

## Long-term Psychological Impact of the 2001 Earthquake on Young Children in Haiti: Seven Years and Counting

**Kuchirko, Yana**

Adjunct Professor, NYU, United States, nissiglobaledu@gmail.com

This study looks into the long-term psychological impact the earthquake in 2001 has on young children (ages four to twelve) in Haiti. While such traumatic event occurred seven years ago, many difficult situations hindered the country from rebuilding, particularly when it came to the psychological well-being of its people. Without being exposed to adequate interventions, many trauma-affected children were left behind without appropriate services or needs. Many non-profits entered the country after the earthquake in 2010 in the efforts of serving children and families with diverse needs in the aftermath of the earthquake; however, such solutions were only instant and unsustainable that many children are currently left behind without receiving adequate treatment or interventions. And because many children lost their family members through such unexpected traumatic event, they have gone through a very complicated grieving process that continues to affect their lives today. Through in-depth interviews, this study serves as an opportunity to better understand how such traumatic event continues to affect young children's daily lives in order to find sustainable solutions. This study particularly looks into different examples and ways schools can provide such services to support the psychological needs of trauma-affected children. The goal of this study is to raise more awareness of the current situation of Haitian people to better provide them with sustainable solutions, particularly when it comes to their psychological well-being, as it affects the rebuilding process and growth of the country altogether.