

Title

Parent-child relationship, socio-economic status, peer-pressure and self-esteem as predictors of juvenile delinquency behaviour in Ibadan, Nigeria

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Abstract

Anti-social behaviours are often associated with juvenile delinquency. This societal menace motivated the investigation of parent-child relationship, parental socio-economic status, peer pressure and self-esteem as determinants of juvenile delinquency among adolescents in Ibadan Metropolis. The study adopted correlational survey design. A randomly selected sample of two hundred and twenty (220) secondary school adolescents was used. Two research questions were raised and answered while four hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.5 level of significance. Five reliable measuring instruments adapted and validated to form a structured questionnaire were used for data analysis. Pearson product moment correlation and multiple regression analysis were used to analyse the data. The study showed there was a significant relationship between the Independent and Dependent Variables. Multiple regression analysis revealed that: there was a significant joint

contribution of Independent to Dependent Variables, the most potent factor was peer-pressure ($\beta=.189$, $t=2.859$, $p<.05$), followed by self-esteem ($\beta= -.244$, $t= -3.362$, $p<.05$), parent-child-relationship ($\beta= -.420$, $t= -5.835$, $p< .05$) and parental socio-economic status ($\beta= -.017$, $t= -.795$). This implies that self-esteem and parent-child relationship will reduce juvenile delinquency by 24.4% and 42% respectively while peer-pressure will increase juvenile delinquency by 18.9%. It was therefore recommended that school administrators should constitute a disciplinary committee to checkmate social menace and discipline offenders in the school; Federal Government could build correctional homes to rehabilitate delinquent adolescents for reformation to be useful to themselves and the society at large.

Key words

juvenile delinquency, peer pressure, parent-child relationship, social- economic status, and self-esteem, Ibadan, Nigeria

Introduction

Adolescence can be described as a stage that involves intellectual, social, physical, emotional and moral development of a group of people that fall between the ages of 10 to 19 years of age. It is an important stage of growth in human development. However, this period can be a time of both disorientation and discovery that can bring up issues of interdependency and self-identity. The adolescents at this crucial stage of life tend to define and search for identity thereby creating confusion for themselves as a result of their inexperience in making decisions on certain issues. The issue of confusion may lead them to fall into lots of challenges. During this phase of life, adolescents get to learn different behaviours, acts, beliefs and trending topics which can either have positive or negative impact on them. Many of these adolescents and their peer groups face tough choices regarding schooling, sexuality, drugs, alcohol and social life. The inability to develop and maintain smooth transition to adulthood makes them to face a lot of challenges that can endanger them. Such challenge also includes aggression, violence, addiction to social media, psychological problems substance usage and abuse and other social vices in the society.

Background

According to Mason (2005), delinquency is defined as the behaviour consequent to the failure of personal and social control to produce behaviour in conformity with the norms of the social system to which legal penalties are attached.

Juvenile delinquency can be defined as the act of committing a crime at a very young age which makes the offender not to be tried at a court of law as a result of being underage. Juvenile delinquency on the other hand is a broad range of child and adolescent behaviours including socially unacceptable behaviour, status, offences and criminal acts. These adolescents are individuals who violate the law but are not legally adults to be charged to court because they still fall below the age of 18 years. Juvenile delinquency is described as a problem caused by adolescents due to their struggle for freedom and fun. In fact, as any nation grows in abundance and opportunities for youth are on the increase, juvenile delinquency might seem to increase at an alarming rate. Juvenile delinquency has over the years become one of the critical issues which researcher of varying backgrounds as well as policy makers battle with (Lobidze, 2009). Juvenile delinquency is recognized as illegal acts committed by minors. A minor is a person who has not attained 18 years of age and does not have the legal rights of adults to be prosecuted under the law. This delinquent behaviour can be seen as a violation of established laws that had already been established under the law. The manifestation of this behaviour include conflict with authority, minor covert acts that are followed by fighting and violence, forming negative identity, low degree of self-control, cognitive distortions, early age initiation, low expectations for education, little commitment to school achievement, heavy peer influences with low resistance, low socio-economic status, lack of parental monitoring, high crime, low social support

and ineffective discipline to mention few (Loeber and Farrington 2001). Increased attention has been given to the causes of juvenile delinquency crime. Psychologists, sociologists and criminologist worldwide debate on the different possible causes for these types of violence act among young individuals.

According to Moffitt (2006), there are numerous risk factors that have been identified as indicators or predictors of juvenile delinquency and those factors represent dysfunction at several levels, especially within the family. The factors can be identified as lack of parental-child attachment, peer influence, low self-esteem, parental instability, poor home quality, parental expectations, poverty, unemployment, as well as dropping out of school.

Self-esteem has been defined in different ways. It can be defined as confidence that an individual has in his own self-worth. Similarly, Sedikides and Gress (2003) stated that self-esteem refers to individual's perception or subjective appraisal of one's own self-worth, one's feeling of self-respect and self-confidence and the extent to which the individual holds positive or negative view about self. An adolescent that lacks confidence in himself or herself can easily be vulnerable to vices in the society. This can be as a result of considering himself or herself not being good enough to achieve a goal. He might consider other people as having a better attribute in achieving goals than him. A lot of time, adolescents that are low in self-esteem might get engaged in delinquent acts or behaviour that can put them into trouble. Murphy, Stosny and Moerrel, (2005) defined self-esteem as a global barometer of self-evaluation involving cognitive appraisals about general self-worth and effective experiences of the self that are linked to these global appraisals. It is left for the adolescent to develop adequate confidence to face the challenges of life even in the face of adversity in order to succumb the challenges of being vulnerable to delinquent act. People with

low self-esteem suffer from feeling of worthlessness, inferiority, and emotional instability, so leading to dissatisfaction with life (Ha, 2006).

Another variable associated with juvenile delinquency is peer-pressure. This is described as influence from members of one's peer group. Making good mates is very important for adolescents, but sometimes trying to belong or fit in at all cost with a group can turn sour. Most adolescents give in to pressure by their mates to get involved in acts that they normally would not have dared to, and this can eventually lead them to feeling guilty, regretful, ashamed, embarrassed or even frightened (Adams, 2006)

A delinquent behaviour does not actually bring credit to individuals because it is not considered normal. The society frowns at it and anybody that gets involved in it is already treading the path of disgrace. A lot of times for the fact that the adolescents do not want to miss the company of their peers, they dare the parental and societal instructions. They are sometimes rebellious in nature to show their displeasure in not wanting to be under the control of their parents that they see as old school. Their perception to life is different from that of their parents and they see them as being archaic in doing things. The peer pressure can influence the way they think, dress, behave and also respond to challenges, and this could be either aggressive or normal. Even though adolescents have friends in another neighborhoods or town, the peer group that has a direct impact is the one that dominates the adolescents' daily life. Adolescents who associate with peers that commit crimes or get involved in various social vices end up acting in the same manner peers do and all these may increase the rate of juvenile delinquency. Associating with other peers plays an important role in delinquency, having delinquent peers increases the risk of becoming delinquent (Henry, Tolan and Gormam Smith 2001).

It is of utmost importance to consider parental socio-economic status as a variable to be discussed in relation to juvenile delinquency. The parental socio-economic status is based on family income, parental educational level, social contacts with the groups associated and the community participation of the family. Parental social economic status touches many aspects of an adolescent's life (Shittu, 2004). Across all social-economic group, parent face major problems when it comes to providing for their children's basic needs and these challenges are more difficult for the poor parents that are struggling to provide the basic need necessary to sustain their family members. Homes where parents struggle to provide for their children are prone to have children who are more likely to engage in juvenile delinquency. These children who lack financial

ability to meet their needs will want to get involved in illegal activities in order to get what they want in as much that their parents cannot provide it for them. Adolescents who live in unstable homes and social environments might also be at risk of juvenile delinquency because of their vulnerability to detrimental influences (Shittu, 2004).

Adejumo (2010) asserts that coming from a lower-class family of origin was associated with precocious transitions. In his study, he further points out that if the household was on welfare, under poverty line, or if the household primary wage earner was unemployed, then the family would be classified as lower-class Adolescent from low income background may sense that they can gain attention and status by performing anti-social actions. At times, getting into and staying out of trouble are prominent features of life for some adolescents in low-income neighborhoods as a result of relationship with peers in another cultural setting. It might be more difficult for male individuals under this condition as they will be subjected to ridicule. Female adolescents by nature receive soft attention from parents because their parents know the consequence of allowing them to fend for themselves. There is possibility that they would become promiscuous in the society which can result to unwanted pregnancy and untimely death.

Parent-child relationship is also of paramount importance in the life of a child. Of many different relationships formed over the course of the life span, the relationship between parent and child is among the most important (Steinberg, 2001). Sear posits that, to understand the parent-child socialization, developmentalists should shift from the dominant emphasis on the characteristics of the parent and the child as individuals to an emphasis on the parent-child dyad. Adolescents develop a desire for autonomy which creates discrepancies in the parent-child relationship and this may invariably increase gap in communication (Fulgini, 2008). Adolescents' psychological wellbeing can be affected through experiencing anxiety, depression or stress. Parent-child relationship affords the adolescents the opportunity to embrace existing cultural values, though, adolescents sometime embrace values that are different from their parents. When there is a contrasting and conflicting value it subjects adolescents to state of confusion which may lead to delinquent act or behaviour. Adolescents enjoy humour and sarcasm but parents see that as being disrespectful which results in destructive relationship, irritating and exasperating habit.

Juvenile delinquency has been underestimated to be a problem, but it is fast becoming a big problem leading to major crimes in the society. It is the off-shoot of the prevalent crimes the entire human race

is battling with today such as terrorism, kidnapping, banditry, rape, armed robbery, unwanted pregnancy, fraudulent acts, just to mention a few. Due to the consequences of juvenile delinquency on the individual involved, family and society, different professionals in the field of psychology have started looking at various indices that may cause this unprecedented behaviour to curb its evolving into bigger issues. Hence the investigators tried to look at some psychological constructs (parent-child relationship, socio-economic status, peer-pressure, self-control) that could lead to juvenile delinquency in the lives of the young folks and stem them down early enough before it destroys their future.

Methodology

Research design

This study adopted the descriptive survey research of the ex-post facto type to achieve the purpose of the study. This is used because the researcher is not manipulating any variable.

Population, Sample and Sampling Technique: The target population for this was made up of school adolescents in Ibadan Metropolis, Oyo state. Ibadan metropolis consists of eleven local government areas across the geographical landmark. Two hundred (200) participants were randomly selected as the sample for the study. It is assumed that the selected samples have common characteristics or elements of the population of the study. Based on this, an inference was drawn and generalization was made on the population of this study. Stratified random sampling was used to select the participants from the population. This was done by breaking the population of study into strata according to their social demographic characteristics. Also, the stratification was done based on the classification of participants from various classes. The participants were broken down into strata which are schools, based on their homogeneity. It was however broken down into schools of which four schools were used. In each of the four schools, fifty students were randomly selected for the study.

Instrumentation: The questionnaire used in this study comprised of a standardised adapted instrument divided into two sections: Section A consisted of the bio-data which sought demographic information of the parents and the adolescent students. Section B contained scales measuring different variables. Juvenile Delinquency Scale Juvenile Delinquency questionnaire (JDQ) was developed by Burt and Donnellan, (2009). It consists of (32) items, this deal with the variables of delinquent behaviour exhibited among students. The

32 questions were answered on the scale of 1 to 5, with one being 'never' and 5 being very 'often'. The scores from each subscale were combined to produce the JDQ total score, which reflected on the overall level of the participants' delinquent behaviour. The reliability coefficient of the original scale is .87. Peer Pressure Scale developed by (Coleman & Barnes, 2001) assesses peer pressure influence on an individual. The PPS contains 10 items that assesses peer pressure with a response format ranging from Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree, with internal reliability co-efficient (alphas) ranging from .87 to .91. Parent child Relationship Scale was developed by Robin and Foster (1989) consisting 40 items from a response format ranging from Strongly Disagree (SD) to Strongly Agree respectively (SA) with a Cronbach alpha of .95. Social- economic status Scale developed by Salami (2000) assessed parental social-economic status, consisting 10 items with a response from multiple options having Cronbach alpha of .95. The self-esteem Scale developed by Rosenberg (1995) consisting 10 items measured global self-worth by assessing both positive and negative feelings about the self, it is un-dimensional. With 4-points Likert scale type for format ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree with Cronbach alpha .77 and .83.

Reliability of Research instrument: The test re-test reliability co-efficient was used for the study. The instruments were pre-tested on 30 respondents that were not included in the scope of the study to ascertain the reliability of the instrument. The yielded results are as follows Peer Pressure Scale .76, Parent-child relationship scale .89, Social-economic status scale .81, Self-esteem scale .80, and the juvenile delinquency scale .72.

Procedure of Data Collection and Method of Analysis: The researcher got the consent of each participant in the study. Explanation were made on the essence of the research and the procedure of administration. The researcher further assured participants of the confidentiality of the information provided. Questionnaires were distributed and collected immediately after the participant's response. The data collected was analysed using statistical packages for social science (SPSS)* Simple percentage was used to analyse the demographic characteristics of the respondents while Pearson Product Moment Correlation and regression analysis were used to establish the relationship among the dependent variable and the independent variables.

Results and Findings

Research Question 1: What is the joint contribution of the independent variables (socio-economic status, parent-child relationship, self-esteem, peer-pressure) on the dependent variable (juvenile delinquency)?

Table 1: Summary of regression for the joint contributions of independent variables to the Prediction of juvenile delinquency

R= .421 R ² =.177		Adj.R ² =.162 std. Error =3.15933			
Model	Sum of square	df	Mean square	F	Sig.
Regression	461.033	4	115.258	11.547	.000 ^b
Residual	2145.998	215	9.981		
Total	2607.030	219			

Table 1: reveals that there was a significant joint contribution of socio-economic status, parent-child relationship, self-esteem, peer-pressure on juvenile delinquency. The multiple regression model reveals R=.529, R²=.280, adjusted R²=.267. The four independent factors account for 26.7 % (adjusted R²=0.267) variance in juvenile delinquency. Factors accounting for the remain variance are beyond this study. Therefore, there is a significant joint contribution of the independent variables to the predictor of the dependent variable; F (4,219) =11.547, p<0.05. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected.

Research question 2: What is the relative contribution of socio-economic status, parent-child relationship, self-esteem, peer-pressure on juvenile delinquency?

Table 2: Relative effect of the Independent variables to the prediction of juvenile delinquency

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	2.734	2.534		1.079	.282
	Self esteem	-.354	.105	-.244	-3.362	.001
	Peer pressure	.164	.057	.189	2.859	.005
	Socioeconomic status	-.019	.072	-.017	-.261	.795
	Parent-Child relationship	-.321	.055	-.420	-5.835	.000

Table 2 shows that the three out of four predictors (parent-child relationship, self-esteem, and peer-pressure) are potential predictors of juvenile delinquency. The strongest predictor of juvenile delinquency is peer-pressure ($\beta=.189$, $t=2.859$, $p<.05$), self-esteem ($\beta= -.244$, $t= -3.362$, $p<.05$), and parent-child-relationship ($\beta= -.420$, $t= -5.835$, $p<.05$). This implies that self-esteem and parent-child relationship will reduce juvenile delinquency by 24.4% and 42% respectively more so, peer-pressure will increase juvenile delinquency by 18.9%.

Ho1: There is no significant relationship between self-esteem and juvenile delinquency

Table 3: Correlation summary showing relationship between self-esteem and juvenile delinquency

Variables	N	Mean	Std.Dev	Df	R	Sig	P
Juvenile Delinquency	220	13.4410	3.45025	218	-.064	.346	p>0.05
Self-Esteem	220	16.5684	2.38428				

Table 3 reveals that there is no significant relationship between self-esteem and juvenile delinquency: $r(218) = -.064$, $p< 0.05$. Therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted

Ho2: There is no significant relationship between peer pressure and juvenile delinquency

Table 4: Correlation summary showing relationship between peer pressure and juvenile delinquency

Variables	N	Mean	Std.Dev	Df	R	Sig	P
Juvenile Delinquency	220	13.4410	3.45025	218	.209	.002	<0.05
Peer Pressure	220	9.3777	3.98253				

Table 4 reveals that, there is a significant relationship between peer pressure and juvenile delinquency; $r(218) = 0.209$, $p < 0.05$ thus the null hypothesis is rejected. The table further reveals that peer pressure will increase juvenile delinquency. Coefficient of determination ($r^2= 0.043$) reviews that peer pressure accounts for 0.4 % increase in juvenile delinquency. That is, peer pressure has a small effect on juvenile delinquency.

Ho3: There is no significant relationship between juvenile delinquency and socio-economic status

Table 5: Correlation summary showing relationship between juvenile delinquency and socio-economic status

Variab les	N	Mean	Std.D ev	D f	R	Si g	P
Juvenile Delinqu ency	22 0	13.4 410	3.45 025	21 8	- .1 08	.1 11	>.0 05
Socio econi c Status	22 0	7.41 97	3.15 710				

Table 5 reveals that, there is no significant relationship between socio-economic status and juvenile delinquency; $r(218) = -.108$, $p > .05$. Therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted

Ho4: There is no significant relationship between parent-child relationship and juvenile delinquency

Table 6: Correlation summary showing relationship between parent-child relationship and juvenile delinquency

Variab les	N	Mean	Std.D ev	D f	R	Si g	P
Juvenile Delinqu ency	22 0	13.4 410	3.45 025	21 8	- .2 85	.0 00	<.0 05
Parent- child Relation ship	22 0	47.1 814	4.50 817				

Table 6 reveals that, there is a significant negative relationship between Parent-child relationship and juvenile delinquency; $r(218) = -.285$, $p < .05$ thus the null hypothesis is rejected. The table further reveals that parent-child relationship will reduce juvenile delinquency. Coefficient of determination ($r^2 = 0.081$) reviews that peer pressure accounts for 0.8 % decrease in juvenile delinquency. That is, parent-child relationship has a small effect on juvenile delinquency.

Discussion

Research question 1 examined the joint contribution of the independent variables (socio-economic status, parent-child relationship, self-esteem, peer-pressure) on the dependent variable (juvenile delinquency). The result shows that there was a significant joint contribution of parental socio-economic status, parent-child relationship, self-esteem, peer-pressure on juvenile delinquency. The four independent factors account for 26.7 % variance in juvenile delinquency.

The result of this study reveals that in reducing or eradicating adolescent engagement in delinquent behaviour, self-esteem, parent-child relationship,

peer pressure and socio-economic status have roles to play.

More so, on the account of parent-child relationship, the result of this study agrees with Higgin, Jennings and Mahoney (2010) who acknowledged that when parental attachment decreases, the probability of adolescents committing delinquent acts increases. On the contrary, when adolescents are shown support and encouragement instead of disapproving behaviour by their parents, they develop a sense of belonging, they tend to listen to their parents and would not want to hurt them, therefore, there should be a genuine connection between the parent and adolescent (Strohschien and Matthew, 2008). Likewise, NCH (2008) confirmed that several studies have found a consistent relationship between involvement in a criminal peer group and criminal behaviour. In addition, there may be greater exposure to anti-social attitudes and behaviours which means young people are more likely to offend, as crime to them has become normalised (Campbell, 2000). However, the place of parent-child relationship works with the choice of peers as well as adolescents' contentment with the socio-economic status of the parents.

On the account of parent socio-economic status and juvenile delinquency, this study agrees with Young (2007) who found that economic deprivation affects young people in several ways and these can have a direct or indirect impact on peer relationships and delinquency. For example, young people who experience poverty are more likely to live in deprived areas and in poor quality housing. In these areas, crime levels and the fear of victimization are high, and young people may seek to protect themselves by carrying weapons or forming groups. More so, Huang (2007) confirmed that there is a correlation between parents' education level and children's motivation and academic juvenile delinquency at upper secondary schools. Hansen and Masterkaasa (2006) discovered that students who originated from a farm household show the lowest educational attainment while those who originated in academic household perform. They stressed further that such children are faced with overwhelming challenges that lead to poor school performance and anti-social behaviour.

Research question two examined the relative contribution of socio-economic status, parent-child relationship, self-esteem, peer-pressure on juvenile delinquency. The result shows that the three out of four predictors (parent-child relationship, self-esteem, and peer-pressure) are potential predictors of juvenile delinquency. The strongest predictor of juvenile delinquency is peer-pressure, self-esteem, and parent-child-relationship. The result reveals that peer pressure is the strongest predictor of adolescent

delinquent behaviour, followed by parent-child relationship and socio-economic status. This result corroborates several empirical studies (Higgin, et al. 2010; Chung and Steinberg, 2006) have established a link between peer pressure and antisocial behaviour in their various studies. In the same vein Chung and Steinberg (2006) found that children begin to depend on their peers for acceptance, rather than their parents, during adolescence.

The result reveals that peer pressure is the strongest predictor of juvenile delinquency, followed by parent-child relationship and socio-economic status. Peer pressure eventually becomes harder to resist at this stage such that the opinions of peers often matter more than those of parents (Zinzow, 2009). Likewise, on the account of parent-child relationship.

On the account of self-esteem and juvenile delinquency, the result of this study agrees with Di Paula and Campbell (2002), that high self-esteem individuals are more persistent in the face of failure and pressure than the low self-esteem individuals. It is required for self-regulation and quality of life. Self-esteem provides the energy to mobilize human behaviour as well as contributing to its direction. Moreover, there is a tendency of respondents with low self-esteem scores to have a general negative attitude towards many things, including other people and personal circumstances (Mackinnon, 2015).

On the account of socio-economic status and delinquent behaviour, the result of this study partially agrees with Farooq, Chaudhry, Shafiq and Berhanu (2011) who confirmed that students whose parents are educated score higher on standardized tests than those whose parents were not educated at secondary school level in a metropolitan city of Pakistan. Similarly, Hill, Castelino, Lansford, Nowlin, Dodge, Bates and Pettit (2004) confirmed that the status of parents does not only affect the juvenile delinquency of students, but also make it impossible for children from low socio-economic background to compete well with their counterparts from high socio-economic background under the same environment. Studies have shown that in families where parent-child communication is characterized by warmth, openness, and mutual understanding, the adolescents experiencing little or low cases of juvenile delinquency and adolescent's transition to non-virginity seem to be delayed (Barnes and Farrell, 2011) and levels of adolescent sexual permissiveness and parent-child disagreement about violating behaviour issues are lower in such families. Thus, there seem to be an ample evidence for the assumption that parenting style affects adolescent juvenile delinquency. The main problem in this line of research is that although

the relationship between these two concepts has been amply demonstrated, it remains clear how parent-child relationship affects child delinquent acts and which variable mediates this relationship.

Hypothesis one examined the relationship between self-esteem and juvenile delinquency. The result showed that there was no significant relationship between self-esteem and juvenile delinquency. People who have high self-esteem tend to be positive in their attitude and about themselves and are thought to be satisfied with themselves. Individuals with low self-esteem, conversely tend to have negative view of themselves and they feel incompetent and unworthy. When a person has a negative view about himself or herself, suicidal tendencies generally increase (Overholser, Adams, Lerhnert and Brinkman, 2009). These authors found that doing well academically was not enough to maintain high self-esteem; personal satisfaction due to doing well must be a component. By implication adolescents with high self-esteem might not be found exhibiting delinquent behaviour.

Hypothesis two examined the relationship between peer pressure and juvenile delinquency. The result shows that there was a significant positive relationship between peer pressure and juvenile delinquency. Affiliation with friends who engage in delinquent behaviour has been shown to be a strong predictor of an adolescent's own behaviour. To find a plausible explanation for this, it could be said that peers have strong influence in predicting delinquent behaviour. Therefore, peers' behaviour could influence a duplication of it in other peers, birds of the same feathers flock together. This finding supports the assertion of Maurer, Brunson, and Pleck (2004) who found in their study a high relationship between peer influence and juvenile delinquency.

Hypothesis three examined the relationship between socio-economic status and juvenile delinquency. The result showed that there was no significant relationship between socio-economic status and juvenile delinquency. This result agrees with Caro (2009) who confirmed that the relationship between parent socio-economic status and juvenile delinquency is cordial. More so, the study also agrees with Chen (2009) who found that parental education is the key determinant of student's juvenile delinquency. Similarly, Udida, Ukway and Ogodo (2012) also agreed that parent characteristics are major source of disparity in student's educational outcomes. They stressed further that student's juvenile delinquency is influenced by the socio-economic background of their parents; as parents that earn high income can take absolute responsibilities of their children's education compared with parents that earn meager salaries.

This result can be argued owing to the fact that children from low socio-economic status families do have relatively poor skills, they are prone to leave school early and less likely to gain admission to the tertiary institution. On this premise their proximity to engaging in delinquent behaviour is undeniable.

Hypothesis four examined the relationship between parent-child relationship and juvenile delinquency. The result shows that there is a significant negative relationship between Parent-child relationship and juvenile delinquency. This result is in consonance with Denga (2002) who revealed in his study that parent-child relationship that is worrisome and bad from a parenting style make child to be emotionally unstable and psychologically imbalance, and it enhances juvenile delinquency. Also, when adolescents are shown support and encouragement instead of disapproving behaviour by their parents, they develop a sense of belonging (Strohschein and Matthew, 2008). In contrast, the result of this study disagreed with Villalobos, Cruz, Sanchez (2004) who found that adolescent that experience worst or bad parent-child relationship obtained lower scores on juvenile delinquency than adolescent from negligent families on diverse measure of competence and adjustment.

To conclude, this study investigated parent-child relationship, socio-economic status, peer pressure and self-esteem as predictors of juvenile delinquent behaviour. It was discovered that there is significant relationship between parent-child relationship, socio-economic status, peer pressure and juvenile delinquency, while there was no significant relationship between self-esteem and juvenile delinquency. The strongest predictor of juvenile

delinquency was peer pressure, followed by parent-child relationship and socio-economic status. This indicated that juvenile delinquency is often the influence of peer pressure most especially when socio-economic status is low and parent-child relationship is weak.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study the following are suggested:

1. Parents should monitor and as well track the where about of their wards at any point in time.
2. Parents should endeavour to know the friends of their children so as to guide them on which of the friends that is healthy to keep or the one to do-away with.
3. Students are also enjoined not to prefer their friends over their parents in terms of obedient to instruction.
4. School counsellors are enjoined to help adolescents' students to have knowledge of what they need to do, what is right and their benefits.
5. School administration should not tolerate offenders in the school premises. By forming a disciplinary panel that will be making judgment on all delinquent behaviour cases to discourage others who have the tendency of doing same.
6. The Federal government should encourage the use of correctional homes to rehabilitate delinquent adolescents so that they can be useful to themselves and the society.

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