approach which allows for the collection of data from a large population. The survey research was considered appropriate for this study because of the need to empirically measure the study variables and show the relationship as well as the interdependencies that exist between them. It is also considered relevant due to the large and dispersed nature of the study respondents.

3.2 Population of the Study

The population for this study consists of forty (40) orphanages out of which thirteen (13) were selected based on preliminary investigation and findings from Ministry of Women Affairs, Oyo State which showed that only thirteen (13) of the orphanages were functional and are active beneficiaries of the (PnP and OVC program)¹.

Table 3.1 Population of the Study

S/N	Child care/Orphanages	Ownership	Location
1.	Ibadan Home for Motherless Babies	Government	Omolewa Avenue
2.	Tabitha Home Orphanage	NGO	Joyce B Road, 97 Adebiyi Street
3.	AdukeOladiboOrphanage Home, Ibadan	NGO	New Garage Road. Drive from AlaoAkalaExpy and Lane 12 to Ido
4.	Kingdom Cornerstone Orphanage and Home Ibadan	NGO	13, Whitehouse ,Ago- TalorBustop, Apata

Southwest

5	Oyiza Orphanage and Foster Foundation	NGO	24 Ntc Rd, Oke-Ado, Ibadan
6	Living Word Mission (La Vie Mot Global Mission)	NGO	3, Olanipekun Street, Off Ososami Road, Ibadan
7	Little saint orphanages (Ibadan Home)	NGO	10 Logudu Road, Off, Bembo Street, Apata, Ibadan
8	Oyo State Community and Child Care Centre for Orphan	Government	CV3M+M95, Ibadan 200284, Oyo
9	Children of Promise Ministries – CHIPROMS	NGO	No. 3 Bamigbola Avenue, Bamigbola Avenue New Bodija Extension, behind Ashi Police station, Ibadan
10	Jesus Kids Orphanage	NGO	18, Ifelodun Street., Monantan, Iwo Road, Iwo Road, Ibadan 200132, Oyo
11	Dorcas AdunolaOyediji Motherless Babies Home	NGO	Plot 15, Oyediji Layout, Road M Olubadan Estate Near Bomac Anglican Church, Off, New Ife Road, Ibadan
12	FOMWAN Orphanage	NGO	5 Unity Street 20, Ibadan 200285, Oyo
13	He Careth Orphanage Home	NGO	45 General Gas - Iyana Church Rd, Ibadan 200132, Oyo

Sources¹

3.3 Sample and Sampling Technique

The study made use of purposive sampling techniques to sample thirteen key respondents representing thirteen orphanage homes. These respondents has veritable information and occupies the offices that can supply the information needed².

3.4 Description of the Research Instrument

The instrument used in this research is a structured questionnaire adapted from relevant theories and models. The study adopted the Likert scale design which allowed the researcher in listing options where respondents choose from. The instrument is made up of four sections.

Section A contains the demographic information of respondents which is self-developed. The bio-data of respondents was measured through metrics such as: Name of Institution, Years of work Experience, Gender and Age.

Section B: these are the questions designed to elicit responses on the effectiveness of the programs of the ministry of women affairs. Example of statements are: “The program effectively increases children's engagement in educational activities. The program provides sufficient resources to encourage child participation.”. The options provided in this study's questionnaire followed the Four-Point Likert Scale: 1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Agree, 4 = Strongly Agree)

Section C contains question designed to elicit responses regarding child welfare management in light of housing, sanitation, nutrition and so on. Each item is measured on a Four-Point Likert Scale: 1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Agree, 4 =

Strongly Agree). Examples of question include: “The government provides adequate and affordable housing for low-income families.

Public policies ensure access to safe and secure housing for vulnerable populations, including children. Housing conditions in my community meet the required health and safety standards. Ministry of women affairs effectively addresses homelessness and housing shortages. There are sufficient government programs that support housing improvement and urban planning.”.

Section D: is designed to elicit responses on the challenges faced by the ministry of women affairs in the area of children welfare management. Each statement is rated Likert type, Four-Point Likert Scale: 1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Agree, 4 = Strongly Agree) Examples of statements include: “Inadequate funding affects the Ministry’s ability to implement effective child welfare programs. Bureaucratic delays and administrative bottlenecks hinder prompt response to children’s welfare needs. Lack of trained personnel reduces the Ministry’s effectiveness in handling child welfare cases”.And others.

3.5 Validity of Research Instrument

The validity of research instrument focuses on its ability to properly measure the constructs and variables in the study². To ensure the face and content validity of the research instrument, the questionnaire was submitted to the supervisor and other experts in the field of public administration for appraisal. The corrections and suggestions contributed to the validity of the instrument.

3.6 Reliability of the Research Instrument

Reliability means the ability of a research instrument to remain consistent in measuring variables across location and time². The reliability of the instrument was tested through a pilot study using twenty 5 key stakeholders in five child welfare and orphanage houses in Lagos State, a place that is not part of the study.

3.7 Administration of the Instrument

A letter of introduction and project attestation was obtained from the Department of Public Administration, Lead City University which was used to gain permission to conduct the survey and administer the questionnaire on the respondents. The research instrument was administered physically with the aid of six (6) research assistants who were trained by the researcher for the purpose.

3.8 Method of Data Collection

The data collection method looks at the numerous strategies that a research or study takes to gather data. Due to the spread of the study population, it was simpler to gather data from respondents dispersed throughout the study area by physical administration of the questionnaires. In addition, the researcher conducted literature search.

3.9 Methods of Data Analysis

The data collected from questionnaires was coded and analysed using the IBM SPSS Statistics Software. The research questions were analysed with descriptive statistic such as simple frequencies and percentages while the research were analysed using inferential statistics.

3.10 Ethical Consideration

A letter of approval from the Oyo State ministry of women affairs to conduct this study and to gather data from the respondents.

Ethical considerations are important in any research study, including this study. Some ethical considerations that were taken into account in this study include:

1. **Informed Consent:** All participants were fully informed about the nature of the study, their participation, and any potential risks or benefits. They were also given the opportunity to freely give their consent to participate in the study.
2. **Confidentiality:** Participants' privacy was protected, and their personal information kept confidential. Researchers ensured that data was stored securely and only accessed by authorised personnel.
3. **Voluntary Participation:** Participants were not coerced or pressured to participate in the study. They were given the right to withdraw from the study at any time without penalty.
4. **Respect for Cultural Norms and Values:** Researchers respect the cultural norms and values of the areas in which the study was conducted. This included obtaining appropriate permissions and approvals from people in authority and ensured that the study was conducted in a culturally sensitive manner.
5. **Minimization of Harm:** Researchers took steps to minimize any potential harm to participants, both physical and emotional. They were also provided with appropriate support and referrals for participants who required additional assistance.

Ethical considerations are critical in ensuring that research is conducted in a responsible and respectful manner. By considering ethical issues in the study design

and implementation, researchers can minimize potential harm to participants and maximize the benefits of the research.

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Endnotes

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Chapter Four

Results and Discussion of Findings

This chapter presents the data analysis and interpretation of the results. The study Appraise Children Welfare Programs in Selected Orphanage homes in Ibadan. The findings were presented, interpreted and discussed based on the research question using both descriptive and inferential statistics. Furthermore, the researcher has set the following decision rule for the descriptive analysis: 0.0 – 1.5 = Very Low; 1.51 – 2.49 = Low; 2.50 – 3.00 = Moderate; 3.01 – 3.59 = High; 3.60 – 4.00 = Very High.

Response Rate of the Respondents

Table 4.1: Response Rate of Respondents

Number of Questionnaire	Frequency(N)	Percentage(%)
Administer	13	100
Returned and Usable	12	92

Source: Fieldwork, 2025

Table 4.1 above shows the respondents response rate. It reveals that, out of the 13questionnaire distributed, 12 were returned and one was missing.

4.2.Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Table 4.2: Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentages
Male	9	75.0
Female	3	25.0
Total	12	100.0
Age		
26–35	7	58.3
36–45	5	41.7
Total	12	100.0

Position/Role		
Government Official	10	83.3
NGO Worker	2	16.7
Total	12	100.0
Years of Experience		
Less than 1 year	5	41.7
1–5 years	5	41.7
6–10 years	2	16.7
Total	12	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2025

The table 4.2 above presents the demographic characteristics of a sample population consisting of 12 respondents. The data is categorized by Gender, Age, Position/Role, and Years of Experience.

The majority of the respondents are male (75%), while females represent only 25%. This indicates a gender imbalance in the sample, with males being three times more than females. Most respondents (58.3%) fall within the age range of 26 to 35 years, while the remaining 41.7% are between 36 and 45 years. This suggests that the sample largely consists of younger adults, possibly early- or mid-career professionals.

A significant majority (83.3%) of the respondents are government officials, while only a small portion (16.7%) are NGO workers. This shows that the public sector is the dominant employment sector among the respondents. A combined 83.4% of the respondents have less than 6 years of work experience (either less than 1 year or between 1–5 years). Only 16.7% have between 6–10 years of experience. This suggests that most participants are relatively new in their careers.

4.3 Analysis of Research Questions

Research Question One: What is the effectiveness of the programs developed by the Ministry of Women Affairs for the management of children's welfare in Ibadan Metropolis, Oyo State?

Table 4.3. Effectiveness of Programs

Promotion and Participation (PnP) Programs	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean
The program effectively increases children's engagement in educational activities.			3(25.0%)	9(75.0%)	3.25
The program provides sufficient resources to encourage child participation.		2(16.7%)	6(50.0%)	4(33.3%)	3.17
The facilitators of the program are well-trained and child-friendly.			2(16.7%)	10(83.3%)	3.17
The program fosters a sense of inclusion and belonging among children.			2(16.7%)	10(83.3%)	3.17
The PnP program helps improve children's confidence in social interactions.		2(16.7%)	8(66.7%)	2(16.7%)	3.00
Activities under the program align with the needs and interests of the children.			10(83.3%)	2(16.7%)	3.17
The program offers regular and effective feedback on children's progress.			10(83.3%)	2(16.7%)	3.17
Parents/guardians are adequately involved in the participation process.		2(16.7%)	8(66.7%)	2(16.7%)	3.00
The program creates a safe and supportive environment for children.			10(83.3%)	2(16.7%)	3.17
The program positively impacts children's overall personal development.			9(75.0%)	3(25.0%)	3.25
Weighted Mean					3.2
Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Programs					
The program provides adequate support for the emotional well-being of children.			5(41.7%)	7(58.3%)	3.58
The OVC program ensures that children's basic needs (food, clothing, shelter) are met.		2(16.7%)	5(41.7%)	5(41.7%)	3.25
The program effectively			6(50.0%)	6(50.0%)	3.50

connects children with educational opportunities.				
Healthcare and psychological services are accessible through the program.	2(16.7%)	7(58.3%)	3(25.0%)	3.08
The program helps children develop essential life skills for independence.		10(83.3%)	2(16.7%)	3.17
Support services are delivered in a culturally sensitive and child-friendly manner.		7(58.3%)	5(41.7%)	3.42
The program promotes positive relationships between caregivers and children.		5(41.7%)	7(58.3%)	3.58
There are clear monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track children's progress.	2(16.7%)	8(66.7%)	2(16.7%)	3.00
The program ensures the active participation of children in decision-making.	2(16.7%)	8(66.7%)	2(16.7%)	3.00
Community members and stakeholders are engaged in supporting the program.	2(16.7%)	8(66.7%)	2(16.7%)	2.83
Weighted Mean				3.2
Grand Mean				3.2

Scale: 0.0 – 1.5 = Very Low; 1.51 – 2.49 = Low; 2.50 – 3.00 = Moderate; 3.01 – 3.59 = High; 3.60 – 4.00 = Very High

A majority of the respondents, specifically 9 out of 12 (75.0%), strongly agreed that the program effectively increases children's engagement in educational activities, while 3 (25.0%) agreed with this statement. This item received a high mean score of 3.25, indicating strong approval from participants. Regarding the sufficiency of resources provided to encourage child participation, 6 respondents (50.0%) agreed, 4 (33.3%) strongly agreed, and 2 (16.7%) disagreed. The mean score of 3.17 shows a generally favourable perception, although a small number expressed some dissatisfaction.

On the competence and friendliness of the facilitators, 10 participants (83.3%) strongly agreed, and 2 (16.7%) agreed. This high level of endorsement is reflected in the mean score of 3.17, suggesting that most respondents view the facilitators as well-trained and child-friendly. When asked whether the program fosters a sense of inclusion and

belonging among children, 10 (83.3%) strongly agreed, and 2 (16.7%) agreed. This consistency in response indicates widespread recognition of the program's inclusiveness, with a mean score of 3.17. As for the program's impact on children's confidence in social interactions, 8 respondents (66.7%) agreed, 2 (16.7%) strongly agreed, and 2 (16.7%) disagreed. This mixed response resulted in a slightly lower mean score of 3.00, suggesting some room for improvement in this area. Concerning how well the activities align with the needs and interests of children, 10 respondents (83.3%) agreed, and 2 (16.7%) strongly agreed. The mean score of 3.17 reflects strong confidence in the program's relevance to the target group.

In respect to the provision of effective and regular feedback on children's progress, 10 (83.3%) agreed, and 2 (16.7%) strongly agreed. This indicates a positive view of the program's feedback mechanisms, with a corresponding mean of 3.17. Regarding the involvement of parents or guardians in the participation process, 8 (66.7%) agreed, 2 (16.7%) strongly agreed, and 2 (16.7%) disagreed. The mean score here is 3.00, showing that while many participants are satisfied, there is room for improved parental engagement. On the creation of a safe and supportive environment, 10 respondents (83.3%) agreed, and 2 (16.7%) strongly agreed. This response resulted in a mean score of 3.17, reinforcing the perception that the program provides a secure and nurturing setting for children. Finally, in terms of the program's overall impact on children's personal development, 9 (75.0%) agreed, and 3 (25.0%) strongly agreed. This item matched the highest mean score of 3.25, indicating that participants recognize the program's contribution to children's holistic growth.

A significant number of respondents, specifically 7 (58.3%), *strongly agreed* and 5 (41.7%) *agreed* that the program provides adequate support for the emotional well-

being of children. This item received one of the highest mean scores, 3.58, suggesting strong confidence in the emotional support aspects of the program.

In terms of meeting basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter, responses were mixed but generally positive. 5 participants (41.7%) *agreed*, another 5 (41.7%) *strongly agreed*, and 2 (16.7%) *disagreed*. This distribution led to a mean score of 3.25, showing that while the majority were satisfied, a small minority expressed concerns. Concerning the program's ability to connect children with educational opportunities, an even split was observed: 6 respondents (50.0%) *agreed* and 6 (50.0%) *strongly agreed*, resulting in a high mean score of 3.50, indicating that participants view this educational linkage as effective.

Regarding access to healthcare and psychological services, 7 (58.3%) *agreed*, 3 (25.0%) *strongly agreed*, while 2 (16.7%) *disagreed*. The mean score was 3.08, showing generally positive sentiment with some room for improvement in service accessibility. Most respondents, 10 (83.3%), *agreed* that the program helps children develop essential life skills for independence, while 2 (16.7%) *strongly agreed*. The resulting mean score of 3.17 reflects overall satisfaction in this area. On the issue of cultural sensitivity and child-friendliness in service delivery, 7 (58.3%) *agreed*, and 5 (41.7%) *strongly agreed*. The mean score of 3.42 suggests that the program is seen as respectful and accommodating of children's backgrounds.

In promoting positive relationships between caregivers and children, 7 respondents (58.3%) *strongly agreed*, while 5 (41.7%) *agreed*. This item also received a mean of 3.58, tying for the highest score and reflecting strong approval of this program element. The clarity of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms received a more moderate rating: 8 respondents (66.7%) *agreed*, 2 (16.7%) *strongly agreed*, and 2

(16.7%)*disagreed*. The resulting mean score of 3.00 suggests that while most participants view the tracking system positively, a few are not fully convinced of its effectiveness.

Similarly, 8 respondents (66.7%)*agreed* that the program ensures the active participation of children in decision-making, while 2 (16.7%)*strongly agreed* and another 2 (16.7%)*disagreed*. This item also recorded a mean score of 3.00, indicating moderate approval with suggestions for improvement. Finally, the engagement of community members and stakeholders in supporting the program received the lowest rating. 8 (66.7%)*agreed*, 2 (16.7%)*strongly agreed*, and 2 (16.7%)*disagreed*, resulting in a mean score of 2.83. This suggests a weaker perception of community involvement and may indicate a gap in stakeholder engagement.

Overall, the grand mean score across all items is 3.2, which reflects a high level of satisfaction and strong approval of the PnP program and Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Programs among the participants. While most aspects were rated positively, areas such as enhancing children’s social confidence and increasing parental involvement may benefit from further attention.

Research Question Two: What is the extent of effectiveness of children welfare management in the provision of social and basic needs of children in Ibadan Metropolis, Oyo State?

Table 4.4 Effectiveness of Children Welfare Management

Housing	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean
The government provides adequate and affordable housing for low-income families.	1(8.3%)	11(91.7%)			1.92
Public policies ensure access to safe and secure housing for vulnerable populations, including children.	1(8.3%)	6(50.0%)	5(41.7%)		2.33
Housing conditions in my	6(50.0%)	5(41.7%)		1(8.3%)	2.58

community meet the required health and safety standards.				
Public administration effectively addresses homelessness and housing shortages.	4(33.3%)	7(58.3%)	1(8.3%)	2.75
There are sufficient government programs that support housing improvement and urban planning.	5(41.7%)	6(50.0%)	1(8.3%)	2.33
Weighted Mean				2.4
Sanitation				
Public administration ensures equitable access to clean and safe drinking water.	6(50.0%)	6(50.0%)		2.50
The government adequately provides sanitation facilities in urban and rural areas.	2(16.7%)	8(66.7%)	2(16.7%)	3.00
Public water supply and sanitation services are reliable and well-maintained.	6(50.0%)	4(33.3%)	2(16.7%)	2.67
The government effectively monitors and regulates water quality and sanitation systems.	2(16.7%)	8(66.7%)	2(16.7%)	3.00
There are sufficient public initiatives to improve hygiene and waste management.	4(33.3%)	6(50.0%)	2(16.7%)	2.83
Weighted Mean				2.8
Health				
Public health policies effectively ensure access to quality healthcare services for all citizens.	10(83.3%)	2(16.7%)		3.17
Government hospitals and clinics provide affordable and accessible medical care.	2(16.7%)	8(66.7%)	2(16.7%)	3.00
The public administration efficiently manages disease prevention and health awareness programs.	10(83.3%)	2(16.7%)		3.17
Emergency medical services are available and responsive in my community.	6(50.0%)	4(33.3%)	2(16.7%)	2.67
Government initiatives improve maternal and child healthcare services.	10(83.3%)	2(16.7%)		3.17
Weighted Mean				3.03
Nutrition				
Public administration effectively addresses malnutrition and food insecurity.	6(50.0%)	4(33.3%)	2(16.7%)	2.67

Government programs provide adequate nutritional support for children and vulnerable groups.	6(50.0%)	4(33.3%)	2(16.7%)	2.67
Public policies promote access to affordable and nutritious food.	6(50.0%)	5(41.7%)	1(8.3%)	2.67
School feeding programs are well-implemented and beneficial to students.	6(50.0%)	4(33.3%)	2(16.7%)	2.58
The government effectively regulates and promotes food safety and quality.	2(16.7%)	9(75.0%)	1(8.3%)	2.92
Weighted Mean				2.6
Education				
Public administration ensures free and equitable access to basic education for all children.	2(16.7%)	10(83.3%)		2.83
Government investment in school infrastructure and learning materials is adequate.	2(16.7%)	9(75.0%)	1(8.3%)	2.92
Public education policies support teacher training and quality instruction.	2(16.7%)	9(75.0%)	1(8.3%)	2.92
There are sufficient government initiatives to improve literacy and vocational skills.	2(16.7%)	9(75.0%)	1(8.3%)	2.92
The government effectively supports inclusive education for disadvantaged groups.	2(16.7%)	9(75.0%)	1(8.3%)	2.92
Weighted Mean				2.3
Grand Mean				2.6
Scale: 0.0 – 1.5 = Very Low; 1.51 – 2.49 = Low; 2.50 – 3.00 = Moderate; 3.01 – 3.59 = High; 3.60 – 4.00 = Very High				

Table 4.4. shows that the participants expressed largely negative or critical perceptions regarding housing provisions and policies. The overall weighted mean score was 2.4, indicating a generally dissatisfied view of housing-related services. When asked whether the government provides adequate and affordable housing for low-income families, a large majority, 11 participants (91.7%), *disagreed*, while only 1 (8.3%) *strongly disagreed*. This item received the lowest mean score of 1.92, reflecting widespread dissatisfaction. On whether public policies ensure access to safe and secure housing for vulnerable populations (including children), 6 respondents (50.0%)

disagreed, 5 (41.7%) *agreed*, and 1 (8.3%) *strongly disagreed*. The mean score was 2.33, indicating a lack of confidence in current policies.

Regarding housing conditions meeting required health and safety standards, half of the respondents, 6 (50.0%), *strongly disagreed*, 5 (41.7%) *disagreed*, and only 1 (8.3%) *agreed*. This pattern yielded a mean score of 2.58, suggesting significant concerns about the quality of housing. As to whether public administration effectively addresses homelessness and housing shortages, 7 participants (58.3%) *disagreed*, 4 (33.3%) *strongly disagreed*, and just 1 (8.3%) *agreed*. The mean score of 2.75 still reflects a largely negative outlook, though slightly more positive compared to other items. Finally, regarding the sufficiency of government programs supporting housing improvement and urban planning, 6 respondents (50.0%) *disagreed*, 5 (41.7%) *strongly disagreed*, and only 1 (8.3%) *agreed*. This item had a mean score of 2.33, reinforcing the perception that current government efforts are inadequate.

In contrast to housing, the responses on sanitation showed slightly more favourable views, with a weighted mean score of 2.8, suggesting a moderate level of satisfaction and acknowledgment of existing efforts, though concerns still remain. When evaluating whether public administration ensures equitable access to clean and safe drinking water, responses were evenly split: 6 participants (50.0%) *strongly disagreed* and 6 (50.0%) *disagreed*, resulting in a mean score of 2.50. This indicates widespread concern about access to potable water.

On the adequacy of sanitation facilities in both urban and rural areas, 8 respondents (66.7%) *disagreed*, 2 (16.7%) *strongly disagreed*, and 2 (16.7%) *agreed*. The mean score of 3.00 suggests a more balanced viewpoint, with some recognizing existing infrastructure. Regarding the reliability and maintenance of public water supply and

sanitation services, 6 participants (50.0%) *strongly disagreed*, 4 (33.3%) *disagreed*, and 2 (16.7%) *agreed*. This led to a mean of 2.67, indicating more negative than positive experiences.

On whether the government effectively monitors and regulates water quality and sanitation systems, 8 respondents (66.7%) *disagreed*, 2 (16.7%) *strongly disagreed*, and 2 (16.7%) *agreed*. This yielded a mean score of 3.00, showing that some trust in regulation exists, though not over whelming. Lastly, on the sufficiency of public initiatives to improve hygiene and waste management, 6 participants (50.0%) *disagreed*, 4 (33.3%) *strongly disagreed*, and 2 (16.7%) *agreed*. The mean score of 2.83 reflects scepticism, but with acknowledgment of ongoing initiatives.

Responses regarding the health sector reflect a moderately positive perception, with a weighted mean of 3.03. A large majority of respondents, 10 (83.3%), agreed that public health policies effectively ensure access to quality healthcare services, while 2 (16.7%) strongly agreed. No one disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement, yielding a relatively high mean score of 3.17.

Regarding the affordability and accessibility of medical care at government hospitals and clinics, 8 respondents (66.7%) agreed, 2 (16.7%) disagreed, and another 2 (16.7%) strongly agreed. The mean score of 3.00 indicates a fairly favourable outlook, though with room for improvement. For the management of disease prevention and health awareness programs by public administration, 10 participants (83.3%) agreed and 2 (16.7%) strongly agreed. This led to a mean score of 3.17, signalling confidence in health promotion efforts. Concerning emergency medical services, 6 respondents (50.0%) agreed, 4 (33.3%) disagreed, and 2 (16.7%) strongly agreed. The mean of 2.67 suggests that many experience delays or unreliability in emergency responses.

On maternal and child healthcare services, again 10 participants (83.3%) agreed and 2 (16.7%) strongly agreed, reflecting a mean score of 3.17, which indicates a strong belief in the effectiveness of government initiatives in this area. Overall responses in this section indicate moderate concern, with a weighted mean of 2.6, reflecting mixed satisfaction regarding nutrition-related public services. For addressing malnutrition and food insecurity, 6 respondents (50.0%) agreed, 4 (33.3%) disagreed, and 2 (16.7%) strongly agreed, leading to a mean score of 2.67.

The same distribution was observed regarding the adequacy of nutritional support for children and vulnerable groups again, 6 (50.0%) agreed, 4 (33.3%) disagreed, and 2 (16.7%) strongly agreed, producing another mean of 2.67. For access to affordable and nutritious food, 6 respondents (50.0%) agreed, 5 (41.7%) disagreed, and 1 (8.3%) strongly agreed, also resulting in a mean of 2.67. Concerning school feeding programs, 6 (50.0%) agreed, 4 (33.3%) disagreed, and 2 (16.7%) strongly agreed, yielding a mean of 2.58, slightly lower than the others. When asked about food safety and quality regulation, 9 participants (75.0%) agreed, 2 (16.7%) strongly disagreed, and 1 (8.3%) strongly agreed. The mean score of 2.92 was the highest in the nutrition section, indicating relative confidence in regulatory efforts. Perceptions about the education sector leaned slightly negative or critical, with a weighted mean of 2.3, indicating that respondents feel improvements are needed.

When evaluating free and equitable access to basic education for all children, 10 respondents (83.3%) disagreed and 2 (16.7%) strongly disagreed, resulting in a mean score of 2.83. On the adequacy of government investment in school infrastructure and materials, 9 (75.0%) disagreed, 2 (16.7%) strongly disagreed, and 1 (8.3%) agreed. The mean score was 2.92. Similar response patterns occurred for the following three items: Support for teacher training and quality instruction, Initiatives to improve literacy

and vocational skills, Support for inclusive education. Each of these received 9 (75.0%) disagreed, 2 (16.7%) strongly disagreed, and 1 (8.3%) agreed, yielding consistent mean scores of 2.92 for all.

The grand mean score of 2.6 across the health, nutrition, and education sectors shows a mixed to moderately unsatisfactory perception of public service delivery. While healthcare services received relatively better ratings, nutrition and especially education were seen as less effective, with significant dissatisfaction expressed in areas related to inclusiveness, infrastructure, and access to quality learning. These findings point to the need for improved investments and targeted reforms in education and nutritional support systems.

Research Question Three: What are the factors that hampers the effectiveness of the Ministry of Women Affairs in managing children’s welfare, in Ibadan Metropolis, Oyo State?

Table 4.5. Factors that Hampers the Effectiveness of Ministry of Women Affairs

Options	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean
Institutional and Administrative Challenges					
Inadequate funding affects the Ministry’s ability to implement effective child welfare programs.	3(25.0%)	6(50.0%)	3(25.0%)		2.00
Bureaucratic delays and administrative bottlenecks hinder prompt response to children’s welfare needs.	3(25.0%)	2(16.7%)	6(50.0%)	1(8.3%)	2.42
Lack of trained personnel reduces the Ministry’s effectiveness in handling child welfare cases.	2(16.7%)	4(33.3%)	4(33.3%)	2(16.7%)	2.50
Weak inter-agency	1(8.3%)	2(16.7%)	6(50.0%)	3(25.0%)	2.92

coordination leads to ineffective service delivery for children.						2.5
Weighted Mean						2.5
<hr/>						
Policy and Legal Constraints						
Outdated or weak child welfare policies negatively impact service delivery.	2(16.7%)	4(33.3%)	6(50.0%)			2.33
Lack of enforcement of existing child protection laws contributes to child welfare challenges.	2(16.7%)	4(33.3%)	6(50.0%)			2.33
Inadequate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms reduce program effectiveness.	8(66.7%)	4(33.3%)				3.33
Political interference affects the implementation of child welfare programs.	10(83.3%)	2(16.7%)				3.17
Weighted Mean						2.8
<hr/>						
Resource and Infrastructure Challenges						
The Ministry lacks adequate infrastructure (e.g., child care centres, rehabilitation homes).	1(8.3%)	4(33.3%)	4(33.3%)	3(25.0%)		2.75
Shortages of essential materials (e.g., food, medical supplies) limit service delivery.	1(8.3%)	2(16.7%)	4(33.3%)	5(41.7%)		3.08
Poor data collection and management hinder evidence-based decision-making.	1(8.3%)	2(16.7%)	6(50.0%)	3(25.0%)		2.92
Limited technology adoption affects service efficiency and outreach programs.	2(16.7%)	4(33.3%)	4(33.3%)	2(16.7%)		2.50
Weighted Mean						2.8
<hr/>						
Public Awareness and Community Engagement						
Low public awareness	8(66.7%)	4(33.3%)				3.33

of children's rights reduces community involvement in welfare programs.			
Cultural and societal beliefs limit the effectiveness of child protection interventions.	6(50.0%)	6(50.0%)	3.50
Inadequate collaboration with NGOs and private sector organizations affects program success.	10(83.3%)	2(16.7%)	3.17
Limited parental education and support programs hinder child welfare improvements.	3(25.0%)	9(75.0%)	3.75
Weighted Mean			3.4
Grand Mean			2.8
Scale: 0.0 – 1.5 = Very Low; 1.51 – 2.49 = Low; 2.50 – 3.00 = Moderate; 3.01 – 3.59 = High; 3.60 – 4.00 = Very High			

Table 4.5 above shows the survey results on the four key dimensions affecting child welfare delivery: Institutional and Administrative Challenges, Policy and Legal Constraints, Resource and Infrastructure Challenges, and Public Awareness and Community Engagement. Each dimension's mean is explained, followed by the overall grand mean of 2.8. Institutional and Administrative Challenges. This dimension yielded a weighted mean of 2.5, indicating that respondents perceive moderate institutional weaknesses in the Ministry responsible for child welfare. On inadequate funding, 6 respondents (50.0%) disagreed, while 3 (25.0%) strongly disagreed and 3 (25.0%) agreed. The mean score of 2.00 suggests mixed opinions, with many not viewing funding as the primary challenge.

For bureaucratic delays, 6 respondents (50.0%) agreed, while 3 (25.0%) strongly disagreed, indicating noticeable concern over administrative bottlenecks (mean =

2.42). Regarding trained personnel, opinions were distributed: 4 (33.3%) disagreed, 4 (33.3%) agreed, and 2 (16.7%) strongly agreed, leading to a mean of 2.50. On weak inter-agency coordination, 6 (50.0%) agreed, 3 (25.0%) strongly agreed, and only 3 (25.0%) were neutral or disagreed, showing this is a commonly perceived issue (mean = 2.92).

Policy and Legal Constraints. This category had a weighted mean of 2.8, showing general dissatisfaction with existing policies and their enforcement. For outdated child welfare policies, 6 respondents (50.0%) agreed, with 4 (33.3%) disagreeing (mean = 2.33). The same pattern was observed for enforcement of child protection laws (mean = 2.33). However, 8 (66.7%) agreed that poor monitoring and evaluation mechanisms reduce program effectiveness, and 4 (33.3%) strongly agreed, indicating serious concern (mean = 3.33). On political interference, 10 respondents (83.3%) agreed and 2 (16.7%) strongly agreed, with a high mean score of 3.17.

Resource and Infrastructure Challenges Also scoring a weighted mean of 2.8, this category highlights pressing resource limitations faced by child welfare institutions. Regarding infrastructure inadequacy, 4 (33.3%) disagreed, but 4 (33.3%) agreed and 3 (25.0%) strongly agreed, giving a mean of 2.75. On shortages of essential supplies, the majority of respondents agreed or strongly agreed (mean = 3.08). For data management, 6 (50.0%) agreed and 3 (25.0%) strongly agreed, indicating a high level of concern over decision-making based on poor data (mean = 2.92). Opinions on limited technology were more mixed, with 4 (33.3%) disagreeing and 4 (33.3%) agreeing, resulting in a slightly lower mean score of 2.50.

Public Awareness and Community Engagement. This was the highest-rated dimension with a weighted mean of 3.4, reflecting strong consensus that lack of public

engagement and education impedes child welfare efforts. On public awareness, 8 respondents (66.7%) agreed and 4 (33.3%) strongly agreed (mean = 3.33). Regarding cultural limitations, 6 (50.0%) agreed and 6 (50.0%) strongly agreed—a perfect split indicating universal concern (mean = 3.50). In terms of NGO and private sector collaboration, 10 (83.3%) agreed and 2 (16.7%) strongly agreed, leading to a mean of 3.17. Finally, on parental education and support, 9 (75.0%) strongly agreed and 3 (25.0%) agreed, giving the highest individual item mean score of 3.75.

The grand mean of 2.8 reveals that, across all dimensions, respondents perceive a significant level of systemic, legal, and infrastructural challenges facing child welfare administration. Although public awareness and community involvement appear to be the most pressing and universally acknowledged issue, policy enforcement, resource gaps, and inter-agency coordination also demand urgent attention to enhance the effectiveness of child protection and welfare services.

4.4 Discussion of Findings

The findings of this study reveal a high level of satisfaction and strong approval among respondents regarding the implementation and impact of the Poverty and Protection (PnP) program and the Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Programs. These results suggest that the programs have been largely successful in meeting their intended objectives of alleviating poverty, enhancing protection, and promoting the welfare of vulnerable populations—particularly children. Respondents reported that the PnP program was effective in providing economic support and social protection to low-income families. The timely provision of cash transfers, food items, and skill development initiatives contributed to increased household resilience and reduction in extreme poverty, consistent with findings from researcher, who emphasized the

positive impact of cash transfers on poverty reduction and social inclusion¹. The community perception of the PnP as a reliable safety net suggests the program's responsiveness, reflecting similar conclusions by scholars on the effectiveness of social protection programs in developing countries².

Similarly, strong approval of the OVC programs underscores their relevance and impact in addressing the multidimensional vulnerabilities of orphaned and vulnerable children. Services such as psychosocial support, educational sponsorship, access to healthcare, and nutrition programs significantly improved the quality of life for OVCs, aligning with findings by scholars who demonstrated that comprehensive support services enhance child wellbeing and developmental outcomes among vulnerable groups³. The positive community evaluation suggests that these programs foster a sense of dignity and inclusion among beneficiaries, echoing the importance of child-centred approaches discussed by UNICEF⁴.

This high satisfaction level can be attributed to several key factors: Effective community engagement and awareness, which enhance trust and program visibility⁵. Transparency and accountability in service delivery, critical to sustaining beneficiary confidence⁶. Inter-agency collaboration and NGO support, which strengthen implementation and outreach⁷. These findings resonate with broader research on social welfare interventions that promote equity and social justice¹. They also reflect positively on the efforts of government agencies and partners to ensure that vulnerable children and poor households are prioritized within national development agendas⁴. However, despite the high approval, challenges such as funding sustainability, administrative delays, and data management need continued attention to maintain and scale program impact⁸.

The strong public approval of the PnP and OVC programs indicates effective public service delivery and social policy alignment with community needs, positioning these initiatives as valuable models for integrated child welfare and poverty alleviation efforts.

For the second research question, the grand mean score of 2.6 across the health, nutrition, and education sectors shows a mixed to moderately unsatisfactory perception of public service delivery. The finding of a grand mean score of 2.6, representing a mixed to moderately unsatisfactory perception of public service delivery across the health, nutrition, and education sectors, aligns with existing literature that highlights challenges in public sector performance in developing contexts. This score suggests that beneficiaries perceive significant gaps in the quality, accessibility, or responsiveness of services provided, which may hinder effective outcomes in critical social sectors.

Public service delivery in sectors such as health, nutrition, and education are often constrained by factors including inadequate infrastructure, limited financial resources, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and weak institutional capacity⁹. These systemic challenges can result in service delivery that fails to meet user expectations or national standards, leading to dissatisfaction or mixed perceptions as indicated by the moderate mean score. Moreover, studies in similar contexts report that citizen satisfaction is influenced by not only service availability but also by perceptions of transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness¹⁰. The moderate dissatisfaction observed in this study could reflect shortcomings in these governance dimensions, which are critical for enhancing trust and engagement between the public and service providers. This finding is consistent with the observations by scholars who reported moderate public dissatisfaction with

service delivery in Nigerian local government areas, particularly in health and education sectors¹¹. Similarly, research by researchers, emphasizes the need for continuous monitoring and performance measurement to identify weaknesses and drive improvements in public service delivery¹². The implications of this mixed to unsatisfactory perception are significant. Public service delivery in health, nutrition, and education directly impacts the well-being and human capital development of communities. Persistent dissatisfaction may undermine efforts toward achieving developmental goals such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to health (SDG 3), nutrition, and quality education (SDG 4).

Therefore, the study underscores the importance of strengthening institutional frameworks, enhancing resource allocation, and promoting participatory approaches in public service management to improve delivery outcomes. Interventions targeting capacity building, performance accountability, and citizen engagement could help shift perceptions from moderate dissatisfaction to higher satisfaction and trust in public services.

For the third research question, the grand mean of 2.8 reveals that, across all dimensions, respondents perceive a significant level of systemic, legal, and infrastructural challenges facing child welfare administration.

The grand mean score of 2.8 found in this study indicates that respondents perceive a significant level of challenges across systemic, legal, and infrastructural dimensions affecting child welfare administration. This perception aligns with broader evidence that child welfare systems in many developing contexts face multifaceted obstacles that compromise effective service delivery and protection of vulnerable children. Systemic challenges often manifest as weak institutional coordination, inadequate funding, and

limited human resource capacity, which hinder comprehensive child welfare management¹³. These factors reduce the ability of child welfare agencies to implement policies effectively and respond timely to children's needs. The respondents' recognition of such challenges underscores the persistence of organizational and governance deficits within the child welfare sector.

Legal challenges identified reflect the complexities and sometimes inadequacies in the legislative frameworks governing child protection. Studies have documented gaps between existing laws and their enforcement, including inconsistencies in child rights legislation, lack of clear protocols, and limited legal literacy among stakeholders¹⁴. These shortcomings can result in ineffective child protection outcomes and diminished accountability. Infrastructural challenges, as perceived by respondents, further compound the difficulties in child welfare administration. Insufficient physical facilities, lack of modern technology, and poor access to essential resources impede service delivery, especially in rural or underserved areas. Infrastructure deficits restrict the capacity for case management, data collection, and monitoring necessary for protecting children's welfare.

The findings echo prior research highlighting that effective child welfare administration requires an integrated approach addressing systemic reforms, legal harmonization, and infrastructural investments¹⁵. Failure to resolve these challenges risks undermining child rights and welfare goals, ultimately affecting children's well-being and development. In light of these findings, policy interventions should prioritize strengthening institutional frameworks, revising and enforcing child welfare laws, and investing in adequate infrastructure. Capacity-building initiatives for social workers and child welfare practitioners are also critical to overcoming systemic and legal

barriers. Such comprehensive strategies are essential to improve service delivery and protect vulnerable children more effectively.

The test of hypothesis one shows that the Child Participation Program explains a notable portion of the variance in management of children welfare and shows a positive relationship. Although the effect is not statistically significant at the 5% level, the borderline p-value

The study's finding that the Child Participation Program accounts for a notable portion of the variance in the management of children welfare, while showing a positive relationship, resonates with the growing body of research emphasizing the importance of child participation in welfare programs. Although the effect did not reach conventional statistical significance at the 5% level, the borderline p-value suggests a potentially meaningful influence that warrants further exploration.

Child participation is widely recognized as a fundamental principle of child rights and welfare, enshrined in international frameworks such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)¹⁶. Participation empowers children by allowing them to express their views, influence decision-making processes, and thereby contribute to more responsive and effective welfare interventions. The positive association observed aligns with evidence that involving children in program design and implementation can improve service relevance, accountability, and outcomes¹⁷. The lack of statistical significance at the 5% level could be attributed to sample size limitations or variability in implementation fidelity across contexts.

Similar studies have noted that measuring the impact of participatory approaches in child welfare requires nuanced methodologies and larger samples to capture complex social dynamics and indirect effects¹⁸. Thus, the borderline significance observed here

may reflect an emerging trend rather than conclusive evidence. Furthermore, the positive influence of child participation in welfare management is consistent with theoretical perspectives that advocate for participatory governance as a mechanism for enhancing public service delivery¹⁹. When children's voices are integrated, programs tend to be more attuned to their actual needs and rights, potentially leading to improved management outcomes. The findings underscore the importance of continuing to embed child participation systematically within welfare programs and investing in capacity building for stakeholders to facilitate meaningful engagement. Future research with larger, more diverse samples and longitudinal designs would help clarify the strength and causality of this relationship.

The test of hypothesis two shows that the Orphans and Vulnerable Children Program alone does not significantly explain the variance in the management of children welfare.

The finding that the Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Program alone does not significantly explain the variance in the management of children welfare highlights important insights about the limitations of isolated programmatic interventions in addressing complex social issues. Although the OVC Program is designed to support the needs of children facing heightened vulnerabilities such as orphans, children affected by HIV/AIDS, and those living in extreme poverty, its limited statistical contribution to welfare management outcomes suggests that a singular focus on vulnerable sub-populations may not be sufficient for driving systemic improvements.

This finding aligns with existing literature indicating that while targeted interventions are critical for reaching at-risk groups, the overall effectiveness of child welfare management depends on the strength of integrated, multi-sectoral systems²⁰. Programs such as the OVC initiative often focus on short-term relief (e.g., food, shelter,

education), but may lack the structural or institutional support to bring about sustained improvements in policy implementation, case management, and monitoring²¹. Several scholars have argued that the fragmented nature of OVC programming, often driven by donor priorities or vertical project structures can lead to inefficiencies and disjointed service delivery²². This may explain the limited statistical impact of the program in this study. A narrow focus on service delivery, without adequate attention to systemic reforms such as legal protection, child participation, and infrastructure development, constrains the potential of such programs to contribute meaningfully to the overall management of children welfare²³. Furthermore, the insignificance of the OVC program in explaining variance might reflect the implementation challenges commonly associated with these initiatives, including inadequate funding, limited community involvement, and insufficient monitoring and evaluation mechanisms²⁴. These factors often reduce the reach and quality of interventions, thereby weakening their contribution to broader child welfare outcomes.

The implication of this finding is clear: while the OVC Program addresses a crucial segment of the child population, it should not be relied upon in isolation to improve child welfare management. There is a pressing need for more holistic and coordinated approaches that integrate child protection systems, legal frameworks, community engagement, and child participation to ensure meaningful progress in managing child welfare²⁵.

The test of hypothesis two shows that both programs (Orphans and Vulnerable Children Program Child Participation Program) does not significantly predict the management of children welfare based on the two programs studied. Independently, either of the program did not have a significant influence on the child welfare. However, the implication of this finding is that while (Orphans and Vulnerable Children Program

and Child Participation Program) addresses a crucial segment of the child population, it should not be relied upon in isolation to improve child welfare management. There is a pressing need for more holistic and coordinated approaches that integrate child protection systems, legal frameworks, community engagement, and child participation to ensure meaningful progress in managing child welfare

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Chapter Five

Conclusion

5.1. Summary of Findings

The summary of findings for this study “Appraisal of Children Welfare Programs in Selected Orphanage Homes in Ibadan, Oyo State (2019 to 2025)” revealed that there is a high level of satisfaction and strong approval among respondents regarding the implementation and impact of the Poverty and Protection (PnP) program and the Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Programs

The grand mean score of 2.6 across the health, nutrition, and education sectors shows a mixed to moderately unsatisfactory perception of public service delivery.

The grand mean of 2.8 reveals that, across all dimensions, respondents perceive a significant level of systemic, legal, and infrastructural challenges facing child welfare administration. Furthermore, the findings revealed that while both programs exhibit positive associations with welfare management, only the Child Participation Program demonstrated a notable and relatively stronger influence. However, its effect was only marginally significant, suggesting the need for further investigation with larger samples or more sensitive evaluative tools.

The OVC Program, when examined independently, showed a weak and statistically insignificant effect, indicating that it may not significantly impact child welfare management in isolation. This points to the potential limitations of narrowly focused interventions that are not integrated into broader, systemic frameworks. In addition, the study uncovered generally unsatisfactory perceptions of public service delivery across critical sectors such as health, nutrition, and education, as evidenced by a grand mean score of 2.6. Respondents also highlighted the presence of systemic, legal, and

infrastructural challenges confronting the administration of child welfare, with a grand mean of 2.8. These findings underscore the urgent need for comprehensive reforms that address structural deficiencies, enhance cross-sectoral collaboration, and prioritize participatory approaches in child welfare programming.

5.2. Conclusion

This study examined the influence of the *Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Program* and the *Child Participation Program* on the management of children welfare, as well as assessed perceptions of public service delivery and systemic challenges affecting child welfare administration.

In sum, effective management of children welfare in Nigeria requires a shift from fragmented, program-specific interventions to a more integrated, participatory, and system-oriented strategy. Future research and policy efforts can focus on strengthening institutional capacity, enhancing legal protections, and embedding child participation as a core component of welfare governance.

5.3. Recommendations

1. To sustain and scale the positive impact of the PnP and OVC programs, policymakers should institutionalize regular performance reviews, ensure continued funding, and promote community ownership. Expansion of these programs to underserved areas should be prioritized, alongside capacity building for field personnel to enhance program effectiveness.
2. Governments and development agencies should implement comprehensive reforms across the health, nutrition, and education sectors with a focus on improved

infrastructure, timely service delivery, and equitable access. It is also recommended that participatory feedback mechanisms be introduced to monitor service satisfaction and identify gaps from the beneficiaries' perspectives.

3. Stakeholders should strengthen the child welfare system through legislative reform, better inter-agency coordination, and investment in modern infrastructure. Legal frameworks protecting children's rights should be updated and enforced, while institutions involved in welfare administration must be adequately staffed and resourced to ensure efficient service delivery.

5.4 Contribution to Knowledge

This study contributes significantly to the body of knowledge on child welfare policy and program evaluation in several ways:

Empirical Insight into Program Effectiveness, the study provides empirical evidence on the relative influence of the Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Program and the Child Participation Program on the management of children welfare. While both programs show a positive relationship, the study clarifies that their individual and combined impacts are not statistically significant highlighting the need for improved program design and implementation.

By examining perceptions of public service delivery across the health, nutrition, and education sectors, the study sheds light on systemic and sectoral deficiencies that may hinder the success of child welfare interventions. This multi-sectoral approach broadens the scope of welfare analysis beyond single-program effectiveness.

The study offers detailed evidence of the systemic, legal, and infrastructural challenges confronting child welfare administration, as perceived by respondents. These findings

help identify bottlenecks that must be addressed to strengthen institutional support for vulnerable children.

Despite the lack of statistical significance, the borderline p-value associated with the Child Participation Program suggests its potential as a key strategy for improving welfare outcomes. This finding reinforces the importance of child-centred and participatory approaches in welfare planning and policy formulation.

5.5 Suggestion for Further Studies

Future research can adopt longitudinal designs to assess the long-term impacts of child welfare programs. This would help determine how sustained exposure to interventions like the OVC and Child Participation Programs affects children's well-being over time.

Further studies using qualitative methods such as interviews, focus group discussions, and case studies could provide deeper insights into the lived experiences of children and caregivers benefiting from these programs, uncovering nuances not captured by quantitative measures.

There is a need for comparative studies across different geopolitical zones in Nigeria or sub-Saharan Africa to explore regional variations in the implementation and effectiveness of child welfare programs.

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Appendix I

Questionnaire

Letter of Introduction

**Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Management and Social Sciences,
Lead City University, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria**

Dear Respondent,

I am a Master degree student of the above mentioned Department and Institution. I seek your indulgence to help attend to this questionnaire to the best of your ability. It's aimed at gathering relevant data on the topic, Public Administration and Children Welfare Management in Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria. Your response is strictly confidential and will be used only for research purposes.

Section A: Demographic Information

(Please tick [✓] the appropriate response)

Gender: Male Female Other

Age Group: 18–25 26–35 36–45 46 and above

Position/Role: Government Official NGO Worker Social Worker

Researcher Other (Specify) _____

Years of Experience in Child Welfare Programs: Less than 1 year 1–5 years 6–10 years More than 10 years

Section B:

Research Question 1: What is the effectiveness of the policies and programs developed by the Ministry of Women Affairs for the management of children's welfare in Ibadan Metropolis, Oyo State.

Four-Point Likert Scale: 1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Agree, 4 = Strongly Agree)

	Promotion and Participation (PnP) Programs	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	The program effectively increases children's engagement in educational activities.				
2	The program provides sufficient resources to encourage child participation.				
3	The facilitators of the program are well-trained and child-friendly.				
4	The program fosters a sense of inclusion and belonging among children.				
5	The PnP program helps improve children's confidence in social interactions.				
6	Activities under the program align with the needs and interests of the children.				
7	The program offers regular and effective feedback on children's progress.				
8	Parents/guardians are adequately involved in the participation process.				
9	The program creates a safe and supportive environment for children.				
10	The program positively impacts children's overall personal development.				
	Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Programs	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	The program provides adequate support for the emotional well-being of children.				
2	The OVC program ensures that children's basic needs (food, clothing, shelter) are met.				
3	The program effectively connects children with educational opportunities.				
4	Healthcare and psychological				

	services are accessible through the program.				
5	The program helps children develop essential life skills for independence.				
6	Support services are delivered in a culturally sensitive and child-friendly manner.				
7	The program promotes positive relationships between caregivers and children.				
8	There are clear monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track children's progress.				
9	The program ensures the active participation of children in decision-making.				
10	Community members and stakeholders are engaged in supporting the program.				

Section C:

What is the extent of effectiveness of children welfare management in the provision of social and basic needs of children in Ibadan Metropolis, Oyo State.

Four-Point Likert Scale: 1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Agree, 4 = Strongly Agree)

	Housing	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	The government provides adequate and affordable housing for low-income families.				
2	Public policies ensure access to safe and secure housing for vulnerable populations, including children.				
3	Housing conditions in my community meet the required health and safety standards.				
4	Public administration effectively addresses homelessness and housing shortages.				

5	There are sufficient government programs that support housing improvement and urban planning.				
	Sanitation	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	Public administration ensures equitable access to clean and safe drinking water.				
2	The government adequately provides sanitation facilities in urban and rural areas.				
3	Public water supply and sanitation services are reliable and well-maintained.				
4	The government effectively monitors and regulates water quality and sanitation systems.				
5	There are sufficient public initiatives to improve hygiene and waste management.				
	Health	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	Public health policies effectively ensure access to quality healthcare services for all citizens.				
2	Government hospitals and clinics provide affordable and accessible medical care.				
3	The public administration efficiently manages disease prevention and health awareness programs.				
4	Emergency medical services are available and responsive in my community.				
5	Government initiatives improve maternal and child healthcare services.				
	Nutrition	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	Public administration effectively addresses				

	malnutrition and food insecurity.				
2	Government programs provide adequate nutritional support for children and vulnerable groups.				
3	Public policies promote access to affordable and nutritious food.				
4	School feeding programs are well-implemented and beneficial to students.				
5	The government effectively regulates and promotes food safety and quality.				
	Education	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	Public administration ensures free and equitable access to basic education for all children.				
2	Government investment in school infrastructure and learning materials is adequate.				
3	Public education policies support teacher training and quality instruction.				
4	There are sufficient government initiatives to improve literacy and vocational skills.				
5	The government effectively supports inclusive education for disadvantaged groups.				

Section D

Research Question: What are the factors that hampers the capacity and effectiveness of the Ministry of Women Affairs in managing children's welfare, in Ibadan Metropolis, Oyo State.

S/N	Options Institutional and Administrative Challenges	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	Inadequate funding affects the Ministry's ability to implement effective child welfare programs.				
2.	Bureaucratic delays and				

	administrative bottlenecks hinder prompt response to children’s welfare needs.				
3	Lack of trained personnel reduces the Ministry’s effectiveness in handling child welfare cases.				
4	Weak inter-agency coordination leads to ineffective service delivery for children.				
	Policy and Legal Constraints				
1	Outdated or weak child welfare policies negatively impact service delivery.				
2	Lack of enforcement of existing child protection laws contributes to child welfare challenges.				
3	Inadequate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms reduce program effectiveness.				
4	Political interference affects the implementation of child welfare programs.				
	Resource and Infrastructure Challenges				
1	The Ministry lacks adequate infrastructure (e.g., child care centers, rehabilitation homes).				
2	Shortages of essential materials (e.g., food, medical supplies) limit service delivery.				
3	Poor data collection and management hinder evidence-based decision-making.				
4	Limited technology adoption affects service efficiency and outreach programs.				
	Public Awareness and Community Engagement				
1	Low public awareness of children’s rights reduces				

	community involvement in welfare programs.				
2	Cultural and societal beliefs limit the effectiveness of child protection interventions.				
3	Inadequate collaboration with NGOs and private sector organizations affects program success.				
4	Limited parental education and support programs hinder child welfare improvements.				

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Appendix II



The Researcher in Front of One of the Orphanage Homes



An Orphanage Home in Oke Ado, Ibadan: Oyiza Home of Love



The Researcher at Oyiza Home of Love



Social Welfare Office at Onireke, Ibadan



Another Orphanage Home: Living Word Mission Care Centre Foundation

Lead City Univ



The Researcher at Another Orphanage Home: AdukeOlaidibo



The Researcher at AdukeOlaidibo Orphanage Home

Bio-Data

A. Personal Data

1. **Full Name:** Lydia ADEBAYO
- a) **Address** 5 Asaruden Mosque Orita Challenge Ibadan
- b) **Email** lydia4inf2@gmail.com
- c) **Phone No.** 08068533352

2. **Date and Place of Birth:** 14th February, 1989, Kaduna state.

3. **Nationality:** Nigerian

4. **Marital Status:** Single

B. Educational Background

1. Educational Institutions Attended with Dates & Qualifications:

- a) Primary School Education:
LGA-Bagado Primary School Kaduna. 1996-2002
First School Leaving Certificate.
- b) Secondary Education:
Gaskiya Skills International School Barnawa Kaduna 2004- 2009
SSCE
- c) Higher Educational Institutions:
Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University Lapai Niger State

B.Sc Public Administration 2011-2015

C. Working Experience with Dates

Success Computer Centre, 2020 till Date

D. Awards and Fellowships (If any) – N/A

E. Membership – N/A

F. Publication

- Adebayo, L. & Alade, A. A. Appraisal of Children Welfare Programs in Selected Orphanage Homes in Ibadan, Oyo State (2019-2025) (Unpublished)

G. Major Conference, Seminar and Workshop Attended – N/A

1. Extra- Curricular Activities:

Reading, Travelling and Meeting People

H. Referees:

Dr. Elizabeth Owolabi
Department of Sociology
Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University Lapai
Niger State

Prof. Kolawole V.
Department of Political Science
Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University Lapai
Niger State

.....
Signature

.....
Date

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The University Compliance Certification

This is to certify that this thesis by Lydia ADEBAYO with Matriculation Number LCU/PG/005884 in the Department of Politics and International Relation, Faculty of Management and Social Sciences, Lead City University, Ibadan, is in FULL compliance with the approved university format and style.

Signature

Date

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