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INFLUENCE OF FAMILY BACKGROUND ON JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AS PERCEIVED BY SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA

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Ogwokhademhe, M.C. (PhD), Ajiboye, S.K., PhD and Yahaya, H.S.

Abstract

The family is an important unit of every society for children upbringing. The family background has a great influence on children attitude in life. Such influence could now be seen in a child positively or negatively. Some of the consequences of negative influence of family background on a child is juvenile delinquent acts. A child is tagged delinquent if he/she is found violating the societal moral, norms and values. The study investigated the influence of family background on juvenile delinquency as perceived by secondary school students in Lagos State, Nigeria. The population of this study is all secondary school students in Lagos State while the target population is 200 students randomly sampled from the three senatorial districts of the State. A self developed instrument titled "Influence of Family Background on Juvenile Delinquency Questionnaire" was used to collect relevant data from the respondents. A 4 Point Scale of Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree and Strongly Disagree was used. The instrument was validated by experts in the Department of Counsellor Education, University of Ilorin, Nigeria, it was pilot tested on 200 secondary school students in Ilorin and the reliability coefficient of 0.69 revealed that the instrument is reliable. The finding of the study showed that there is a strong influence of family background on juvenile delinquency as perceived by the respondents. Gender, age and religions of the respondents influence their perception, while class level and family type of the respondents did not influence their perception on the influence of family background on juvenile delinquency. It was recommended that Counsellors should organize continuously educative and sensitizing programmes that could equip parents with good parenting skills in order to produce violent-free adolescents on campuses.

Keywords: Juvenile Delinquency, Youngsters, Perception

Background to the Study

The path towards or away from crime commences early in life. Children with problems and various challenges tend to grow into juvenile delinquents and eventually into adult offender. If a child has an abusive or neglected upbringing, he/she tends to be impulsive, insensitive, physical risk taking, short-sighted and also tend to engage in some criminal acts such as smoking, drinking, gambling. These delinquencies are considered as to result from the malfunctioning of the family institution and background. Juvenile delinquency is seen as a delinquent and criminal behaviour among young people as they metamorphosed from childhood to adulthood in an increasingly complex and confusing world. The anti-social behaviour often linked with the juvenile delinquents include bullying, truancy, rape, drug abuse, examination malpractices, cultism, school drops out.

Juvenile delinquency has been closely linked to family. The family is seen as a foundation of human society; families are the strongest socializing forces of life. The family is an important unit of every society for children upbringing; the family background has a great influence on children attitude in life. These influences could exhibit itself in a child positively or negatively. Family background or parental variable affects child's personality. Hirschi (1995) expressed that some aspects of family structure and practice appear to have an impact on delinquent.

Etzioni (1984) added that family factors which may have influence on offending and delinquent act include the level of parental supervision, the way parents discipline their children, particularly harsh punishment, parental conflicts or separation, parental abuse or neglect and the quality of the parent child relationship, situations when parents do not know where their children are; what they do and who their friends are. All these vacuums or channel can develop some maladaptive behaviours in a child which includes truancy etc that make a child a juvenile delinquent. An attempt to explain the theoretical underpinning of delinquency associate the young adult behaviour with the home, family, neighbourhood, peers and many other variable which could separated or collectively influenced the formation of young people and its environment. It could be the environment where the child grew up that produces juvenile delinquents and if eventually such child is a product of a family that uses abuses words, poor training, inadequate attention, and such child is likely to engage in delinquent acts which reproduce itself into miscreant acts in

the society (Adran, 1990). The problem of juvenile delinquency is becoming complicated and universal and this has posed great challenges to crime prevention mechanism. Efforts to fight the insurgence are characterized by lack of systematic action and the absence of task oriented and effective social workers. These challenges are further complicated with lack of international and local cooperative data. Special programmes are to be in place to tackle the problem of unaccomplished and homeless children with rehabilitation scheme that take the children off the street. (Nodlings,1992). The intensity and the severity of juvenile offences are generally determined by social economic and cultural conditions of the host country. Monashan and Just (2000) emphasized that there is evidence of a universal increase in juvenile crime taking place currently with economic decline especially in the poor districts of large cities. In many cases, street children later become young offenders having already encountered violence in their immediate social environments as either witnesses or victim of such act.

Geographical analysis suggests that countries with more urbanized population have higher registered crime rate than those with strong rural life style and communities (Hirschi, 1995). This may likely be attributed to differences in social control and cohesion. Rural grouping, as expressed by Atran (1990) rely mainly on family and community control as the means of dealing with anti-social behaviour and exhibit markedly lower crime rate.

In tackling the incidence of juvenile delinquency, the United Nations Convention on the right of the child provides a framework for improving the living conditions of children focusing on 4 broad areas:

Survival Right: Articles 6.1; 6.2; and 24.1 of O.A.U deal with the basic needs that must be met for children to enjoy good health for adequate growth, including medical care, nutrition, shelter and clothing. For street children most of these needs are not satisfied.

Development Right: Articles 6.26 and 28 of O.A.U (1992) relate to the opportunities and means of providing children with access to education skills, training, recreation and rest, information, parental care and social security.

Participation Right: Articles 12, 13 and 17 of O.A.U (1992) focus on the opportunities, and means provided to children to enable them express opinions on matters affecting their lives. This includes freedom of worship, access to information about oneself and freedom to give evidence where applicable.

Protective Right: Article 2.19; 1 and 19.32 of O.A.U (1992) focus on the legal and social provision that must be made by each country to protect children from exploitation, drug abuse, sexual abuse/harassment, separation from family, discrimination and all effects of all types of man made or natural disaster (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2003).

Both the local and international policies aim at preventing the child from vulnerability to delinquent behaviour. However, there are variables that significantly influence child's involvement in unacceptable behaviour. Thus, it is imperative to consider the possible influence of family background on juvenile delinquency. The experience of secondary school students whose ages fall within juvenile group would enrich investigation into influence of family background on juvenile delinquency.

Statement of the Problem

Delinquencies could be regarded as the breaking down of norms and values of a specific society. Delinquency is linked up with environment; it is the environment that produces delinquent children. Also if a child is brought up in a family that use abusive words on their children or not given proper care and attention in the house, such children are likely to engage in delinquent acts. Monaghan and Just (2000) expressed that the family exerts significant influence on the general behaviour of the child. Therefore, this study attempted to find out the influence of family background on juvenile delinquency as perceived by secondary school students in Lagos State, Nigeria which is the vacuum the study tried fill.

Research Questions

The following research questions were generated for the study:

- What is the influence of family background on juvenile delinquency as perceived by secondary school students in Lagos State, Nigeria?
- Is there any significant difference in the influence of family background on juvenile delinquency as perceived by secondary school students based on gender, age, class level and family type?
- Is there any significant difference in the influence of family background on juvenile delinquency as perceived by secondary school students based on religion?

Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses guided the conduct of the study:

- There is no significant difference in the influence of family background on juvenile delinquency as perceived by secondary school students based on gender, age, class level and family type.
- There is no significant difference in the influence of family background on juvenile delinquency as perceived by secondary school students based on religion.

Methodology

Descriptive survey method was employed for this study. The population for this study was all secondary school students in Lagos State and the target population were secondary school students from one out of the three senatorial districts in Lagos State. A researcher developed instrument titled "Influence of Family Background on Juvenile Delinquency Questionnaire" (IFBJDQ) was used to collect relevant data from the respondents. The instrument was structured with a 4 - Point Likert scale of Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree and Strongly Disagree. The instrument was validated by 5 experts in the department of Counsellor Education; while a reliability co-efficient at 0.71 was obtained during the method, which was subjected to Pearson Product Moment Correlation Formula.

Results

Descriptive and inferential statistics were employed to analyze the data gathered for the study.

Research Question One: What is the influence of family background on juvenile delinquency as perceived by secondary school students in Lagos State, Nigeria?

Table 1: Mean and Rank Order of Influence of Family Background on Juvenile Delinquency

Item No	As far as I am concerned, family background:	Mean	Rank
9	influence a child delinquent acts when too much attention is given to the child.	3.44	1st
1	affect a child's attitude.	3.39	2nd
4	is the origin of a child delinquent act.	3.39	2nd
10	lead a child into delinquent act when spent too much time with parents.	3.32	4th
14	influence children with low intelligent quotient to perform low in school activities.	3.26	5th
5	could lead a child to immoral acts.	3.25	6th
11	lead a child from polygamous home into miscreant acts.	3.20	7th
7	influence parents not rendering adequate guidance to their children.	3.15	8th
12	Sometime encourages child to involve in delinquency	3.14	9th
3	always influence a child to be involved in delinquent acts.	3.12	10th
18	could influence an adolescent to behave like miscreant.	3.06	12th
2	could influence a child to engage in societal evil.	3.04	13th
8	could make "society" to be reason for a child delinquent act.	3.02	14th
6	influence the child's belief system in delinquent acts	3.01	15th
15	influence child to be aggressive.	2.88	16th
16	can make a child to live with single parent which could breed delinquent act in that child.	2.74	17th
3	can cause peer rejection that can lead the child to delinquent act.	2.71	18th
20	can lead a child with criminal siblings to be influenced negatively.	2.61	19th
19	can lead a child to involve in maladaptive behaviour.	2.60	20th

Table 1 revealed that the least mean value on the rank table is 2.60, which is statistically higher than 2.50;the cut-off mean for the Four-Point Likert scale used for the study {(4 + 3 + 2 + 1) for Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree and Strongly Disagree: (4 + 3 + 2 + 1 ÷ 4) = 2.5)}. With this mean (2.60), it shows that all the items had influence on the studied variable. Therefore, to answer research question one, the finding

on table one revealed that family background has a strong and high influence on juvenile delinquency as perceived by secondary school students in Lagos State.

Hypotheses Testing

Analysis of variance and t-test were used to analyze the hypotheses generated for the study:

Hypothesis One: *There is no significant difference in the influence of family background on juvenile delinquency as perceived by secondary school students based on gender, age, class level and family type*

Table 2: Mean, Standard Deviation and t-test of Influence of Family Background on Juvenile Delinquency Based on Gender, Age, Class Level and Family Type

Variable	Frequency	Mean	SD	Df	Calculated t-value	Critical t-value
		Gender				
Male	107	62.13	3.58	198	2.84*	1.96
Female	93	60.62	3.91			
Total	200					
		Age				
10-15 years	90	62.45	3.54	198	3.55*	1.96
16 yrs & above	110	60.50	3.81			
Total	200					
		Class Level				
JSS	97	61.32	3.99	198	-.398	1.96
SSS	103	61.53	3.63			
Total	200					
		Family Type				
Monogamy	121	61.41	3.71	198	-.077	1.96
Polygamy	79	61.45	3.96			
Total	200					

*Significant, $p < 0.05$

Table 2 revealed that the calculated t-values for gender and age are higher than the critical level of 1.96, that is, both gender and age of the respondents influence their expression of the influence of family background on juvenile delinquency. Class level and family type on the other hand have their calculated t-values lower than the critical values, they are, therefore, accepted. That is, both class level and family type of the respondents does not influence their expression of the influence of family background on juvenile delinquency.

Hypothesis Two: There is no significant difference in the influence of family background on juvenile delinquency as perceived by secondary school students based on religion.

Table 3: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) on the Influence of Family Background on Juvenile Delinquency Based on Religion

Religion	Sum of squares	Df	Mean Squares	Calculated F-ratio	Critical F-ratio
Between Groups	146.042	2	23.30	5.26*	3.00
Within Groups	2730.978	197	44.32		
Total	2877.020	199			

*Significant, $p < 0.05$.

Table 3 shows that the calculated f-ratio of 5.26 is greater than the critical f-ratio of 0.05 alpha level. The hypothesis is rejected, which means that the religion of the respondents influence their expression of the influence of family background on juvenile delinquency.
Since there is a significant difference, Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) was used as a post hoc to determine where the significant difference lies.

Table 4: Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) of Respondents on the Influence of Family Background on Juvenile Delinquency Based on Religion

Religion	Frequency	Mean	Duncan Grouping	Group
Christianity	102	62.24	A	2
Islam	95	60.63	B	3
African Traditional Religion (ATR)	3	59.00	C	1

Table 4 shows that the three religions groups have different means which shows that they expressed the influence of family background on juvenile delinquency differently. With these means, Group A differ significantly from Group C while a slight different was noticed between Groups B and C.

Discussion of Findings

The major finding of this study revealed that there is a high influence of family background on juvenile delinquency as expressed by secondary school students in Lagos State, Nigeria. This finding complied with the finding of Atran (1990) which ascertained that adolescents from low income families often feel excluded to raise their self esteem and improve their status, they may choose to join juvenile delinquent group. They usually distinguish themselves from schools and family orders.

Gender, age and religions of the respondents influence their expression of the influence of family background on juvenile delinquency. This finding means that respondents' gender (male and female), age difference and religious groups make a difference in the expression of respondents. It means that they expressed influence of family background on juvenile delinquency differently based on these variables (Gender, age, religion). Class level and family type on the other hand did not influence the expression of respondents on the influence of family background on juvenile delinquency. This finding means that the class level (JSS & SSS) and family type (Monogamy and polygamy) of respondents did not have the strength of influencing their expression on the studied variable.

Summary of Findings

The findings summarily revealed that:

- Secondary school students in Lagos State, Nigeria expressed the influence of family background on juvenile delinquency to be very high.
- Gender, age and religion of the respondents influenced their expression of the influence of family background on juvenile delinquency.
- Class level and family type of the respondents did not influence their perception on the influence of family background on juvenile delinquency.

Recommendations

The major finding revealed that secondary school students in Lagos State, Nigeria expressed the influence of family background on juvenile delinquency to be very high. With this finding:

- Counsellors, through the Counselling Association of Nigeria (CASSON), should continuously organize seminars, conferences to equip parents with required parenting skills in order to produce violent-free adolescents on the campuses;
- Counsellors should educate parents on how their children could enjoy the best of them with the little resources they have to reduce the high level of teenage participation in societal evils;
- Counsellors should constantly see young ones as tomorrows' leaders. This should be well pronounced in the ears of the political leaders so as to provide the young ones necessary gadgets at all levels so as to desist them from crimes and destructive acts they are tempted to engage themselves in; and
- The society should be more friendlier. By society, it starts from home (parents), school (teachers), churches/mosque (spiritual leaders and their ministers) and the political leaders at large. When everyone puts on friendly attitude while interacting with the young ones, it gives them a clear understanding of what it takes to be friendly and interact with the environment in a relax and friendly manner. This will go a long way to correct various maladaptive behaviours relating to violence exhibited by young ones.

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STRATEGIES FOR ACHIEVING CLIMATE CHANGE LITERACY IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN NIGERIA

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Njoku Ugochukwu Mitchell, Ononeze Ogadimma Felix & Ahamefula Chika Fidelia

Abstract
The word climate change has become phenomenal that nations all over the world have painstakingly striven to reduce its adverse effect on the populace. This has led to calling of conferences, workshops and seminars. This paper tried to look at the strategies of achieving climate change literacy in educational institutions in Nigeria in this 21st century, the work also looked at the causes of climate change, its effects and contend that with proper strategies, mass climate change literacy is a tool for finding a lasting solution to this hydra-headed monster called climate change. The paper recommends that the education authorities in Nigeria should as a matter of urgency include climate change literacy into Nigerian educational curriculum and also trains teachers for this purpose.

Introduction

Climate change in an environmental development that is of concern to both developed and developing countries of the world. It is an important aspect of human existence, because it shapes the condition of the environment which in turn determines the conduciveness of living of all creature, of which human is the most strategic. This referred to as 'green house effect', which results in global warming. Obeka (2010) stated that global warming is a national or human induced increase in the average global temperature of the atmosphere. In contemporary global disclosure, the concept of climate change has been accorded the priority deserves. In most advanced countries of the world, proactive steps have commenced to tackle the effects of climate change, while in most developing countries, little or nothing is being done to moderate the effects of climate change.