CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION (PARENTING 101)

WORKSHOP REPORT

RC 628632

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Introduction

In view of the rate of online activity amongst children since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, and owing to their vulnerability to several risks as the Internet is full of "inappropriate content" and "inappropriate people", the increase in the rate of online contents that are risky and unhealthy for children prompted the intervention of Governments institutions across National and International levels. To ensure that interventions put in place are successful, a workshop was organised for parents and caregivers for them to be well aware of these risks and get fully educated on how to minimise exposure to children.

The Nigerian Communications Commission, as part of its mandate within the ICT and Telecommunication sector, developed this initiative titled: "Parenting 101 for Digital Citizens", which is a Child Online Protection (COP) awareness program to serve as a basis for the achievement of COP across the Country and enhance awareness of unwholesome content to Parents/Caregivers.

The under listed were the objectives and scope of the workshop:

- Explain the concept of Child Online Protection
- Discuss the history of Child Online Protection and its evolution in today's world
- Discuss the technological change in the society and how it impacts and relates to the risk of unwholesome exposure of children to harmful online content
- Demonstrate an understanding of the need for Child Online Protection
- List the roles of parents/Guardians or caregivers in Child Online Protection
- List the various interventions by the Federal Government through the Nigerian Communications Commission in supporting Child Online Protection
- List some of the psychological harm that unwholesome online content can have on children and identify remedial tools and processes to detoxify young minds of the same
- Identify available technological tools in aiding Child Online Protection

Scope:
- Child Online Protection overview and evolution
- Revised Child's Rights Act 2021

- Revised ITU Child Online Protection Guidelines 2020
- Nigerian localized ITU Child Online Protection Guidelines 2020
- Keeping Children Safe Online: Advice to parents and caregivers

To achieve the afore-listed objectives, Aktiva Consulting Limited was engaged by the Management of the Nigerian Communications Commission to plan, coordinate and facilitate the two (2) day workshop. The workshop took place on the 7th and 8th of April and was attended by both Management and selected members of staff of the Nigerian Communications Commission at Fraser Suites, Abuja. The session served as the pilot phase of the workshop.

Overview of the Workshop Proceedings:

The workshop was kick-started by the Head, Internet Governance Unit - Ms. Olatokunboh Oyeleye, and thereafter invited the Lead Consultant to coordinate the proceedings of the day. The opening formality commenced with the invitation of the representative of the Director, New Media and Information Security department, in the person of Mrs. Nkiru Ebenmelu. The Executive Vice-chairman's speech was delivered in his absence by his representative, the Director of New Media and Information Security (NMIS) in the person of Dr. Haru Alhassan. The delegates were welcomed to the workshop by the representative of the EVC who reiterated the importance of the Child Online Protection workshop and the commitment of Management to ensuring that the workshop becomes an integral part of the Commission's effort and assurance that the safety of children online is at the front burner of the Commission's intervention. He furthermore stated that there is a growing concern about the safety and privacy of children online. Hence, every child must be protected from violence, exploitation, and abuse on the Internet. He further stated that COP is an international collaborative effort and a comprehensive initiative to promote the protection and safety of children by being constantly worked on. As a result, he encouraged all to pay attention to the programme as it is vital in raising children nowadays.

An ice-breaker "*It's a New World!"* was facilitated by the Lead Consultant, Mr. Henry Eyo, the Ice-breaker, drew comparisons between challenges of parenting in the past and today's technological era. Upon the completion of the icebreaker, he provided an

overview of what the programme will cover during the two (2) day period and also introduced other facilitators by reading out their profiles.

Sessions Facilitated:

Day One:

- **Mrs. Koyona Duke, the first facilitator** talked about the ***changing face of technology, and the new-normal and child online education***. This session reiterated the following:
    1. The evolution of education technology
    2. What is online education
    3. The big shift: from in-person to online learning
    4. The Internet as a learning tool
    5. How technology is changing the face of education
    6. Benefits and disadvantages of child online learning and,
    7. The realities of online learning (providing Child Online Protection)

- **Dr. Funmi Oyefusi** handled the topic: "***the objectives of Child Online Protection***", among others identified risks and vulnerabilities to children in cyberspace, create awareness and develop practical tools to help minimize risks. She also talked about:
    1. Convention on the Rights of the Child
    2. Changing Technology
    3. Child Online Education and Risks and
    4. Protecting Children Online

- **Barr. Ella Okogbaa** - Enunciated "***the Child Rights Act***" as it applies to Child Online Protection (its implication and impact). Her session focused on the role of parents and caregivers in Child Online Protection, whilst also highlighting other extant laws that guarantee the safety and protection of a child within the Nigerian legal system. Amongst others discussed in this session were:

    1. 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (As amended)
    2. Chapter 21A Criminal Code

3. Child Rights Act 2003
4. Cybercrimes Act 2015
5. Labour Act
6. The Nigeria Data Protection Regulation (NDPR)
7. The Child Online Protection Guidelines Initiative
8. UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and
9. African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

She concluded her session with an anecdote of what Nigeria lacked, and that was not the dearth of laws or regulations on child protection, but the enforcement of same.

- **Mrs. Toyin Oboh** - She handled the open discussion with the theme: "***What has changed - identifying online trends and the impact of technology on children.***" Her session highlighted the increase in the knowledge of science and artificial intelligence and that children in the 21st century are avid users of technology. The rise in its use has an impact on a child's brain and their physical development; we use technology in our everyday life so it is nearly impossible to prevent children from also desiring them. So, it is now the job of parents to find the right ways for children to interact with technology, understand the way it impacts them, and how encourage the right use of it.

- The session: **Post Covid-19 educational technology realities** which involved ***the impact of covid-19 on education and learning for children*** was handled by **Mrs. Irene Bangwell** while the ***COP components of national cyber security policy and strategy-bringing the message home*** were handled by **Mrs. Irene Bangwell and Mrs. Elizabeth Yisa.**

The session with COP Ambassadors:
- **Mrs. Chioma Ibe and Miss Amina Ramallan** took the next part which was an open discussion and was with the COP Ambassadors. This was a questions and answers session. The children were asked how they felt about Child Online Protection and their feedback on how they wanted to be protected. They all

answered in accord wanting a more secure online environment for children. They also want all perpetrators penalized. *It is of note that one of the children even highlighted that victims should be allowed to mention the penalty.* At the end of this session, lessons for children and parents were highlighted.

- *Online risks and harm and parental responsibility in COP - Identifying and minimizing online risks and keeping children safe online guidelines.* This session was handled again by **Mrs. Irene Bangwell**, who highlighted and shed light amongst others, on what online risks are, how to eliminate online risks, and a comprehensive guide to keeping children safe online. During this session, **Mrs. Elizabeth Yisa**, a member of staff of the Internet Governance Unit, explained the component of the National Cyber Security Act that protected Children.

ITU COP 2020 Guideline:

- **Miss Samira Danburam** talked about the *localization of the revised ITU COP 2020 guidelines,* while **Mrs. Ijeoma Bassey** and **Mrs. Hadiza Daura Musa** handled the *online safety activity and scenarios for parents and caregivers*.

Session on Tools & Techniques for Child Online Protection:

Miss Osenkein Ahanmisi & Barr. Ella Okogbaa - The programme for the first day ended with a practical session on "*Technological tools for Child Online Protection/parental controls*. The session enumerated various means by which users of Android and IOS devices can set controls to limit the exposure of their kids to inappropriate online content.

Day Two

The second day of the workshop started with a review of day one's activity, after which a documentary titled: "*The Social Dilemma*" was aired by the Workshop Coordinator, **Mr. Henry Eyo**. The video exposed the various means by which various social media platforms get their audience hooked on their content, and recommended practical means by which the Government and individuals can take control of their lives through conscious awareness of the dangers of over usage and overexposure.

Dr. Maria Saliu handled the session: **Psychological harm of dangerous online content on children and remedial action**. This involved understanding the fragile nature of the

mind of a child, migrating exposure to potentially harmful content, and techniques for detoxing a child of harmful content.

The programme concluded with an interactive session. This involved experiences learned and the responses of the AU-COP Ambassadors on Child Online Protection were displayed for all to read and learn. After which, the facilitators answered questions from the participants.

The Child Online Protection workshop ended with all being encouraged to apply what they have learned in their homes to improve the tech-life of their families.

Workshop Methodology:

To ensure that the workshop achieved its objective, the following workshop methodology was used:

- Lecture
- Group Discussion
- Case Study
- Video
- Practical Session

Observations:

Below are the observations from the workshop:

- **Relativity but Broader Scope**: Based on the questions from the participants during the sessions, it could be said that this was an eye-opener for many in the audience.
- **Allocate More Time/Day:** The facilitators weren't able to fully dished out all that they've prepared.
- **Time Management:** The programme didn't start on time (Participants didn't come on time). Hence, the rush in the sessions.

Recommendations:

The under-listed are recommendations that if taken into account will further enrich the delivery and outcome of the workshop:

- ⚜ The session should be extended to other participants across the Commission.
- ⚜ In view of the importance and significance of Child Online Protection, the Commission should identify ways and means by which schools can add some of the content to their curriculum.
- ⚜ The Commission should also identify means by which Faith-based organisations can be involved in the dissemination of information on Child Online Protection.
- ⚜ More day(s) can be allocated to the workshop.

Conclusion

The success and acceptance of the workshop cannot be overstated; both verbal and documented feedback from participants underscored the necessity and significance of the workshop to parents and caregivers alike. Overall, the workshop was adjudged successful and an additional stream of the same workshop will serve to increase the awareness of the subject matter.

Feedback from Participants

At the end of the training session, participants were given feedback forms for them to provide comments that could help the improvement of the workshop in the future and the charts and comments are listed below (please see the appendix for the tool).
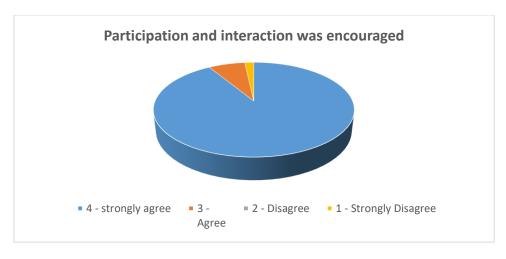
The questionnaire administered had two (2) key parameters, and each parameter had factors under them, which were measured using a four (4) point Likert scale (please see appendix):

- Training/ workshop content & Organisation of learning
- Knowledge and experience of Facilitators

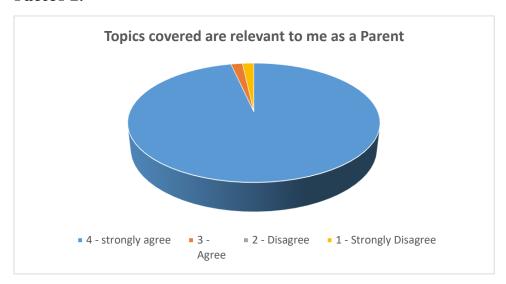**Parameter 1: Training / Workshop Content & Organisation of Learning**

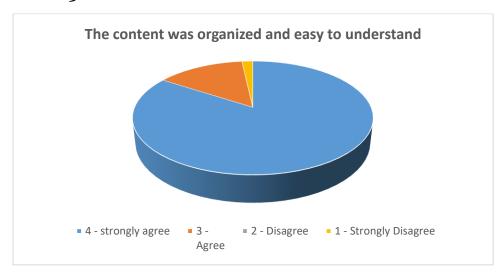| S/N	Questions	4 – Strongly Agree	3 - Agree	2 - Disagree	1 – Strongly Disagree
1	Participation and interaction were encouraged	91.22%	7.01%		1.75%
2	The topics covered are relevant to me as a Parent	96.49%	1.75%		1.75%
3	The content was organized and easy to understand	84.21%	14.04%		1.75%
4	This training is applicable to my parenting skills	89.47%	8.77%		1.75%

Factor 1:

The chart shows that there was interaction between the participants and the facilitators. 98.23% agreed, while 1.75% disagree.

Factor 2:

Topics covered are relevant to me as a Parent

■ 4 - strongly agree   ■ 3 - Agree   ■ 2 - Disagree   ■ 1 - Strongly Disagree
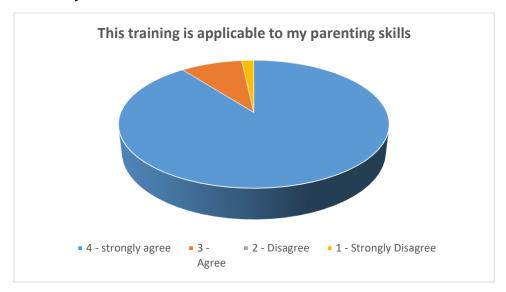
This chart shows that the topics covered in the sessions are in line with the Terms of Reference. Truly, the topics were relevant because 98.24% agreed, while just 1.75% disagreed.

Factor 3:

The content was organized and easy to understand

■ 4 - strongly agree   ■ 3 - Agree   ■ 2 - Disagree   ■ 1 - Strongly Disagree

This shows that the facilitators understand the material and tally their presentation to the theme, and which is to enlighten "Digital Citizens" on processes to protect their children online. Those that agreed were 98.25% while just 1.7% disagreed.
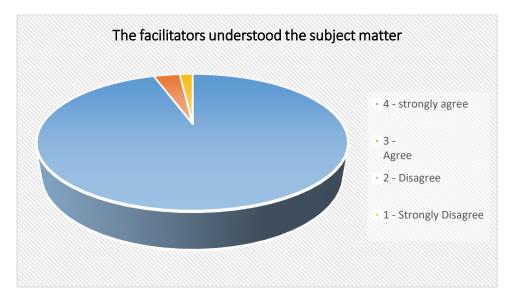
Factor 4:

This chart shows that the parenting skills of the "Digital Citizens" were enhanced. This in turn was the objective of the workshop, which is to further enlighten parents of the dangers on the Internet and how to mitigate same. Those that agreed on this were 98.24% while 1.75% disagreed.

Parameter 2: Knowledge and Experience of Facilitators

S/N	Questions	4 – Strongly Agree	3 - Agree	2 - Disagree	1 – Strongly Disagree
1	The facilitators understood the subject matter	94.73%	3.51%		1.75%
2	The facilitators encouraged participants to share their knowledge and experiences	84.21%	12.28%	1.75%	1.75%
3	The facilitators were organised and paced the content appropriately	77.19	21.05		1.75%
4	The facilitators handled the session in a very professional manner	89.47%	8.77%		1.75%

Factor 1:

The facilitators understood the subject matter

- 4 - strongly agree
- 3 - Agree
- 2 - Disagree
- 1 - Strongly Disagree
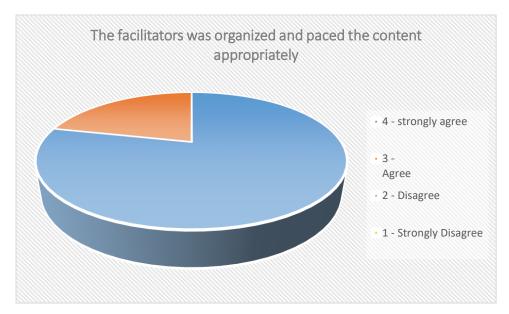
This chart shows that the sessions were handled well by the facilitators. The facilitators indeed, prepared well for their sessions. 98.24% agreed, while 1.75% disagreed.

Factor 2:

The facilitators encouraged participants to share their knowledge and experiences

- 4 - strongly agree
- 3 - Agree
- 2 - Disagree
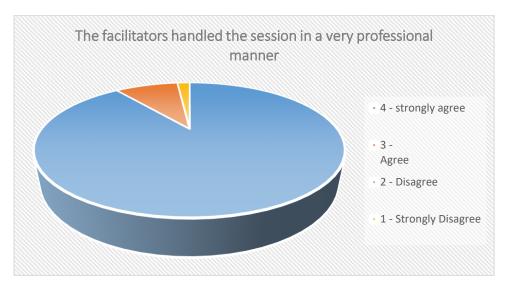- 1 - Strongly Disagree

This chart shows that the sessions was interactive; it was conversational. It also involved questions and answers. All were encouraged their viewpoints, knowledge and experiences so that other parents can learn from others. Those who agreed were 96.49%, while 3.5% disagreed.

Factor 3:

The chart confirmed that the facilitators were organized and their paced in presenting was easy to follow through. So, the participants were able to take down points. Those that agreed were 98.24%, while 1.75% disagreed.

Factor 4:

This chart confirmed that the facilitators were professional during their presentation. Those that agreed on this were 98.24% while 1.75% disagreed.

In conclusion, the success and acceptance of the workshop via the feedback from participants accentuated the necessity and significance of the workshop to parents and caregivers alike.

Appendices
- Workshop Agenda
- Training Feedback Form

CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION (PARENTING 101)

VENUE: FRASER SUITES, CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, ABUJA.

DATE: 7th – 8th APRIL, 2022

Date / Time	Topic / Activities	Responsibilities
DAY 1 – 7th April 2022		
8.00am – 9.00am	▪ **Registration**	All
9.00am – 9.30am	**Opening Formalities** ▪ Welcome & Introduction ▪ Opening Remarks ▪ EVC's Welcome	Participants / Consultant Head of Unit /Director, NMIS EVC
9.30 am – 9.45 am	**Ice-breaker** ▪ **It's a new world!**	**Programme coordinator/ Participant**
9.45 am – 10.45 am	**Module 1: Child Online Protection - Overview** ▪ Overview of Programme ▪ The Changing Face of Technology, the New-normal and Child Online Education ▪ Objectives of Child Online Protection (COP)	**Mr. Henry Eyo** **Mrs. Koyona Duke** **Dr. Funmi Oyefusi**
10.45 am – 11.15 am	**TEA BREAK**	**All**
11.15am – 12.30pm	**Module 1: Child Online Protection – Overview (cont'd)** • Child Rights Act (Revised) – Its implication and import on Child Online Protection **Open Discussion:** ▪ What has changed – Identifying Online Trends and the Impact of Technology on children	**Barr. Ella Okogbaa** **Mrs. Toyin Oboh**
12.30pm – 1.30pm	**Module 2: Post COVID-19 Educational Technology Realities** ▪ Impact of COVID-19 on Education & Learning for Children ▪ COP components of National Cyber Security Policy & Strategy – Bringing the message Home **Open Discussion:** • COP Ambassadors' Engagement with Parents • Responses from Children During the AU Day of the African Child	**Mrs. Irene Bangwell** **Mrs. Irene Bangwell/Mrs. Elizabeth Yisa** **(Mrs. Chioma Ibe & Ms. Amina Ramallan)**

	• Key highlights and lessons for Children and Parents	
1.30pm – 2.30pm	**LUNCH BREAK**	**All**
2.30pm – 3.15pm	**Module 3: Online Risks and Harm and Parental Responsibility in COP** ▪ Identifying and minimizing online risk and Harm ▪ Keeping Children Safe Online Guidelines	**Mrs. Irene Bangwell**
3.15pm – 4.30pm	**Module 3: Online Risks and Harm and Parental Responsibility in COP (cont'd)** *Practical Session:* ▪ Technological tools for Child online protection / Parental Control Measures • **Localisation of the revised ITU COP 2020 Guidelines** • **Online safety Activity & Scenarios for Parents & Caregivers**	**Barr. Ella / Ms. Osenkein Ahanmisi** **Ms. Samira Danburam** **Mrs. Ijeoma Bassey / Mrs. Hadiza Daura Musa**
4.30pm -4.45pm	**Recap of Day 1 / closing**	**Consultant / Participants**
DAY 2 – 8ᵗʰ April 2022		
9.00am – 9.10am	**Review of Day 1/ Ice Break / Tea**	**All**
9.10 am – 10.45 am	**Module 4: Psychological Harm of Dangerous online content on Children & Remedial Action** ▪ Understanding the fragile nature of the mind of a child ▪ Mitigating exposure to potentially harmful content ▪ Techniques for detoxing a child of harmful content	**Dr. Maria Saliu**
10.45 am – 11.45 am	**Interactive Session** ▪ Experience sharing with parents ▪ Promoting engagement between parents/caregivers and children	**Mrs. Irene Bangwell**
11.45am – 12.15pm	**Recap of Lessons Learnt/End of Programme**	**Programme Coordinator**
12.15pm – 1.00pm	**LUNCH BREAK**	**All**

Training Evaluation Form for participants

Date: _____

Title and location of training: _____

Instructions: Please indicate your level of agreement with the statements listed below:
4= Strongly Agree, 3 =Agree, 2 = Disagree, 1= Strongly Disagree

S/N	Questions	Strongly Agree (4)	Agree (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
1	Participation and interaction were encouraged.				
2	The topics covered are relevant to me as a Parent				
3	The content was organized and easy to understand.				
4	This training is applicable to my parenting skills				

FACILITATORS

S/N	Questions	Strongly Agree (4)	Agree (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
1	The facilitators understood the subject matter.				
2	The facilitators encouraged participants to share their knowledge and experiences.				
3	The facilitator was organized and paced the content appropriately.				
4	The facilitators handled the session in a very professional manner.				

What did you like most about the workshop?

What aspect will you apply immediately as a parent/carer?

What aspect of the workshop should be improved on?

Which of the modules is most impactful to you as a parent/carer?

What additional module (s) will you like to have in the future?

Any other comments/suggestions