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AN EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT OF TRAINING WORKERS FOR  
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ON OGBOMOSO SOUTH WEST BAPTIST  
ASSOCIATION CHURCHES

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## ABSTRACT

This project is titled “An Evaluation of the Impact of Training Workers for Children’s Ministry on Ogbomoso South West Baptist Association Churches.” The main objectives of the study were to ascertain that Children’s Workers undergo training, and to assess the overall impact of training of Children’s Workers in their Children ministry to children in Ogbomoso South West Baptist Association churches using some indicators. The indicators included the content of training, life and preparation to teach, the teaching experience, Children’s Conversion, counseling and follow up.

The study was conducted through the use of questionnaires designed to elicit information from Children’s Workers. Twenty-two out of thirty churches comprising the Ogbomoso South West Baptist Association were randomly selected for the study. In all one hundred and twenty three Children’s Workers responded to the questionnaire and one hundred and sixteen of these had undergone some sort of training or the other in children’s ministry.

The findings of the study indicated that the impact of training on Children’s Workers in Ogbomoso South West Baptist Association churches have a downward trend from workers’ life and preparation for teaching (80%) to practical teaching (70%) and to children’ conversion, counseling and follow up (51%). There is need therefore to pay a greater attention to children’s conversion, counseling and follow up.

The impact of training on the cognitive aspect of the training is very high but in practice, the results are much less. This researcher recommends that specific formal training should be encouraged for all Children's Workers; accompanied by apprenticeship. Children's workers should be encouraged to practice what they learn in apprenticeship. Topics on children's Conversion Counseling and Follow up should be revised and emphasized in training. Churches should employ trained pastors for the children and bigger churches should endeavour to sponsor the call of children's pastors for smaller churches.

## Conclusion

The following conclusions are derived from the findings of the study. The training programme through the workshop is shallow. Workers are amazed at what little training can do and tend to feel high about themselves not knowing that they need more training. This calls for a systematic approach of training through the workshops. There is need to recruit and train, based on calling and willingness to teach the children just as pastors who are called to minister to adult. The goal of the church which is conversion is neglected by a greater percentage of the workers in the children's section of the church and this poses a threat to the identity of the church.

## Recommendations

The following recommendations are presented based on findings of the study:

1. Pastors that are well trained should be employed to pastor the children's section of the church for the laying of proper foundations and to oversee the volunteer leaders. This is a challenge to the large churches of the Association to adopt the small churches and provide a pastor for the children.
2. Volunteer workers who are called should be encouraged to undergo formal training and to practice what they have learnt. Apprenticeship training should also be encouraged alongside formal training.
3. Called and committed volunteer teachers should be encouraged to remain in the children's section of the church.

4. The Nigerian Baptist Convention should arrange the training through the workshops in churches, Associations and Conferences, systematically to achieve the desired results.
5. Revision of children's conversion, counseling and follow up topics should be done always through workshops to emphasize their importance and usage.
6. Churches should make learning and teaching materials especially visuals, available for the teachers and the children.