



Impact of Orphanage-Based Interventions on the Well-Being of Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria.

TRACY B.E. OMOROGIUWA, EFOSA K. EHIGIE
University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria.

Abstract. The issue of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) remains a global humanitarian concern, prompting interventions to enhance their socioeconomic well-being. This study examined the influence of orphanage-based interventions on OVC in Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria. The objectives of the study were to examine the effectiveness of orphanage-based interventions in improving the well-being of orphans and vulnerable children in Benin City, evaluate the impact of healthcare services provided to orphans and vulnerable children through orphanage-based interventions in Benin City, lastly to examine the effects of educational and vocational training support provided to orphans and vulnerable children by orphanages in Benin City. Ecological systems theory was used in explanation of the study. Mixed-methods research design was adopted, combining quantitative and qualitative approaches. Data were collected from 384 OVC and 10 informants using a structured questionnaire and in-depth interview guide respectively. The instruments were content-validated, and reliability was determined by pre-test. Member-checking was used to verify the interview findings. Multi-stage sampling techniques including stratified, simple random and purposive sampling were employed. Quantitative data were analyzed using SPSS version 22, presented in percentages, tables, and charts, while qualitative data were transcribed and analyzed thematically. The findings of the study revealed significant inadequacies in healthcare and educational opportunities for OVC in orphanages across Benin City. Participants expressed dissatisfaction with existing support services. The study recommends free enrolment of OVC into the Edo State or national health insurance scheme and policy to mandate school proprietors to provide scholarship for the as part of their corporate social responsibility.

Keywords: Orphans, orphanage-based intervention, orphans and vulnerable children, vulnerable, well-being

1. Introduction

The issue of orphans and vulnerable children remains a pressing global humanitarian concern, necessitating various interventions to enhance their well-being. In particular, orphanage-based interventions have evolved as a crucial response to the challenges faced by these children, who often lack access to basic needs such as education, healthcare, and emotional support (Nguyen et al., 2016). In the past, orphanages were usually seen as the go-to solutions for caring for orphans, focusing on the provision of shelter, gloomy, austere, and rules rather than on nurturing (Duncan & McMahon, 2017). However, the perception has shifted over the years, recognizing that merely providing shelter is insufficient. Recent decades have ushered in a new era where the focus is on quality care, community involvement and long-term support system, shaping a narrative that these children can indeed thrive with the right support (Kumar, 2012).

Orphanages are seen as life jackets in turbulent waters, offering much-needed support in waves of adversity, encompassing a wide range of services, including education, healthcare, and emotional support (Ogunyemi, 2017). It provides a safety net of resources that can help these children grow into thriving adults rather than just surviving their childhood. Ogunleye (2020) Orphanage-based interventions are structured programmes and services designed to support the well-being of orphans and vulnerable children living in orphanages. In other words, these interventions are provided to orphans and vulnerable children within the confines of orphanages to improve their well-being (Yuka & Omorogiuwa, 2024). These may include educational support,

healthcare services, nutritional assistance, and emotional counseling, all of which aim to improve the overall quality of life of these children.

Orphanage-based interventions have emerged as approaches to address the needs of OVC. The emergence of these interventions has provided valuable insights into the development of targeted and effective support strategies for OVC in most urban settings (Ogunleye, 2020; Yuka & Omorogiuwa, 2024). Meanwhile, orphanages often collaborate with local organizations and government agencies to create comprehensive programmes that address not only the immediate needs of children but also their long-term development (Omorogiuwa, 2021). In Benin City, where many families struggle with poverty and instability, such interventions have been instrumental in enhancing the overall well-being of these children, allowing them to thrive despite their circumstances (Omorogiuwa, 2025). The effectiveness of these interventions extends beyond immediate support, contributing to long-term improvements for orphans and vulnerable children by equipping them with the skills and resources necessary for future independence and success (Okafor, 2021). Meanwhile, understanding the well-being of orphans is essential for developing targeted interventions and it encompasses the overall quality of life of orphans and vulnerable children, including their health, education, and economic stability (Omorogiuwa, 2020). Mwoma and Pillay (2016) further asserted that the healthcare services provided to orphans and vulnerable children are also essential for their overall well-being. Access to quality healthcare is critical for preventing and managing health problems among orphans and vulnerable children (Okafor, 2021). Another area of intervention highlighted by Keat (2014) is educational support, such as scholarships and educational resources are crucial for the educational development of orphans and vulnerable children which is a key factor breaking the cycle of poverty and vulnerability, Patel and Lee (2021) and Omorogiuwa (2023) posit that orphanage-based interventions are critical not only for the immediate well-being of these vulnerable children but also for fostering their long-term development. However, the effectiveness of these existing orphanage-based interventions to address these needs of OVC remains an under-explored area of study and substantial gap in ascertaining their actual impact on the well-being of these vulnerable children (Patel & Lee, 2021).

1.1 Statement of the Research Problem

The increasing number of children lacking care has led to significant disruptions in their social, emotional,

and economic development, making them susceptible to several adverse outcomes including poverty, exploitation, and limited access to education and healthcare services (Omorogiuwa, 2020). However, Benin City, Edo State, is perceived to be home to a growing population of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), who often lack access to essential services such as education, healthcare, and psychosocial support (Ogunleye, 2020; Yuka & Omorogiuwa, 2024). This was further supported by Situation Analysis and Assessment of orphans and vulnerable children in Nigeria in 2018 that Benue and Edo State had the highest prevalence rate of 35 percent orphans in Nigeria (Ladan, 2018). Most of these children face persistent hardships that hinder their ability to thrive and contribute positively to society.

According to researchers, orphans and vulnerable children in Edo State often lack adequate shelter, proper nutrition, and limited access to education and healthcare, including being at a high risk of economic exploitation, physical/sexual abuse, child prostitution, child slavery, child labor and trafficking, and early marriage/pregnancy, among others (Osiruemu, 2007; Eghafona, 2009; Owolabi, 2012; Ehigie & Omorogiuwa, 2022; Omorogiuwa, 2021). In response, various non-governmental organizations and government initiatives have emerged, focusing on orphanage-based interventions that aim to provide a safe environment, nurture, and resources to support vulnerable children, including existing policies such as the Child Rights Act (2003) and the National Guideline and Standard of Practice (NGSP) for OVC. A cursory look at orphanages in Benin City reveals a diverse landscape of facilities, each with a unique approach to care and support, reflecting the varying needs of the children they serve.

The Ecological Systems Theory developed by Urie Bronfenbrenner (1979) established that human development is influenced by the different types of environmental systems that interact with individual (Tudge et al., 2009). The foregoing implies that human development is not solely determined by individual factors, but is significantly shaped by the various layers of the environment surrounding the individual. In relating this theory to this study, the mesosystem and ecosystem layers provide a lens understanding the environmental/ multifaceted influences on the well-being of orphans and vulnerable children in Benin City. The ecosystem highlights the connections between different microsystems, such as the relationship between the orphanage and local schools, healthcare providers (Hogan, 2017). For orphanage-based interventions to be impactful, they must promote collaboration among these institutions. In

other words, partnerships with local schools can facilitate the enrolment of orphanage children in mainstream educational programmes, increasing orphans and vulnerable children access to educational, healthcare and social resources, can in turn enhance their socio-economic opportunities. Exosystem includes external societal factors that indirectly affect orphans' lives. This includes government policies regarding child welfare, funding allocations for orphanages.

Despite the efforts made by these orphanages, many children still face significant challenges in accessing quality education and health care. The effectiveness and sustainability of orphanage-based interventions remain uncertain because of inconsistent funding streams and limited government support (Omorogiuwa, 2025). Many facilities operate with insufficient resources, which affects the quality and consistency of the services provided (Johnson & Lee, 2019). Additionally, the transition from institutional care to independent living presents considerable challenges for OVC aging outside the system, with many lacking adequate preparations for self-sufficiency. This study evaluated the impact of current orphanage-based interventions on the well-being of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in Benin City, identifying effective practices and areas requiring improvement.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

This study aimed to evaluate the impact of orphanage-based interventions on the well-being of orphans and vulnerable children in Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria. The specific objectives were to:

- evaluate the impact of healthcare services provided to orphans and vulnerable children through orphanage-based interventions in Benin City.
- examine the effects of educational and vocational training support provided to orphans and vulnerable children by orphanages in Benin City.

1.3 Research Questions

The following research questions were generated to guide this study:

- What are the impacts of healthcare services provided to orphans and vulnerable children through orphanage-based interventions in Benin City?
- How effective is the provision of educational and vocational training to orphans and

vulnerable children by orphanages in Benin City?

2. Research Methodology

This study employed the mixed methods for the data collection, combining quantitative and qualitative approaches. For the quantitative aspect of the study, a cross-sectional design was adopted in the collection of the data on the impact of orphanage-based interventions on the well-being of orphans and vulnerable children. The qualitative component of the study adopted the phenomenology research design, focusing on the subjective experiences of the informants to understand common characteristics of the phenomena being study. For the quantitative aspect of the study, 384 respondents were selected using the stratified random sampling technique. The purposive sampling technique was used to select a representative sample of OVC from different orphanages across various locations in Benin City. For the qualitative data, ten (10) informants were selected using the purposive sampling technique, which comprises of two social workers, two Directors in the Edo State Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues, two caregivers, four administrators from the selected orphanages, to gain insights into their experiences and the operational dynamics of orphanages. This comprehensive approach enhanced the richness and robustness of the data collected in the study.

2.1 Methods of Data Collection

Given that this study utilized the mixed method of data collection, two research instruments were adopted for data collection; they were the structured questionnaire (OVC Well-being Assessment Tool, OVC-WAT): that was divided into sections to gather demographic characteristics of the respondents and to assess the impacts of orphanage-based interventions on the well-being of orphans and vulnerable children. This survey tools also utilized Likert scales and dichotomous questions for ease of analysis and measurement of the intensity of the feelings of the respondents towards the given questions. The qualitative data were obtained using indepth interview guide and audio recorded, this allows the study draw out in-depth insights into the informants' experiences. To ensure efficient data collection, three research assistants were recruited and trained specifically for the quantitative data collection.

2.2 Method of Data Analysis

The quantitative data collected through the structured questionnaires were analyzed with the aid of the

statistical packages of social sciences (SPSS) version 22. This choice was based on its versatility in data handling and the ability to break down statistical data in a more understandable way. The quantitative data were also presented using percentages, frequency distribution table, cross-tabulations, and charts. The qualitative data gathered from interviews were transcribed and analyzed using thematic analysis. This process involves coding the data to identify recurring themes and patterns.

3. Presentation of Results

Research Question One: What are the impacts of healthcare services provided for orphans and vulnerable children by orphanage-based interventions in Benin City?

Items	Questions	Response Options	Frequency	Percentage
1	How adequate are the healthcare services provided to orphans and vulnerable children in orphanages?	Highly Adequate	30	7.8%
		Adequate	90	23.4%
		Slightly Adequate	110	28.6%
		Not Adequate	154	40.1%
		Total	384	100
2	To what extent do you receive regular medical check-ups in the Orphanage?	To a Great Extent	24	6.3%
		To Some Extent	70	18.2%
		To a Limited Extent	200	52.1%
		Not at All	90	23.4%
		Total	384	100
3	How accessible are healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, therapists) to orphans and vulnerable children in orphanages?	Highly Accessible	44	11.5%
		Moderately Accessible	75	19.5%
		Slightly Accessible	240	62.5%
		Not Accessible	25	6.5%
		Total	384	100
4	How satisfied are orphans and vulnerable children with the quality of healthcare services provided in orphanages?	Very Satisfied	32	8.3%
		Satisfied	40	10.4%
		Slightly Satisfied	92	24%
		Not Satisfied	220	57.3%
		Total	384	100
5		Highly Sufficient	34	8.9%

2.3 Ethical Considerations

Written informed consent was obtained from all participants, including proprietors of orphanages and caregivers of OVC, prior to data collection. Participants were assured of their right to withdraw at any time without any repercussions. Participants' anonymity and confidentiality was maintained throughout the study.

How sufficient are the healthcare resources (medications, facilities, emergency response) available to orphans and vulnerable children in orphanages?	Sufficient	65	17%
	Slightly Sufficient	100	26.0%
	Not Sufficient	185	48.1%
	Total	384	100

Source: Field survey, 2025

Question one in Table One analyzed data on how adequate are the healthcare services provided for OVC. Significant majority of the respondents 154(40.1%) claimed that healthcare services provided are not adequate, this however, indicates a substantial gap in the essential health needs of this vulnerable population, meanwhile 30(7.8%) of the total respondents sampled affirmed that the healthcare services as 'highly adequate, while 90(23%) and 110(28.6%) of the respondents stated adequately and slightly adequate respectively. The analysis reveals a deficiency in the healthcare service quality and availability. These findings suggest that the existing healthcare delivery system in orphanages have not adequately address the complexities surrounding the health challenges faced by OVC. The quantitative data was complemented by qualitative data collected through the study's in-depth interview; the informant's responses were highlighted below.

"Healthcare support services here are almost non-existent. If a child is sick, we have to take them to a distant hospital, which is not feasible for minor issues. They often end up suffering unnecessarily." (Female IDI/54 years/orphanage home proprietor/2025).

"The healthcare resources available in the orphanages are inadequate. We often have to rely on donations or outside help, and that's not a sustainable solution for the long-term healthcare needs of these children." (Male IDI/49 years/Social Worker/2025).

These responses reflect a range of concerns about both the effectiveness of healthcare services and the sufficiency of resources available in orphanages. The analysis of data to ascertain the extent of regular medical check-ups received by OVC in the Orphanage shows that the majority of the children sampled 200(52.1%) felt that regular and routine medical checkups are provided to a limited extent, while 90(23.4%) stated that these medical check-ups are not provided at all. 24(6.3 %) of the respondents believed that these services are available to a great extent. The findings show that orphans and vulnerable children in most orphanages lack of regular medical, meanwhile the absence of which can result in undiagnosed medical conditions, potentially exacerbating health issues of these children.

On whether healthcare professionals are accessible to orphans and vulnerable children, data analysis shows that 240(62.5%) of the children sampled in the study indicated that healthcare professionals are slightly accessible, while 25(6.5%) stated that the health professionals are highly accessible. 44(11.5%) respondents of the total population sampled considered these healthcare professionals as 'not accessible. These findings reveal that the majority of the respondents sampled believed that healthcare professionals are not easily accessed. The perception of limited accessibility may discourage caregivers from seeking necessary medical help, resulting in detrimental health implications for the children in their care.

Analysis of question four in Table one reveals the assessment of satisfaction concerning the quality of healthcare services delivery in orphanages. 220(57.3 %) of the children sampled in the study affirmed that they were not satisfied with the quality of healthcare provided to them, while 32 (8.3 %) respondents indicated being very satisfied. 94(24%) of the sampled respondents stated that they are 'slightly satisfied with the healthcare services. Therefore, the high levels of dissatisfaction expressed by the majority of the respondents highlight the potential deficiencies in various aspects of healthcare delivery in the various orphanages in Benin City, which may include the availability of comprehensive treatment options, and the overall quality of care.

One the sufficiency of healthcare resources, significant majority of the respondents 185(48.1%) rated the healthcare resources as Not Insufficient. This may indicate a pronounced sentiment that the healthcare needs of orphans and vulnerable children are not adequately met. 100(26%) of respondents described the resources as Slightly Sufficient, suggesting that while some resources may be available, they are far from being adequate. Collectively 99(25.9%) of respondents rated the resources as either Highly Sufficient or Sufficient. These findings reveal considerable perception

of inadequacy in the healthcare provision in orphanages in Benin City. The quantitative data was complemented by qualitative data collected through in-depth interview, where the informants responded as follows;

"Honestly, the resources are insufficient. We cannot even keep a consistent supply of basic medications, let alone specialized treatments. It's a constant struggle to find what we need." (Female IDI/51 years/orphanage home proprietor/2025).

"We have a shortage of medication and medical supplies. We often have to improvise or go without medical essential items, which put the children at risk; also, most orphanages do not have a proper emergency response plan in place. If a child has an acute issue, they scramble to find help" (Female IDI/54 years/orphanage home proprietor/2025).

The data highlights a critical problem in the sufficiency of healthcare resources for orphans and vulnerable children in orphanages in Benin City, with majority of the participants affirming that the availability of medications, facilities, and emergency response among others are inadequate.

Research Question Two: How effective is the provision of educational and vocational training support to orphans and vulnerable children by orphanages in Benin City?

Items	Questions	Response Options	Frequency	Percentage
1	To what extent do you think orphanages have provided educational and skill development opportunities for orphans and vulnerable children	To a Great Extent	23	6%
		To Some Extent	51	13.3%
		To a Limited Extent	271	70.6%
		Not at All	39	10.2%
		Total	384	100
2	How adequate is, the educational support provided to orphans and vulnerable children in orphanages?	Highly Adequate	44	11.5%
		Adequate	42	10.9%
		Slightly Adequate	58	51.1%
		Not Adequate	240	62.5%
		Total	384	100
3	How sufficient are the learning materials and resources (textbooks, technology, and school supplies) available to orphans and vulnerable children in orphanages?	Highly Sufficient	34	8.9%
		Sufficient	90	23.4%
		Slightly Sufficient	110	28.6%
		Not Sufficient	150	39.1%
		Total	384	100
4	How satisfied are orphans and vulnerable children with the quality of education and vocational training support provided by orphanages in Benin City?	Very Satisfied	34	8.9%
		Satisfied	80	20.8%
		Slightly Satisfied	103	26.8%
		Not Satisfied	167	43.5%
		Total	384	100

5	How accessible are higher education opportunities (college scholarships, vocational training) for orphans and vulnerable children in orphanages?	Highly Accessible	44	11.5%
		Moderately Accessible	90	23.4%
		Slightly Accessible	110	28.6%
		Not Accessible	140	36.5%
		Total	384	100

Source: Field survey, 2025

Analysis of question one in Table Two on how effective the provision of educational and vocational training support to orphans and vulnerable children by orphanages in Benin City. Significant majority of respondents 271(70.6%) believe that orphanages provide educational and vocational training opportunities only to a limited extent, and 39(10.2%) of the sampled respondents affirmed that orphanages do not provide educational and vocational training opportunities for OVC at all. In contrast, 23 (6%) and 51(13.3%) felt that educational and skill development opportunities are available to a great extent and some extent respectively. These findings reveal persistent concerns in the ability of orphanages in Benin City to provide for the necessary educational and skill development needs of OVC. This perception may suggest a need for organizations and policymakers to scrutinize and reform policies to address the educational needs of orphans and vulnerable children in Benin City. This was complemented by the qualitative data gathered; interviewees were divergent in their responses as follows;

"We simply do not have the resources or expertise to provide that. Without proper vocational training, I worry that many of them will struggle to find jobs after they leave the orphanage. There's a real lack of focus on preparing them for the future." (Female IDI/52 years/Caregiver in an Orphanage /2025).

"The reality is that many orphanages are ill-equipped to provide meaningful vocational skill development opportunities. While some have attempted vocational training programmes, these initiatives are often poorly planned and lack the necessary resources. There is a significant gap between what is needed and what is being provided. Many children leave orphanages without any useful skills, and that is a major concern for us as a ministry." (Female IDI/52 years/Director /2025).

The qualitative study conduct reflects a more negative outlook on the current state of educational support and vocational skill development for orphans and vulnerable children in orphanages. The lack of comprehensive educational and vocational training

opportunities may severely limit the potential for OVC to build sustainable means of livelihoods in the future, further perpetuating cycles of poverty and marginalization.

Analysis of how adequate the educational support provided to orphans and vulnerable children in the orphanages. Significant majority of the children in the orphanages sampled 240(62.5%) identified the educational support as not adequate, while 58(15.1%) stated slightly adequate. 42(10.9%) and 44(11.5%) viewed the educational support as adequate and highly adequate respectively. These findings revealed that there are limited opportunities for vocational skill development and inadequate educational support for orphans and vulnerable children in orphanages. This reflect critical shortcomings that need to be addressed. Policymakers, educational authorities, and non-profit organizations need to recognize these gaps and take actionable steps to meet the educational needs of these vulnerable populations. The quantitative data was complemented by qualitative data collected through the study's in-depth interview, to which the informants responded as follows.

"I have to admit that the educational support in many orphanages is inadequate. Some orphanages are in dire situations, lacking textbooks and even basic school supplies. It's alarming to see children not receiving the education they deserve" (Female IDI/52 years/Director /2025)

"Honestly, the educational support we provide is far from adequate. We have very limited resources, and many of our children are falling behind in their studies. We rely on donations for textbooks and school supplies, and sometimes we simply do not have enough to go around. The local schools we partner with have their issues, and the quality of education is inconsistent" (Female IDI/51 years/orphanage home proprietor/2025).

These perceptions raise concerns on the adequacy of educational support and vocational training received by OVC in Benin City. In otherwords, insufficient educational support may impede academic

achievement and hinder the holistic development necessary for children to thrive. The data analysed on availability of learning materials and resources (textbooks, technology, and school supplies for orphans and vulnerable children) in orphanages revealed that 34(8.9%) of respondents sampled rated the resources as highly sufficient, while 150(39.1%) of the children sampled in orphanages considered the educational learning materials as not sufficient, indicating that a significant proportion of these children may be facing serious educational challenges due to inadequate educational materials. 110(28.6%) respondents rated the resources as slightly sufficient. 90(23.4%) respondents affirmed that the educational resources were sufficient, which indicates that there are orphanages with better provisions of educational materials, but overall, the majority of responses fall on the spectrum of insufficiency. This deficiency could negatively affect the quality of education received and may widen the educational gap between orphans and children in more privileged settings.

Question 4 in Table 2 shows the analysis of data on the level of satisfaction of OVC with the quality of education and vocational training support provided by Orphanages. The majority of the children sampled in the study 167(43.5%) express dissatisfaction with the quality of education and vocational training support provided by Orphanages. 103(26.8%) of the respondents sampled were slightly satisfied quality of education and vocational training, this reinforces concern, that educational arrangements in orphanages may not be meeting expected standards. 80(20.8%) of the respondents sampled claimed they are satisfied with the educational and vocational training support received, while 34(8.9%) respondents affirmed they every satisfied with the training and education provided.

With regards to accessibility of higher education opportunities by orphans and vulnerable children in the orphanages in Benin City, 140(36.5%) respondents identify higher education opportunities, such as scholarships and vocational training as not accessible, while 110(28.6%) respondents stated that these opportunities are only slightly accessible. Collectively, this indicates that (65.1%) of respondents struggle to access post-secondary education and vocational advancement. Conversely, 44(11.5%) respondents describe higher education opportunities as highly accessible, and 90(23.4%) respondents find higher education opportunities moderately accessible this suggests that while some orphans benefit from available pathways to higher education, a large number continues to experience barriers.

4. Discussion of Findings

With regards to the adequacy of healthcare services, the findings clearly show that the majority of the participants were of the perception that the healthcare services for orphans and vulnerable children are inadequate (OVC) in Benin City. This finding highlights a critical gap in healthcare provision, suggesting that the existing frameworks of healthcare may not effectively cater to the health needs of this vulnerable population in Benin City. These findings align with Jones and Green (2016) and Omorogiuwa (2023) finding that reveal the profound implications of inadequate healthcare services, particularly for OVC, who often face other additional socio-economic and health-related challenges. The findings of this study also supported McAuliffe et al. (2022) and Yuka and Omorogiuwa (2024) findings that inadequate healthcare service significantly heightens the vulnerability of OVC faced with various health issues. These findings underscore the need for targeted interventions to address these deficiencies to improve health outcomes for this OVC in Benin City.

The findings regarding regular medical check-ups reveal a grave shortcoming in preventive healthcare measures, which are essential for the health of OVC, with the majority of respondents, affirming that regular medical check-up services they received are provided to a limited extent. The foregoing may imply that the absence of regular check-ups can lead to undiagnosed conditions and untreated health issues, which may escalate into more severe health complications. These findings resonate with Thompson et al. (2021) study that found limited access to routine health assessments by OVC can lead to more severe complications and adverse health outcomes. The findings of this study also corroborate the Chukwu and Uche (2020) and Omorogiuwa (2025) studies, which reveal that barriers prevent OVC from receiving regular medical check-ups, emphasizing that the absence of these preventive services can exacerbate existing health challenges.

On accessibility of healthcare professionals by orphans and vulnerable children, the findings reveal that the majority of respondents consider healthcare professionals as slightly accessible, revealing significant barriers to accessing necessary healthcare consultations and attention. This situation may arise from a shortage of medical staff, inadequate outreach programmes, or logistical challenges in securing transport for OVC to healthcare facilities. The findings of this study align with Eze and Afolabi (2021) findings that identify accessibility in healthcare services for OVC as a challenge that discourages

caregivers from seeking medical assistance. On whether orphans and vulnerable children in Benin City are satisfied with the quality of healthcare received, majority of respondents expressed dissatisfaction. This aligns with Ochen et al (2020) study that examined the healthcare experiences of children living in vulnerable conditions and concluded that inadequate healthcare services, including poor treatment quality and limited access to necessary medical interventions, significantly impacted their overall well-being. The findings of this study also lend credence to McAuliffe et al. (2022) and Omorogiuwa (2020) findings, which reveal that OVC faces significant challenges in the healthcare landscape, resulting in considerable dissatisfaction.

The findings of this study also reveal significant concerns regarding the sufficiency of healthcare resources available to orphans and vulnerable children, where the majority of the respondents perceive healthcare resources in terms of essential resources such as medications, medical equipment, and emergency response capabilities among others as slightly sufficient and not sufficient. These findings supported Johnson and Lee (2019) and Omorogiuwa (2023) study that examined the impact of healthcare resource allocation on the well-being of marginalized groups, including OVC. The findings indicated that inadequate emergency response capabilities and insufficient healthcare services have led to increased morbidity and mortality rates among OVC.

On the extent of educational and vocational skill development opportunities for orphans and vulnerable children in orphanages, the findings reveal that the majority of respondents perceive educational and vocational skill development opportunities as limited to an extent and not available at all. These stark findings underscore a fundamental gap in the provision of educational services within orphanages in Benin City, implying that these orphanages often do not prioritize educational needs of OVC in their care or effectively implement programmes that can equip these children with essential skills for independent life in the future. These findings are in consistent with the findings of several authors. This aligns with Sajid et al. (2021) and Omorogiuwa (2025), which established that lack of education vocational training directly correlates with lower employment rates among disadvantaged youth, emphasizing that without substantial investment in the educational needs of vulnerable children, they may face an uncertain future. The findings also align with the World Bank (2016) study that underscores the gaps in educational provisions for OVC, leading to long-term disadvantages.

On whether the educational support provided to OVC is adequate. The findings reveal that the majority of respondents affirm that the quality of educational assistance and resources often falls short of meeting the needs of these vulnerable children. This signifies a profound concern regarding the educational outcomes provided in these orphanages. These findings supported Khan et al. (2020) findings that inadequate educational support can stifle academic success and hinder the holistic development of OVC. The findings also resonate with Apekey et al. (2018) findings that reveal that insufficient educational resources lead to poor academic achievement among OVCs. This research finding indicates that without adequate support, vulnerable children may struggle to meet learning outcomes essential for their long-term success in life.

The findings on learning materials and resources in meeting the educational needs of OVC reveal further deficits in their effective educational experiences, with the majority of the respondents rated the learning materials and resources provided as not sufficient. This clearly shows that OVC are deprived of essential materials that facilitate quality learning. These findings reflected in Jones and Green (2016) study that reveal inadequate access to learning materials and resources by orphans and vulnerable children as barriers to their effective learning.

The findings regarding the accessibility of higher education opportunities pose a daunting challenge, as the majority of the respondents considered higher education opportunities not accessible. This limited access represents a formidable barrier hindering OVC from advancing their education and career prospects. These findings corroborate Mwoma and Pillay (2016) findings that reveal financial constraints as significant hindrance to access higher education by orphans and vulnerable children.

5. Conclusion

This study revealed critical shortcomings in the effectiveness of orphanage-based interventions aimed at improving the well-being of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in Benin City, Edo State. Current orphanage-based interventions are insufficient in enhancing the living standards of OVCs, leaving them vulnerable in multiple aspects. The study strongly stressed the importance of comprehensive support for orphans and vulnerable children, including access to healthcare, educational, and vocational training. The responsibility to address these issues lies not only with organizations directly involved those directly involved

but also with government and society as a whole on society as a whole. Advocate for and support the rights and needs of these vulnerable children is fundamental in ensuring they have access to the opportunities they deserve for a brighter future.

6. Recommendations

Based on the findings of this research, study recommends that orphans and vulnerable children should be given free enrolment into the Edo State health insurance scheme or the national health insurance scheme.

On the aspect of access to education, there should be a policy to compel private school proprietors to give scholarships to at least ten orphans and vulnerable children in their locality as part of their corporate social responsibility.

In ensuring adequate funding to meet orphans and vulnerable children's needs the study recommends that one percent of taxes collected by state and local government should be channeled towards meeting orphans' and vulnerable children's needs. This can ensure improved funding and resource allocation to addressing the constraints faced by caregivers/orphanages and NGOs involved in orphans and vulnerable children care

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