Crime Behavioural Tendency of School-Going Adolescents in Ibadan: Home Background, Self-Regulation and Parenting Processes as Predictors

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Abstract

The study investigated the crime behavioural tendency of school-going adolescents in Ibadan: home background, self-regulation, parenting processes as predictors. The study adopted a descriptive research design of *ex-post-facto type*. Multistage sampling method was used in selecting 500 participants from 5 local government areas in Ibadan, Oyo State. The variables were measured validated instrument which with reliability co-efficient of 0.81. The data obtained were analyzed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation and multiple regression at 0.05 level of significance. The result showed that there was a significant correlation among home background, self-regulation and parenting processes and crime behavioural tendency of adolescents, self-regulation made the most significant relative contributions followed by parenting processes and home background. Therefore, on the basis of the findings, it is recommended that adolescents and parents should be re-orientated on the need to provide appropriate need and support for the adolescents and that counselling psychologists should intensify their effort to organize conferences on the implications of these factors (such as self-regulation, parenting processes and home background among others) to crime behavioural tendency of adolescents.

Key words: Home background, Self-regulation, Parenting processes and Crime Behavioral Tendency

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Adolescence marks the transition from childhood into adulthood. This age bracket is retained by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (2015) that gave the figure of such population as 1.2 billion and explains that adolescence is an age of opportunity for children, and a pivotal time for the rest of the world to build on their development in the first decade of life, to help them navigate risks and vulnerabilities, and set them on the path to fulfilling their potentials. It is characterized by cognitive, psychosocial, and emotional development. As adolescents develop and struggle to establish their own identity, they are sometimes compelled by natural tendency to resist parental authority and test boundaries. This tendency may become routinely severe and expose them to risks of escalating beyond control. This period of adolescence is a time of struggle and turmoil as a result of transition from childhood to adult. At this time, the adolescents are striving for personal identity towards independence from parents, finding friends, making career decision and finding meaning of self. This period of life comes with much concern about school violence, drug abuse, bullying, and other destructive forms of behaviour (Falaye, 2012).

The first substantial reorganization and restructuring of behaviour occurs at a time when adolescent has the intellectual capability to appreciate fully the significant changes occurring during adolescence, adolescent is far more self-conscious about these changes and feels them more acutely. These behaviour changes concerns the fundamental biological, cognitive and social changes characterized with the period, as adolescents develop, puberty sets in which bring

with it dramatic changes in physical appearance and alters the adolescents self-conception and relationship with others (Muraina & Muraina, 2015). Undergoing physical changes of puberty may prompt fluctuations in the self-image and a reevaluation of whom adolescent really is (Busari, 2010). Just as the broadening of intellectual capabilities during early adolescence provides new ways of thinking about problems, logical reasoning, hypothetical thinking, values and interpersonal relationships which permits adolescents to think about themselves in new ways and act series of provoking behavioural dispositions. Behaviour problems may refers to delinquent and criminal behaviour among adolescents as they negotiate the transition from childhood to adulthood in an increasingly complex and confusing world. Although the issue of behaviour problems is an age long problem, various anti-social behaviours often associated include vandalism, drug abuse, weapon carrying, alcohol abuse, rape, examination malpractices, school violence, bullying, cultism, truancy, drop-outs, to mention but a few (Adeyemi & Muraina, 2015). There have been a number of attempts at the explanations of the causes, nature and dynamics of deviance behaviour or adolescent crime behavioural tendency.

Crime behavioural tendency of adolescents (CBA) refers to getting involved in acts prohibited by criminal law, such as theft, burglary, violence, vandalism and drug use. Adolescents crime behavioural tendency is characterized by having symptoms such as disregarding societal expectations, laws, violating rights of others (property, sexual, legal, emotional violations), physical aggression, instability in life and showing impulsive behaviour that break criminal laws (Nnachi, 2000). These comprise behaviours that cause immediate injury (physical or otherwise) as well as behaviours that cumulate into negative effects. Example of these risks are self-injury, violence, suicide, sexual risk

behaviours, use of alcohol or drugs, fighting, vehicular activities brought about by drinking and so on (Adewuyi & Jimoh, 2017). Similarly, in recent years, a higher proportion of youth have experienced arrest by their early 20's than in the past. Their offences ranges from status offences (such as underage smoking, alcohol drinking) to property crimes and violent crimes (Moffit, 2006). Some of these factors include gender, family values, parental influence, parents' level of education, peer influence, home and self-esteem among others. For the purpose of this paper, home background, self-regulation and parenting processes was considered as predictors of crime behavioural tendency.

Home background refers to the environment where the individual is born and nurtured by adults who may include his or her parents until the individual is capable of fending for own living (Ogbeba, 2006). In Nigeria, there are two types of homes; polygamous and monogamous homes. A polygamous home is a composition of the family set where one man marries two or more wives at a time (Adeyemi & Muraina, 2015). This type of family has often been conceived to be characterized by unequal treatment of children, jealousy, and unhealthy relationship between siblings and co-wives. In most polygamous homes, many children compete for the limited resources at the disposal of the father who is often the head and breadwinner of the home while the wives remain full house wives (Muraina & Adewuyi, 2017). A monogamous home on the other hand has a man is married to a woman at a time. The monogamous home composition is basically the father, one wife and children. The family members are usually bounded and this gives members the opportunity to have concern for one another and misunderstandings are easily settled.

The home, besides determining the individual's inherited potentials, is a major factor in accelerating or retarding all aspects of human

development (Nnachi, 2000; Opara, 2004). The home, being the first institution to which the child is exposed, is automatically the first to teach and train the child. Home environment is the pedestal on which every society is built and it is therefore fundamental to the stability or instability of the society. The world is a reflection of the various and diverse homes (Onete, Eyo and Joshua, 2009). Rodney, Tachia and Rodney (1997) sought to determine the relationship between an adolescent's home environment and his/her involvement in conduct disorder. The results showed that a higher proportion of females than males started physical fights, used weapons to harm, and ran away from home. Proportionately, more males deliberately set fires and destroyed property. Kimani (2010) investigated the causative relationship between family unit structure and juvenile delinquency. The research revealed that there was a strong correlation between murder and a child having come from an intact family.

Similarly, self-regulation is the ability to monitor and control our own behavior, emotions, or thoughts, altering them in accordance with the demands of the situation. It includes the abilities to inhibit first responses, to resist interference from irrelevant stimulation, and to persist on relevant tasks even when we don't enjoy them. Adolescence being a strong period of self-reflection, as adolescents will think about what others think of them, the parents, expectation and question what tomorrow will bring (Lassari, 2015). Therefore, adolescents with lack of self-regulations will engage in more risky and problematic behaviours, such as smoking, drinking, drugs, unprotected sex, and dangerous driving, to name a few. Most times, these adolescents will think a lot about themselves and their looks before entering any type of social realm, and they will spend a lot of time making their outward appearance acceptable to others. These and many more are thoughts pattern of majority of adolescents that

posse challenges as the adolescent mind progresses towards growth and adulthood (Farre, 2015).

Kembe (2008) carried out a research on influence of self-regulations on patterns of child mis-behaviour in Makurdi metropolis. Results of the findings show also that behaviour vices such as lateness to school, examination malpractices, and use of drugs, illicit sexual relationship and improper dressing were identified as common patterns of child mis-behaviour among Junior Secondary School Students. Kimani (2010) investigated the causative relationship between self-regulation and juvenile delinquency. The research revealed that there was a strong correlation between the two variables. Also for a single parent family parenthood, there was a strong correlation between street life, sex and defilement offences. Children brought up in a step parent home lacks self-regulation and therefore had a strong inclination towards substance abuse but the correlation was even greater for stealing and refusing school. For children having come from a children's home, they had a strong correlation towards substance abuse and street life but showed a negative strong correlation with refusing school. For children brought up in a grandparent family structure, the correlation was strong for substance abuse and the highest for stealing. Murder was the least committed offence while refusing school and street life were the most dominant.

Parenting processes is the process of promoting and supporting the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development of a child from infancy to adulthood. Parenting refers to the intricacies of raising a child aside from the biological relationship. The most common caretaker in parenting is the biological parent(s) of the child in question, although others may be an older sibling, a grandparent, a legal guardian, aunt, uncle or other family member, or

a family friend. Parenting skills vary, and a parent with good parenting skills may be referred to as a good parent (Jane, 2012). Parenting process encapsulates the set of attitudes parents transmits to the child to create an emotional climate surrounding parent-child exchanges. Parenting style is different from parenting behaviours, which are characterized by specific actions and socialization goals. The combination of parental warmth and demanding nature is central to conceptualization of parenting style. There are two contemporary approaches to understanding the impact of parenting on children's development: typo-logical and social interaction (Muraina & Muraina, 2015). Typological models focus on overall styles or types of parenting while the social interaction approach stresses the nature of specific exchanges between parent and child.

Some research reports have shown that a large percentage of all CBA come from homes that lacked normal parental love and care. Attention, love and warmth go a long way in assisting the child's emotional development and adjustment (Odebunmi, 2007). Children at adolescence stage require parental love, care, warmth and serious attention to adjust adequately in the environment in which he/she finds him/herself. Parents have major roles to play in the adjustment process of adolescents. The behavioural problems of most deviants are rooted in their homes (Odebunmi, 2007). Adeyemi & Muraina (2015) noted that when the relationship between the parents and the adolescents is warm, it creates a healthy environment for the development of the adolescent. A study by Akpochafo (2004) found that child abuse in the process of parenting can affect the personality of an individual. Akpochafo specifically studied parental perceptions of the dimension of child abuse implication for counselling. The findings of the study shows that the forms of child abuse ranked in order of occurrence are: verbal abuse, street hawking,

scavenging, physical abuse like punching and beating; that the frequency of child abuse is more perceived in urban areas than rural areas.

At moment, adolescents all over are faced with a whole lot of challenges ranging from changes in the body forms, striving for personal identity, independence from parents, finding friends, making career decision, gaining acceptance, educational attainment and finding meaning of self. Although, several researchers have been done on adolescents behaviour such as body imaging, peer relationship, school commitment academic performance, career selection, aspiration as well as career choice just to mention a few, all these have not proffer solution to behaviour problems among adolescents. More so, given the importance of this critical time in an adolescents' growth and development, the researcher have thought that it is necessary to investigate, specifically, the crime behavioural tendency of school-going adolescents in Ibadan: home background, self-regulation and parenting processes as predictors.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to investigate crime behavioural tendency of school-going adolescents in Ibadan: home background, self-regulation and parenting processes as predictors. Specifically, the study sought to make findings on;
1. The pattern of relationship between home background, self-regulation and parenting processes and crime behavioural tendency of school-going adolescents in Ibadan
2. The joint contribution of independent variables (home background, self-regulation and parenting processes) to the crime behavioural tendency of school-going adolescents in Ibadan
3. The relative contribution of home background, self-regulation and parenting processes to crime behavioural tendency of school-going adolescents in Ibadan

Research Questions

Three research questions were raised and answered in this study:

1. What is the pattern of relationship between home background, self-regulation and parenting processes and crime behavioural tendency of school-going adolescents in Ibadan?

2. What is the joint contribution of independent variables (home background, self-regulation and parenting processes) to the crime behavioural tendency of school-going adolescents in Ibadan?

3. What is the relative contribution of home background, self-regulation and parenting processes to crime behavioural tendency of school-going adolescents in Ibadan?

METHODOLOGY

The research design adopted in this study was a descriptive research design of *ex-post-facto type*. The descriptive design is the systematic empirical enquiry in which the researcher does not manipulate or have direct control of the situation. The population of this study covered all school-going adolescent in Ibadan metropolis**.** For the purpose of this investigation, the researcher employed the multi stage sampling technique, the first stage involved the use of random sampling technique in the selection of five (5) Local Government Areas in Ibadan metropolis, next is the selection of two (2) schools each from the randomly selected LGA, fifty (50) students comprising of both male and female are randomly selected across each schools in the last stage. However, five hundred (500) students were chosen in all the schools selected for the study.

Crime Behavioural Tendency Scale

Crime behavioural tendency Scale developed by Knight, Garner, Simpson, Morey, and Flynn, (2006) was adopted by the researcher for data collection on adolescent criminal behaviour tendency. The scale contains 36 items from 6 scales representing Entitlement, Justification, Power Orientation, Cold Heartedness, Criminal Rationalization and Personal Irresponsibility. The scale was developed using 5 Likert-type ranging from SD (Strongly Disagree) to SA (Strongly Agree). Originally, the reliability index (co efficient alpha) of the instrument was reported by the authors to be .89 and test-retest reliability (.95). In order to re-affirm the reliability of the instrument, the corrected version of the instrument was administered to twenty adolescents this group was not part of the main study. The reliability of the instrument was .90 alpha using Cronbach alpha technique.

Home Background Scale

The scale developed by Ogbeba (2006) was used to assess the home background of the participants. It is a 5 Likert scale with 20 items on the scale. The scale specifically sought to quantify three dimensions of the home (Interpersonal, direction of personal growth and basic structures). The scale has a reliability of 0.85. In order to re-affirm the reliability of the instrument, the corrected version of the instrument was administered to twenty adolescents; this group was not part of the main study. The reliability co-efficient of the instrument on home environment yielded 0.80.

Parenting Process Scale

Parenting process scale developed by Akpochafo (2004) was adopted in this study; the scale has construct validity in relation to parenting styles. It is a 10 item scale based on 5 point likert scale which used the responses, strongly agree (SA), agree (A), undecided (U), disagree (D), strongly disagree (SD). The scale showed adequate internal consistency with alpha coefficient of 0.70, and reliability indices of 0.81. In order to re-affirm the reliability of the instrument, the corrected version of the instrument was administered to twenty adolescents; this group was not part of the main

study. The reliability co-efficient of the instrument on home environment yielded 0.76.

Self-Regulation Scale:

Self-regulation scale developed by Lassari (2015) was adopted in this study; the scale has construct validity in relation to self-regulation. It is a 15 item scale based on 5 point likert scale which used the responses, strongly agree (SA), agree (A), undecided (U), disagree (D), strongly disagree (SD). The scale showed adequate internal consistency with alpha coefficient of 0.70, and reliability indices of 0.81. In order to re-affirm the reliability of the instrument, the corrected version of the instrument was administered to twenty adolescents; this group was not part of the main study. The reliability co-efficient of the instrument on home environment yielded 0.81.

The data collected from the study were analyzed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) and multiple regression statistical method.

RESULTS

The results are presented below:

Research Question One: What is pattern of the relationship between the independent variables (home background, self-regulation and parenting processes) and crime behavioural tendency of school-going adolescents in Ibadan?

Table 1: Descriptive statistics and Inter-correlations among the variables

Variables	N	Mean	SD	1	2	3	4
Crime Behavioural Tendency	500	86.52	43.09	1.00			
Home Background	500	46.34	26.16	.661**	1.00		
Self-Regulation	500	33.97	21.32	.702**	.686	1.00	
Parenting Processes	500	43.48	27.10	.483**	.749	.488**	1.00

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

Table 1 shows correlation between home background, self-regulation and parenting processes and crime behavioural tendency of adolescents. It was observed that home background (r = .661; p<0.05); self-regulation (r = .702; p<.05) and parenting processes (r = .483; p<.05) had significant relationship with crime behavioural tendency among adolescents.

Research Question Two: What is the significant joint contribution of independent variables (home background, self-regulation and parenting processes) to the crime behavioural tendency of school-going adolescents in Ibadan?

Table 2: Multiple Regression Analysis on crime behavioural tendency

R =.55
R Square = .46
Adjusted R Square = .41
Standard Error = 12.21

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean square	F	Sig.
Regression	4623.49	3	1541.17		
Residual	32012.37	497	64.41	23.93	.000
Total	36635.86	500			

*p, 0.05

It was observed from table 2 that there was a significant combined effect of (home background, self-regulation and parenting processes) to the prediction of crime behavioural tendency among school-going adolescents in Ibadan. The result yielded a coefficient multiple regression R of .55, p<.05. The equation also showed adjusted R^2 of .41, suggesting that the independent variables accounted for 41.0% variation in the prediction of adolescents' crime behavioural tendency. It was revealed that the above variances are the explained variances within the scope of this study. This implies that the above independent variables contributed significantly, even though the percentage of contribution is not evenly distributed. The other unexplained factors could be variables that are not within the scope of this study.

Research Question Three: What is the relative contribution of home background, self-regulation and parenting processes to crime behavioural tendency of school-going adolescents in Ibadan?

Table 3: Relative Contribution of Independent Variables to the Prediction

Model	Unstandardized coefficients	Standardized coefficients		t	p
	B	Standard Error	β		
Constant	36.55	6.89		4.35	p<0.05
Self-Regulation	0.63	.17	.30	3.32	p<0.05
Home Background	1.65	1.02	.11	2.12	p<0.05
Parenting Processes	4.25	2.18	.17	1.21	p<0.05

From table 3 it shows that each of the independent variables made a significant contribution to the prediction of crime behavioural tendency among adolescents. In term of magnitude of contribution, self-regulation made the most significant contribution (β = .30; t= 3.32; p<0.05). The contribution of other independent variables to was observed in the following order: parenting processes (β = .17; t= 1.21; p<0.05); and home background (β =.11; t= 2.12; p<0.05).

DISCUSSION

The result of the first research question revealed that, correlations existed between home background, self-regulation, parenting processes and crime behavioural tendency of adolescents. The result demonstrated that factors responsible for crime behavioural tendency among adolescents are residents in the home background, the parents and the adolescents themselves. The home which also constitutes the parents is the first learning environment where adolescents assimilate and inculcates different habits and behaviours which culminate into their personality eventually. This finding is consistent with that of Kimani (2010) who found that that there was a strong correlation between murder and a child having come from an intact family. Similarly, for a single parent family parenthood, there was a strong correlation between street life, sex and defilement offences. Children brought up in a step parent home had a strong inclination towards substance abuse but the correlation was even greater for stealing and refusing school. In the same vein, Kembe (2005) found that behaviour vices such as lateness to school, examination malpractices, and use of drugs, illicit sexual relationship and improper dressing were identified as common patterns of child mis-behaviour among Junior Secondary School Students.

The second research question showed that there was a significant combined effect of (home background, self-regulation and parenting processes) to the prediction of crime behavioural tendency among school-going adolescents in Ibadan. This implies that the above independent variables contributed significantly, even though the percentage of contribution is not evenly distributed. The other unexplained factors could be variables that are not within the scope of this study. The finding corroborates with the work of Kimani (2010) who found a relationship between self-regulation and juvenile delinquency. The research revealed that there was a strong

correlation between the two variables. Also for a single parent family parenthood, there was a strong correlation between street life, sex and defilement offences. Children brought up in a step parent home lacks self-regulation and therefore had a strong inclination towards substance abuse but the correlation was even greater for stealing and refusing school.

The last research question showed that each of the independent variables made a significant contribution to the prediction of crime behavioural tendency among adolescents. In term of magnitude of contribution, self-regulation made the most significant contribution followed by parenting processes and home background home background contributed the least. This was supported by previous studies such as Otuadah (2006) who found that when the relationship between the parents and the adolescents is warm, it creates a healthy environment for the development of the adolescent. As a rider to that, a study by Akpochafo (2004) found that child abuse in the process of parenting can affect the personality of an individual. Akpochafo specifically studied parental perceptions of the dimension of child abuse implication for counselling. The findings of the study shows that the forms of child abuse ranked in order of occurrence are: verbal abuse, street hawking, scavenging, physical abuse like punching and beating; that the frequency of child abuse is more perceived in urban areas than rural areas.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following were recommended;

1. Parents and other educational stakeholders should be re-orientated in addition to relevant authorities and stakeholders in the law enforcement agencies, parents should present themselves when the adolescents are in need of them. It is vital that they should always be

there at all times to provide physical, emotional, academic, moral and social support to their adolescents whenever the need be.

2. Concerned stakeholders such as the schools, church, mosque, government and law enforcement agencies should rise to the challenges of crime behavioural tendency among adolescents.

3. Counseling psychologists and educational stakeholders should intensify their effort to organize seminars/conferences on these factors (such as self-regulation, parenting processes and home background among others) as they significantly influence the crime behavioural tendency among adolescents.

4. Governments should assure that their laws apply to all crimes and ensure that African countries are bedeviled by various socio-economic problems such as poverty, AIDS, fuel crisis, political and ethnic instability and other related problems in the society.

Conclusion

This research work has been able to establish home background, self-regulation and parenting processes as the predictors of crime behavioural tendency among school-going adolescents in Ibadan. The result showed that self-regulations made the most contribution in terms of magnitude hence the need to always foster adequate self-regulatory skills among these adolescents, parenting processes also matters likewise the home background of the adolescents. As such, the upshot of this study is a challenge to counselling psychologists, parents, and stakeholders in the area of crime control. Intensive efforts must be made in making sure crime behavioural tendency are curbed in the society.

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