

PARENTAL ATTITUDES AND PEER INFLUENCE AS CORRELATES OF CYBERCRIME AMONG IN-SCHOOL ADOLESCENTS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN DUTSIN-MA, KATSINA STATE

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Abstract

This study examined parental attitudes and peer influence as correlates of cybercrime among in-school adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma, Katsina State. The study adopted a correlational survey research design. The population of the study comprises of 2,776 SS II in all the 9 public senior secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma Local Government, Katsina State. Simple random sampling technique was used to select 5 public senior secondary schools. Purposive random sampling technique was used to select 200 respondents who were mainly SS II for this study. Three instruments were used for the data collection namely Parental Attitude Scale (PAS); Peer Influence Scale (PIS) and Adolescents Attitude towards Cyber fraud Scale (ATCS). The findings revealed that there was no significant relationship between parental attitudes and cybercrime among in-school adolescents; no significant relationship between Peer Influence and Cybercrime among In-school adolescents; there was no significant gender difference in the cybercrime among in-school adolescents. This implies that male and female adolescents do not engage in cybercrime. The finding recommends that society should not place much emphasis on materialism rather it should encourage and foster positive and socially acceptable behaviour, hard work etc. rather than glorifying in-school adolescents who are making money through dubious mean, among others.

Keywords: Parental Attitudes, Peer Influence, Cybercrime, in-school Adolescents

Introduction

Cyber-crimes are international in nature and do not respect political or geographical boundaries. Cybercrime is a crime perpetrated using computer tools on the internet. Cybercrime is also referred to as a crime committed using computer and network. The first cybercrime recorded can be dated back to 1820 during the days of abacus computer. Cybercrime according to Das and Nayak (2013) is a crime committed mostly by the individuals or organised groups; in which computers or computer networks are a tool of attacks. Cybercrimes also entails offences that are committed against individuals or groups of individuals with a criminal motive to intentionally harm the reputation of the victim or cause physical or mental harm to the victim directly or indirectly, using modern telecommunication networks such as internet (Chat rooms, emails, etc) and mobile

phones (Muraina & Muraina, 2015). Examples of cyber-crime as contained in the work of Kshetri (2010) include: denial of service attacks, cyber-theft, cyber trespass, cyber obscenity, critical infrastructure attacks, online fraud, online money laundering, ID fraud, cyber terrorism, and cyber extortions.

Nigeria on the other hand, has been at the spotlights from the international community for its citizen involvement in cyber-crime. It is ranked as the third in the world behind the United States and Britain, and the first within the Africa continent in the rate of cyber-crime prevalence (Malhotra and Malhotra, 2017). This conspicuous position has been a catalyst in the way the nation has handled issue concerning cyber-crime. Therefore, it has become imperative to find out the factors that cause or responsible for the adolescents' involvement of cybercrime.

Diana and Sheri (2018) examined the effect of parental attitude on Cybercrime involvement among secondary school students. They found that there was low level of parental support towards cybercrime. Filipa and Marlene (2016) examined parental attitude on Cybercrime involvement among secondary school students. The finding found that there was high level of parental attitude, involvement and support towards cybercrime among senior secondary school students.

Ruth (2013) examined the relationship between peer influence and cybercrime among high school students in Germany. They conducted the study to ascertain the extent of peer influence that promotes cybercrime among high school students. The study found that peer group do not influence cybercrime among high school students at all. Berry and Bainbridge (2017) examined the relationship between peer influence and cybercrime among high school students. Hundred people who use internet frequently were surveyed to ascertain their cybercrime experience and determine if there is any relationship that exists between their demographics and peer group. The result revealed that there is relationship between peer influence and cybercrime among high school students.

Catherine (2014) examined level of difference in the cybercrime among female and male students in the United States. The study found that male students commit higher cybercrime than their female counterpart. Also, it further revealed that cybercrime was relatively low in the country. Markus (2015) investigated difference in the attitude and level of involvement of cybercrime among female and male students and cybercrime risk contribution to online service avoidance. At the end of the study, it found that both male and female students have a positive attitude towards involvement in cybercrime. They furthered revealed that only confident users perceive less cybercrime risk when using the internet to the extent of shopping online. However, it is as a result of the above assertion that study intends to investigate parental attitudes and peer Influence as correlates of cybercrime among In-school adolescent in Dutsin-Ma, Katsina State

Statement of the Problem

Cybercrime is the new face of crime that can also be called digital crime. The problem of cybercrime has become a serious concern to governments, organizations and individuals over the years. The problem of cybercrime has been increasing and it remains difficult to put a definite end to it. This is because the crime can be conducted from any part of the world anonymously. For some decades now, the issue of cyber fraud among adolescents especially in Nigeria has become so worrisome to government, parents and security

agents. Internet fraud also known as Cybercrime has become a global threat from Europe to America, Africa to Asia.

In Nigeria, perpetrators of this crime who are usually referred to as “yahoo yahoo boys” are taking advantage of e-commerce system available on the Internet to defraud victims who are mostly foreigners in thousands and sometimes millions of dollars. They fraudulently represent themselves as having particular goods to sell or that they are involved in a loan scheme project. They may pose to have financial institution where money can be loaned out to prospective investors. In this regard, so many persons have been duped or fallen victims. But this could not only be the techniques used by these cyber criminals.

Okeshola and Adeta (2013) found that majority of those involves in cybercrime are students who are adolescents and early youths. The youths in every society is of great importance and concern to that society because they are looked upon as the leaders of tomorrow. Olaide and Adewole (2019), found that a sizeable number of criminals in Nigeria fall within the adolescents and early youths. The adolescents and early youths at present have discovered different ways of using the internet in doing different types of criminal activities and these age brackets are usually found in tertiary institutions in Nigeria. Therefore, this study seeks to examine the parental attitudes and peer influence as correlates of cybercrime among in-school adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma, Katsina State.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to determine the parental attitudes and peer influence as correlates of cybercrime among in-school adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma, Katsina State. Specifically, this study seeks to:

- I. examine the level of parental attitudes towards cybercrime among in-school adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State
- II. investigate the level of peer influence towards cybercrime among in-school Adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State
- III. examine the level of cybercrime among in-school Adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State
- IV. find out the relationship between parental attitudes and cybercrime among in-school adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State.
- V. investigate out the relationship between peer influence and cybercrime among in-school adolescents in Dutsin-Ma secondary schools in LGA, Katsina State
- VI. examine if there is gender difference in the cybercrime among in-school adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the conduct of this study:

- I. What is level of parental attitudes towards cybercrime among in-school Adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State?

- II. What is the level of peer influence towards cybercrime among in-school adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State?
- III. What is level of cybercrime among in-school Adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State?
- IV. Is there any significant relationship between parental attitudes and cybercrime among in-school adolescent in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State?
- V. Is there any significant relationship between peer influence and cybercrime among In-school adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State?
- VI. Is there any significant gender difference in the cybercrime among in-school adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State?

Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated and tested in the study.

- I. H01: There is no significant relationship between parental attitudes and cybercrime among in-school adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State
- II. H02: There is no significant relationship between peer influence and cybercrime among in-school adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State
- III. H03: There is no significant gender difference in the cybercrime among in-school adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State

Methodology

This study adopted descriptive survey research design. According to Nworgu (2006), this type of study seeks to establish what relationship exists between two or more variables. Usually such studies indicate the direction and magnitude of the relationship between the variables. The population of the study comprised of 2,776 Senior Secondary Class II in all the 9 public senior secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma Local Government, Katsina State. The simple random sampling technique was used to select 5 public senior secondary schools. Purposive random sampling technique was used to select 40 SS II students in each of the 5 public senior secondary schools making 200 respondents.

The researcher used three research instruments for data collection. These are, Parental Attitude Scale (PAS) adapted from Narahari (2016) with the reliability coefficient of 0.82. Peer Influence Scale (PIS) adapted from Kamini (2011) with the reliability coefficient of 0.70 Adolescents Attitude Towards Cyber fraud Scale (ATCS) adapted from Ryan (2010) with the reliability of 0.68. Each of the three instruments has 10 items with 4 points scale ranging from Strongly Disagree (1), Disagree (2), Agree (3) and Strongly Agree (4). The questionnaire was validated by 2 experts in Educational Psychology and Test and Measurement. The instruments was adjudged to be valid for the study. Research questions 1,2 and 3 were answered using range score, frequency and percentage. Also, research hypotheses 1 and 2 were tested using Pearson Product Moment

Correlation (PPMC) Statistic while research hypothesis 3 was tested using t-test Statistic all at 0.05 level of significance.

Results

Answering of Research Questions

Research Question One: What is the level of Parental Attitudes towards Cybercrime among In-school Adolescent in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State?

Table1: Showing range score, frequency and percentage of level of Parental Attitudes towards Cybercrime among In-school Adolescent in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State

S/No	Range of Scores	Frequency	Percentage	Decision
1	1-49	49	24.5%	Low level
2	50-200	151	75.5%	High level

Table 1 revealed that 49 (24.5%) out of 200 (100%) indicates the level of parental attitudes towards cybercrime among in-school adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State. This implies that level of parental attitudes towards cybercrime among in-school adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State was low.

Research Question Two: What is the level of peer influence towards cybercrime among in-school adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State?

Table 2: Showing range score, frequency and percentage of level of Peer Influence towards Cybercrime among In-school Adolescent in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State

S/No	Range of Scores	Frequency	Percentage	Decision
1	1-52	52	26%	Low level
2	53-200	148	74%	High level

Table 2 revealed that 52 (26%) out of 200 (100%) indicates the level of peer influence towards cybercrime among in-school adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State. This implies that level of peer influence towards cybercrime among in-school adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State was low.

Research Question Three: What is level of cybercrime among in-school Adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State?

Table 3: Showing range score, frequency and percentage of level of cybercrime among in-school Adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma L.G.A, Katsina State

S/No	Range of Scores	Frequency	Percentage	Decision
1	1-49	49	24.5%	Low level
2	50-200	151	75.5%	High level

Table 3 revealed that 49 (24.5%) out of 200 (100%) indicates the level of cybercrime among in-school adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State. This implies that level of cybercrime among in-school adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State was low.

Testing of Hypotheses

H0₁: There is no significant relationship between Parental Attitudes and Cybercrime among In-school Adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State

Table 4: Showing Correlation between Parental Attitudes and Cybercrime among In-School Adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State

Variables	N	Mean	SD	Df	Cal .r-Value	Critical r-value	Decision
Parental Attitude	200	21.96	11.77	198	0.89	0.13	Rejected
Cybercrime	200	43.86	12.33				

P<0.05

Table 4 revealed that the calculated r-value (0.89) is greater than the Critical r-value (0.13) at 0.05 level of significance and 198 degree of freedom. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that there is no significant relationship between parental attitudes and cybercrime among in-school adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State

H0₂: There is no significant relationship between Peer Influence and Cybercrime among In-school Adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State

Table 5: Showing Correlation between Peer Influence and Cybercrime among In-school Adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State

Variables	N	Mean	SD	Df	Cal .r-Value	Critical r-value	Decision
Peer Influence	200	24.76	4.10	198	0.74	0.32	Rejected
Cybercrime	200	53.48	2.51				

P<0.05

Table 5 showed that the calculated r-value (0.74) is greater than the Critical r-value (0.32) at 0.05 level of significance and 198 degree of freedom. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. This implies that there exist no significant relationship between Peer Influence and Cybercrime among In-school Adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State

H0₃: There is no significant gender difference in the Cybercrime among In-school Adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State

Table 6: the result of the independent t- test on difference in the Cybercrime among In-school Adolescent in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State on the basis of gender

Gender	N	Mean	SD	Df	T-cal Value	T-crit. value	Decision
Male	87	2.57	0.42	198	2.65	1.98	Rejected
Female	113	2.29	0.32				

P<0.05

Table 6 revealed that the t-calculated value 2.65 is greater than the t-critical value of 1.98 at 0.05 level of significance and 198 degree of freedom.. Hence, the null hypothesis that states there is no significant difference in the in the cybercrime among in-school adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State on the basis of gender

is therefore rejected. This implies that male and female adolescents do not engage in cybercrime.

Discussion

Research question one revealed that 49 (24.5%) out of 200 (100%) indicates the level of parental attitudes towards cybercrime among in-school adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State. This implies that level of parental attitudes towards cybercrime among in-school adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State was low. The finding of this study corroborates with Diana and Sheri (2018) who found that there was low level of parental support towards cybercrime. Meanwhile, Filipa and Marlene (2016) found that there was high level of parental attitude and support towards cybercrime among senior secondary school students.

Research question two revealed that 52 (26%) out of 200 (100%) indicates the level of peer influence towards cybercrime among in-school adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State. This implies that level of peer influence towards cybercrime among in-school adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State was low. The finding of this study agrees with Berry and Bainbridge (2017) who found that peer group do influence adolescents into cybercrime. While Ruth (2013) disagrees with it and found that peer group do not influence cybercrime among high school students at all.

Research question three revealed that 49 (24.5%) out of 200 (100%) indicates the level of cybercrime among in-school adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State. This implies that level of cybercrime among in-school adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State was low. The finding of this study corroborates with Olaide and Adewole (2019) who found that a sizeable number of criminals in Nigeria fall within the adolescents and early youths.

The result of hypothesis one showed that there was no significant relationship between parental attitudes and cybercrime among in-school adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma L.G.A, Katsina State. The finding of this study corroborate with the finding of Diana and Sheri (2018) who found that there was no significant relationship between level of parental attitude and cybercrime involvement by the in-school adolescents. Contrarily, Filipa and Marlene (2016) found that since there was high level of parental attitude and support towards cybercrime among senior secondary school students. Also, there was significant relationship between level of parental attitude and cybercrime involvement by the in-school adolescents.

The result of hypothesis two revealed that there is no significant relationship between peer influence and cybercrime among In-school Adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA, Katsina State. The finding of this study agrees with Berry and Bainbridge (2017) who found that there was no any significant relationship that exist between their demographics and peer group. The result revealed that there is relationship between peer influence and cybercrime among high school students. Contrarily, Ruth (2013) conducted her study to ascertain the relationship between peer influence and cybercrime among. The study found that peer group do not influence cybercrime among high school students at all.

The result of hypothesis three revealed that there is no significant difference in the in the cybercrime among in-school adolescents in secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma LGA,

Katsina State on the basis of gender is therefore rejected. This implies that male and female adolescents do not engage in cybercrime. The finding is not supported by Catherine (2014) who found that male higher students commit cybercrime than their female counterpart. Also, it further revealed that cybercrime was relatively low in the country. While Markus (2015) who found that both male and female students have a positive attitude towards and involve in cybercrime. They furthered revealed that only confident users perceive less cybercrime risk when using the internet to extent of shopping online.

Conclusions

Based on the findings of this study, the study concluded that there is no significant relationship between parental attitudes and cybercrime among in-school adolescents. There is no significant relationship between peer influence and cybercrime among In-school Adolescents. The research also indicated that there is no significant difference in the in the cybercrime among in-school adolescents on the basis of gender. This implies that male and female adolescents do not engage in cybercrime

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made.

- I. Society should not place much emphasis on materialism rather it should encourage and foster positive and socially acceptable behaviour; hard work etc. rather that glorifying in-school adolescents who are making money through dubious mean.
- II. Rules and regulations that deal with cybercrimes should be implemented strictly across the nation.
- III. The proper enlightenment and sensitization exercise against the cybercrime should be encouraged and supported by parents, educational psychologists, school counsellors, and school management.
- IV. A better economic system, creation of job opportunities, empowerment for the in-school adolescents and youth should be prioritised by the three tiers of government in Nigerian country.

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