

Perceived Parental Disorders as Risk Factors for Child Sexual, Physical and Emotional abuse among High School Students in the Mpumalanga Province, South Africa

S. N. Madu¹, S. E. Idemudia² and A. S. Jegede³

- 1. Department of Psychology, University of the North, South Africa*
- 2. Department of Psychology, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria*
- 3. Department of Sociology, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria*

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ABSTRACT This is an investigation into the perceived parental disorders as risk factors for child sexual, physical and emotional abuse among high school students in the Mpumalanga Province (South Africa). 559 participants filled in a retrospective self-rating questionnaire in a classroom setting. The questionnaire asked questions about perceived parental disorders, and childhood sexual, physical and emotional abusive experiences of participants. Logistic Regression Analysis shows that among all the participants, parental psychiatric problems and parental physical domestic violence are risk factors for child sexual abuse. Parental drug or alcohol problems and parental physical domestic violence are risk factors for child physical abuse. Parental psychiatric hospitalisation, parental psychiatric problems, and parental physical domestic violence are risk factors for child emotional abuse. Mental health and social workers, educators and law enforcement agencies dealing with prevention and protection against child abuse in the province should take note of the above identified risk factors while designing programmes for the eradication of child sexual, physical and emotional abuse.