

PARENTING STYLES AS PREDICTOR OF ADOLESCENTS' DELINQUENT BEHAVIOURS

Author(s) / Szerző(k):

Mariam Bukola Alwajud-Adewusi (PhD)¹

University of Ilorin (Nigeria)

Toheeb Olanrewaju Sarafadeen(PhD)²

University of Ilorin (Nigeria)

Cite:
Idézés:

Bukola Alwajud-Adewusi, Mariam & Sarafadeen, Toheeb Olanrewaju (2025). Parenting Styles as Predictor of Adolescents' Delinquent Behaviours. *Különleges Bánásmód Interdiszciplináris folyóirat* [Special Treatment Interdisciplinary Journal]. 11(1), 71-83. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.18458/KB.2025.1.71>



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EP / EE:

Ethics Permission / Etikai engedély: KB/2025/0006

Reviewers:
Lektorok:

Public Reviewers / Nyilvános Lektorok:

1. Mező, Katalin (PhD), University of Debrecen (Hungary)
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Anonymous reviewers / Anonim lektorok:

3. Anonymous reviewer (PhD) / Anonim lektor (PhD)
4. Anonymous reviewer (PhD) / Anonim lektor (PhD)

Abstract

Adolescence is a period attributed with series of changes, and sometimes, adolescents engage in deviant behaviour and violate societal norms. The impacts of these delinquent acts are deleterious and needed to be curbed. This study examined parenting styles as predictor of adolescents' delinquent behaviours. Married adults in Kwara State, Nigeria comprised the population of this study (n=300) and sample was chosen using simple random sampling technique from Kwara South Senatorial Districts. Questionnaire designed by the authors was used to collect data from the respondents. Mean and rank order analysis was used to answer the research questions. The hypothesis was tested using multiple regression at 0.05 level of significance. The finding revealed that authoritarian and authoritative parenting styles were common among married adults. It was shown that permissive and uninvolved parenting styles were the predictors of adolescents' delinquent behaviours. It was recommended that parent should endeavour to create

¹ Bukola Alwajud-Adewusi, Mariam (PhD), Departement of Educational Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, University of Ilorin (Nigeria). E-mail: alwajud.mb@unilorin.edu.ng, OrcidID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1856-6582>

² Sarafadeen, Toheeb Olanrewaju (PhD), Department of Educational Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, University of Ilorin (Nigeria). E-mail: sarafadeentoheeb247@gmail.com, OrcidID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0000-8743-521>

adequate time to interact with adolescent, listen to their worries, provide unambiguous responses to their queries and relate friendly with them. Counsellors should be adequately prepared to address the cases of youthful exuberance.

Keywords: adolescents; delinquent behaviours; parenting styles

Discipline: pedagogy, sociology

Absztrakt

A SZÜLŐI NEVELÉSI STÍLUSOK MINT A SERDÜLŐK DEVIÁNS VISELKEDÉSEINEK ELŐREJELZŐJE

A serdülőkor egy olyan időszak, amely számos változással jár, s előfordul, hogy a serdülők a társadalmi normák megsértésével deviáns viselkedést tanúsítanak. E deviáns cselekedetek hatásai károsak, és megfékezésre szorulnak. A tanulmány a szülői nevelési stílusokat a serdülők deviáns viselkedésének előre jelzése szempontjából vizsgálta. A kutatásba egyszerű véletlenszerű mintavételi technikával házasságban élő felnőtteket (n=300) vontak be a nigériai Kwara államban. Az adatgyűjtéshez a szerző által készített kérdőívet használták, az adatokat átlag- és rangsorolási elemzéssel elemezték a kutatási kérdések megválaszolásához. A hipotézist többszörös regresszióval tesztelték, 0,05-ös szignifikancia szint mellett. Az eredmények szerint az autoriter és az autoritativ szülői nevelési stílus volt a legjellemzőbb a házasságban élő felnőttek körében. Az eredmények rámutattak arra is, hogy a megengedő és az elhanyagoló nevelési stílusok előre jelezhetik a serdülők deviáns viselkedéseit. Javaslat: a szülők törekedjenek arra, hogy elegendő időt biztosítsanak a serdülőkkel való interakcióra, figyelmesen meghallgassák őket, egyértelmű válaszokat adjanak kérdéseikre, és barátságos kapcsolatot alakítsanak ki velük. A tanácsadóknak fel kell készülniük a serdülőkori viselkedési problémák kezelésére.

Kulcsszavak: serdülők; deviáns viselkedés; szülői nevelési stílusok

Diszciplína: neveléstudomány, szociológia

Introduction

Human beings pass through various phases during developmental process, of which adolescence is one of the stages. Adolescence emanated from the Latin word “adolescere,” this implies “to mature.” Maturity into adolescence covers a wide range of physical and biological tasks. Adolescence is the period when physical and psychological changes happen at a breakneck pace. It is the time of the onset of puberty when an individual transits from childhood into adulthood. Many modern definitions of adolescence differ depending on philosophy, with little discussion on why the proposed assumption was chosen. In the opinion of Curtis (2015), adolescence is a phase between

childhood and adulthood that lasted between the ages of 14-25 years for males and 12-21 years for females. Lansford and Banati (2018) defined adolescence as the period of growth from puberty to adulthood, which is characterized by marriage, parenthood, completion of formal education and financial independence. It is the transition from childhood immaturity to grownup maturity. It is often referred to as the storm and stress age. Experts consider the journey from childhood to adolescence to be a series of transitions. These transitions involve biological, physical, cognitive, social, and emotional changes. Adolescence, according to Steinberg (2014b), is a pivotal developmental stage that is traditionally defined as the

years between puberty and the attainment of social independence.

Adolescents experience psychosocial issues at some point during the developmental period. Many of these issues are temporary in nature and go unnoticed (Kakkad, Trivedi, Gitika & Raichandani, 2014). These issues are the result of interplay between genetic makeup and environmental circumstances. Many adolescents experience mood disorder, engage in deviant behaviour and violate societal norms. It is opined that disobedience, truancy, vandalism, fraud, sexual promiscuity, drug use, absenteeism, verbal abuse, cultism are some deviant behaviours perpetrated by adolescents. Adolescents also defy parental instructions and explore different situations (Zimmermann et al., 2022) which most times resulting in delinquent acts.

Delinquent behaviour according to Kenchadze (2015) is a criminal act committed by a human against the laws of society. Usually, it can be termed antisocial, deviance or criminal behaviour; all implies negative, harmful and destructive terminology. Gyansah, Soku and Esilfie (2015) referred to delinquency as any criminal act attracting fine, imprisonment and sometimes punishable by death. Similarly, delinquency is any criminal or unlawful behaviour committed by those who have not reached adulthood or reached the maturity age (Raselekoane, Mulaudzi, Thobejane, & Baloyi, 2019). Delinquent behaviour can be viewed in different dimensions; it occurred at home, which involves disruptive acts such as stealing and lying. It also occurs in educational settings, which surrounds around interruption of classroom activities and violation of school rules and regulations. This includes bullying, absenteeism, examination malpractices among others. The other dimension affects the larger society which includes vandalizing government property, kidnapping, robbery and insurgency. In the opinion of Aw, Widiarti, Setiawan, Mustaffa, Ali and Hastasari (2020), delin-

quency can be grouped as low, moderate, and high. Low level of delinquency may include violating school guidelines, displaying truancy, scribbling on walls and lots more. Moderate delinquency includes bullying, fights, hate speech to mention a few. High delinquency refers to such that leads to criminal acts, such as criminal gangs, illegal racing, sharp weapons misuse, possession and use of hard drugs, assault, theft, sexual harassment and others.

Behaviour is regulated not only by required legislation, but also by societal ethical and moral norms. In the opinion of Kenchadze (2015), understanding crimes is based on the principle of normalization, which states that guilt is determined by the norms and regulations binding the civil society. Sarwar (2016); Yemane (2020) grouped delinquent behaviour into two categories; status offenses and delinquency offenses. Status offenses are those acts not regarded as punishable if committed by an adolescent. They include truancy, alcohol possession or use, staying out late while delinquent offenses are punishable and include property destruction, illegal weapon possession and possession or sale of narcotics.

The involvement of adolescents in antisocial behaviour keeps rising. Gyansah, Soku and Esilfie (2015) reported that the Department of Social welfare in Ghana recorded 276 juvenile disruptive cases in 2007; and in 2010, it recorded a daily detention of 115 juvenile delinquents. Similarly, adolescents were reported to be responsible for a high percentage of all criminal acts reported by Kenyan police (wa Teresia, 2021). Diwe, Aguocha and Duru (2016) reported a high prevalence of delinquent behaviour among adolescents in Nigeria. The study of Ikediashi and Akande (2015); Vipene, Agi and Chikwendu (2020) in Nigeria also agreed that the increase in antisocial behaviour among adolescents is evident. The high occurrence of delinquent behaviour among youth is not limited to Africa. Molero Jurado et al., (2017) stated that in Almeria; a province in Spain, a high rate of

antisocial behaviour was recorded. In the United States of America, 850,500 cases of delinquency were recorded in 2016; 1000 cases were convicted, 235,600 cases of young boys, and 614,900 cases of youths under the age of 17 being reported (Niha-yati, Sholihah & Qonaah, 2020). Darvishi et al., (2022) reported high prevalence of delinquent behaviour among adolescents. It pointed that delinquent behaviour is high in United States of America and India. It was mentioned that adolescents were involved in theft, vandalism and substance use. Gupta, Mohapatra and Mahanta (2022) recorded a high rate of delinquent behaviour in India. Globally, the incidence of delinquent acts is one of the worrisome societal issues. The rate of crime is alarming; its impact on individual, family and society is enormous and therefore calls for checking into determinants of antisocial behaviour among adolescents. The nature-nurture approach that determines the disposition of an individual cannot be over emphasizing. It is the nature approach that resulted in the styles of parenting which could predict delinquent behaviour. Mousavi and Ghayoomzadeh (2020) reported that parental history and background such as parental socio-economic status, quarrels, addiction, unemployment, and a past reference of a criminal conviction and imprisonment are predictors of adolescent's delinquent behaviour. Cabrera, Herrera, Rubalcava and Martinez (2017) pointed at domestic violence, family stress, parental criminal acts and poor parental relationship as family predictors that can predispose adolescent to antisocial behaviour. Alwajud-Adewusi, Umar and Odenike (2021) added that parental attitudes strongly determine the disposition and behaviour of children. In the same manner, the nurture approach that led to environmental related factors which determine delinquent behaviour is also paramount. Such environmental factors can expose adolescents to delinquent behaviour. Factors such as poverty and unemployment can predict delinquent behaviour among

adolescents. Adegoke (2015) pointed at poverty, broken home and influence of peer to be the major factors that predispose adolescents to delinquent behaviour. Vipene, Agi and Chikwendu 2020 agreed that frustration emanated from poverty can lead an individual to indulge in delinquent acts. Mathews and Savarimuthu 2020 added unhealthy environment, abandonment of basic needs and influence of peer to predict adolescents' delinquent behaviour. Parenting style is a multifaceted activity that involves a variety of dissimilar behaviours that work together and separately to impact child's outcomes (Baumrind, 2012; Sahithya, Manohari & Vijaya 2019). Parenting style is a model or practice that portrays the general methods which parents employ to raise children (Berge, Sundell, Ojehagen & Hakansson, 2016; Altaf, Hassan, Khattak & Iqbal, 2021). It is a practical guide to teach the children the norms, morals, values and social skills to survive in society. It resembles the emotive climate in which parents adapted to nurture children (Steinberg & Darling, 2017; Rangarajan et al., 2020). It involves a combination of parental approaches and conducts that parents usually apply consistently to manage the acts of children and is influenced by patterns of control, responsiveness, warmth, and punishment (Sahithya, Manohari & Vijaya, 2019).

A parent is someone who cares for a child while growing up; this refers to a father or mother and in some situations, siblings, grand-parents, uncle, aunt, or any other family member can assume the role of parents. In many circumstances, the biological parent is the primary care-giver, but in cases, such as orphans, the government and social institutions play an important role in child rearing (Pratap & Yadav, 2019). From childhood to adulthood, parents play a very essential role in mentoring, guiding and developing the children. The manner in which parent models the children determines the conduct and character displayed. Parents that practice dialogue and open communi-

cation approach are more likely to have cheerful, energetic and less violent children (Kapetanovic, Boele & Skoog, 2019). Likewise, parents who do not permit the ex-expression of needs and feelings could raise de-pressed, violent and dissatisfied children (Wairimu, Macharia & Muiru, 2016; Amran & Basri, 2020).

Developmental psychologists believe that parenting styles such as playing with children, correcting the children, assisting the children and many happenings between children and parents have an influence on children's behaviour, attitude and relationships later in life. The nurturing of children in a particular direction follows a cultural framework (Garcia, Serra, Oscar, Martinez & Cruise, 2019). Therefore, culture has a significant impact on parenting styles. Culture establishes the boundaries of conventional behaviour that must be monitored and rewarded (Gafoor & Kurukkan, 2014). It also explains the limits of undesirable that should be refrained and punished. This follows that parenting styles differ from one culture to another. Parenting technique is predicted to be hereditary; it can be passed from generation to generation. Some individuals adopt the methods of their descendants to raising children while some prefer experimenting with different approaches to raising children which translate to what they feel to be the most beneficial (Garcia & Santiago, 2017).

Regardless of the parenting style preferred to raise a child, research has found that parenting styles may be classified into two groups namely responsiveness and demandingness. The responsiveness or warmth approach shows care and acceptance, support and communicate with children; allowed individual development through self-assertion (Garcia & Serra, 2019). Aldhafri (2016) claimed that the demandingness approves well defined monitoring measures, direct confrontation, and discipline patterns to train the children.

Following another pattern of classification, three parenting styles were developed in the 1960s by a

developmental psychologist named Diana Baumrind, who agreed the parenting styles of authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive or indulgent (Power, 2013). In 1983, Baumrind's study was elaborated by Maccoby and Martin who discovered the fourth parenting style; uninvolved or neglectful (Kuppens & Ceulemans, 2018; Sawar, 2016). These four parenting styles corresponded with high and low values on the responsiveness (warmth) and demandingness (control) dimensions, respectively. This study hinged on this classification. Authoritative parents provide a caring atmosphere, open communication with children and offer a high level of constant emotional support (Garcia & Santiago, 2017). The authoritative parents offer bi-directional communication; set rules for children and listen to children's opinions on the regulations. In authoritarian parenting style, parents placed a high level of demand and a low level of response (Hoskins, 2014). Authoritarian parents impose strict rules and mandate punishment for breaking the rules (Khurram & Fayyaz, 2016; Ada, Mahour, Agrawal, Arya & Kar, 2018). Authoritarian parents provided strict discipline, allowed limited flexibility, and a controlled environment (Tapia, Alarid & Clare, 2018). Permissive parents tend to indulge the children by granting unlimited freedom (Santrock, 2017). Parents that practice a permissive style rarely enforce regulations; do not enforce rules on the children (Garcia & Santiago, 2017). Permissive parents allow the children to participate willingly without being apprehensive. It is characterized with autonomy; inadequate parental monitoring and discipline (Mishra & Biswal, 2020).

Uninvolved parenting style shows slight love and applies little control over the child (Johnson, 2016). Neglectful or uninvolved parenting, according to Garcia and Serra (2019), is described with the lowest quality parent-child relationships. Uninvolved parenting lacks monitoring and does not promote the child's interests; this type of parent is

concerned with self rather than the child's (Panetta, Somers, Ceresnie, Hillman & Partridge, 2014).

The great impact of parenting on the life of children cannot be overstressed. The fundamental agents of socialization are home and parent. The educational institutions ranging from primary, secondary to tertiary institutions are also major elements of socialization. Counselling sessions and techniques are equally useful to address the feelings and emotions of adolescents. The roles of these institutions are very vital to the development of adolescents while lackadaisical attitude could be detrimental to their future. Therefore, achievements, goals and expectations in adulthood largely depended on the care, attention and training received in childhood and adolescence period. The friendly emotional atmosphere enjoyed by children while growing up created a functioning support system, eloquent expression and positive self-image. These resulted in healthy well-being, efficient relationship and a courteous way of life. On the contrary, neglected and maltreated children are likely to suffer rejection and transgression because of scarce support system, inadequate care and lack of communication which might lead into unacceptable behaviour and indecent way of life.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the conduct of this study:

1. What are the parenting styles of married adults in Kwara State?
2. What are the common delinquent behaviours exhibited by adolescents in Kwara State?

Research Hypothesis

The following null hypothesis was formulated and tested in this study: Parenting styles will not significantly predict delinquent behaviours of adolescents in Kwara State.

Method

The research design employed for this study is a survey design of correlational type. The thrust of the study is to establish the relationship between parenting styles and adolescents' delinquent behaviour.

The population of the study comprised all married adults in Kwara State and married adults from the selected local government areas formed the target population of this study. In selecting the sample for this study, the authors adopted simple random sampling technique to select Kwara South Senatorial Districts out of the three districts existed in Kwara State. In Kwara South Senatorial District, there are Ekiti, Ifelodun, Isin, Irepodun, Oke-Ero and Oyun Local Government Areas (LGAs). Using randomisation technique, the author selected Ifelodun, Irepodun and Oyun LGAs to pick participants for the study. From these three LGAs, 300 married adults were selected as respondents that participated in the study. The married adults were selected from schools, religious centres and government agencies. The criteria for participation in the study include ability to read and write English language, having marital years of not less than 5 years.

The instrument used for this study is a questionnaire; the questionnaire was structured by the authors. It was arranged in three sections (A, B, and C). Information on section A was used to obtain demographic data of respondents. Section B comprised items on characteristics of different parenting styles while section C consisted of items on delinquent acts traced to adolescents. The questionnaire was patterned on four-point type rating scale of Strongly Agree, 4 points; Agree, 3 points; Disagree, 2 points and Strongly Disagree, 1 point. The mean score for scoring was 2.50.

The reliability of the questionnaire was ascertained by administering the questionnaire to married adults in Ilorin Metropolis; the metropolis was not part of the locale for the study. It was administered to the same respondents at an interval

of four weeks in order to enable test-retest reliability. The reliability coefficient was carried out and the result was 0.77. The validity of the questionnaire was equally investigated by experts in the field of marital counselling and sociology. Corrections and suggestions pointed out were amended accordingly.

The respondents were informed of the objectives of this study and permission was received before the administration of the questionnaire in the entire locale used. The respondents were asked not to write names on the questionnaire to maintain privacy. The administration of the questionnaire to the respondents was done by the authors with the help of two trained research assistants.

The data was retrieved for the process of analysis. Descriptive and inferential statistical methods were employed to analyse the data collected for this study at 0.05 alpha level.

Result

Research Question 1: What are the parenting styles of married adults in Kwara State?

Table 1 presents the mean, standard deviation and rank order analysis of the respondents' parenting styles.

Research Question 2: What are the common delinquent behaviours exhibited by adolescents in Kwara State?

Table 1. Mean and Rank Order Analysis of the Respondents' Parenting Styles. Source. Author.

No	As a married adult:	Mean	SD	Rank
9	I spent quality time with my children	3.29	.889	1 st
7	I give priorities to my children need	3.27	.867	2 nd
8	I give my children reasons why rules should be obeyed	3.26	.860	3 rd
6	I encourage my children to talk about his or her troubles	3.22	.925	4 th
2	I set rules that must be strictly followed by my children	3.04	.904	4 th
3	I punish my children when rules are broken	3.02	.978	6 th
10	I take my children desires into account before making decision	3.02	.898	7 th
1	I impose decisions on my children	2.86	1.096	8 th
4	I slap or spank my children when he or she misbehaves	2.63	1.009	9 th
5	I hardly allow my children to express his or her feelings	2.34	1.153	10 th
15	I allow my children to make his or her decision	2.17	.954	11 th
14	I rarely punish my children	2.13	1.020	12 th
13	I rarely set any kind of boundaries for my children	2.09	.979	13 th
11	I am less concerned about my children's behaviours	2.05	1.090	14 th
12	I accept my children's behaviours, whether good or bad	2.02	1.011	15 th
19	I rarely assign any duty to my children to do at home	1.82	.921	16 th
16	I say nothing whenever my children do something wrong	1.76	1.002	17 th
18	I hardly care about what is going on in my children life	1.75	.981	18 th
17	I never have any close relationship with my children	1.75	.944	19 th
20	I rather face my own life than my children life	1.68	.923	20 th

Table 2. Mean and Rank Order Analysis of the Respondents' View on Adolescents Delinquent Behaviours. Source. Author.

Item No	As far as I am concerned, my adolescent child engages in the following behaviours:	Mean	SD	Rank
2	telling lies	2.02	1.118	1 st
1	disobeying school rules and regulations	2.01	1.159	2 nd
20	imprudent use of funds	1.91	1.094	3 rd
3	frequently absent from school	1.82	1.021	4 th
6	refuses to take corrections	1.79	.938	4 th
7	scribbles on walls	1.78	.911	6 th
5	usually use abusive language	1.76	.999	7 th
4	bullying young ones	1.76	.970	8 th
13	running away from home	1.66	.898	9 th
8	quarrel with peers	1.64	.844	10 th
15	putting on indecent dressing	1.60	.818	11 th
11	display truancy	1.60	.818	12 th
9	colour his or her hair	1.59	.790	13 th
10	assault elderly	1.57	.792	14 th
17	staying out late at night	1.57	.821	15 th
14	Stealing	1.57	.784	16 th
19	watching of pornography	1.56	.762	17 th
12	involves himself or herself in examination malpractice	1.56	.767	18 th
18	involves himself or herself in gambling	1.52	.765	19 th
16	disobeys curfew instruction	1.51	.795	20 th

Table 2 presents the mean, standard deviation and rank order analysis of the respondents' view on adolescents' delinquent behaviours.

Hypothesis: Parenting styles will not significantly predict delinquent behaviours of adolescents in Kwara State.

Table 3 shows that the independent variable

(parenting styles) has a contribution to the prediction of adolescents' delinquent behaviours. This was confirmed by the result of Multiple R = 0.340, Multiple R square is 0.115, Adjusted Multiple R is 0.112 and the Standard Error is 10.222. It was revealed that the independent variable $R^2 = 0.115$ of the variance which is significant as indicated by the calculated F-value of 3.884.

Table 3. Summary Table of Multiple Regression Analysis Showing Prediction of Independent Variable (Parenting Styles) on Adolescents Delinquents Behaviour in Kwara State. Source. Author.

Multiple R = 0.340						
Multiple R ² = 0.115						
Multiple R ² (Adjusted) = 0.112						
Standard Error = 10.222						
Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	Cal F-value	Sig.	Critical F-Value
Regression	4062.867	2	4062.867	3.884	.000	3.872
Residual	31137.303	297	104.488			
Total	35200.170	299				

Table 4. Test of the Significance of the Regression Coefficients. Source. Author.

Variable	B	Std Error	Beta	t-value	p-value
Constant	51.184	2.848		17.972	.000
Authoritarian	-1.082	0.174	.115	2.113*	.055
Permissive	45.158	3.177	.173	3.231*	.001
Uninvolved	0.551	0.140	.210	3.927*	.000
Authoritative	-1.008	0.171	.036	0.626*	.532

Significant, $p < 0.05$

Table 4 Indicates the contribution of each parenting style under the independent variable to the prediction of adolescents' delinquent behaviours with permissive and uninvolved parenting styles being the predictors of delinquent behaviours among adolescents as uninvolved being the most potent with ($\beta = 0.210$, $t = 3.927$; $p < 0.05$) followed by permissive with ($\beta = 0.173$, $t = 3.231$; $p < 0.05$), since these parenting styles p-value of 0.000 and 0.001 are less than 0.05. Hence, uninvolved and permissive parenting styles are predictors of adolescents' delinquent behaviours. It was also shown that authoritative and authoritarian parenting styles had ($\beta = 0.036$, $t = 0.626$; $p > 0.05$) and ($\beta = 0.115$, $t = 2.113$; $p > 0.05$) respectively. Hence, authoritative and authoritarian parenting styles are not predictors of adolescents' delinquent

behaviours because the p-value is greater than the critical value of 0.05.

Discussion

The findings of this study revealed that authoritarian and authoritative parenting styles were common among married adults in Kwara State. The finding of this study contradicts the study of Ada, Mahour, Agrawal, Arya and Kar (2018) who found that permissive style was the common parenting style. The reason for this finding could be that the respondents are influenced by the African cultural belief system which assumed that parents dominates and directs the affairs of children. It entails caring, tutoring and guiding the children in a manner that gives the children little or no chance to act otherwise. This

style does not usually permit the decision of the children to supersede the parents'.

The finding also revealed that delinquent behaviours such as telling lies, disobeying school rules and regulations, imprudent use of funds, frequently absent from school, refusal to take corrections among others were not common among adolescents in Kwara State. This finding negates the submission of Vipene, Agi and Chikwendu (2020) which showed that adolescents demonstrated delinquent actions such as examination fraudulent, use of substance, extortion of money among others. This may be due to the fact that children are not exposed to the factors that predispose adolescents to delinquent behaviour. Some of the factors which predispose adolescents to vice are peer pressure, unlimited access to social media, independence, and use of substance. The reason could also be traced to the kind of training adolescents are exposed to. Many adolescents are aware of the consequences of delinquent behaviour through the training received from their parents.

The hypothesis which stated that parenting styles will not significantly predict adolescents' delinquent behaviours was rejected; it was found that permissive and uninvolved parenting style were the predictors of adolescents' delinquent behaviours. This corroborates the findings of Berge, Sundell, Öjehagen and Håkansson (2016) which showed that uninvolved style permitted antisocial behaviour.

The finding is in tandem with the submission of Amran and Basri (2020) which showed that association exists between parenting styles and adolescents' delinquent behaviours. The reason adduced for this finding is that quality time and effort expended on training of children immensely contribute to shaping the behaviour and determining the attitude of the children. The child that was neither cared for nor monitored the activities being pursued may likely engage in acts that is against the norms of society.

The permissive and uninvolved parenting styles encourages children's liberation. It permits children to explore; does not restrict the children from experimenting with the happenings around which can eventually result in delinquent behaviour.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Authoritarian and authoritative parenting styles are preferred by married adults in Kwara State for mentoring the adolescents. As a result of this, the common antisocial actions that are usually perpetrated by adolescents are not found among adolescents in Kwara State. This study therefore recommended that parent should continue to create adequate time to interact with adolescent, listen to their worries, provide unambiguous response to their queries and relate friendly with them.

Implication for Counselling Practice. Counselling seminars and workshop should be given priority to cater for the needs of young people. Counsellors should be adequately prepared to address the cases of youthful exuberance. Public enlightenment should be arranged for adolescents through radio, television stations and social media platforms on impacts of delinquent acts in future. Awards and prizes should be given at various levels of education to encourage well-behaved students. Gatherings involving adolescents should be organized in order to recognise those that are well-behaved and serve as encouragement for others.

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