

Dynamics of Parenting Styles as Correlate of Deviant Behaviour among the Adolescents in Senior Secondary Schools, Lagos State

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Abstract

The objective of this study is to investigate the dynamics of parenting styles as correlate of deviant behavior among adolescents in secondary schools in Lagos State. Three research hypotheses were designed for this work as survey research design type of correlational approach was used in this study. This design was considered appropriate because it allows the researcher to determine the relationship between parenting style and deviant behaviour among adolescents. Population comprised of over 24, 914 public senior secondary school students from twelve schools in Ojo Local Government Area of Lagos State. Simple random sampling technique was employed to select sixty (60) adolescents each from five selected schools as sample of the study. Deviant Behaviour Variety Scale (DBVS) and self-developed Parenting Styles and Adolescent Behaviour Questionnaire (PSABQ) used for data collection. Content and Construct validity were determined by academic from Lagos State University of Education, Epe, as reliability of the instruments was determined through split-half form, and reliability index of 0.894 and 0.882 was obtained meaning suitable for this study. Data was analysed through Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) analysis and tested at significant level of 0.05 respectively. The study revealed that parenting styles (authoritarian, authoritative and permissive) correlated with deviant behaviours of adolescents. It then concluded that parents should apply some form of direction, caution and guidance because it goes a long way to preventing them from engaging in deviant behaviours.

Key Words: Adolescents, Parenting Styles, Deviant Behaviour, Students, Emotional

Introduction

Parenting is the process of promoting and supporting the physical, emotional and intellectual development of a child from infancy to adulthood. It entails adopting the skill of molding, shaping, guiding and inculcation of morals and support towards the development of an individual from infancy stage to adulthood (Roubinov & Boyce, 2017). Parenting provides children with opportunities of acquiring skills and experiences necessary for the achievement of goals in adulthood. It plays a key role in the overall development of the child. Such roles are

social, educational and other adaptive behaviours that prepare a child for future fruitful living. Parents are the first educators of their children and they are responsible for providing them with physical, emotional and mental framework for learning. Individual parents therefore, carry out the function of parenting differently, because of differences in personalities and exposures thereby giving rise to different parenting styles. Parenting style refers to the broad overall pattern of parental actions. Parenting style is how a person or a parent interacts with his/her children or wards and the different patterns that parents use to bring up their children or wards. In this work, the patterns identified include authoritarian, authoritative and permissive styles.

For authoritarian parenting style, Angel, (2016) see it as an extremely strict parenting style. It places high expectation on children with little responsiveness. Parents expect kids to follow the rules with no discussion or compromising. Authoritarian parents are famous for saying, because I said so when a child questions the reasons behind a rule (Ang & Groh, 2016). They are not interested in negotiating and their focus is on obedience. They also do not allow kids to get involved in problem-solving challenges or obstacles. Instead, they make the rules and enforce the consequences with little regard for the child's opinion. Authoritarian parents may use punishments instead of discipline. Children who grew up with strict authoritarian parents may tend to follow rules most of the time. Children of authoritarian parents are at a higher risk of developing self-esteem problems because they believed that their opinions are not valued. Children of authoritarian parents tend to have an unhappy disposition, less independent, appear insecure, possess lower self-esteem, exhibit more behavioural problems, have poorer social skills and are more likely prone to mental issues. They may also become hostile or aggressive (Eke, 2014). Rather than think about how to do things better in the future, they often focus on the anger they feel toward their parents. Since authoritarian parents are often strict, their children may grow to become good liars in an effort to avoid punishment (Ang & Groh 2016).

However, the authoritative parenting style also known as democratic style, see parent as one that nurtures, responsive, and supportive, yet set firm limits for their Children. They attempt to control children's behaviour by explaining rules, discussing and reasoning (Aute, 2019). Authoritative parents create a loving home environment and provide a high degree of emotional support. Parents using this are firm,

consistent and fair. The parents establish and enforce behaviour standards and stay in control by encouraging their children to follow the norms of the society. Parents use reason, negotiation and persuasion, not force, to gain their children's cooperation. According to Ortese, (2008), their listening-demanding ratio is roughly equal. In authoritative parenting, children's opinions are valued and respected. They are encouraged to decide and accept responsibility for their actions and decisions. In addition, such parents are more likely to encourage academic success, which has a positive correlation with good grades. Authoritative parents invest time and energy in preventing behavioural problems. They also use positive discipline strategies to reinforce good behaviour, like praise and reward systems. According to Roubinov, and Boyce (2017) children raised with authoritative discipline tend to be happy and successful. They are also more likely to be good at making decisions and evaluating safety risks on their own. Researchers like Goode (2015) and Khan (2017) have found that kids who have authoritative parents are most likely to become responsible adults, who feel comfortable in expressing their opinions.

Although permissive parenting also known as indulgent parenting is another style of parenting. These parents are responsive but not demanding. These parents tend to be lenient while trying to avoid confrontation (Atkinson & Hilgard, 2013; Utti, 2016). The benefit of this parenting style is that they are usually very nurturing and loving. The negatives, however, outweigh this benefit. Few rules are set for the children of permissive parents and the rules are inconsistent where they do exist. This lack of structure may cause these children to grow up with little self-discipline and self-control. Some parents adopt this method as an extreme opposite approach to their authoritarian upbringing, while others are simply afraid to do anything that may upset their children. Permissive parents usually take on more of a friendly role than a parent role. They often encourage their children to talk with them about their problems, but they usually do not put much effort into discouraging poor choices or bad behaviours. Kids who grow up with permissive parents are more likely to struggle academically. They may exhibit more behavioural problems as they do not appreciate authority and rules. They often have low self-esteem and may report a lot of sadness. They are also at a higher risk of health problems, like obesity.

Deviant behaviour in learning institutions remains an important issue to educationists and other scholars globally. Deviant behaviour in

Nigeria has become a persistent source of apprehension to parents, school authorities, government and the society at large. The Participation in delinquent acts by adolescents is assuming an alarming proportion and dangerous dimension which are becoming out of control to parents, police and other organs saddled with the responsibility of handling such issues. Deviant behaviour refers to behaviour that does not conform to the norms and expectations of a given group of people or society. Due to the dynamism of the society, various sorts of deviant behaviours such as theft, rudeness, sexual-harassment, truancy, late coming to school and so on are being exhibited in our present dispensation. VanDen-Bos, (2012) defined deviance as “any behaviour that deviates significantly from what is considered appropriate or typical for a social group”. Deviant behaviour is an escalating problem in most parts of the world today including Nigeria particularly among secondary school students. Many cases of deviant behaviour have been reported and witnessed across secondary schools. More common ones involving secondary school students include drug and substance abuse, breaking and stealing, burglary, arson, truancy and prostitution. According to Ogidefa (2017), there is hardly any single Nigerian institution of higher learning that has not experienced the menace of cultism. In recent times, schools and the society at large have become reservoirs for committing various sorts of deviant behaviours which include theft, rudeness, sexual-harassment, truancy, late coming to school and so on.

Okpako (2014) carried out a study on Parenting styles as a factor of deviant behaviour among secondary school students in Kwara State. The study was a cross sectional survey of 300 students who were drawn using simple random sampling techniques from six public schools in Kwara state. The Self- Report Deviant Scale was used to for data collection. Data was analysed using multiple regression to test the hypotheses. The results indicated that Authoritative parenting style significantly predicted deviant behaviour among government secondary school students in Kwara state. Duroasro (2016) carried out a study on strategies for managing deviant behaviour among in-school adolescents as expressed by secondary school counsellors in Kwara State. The study adopted the descriptive survey research design method. The target population for this study consisted of secondary school counsellors in the state. Purposive sampling technique was used to select 70 respondents from each of the three senatorial districts in Kwara State. The questionnaire titled “Strategies for Managing Deviant Behaviour Questionnaire” was administered to

the school counsellors. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used for the data analysis. The findings revealed that deviant behaviour is caused by a lack of effective parental upbringing. It was also found that Permissive parenting style significantly affect deviant behaviour.

Adegoke (2013) conducted a study on how parents influence deviant behavior among adolescents: An Analysis of their Family Life, Community, and Peers. The main purpose of the study was to determine the prevalence of behavioural deviance and perceived parenting styles among higher secondary school students. Descriptive survey was employed as the design. The sampling procedure adopted by the investigator was random sampling (Simple). 403 Higher secondary school students of district Baramullah comprise the sample of the study. Parenting Style Scale by Gupta & Mehtani (2017) and Behaviour Deviance Scale by Chauhan and Aurora (1989) were utilized to collect the data. The collected data was analysed with the use of percentage and frequency counts. It was inferred from the analysis that behavioural deviance is prevalent among 16.27 % of adolescent students and Permissive parenting style significantly correlate deviant behaviour.

While creating their own identity, adolescents may encounter several conflicts, such as learning wrong behaviour from significant people and dealing with their problem in the wrong ways. Parenting style and personality characteristics are paramount in child upbringing otherwise the society will be full of deviant. However, how well these factors can influence deviant behaviour among adolescent is subject to empirical investigation. Hence, this study seeks to investigate the dynamics of parenting styles as correlate of deviant behavior among adolescents in secondary schools in Lagos State.

Problem Statement

Many adolescents are going through a lot especially during their developmental phases as they are often confronted with challenges of kidnapping, internet fraud, alcohol and drug abuse, examination malpractices, increase in deviant behaviours among others. Failure to address this vices poor personality development, low self esteem, value misplacement among others. Many scholars like Ekeh (2014) and Ogidefa (2017) attributed most of these challenges to the nature of parenting styles used by parents in training their children at home especially when they were much younger. Nwokwule, Alike and Egbochuku (2021) asserted that, stealing, fighting, aggressiveness,

rape, cultism and killings have become disturbing and virtually all states of the country have become prone to one crisis or the other. Hence, this study seeks to investigate parenting style as correlate of deviant behaviour among adolescents in Ojo Local Government Area of Lagos State.

Objectives of the Study

The study seeks:

1. To determine how authoritarian parenting style relates with deviant behaviour in adolescents.
2. To ascertain the nature of relationship that exists between authoritative parenting styles and deviant behavior of adolescents
3. To determine how permissive parenting style relates to deviant behaviour in adolescents

Hypotheses

The hypotheses of the study:

1. There is no significant relationship between authoritarian parenting styles and deviant behaviour among adolescents
2. There is no significant relationship between authoritative parenting styles and deviant behaviour among adolescents
3. There is no significant relationship between permissive parenting styles and deviant behaviour among adolescents

Methodology

The research design used for this study was survey research design of a correlational type. This design was considered appropriate because it allows the researcher to determine the relationship between parenting styles and deviant behavior among adolescents. The population for this study comprised of over 24, 914 public senior secondary school students from twelve schools in Ojo Local Government Area of Lagos State. Through simple random sampling technique, this is a technique that affords every participant an equal opportunity of being selected for the study. By this technique the researcher randomly selected sixty (60) adolescents from SS2 classes each from five selected senior secondary schools to form a sample size of 300 participants. The study adapted Deviant Behaviour Variety Scale (DBVS) by Sanches, et al. (2016) and a self-developed

Questionnaire titled Parenting Styles and Adolescents Behaviour Questionnaire (PSABQ) to generate data. The Questionnaire contained 12-items on 3-likert format of Yes, Unsure and No respectively. The instruments (DBVS and PSQ) were scrutinized and validated by three lecturers in the department of Counselling Psychology Education, Lagos State University of Education, Lagos and they were affirmed to meet both content and construct validity. Reliability of the instruments was determined on thirty adolescents in Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education, Lagos and a reliability index of 0.894 and 0.882 was obtained meaning that the items are suitable for this study. The data generated from this study were analysed through Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) a correlation analysis and tested at significant level of 0.05 respectively.

Results

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between authoritarian parenting styles and deviant behaviour among adolescents

Table 1: Correlation analysis showing relationship between authoritarian parenting style and deviant behaviour among adolescents in senior secondary schools

Variables	N	r	sig.(2-tailed)	Decision
Authoritarian parenting	300	.877	.000	Significant
Deviant Behaviour				

$\alpha = 0.05$

Table 1 above shows r value of .877 and a p-value of 0.000. Since the p-value is less than the alpha level the null hypothesis which states that Authoritarian parenting style does not significantly relate to deviant behaviour in adolescent is rejected in favour of the alternative hypothesis. Hence, Authoritarian parenting style significantly correlates with deviant behaviour among adolescents. Also, the r-value of 0.877 shows that there is a positive relationship between the independent variable (Authoritarian Parenting style) and the dependent variable (deviant behaviour).

H₀₂: There is no significant relationship between authoritative parenting styles and deviant behaviour among adolescents in senior secondary schools

Table 2: Correlation analysis showing relationship between Authoritative parenting style and deviant behaviour among adolescents in senior secondary schools

Variables	N	r	sig.(2-tailed)	Decision
Authoritative parenting	300	.843	.004	Significant
Deviant Behaviour				

$\alpha = 0.05$

Table 2 above shows r value of .843 and p-value of 0.004. From the analysis the r of 0.843 shows that there is a high correlation between the variables (Authoritative parenting styles and deviant behaviour). Testing at 0.05 level of significance the p-value is greater than the alpha level, hence, the null hypothesis is rejected and alternative which states that authoritative parenting style does significantly relate to deviant behaviour especially among adolescents in senior secondary schools is retained.

H₀₃: There is no significant relationship between permissive parenting styles and deviant behaviour among adolescents in senior secondary schools

Table 3: Correlation analysis showing relationship between Permissive parenting style and Deviant behavior among adolescents in senior secondary schools

Variables	N	r	sig.(2-tailed)	Decision
Permissive parenting	300	.739	.013	Significant
Deviant Behaviour				

$\alpha = 0.05$

Table 3 above shows r value of .739 and p-value of 0.013. Testing at 0.05 level of significance, the p-value (0.013) is less than the alpha level; hence the null hypothesis is rejected and alternative which states that permissive parenting style does significantly relate to deviant behaviour among adolescents in Ojo Local Government Area is retained.

Discussion

From hypothesis 1, it revealed that there is a positive high correlation between Authoritarian parenting style and deviant behaviour among adolescents. This implies that, children who are raised by authoritarian parenting style end up having a behaviour that deviate from the social norm of their society. This finding corroborates with that of Oghiagbephan and Ikekhua, (2013) who established that Authoritarian parenting style significantly correlate with deviant behaviour of adolescents. To them, authoritarian parenting style is a strict parenting style that places high expectations on children. Parents using this style set rigid rules with no explanation and expect their children to obey them without question or face severe punishment.

From hypothesis 2, the result revealed that there is a positive correlation between Authoritative parenting style and deviant

behaviour among adolescents. This finding is in consonance with that of Okpako (2014); Amaechi and Onah, (2016) who stated that authoritative parenting style goes a long way to predicting possible deviant behaviour among adolescents. Under this parenting style, parents are seen to be nurturers, responsive and supportive yet set firm limits for their children. They tend to control children's behavior by explaining rules, discussing and reasoning. Due to their keen monitoring of their children its very easy to identify certain behaviours not seen as welcoming at any point in time.

From hypothesis 3 it revealed that permissive parenting style has a positive correlation with deviant behavior among adolescents in senior secondary schools. This work conforms to that of Duroasro (2016), who found that permissive parenting style significantly affect deviant behaviour among adolescent. Permissive parenting styles tend to be warm and nurturing and usually have minimal expectations. They impose rules on their children, establish communication link while same parents allows their children to figure out things for themselves. This implies that when children are raised with permissive parenting style they grow up with established bonds and rules while some seldom deviate from the social norm of the society. Moreso, Akingbade (2021) further stated that permissive parents are always receptive, warm and maintain an open door policy that is designed to accommodate excesses of their wards. This kind of parenting styles breed children to be adventurous and prone to discovery by themselves which in turn affects the extent of deviant behavior among adolescents especially in secondary schools.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that parenting styles correlate to deviant behaviours in adolescent especially in Ojo L.G.A of Lagos State significantly. The study also concluded among others that parents should apply some form or degree of direction, caution and guidance because it goes a long way to preventing adolescents from engaging in deviant behaviours in future. Also, permissive parenting type may sometimes not produce the expected behaviour demanded by parents as some adolescents may deviate from the norm due to the permissive and free will given to them by their parents to choose what they want in life.

Recommendation

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

1. Parents should be positive oriented in their styles of child's parenting which will make their adolescents socially competent and goal directed.
2. Dialogue, communication, explanations and establishment of good and cordial relationships between parents and adolescents should be established.
3. Government should establish psychological service centres in schools and engage the services of psychologists to counsel and modify the negative traits of deviant students. This will help in reducing the occurrences of deviant activities among secondary school students.

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