

Influence of Birth Order and Type of Parenting Style on Delinquent Behaviour among Senior Secondary School Students in Northern Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The paper focuses on the Influence of Birth Order and Type of Parenting Style on Delinquent Behaviour of Senior Secondary School Students in Northern Nigeria. The design of the study was correlational and three null hypotheses were raised and tested to guide the study. Population of the study consists of one thousand three hundred and five secondary school students who were identified with the problem of delinquent behavior in Northern Nigeria. Three hundred and sixty of the delinquent students were sampled for the study using multi-stage sampling technique. Juvenile Delinquent Behaviour Questionnaire (JDBQ) and Parenting Style questionnaire (PSQ) were used to collect the data. Percentage on frequency count, Regression analysis and Pearson Product Moment Correlation were used to analyse the data. The result shows that birth order predicts 32% of delinquent behavior. It was also revealed a significant correlation between permissive parenting style and delinquent behaviour with ($r=0.606$ and $p=0.038$) and between authoritative parenting style and delinquent behaviour with ($r= -0.836$ and $p=0.000$). Among others, it was concluded that birth order significantly influence delinquent behavior of secondary school students and that permissive parenting style has positive influence on delinquent behavior. Thus, it was recommended among others that school counsellors, psychologists and parents should acknowledge the roles of birth order and parenting styles in preventing delinquent behavior.

Key Words: Birth order, parenting type, delinquent behaviour

I. INTRODUCTION

A nation can only have good prospects in every aspect to attain desired goals if her children and adolescents are properly bred from their respective families and schools. Such young individuals make the future of a nation to be promising in terms of human resources to transform other material resources. That is why children are referred to as the assets and wealth of any nation (Hulbert, 2020). Similarly, families feel happy when they succeed in raising promising children with good characters and conducts. However, the activities of criminals who are individuals brought up from different families have been a subject of complaints in both developed and undeveloped nations except that the situation seems to be worse in some nations than others. In Nigeria, the situation is unbearable as the correction service centres are filled up beyond capacity with inmates (Olugbode, 2023). Nigeria has 244 custodial centres with the bulk of them being in the state capitals and the centres which have a provision for 52,278 inmates, as at Tuesday 9th May 2023 exceeded their limit by over 23,000, and so sadly that the facilities hold 37% more inmates than it is designed to, which made the Federal government to say that it would withdraw from accommodating and feeding inmates so that the state government be saddled with that responsibility with effects from 2024 (Olugbode, 2023).

Preliminary investigations reveal that those inmates in prisons today were delinquents children handled lightly from the home and in secondary schools. The researchers observed that these inmates are suspects who graduated from juvenile delinquency due to their ages and now brought to the correctional centre for diverse criminal behaviour such as rape, theft, cyber crime,

armed robbery, fight, murder, banditry, and so on. The problem of delinquent behaviour can be seen as an issue that destroys the future of young people who indulge in socially unacceptable or abnormal behaviour such as drug intake, alcoholism, indecent dress, uncontrollable movement, and so on. One wonders what could be the root cause of these unbearable phenomena. Consequently the researchers got attracted to find out the causes of delinquent behaviour among juvenile with the assumption that if the root cause is identified, whatever will be the proven measure to remedy the problem would be successful.

The situation is so unfriendly that many concerned researchers have written on numerous causes of delinquent behaviour to include biological factors, psychological factor and sociological factors (Klimczuk, 2015) with little consideration on the roles of birth order as a biological cause and type of parenting style at homes as root causes of criminal behaviour in Northern Nigeria as the present study intends to. The second factor that is likely to influence delinquent behaviour is type of parenting style. Types of parenting style include permissive, authoritative. Each of the mentioned parenting styles could relate to criminal behaviour in different ways.

Delinquent behaviour grossly refers to delinquencies exhibited by children or minors in the society. Delinquent behavior is a criminal action committed by a human confronting the laws of the civil society and crime understanding is based on the principle of normalization, which means that an individual's guilt is based on the norms and laws applicable in the civil society (Kenchadze, 2015). Otoyebin (2023) defines delinquent behaviour as any criminal offence which when committed by adult could be considered as a crime.

Otoyebin (2023) states that children or young person act in section 3 defines a child as a person under 14 years of age while juvenile delinquent behaviour indicates offence committed by a person under 17 years. However, citing the case of Labinjo versus Abake in Nigeria, Otoyebin (2023) states that the court upheld that a person under the age of 21 is a minor and therefore, lacks the capacity for contractual obligation. Therefore, offence committed by any person under 21 years of age is classified as delinquent behaviour.

Objectives of the Study

The objective of the study is to:

- i. examine the influence of birth order on delinquent behaviour among senior secondary school students in Northern, Nigeria
- ii. determine the influence of permissive parenting style on delinquent behaviour among senior secondary school students in Northern, Nigeria
- iii. investigate the influence of authoritative parenting style on delinquent behaviour among senior secondary school students in Northern, Nigeria.
- iv. examine the influence of authoritarian parenting style on delinquent behaviour among senior secondary school students in Northern, Nigeria

Research Questions

- i. What is the influence of birth order on delinquent behaviour among senior secondary school students in Northern, Nigeria?
- ii. Is there influence of permissive parenting style on delinquent behaviour among senior secondary school students in Northern, Nigeria?
- iii. What is the influence of authoritative parenting style on delinquent behaviour among senior secondary school students in Northern, Nigeria?

Hypotheses

H₀₁: Birth order does not significantly predict delinquent behaviour among senior secondary school students in Northern, Nigeria

H₀₂: There is no significant correlation between permissive parenting style and delinquent behaviour among senior secondary school students in Northern, Nigeria

H₀₃: There is no significant correlation between authoritative parenting style and delinquent behaviour among senior secondary school students in Northern, Nigeria

II. METHODOLOGY

The design used by the researchers in this study is correlational design because it enables the research to determine relationship between variables under study. The population of the study includes all Senior Secondary School students (SS1) that were identified with problem of delinquent behaviour from three states in Northern Nigerian six selected secondary schools with two schools from each state. The researchers used the Juvenile Delinquent Behaviour Questionnaire (JDBQ) to determine those students who have problem of delinquent behaviour. Consequently,

the population of the study was one thousand three hundred and five (1305) from two secondary schools each from three states in Northern Nigeria namely: Kaduna, Federal Capital of the Territory (FCT) and Adamawa. These states are chosen to ensure a representation of the three geopolitical zones of Northern Nigeria.

The sample size for the study is 360 students slightly above the sample size determined by the Research Advisor (2006) table of sample size. This is because the higher the sample size is, the better the result would represent the population (Andrande, 2020). The sample was selected by using multi-stage sampling technique. It appeared suitable because it enabled the researchers to select three states to be used in the three geopolitical zones of Northern Nigeria. Two schools were drawn from each state before the research participants were randomly selected for the study. The instruments used for the research include, Juvenile Delinquent Behaviour Questionnaire (JDBQ) adapted from Ntshangase (2015) and Parenting Style questionnaire (PSQ) adapted from Robinson, Mandleco, Olsen and Hart (1995). The instruments are Likert scales on 5-points from SA to SD. The JDBQ has 15 items with the high and lowest scores of 75 and 15. But

the JDBQ has 46 items with 4 sections which are: authoritative parenting (13 items), Permissive parenting (10 items). The instruments were validated by experts from Kaduna State College of Education Gidan Waya and will be Pilot tested within the population of the study but outside the sample of the study. A reliability index of between .70 to 1.00 qualified the instruments to be used as stated in Olayiwola, (2010) that the more the reliability if closer to one, the better it is. Percentage on frequency count were used to analyse the demographic information while Regression and Pearson-r were used to test the null hypotheses in accordance with the guidelines of Richardson (2023).

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the analyses of data collected ranging from the demographic data, test of hypotheses, summary of findings and the discussions of findings.

Demographic Information

This section presents the descriptive characteristics of the respondents on the bases of birth position and parenting type as follows:

Table3: Descriptive Characteristics of Respondents on the Basis of Birth Position

Birth Position	Number	Percentage
First Born Children	119	33%
Second Born Children	139	37%
Third Born Children	102	30%

Table3 reveal that first born, second born and third born children were 33%, 37% and 30% percent respectively among the respondents. Thus

this shows that second born children form the greatest percentage of the respondents.

Table4: Descriptive Characteristics of Respondents on the Basis Parenting Type

Parenting Type	Number	Percentage
Permissive	137	38%
Authoritative	30	8%
Authoritarian	70	19%
Neglectful	131	35%
Total	360	100%

Table4 reveals that 38%, 8%, 19% and 35% of the respondents were from permissive, authoritative, authoritarian and neglectful parenting respectively. This shows that adolescents from permissive parenting form the greatest percentage of delinquent children.

Test of Hypothesis

This section has to do with the testing of all the null hypotheses of the study as follows:

H0₁: Birth order does not significantly predicts delinquent behaviour among senior secondary school students in Northern, Nigeria

Table5: Regression Analysis of Relationship of Birth Order and Delinquent Behaviour among Secondary School Students

Model	B	Beta	df	R	R ²	P
Constant	32.78		358	0.58	0.34	0.056
Birthorder	0.020	0.19				0.039

Table5 reveals B=32.78, R=0.58, R²=0.32, p=0.039 at 0.05 level of significance. Since the p-value is less than the 0.05 level of significance with r=value being positive, it shows a significant influence of birth order on delinquent behavior. The analysis also reveals that birth order predicts 34% of delinquent behavior of secondary

school children. Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected.

H0₂: There is no significant correlation between permissive parenting style and delinquent behaviour among senior secondary school students in Northern, Nigeria

Table 6: Correlation of Permissive parenting and Delinquent Behaviour of the Respondents

Variable	N	df	r	p
Permissive Parenting	137	136	0.606	0.038
Delinquent Behaviour	137			

Table 6 reveals r=0.606 and p=0.038 at 0.05 level of significance. This shows a positive correlation between permissive parenting and delinquent behavior of secondary school students. This suggest that delinquent behavior positively

associates permissive parenting, Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected.

H0₃: There is no significant correlation between authoritative parenting style and delinquent behaviour among senior secondary school students in Northern, Nigeria

Table 7: Correlation of Authoritative parenting and Delinquent Behaviour of the Respondents

Variable	N	df	r	p
Authoritative Parenting	30	29	-0.836	0.000
Delinquent Behaviour	30			

Table 7 reveals r= -0.836 and p=0.000 at 0.05 level of significance. This shows an adverse correlation between authoritative parenting and delinquent behavior of secondary school students. This suggest that authoritative parenting reduces

delinquent behavior of secondary school students. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected.

H0₄: There is no significant correlation between authoritarian parenting style and delinquent behaviour among senior secondary school students in Northern, Nigeria

Table 8: Correlation of Authoritarian parenting and Delinquent Behaviour of the Respondents

Variable	N	df	r	p
Authoritarian Parenting	70	69	0.784	0.007
Delinquent Behaviour	70			

Table 8 reveals r= 0.784 and p=0.007 at 0.05 level of significance. This shows a positive correlation between authoritarian parenting and delinquent behavior of secondary school students. This means that authoritative parenting positively

influences delinquent behavior of secondary school students. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected.

H0₅: There is no significant correlation between neglectful parenting style and delinquent behaviour among senior secondary school students in Northern, Nigeria.

Table 9: Correlation of Neglectful parenting and Delinquent Behaviour of the Respondents

Variable	N	df	r	p
Neglectful Parenting	131	130	0.896	0.000
Delinquent Behaviour	131			

Table 9 reveals $r= 0.896$ and $p=0.000$ at 0.05 level of significance. This shows a positive correlation between authoritarian parenting and delinquent behavior of secondary school students. It means that authoritative parenting positively influences delinquent behavior of secondary school students. Therefore, the null hypothesis which states that there is no significant correlation between authoritarian parenting style and delinquent behaviour among senior secondary school students in Northern, Nigeria is rejected

IV. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

1. Birth order significantly predicts 32% of delinquent behaviour among senior secondary school students in Northern, Nigeria
2. There is significant correlation between permissive parenting style and delinquent behaviour among senior secondary school students in Northern, Nigeria with ($r=0.606$ and $p=0.038$)
3. There is significant and adverse correlation between authoritative parenting style and delinquent behaviour among senior secondary school students in Northern, Nigeria with ($r= -0.836$ and $p=0.000$)

V. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

In line with the findings of the study, the discussion of findings is presented as follows:

The findings reveals that Birth order significantly predicts delinquent behaviour among senior secondary school students in Northern, Nigeria. This shows congruency with Morales, Esparza, and Kaur (2017) Cundiff (2010) and Gandham and Chintalapuri (2022). However, Gandham and Chintalapuri (2022) found elderly sons to be more involved in murder crimes. This variation could be due to differences in the population of the studies. The present study reveals there is significant correlation between permissive parenting style and delinquent behaviour among senior secondary school students in Northern, Nigeria. This is similar to the findings of, Petrosino, Derzon and Lavenberg, (2009) and Terry (2004) found permissive parenting not good to reduce delinquent behavior of adolescent. The findings reveals that there is significant and adverse correlation between authoritative parenting style and delinquent behaviour among senior secondary school students in Northern, Nigeria. This confirms the findings of, Petrosino, Derzon and Lavenberg, (2009) and by Ekeh and Felix (2016) who found authoritative parenting to be effective in reducing delinquent behavior of their children.

VI. CONCLUSION

In line with the findings of the study, the researchers drew conclusion that Birth order significantly influence delinquent behaviour among senior secondary school students in Northern, Nigeria. It was also concluded that there is significant influence of permissive parenting style on delinquent behaviour of senior secondary school students in Northern, Nigeria. The researchers concluded that here is authoritative parenting style adversely influence delinquent behaviour of senior secondary school students in Northern, Nigeria. It was concluded that there is significant influence of authoritarian parenting style on delinquent behaviour of senior secondary school students in Northern, Nigeria. The researchers concluded that there is significant influence of neglectful parenting style on delinquent behaviour of senior secondary school students in Northern, Nigeria.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the conclusion of the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. School counsellors, psychologists, parents and guardians should understand that Birth order has significant influence on delinquent behaviour of senior secondary school students in order to understand how to help these children of every birth positioning.
2. Teachers and Parents understand the influences of various parenting styles such as permissive parenting style, authoritative parenting style, on delinquent behaviour of senior secondary school students in order to give them training to help them.

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