



INFLUENCE OF PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP ON ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AMONG SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL ADOLESCENTS IN DAMATURU METROPOLIS, YOBE STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT: *This study investigated into the influence of parent-child relationship on anti-social behaviour among senior secondary school adolescents in Damaturu Metropolis, Yobe State, Nigeria. Correlational and Ex-post-facto research designs were used in the study. The population of the respondents was 7115. The sample of 364 was drawn proportionately from four senior secondary schools in the metropolis using stratified sampling technique. The respondents were measured with relevant adapted instruments; Anti-social behaviour scale developed by Achenbach (1991) and Parent-child relationship scale developed by Roe and Siegelman (1965), the instruments were revalidated and pilot tested and the reliability index was found to be 0.67 and 0.73 respectively. Two research objectives with corresponding hypotheses were rise and guide the study. The hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance and for the data analysis, PPCM and t-test was used. The result showed that there was significant relationship between parent-child relationship and anti-social behaviour ($r= 0.857$; $p<0.05$) and gender is not in determining the influence of anti-social behaviour among the senior secondary school adolescents (male and female). In view of these findings, it was recommended that the parents need to teach, monitor the adolescents and give adequate emotional caring in term of peers' selection in the society. This will help in reducing the problems of being misguided by the other peers in the society. Educational stakeholders should intensify their effort by organising seminars/workshop on the implications of parent-child relationship on the anti-social behaviour in the society. The curriculum planners should try in as much as possible to include in the scheme effective inculcation of moral education and development for the students. This will help to reduce the level of their involvement in anti-social acts behaviour in the country.*

KEYWORD: Parent-Child Relationship, Anti-Social Behaviour, Adolescents, Nigeria

INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is the stage of growth in which the individual begins to seek an identity for oneself. Psychologists tend to agree with the contention that adolescence represents a period of particular stress in individual's life. It has been characterized by delinquency behaviour that can lead to foreboding outcomes. Adolescence is a time of many conflicting emotions; it is the transition period between childhood and adulthood (Obi, Ajayi, & Bassey, 2018). Ericson (1968) described the period as a time of "storm and stress". The period is generally heightened by emotional instability. Identity problem is one of the challenges facing the adolescents at this very time. Adolescents anti-social behaviour are rooted in their inability to understand who they are, the types of attitudes to choose, the authorities to respect, coupled



with inadequate parental guidance in the contemporary society. Adolescents and youths share the belief that life is a risk and anything they do is full of risks (Lerner, 2005).

Anti-social is generally defined as behaviour that violets the basic right of others (Calkins & Keane, 2009). Anti-social is also defined as behaviour by a person, which causes, or is likely to cause harassment, alarm, or distress to person not of the same household as the person (Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act, 2011). From the foregoing, anti-social behaviour can be defined as any type of conduct that violates the basic right of another person and any behaviour that is considered to be disruptive to others in society. It is illegal acts committed by youth under the age of 18. It is the common behaviour among young people as they negotiate the transition from childhood to adulthood in an increasingly complex and confusing world (Barlett, Anderson, & Swing, 2009). Although the issue of anti-social behaviour is an age long problem, it seems that the anti-social of the past cannot be compared with that of the present time. Demuth and Brown (2004) explain that, anti-social behaviour often associated with the adolescents includes drug abuse, vandalism, weapon carrying, alcohol abuse, rape, examination malpractices, school violence, bullying, cultism, truancy, school drop-outs, to mention but a few. Anti-social behaviour among adolescents has a serious, often lifelong impact in an individual psychological and social functioning (Victor & Edim, 2015).

Anti-social behaviour is noted by Ekojo and Adole (2008) as gang delinquency. The gangs' anti-social is group of adolescents and youths who exhibit criminal behaviour. Several researches done on factors that precipitate delinquency among adolescents (Okorodudu & Okorodudu, 2003) Eke (2004) observed that the adolescences period is characterized by rebelliousness which is caused by non-conducive environment. Okorodudu and Okorodudu (2003) listed environmental factors; social factors, physical factors, psychological factors; peer group influence, drug abuse and the family factor as causes of delinquency among adolescents. Eke (2004) on the other hand observes that, the causes of anti-social behaviour tend to find theoretical explanations in the interaction between biological, environmental and social factors. Victor and Edim (2015) asserts that the root of children dishonest and violence behaviour are to be found in a lack of parental love, lack of genuine parental value and the ultimate fraud of all authority that is based in nothing but moral emptiness. Similarly, Gilligan (1996) opined that violence is often pursuing as an antidote to shame or humiliation. The use of anti-social behaviour often is a source of pride and a defense of honor especially among males who often believed violence defines manhood.

Adolescents are considered children, teenagers and youths up to 18 years of age whose behaviour does not comply with the norms of society and is considered to be a punishable activity or crime (Brooks-Gunn, Duncan, Klebanov, & Sealand, 1993) Criminologists are concerned with psychosocial factors of rapidly increasing incidence of anti-social behaviour. Anti-social behaviour has always been an important legal and social issue especially in the period of transitions from one system to another. It has been widely accepted that juvenile delinquency as a part of the whole criminality, increases during the time of sweeping changes and social crises. Childhood has been left behind, the rules have been changed and it can be difficult for them to find a place in the new world (Orji & Anikweze, 2008).

Anti-social behaviour and its causes have been studied extensively. Many factors that put adolescents at risk of becoming anti-social have been identified, such as parental monitoring, physical abuse and neglect, having anti-social friends and low socio-economic status and



these risk factors have been identified predominantly for males (Loeber, 1990; Thornberry & Krohn, 2003). Mallum, Haggai and Ajaegbu (1999) found out that there was no significant difference in anti-social behaviour between the two genders (males and females). Otudah (2006) agree that boys with poor parental monitoring, care and affection become school dropout who subsequently became stress boys and usually found in an uncompleted building, motor parks and under bridges. Obviously, unless something is done to roll back the wave of anti-social behaviour among students, the prospect of a better, safer and more prosperous society emerging in Nigeria will remain elusive. Involvement of adolescents in anti-social activities is on the increase in senior secondary schools. The last two decades witnessed crimes ranging from minor stealing to major robbery and killing perpetrated by teens (Okorodudu, 2010).

There has been increasing concern of the school managers, social commentators and general public on the seriousness of adolescent anti-social behaviour. Wu, Chia, Lee and Lee cited in Okorodudu (2010) have reported that juvenile delinquency rate rose from 367 to 538 per 100,000 between 1986 and 1996. They claimed that most of the juveniles arrested in 1996 were arrested for petty crimes, such as theft, with about 38 percent arrested for shoplifting and 18 percent for simple theft. The outcome of their research also shows that most serious crimes, such as rioting, robbery and extortion accounted for 15 percent.

Parent-child relationship is the level of intimate interaction that exists between the parents and the children. The relationship is that one that nurtures the physical, emotional and social development of the child. It is a unique bond that every child and parents can enjoy and nurture. This relationship lays the foundation of child personality, life choices and overall behaviour. Parenting has been playing crucial roles in adolescences transition to adulthood (Okorodudu, 2010). When it comes to family life, everyone strives to figure out how the relationship between parents and children can become ideal. Positive parenting techniques works well for raising children with discipline and good moral value, and are every parents' dream. However, it is not an easy feat and it is important to know that the parent-child relationship is a two-way street, in other words, it is actually a partnership between a parent and their child. With consistent parenting, the child is able to learn about what is expected of him or her and how to behave in a socially acceptable manner. African tradition has it that the use of high control, authority and punishment bring the best out of a child. Parent-child relationship was categorized under three major forms: the authoritarian, the authoritative or democratic, and the permissive or laissez-faire or self-indulgence or un-involving (Anderson, Gentile & Buckley, 2007).

Children are less likely to act out or have behaviour problems when they know the rules of what the consequences are for not following the rules. Boroffice (2004) observe that factors such as biological and social factors are some of the factors that predispose adolescents to anti-social behaviour. Ajila and Olutola (2000) opined that the state of the home affects the individual since the parents are the first socializing agents in an individual's life. This is because the family background and context of a child affect his reaction to life situations and his level of anti-social behaviour. The family lays the psychological, moral and spiritual foundation in the overall development of the child. While the mother's significant role in this cannot be overemphasized.

Studies on father-child relationship suggest that the presence of a father in the home influences significantly the development of a child (Agulanna, 1999). Adeyemo (2006)



explained that the child's first place of contact with the world is the family. Parents have a profound influence on whether a home provides intellectual stimulation, physical and psychological safety, an appropriate degree of structure, and supportive relationships. Personal anti-social behaviour both at home and in the public may be affected (Okorodudu & Omoni, 2005). They also observed that adolescents may exhibit suicidal tendencies, anti-social behaviour, vandalism, destruction of public property, maiming and murder of parents and violence against the larger society. The persistence aspects of child rearing which are disciplines, parental disharmony, rejection of the child and inadequate involvement in the child activities causes delinquency among adolescences (Okorodudu & Okorodudu, 2003).

Nevertheless, the menace of destitute in the streets in the study area is already a social problem to the government and the general public. Psychological tensions and emotional disturbances at home may drive the adolescents away from school and have the potentials of exposing them to negative associations. One can see that the research findings on this topic were very scanty; in order to fill in the gap and add more to the existing literature the researchers intends to investigate into the influence of parent-child relationship on anti-social behaviour among senior secondary school adolescents in Damaturu Metropolis, Yobe State, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

To fully appreciate the need to research into adolescent anti-social behaviour, it is crucial to understand the prevalence and costs of such behaviour. Adolescence has been found to be a developmental stage during which youth are most responsive to reward. This increased reward response can lead individuals to engage in increasing amounts of anti-social behaviour during adolescence. World Health Organization (WHO) (2008) reported that 250,000 homicides occur among youth of 10-29 years of age every year, which is 41% of the total number of homicides worldwide every year. For each young person killed, 20-40 more sustain injuries requiring hospital treatment. In 2018 23.9% of adolescents between the ages of 12 and 17 had tried illicit drugs: 4% were female, 24.5% were male and every day in 2018, 3,700 adolescents between ages 12 and 17 tried marijuana for the first time, 6% of the adolescents between age 12 and 17 had alcohol use disorder including health issues, escalating use and failure or meet responsibilities at home, work or school (National Centre for Drug Abuse Statistic, 2018) and every five minutes, a juvenile is arrested for some kind of violent crime, and every two hours a child is harmed with a weapon.

Without doubt, the problem of anti-social behaviour is a grave one. Going by statistical data available on the frequency, intensity and diversity of anti-social behaviour, it appears that some factors influence the anti-social behaviour among adolescents. As such, the study intends to examine the influence of parent-child relationship on anti-social behaviour among senior secondary school adolescents in Damaturu, Metropolis, Yobe State, Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are to:

- Determine the significant influence of parent-child relationship on anti-social behaviour among senior secondary school adolescents in Damaturu Metropolis, Yobe State



- Is gender a factor in determining the influence of anti-social behaviour of senior secondary school adolescents in Damaturu Metropolis?

Research Hypotheses

- H₀₁** There is no significant influence of parent-child relationship on anti-social behaviour among senior secondary school adolescents in Damaturu Metropolis, Yobe State
- H₀₂** Gender is not a factor in determining the influence of anti-social behaviour of senior secondary school adolescents in Damaturu Metropolis.

METHODOLOGY

Correlational research design and Ex-post-facto type were used in the study. The designs ascertain the relationship between the variables under the without manipulations. The population for the study comprises of all senior secondary school adolescents in Public senior secondary school in Damaturu Metropolis with the total population of seven thousand one hundred and fifteen (7115). Samples of three hundred and sixty-four (364) were drawn proportionately from four senior secondary schools in the metropolis. However, these samples consist of two (2) secondary school for boys and two (2) for girls.

Instrument for Data Collection

Two research instruments were used for the study. Anti-social behaviour scale developed by Achenbach (1991) was used as a measure of anti-social behaviour of participants. The scoring pattern showed that the scores below 21 indicate low anti-social behaviour and the score above 21 demonstrate high anti-social behaviour. It is fourteen (14) items scale in which item 1-10 items were coined and slightly modify with responses anchored base on the three points which are Not True (1), Sometimes True (2), and Often True (3) respectively.

Parent-child relationship scale developed by Roe and Siegelman (1965) was also used as a measure of parent-child relationship of the participants. It has five subscales of loving, demanding, attention, rejecting and casual. It is fifteen (15) stimuli where 10 stimuli were slightly modified and it has four response formats with options response pattern ranging from Strongly Agree (4), Agree (3), Disagree (2), Strongly Disagree (1).

The adapted instruments were revalidated and pilot tested to ensure content validity as well as reliability. The validation report indexes of reliability using cronbach alpha was found to be 0.67 and 0.73 respectively. The instruments were administered to the participants on the day approved by the school's authority for the exercise. The researchers were assisted by four research assistants in the administration and collection of the instruments. In each of schools, the administration and collection of the instruments was done on the same day of administration. Out of 364 questionnaires distributed only 345 were retrieved and used for the data analysis. SPSS (V20) was used in the data analysis. Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) statistical analysis was used to analyze the hypothesis that seeks to establish the relationship among the studies variables while T-test for independent sample was used to test the hypothesis that seeks to determine differences between two variables.



RESULTS/FINDINGS

Research Hypothesis One: There is no significant influence of parent-child relationship on anti-social behaviour among senior secondary school adolescents in Damaturu Metropolis, Yobe State

Table 1: Correlation Between Parent-Child Relationship and Anti-Social Behaviour

Variable	N	Mean	SD	R	Sig	LS
Parent-Child Relationship	345	24.44	6.92	.857*	.000	0.05
Anti-Social Behaviour	345	24.40	6.16			

In order to test the null hypothesis that there is no significant influence of parent-child relationship on anti-social behaviour among senior secondary school adolescents in Damaturu Metropolis, Yobe State, PPMC was performed. The above table shows that, r value is .857 as computed at 0.05 level of significant. Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected. This means that there is significant influence of parent-child relationship on anti-social behaviour among secondary school adolescents in Damaturu metropolis.

Research Hypothesis Two: Gender is not a factor in determining the influence of anti-social behaviour of senior secondary school adolescents in Damaturu Metropolis.

Table 2: Independent Sample T-test on Anti-Social Between Male and Female

Variable	N	Mean	SD	T	P-value	LS
Male	169	24.28	6.79	-.341	.733	0.05
Female	176	24.52	5.52			

In order to test the null hypothesis that, gender is not a factor in determining the influence of anti-social behaviour of senior secondary school adolescents in Damaturu Metropolis. Independent sample t-test was performed. From the table above, gender is not in determining the influence of anti-social behaviour among the senior secondary school adolescents (male and female) with p value of .733, thus the null hypothesis stated was accepted for the fact that the p-value of .733 is greater than 0.05.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The result of the first research hypothesis revealed that there was significant influence of parent-child relationship on anti-social behaviour ($r = .857$; $p < 0.05$). This means that parent-child relationship influences the level of anti-social behaviour. This finding is not in consonance with the study of Otuadah (2006) who noted that when the relationship between the parents and the adolescent is warm, it creates a healthy environment for the development of the adolescent. Adolescents exhibiting traits of friendliness, cheerfulness, positive emotions and good maturity traits, show evidently, that such adolescents come from homes



where they are accepted and loved (Okunola, 2002). The required parental monitoring and control for adolescents' development may be hindered due to parents' serious involvement in economic activities to meet up with family financial commitments. Bowser (1991) and Otuadah (2006) observe that parents spend little or no time at home to assist in the upbringing of the children. The children invariably fall into evil association. Loromeke (2007) is of the view that parents bring up their children according to the training they also received from their own parents.

The second research hypothesis also reveals that gender difference is not a factor in determining anti-social behaviour among secondary school adolescents in Damaturu Metropolis. This finding has agreed with the earlier submission of Mallum, Haggain and Ajaegbu (1999) whose finding shows no significant difference in anti-social behaviour between males and females. However, the finding has negated the finding of Loeber (1990) who found significant difference in favour of male. Moreover, the finding has also disagreed with the finding of Otuadah (2006) who's finding state that boys with poor parental monitoring, care and affection become school dropout.

CONCLUSION

Base on the findings of this study, persistent anti-social behaviour of senior secondary school adolescents is due to some factors (parent-child relationship and socio-economic status) and therefore should not continue indefinitely. There is hope that with the improvement of parent-child relationship and socio-economic status, the situation can be changed for the better. The study discovered that factors (parent-child relationship and socio-economic status) influence significantly the anti-social behaviour in the society. As such, it is very crucial to improve these factors so as to eradicate the persistent occurrence reports of anti-social and violence behaviour in this great country, Nigeria.

Anti-social behaviour has been more important issues, crimes involving juveniles are increasing and psychologist/counsellors are seeking promising paradigms of intervention. An essential foundation for the development and evaluation of preventive interventions is to determine what influence anti-social behaviour. It is generally concluded that parent-child relationship and socio-economic status play an important role in an adolescent's development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The parents need to teach, monitor the adolescents and give adequate emotional caring in term of peers' selection in the society. This will help in reducing the problems of being misguided by the other peers in the society.
- Educational stakeholders should intensify their effort by organising seminars/workshop on the implications of parent-child relationship on the anti-social behaviour in the society.
- The curriculum planners should try in as much as possible to include in the scheme effective inculcation of moral education and development for the students. This will help to reduce the level of their involvement in anti-social acts behaviour in the country.



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