UNTYING THE PREDICTIVE FACTORS OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY: A GLOBAL ANALYSIS

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Abstract

Juveniles in the world today live in a world very different from that of their parents or grandparents. Problems experienced by children at the turn of the century are the products of multiple and sometimes complex causes which stem from the belief that a child, being part of the society in which he or she lives, get easily motivated by what he/she sees around him/her because of his/her immaturity. Therefore, a child may be provoked due to the influence of his/her environment and social context. Perceptions of a juvenile crime epidemic globally fueled public scrutiny of the system's ability to effectively control violent juvenile offenders. As a result, countries worldwide have adopted numerous legislative changes in an effort to crack down juvenile crimes. This paper describes the international, regional and national instruments focusing on structure and process features that relate to delinquency and status offence matters. This paper provides the predictive factors and causes of juvenile delinquency which are manifold. The paper presents the effects of juvenile delinquency to the society and concludes with series of recommendations for the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

Keywords: Juvenile, Child, Adolescent, Youth, Criminal responsibility, Juvenile delinquency, Predictive, Prevention

1.0.0 Introduction

One feature of the crime globally is the involvement of juveniles in

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some criminal and/or dubious activities namely: thefts, burglaries, robberies (even armed robberies), teenage pregnancy and prostitution, alcoholisms and drug abuse, and all sorts of violence, *which is referred to as juvenile delinquency. Universally, delinquents are immature and, therefore, incapable of 'mens rea' (criminal intent) and 'actus reus' (criminal act).* Delinquent behaviour has been on the increase in the recent times. This increasing wave of juvenile delinquency is a worldwide phenomenon and has become a matter of concern to parents, researchers, psychologists, community leaders and the general public. Delinquent behaviours exhibited by youth are many and varied, depending on the prevailing circumstances. Such diversity of youth maladjustment has witnessed a global increase. The idea of increasing trends of juvenile delinquency was conceded by Adana[1] when he postulated thus: "most of the criminals started as juvenile offenders."

Before one can fully understand why the rate of juvenile delinquency and crimes are on the increase, one need to appreciate the fact that youths or juveniles are undergoing critical changes in their lives. These critical periods of adolescence is characterised by a multitude of crises manifesting in storms, stresses, conflicts and frustrations. Youth within the context of changing social economic and political conditions of the time often get confused about what to do when faced with various issues of religion, relationship with the opposite sex, societal laws and orders. This was evidenced in the postulation of Adeloye[2] when he opined that: "in a bid to resolve these confusions, the adolescents without proper guidance resort to delinquent behaviour."

The objectives of this paper are, therefore, three, namely: (1) to identify the predictive factors of juvenile delinquency; (2) to examine the international, regional and national instruments and their

1 See generally, Adana, E.O. (1984) The Research Process in Education. (Holt Richard Inc. New York)15
2 See generally Adeloye, B. (1990) Parents Perception of Adolescents Problems. (Heinemann. Ibadan)

relevance in addressing delinquent acts; and (3) to make some recommendations that will further the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

2.0.0 Determining the Age of Criminal Responsibility of Juvenile

In the classical era, there were no legal distinctions between adult and juvenile offenders.[3] The most important criteria and which must follow any discussion of juvenile justice is the question of when can a person be properly called a juvenile and when does that juvenile's status terminate. Instructively, there is no universally acceptable definition of a juvenile. This is evidenced from international laws and the laws of different nations where different age brackets are stipulated for the juveniles.[4] Besides, the concept of a juvenile is sometimes used interchangeably with other concepts like a child, an adolescent and a youth.

The domestic laws of all countries have laid down different minimum age below which a person is exempt from prosecution and punishment. The rationale for such exemption is the absence of *mens rea*, that is, not to criminalise the acts of those who at the time of commission of the crime did not know the right from the wrong.[5] This presupposes that persons below that age do not ordinarily realise nor intend the consequences of their acts. For instance the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1990 provides that:

States Parties shall seek to promote the

3 It was only in equity courts and mainly in cases where guardianship or inheritance were at issue that the court was obliged to look after the interests of those who could not do so themselves. Such intervention on behalf of children was justified in law by the ancient doctrine of parens patriae (that the king as father of the country had the ultimate responsibility for protecting his subjects). Quoted in Dambazau, A.B. (2007) Criminology and Criminal Justice 2nd ed. (Spectrum Books Limited, Ibadan) 337

4 Ibid at 172.

5 Doherty O. (1990) Criminal Procedure in Nigeria (Blackstone Press Lagos) 57 See also Smith, J.C. & Hogan, B. (1983) Criminal Law (Butterworth, London) 185

establishment of laws, procedures, authorities and institutions specifically applicable to children alleged as, accused of, or recognised as having infringed the penal law, and in particular:

(a) The establishment of a minimum age below which children shall be presumed not to have the capacity to infringe the penal law.[6]

wever, there is no clear international standard and defined age mit at which criminal responsibility can be reasonably imputed to a uvenile and this account for the wide variation in minimum age for termining criminal responsibility of juvenile around the world.[7] By rtue of Article 1 of the CRC, a child means every human being elow the age of eighteen years unless, under the law applicable to child, majority is attained earlier.[8]

ven within the States making up a country, age of juvenile sponsibly is not well defined. For instance, Nigeria does not have a oint nationally defined age of criminal responsibility.[9] Note that even nder the Shari'ah (Islamic) legal system in Nigeria, the age of

ee Article 40(3)(a) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), 1989

For example the official minimum age of criminal responsibility in Countries like Australia, ngladesh, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, India, Nigeria, Sudan, South Africa, Iraq, Kenya, UK, Scotland, key, Canada, Colombia, Sweden, Burundi, Gabon, Netherland, Saudi Arabia New Zealand and host others ranges from 8 years to 18 years. See UNICEF and Melchiorre (2002) in Juvenile Justice: lodern Concepts of Working with Children in Conflict with the Law (Save the Children UK). ww.crin.org/docs/savejjmodern_concepts.pdf-similar (Accessed on 20th December, 2010)

e also the Beijing Rules of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of enile Justice which defines a juvenile as "a child or young person who, under the respective legal ystems, may be dealt with for an offence in a manner which is different from an adult". Under this tandard of the United Nations, the age limit will depend on the particularities of various legal tems. There is therefore provision for a wide variety of ages coming under this definition, ranging m 8 to 18 years.

For instance, Section 50 of the Penal Code Cap 89, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 provides hat "No act is an offence which is done-(a) by a child above seven years of age; or (b) by a child above en years of age but under twelve years of age who has not attained sufficient maturity of derstanding to judge the nature and consequence of such act."

criminal responsibility is defined as either puberty or eighteen years, except in the case of Zina (fornication or adultery) where the age of criminal responsibility is fifteen years.[10] Determining the true age of an arrested suspect is always a challenge for law enforcement agents whenever there is controversy as to whether he/she is an adult or a juvenile. To avail the benefit of the provision of the law, the material factor to be taken into consideration is the age of juvenile and question often arises as to the reckoning of age of juvenile.

Determination of age of juvenile has also been subject of judicial interpretation especially the reckoning date of a juvenile in criminal proceeding as to whether it is the date of production before Court or the date of commission of an offence. This controversy has been resolved by courts around the world. In the Indian case of *Pratap Singh v. State of Jharkhand*,[11] the Court held that, "[t]he reckoning date for the determination of the age of the juvenile is the date of an offence and not the date when he/she is produced before the authority or in Court." In similar parameter the Indian Supreme Court in *Rajinder Chandra v. State of Chhattisgarh*,[12] further explain that where two views are possible about the age in border line cases, a

10 See Sections 5(b) and 7(1) of Shari'ah Court Laws of Zamfara State which provides that the Courts shall have jurisdiction in criminal proceedings under Islamic Law involving or relating to any offence, penalty or forfeiture, punishment or other liability in respect of an offence committed by any person. See Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), Nigeria: Focus on the Administration of Juvenile Justice, August 26, 2002. Available at http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=29531 (Accessed on 7th February, 2010)

11 AIR 2005 Sc 2731, (2005) 1 Crimes 286 (SC), 2005 All MR (Cri) 2258 (SC); 2005 Cr LJ 3091; 2005 AIR SCW 3088. The above case was contrasted from the case of Arnit Das v. State of Bihar (2000)5 SCC 488; 2000 SCC (Cri) 962; AIR 2000 SC 2264; 2000 Cri LJ 2971 (SC) where the Supreme Court observed that the relevant date at which juvenility was to be determined was the date on which the juvenile was produced before the competent authority. But the case of Umesh Chandra v. State of Rajasthan (1982) 2 SCC 202; 1982 SCC (Cri) 396; AIR 1982 Sc 1057; 1982 Cri LJ 994 (SC) is similar to Pratap Singh v. State of Jharkhand where the Supreme Court held that: 'As regards the general applicability of the Act, we are clearly of the view that the relevant date on which the offence takes place. Children Act was enacted to protect young children from the consequences of their criminal acts on the footing that their mind at that age could not be said to be mature for imputing mens rea as in the case of an adult. This being the intendment of the Act, a clear finding has to be recorded that the relevant date for applicability of the Act is the date on which the offence takes place... we are clearly of the view that the relevant date for applicability of the Act so far as age of the accused, who claims to be a child, is concerned, is the date of the occurrence and not the date of the trial."

12 2002 All MR (Cri) 713 (SC), AIR 2002 SC 748, 2002 Cr LJ 1014, 2002 AIR SCW 385

view which is in favour of holding the accused to be juvenile should be adopted and hyper technical approach should be avoided.[13] The position of the Nigerian Supreme Court always emphasis the importance of age in criminal responsibility.[14] *For example i*n the case of *Modupe v The State*[15] it was held that by virtue of Section 368(3) of the Criminal Procedure Act, if the evidence on record shows that, at the time the offence was committed, an accused charged with capital offence has not attained the age of 17years, it will be wrong of any court not only to sentence him to death, but also even to pronounce such sentence. If the trial judge felt that the accused reduced his/her age rather low, the Supreme Court further

13 Children and Young Persons Law of Lagos State Nigeria Cap C 10 Laws of Lagos State 2004 by its Section 32 for instance addressed this problem by providing that where the age of a suspect is in issue, he is to be taken to court, which shall make due inquiry and may take such evidence as may be forthcoming including the production of birth certificate or a certificate signed by a government medical officer. The age as determined thereafter shall be deemed the true age of the person. The Indian Apex Court in the case of Gopinath Ghosh v. State of West Bengal (1984) Supp SCC 228; 1984 SCC (Cri) 478; AIR 1984 SC 237; 1984 CriLJ 168 (SC) instructed Magistrates to conduct an inquiry about age when it appeared that the accused was under 21 years of age. The onus is on the court to take measures to determine the age of the accused. This was also evidenced by Gupte, A.K. & Dighe Hind, S.D. (2001) The Criminal Manual 5th ed. chapter VI (Law House) 149 issued by the High Court of Judicature (Appellate Side) Bombay for the guidance of the Criminal Courts and their subordinate Officers states: 'All Courts should, whenever a youthful offender or a party is produced before them, take steps to ascertain his age. If the age given by the Police does not appear to be correct from the appearance of the offender or party, and if the Police cannot produce satisfactory evidence regarding the age, the Court should consider the desirability of sending the offender or party to the Medical Officer for the verification of his age before proceeding with the case.... At the time of the examination of the accused, the Sessions Judge or Magistrate should therefore, specifically asked such accused person his or her age for the purpose of recording it. If the Session Judge or Magistrate suspects that the age stated by the accused, having regard to his or her general appearance or some other reason, has not been correctly stated then, the Session Judge or Magistrate should make a note of his estimate. The Court may also, when it so deems fit or proper, order a medical examination of the accused for the purpose of ascertaining his correct age. If any documentary evidence on the point of age is readily available, the prosecution may be asked to produce it.' Quoted in Maharukh Adenalla M.S. in Child Protection and Juvenile Justice System for Juvenile in Conflict with the Law. Available at www.childlineindia.orgin/pdf/cp-JJ-JCL.pdf-similar (Accessed on 22nd February, 2011) See also, Bhola Bhagat v. State Of Bihar (1997)8 SCC 720, AIR 1998 SC 236.

14 R v Oladimeji (1984) NMLR (pt.30) 17

15 (1988) 4 NWLR (pt 130) 124; see also, Joseph Uwa v The State (1965) 1 ANLR, 356 and Morenike Franscis, 'Juvenile Justice in Nigeria: Dilemma of a Criminal Justice System'. Available at http.//www.jjn/html. (Accessed on 25 November 2008)

held that the trial judge is at liberty to adjourn the case and call a medical witness to testify to the age of the accused rather than adopt a single age of criminal responsibility.

In view of these realities, some scholars and human rights workers have argued that the provisions of the law concerning the age of suspects does not adequately protect young persons and should be amended. It has been suggested for instance, that there should be a more scientific and empirical way of ascertaining the age of a suspect and where a mistake as to the age of the suspect is made and discovered later, the judgment should be reserved and where damage has been suffered, compensation made. To do otherwise it appears, is to work against the ends of justice.[16] Prompt identification of persons less than 18 years of age is necessary to ensure that no irreparable damage is caused to them, and that they are not punished for acts done at an age when legislation intends them to be treated differently from an adult. At the next part, the paper shall focus on the implication of age on crime and predictive factors that can influence children and young persons' criminal disposition.

3.0.0 The Predictive Factors of Juvenile Delinquency

Criminologists have sought to provide theoretic to examine the series of predictive factors responsible for juvenile delinquency globally. This is premised on the fact that crime is a very complex phenomenon in society. The complexity of crime evidenced the fact that crime and juvenile involvement cannot be explained by a single theory. Instructively, most theorists often disagree as regard to the actual cause of delinquent behaviour. As a result, delinquency and crime have been variously explained in terms of biological, psychological

16 Ibid at 6-7.

and socio-economic motivations, environment and inadequacies.[17] The next part of the paper gives some of the theoretical exposition of the predictive factors of juvenile criminal deviance in society.

3.1.0 Demonological predictive factor of juvenile delinquency

This is a theory linked with the belief and practice rooted in customs of people and different from one community to another. Incidentally, criminologists who are naturalist in concept have attempted to explain deviance by applying natural and supernatural forces as factor that can affect human fortunes and behaviour[18]. Thus, some of the early deterministic theories of juvenile criminality held that the natural world is reflected in human appearance and behaviour, others held that possession by demons and devils is responsible for criminality and mental illness.[19]

3.2.0 Biological predictive factor of juvenile delinquency

Biological (Genetic relationship) is a famous predictive factor used by criminologists to explain juvenile delinquency is society. The biological explanations of causation are deterministic theories that study the effects of congenital traits on human behaviour.[20] In this

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17 See Alemika, E.E.O. and Chukwuma, I.C. 'Juvenile Justice Administration in Nigeria: Philosophy and Practice' (Centre for Law Enforcement Education, Lagos, 2001) available at http://www.Cleen.org/Juvenile%20justice%20Report.pdf. (Accessed on 17th February, 2011)

18 See Freda Adler, Gerhard, O.W. Mueller, & Williams S. Laufer, (2007) Criminology and the Criminal Justice System 6th ed. (McGraw-Hill New York) 237 See also Johnson, H.A. & Travis Wolfe N. (1996) Histort of Criminal Justice 2nd ed. (Cincinnati, OH Anderson) Quoted in Juvenile Delinquency: World Youth Report, 2003. Available at http.//www.tdh-childprotection.org/documents/world/youth-report-chapter-7-juvenile-delinquency. (Accessed on 21st March, 2011)

19 For example, a number of ancient cultures engaged in the practice of drilling holes in the skull (known as trephining), which supposedly allowed evil spirits to depart from their human "host." See Alemika E.E.O. and Chukwuma I.C. Ibid.

20 The belief that criminals are born, not made, and that they can be identified by various physical irregularities is reflected not only in scientific writing but in literature as well. This was evidenced in the postulation of Shakespeare Julius Caesar thus: 'Let me have men about me that are fat; sleek headed men and such as sleep o' nights. Yond Cassius has a lean and hungry look; He thinks too much: such men are dangerous.' Quoted in James, A. Inciardi 92007) Criminal Justice 8th ed. (Mc Graw Hill Companies, Inc.) 49-50. See also Curran, D.J. & Renzetti C.M. Theories of crime. (Boston Ally & Bacon). Quoted in Juvenile Delinquency: World Youth Report, 2003 Ibid.

perspective, b*iological theory* states that people commit crimes because of genetic inheritance, biochemical or neurological deficiencies.[21] By this preposition, a strong presumption favoured the fact that children whose parents are criminally disposed are more likely to develop criminal disposition than a well disciplined family. Thus, a "Bad Seed" is theoretically inherited and passed from generation to generation.[22]

Although many early biological theories: physiognomy, phrenology, and atavism are quasi-scientific by modern standards, they represent a serious effort to bring scientific riguor to the study of predictive factor of criminal causation from juvenile genetic makeup.[23]

3.3.0 Psychological predictive factor of juvenile delinquency

Social sciences such as psychology and sociology have also provided a rich diversity in theories of causation of juvenile delinquency. *Psychological theory on one hand* states that people commit crimes

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21 The perspective postulates that people with XYY chromosomes are born criminal or are at least more likely to engage in criminal and delinquent behaviours. During the 1960s, scientists investigated the theoretical implications of the "XYY" pattern and suggested in 1965 that "XYY" males are more prevalent in prison populations than in society. These "super males" were reported to be more aggressive than typical "XY" males, and therefore more prone to criminal deviance than "XY" males. See Jacobs, P. Bruton, M. Meville, M. et al. (1965) "Aggression behaviour, mental subnormality, and the XYY Male Nature" 208. 1351-1352. Quoted in Juvenile Delinquency: World Youth Report, 2003. Ibid.

22 Richard Dugdale's research on the Juke family, published in 1877, was among the first scientific studies that systematically argued in favour of a genetic basis for immorality, crime, and delinquency. His interest in the family began when he found six related people in a jail in up-state New York. Richard Dugdale referred to family of Juke as 'mother of Criminals' when he found among them 280 paupers, 60 thieves, 7 murderers, 40 other criminals, 40 persons with venereal diseases and 50 prostitutes. A similar finding was made by Henry Goddard in a study of the family tree of a Revolutionary War Soldier, Martin Kallikak, where Goddard found many more criminals among the descendants of Kallikak's illegitimate son than among the descendants of his son by a later marriage with a woman of his own quality. See Dugdale, R. L.(1985) The Jukes: A Study in Crime, Pauperism, Disease, and Heredity 3rd ed. (New York, G.P. Putsnam's Sons.) 8 See also Henry, H. Goddard (1912) The Killikak Family: A Study in the Heredity of Feeble-Mindedness (New York, Macmillan) 50.

23 See Freda Adler, Gerhard O.W. Mueller & Williams S. Laufer, 'Criminology and the Criminal Justice System. Ibid at 240 See also, Gibson, M. (2002) Born to Crime: Cesare Lombroso and the Origins of Biological Crime (New York, Praeger). Quoted in Juvenile Delinquency: World Youth Report, 2003. Ibid.

because of personality imbalances developed early in childhood.[24] Their expositions are grounded in several research traditions, such as psychoanalysis,[25] conditioning,[26] and psychopathology[27]. Incidentally, these explanations are not as deterministic as biological theories, for they leave open the possibility of deviant free will.

3.4.0 Sociological predictive factor of juvenile delinquency

Sociological approaches examine the effects of social structures and processes on the behaviour of individuals and groups of people. Societal conditions theoretically affect people's collective perceptions of the availability of opportunities and the intensity of deprivations, so that delinquency and crime are reactions to certain types of environments.[28] Instructively, therefore, *sociological theories* are used to substantiate the rehabilitation view of justice.[29] If people are controlled by their environment and by their relationship with significant others, then it follows that their behaviour can be

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24 Sigmund Freud was the founder of psychoanalysis, and his research is the foundation for psychoanalytic theory. He believed that human personalities are formed during several phases of childhood development. Abnormal personalities and other psychological imbalances begin to form during these phases, and can reflect the phase in which the problem developed. For example, according to him, if a person regresses to or becomes fixated in their phallic phase of development (ages three to five years), they may become sexually deviant and engage in illicit sex practices such as prostitution or rape. See generally Sigmund, F. (1920) A General Introduction to Psychoanalysis (New York, Liveright) 50. See also, Sigmund Freud: (1927) The Ego and the Id (London Hogarth) 87

25 See Campbell, J. (1976) The Portable Jung (Ed.) (New York W.W. Penguin Books) 9-10

26 Juvenile Delinquency: World Youth Report, 2003. Ibid.

27 Ibid

28 Socio-economic conditions, inequality and deprivation, underclass conditions such as poverty, neighborhood degeneration, low educational achievement, inadequate housing, and family dysfunction are associated with delinquency and criminality. See Gabriel Tarde: Penal Philosophy (1912) in Trans. R. Howell (Boston Little Brown, 1912). 252.

29 Adolphe Quetelet and Andre Michel Guerry were among the first scholars to repudiate the classical free-will doctrine from their working independently on the relation of crime statistics to such factors as poverty, sex, race, age and climate to mention just but few, concluded that society and not the decisions of individual offenders was responsible for criminal behaviour. See Quetelet: "A Treatise on Man." 103. See also, Derral Cheatwood (1988) "Is There a Season for Homicide?" Criminology, 26 Pp. 287-306. Quoted in Freda Adler, Gerhard O.W. Mueller & Williams S. Laufer, 'Criminology and the Criminal Justice System. Ibid.

changed by improving the quality of their social world. It is instructive to note that several other factors are directly connected to sociological and environment factors of juvenile delinquency such as further examine below.

3.4.1 Learning by experience:- It is a truism that every person's future behaviour is conditioned by experiences learnt directly or indirectly beginning from his/her very immediate environment. In other words, we learn from lifetime events and base our decisions, perceptions, and conduct on these events. According to learning conditioning theorists, the experiences or environmental stimuli underline socially acceptable behaviour, as well as delinquency and criminality.[30] Many behaviourists concluded that human criminals and delinquents could be conditioned to continue. According to this school, environmental stimuli operate either as punishers or reinforcers.[31]

Therefore, differential association is a process of social learning, in which criminals and law-abiding people learn their behaviour from associations with others. People imitate or otherwise internalize the

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30 The pioneer behind conditioning theory is Ivan Pavlov, a Russian physiologist who conducted behavioural experiments on dogs during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The basic attributes of his experiments were stimulus–response and reward–punishment. His laboratory dogs were stimulated to respond with certain behaviors. Pavlov's methods were remarkably simple: The dogs were rewarded when they responded correctly, and punished when they responded incorrectly. Pavlov's most famous experiment involved conditioning dogs to salivate at the ring of a bell. He initially rang a bell each time the dogs were fed (which stimulated them to salivate), and eventually simply rang the bell without food. The result was that the dogs were stimulated to salivate even though no food was given. Extrapolating these observations to human behaviour, Pavlov's experiments theoretically demonstrate that behaviour is predicated on lifetime stimuli. For a selection of the writings of Pavlov, see Pavlov, I.P. (2001) Selected Works. (Honolulu, HI, University Press of the Pacific) 198

31 If behaviour produces desirable consequences, it will increase in frequency and in that case it is said to be reinforced. In contrast, behaviour which produces aversive consequences will decrease in frequency and the behaviour is therefore said to be punished. In essence Criminals and delinquents are stimulated (reinforced) by their environment to continue acting out defiantly until they are punished in some manner. Therefore, when offenders are repeatedly rewarded for their deviance and receive no punishment for breaking the law, they are likely to continue until the authorities catch them.

lity of these associations. Thus, delinquency and criminality are earned behaviour that is acquired from interacting with others who ticipate in criminal lifestyles, so that the difference between enders and non-offenders lies in individual choices. In other vords, offenders and non-offenders strive for similar goals, but they oose different avenues to achieve those goals.[32] These choices are ed on the lessons they take from exposure to certain kinds of life xperiences. In particular, those with strong attachments to linquents are more likely to become delinquents, and people who w up in criminal milieus will adopt deviant values that can result n delinquency and crime.

.2 **Parental/family factor:** The family is a social institution and he immediate environment for juvenile internalization of behaviour nd future style of life. Thus, parental neglect constitutes one of the nous predictive factors of juvenile internalization of criminality in hat children and their families defy narrow descriptions. It is mposite to note that the family as a social institution is currently ndergoing substantial changes because of modernization; its form is liversifying with, for example, the increase in one-parent families nd non-marital unions. In this spectrum, absence of father or mother many low-income families can lead children to seek patterns of elinquency from groups of peers.[33] These groups in many respects e considered substitute for the family, define children roles, and ntribute to the acquisition of such attributes as cruelty, strength, xcitability and anxiety.

2 See generally Pavlov, I.P. Ibid.

3 Hawkins, J.D., Herrenkohl, T., Farrington, D.P., Brewer, D., Catalano, R.F., and Harachi, T.W.:(1998) "A ew of predictors of youth violence." In Serious and Violent Juvenile Offenders: Risk Factors and ccessful Interventions, edited by Loeber, R. and Farrington, D.P.. (Thousand Oaks, CA Sage ublications, Inc.) 106–146

Studies show that children who receive adequate parental supervision are less likely to engage in criminal activities.[34] Inadequate parenting practices are among the most powerful predictors of early anti-social behaviour.[35] Furthermore, dysfunctional family settings characterised by conflict, inadequate parental control, weak internal linkages and integration, and premature autonomy are closely associated with juvenile delinquency. Similarly, families in which the children do not have conduct problems compared with families of young children with conduct problems have been found to be eight times more likely to engage in conflicts involving discipline, to engage in half as many positive interactions, and, often unintentionally, to reinforce negative child behaviour.[36]

Another important predictive factor in paradigm is children who are exposed to or do witness domestic violence, these children have also been linked to increasing behaviuoral problems, especially for boys and younger children. In most families, when the woman is battered,[37] children are also battered and as such co-occurrence of child abuse and witnessing domestic violence affects children's adjustment. At the same time, children whose parents divorced or separated[38] and subsequent remarried have been found to be more

34 Cicchetti, D. and Rogosch, F.A.. (1996) Equifinality and multifinality in developmental psychopathology. Development and Psychopathology 8:597–600. Available at http://www.ncjrs.gov/html/ojjdp/.../contents.ht... (Accessed 20th October, 2011)

35 Ibid.

36 Gardner, F.E.M.(1987) "Positive interaction between mothers and conduct-problem children: Is there training for harmony as well as fighting?" (Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology) 15:283–293

37 Jaffe, P., Wolfe, D., and Wilson, S.K.. (1990) Children of Battered Women. (Newbury Park, CA Sage Publications, Inc.) 108

38 See McLanahan, S., and Booth, K. (1989) "Mother-only families: Problems, Prospects, and Politics." (Journal of Marriage and the Family) 51:557–580 and Sampson, R.J. (1987) "Urban black violence: The effect of male joblessness and family disruption." (American Journal of Sociology) 93:348–382, they postulated that, on average, children from single-mother households are at increased risk for poor behavioural outcome as a result of their fewer economic resources, mental health problems, higher levels of residential mobility, fewer resources to monitor their children's activities and where about. Cumulatively, each of these factors contributes to increased levels of early childhood behaviour problems.

likely to have continuing problems with antisocial, coercive and noncompliant behaviour through their upbringing as well as children who lose their parent(s).[39] Parents' antisocial personality disorder[40], parental substance abuse, parental psychopathology and depression[41] show many parenting deficiencies associated with increase antisocial behaviour in children such as inconsistency, irritability, lack of supervision and increased rates of psychiatric disorder among school-aged children.

3.4.3 Child abuse and trauma: Another closely connected predictive factor of delinquency to family factor is child abuse and trauma. In modern world, evidence abound that many children and young persons are subjected to abuse and are traumatised every day. Some of these abuses are infrequence, whereas others occur on a regular basis. The abuse may vary in nature as physical, sexual, or psychological, or as a combination.[42] There is no doubt that whatever the nature of the abuse; it can have long lasting and profound effects on a young person's life. Thus, the correlation between the abuse of young person and the development of serious problems in life is not a surprising one and may turn out to be one of the most significant factors in the development of delinquent behaviour.

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39 Hirschi, T. (1996) Causes of Delinquency. (University of California Press Berkeley, CA.) 148

40 Lahey, B.B., Piacentini, J.C., McBurnett, K., Stone, P., Hartdagen, S. and Hynd, G.(1988) "Psychopathology in the parents of children with conduct disorder and hyperactivity." (Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry) 27:163–170

41 The Pittsburgh Youth Study has shown that the association between delinquency and parental anxiety or depression was stronger in younger than in older children. See Loeber, R., Farrington, D.P., Stouthamer-Loeber, M., and Van Kammen, W.B. (1998) Antisocial Behavior and Mental Health Problems: Explanatory Factors in Childhood and Adolescence. Mahwah, NJ: (Lawrence Erlbaum). Available at http://www.ncjrs.gov/html/ojjdp/.../contents.ht... (Accessed 20th October, 2011)

42 Siegfried, C. B., Ko, S. J. & Kelley, A. (2004) "Victimization and Juvenile Offending." National Child Traumatic Stress Network. Available at http://www.nctsnet.org/nctsn_assets/pdfs/edu_materials/victimization_juvenile_offending.pdf (Accessed on 28th April, 2009)

Peer Pressure can also cause a juvenile to become involved in delinquent and illegal behaviour.[43] In many cases, pressure from peer group may be a principal cause to juvenile delinquency. Young persons are influenced under intense pressure from their peers to participate in criminal or other antisocial activities in order to feel that they belong. Youth policies seldom reflect an understanding of the role of the peer group as an institution of socialisation.[44]

3.4.4 Politically predictive factor: Theoretical exposition fixed delinquency and criminality to the reflection of the political and social discord of a particular period in society. Criminologists have linked delinquency and criminality to society's inequitable, ideological, political, and socio-economic makeup.[45] They argued that because power and wealth have been unequally distributed, those who have been politically and economically shut out understandably resort to criminal antagonism against the prevailing order.[46]

The plight of ethnic minorities, bombing saga, kidnapping and migrants, including displaced persons and refugees in certain parts of the world, is especially distressing. The countries in transition are facing particular challenges in this respect, with the associated insecurity and turmoil contributing to an increase in the numbers of children and juveniles neglected by their parents and suffering abuse and violence at home.[47]

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43 See Mason, A. (2001) "Self-Esteem and delinquency revisited (again): A test of Kaplan's self-derogation theory of delinquency using latent growth curve modeling." (Journal of Youth and Adolescence) 30(1), 83-101. Available at http://www.ehow.com/info_8260115_causes-effects-solutions-juvenile-delinquency.html. (Accessed on 25th May, 2012)

44 World Youth Report. (2004)."Juvenile delinquency." Available at http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/ch07.pdf. (Accessed on 2nd February, 2011)

45 See Krisberg B. (1975) Crime and Privilege: Towards a New Criminology. (Englewood Cliffs, N.J, Prentice-Hall) 128

46 William Bonger made the first consistent attempt to provide a Marxist framework for the analysis of crime. He sought to establish a causal link between crime and material conditions by looking at the effects of competition and 'egoism' on 'criminal thought'.

47 See Krisberg B. (1975) Crime and Privilege: Towards a New Criminology. Ibid 135

3.4.5 School/Community influences: as predictive factors of juvenile delinquency Another famous predictor of delinquency is the school organisation and community which play a vital role in development of children. The generality of the school environment may affect children positively and or negatively.[48] Therefore, a school with fewer teachers and higher number of students' enrollment is susceptible to having higher levels of teacher victimization and poor rule enforcement and in contrast to schools that are associated with higher levels of student victimisation.[49]

A further specific school influence for delinquency is poor academic performance. Children who perform poorly on academic tasks will fail to develop strong bonds to school and will have lower expectations of success.[50]

3.4.6 Media violence: Media violence, particularly electronic is a predictive factor of juvenile delinquency in our society. Eron and Huesmann[51] posit that violence can be learned by young persons who watch violence media programmed and tend to behave more aggressively or violently viewing violence in the media.[52] In addition, children of parents who frequently watched violence on television and showed aggression were found to be more likely than other children to exhibit aggression and to prefer violent programmes.

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48 Cole, J.D., Terry, R.A., Lenox, K., Lochman, J.E. and Hyman, C. (2001) "Childhood peer rejection and aggression as predictors of stable patterns of adolescent disorder." Development and Psychopathology edited by R. Loeber and D.P. Farrington. (Thousand Oaks, CA Sage Publications, Inc.) 211–246.

48 Herrenkohl, T.I., Hawkins, J.D., Chung, I.J., Hill, K.G., and Battin-Pearson, S. (2001) "School and community risk factors and interventions." In Child Delinquents: Development, Intervention, and Service Needs, edited by R. Loeber and D.P. Farrington. Ibid 231–246.

49 Ibid. 250

50 Maguin, E., and Loeber, R. (1996). "Academic performance and delinquency." In Crime and Justice: A Review of Research, vol. 20, edited by M. Tonry. Chicago, IL: (University of Chicago Press)145–264

51 Eron, L.D., and Huesmann, L.R. (1987) "Television as a source of maltreatment of children." (School Psychology Review)16:195–202

52 For example, children exposed to high levels of television violence at age 8 were found to be more likely to behave aggressively at that age and subsequently, up to age 30. Ibid 220

Media bring an individual to violence in three ways[53] First, movies that demonstrate violent acts excite spectators, and the aggressive energy can then be transferred to everyday life, pushing an individual to engage in physical activity on the streets. This type of influence is temporary, lasting from several hours to several days. Second, television can portray ordinary daily violence committed by parents or peers (the imposition of penalties for failing to study or for violations of certain rules or norms of conduct). It is impossible to find television shows that do not portray such patterns of violence, because viewer approval of this type of programming has ensured its perpetuation. As a result, children are continually exposed to the use of violence in different situations and the number of violent acts on television appears to be increasing. Third, violence depicted in the media is unreal and has a surrealistic quality; wound bleed less, and the real pain and agony resulting from violent actions are very rarely shown, so the consequences of violent behaviour often seem negligible.[54] Over time, television causes a shift in the system of human values and indirectly leads children to view violence as a desirable and even courageous ways of reestablishing justice.

The foregoing brief discussion of selected theories and perspectives provide us with an understanding of crime and delinquency especially their multiple and complex origins and manifestations. It should be noted that the list is not exhaustive of factors that can directly or indirectly affect juvenile in any society, the fact remains that children may be criminally disposed internally or externally.

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53 American Psychological Association (1993) "Violence and youth: Psychology's response". Summary report of the APA Commission on Violence and Youth (Washington D.C.). Available at http://www.aacap.org/publications/ractsiam/behavior:htm (Accessed on 20th February, 2010)

54 *Ibid*

4.0.0 **International, Regional and National Commitments** to Juvenile Delinquency

Law has a key role in protecting and ensuring the fulfillment of the rights of vulnerable children to criminal disposition. Against the above background, there are several international, regional and national legal instruments that are committed to regulate the promotion and protection of the rights of the child and treatment of juvenile offenders, generally, and especially in custodial institutions. These international and regional laws include the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) 1989,[55] the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules) 1985,[56] the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty (United Nations Rules) 1990,[57] the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of

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55 Prior to the adoption of UNCRC, the child had been at the centre of the brief 1959 Declaration of the Rights of the child, which does not however cover the various issues relating to the administration of juvenile justice per se. The preparation of the CRC started in 1979 by the Polish government to embarrass the West by proposing that the 1959 Declaration of the Rights of the Child be made a binding agreement. The West's riposte was to urge a wider review of human rights and children. Seizing the moment, civil society organisations (CSOs) began to step up pressure on the United Nations, eventually motivating the United Nations Commission for Human Rights in 1986 to draft a Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). In search of a moral compass at the end of the Cold War, the Child Rights Convention was quickly adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on November 20th 1989. The CRC, adopted in 1989 came at a time when the need for improvement in the situation of children all over the globe was clearly apparent. In that context, it was the only International Human Rights Convention that came into force just one year after adoption. See Jones, Gareth A. (2005) "Children and development: Rights, Globalization and Poverty." Progress in Development Studies, 5 (4). 336-342. Available at http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/16971/ (Accessed on 30th January, 2013) As at 2013, out of 195 member nations of the UN, 193 had ratified the Convention, See the Profile of Existing Diversion Programmes in Nigeria prepared by UNICEF http://traties.un.og/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-11&chapter=4&lang=en (Accessed on 29th May, 2013)

56 The Beijing Rules was the first international comprehensive statement to focus specifically on juvenile justice administration with a child rights and child development approach. It aimed at developing a juvenile justice system that should be fair and humane, emphasising the well-being and rehabilitation of the juveniles. Ensure that the reaction of the authorities is proportionate to the circumstances of the offender as well as the offence. See Okagbue I.(1996) "The Treatment of Juvenile Offenders and the Rights of the Child" in The Rights of the Child in Nigeria ed. Ayua I.A. & Okagbue I.E. (Nigerian Institute of Advance Legal Studies)243. See Commentary to Rule 1 of The Beijing Rules 1985.

Juvenile Delinquency (The Riyadh Guidelines) 1990[58] and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) 1990.[59]

It is important to remember for instance, that before the Child Rights Convention, children were the most invisible segment of the society. However, after its adoption, the issues related to children gained importance and it is not a peripheral issue anymore, but the center of attention in the countries that ratified both international and regional Conventions. Undoubtedly, the Child Rights Convention has profound importance throughout the world. It has given great visibility to issues concerning children, and has served as a reference for the development of new laws and public policies.

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57 It sets out standards applicable when a juvenile is confined to any facility. The rules apply whether penal, correctional, educational or protective, and whether on the grounds of conviction or suspicion of having committed an offence, or simply being deemed "at risk". It include principles that universally define the specific circumstances under which children can be deprived of their liberty, emphasizing that deprivation of liberty must be a means of last resort, for the shortest possible period of time and limited to exceptional cases. This serves as an internationally acceptable framework intended to counteract the detrimental effects of deprivation of liberty by ensuring respect for the human rights of juveniles and ensuring the dignity and welfare of the children is upheld while in custody. See Okagbue I. "The Treatment of Juvenile Offenders and the Rights of the Child" in The Rights of the Child in Nigeria, ed. Ayua I.A. & Okagbue I.E. Ibid.

58 The United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency were adopted as a preventive rather than a curative policy. They focus on the need for preventive actions in respect of juvenile justice. These guidelines see prevention as not merely a matter of tackling negative situations, but rather a means of promoting welfare and well-being. The Guidelines stress the importance to pursue a child-centred orientation in any preventive programme. See The United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency proclaimed by the General Assembly Resolution 45/112.(14th December, 1990)

59 According to Viljoen F. (1999) in his postulations "Why South Africa should ratify the treaty" (South African Law Journal) 660; and (2000) "The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child - Introduction to child law in South Africa" (ed.) (JUTA CJ Davel) (cap 12) 214 agrees that the 'numerous political compromises' made at the drafting of the Child Rights Convention, overlooked issues which were important to African children. By 2007,out of 53 African Countries, 50 are signatories to the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC). See UNICEF Information Sheet Available at http://www.africaunion.org/root/au/documents/treaties/list/africa%20charter%20on%20the%20rights%20and%20welfare%20of%20the%20child.pdf (Accessed on 31st October 2007)

It is also possible to assure that the Child Rights Convention has been enormously influential indeed, to many, it is regarded as the touchstone for children's rights throughout the world.[60] It constitutes the most comprehensive list of human rights create for a specific group. International bodies refer to it with approval on the basis that it can be utilised to promote a change in the way children, as individual with rights, are viewed and also to encourage their active and responsible participation within the family and society.

It is easy to find superlative related to the achievements of Child Rights Convention, as it is the most widely ratified treaty in history,[61] the first been virtually Universal Human Rights Convention. Child Rights Convention is the most far-reaching, the most forward-looking, and the most comprehensive. It is the embodiment of a whole new vision for children, a definitive turning point in the struggle to achieve justice for children, and a document with an unprecedented potential to bring about dramatic change. It is the most 'complete' human rights treaty in that it covers virtually all the economic, civil, political, social and cultural rights of children.[62]

However, notwithstanding the significance of international conventions/rules/guidelines on the child rights and juvenile justice system, it has been argued that they do not adequately address juvenile justice in the Africans' perspectives. Thus, recognising the specific cultural setting in which it is to operate by calling for consideration of the cultural heritage, historical background and the values of the African civilisation which should inspire and

60 See Jones, Gareth A. (2005) "Children and development: Rights, Globalization and Poverty." Progress in Development Studies Ibid.

61 See United Nations Human Rights Fact Sheet Series No. 10, (1990) The Rights of the Child, (GE. 90-17337-10,975) 4. See UN Backgrounder, Children's Rights, (DPI/1756/hr-96-00186-January 1996, 20m) 4. See also, "The Rights of the Child in the Administration of Justice" in the Human Rights in the Administration of Justice A manual on Human Rights for Judges, Prosecutors and Lawyers. Available at http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/training9chapter10en.pdf-similar (Accessed on 3rd June, 2011)

62 Ibid

characterise the concept of the rights and welfare of the child, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) was thereafter negotiated and adopted at the 26th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government (AHOSG) of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) on 11 July 1990. The Charter entered into force on 29 November, 1999 (nine years later) after obtaining the requisite number of ratifications. This is because the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) had not addressed the important challenges facing African children due to the fact that only few African countries were involved in the drafting process and they were unable to articulate African children's position especially in the areas of African values, harmful traditional practices among others.[63] Although, nine African States were participatory in the activities of the Working Group by 1989, for at least five of the nine years that the Working Group took to draft the final proposal, only three African States participated.[64]

In summary, countries that are signatories and have acceded to the international and regional conventions/rules/guidelines, have adopted these conventions with some modifications[65] to make the conventions country specific in operation and relevance to the peculiarity of each country's socio-economic, political and cultural conditions.

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63 Commentary on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (2007): Article 3 – "The best interest of the child" (University College London, Nijhoff Publishers) quoted in Adegbola R.E.'s Dissertation (2007): Children's Rights in Africa: An appraisal of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child submitted in partial fulfillment for the requirement of Maters of Law at the (University of Pretoria). Available at repository.up.ac.za/bitstream/handle/2263/5343/adegbola.pdf?...1 (Accessed on 18th January, 2013)

64 Ibid

65 For example Ghana and Cameroon (2005, Cameroonian Criminal Procedure Code) did not enact separate Child Rights Act but rather incorporated these provisions of the International Convention/rules/guideline and Charters on juvenile justice system in their Criminal Procedure Codes. While Nigeria and India enacted separate Child Rights Acts (2003, Nigeria) and Juvenile Justice Act (2000, India) respectively in compliance with international standard.

5.0.0 Recommendations for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency

Government, community, society and even religious institutions throughout the world have realised that the society is paying too much for the care of criminals and too little for the prevention of crime. A number of United Nations Instruments reflect on a preference for social rather than judicial approaches to controlling juvenile delinquency. The Riyadh Guidelines asserts that the prevention of juvenile delinquency is an essential part of overall crime prevention in society[66] and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules) recommend instituting positive measures to strengthen a juvenile's overall well-being and reduce the need for State intervention. However and for purpose of this paper, some recommended preventive measures of juvenile delinquency are herein under identified and discussed.

5.1.0: Assistance to Parents in Dealing with Early Behavioural Problems

To start with, there is no substitute for home life and intelligent parenthood in the rearing of children. The family, as the primary institution of socialisation, appears to play the most important role in the prevention of child and juvenile delinquency. It is in the home that the child's needs for affection, security, and opportunities for growth or development, which play so important a part in shaping his personality, are met or thwarted.[67] To promote the stability and

66 United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (The Riyadh Guidelines) 1990

67 In an address on Child Welfare Standards a Test of Democracy at the National Conference of Social Work in 1919, Julia C. Lathrop, the first Chief of the Children's Bureau reiterated that children are not safe and happy if their parents are miserable, and parents must be miserable if they cannot protect a home against poverty. Let us not deceive ourselves. The power to maintain a decent family living standard is the primary essential of child welfare. This means a living wage and wholesome working life for the man, a good and skillful mother at home to keep the house and comfort all within it. Society can afford no less and can afford no exceptions. This is a universal need.

happiness of family life is, therefore, to aid in the prevention of juvenile delinquency. At the same time, every community should insure opportunities for parental education which will provide instruction in the principles of home making, family relationships and the education and care of children. In doing this, model educational programs must be designed to assist families and children by providing them with information that informs parent on how to raise healthy children and teach children about the effects of drugs, gang involvement, sex, and weapons. These programmes will instill young persons with an awareness that will allow them to exercise discretion in decision making. This paper supports the full implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child[68] in this respect.

5.2.0 Education of Public Opinion

In the global world, the plights of children remain elusive despite the existence of laws for the promotion and protection of their rights. Thus, an enlightened public opinion is one of the most important requisites in any successful programme for the prevention of juvenile delinquency. The public is often inclined to "view with alarm" the misdeeds of the younger generation without stopping to consider its own responsibility in the matter and to discriminate unjustly against children going through the courts or receiving specialised institutional care.[69] This attitude is not constructive. The attitude of the public toward all problem children should be characterised not by irritation, fear, or censure but by understanding of the child's need for protection, education, and guidance, in the community if possible, in

[68] The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child provides a framework for improving the living conditions of children most especially Articles 2, 6, 12, 13, 14, 17, 19, 24.1, 26, 28, 32.1, 33, 34, 36 and 37. These provisions range from children survival's rights, development rights, protective rights and participation rights among others.

[69] Facts About Juvenile Delinquency: Its Prevention and Treatment, Publication No. 215 United States Department of Labor Children's Bureau 193. Provided by the Maternal and Child Health Library, (Georgetown University)

a well-managed institution if necessary.[70] When the public is brought to an understanding and acceptance of its own responsibilities in the prevention and treatment of delinquency, it will be more willing to give the needed support to that well-rounded and coordinated community programme for the development of constructive, wholesome interests and the early study and guidance of children presenting problems of behaviour and personality. Distribution of literature, newspaper and magazine publicity, radio talks, lectures, and study-club work will be found useful in educating public opinion.

5.3.0 Social Work in the Schools

School is an important environment for the development of children, thus, when a child enters school, he enters a new world and faces new conditions. Although the modern ideal in education demands that full recognition should be given to individual differences in children and that emphasis be placed on the person taught rather than the things taught,[71] the fact remains that the school undertakes not only to give the child an academic education but to train him/her to fit into society. Whatever the causes of juvenile delinquency may be, it is usually during the school days that the child's most serious delinquencies develop, and the school is, therefore, most intimately involved in the whole problem of delinquency.

In essence, there must be a real programme for the prevention of delinquency and part of this promise should lies in the fact that the school must realize increasingly that the child it teaches has a life

70 Murphy, H.A., Hutchinson, J.M., and Bailey, J.S. (1983) "Behavioral school psychology goes outdoors: The effect of organized games on playground aggression."(Journal of Applied Behavioral Analysis) 16:29–35.

71 Kellam, S.G., and Rebok, G.W.(1992) "Building developmental and etiological theory through epidemiologically based preventive intervention trials." In Preventing Antisocial Behavior: Interventions From Birth Through Adolescence, edited by J. McCord and R.E. Tremblay. (New York, NY: Guilford Press)162–195.

outside of that which is passed in the classroom and that he/she must be taught and treated and guided in the light of this fact, that the school must sincerely and vitally interest itself in the environment of the child it tries to teach.[72] Designing several types of school programmes will serve as interventions for reducing aggressive behaviour in the classroom. This paper supports the postulation of Greenberg and some other scholars,[73] when they opined that schools should design programme that will enhance development of social competence curriculums to promote norms against aggressive, violent, and other anti-social behaviours. Conflict resolution and violence prevention curriculums, bullying prevention programmes, multicomponent classroom programmes to improve academic achievement and reduce anti-social behaviour, afterschool recreation programs, and mentoring programs will also help in a greater ways.

At the same time, the school organisation must provide for various services to assist in preventing or solving the various problems of school maladjustment and dissatisfaction which are fertile sources of delinquency. These services should include health services and child-study departments and clinics, attendance departments like social work officers who will be visiting the schools, conferences at schools with children, teachers and parents, they can equally visit homes, special schools and classes should also be organised to cater for children whose needs cannot be met in a regular class, by this, such children will be placed in a special class equipped to deal scientifically with their particular difficulty. Such classes include classes for children who have physical handicaps, mental handicaps, classes for retarded children who are mentally deficient and classes

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72 Kellam, S.G., Rebok, G.W., Ialongo, N., and Mayer, L.S. (1994) "The course and malleability of aggressive behaviour from early first grade into middle school: Results of a developmental epidemiologically based preventive trial." (Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry and Allied Disciplines) 35:259–281.

73 Greenberg, M.T. (1997) "Improving peer relations and reducing aggressive behavior: The classroom level effects of the PATHS curriculum." Paper presented at the Society for Research in Child Development, (Washington, DC).

for gifted children for whom the challenge of a different school curriculum may be the solution of behavioural problems caused by lack of interest and satisfaction in their work. Another service could be a provision for educational and vocational guidance which will include a sufficient number of well-trained and experienced counselors in the schools to make adjustments for every child that will prevent discouragement and prolong his/her school life.

5.4.0 Community Influences and Leisure-time Activities

Community is an extension of the home and another world entirely beyond the precinct of home and school in which the child will spend more and more of his/her time as he/she grows older. Community therefore, helps to shape his/her personality, influence his/her conduct and attitude towards life. The street on which he/she lives, the neighbours whom he/she sees from day to day, the children with whom he/she plays are but a few of the influences, tangible and intangible, that affect the child's daily life and that help to create what might be called the spirit of the neighbourhood. The community, through its various agencies, may help to strengthen the child, fit him/her to meet life squarely, or it may help to make him/her dissatisfied with his/her environment, to rebel against it, and thus may become one of the causes of juvenile delinquency. Various studies have been made showing that delinquency is most likely to occur where proper community environment is lacking.[74] Therefore, programme of prevention should be design to provide a constructive, wholesome, happy use of leisure time and a programme of protection against harmful and demoralising influences.

Community resources for preventive and protective work should include, among others, the recreational facilities under public auspice which will accommodates public playground, athletic fields,

[74] Murphy, H.A., Hutchinson, J.M., and Bailey, J.S. "Behavioral school psychology goes outdoors: The effect of organized games on playground aggression." Ibid.

municipal beaches, swimming pools, play street, camp sites, parks for picnics, public-library service, concerts and musical activities, museums etc. Overall, public and private children's organisations such as child-welfare boards and departments should be established including children's aid societies, juvenile-protective associations, and societies for the prevention of cruelty to children which often make protective work a major function.

6.0.0 Conclusion

An attempt has been made in this paper to examine juvenile delinquency and its predictive factors. This paper argued that juvenile delinquency is a global phenomenon in it predictive factors and effects in society. Thus, efforts at addressing the issue of juvenile have been geared through enactments of domestic legislation, regional and international conventions to address the issue and this line of commitment is highly commendable.

It is, therefore, important for society to prioritize juvenile delinquency prevention programmes over measures designed to punish or treat juvenile offenders. Programmes designed for reform of criminal justice system that fail to address the structural roots of crime and delinquency will merely aid continuous repression of victims of structurally induced socio-political and economic disabilities and exclusion. These preventive methods, if adopted and translated to welfare and social security services, and effectively implemented, can create a relatively stress-free, and less criminogenic environment in which children and young persons can grow and blossom. Overall, the strategy of the government in improving juvenile justice should be focused on three areas: youth crime prevention, providing young persons with meaningful consequences for their actions, and the rehabilitation and reintegration of young offenders.