

The Influence of Parental Discipline and Gender on Adolescents' Antisocial Behaviour

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Abstracts

The research focused on the influence of parental discipline on Adolescents' antisocial behaviour. A total of one hundred and twenty (120) adolescents, mostly first year undergraduates students of the Department Of Psychology, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, using cluster sampling, 75 male (37.5%) and 95 female students (62.5%) were sampled. Their ages range between 18-35 years with mean age of 26.5 and standard deviation of 5.15. Two questionnaires were used in obtaining data from the participants. The first questionnaire was measuring parental discipline while the second was measuring antisocial behaviour Glueck, and Glueck, (1950). The design for the study was survey design while multiple linear regressions were used to analyze data gotten from this study. Results showed a significant influence of parental discipline on adolescence antisocial behaviour, secondly, there is no significant influence of gender on adolescence antisocial behaviour. One of the implications of this study is that parents should be up and doing as regards to starting early to give out parental discipline to their children when they misbehave. This will go a long way in eradicating the bad effects of adolescent's delinquent behavior.

Keywords: Parental Discipline, Gender, Adolescents Anti Social Behaviors, Adolescents

Introduction

Many studies showed that in Nigeria the major influence of children and adolescents' antisocial and other internalizing and externalizing behaviours are caused by parents. Poor parental management, lack of adequate monitoring and supervision, harsh and corporal punishment, low parental control, family socio-economic position, parental deficient formal education, physical and emotional deficit and adolescents maltreatment are only few to mention as effects of parents that led to produce antisocial and aggressive adolescents (Olugbenga, 2015). Moreover, the genesis of adolescents' antisocial behaviours in Nigeria tend to be broken home. The greatest antisocial behaviour displayed by adolescents are violence, aggression, destructions of public and private properties, killing of innocents lives, examination malpractice, substance use, abortion, drugs abuse, stealing, rape, cultism and disrespect and many more (Olugbenga, 2015).

According to Hall (2017), adolescence was the time when a "new birth" occurred in the individual's personality. This new birth necessitates the rapid and significant biological changes transforming the child into a totally new personality. Iwuh (2018) maintains that on the average, adolescence extends from 14 to 21 years. Also that adolescents extended from sexual maturity until the age when independence from adult authority is legally established. It has long been observed that the family plays a key part in the development of adolescent's behaviour. Family structure and parental practices, along with other external relationships, have often been associated with the development of deviant behaviours among adolescents. Yet, at the same time family structure, parental practices and other external relationships have also protected adolescents from developing delinquent behaviours (Iwuh, 2018).

Parental discipline refers to the process where the parent is aware and knowledgeable about his or her child's negative activities and used his own influence to prevent it positively (Patock-Peckham & Moses, 2018). Parental discipline is a significant determinant of antisocial and risk behaviours (Donenberg, Emerson & Bryant, 2019). Low parental monitoring has been associated with teenage alcohol use (Fosco, & Winter, 2018). Adolescence is a

complex period during which a growing individual makes necessary biological, physical, social, psychological and intellectual transition from childhood to adulthood (Iwuh, 2018).

Parenting discipline is very much like-a dictatorship. The parent is the dictator, and the child is the follower. Authoritarian parents impose strict rules and expect a high degree of compliance (Roberts, 2018). They have unrealistic expectations of their child, which usually results in failure and contributes to the child's low self-esteem. These parents do not understand that their expectations are unrealistic because it is likely the same way they were raised. Nelsen (2016) Authoritarian parents are so dominating that the child is told what to do, how to do it, and when and where to do it, leaving little room for questions or discussion (Popkin 2019). The authoritarian parent is consumed with keeping control. These parents are high in control and low in nurturing; therefore, there is little concern about how the child might feel or be affected. This parenting style can be described as "limits without freedom" (Popkin 2019). These parents do recognize the need for limits and have the emotional strength to stand firm; they just take it too far (Popkin, 2018). They give the adolescents no room to grow or make mistakes on their own so they can learn from them.

The permissive parent is the exact opposite of the authoritarian parent. A permissive parent is like a doormat, establishing few guidelines and using ineffective discipline. There are two types of permissive parents: permissive-by-choice and permissive-by-default. The parents who are permissive-by-choice allow their children to make their own decisions because they feel their kids should be independent (Popkin 2018). They are low in control and high in nurturing. The parents who are permissive-by default are low in both control and nurturing. They are just too preoccupied with their job or housework or just their own personal lives to worry about what their children are doing. There is little respect for order and routine and the children have unlimited freedom (Popkin, 2018). A permissive parent might say, "There are no rules. I am sure that we will love each other and be happy, and you will be able to choose your own rules later" (Nelsen, 2017).

Antisocial behaviour is an adolescents behaviour that violates social norm, lacks consideration for others and that may cause damage to society, whether intentional or through negligence, as opposed to pro-social behaviour which entails behaviour that helps or benefits society (Gillette, 2017). It also means acting in a way that causes or is likely to cause harm or distress to one or more people in another household. To be antisocial, the behaviour must be persistent to the point of either causing harm or discomfort in the environment. Antisocial behaviour may include vandalism, using rude words, abusive or insulting language, bullying, aggressiveness, assault, theft, among others (South, Kesteven, District & Council, 2013). The exhibition of antisocial behaviour can be attributed to several factors. Family variables are the prime determinants for antisocial and delinquent behaviour among adolescents (Nisar, Ullah, Ali & Alam, 2015).

According to Hallahan (2016), antisocial behaviour may be overt, involving aggressive actions against siblings, peers, parents, teachers or other adults, such as verbal abuse, bullying and hitting, or covert, involving aggressive actions against property, such as theft, vandalism and fire-setting. Covert antisocial behaviours in early childhood may include noncompliance, sneaking, lying or secretly destroying another's property. Antisocial behaviour also includes drug and alcohol abuse and high-risk activities involving self and others. Antisocial behaviour is apparent when an individual finds it very difficult to adhere to the norm or standard of his social environment like home or school.

The consequences of antisocial behaviours on the students with hearing impairment cannot be under-estimated. Antisocial behaviour affects their health as well as other aspects of their well being. Kimberly and Arriola (2006) were of the opinion that antisocials are at risk of substance abuse and substance use poses serious health hazards through the direct bodily harm that these substance cause, as well as the indirect effects that result from impaired judgment (for instance, automobile accidents and high-risk of sexual behaviour).

There are many other factors affecting the antisocial behaviour too. These factors originate either from the child's personal characteristics such as interests, attitude, and temperament. Other external factors include individual's past experiences, and expectations which can influence their interpersonal relationships. There is also a link found between environmental factors with antisocial behaviours. According to Patterson (1992), environmental factors are the main causes of antisocial behaviour. These factors include parents, peers, and schools which believed to be able to influence the wholesome development in the child, either in the aspects of physical, affective, social, and spiritual. According to Sprinthall (1995), the state of early adolescence is a time of both intensive and extensive transitions that affect individuals physically, psychologically and socially. During this period of transition, adolescents are more vulnerable to emotional difficulties. At this time, adolescents seek for comfort and emotional support either from parents or peers. Thus, parents' attachment and peers' attachment play an important role during childhood and adolescence period especially during the early adolescence.

Although many studies prove that poor monitoring, poor supervision, and harsh discipline are the cause of the child's antisocial behaviour; family demographic variables such race, neighborhood and parental education also related to the antisocial behaviour (Elliott et al., 1985).

Statement of Problem

Parents are seen as the role models which adolescents are expected to use in shaping their behaviour. However, it seems the core values of families within the Nigerian society have recently shifted from the morale and pro-socially anchored perspective to a materialistic and antisocial perspective. Parents who are expected to be agents for good social behaviour have now been found to give support and foster bad behaviour among adolescents in their quest for material wealth. The saying, do what you have to do regardless of who is affected by such an act so far as the desired result is achieved has now become of everyday usage in the Nigerian society. Parental discipline prevents the development of antisocial behaviour in adolescent people. It also enhances usual attitudes, complaints models and strengthening of conformity through parental control. Discipline Since families have deviated from the morale perspective; the support of parents for the behaviour of their adolescents seems to have shifted to an antisocial standpoint. This seems to have therefore given rise to the recent hike in the rate of adolescent vices experienced in Nigerian society like rape, robbery, thuggery, examination malpractice and so on, especially among secondary school students. This has therefore given rise for the need to answer the following questions;

Will there be a significant influence of parental discipline on adolescence antisocial behaviour?

Will there be a significant influence of gender on adolescence antisocial behaviour?

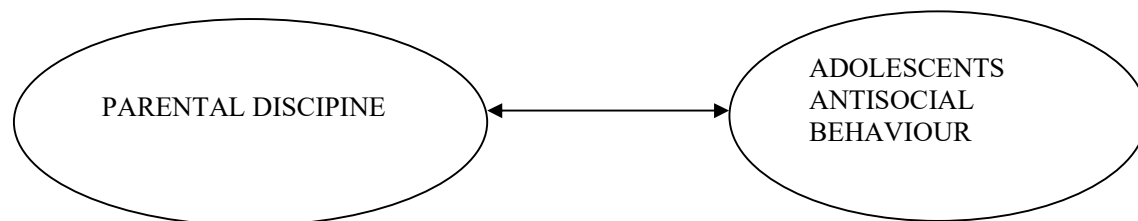
Will there be a significant joint influence of parental discipline and gender on adolescence antisocial behaviour?

Purpose of Study

The main purpose of this study is

- i. To examine the influence of parental discipline on adolescence antisocial behavior
- ii. To determine the influence of gender on adolescence antisocial behaviour
- iii. To examine the influence of parental discipline and gender on adolescence antisocial behavior

Conceptual Framework



Method

Participants

One hundred and twenty (120) adolescents, mostly first year undergraduates students of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka which encompasses both sexes, were used for the study, drawn from the Department Of Psychology University of Nigeria, Nsukka, using cluster sampling, 45 male (37.5%) and 75 female students (62.5%) were sampled from Department of Psychology University of Nigeria, Nsukka, which formed the clusters. Their ages range between 18-35 years with mean age of 26.5 and standard deviation of 5.15.

Instruments

Two questionnaires were used in obtaining data from the participants. The first questionnaire was measuring parental discipline by Gleitman, (1987) while the second was measuring antisocial behaviour by Glueck, and Glueck, (1950) The items on the questionnaire were constructed in such a way that the respondent did not find it difficult to respond to it. After the face validity, the researcher did pilot study for the 2 questionnaires, with the pilot study, item analysis for the questionnaire measuring parental discipline. After, the items in the questionnaire which was initially 35 were reduced to 17. This was for the content analysis. Kruder-Richardson 20 was used for the reliability coefficient and the reliability level was .834. For the questionnaire measuring antisocial behaviour, we carried out Split-half reliability on it with the data collected from its pilot study. After, the reliability coefficient was 0.78. It comprises of 12 items. The reliability levels for the two questionnaires were high which made it possible for weto use the two questionnaires. Furthermore, in order to be confidential in treating respondents, the purpose of the study was not indicated on the questionnaire. The two questionnaires were in Yes or No response form.

Procedure

First the researcher obtained an introductory letter, which introducing the researcher, to allow the researcher use their students for the study. The researcher with the help of research assistants collected the data from department which formed a cluster. Purposive sampling was applied. In this case, the students who were available and met the required criteria were drawn. A total of one hundred and fifty (150) copies of the questionnaire were distributed to the target population within the period of two (2) weeks through the help of the research assistants. Total copies of 129 questionnaires (82.6%) were returned, 9 questionnaires (17.4%) copies were discarded due to inappropriate filling while 120 copies that were properly filled were (65.2%) analyzed.

Design and Statistics

The design for the study was survey design. Survey design was adopted for the investigation based on the use of questionnaire in gathering information. Multiple linear regressions were used to analyze data gotten from this study. Multiple linear regression analysis is a statistical tool that allows a researcher to examine how multiple independent variables are related

Results

Table 1

Tables of mean, standard deviation and correlation between parental discipline and gender on Adolescent antisocial behaviour

Variable	Mean	Std. Deviation	1	2	3	4	5
Age	25.03	3.16	1	-.053	.138	.017	-.107*
Religious	1.08	.26		1	.003	-.168	-.015
ParentalDisciplin	35.79	8.31			1	-.132**	.067
Gender	1.56	1.52				1	-.111
AdolescentAnti	51.87	7.92					1

*Note: S.D = Standard deviation, ASCB = Adolescent Antisocial Behaviour, * = p<.001, **=.02*

Table 1 revealed a significant negative influence of parental discipline on adolescent antisocial behaviour $p < .02$, $r = -.132$; thus, it showed that low parental discipline will lead to increase in developing adolescent antisocial behaviour. However, gender posed no significant influence on adolescent antisocial behaviour $p > .05$, $r = .027$. Furthermore, there was an interaction influence between parental discipline and gender with adolescent antisocial behaviour, having a significant positive influence $p < .001$, $r = .107^*$; thus, pointed out the high influence of parental discipline and gender in averting adolescent antisocial behaviour.

Table 2
Influence of parental discipline and gender on adolescent antisocial behaviour

Variables	Step ₁	Step ₂
β	β	
Age	-.11-	.12
Religion	-.02	-.04
<i>Predictors</i>		
Parental Discipline	.15**	
Gender	-.11*	
AdjustedR ²	-.005	-.00
ΔR^2 .01	.02	
ΔF .70	1.11	

R1 = .03, R2 = .29

Table 2 revealed that parental discipline was regressed to adolescent antisocial behaviour, with a significant regression among variables, with a non significant equation model $F(5,236)=1.213$, $p < .05$, $\beta = .15$. However, gender was not regressed to adolescent antisocial behaviour with a non significant equation model $F(5,236)=1.213$, $p > .05$, $\beta = -.11$.

Summary of the Findings

The summary of the findings showed that

There will be a significant influence of parental discipline on adolescence antisocial behaviour.

There will be no significant influence of gender on adolescence antisocial behaviour

Discussion

This study examines the influence of parental discipline and gender on the adolescent's antisocial behaviour. In the course of investigating on this, two independent variables was tested on one dependent variable as hypotheses was postulated and tested as well.

The first hypothesis which reflects that there will be no statistically significant influence of parenting discipline on adolescents was rejected. This simply means that parental disciplining is more effective to adolescent's antisocial behaviour.

However, the above result is in line with Cookston (1999) who found that in homes where the father is missing, it is more prevalent to find children with conduct disorders than it is in intact families. Intact families, is families where both biological parents are present. Cookston also stated from his findings that low levels of parental supervision are related to higher levels of delinquency where as delinquency rates are found to be lowest in homes with high levels of supervision.

The rejection of my first hypothesis is in support with Feehan (1991). In Feehan longitudinal study of the health and development of 1,037 New Zealand children, maternal reports of strict and inconsistent discipline were obtained when participants were 7 and 9 years. Inconsistency was associated with early behavior problems, but

strictness was not. At age of 15 years, the prevalence of diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (DSM IH) was established. Univariate analyses showed significant associations between inconsistency and low of strictness externalizing disorder. However, the above result is in line with Clark and Sommers (1961) who found that the antecedent condition of maladjustive behavior by the child is unsatisfactory relations among the adults in the home. These adults in the home mostly parents.

It also supports Brooks et al (1963) who found a significant correlation between truancy from school and parental attitude towards the school and toward attendance by the child.

Furthermore, Landis (1962) is in line with the result above from his findings that the role of the father in family life is an index of family integration. Also, Landis went further to state that closeness of children to either the mother or the father is associated with positive values, desirable behavior and self evaluation in the adolescents Landis study give strong support for the result by bringing out that it is how the adolescent feels in relationship to both parents that is the most predictive of personal and family values.

My result is strongly in agreement with the empirical work of Hoffman (1960) who found a probability that the mother's love and attention make a boy feel warm and cozy, but fathers, equip the boy to face the world. Both lead the boy to a feeling of being loved and accepted, and a positive relationship is associated in the boy with a high degree of self confidence in his own abilities, with outgoing peer behaviour and with frequent attempts at influence. And as well, that both parents positive relationship with the boy is associated with success in influence and with non-dependency, with athletic and intellectual ability and with a tendency respond realistically and adaptively to frustrating situations.

Finally, rejecting my hypothesis is in supports with Landis (1963) who found significant difference in his empirical work on 3000 college students, between the students from happy and those from unhappy homes. Among these differences, young people from happily married parents evaluate their own personalities more favorably. They also report fewer doubts about their own chances for successful marriage.

The acceptance of my second hypothesis is not in support with Walters (1963) studied the effect of timing of punishment upon the strength of response inhibition. Using 350 participants, 200 female and 150 male. He found indication that response inhibition is more readily produced in female than in men. Unger (1962) found that unclear or enduring discipline is associated with increasing generalized patterns of guilty apprehensiveness, while high paternal nurturance (care affection companionship) and predominant use of psychological (as against physical) disciplinary technique are associated with the development of dependable, transgression contingent guilt potentials in the child.

Equally not in support of Jeffery (1990) study investigated influence of parental support and monitoring on antisocial behaviour among Secondary School Students in Gwer West Local Government Area of Benue State\ It was found among others that parental support has no significant influence on antisocial behaviour among secondary school male students. The result also showed a significant influence of parental monitoring on antisocial behaviour among secondary school female students and a significant joint influence of parental upport and parental monitoring on antisocial behaviour among secondary schools male and female students in Gwer-West Local Government Area of Benue State.

Implication of the Study

The implication of this study concentrated majority on parents, and make adolescents. There has been debates and arguments on the actual causes of adolescents maladaptive behavior. Some people say that it is youthful exuberance while others say that it is naturally built in the body system of this particular age bracket (adolescents). However, the study has shown that parental discipline at children's early age and during adolescent stage has a

lot to contribute in correcting maladaptive behavior of the male adolescent. Therefore, since parents are implicated by the study of contributing to adolescents maladaptive behavior when they are found wanting in using corrective measures (parental discipline) to correct male adolescents unacceptable behavior. They (parents) should be up and doing as regards to starting early to give out parental discipline to their children when they misbehave. This will go a long way in eradicating the bad effects of adolescent's delinquent behavior.

The same research should be repeated to cover more adolescents, both from secondary schools and first year students from different Universities that are under the age-bracket of adolescents. The basic objective of employing statistical analysis in research work is to estimate the parameter of population. Larger sample should be used because the larger the sample the more the statistics approximate a wider parameter.

Other factors that can have influence on the behavior of adolescents should be examined. Such investigation will bring out a clearer picture of how adolescents behavior is been molded (both delinquents and non-delinquent behaviour).

Ample time should be created during the course of further research. This will enable the researcher to gather larger samples and analyze his or her data in a no-lush atmosphere. Hence, the generality of the results will expand and the reliability of the result will be high.

Finally, there should be adequate funding of the research to combat the problem of financial set-backs that can affect the research processes.

Summary and Conclusion

As parents you should recognize that disciplining your children is very essential while they are still young/tender. This will definitely contribute immensely in shaping their behavior in the right way as they grow up/ kids are born in this world with an empty memory. It is however the influences they get, their interaction with their parents and the outside world and the training they receive that will be giving them direction as they grow and develop into adults.

Furthermore, when the going gets tough parents should not be discouraged for nothing good comes easy. Rather they should harden themselves and face the challenges of training their children in the way society wants them to be.

A well trained and behaved adolescent is the pride of the parents. Therefore, parents should not deny themselves that joy of watching their kids been praised by people as a result of the polished way they behave. Hence, minor obstacles in training a child should be endured and tolerated by parents.

Parents must be aware that by giving their children good training, they are indirectly equipping them (adolescents) with the best weapon to face the world when they grow into adults. Also, parents must realize that by training and bringing their kids up well, they will prevent the attack they would have received from their children for abandoning them while they were tender. Finally let parents do what they are ought to do for a better tomorrow.

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