

The Role of Peer Influence on Juvenile Delinquency among Adolescents in the Government Remand Homes, Lagos State Nigeria

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Abstract

The study examines the role of peer influence on juvenile delinquency among adolescents with delinquent behaviour. The samples for the study were 170 juveniles (N=170) recruited from government remand homes in Lagos, Nigeria. Simple random sampling was used in the selection of the sample. Standard self-administered questionnaires were employed to gather data among the selected juveniles. They were Resistance to Peer Influence (RPI) and Self-Report Delinquency Scale. The result revealed that there is a negative and significant correlation between peer influence and juvenile delinquency among adolescents, thereby suggesting that peer influence encourages delinquent behaviour among adolescents. As an implication, adolescents should be sufficiently educated and trained as a preventive measure to ensure they make friends with the right people and socialise themselves in conformity to the social expectation.

Keywords: Peer Influence, Juvenile, Delinquency, Remand Homes, Adolescent.

Introduction

Juvenile delinquency has been seen as a global phenomenon. This phenomenon has been widely discussed. Often, it is linked to deviancy from societal norms and criminal behaviour (Antwi, 2016). The juvenile delinquency issue is an alarming issue in most countries worldwide. For example, the 'knife-carrying culture' of teenage offenders in the United Kingdom has contributed to more accidents and deaths than shooting (Morgan et al., 2011). Cigarette smoking, substance misuse, harassment and cyber-crime in South Korea are allegedly rising among young people and thus raising a serious question for the deep-conservative government (Kim et al., 2012). America, which is one of the world's most

developed nations, is also reportedly anxious and worried about the ferociousness with which juvenile offenders commit antisocial actions (Ntshangase, 2015). These have contributed to society's height of fear and instability as they allegedly assault their teachers, shoot people, commit rape, engage in gang violence, terrorize communities, and when they are caught, they are remorseless.

Over the years, there has been an increase in juveniles joining dangerous and disastrous gangs (Furdella & Puzanchera, 2015). This delinquent behaviour that is being perpetrated by adolescents has attracted the attention of many people, especially those who are working closely with the adolescents. Peers play an important role in shaping young people's lives during their developmental years. For instance, when parents are working more hours and have little time for their children, they turn to their peer for emotional support and their parents are known to take the blame for the role of certain children in a delinquent action.

Peer association is described as a small group of similar-aged. A child enters a peer group because they need security and a sense of identity (Singh, 2017). Obviously, the brain of teenagers is not established entirely like the brain of adults. Thus, they are more likely than adults to gain control from criminal peer behaviour. Adolescents devote more of their time in and outside the school with peers and classmates. This is also a major explanation of why they so readily join their friends in violence. Deviant peer association has been linked with juvenile behaviour (Menard & Grotper, 2011). Families play an integral role in the socialization and growth of children, but peer groups are critical because children spend more of their time with peers rather than parents, and so their behaviour is modified by friends and effectively affects parental decision-making (Beardslee et al., 2018). Children are increasingly creating more networks of others outside their homes. Peer association without parental control is closely related to antisocial behaviour (Meldrum & Clark, 2015). Contrarily, intense contact with parents decreases the probability of peer delinquency. Often, children who are subject to strict parental control and restriction rarely participate in peer deviant behaviour (Ruiz-Hernández et al., 2019).

The foregoing studies are among numerous studies that highlight the problem of juvenile delinquency. The study looks at juvenile delinquency as an issue associated with peer influence. The question is: what is being done to tackle juvenile violence in the first place before it is transformed into real crime and potential misconduct? Alboukordi et al (2012) also agree with other researchers that early childhood delinquency is likely to persist throughout adolescence and adulthood. He further points out that the aetiology of antisocial behaviour is essential to identifying problem behaviour to formulate effective approaches. Also, the numerous psychological and social roots of adolescents' problematic behaviour can be addressed. He believes that the battle against antisocial activity rests in tracing the root of the different types of behaviour that affect adolescents.

From observation, parents and caregivers are not putting in much effort in the supervision of their children in Nigeria due to their numerous economic and social engagements, which makes the adolescents lean towards their peer for emotional support and tends to be giving impetus to juvenile delinquency in Nigeria and Lagos state. Lagos is Nigeria's most populous city with over 20 million inhabitants and the most urbanised state (Fadare & Oduwaye, 2009; Ojo & Aghedo, 2013), but there have been frequent crimes among young people who have

been caught or committed criminal acts such as rape, theft, drug use, investigating wrongdoing and many more (Nwankwo et al., 2010).

The delinquency and crime of these adolescents are such that they are removed from their homes and local schools for residential treatment because their behaviour is considered criminal in nature. This issue of juvenile crime has grown dramatically in recent years, especially in urban areas (Newbury et al., 2018). According to Un Habitat (2014), juvenile crime in Africa continued to grow, owing largely to persistent migration. The amount of juvenile crime rose from 3.2 to 5.7 per cent between 2007 and 2009. Such increases were often related to the pace of urbanization or to the social transitions and complexities that follow these processes (UN, 2014). Increases in criminal rates linked to urbanization are more prevalent in Africa, with an approximate average annual rate of growth of 40.8% in 2011 and 2014 and 43.1% in 2019. The rising phenomenon of urban poor means that hundreds of thousands of people are deprived daily. The urban poor face some of the everyday challenges: restricted access to jobs and wages, insufficient and unsafe housing, and facilities, violent or unsanitary conditions, poor to no structures for social security and limited access to health and education (World Bank, 2011).

Urbanization is not just a collection of characteristics; it is also a dynamic condition of vulnerability or risk susceptibility (The World Bank, 2011). One such cumulative impact of urbanization is juvenile crime involvement; an involvement proved to have significant adverse effects on the community's quality of life through the imposition of increased social costs (Aluko, 2010). The possibility that the number of juvenile delinquents in Nigeria could be partly linked to the geographic concentration of low-income families in high-poverty, high-crime urban areas.

According to Muhammed et al (2009), observation has shown that young Nigerians are most involved in cultism, kidnapping, armed robbery, drug use and other criminal activities. In substantiating this, the National Drug and Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) chairman in Lagos exclaims that the youth majorly are involved in the usage and dealings of illicit drugs (Nkwopara, 2011). So, therefore, all these crimes in Nigeria also gave birth to social violence among the youth, such as mental disorder, lack of respect for elders, armed robbery, and other social ills. In the light of these challenges, concerned citizens and scholars have attributed this menace, especially in Nigeria to various factors such as dysfunctional homes, low school connection, detrimental impact on peers and youth gangs, poverty, and impoverished environments (Alfrey, 2010; Chinyoka, 2013; Nwankwo et al., 2010; Olashore et al., 2017; Ikediashi & Akande, 2015).

Adolescence is susceptible to their peer due to the nature of their age. They seem to believe their peers more than their parents. This could be because they spend a lot of time with their peers. Consequently, they are mostly delinquent. Hence, they are left in the cold hands of their peers who determine their pattern of behaviour. Peer group has a socializing influence on adolescent delinquency. Olowo, (2020) argued that Peer influence is one of the determinants of adolescent behaviour. The behaviour may be positive or negative depending on where the determinants are swinging. Research has supported the notion that friendship is becoming increasingly important in early to middle adolescence, complementing and perhaps exceeding parents' role (Brown & Bakken, 2011). The research clearly showed an

increase in the perceived importance and prevalence of cliques in their schools over the opinion of the parent. Based on these findings, Evelyn and Ngozi (2015) suggested the opinion that beginning in early adolescence, individual peer pressures begin to increase in complexity and size. So, at this stage, teenagers are tilting towards friendship, and if they are bad friends, it is leading to delinquency.

It is important to note that there is considerable empirical research on juvenile delinquency in Nigeria. Academic researchers have uncovered a concentrated and increased interest in juvenile (Alnasir & Al-Falaij, 2016; Igbo & Ihejiene, 2014; Okorodudu, 2010; Ojo, 2012; Sanni et al., 2010; Yusuf, Agbonna & Yusuf, 2013). Very few studies have focused their attention on remand homes, especially in Lagos state Nigeria. Based on the previous problem discussed above, therefore, a gap exists in this regard. Based on this fact, drastic attention is needed to refocus on the problem faced with Nigeria, where the adolescents constantly misbehave due to numerous issues and factors beyond their control. In view of these, this study sought to examine the role of peer influence on juvenile delinquency among adolescents in the government remand homes, Lagos state Nigeria.

Peer Influence

Peers are children or adolescents who are of about the same age or maturity level. Peer influence on the child's behaviour cannot be underestimated; it could be positive or negative. Peer groups are people of the same age or about the same age, status such as, school, or educational peer group, age peer group, social peer group, professional and work (Esiri, 2016). They are people of one's age, and similar social status, as well as playmates highly influence the socialization process. The peer group enables the young child to learn to conform to the accepted ways of a group and appreciate the fact that social life is based on rules.

A peer also referred to a group of people of equal status, and a peer group is usually among people of the same age. This relationship is a child's first opportunity to relate to others based on equality. The adolescent peer group emerges as a purposive congregation of individual's experiences, identical conditions of physical, emotional, and cognitive change, as well as sharing the developmental position of anticipating and seeking self-definition, integration, and prescription (Selvam, 2018). Thus, within the adolescent social environment, peer groups become the most influential socializing agent (Sanders, 2013).

As the child lives and interacts with his or her peer, the child learns how to behave with people outside the family context. The child learns about teamwork, loyalty, social roles, leadership, and co-operation, and learn to understand and judge the feelings and thoughts of others and to respect them. The peer group also provides a secure grand for moving further away from the control protection and of the family towards greater independence. The members of the group serve as a source of emotional support and encouragement for one another. Most people are less likely to be much more influenced by their peers, if they have individual goals to be achieved, have high self-esteem, good social skills, a positive outlook on the future, and the ability to interact with people from different backgrounds, and have good ties with their family.

Peer Influence and Juvenile Delinquency

In most states in Nigeria, gang activities are common and are at a high rate in the country in which most adolescents are becoming involved. Most adolescents get involved in the delinquent act through the influence of peer and rebellion act toward parent's authority (Omboto et al., 2013). Peer influence on an individual personality and behaviour has been described in many different studies. Encouraging an individual by a peer group to change their own attitude, values, and behaviour to conform to the group norms cannot be overlooked, which may be of positive or negative influence. Early studies on juvenile delinquency pointed out that a group does most of the crimes committed by juveniles, and even if the antisocial behaviour is carried out alone, it still has the support or influence of a peer group. Sociologists and social psychologists are of the opinion that peer group influence, particularly in adolescence, are some of the strongest factors determining the behaviour of adolescents.

Peer influence is one of the causes which aid delinquency. Research findings have revealed that juveniles who felt more discriminated, mistreated, and rejected by their parents/guardians found solace in peers who easily predisposed them to delinquency. The important institution that juvenile spent most of their time with are their families or close relatives, while some spent theirs with peers (Ojo, 2012). They further stress out that close friends have a greater influence on the adolescent behaviour and the adolescent is likely to engage in the delinquent act of his or her friend who engages in such act.

Spruit et al (2016) conducted research on using social bonds to reduce juvenile delinquency. Their research findings deduce that juveniles, who associate themselves with peers seeking positive goals and commitments, will have a lesser chance of engaging in delinquent behaviour. The research suggested that when more time is being spent on behaviour that has no sense of direction and long commitment towards it, it depicts the likelihood of engaging in delinquent behaviour. Ikani et al (2015) in their research proposed that parents need to imbibe parenting styles that will encourage their children to adjust well to emotional and psychological issues, Yusuf et al (2021) also suggested in their study that parent at all levels should step up their parenting effort and adopt authoritative style of parenting as the appropriate style of parenting. Starting in early adolescence, individual peer influence tends to escalate in sophistication and size. So, at this stage, adolescents are tilting towards friendship, and if they are bad friends, it leads to delinquency. Vitulano et al (2010) also argue that more time spent with deviant friends can influence and exert pressure upon individuals. It enables them to adopt the same behaviour as their peers.

Peer influence and socialization mode reveal that weak bonding to conventional peers surely leads the individual to associate his or herself with a deviant group. Even though this may be true, Véronneau and Dishion (2011) also suggests that one non-delinquent friend can reduce some of the ones who engage in delinquent behaviour. However, deviant peers also increase or boost disruptive behaviours and later delinquency for early starters. They also discovered an intriguing result from their research that if one best friend engages in a deviant act, there is a high tendency that he or she will engage in delinquent behaviour even if he or she has friends who engage in positive behaviours. They found out that the best friend bond is much stronger once built but children with a strong parental attachment find it difficult to engage in delinquency. Gao et al (2013) investigate the relationship impact on delinquent behaviour

between the functioning of the family and the delinquent peer group in a study of 534 adolescents from five secondary schools in Shenzhen, People's Republic of China. The result found that both proximities to delinquent peer and family functioning had a substantial main effect on delinquency, and family functioning substantially buffered the negative effect of interaction with a deviant peer on delinquency.

Research conducted by Vitulano et al (2010), on delinquent peer influence on childhood delinquency, in a population survey of 89 children aged 9 to 12 years, the studies explored the possible moderating role of impulsivity of peer crime and juvenile delinquency associations. Findings show that peer delinquency and child delinquency at low impulsivity levels have been positive; however, they are not statistically linked to high impulsivity level. These results indicate that children with low impulsivity are more susceptible to criminal influences. Igwe et al (2009) conducted a research on secondary school adolescents in Enugu on psychoactive substance consumption from a sample of 860 students, using a modified WHO Student drug use questionnaire. The finding indicates that adolescent students were highly involved in drug abuse with early initiation, and the findings revealed that 33.7 percent of respondents were substance abuser by frequency and percentages of answers to the questions. The most frequent (31.6%) was alcohol, the least abused was cannabis (4.1%). More commonly, males than females drank most psychoactive substances.

Sullivan et al (2018) showed that peer use of drugs had a major positive effect on teen drug use, with a one-unit rise in peer use forecasting an increase of 13.4 per cent of the predicted level of use of adolescent substances usage. In addition, this analysis showed that juvenile delinquency was predicted dramatically by peer violence. An increase in the number of criminalities was shown to contribute to a 5.1% increase in the predicted rates of juvenile offenders. A study by Ali and Dwyer (2010) on the drinkers and non-drinker effect on college roommate reveals a strong reinforcing stimulus of peer effect; they discovered that exposure to peers who engage in a delinquent act strongly influences the adolescent who does not. Therefore, peer influence regarding delinquent act cannot be denied. Delinquent behaviour is mostly carried out in groups with peers from different subcultural values and norms. Children tend to make friends in any society they find themselves and choose a close friend among their friends, which implies that his or her closest friend will have a significant influence in the life of the adolescent, and this peer group also stands as an agent of socialization which determines the social code the adolescent learns (Nsofor, 2013). This insertion simply implies that whose peer sees delinquent acts as a way of life, the individual is bound to learn more of criminal conduct from them than those who conform to societal norms. It is being affirmed that most individuals become delinquent by associating themselves with delinquent peers who see the acts as a way of life and that delinquent act are learnt primarily within groups, particularly peers (Esiri, 2016). This means that delinquent act among adolescents is seen because of the social influence of a group that tends to have a stronger influence and control over adolescent behaviour (Zapolski et al., 2019).

For instance, a cult group or gang member can decide to pressure an individual of their group to prove his or herself by committing delinquent or criminal acts such as raping or killing someone. This group also have their sanction, cultures, ritual, rule, and regulations in socializing their members in which they are bound to follow regardless of it opposing societal norms and value because the individual wants to be accepted by this groups he or she acts as

the other (ÇeÇi, 2017). Through observation of the Nigerian youth, it has been discovered that criminal act is being learned through imitation (Ogbebor, 2012). Children were growing up looks at their peer group as a role model. Thus, peer influence has been a worrisome social problem because they tend to act the same way as their peer by developing the copycat attitude (Esiri, 2016). Due to this, the adolescent desires same toy, clothes, share the same habit, likes and dislikes has his or her peer. At this point, the parent finds it more difficult to exercise social control over them because they begin to value the opinions of their peers over that of their parents. Through Ogbebor (2012) observation, it has been concluded that imitation stands as how adolescents learns delinquent behaviour.

Methodology

Research Method

A quantitative correlation design was used in this research. The correlational analysis aims to evaluate the relationships between variables and make predictions using them.

Population of the Study

The sample population is of juveniles in remand homes who have been detained for one crime or the other. There are 216 juveniles from the three government remand centres in the Lagos State of Nigeria.

Sample and Sampling Technique

The study uses simple random sampling techniques to select the participant, which provided an equal opportunity for every member of the population to be chosen. The choice of sample sizes was based on Krejcie and Morgan (1970) formula, and therefore the total sampling size of the analysis is 170 juveniles. The questionnaire was distributed among the 170 juveniles in the remand homes.

Instrumentation

The study makes use of standardized questionnaires adopted. In other to meet the research objectives of this study.

Resistance to Peer Influence (RPI)

Steinberg & Monahan (2007); Resistance to Peer Influence Scale (RPI) was used to measure peer influence. There are 10 questions answered by the juvenile. Question 2, 6 & 10 in the questionnaire has been reversed. The scale has been found to be highly accurate, with Cronbach's alpha was 0.73. (Stautz & Cooper, 2014).

Juvenile Delinquency (Self-Report Delinquency Scale)

The Self-Report Delinquency scale by Elliott (2008) was used to measure juvenile delinquency. It has a 5-point response scale to indicate how frequently the adolescent had engaged in delinquent behaviour. They are 18 questions to be answered by the juvenile.

Research Procedures

Participants from the three government remand homes in Lagos, Nigeria, were recruited. The researcher sought approval by the Ministry of Youth and Social Development, Alausa-Ikeja, Lagos and the Ethics Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects at Universiti Putra Malaysia prior to the data collection and analysis. The heads of the three

government detention centers authorized the recruitment of people from the detention centers. The purpose of the study and the voluntary basis of their participation was then informed to the participants, and this was set out in the Informed Consent Form (ICF) information sheet issued and read for all selected participants who signed voluntarily following understanding of the contents as stated. All participants were assured that their responses were confidential. All potential participants were collected in a precautionary classroom during the data collection process. There was ample time for the selected participants to complete the questionnaires. Each detention facility was visited based on the scheduled time for the data collection, and the participants were offered an incentive token from the researcher (i.e., pencils, sharpeners, notebooks, and biros).

Data Analysis

The present study uses the Social Science Statistical Package (SPSS) to analyse the data. Data from the field were coded and entered manually with all care in SPSS statistical software. Data transformation and coding were also carried out. Descriptive statistics and analysis of Pearson's correlation were used for data analysis.

Results and Discussion

Demographic variables

Table 1

Frequency distribution on demographic characteristics (n = 170)

Variable	N	%
Gender		
Female	24	14.1
Male	146	85.9
Age group		
10 – 12 years	42	24.7
13 – 15 years	77	45.3
16 – 18 years	51	30
Ethnic group		
Yoruba	86	50.6
Igbo	59	34.7
Hausa	25	14.7
Religion		
Islam	72	42.4
Christianity	98	57.6
Educational class		
Jss2 (Junior Secondary School 2)	24	14.1
Jss3 (Junior Secondary School 3)	26	15.3
Sss1 (Senior Secondary School 1)	33	19.4
Sss2 (Senior Secondary School 2)	38	22.4
Sss3 (Senior Secondary School 3)	49	28.8

Table 1 indicates that 146 or 85.9% of the respondents are male, and the remaining 24% are female. Whereas the age rating indicates that 42 or 24.7 per cent are aged from 10-12 years, 77 or 45.3 per cent are aged between 13-15 years, while 51 or 30 per cent are aged between 16 and 18 years. Based on ethnicity, 86 or 50.6% of the respondents come from the Yoruba ethnic group, and 59 or 34.7% are of the Igbo ethnic group, while the remaining 25 or 14.7% come from the Hausa ethnic group. The religious classification indicates that 72 or 42.4 per cent are Muslim and 92 or 57.6 per cent are Christian. While the percentage distribution in the respondent classes indicates that 24 or 14.1% are JSS2, 26 or 15.3% are JSS3, 33 and 19.4% in the SS1, 38 or 22.4% in the SS2, while 49 or 28.8% in the SS3.

From demographic results, gender reveals that male children have the highest rate of participation in crime; that was consistent with research by Blackwell and Kane (2015), who found that in most cases, boys have less parental monitoring, and more risk was allowed and expected than girls. The ages of 13 – 15 years are the highest in the study, and human beings are an active agent who aims to adapt and change the physical and social environments in which they are involved, this age bracket is also the age at which adolescents start searching for autonomy, want to explore and discover their environment or probably avoid parental pressure. Though Yoruba's ethnic group has the highest number of participants, one potential explanation is the fact that Lagos State is governed mainly by the Yoruba ethnic group and is a native of the State of Lagos are the Yoruba's.

Relationship between Peer Influence and Juvenile Delinquency

Hypothesis Tested

- Ho: There is no significant relationship between peer influence and juvenile delinquency among adolescents in Lagos State Nigeria.

Table 2

Pearson's correlation analysis between Peer Influence and Juvenile Delinquency (n=170)

Variables	r	p
Juvenile Delinquency	-----	-----
Peer Influence	-.161*	0 .036

*Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

To analyse the hypothesis that states there is no significant relationship between peer influence and juvenile delinquency among adolescents. Data collated on peer influence and juvenile delinquency using a four-point response questionnaire was sorted, computed, and analysed. The result revealed that there is a negative and significant correlation $r = -.161$; $p < .036$ between peer influence and juvenile delinquency among adolescents, thereby suggesting that peer influence encourages delinquent behaviour among adolescents (see Table 2). Therefore, the null hypothesis stating that a significant relationship does not exist between peer influence and delinquent behaviour is rejected.

Discussion

Peer influence has shown a significant influence on delinquent behaviours among adolescents. The result suggested that Peer influence strongly encourages delinquent behaviour among adolescents. The result of the current study supported other researchers in the field, which claims that there is a significant relationship between peer influence and juvenile delinquency. Peer influence also showed a significant influence on delinquent behaviours among adolescents. The result suggested that peer influence encourages delinquent behaviour among adolescents, this is in consonance with Sullivan, Childs and Gann (2018) whose study found that peer delinquency significantly predicted adolescent delinquency, it also coherent with the research conducted by Vitulano et al (2010), on delinquent peer influence on childhood delinquency, their findings reveal that children who exhibit low levels of impulsivity are particularly vulnerable to delinquent peer influences. From research, Gao et al (2013) found that many ethnic comparisons of peer influence on delinquent behaviour have found that those with peers who engage in negative behaviour are more likely to participate in delinquent behaviour irrespective of ethnicity. Utržan et al (2018) also claimed that peers provide adolescents with perceptions, encouragement and rationalization that promote delinquent activity and provide opportunities to participate in delinquent actions. This appears to be congruent with Andrews and Bonta (2010) research pointing to the association of negative influence peers as one of the most prominent risk factors contributing to juvenile delinquency. Based on these observations, Ikani et al (2015) proposed that individual peer influence starts in early adolescence, tend to escalate in sophistication and size. So, at this stage, adolescents are tilting towards friendship, and if they are bad friends, it leads to delinquency. The research findings show that most individuals become delinquent by associating themselves with delinquent peers who see the act as a way of life and that delinquent acts are learnt primarily within groups, particularly peers.

Implications of Theory

Applications of differential association and social control theory to adolescent deviance typically focus on adolescents' perception and bonds to the family, school, and community as the major sources of internal and external control on behaviour. Differential association theory indicates that criminal behaviour is a product of learned behaviour acquired through interaction with other individuals, while social control theory indicates that strong social bonds indirectly lower deviance by decreasing the likelihood of adolescents affiliating with deviant peers. Theoretically, adolescents who identify with and invest in conventional institutions have less freedom to develop friendships with peers who approve of a law violation. Socially bonded adolescents will therefore have fewer opportunities to attach their self with deviance peer and be less likely to exhibit deviant behaviour.

These theories revealed the point at which parents needs to treat their children, engage them in series of duties and programmes to enhance the mental development of their children that will metamorphose to specific traits which shape them to conform to the societal rules and regulations and become useful to the society rather than learning delinquent act and associating with a negative peer which makes them portrait deviant behaviour that validates the societal norms. This aspect of the model conforms to the implications of differential association and social control perspective and attempts to corroborate earlier findings in the literature.

As regards peer influence which is significantly correlated with juvenile delinquency among adolescents in Lagos, Nigeria, the findings are in consonance with the implications of the study theory (Differential Association and Social Control Theory). In this regard, social control theory assumption on social bonds or attachment has a great impact on the life of an adolescent because the adolescent would not want to do things that will hurt his or her parent or reduce the love and strong affection already deriving from them, with this they are most likely to stay away from crime or delinquent act. In other words, bonding is a social control mechanism in the field of adolescent criminal tendencies.

Implication of Practice

It is imperative and recommendable that the government, counselling psychologists, churches, mosques, and other stakeholders to organise public forums where parents are taught good parenting styles, sensitise on the constitutional rights of children and the consequences of child neglect and abuse. Parents and guardian be empowered by the government and non-governmental organisation to do small-scale businesses to enhance their livelihood.

Parents should continuously be involved with their children so that adolescents may be prevented from committing crimes and associating themselves with law-breaking actions. Parents should also spend time with their children because it can reduce the probability of developing delinquent behaviour. Parents should present themselves as role models to their children. Children can learn how to cope with the demands of the society and home from their parents. It will also influence the children in their self-perception and self-esteem.

To avoid predisposing adolescents to delinquent peers, adolescents should be educated by the community, counselling psychologists and other related stakeholders on the benefit of a choice of right friends. Finally, government, counselling psychologists and other stakeholders should sensitise the community on the effects of poor socialisation, violence, and drug abuse and substance usage on adolescent behaviour.

Conclusion

This study concluded that peer influence encourages delinquent behaviour among adolescents. It is becoming clear that one of the major ways that deviant youth become even more deviant is through unrestricted interaction with deviant peers. Ironically, many of the common treatments for deviant youth involve placing them in settings that aggregate them with other deviant youth. Certainly, more complex, and updated studies should be developed on the relationship between the possible interactions experienced by the delinquent juvenile, concomitantly, in the family, at school and with different types of peers.

Recommendation

To minimise the influence of negative behaviour of peers, adolescents should be psychologically and instrumentally prepared. They should be attended by the family, community, experts such as counselling psychologists and other related stakeholders to benefit them in choosing the right friends. Finally, government, counselling psychologists and other stakeholders should sensitise the community on the effects of poor socialisation, violence, and drug abuse and substance usage on adolescent behaviour.

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