

**INFLUENCE OF FAMILY ENVIRONMENT AND PEER
PRESSURE ON CRIMINAL TENDENCIES AMONG
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS OF FEDERAL UNIVERSITY
OF LAFIA, NASARAWA STATE, NIGERIA**

**Suleiman Aliyu Abubakar^{1*}, Abdullahi Oyiwose Aliyu², Sulaiman Babayo³,
Yakubu Angyo Zakariya⁴, Zubairu Aliyu Muhammad⁵, Asheson Bernard
Enneh⁶, & Rukaiyat Allahnana⁷**

^{1,2,3}Department of Psychology, Federal University of Lafia, Nigeria.

^{4,5,6,7}Department of Social Development, Isa Mustapha Agwai 1 Polytechnic Lafia, Nigeria.

*suleiman220@gmail.com

ABSTRACT: The study investigated the influence of family environment and peer pressure on criminal tendencies among Undergraduate Students of Federal University of Lafia, Nasarawa State. Three hundred and nine-one participants with ages ranging from 17-28 years (Mean= 18.69; SD=9.52) were selected from different departments of the institution using simple random sampling technique. Cross-sectional survey design was adopted for the study. Three hypotheses were formulated and tested using Simple Linear Regression and Multiple Regressions analysis. Simple Linear regression and multiple regression indicated that there was a positive relationship between family environment and criminal tendency ($R = 0.793 = R^2 = 0.542$ ($F(1,390) = 184.184$, $t = 14.260$, $p < .05$). Further analysis revealed that peer pressure significantly influenced criminal tendency ($R = 0.576 = R^2 = 0.153$ ($F(1,390) = 24.630$, $t = 6.706$, $p < .05$). Also, result of hypothesis three indicated a significant relationship between family environment and peer pressure on criminal tendency ($R = 0.835 = R^2 = .610$ ($F(2, 389) = 106.487$, $t = -5.087$, $p < .05$). It was recommended among others that; parents should be mindful of the kind of peers their children/wards associate with because they can learn bad behaviours from them.

Keywords: Family Environment, Peer Pressure and Criminal Tendency.

INTRODUCTION

Crime is one of the continuous problems that bedevil the existence of mankind. Crime has been a disturbing threat to humanity, property and lawful authority (Louis, Cookie, Arizona & Sheldon, 1981). Crime started in the primitive days as a simple and less organized issue, and ended up today as very complex and organized phenomenal because of its typology, pattern of execution and causes. It is a changing concept, dependent upon the social development of a people that is upon the fundamental interest and values dominating a common belief.

Crime can be seen as an infraction of both the basic principles of law and order and the norms of civilised behaviour. No society is immune from this thorny social problem but what differs is the frequency and magnitude of the situation and the response mechanisms to address same (Emeh, 2012). Moreover, crime is viewed as a conduct behaviour or an act which violates the criminal law or formal or written laws of a state for which a punishment is prescribed (Schmallenger, 2004; Terito, Halstaed, & Bromley, 2004; Adler, Mullier & Laufer, 2001).

Behaviour that does not conform to the cultural norms or laws of a given society at a particular time and is often times negatively sanctioned, is referred to as criminal. This implies that non-conformity to a given set of laws or norms that are accepted by a significant number of people in a community, society or group is a criminal act. Society highly values conformity and expects it to be accepted and upheld by its members. Criminal Thinking” is generally considered to be a way of thinking in which an individual finds the easiest solution to a problem. For instance, if a person is hungry and has no means of buying food “Criminal Thinking” would suggest said person take food to eat without paying for it. Furthermore, Criminal Thinking as defined is “Thought content and process conducive to the initiation and maintenance of habitual lawbreaking behaviour.” Attempting to understand and predict criminal behaviour has been an important and popular area of research for decades. It is interesting to know that thousands of offenders or criminals would be released from prison only for them to return to crime. After being rearrested, they claim that they could not find employment, housing, and financial stability and perhaps social support. According to Clan and Shapiro (2007), many continue to struggle with legal difficulties as well as simple everyday processes which makes them to return to prison. It is pertinent for researchers in forensic discipline to search for ways to redirect criminal behaviour and seek to minimise the impact crime has on the society, in view of this, this present study sought to explore what is actually responsible for criminal behaviour. Based on the study of Lemieux (2020), she indicated that criminal thinking processes in criminal offenders are responsible for their criminalities.

Closely related to dynamic risk factors is the notion of a pervasive criminal thinking style or pattern of maladaptive thinking errors. These errors have been empirically investigated in relation to predicting criminal behaviour and recidivism (Yochelson & Samenow, 1976; 1977; Walters, 1990; Mandracchia, Morgan, Garos, & Garland, 2007).

In 2017, crime statistics on reported offences reflected that a total of 13,663 reported cases offence against property has the highest number of cases reported with 68,579 of such cases reported. Offence against persons recorded 53,641 cases reported while offence against lawful authority recorded the least with 12,443 cases recorded with 50,975 (37.9%) cases recorded. Abia and Delta state followed closely with 12,408 (9.2%) and 7,150 (5.3%) cases recorded respectively. Kebbi state has the lowest percentage share of total cases reported with 205 (0.2%) cases recorded. Kogi and Bauchi states followed closely 288 (0.20%) and 386 (0.30%) cases recorded respectively (NBS, 2018).

Daily Sun newspaper reported on 4th January 2023 that, in Nigeria, the year 2022 ended well for some people but it also ended badly for many others who would not forget in a hurry the turbulence they went through. For many Nigerians, the sour taste of the year would remain indelible, especially those who experienced one attack or the other. There was fear everywhere such that life became short and brutish; no one was safe. Today, Nigerians are on edge. Commuting on roads and the railways has become dangerous, as these have been turned to kidnappers and robbers’ hunting grounds. It seems only the airspace is safe. But due to high airfare, travellers have resorted to road travel.

In 2022, there was hardly a day that passed without one gory tale of travellers being killed or abducted by kidnappers or bandits. Farmers have abandoned their farms for fear of bandits, who kill them or abduct them for ransom. Those who summon courage to go to the farm pay tolls to bandits before they are allowed to plant or harvest their produce. The security agencies

were overwhelmed and over-stretched. In some cases, law enforcement agents were behind the tragedies and there seemed to be no end in sight.

Also, according to Punch Newspaper 30th December, 2022. No fewer than 810 suspected criminals have been arrested by the Nasarawa State Police Command from January to December 2022. The command from January to December 2022 has recorded remarkable achievements in its fight against crime and criminality in the state.

Out of the 810 suspects arrested this year, 136 of them are for cases connected to armed robbery; 112 of them were arrested on matters that have to do with kidnapping; 138 of them were suspected cultist. 374 of the suspects have so far been charged to court and 23 of them were convicted while the others are still being investigated at our facilities across the state.

Similarly, the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) classification of crime also depends on what law prescribed. In Nigeria Police Abstract of Statistics (NPACS), offences are categorized into four main categories:

Firstly, offences against persons includes: manslaughter, murder and attempted murder, assault, rape, child stealing, grievous hurt and wounding, etc.

Secondly, offences against property includes: armed robbery, house and store breakings, forgery, theft/stealing, etc.

Thirdly, offences against lawful authority include: forgery of current notes, gambling, breach of peace, bribery and corruption, etc.

The home environment has been identified as the most significant among other factors that hinders or fosters acceptable behaviour or antisocial behaviour in children. Many researchers indicated that home environment includes such important variables as parenting style, occupations, educational level of the parents, and family structure.

Children whose parents hold them in high regard are likely to incorporate parental values into their own personalities. This should enable them to exercise self-control and to behave appropriately even when the parents are not present. In contrast, children whose parents show less acceptance may fail to internalize their parents' values and tend to be less self-controlled. They may comply with parents demands in the parent's presence (Perhaps out of fear of punishment, but misbehave on their own). Child development behaviour can be affected by a number of things, but a big factor may be the parents. Depending on the severity of a broken home, the parent's relationship with each other, as well as their children, can affect how their children behave and may even develop. This doesn't mean that a parent's divorce can make it so a child can never climb steps or hop on one foot, but it can make it harder for children to develop social skills and may even set back their moral behaviour and leading them to be delinquent.

Social influence of others is a continuing process that can be seen as a basis of individuals' socialization across the life span. Arguably, one of the most important periods and one marked by remarkable and rapid changes is adolescence. During this period, the concept of peer pressure is related to a mutual influence process known as peer contagion through which peers become increasingly similar over time in different characteristics (Dishon & Dodge, 2005).

During adolescence, peer relationships take on increasing importance and play a critical role in adolescents' development of intimacy, social skills and self-concept (Klarin, 2006). Through interactions with others, adolescents create their identity and build self-concept. Teenagers, because they want to be accepted by their peers, may willingly abandon many of the norms, values, attitudes, and behaviours taught previously (e.g., parents, schools). There are different mechanisms of mutual influence process, and one of the most frequently mechanisms referred to is youth peer pressure. In the current literature various researchers made a distinction between peer pressure and peer influence. For instance, Kiran-Esen (2003) and Sim and Koh (2003) suggest that every influence exerted by a peer group is a form of peer pressure. According to them, peer pressure is defined as persuading or encouraging another person to engage in certain types of behaviour. It can be direct or indirect. However, indirect peer pressure is not always as obvious to a person as direct peer pressure. According to McIntosh et al. (2003)

According to Brown et al. (Brown, 1982; Brown, Clasen, & Eicher, 1995) susceptibility to peer pressure is a multidimensional construct that needs to consider different domains in which adolescents perceive peer prompting. In order to identify peer pressure domains, Brown et al. (1986) asked teenagers to report on pressures they perceive from peers. Based on content analysis, five domains were identified: (1) family involvement, (2) school involvement, (3) peer involvement, (4) peer norms (e.g., to follow peers' musical tastes or dressing), and (5) misconduct. It seems that peer pressure, to a certain extent, occurs in all key domains of adolescent life. In addition, authors have also examined susceptibility to peer pressure and perception of the intensity of peer pressure in a sample of teenagers ranging in age from 12 to 18 years. With respect to different domains, the results of the study have shown that adolescents report peer pressure to engage in misconduct less frequently than other forms of peer pressure. Furthermore, gender differences were observed only in the misconduct domain with boys being more susceptible to peer pressure than girls. Most of the current research has focused on processes related to peer pressure and its negative effects on adolescent development (Berndt, 1979; Brown, 1999; Santor, Messervey & Kusumakar, 2000). However, very little is known about the characteristics that make teens more prone to peer pressure (Allen, Porter, & McFarland, 2006).

Furthermore, peers support each other in periods rife with new challenges and development of autonomy. Given this sense of shared experiences (i.e., pressures and stressors), adolescents feel most understood by and connected to their peers. During adolescence supportive friendships boost adolescent's self-esteem and promote adaptive strategies for coping with stress (Kaplan, 2004). Contrary to common opinion, peer groups provide support and encouragement for adolescents to develop new skills and abilities. In order to better understand the construct of peer pressure, it is necessary to identify predictors of susceptibility to peer pressure.

Statement of the Problem

Crime among the youths is on the increase day by day. This increase has resulted in many problems that is pushing the country to the edge of none existence. One of the majors that is as a result of violent when is not control is banditry, kidnapping and murder. Many indigenes of Lafia metropolis are victims of kidnapping and murder which has well resulted to death and causes psychological trauma among them. Many parents have gone to their early grave as a result of this particular act of banditry and kidnapping.

Crime among the youths has also resulted into secret cult activities. Youths are dying on daily basis due to killing among the different groups as a result of fear of domination. All the groups are killing themselves which that has also resulted into innocent victims' death as well. The cultists' activities have also resulted to arm robberies where many innocent people fall victims. The cause of Crime among students are not known thereby making the researcher to come up with family environment and peer pressure as influencers for the purpose of control.

It has been observed that, several nations have grappled with the rising incidence of homicide, armed robbery, kidnapping, drugs and human trafficking, illegal gun running and a host of others (Ukoji, 2006). The alarming level of insecurity in Nigeria has fuelled the crime through criminal thinking mind and has increased the rate of terrorists' attacks in different parts of the country, for the nation's economy and growth (Igbini, 2020). Despite the plethora of security measures taken to address the daunting challenges of insecurity in Nigeria, government efforts have not produced the desired positive result and hence the need to look for solutions to this menace. The conservative or traditional approaches seem to be curative rather than preventive. This therefore calls for efforts that will look at the root causes of crime, so that we stop treating symptom rather than causes.

Even though the literature indicates that peer pressure has a significant relationship with crime, it is also hypothesized that family environment will have influence to the presence of criminal tendency.

To this end, this particular study is geared toward looking and examining the influence of family environment and peer pressure on criminal behaviour among undergraduate students of Federal University of Lafia. Nasarawa State.

Research Questions

The study was guided by the following research questions:

1. What is the relationship between family environment and criminal tendency among undergraduate students of Federal University of Lafia. Nasarawa State?
2. What is the relationship between peer pressure and criminal tendency among undergraduate students of Federal University of Lafia. Nasarawa State?
3. What is the joint relationship between family environment and peer pressure on criminal tendency among undergraduate students of Federal University of Lafia. Nasarawa State?

Objectives of the Study

The study looked at the following objectives:

1. Examined the relationship between family environment and criminal tendency among undergraduate students of Federal University of Lafia. Nasarawa State.
2. Determined relationship between peer pressure and criminal tendency among undergraduate students of Federal University of Lafia. Nasarawa State.

3. Investigated the joint significant relationship between family environment and peer pressure on criminal tendency among undergraduate students of Federal University of Lafia, Nasarawa State.

Hypotheses

The study tested the following hypotheses:

1. There was a significant relationship between family environment and criminal tendency among undergraduate students of Federal University of Lafia, Nasarawa State.
2. There was a significant relationship between peer pressure and criminal tendency among undergraduate students of Federal University of Lafia, Nasarawa State.
3. There was a joint significant relationship between family environment and peer pressure on criminal tendency among undergraduate students of Federal University of Lafia, Nasarawa State.

Empirical Review of Literature

Family Environment and Criminal tendency

Faisal and Mohammad (2013) examined some family environmental factors that influence antisocial behaviour in adolescents. The study used semi-structured type of interview schedule to collect. The total sample of the present study was 300 in number divided into two groups; the first one is 150 male delinquent adolescents were selected. The second group is 150 non-delinquents with their age ranging from 12-17 years. The frequency table, percentage and chi-square were derived and utilized in statistical analysis to assess differences between the two groups of delinquents and non-delinquents on different family environmental variables. The findings indicate that environmental variables like size of the family, economic deprivation, parental deprivation, family discipline, inter-parental relationship, child-parent relationship and parental acceptance-rejection play an important and effective role in the developmental growth of personality as well as social behaviour of the delinquents. The researchers suggested that family counselling will be an effective way to guide the public to the importance of a healthy family environment.

Ugwu and Stanley (2017) investigated family dynamics as determinants of antisocial behaviours among in-school adolescents in Asari-Toru Local Government Area of Rivers State. Ex-post facto research design was used for the study and questionnaire was used as instrument to collect data from Four Hundred and Forty-Five (445) respondents drawn from ten government senior secondary schools. The collected data was analysed using ANOVA, means and standard deviations. The research found that parent socio-economic status has influence on students' delinquent behaviours. While on the other hand, family size was found not to have any significant influence on delinquency. Based on the findings, it was recommended that parents, guardians, classroom teachers, guidance counsellors and other individuals involved should help raise children/wards in a way that promotes the collective interest of the society.

Tayo-Olajubutu (2017) carried out a study designed to appraise delinquent behaviours among secondary school students in Akure North and Akure South Local Government Areas of Ondo State, Nigeria. The research adopted a descriptive survey method. The sample consisted of Two hundred students of senior secondary classes two and three (SS2 and SS3) were used as sample. The research instrument used for data collection for the study was a self-constructed questionnaire. Data collected were analysed using frequency and percentage. Findings from the study showed that delinquent behaviours among secondary school students can be traced to cumulating factors which include; lack of proper attention of parents to their children at home; coupled with lack of regular visitation of parents to their children or wards at school, parents not limiting their children on the types of films, music or games they watch on the social media which encourage lots of negative behaviours among the students. The study's finding also showed that many parents do not serve as good models to their children or wards.

Also, Fengxian and his colleagues (2016) investigated the family environment, parental rearing styles, and personality traits in the development of among Chinese youths. The study sample consisted of 290 juvenile offenders and 188 juvenile controls, which had no delinquency record, between 12 and 25 years of age. Family Environment Scale-Chinese Version (FES-CV), Family Upbringing Styles questionnaire (FUSQ), the Big Five-factor Inventory (FFI-R) and Barrett Impulsiveness Scale (BIS-11) constituted the research questionnaire used to collect data for the study. The results of analysis of the data showed that Cohesion, expressiveness, and active-recreational orientation scores were significantly higher, and conflict, achievement orientation, and moral-religious emphasis scores were significantly lower in offenders than in controls ($p < 0.05$, $p < 0.01$, $p < 0.001$). Scores along all 10 FUSQ dimensions were significantly lower in offenders than that in controls ($p < 0.001$). Openness and agreeableness scores were significantly lower, while impulsivity scores were significantly higher in offenders than that in controls ($p < 0.001$). The researchers thus concluded that family environments, parental rearing styles, and personality traits affected the development of adolescent antisocial behaviour (Fengxian et al., 2016).

Peer Pressure and Criminal Tendency

The focus in criminological research on the influence of delinquent peers on delinquency has led the field to almost entirely ignore the influence of conforming peers on conformity. There have been some studies that sought to examine the influence of peer pressure on criminal behaviour and thinking. Take for example, Onoyase and Ebenuwa (2018) examined the relationship among Adolescents' developmental characteristics, peer group influence and their anti-social behaviours. The findings revealed that physical, intellectual, social/emotional characteristics and peer group influence adolescents' anti-social behaviours. It was recommended that adolescents should be made to indulge in productive leisure time activities where they can dissipate their energies.

Furthermore, Esiri (2016), in his study on how peer pressure influences criminal behaviour, found out that dimensions of peer pressure influence criminal behaviour in adolescents. Similarly, Szapocznik and Brown (2015) explored the existence of differential peer effects on youth crime for adolescents with different degree of parental involvement. The paper finds out that peer effects on juvenile crime are 48% lower for teenagers with engaged mothers, relative to those whose mothers prefer not to be involved in their life. Disengaged mothers are those who do not communicate with their kids when they do something wrong that is important and, as a result, do not help their offspring in understanding why such a behaviour is not appropriate.

Furthermore, Brown (2014) affirmed in his study on the influence of peer pressure on adolescent misbehaviour in advantaged and disadvantaged schools. Results showed a significant positive relationship between peer pressure and adolescent misbehaviour in schools. In addition, misbehaviour was also positively predicted in both advantaged and disadvantaged schools, with disadvantaged schools being significantly more influential. When comparing peer pressure and adolescent misbehaviours in both advantaged and disadvantaged schools, adolescents in disadvantaged schools engaged significantly more in misbehaviour activities and also responded positively more to peer pressure than their counterparts in advantaged schools. Implications for further research were suggested. Furthermore, Obaro (2013) examined how peer pressure is present in adolescents and how it may influence or create the leverage to non-conformity to societal norms and laws. The research analyses the process and occurrence of peer pressure and pressure on individuals and groups within the framework of the social learning and the social control theories. Major features of the peer pressure process are identified as group dynamics, delinquent peer subculture, peer approval of delinquent behaviour and sanctions for non-conformity which include ridicule, mockery, ostracism and even mayhem or assault in some cases. Also, the paper highlights acceptance and rejection as key concepts that determine the sway or gladiation of adolescents to deviant and criminal behaviour.

Similarly, in a study conducted by (Irene, et al., 2022). The result showed that peer pressure has significant influence on criminal thinking among secondary school students in Abuja Municipal Area Council AMAC $R = .325$, $R^2 = .106$, $F(1,348) = 41.200$, $P < .01$. The result further reveals that peer pressure accounts for 10.6% of the dispersion observed on criminal thinking among secondary school students in AMAC.

Finally, it concludes that peer pressure exists for conformity and in delinquent subculture; the result is conformity to criminal codes and behaviour. The research recommends more urgent, serious and offensive grass root approaches by governments and institutions against this growing threat to the continued peace, orderliness and development of society. Lastly, Okorodudu (2010) revealed in his study that peer pressure is one of the contributing factors to adolescent antisocial acts.

METHOD

Research Design

Survey research design was adopted for the study. This kind of research design is more appropriate considering the nature of the problem under study. It also complied with the kind of data that the problem of the study demands as questionnaires were used to collect information on people's feelings, attitudes and opinions from natural settings.

Population, Sample and Sampling Technique

This study used undergraduate students of Federal University of Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria. The total population of undergraduate students in Federal University of Lafia at the time of this study was 16,245

The study adopted the simple random sampling technique that gave the participants equal chance of participating in the research.

The sample size for the participants was drawn using Taro Yamane's formula to ascertain the suitable size for the study.

The total population for this study was 16,245. The sample size used was 391.

Method of Data Collection

The study employed a service of some research assistants that assisted on the distribution and collection of the questionnaires.

The instruments used were:

Index of Family Relations (IFR)

The Index of Family Relations (IFR) developed by W. W. Hudson in 1982 was used for the study to assess the relationship of the family members.

The answers were also given in five (5) Likert-scale: Rarely or none of the time (1), A little of the time (2), Some of the time (3), A good part of the time (4), Most or all of the time (5). It has both direct scoring and reverse scoring. It has reliability index of 0.95

Peer Pressure Questionnaire-Revised (PPQ-R REVISED)

A 25-item version of the Peer Pressure Questionnaire-Revised developed by Sunil Saini and Sandeep Singh in 2016 was used for this study.

The answers were also given in five (5) Likert-scale: Strongly Disagree (1), Disagree (2), Can't say (3), Agree (4), Strongly agree (5). It has both direct scoring and reverse scoring. It has reliability index of 0.94

Criminal Thinking Scale (TCU CTS 3)

Is a 36-items questionnaire that was developed at Texas Christian University, Institute of Behavioural Research. It has both direct scoring and reverse scoring.

The answers were also given in five (5) Likert-scale: Strongly Disagree (1), Disagree (2), Uncertain (3), Agree (4), Strongly agree (5). It has both direct scoring and reverse scoring. It has reliability index of 0.86

Techniques for Data Analysis

The researcher employed the use of various statistical approaches to analyse the data collected such as; Linear Regression Analysis, Multiple Regression Analysis.

To test hypothesis 1: Linear Regression analysis was used to analyse the data collected.

To test hypothesis 2: Linear Regression analysis was used to analyse the data collected.

To test hypothesis 3: Multiple Regression Analysis was used to analyse the data collected.

RESULT

The first hypothesis was tested using Linear Regression Analysis and the results are tabulated and interpreted as shown table 1 below.

Table 1: Linear Regression analysis showing relationship between Family Environment and Criminal Tendency among Undergraduate Students of Federal University of Lafia.

Variables	R	R²	F	β	T	P(sig)
Constant	.793	.346	184.184		-.365	.000
Family Environment				.793	14.260	.000

Dependent Variable: Criminal Tendency

The results presented in table 1 shows that Family Environment significantly influenced Criminal tendency among Undergraduates Students of Federal University of Lafia ($R = 0.793 = R^2 = 0.542$ ($F(1,390) = 184.184$, $t = 14.260$, $p < .05$). This means that Family environment contributed 34.6% variation in Criminal tendency among Undergraduate students of Federal University of Lafia. This finding implies that poor or negative family environment is likely to bring about higher level of Crime in the society. Therefore, this hypothesis has been accepted.

Table 2: Linear Regression analysis showing relationship between Peer Pressure and Criminal Tendency among Undergraduate Students of Federal University of Lafia.

Variables	R	R²	F	β	T	P(sig)
Constant	.576	.153	121.134		4.912	.000
Peer pressure				.576	6.706	.000

Dependent Variable: Criminal Tendency

The results presented in table 2 shows that Peer Pressure significantly Influenced Criminal Tendency among Undergraduate Students of Federal University of Lafia ($R = 0.576 = R^2 = 0.153$ ($F(1,390) = 121.134$ $t = 6.706$, $p < .05$). This means that Peer Pressure contributed 15.3% variation of Criminal Tendency among Undergraduate Students of Federal University of Lafia. This finding implies that Peer Pressure is likely to bring about higher level of criminal tendency. Therefore, this hypothesis is confirmed in the study.

Table 3: Multiple Regression analysis showing the joint influence of Family Environment and Peer Pressure on Criminal Tendency among Undergraduate Students of Federal University of Lafia.

Variable	R	R²	F	β	T	P(sig)
Constant	.835	.610	106.487		-5.087	.002
Childhood trauma				.743	13.411	.000
Substance use				.432	5.720	.000

Dependent Variable: Criminal Tendency

The results presented in table 3 above revealed that Family Environment and Peer Pressure jointly influenced criminal tendency among Undergraduate Students of Federal University of Lafia ($R = 0.835 = R^2 = .610$ ($F(2, 389) = 106.487$, $t = -5.087$, $p < .05$). This means that Family

Environment and Peer Pressure jointly contributed to 61% change in Criminal tendency of Undergraduate Students of Federal University of Lafia. Therefore, this hypothesis is also confirmed in this study.

DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

Hypothesis 1 There will be a significant influence between Family Environment and Criminal Tendency among Undergraduate Students of Federal University of Lafia, the result of the study has confirmed the hypothesis and its hereby accepted. This finding implies that poor or negative family environment is likely to bring about higher level of Crime in the society. This finding supports the work of Ugwu and Stanley (2017) who investigated family dynamics as determinants of antisocial behaviours among in-school adolescents in Asari-Toru Local Government Area of Rivers State. Ex-post facto research design was used for the study and questionnaire was used as instrument to collect data from Four Hundred and Forty-Five (445) respondents drawn from ten government senior secondary schools. The collected data was analysed using ANOVA, means and standard deviations. The research found that parent socio-economic status has influence on students' delinquent behaviours. While on the other hand, family size was found not to have any significant influence on delinquency. Based on the findings, it was recommended that parents, guardians, classroom teachers, guidance counselors and other individuals involved should help raise children/wards in a way that promotes the collective interest of the society.

Similarly, Faisal and Mohammad (2013) examined some family environmental factors that influence antisocial behaviour in adolescents. The study used semi- structured type of interview schedule to collect. The total sample of the present study was 300 in number divided in to two group; the first one is 150 male delinquent adolescents were selected. The second group is 150 non delinquents with their age ranging from 12-17 years. The frequency table, percentage and chi -square were derived and utilized in statistical analysis to assess differences between the two groups of delinquents and non-delinquents on different family environmental variables. The findings indicate that environmental variables like size of the family, economic deprivation, parental deprivation, family discipline, inter parental relationship, child parent relationship and parental acceptance- rejection play an important and effective role in the developmental growth of personality as well as social behaviour of the delinquents. The researchers suggested that family counselling will be an effective way to guide the public to the important of healthy family environment.

Hypothesis 2: which states that There will be a significant influence between Peer Pressure and Criminal tendency among Undergraduate Students of Federal University of Lafia. The result of the study confirmed the hypothesis. This finding collaborated with the work of Szapocznik and Brown (2015) that explored the existence of differential peer effects on youth crime for adolescents with different degree of parental involvement. The paper finds out that peer effects on juvenile crime are 48% lower for teenagers with engaged mothers, relative to those whose mothers prefer not to be involved in their life. Disengaged mothers are those who do not communicate with their kids when they do something wrong that is important and, as a result, do not help their offspring in understanding why such a behaviour is not appropriate.

Also, the work is in line with the findings of (Irene et. al., 2022) who investigated the influence of peer pressure and parenting styles on criminal thinking among secondary school students at AMAC. The result showed that peer pressure has significant influence on criminal thinking

among secondary school students in Abuja Municipal Area Council AMAC $R = .325$, $R^2 = .106$, $F(1,348) = 41.200$, $P < .01$. The result further reveals that peer pressure accounts for 10.6% of the dispersion observed on criminal thinking among secondary school students in AMAC.

Hypothesis 3: Family Environment and Peer Pressure will jointly influence Criminal tendency among Undergraduate Students of Federal University of Lafia, the result of the study has confirmed the hypothesis and it is hereby accepted.

Conclusion

The result of this study showed that family environment had a significant influence on undergraduate criminal tendency. It revealed that students with poor or negative family environment showed a similar criminal tendency from their responses in the questionnaire. Students whose parents/caregivers/family members do not care for them showed manifestation of criminal tendency more than those whose parents/caregivers treat them with care. The study showed significant relationship between family environment and peer pressure on criminal tendency.

Based on the above findings, the researcher concludes that there is a significant relationship between family environment on students' criminal tendency. The researcher also concludes that there is a significant relationship between peer pressure on students' criminal tendency. This could be linked to the fact that the parents/caregivers do not take care of their children/wards as expected hence they grow up with negative perception and therefore tend to be.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the researcher has put forth the following recommendations to check the danger of criminal activities in the society.

1. The atmosphere in the home should be made conducive to prevent children from seeking comfort outside their home.
2. Parents should be mindful of the kind of peers their children/wards associate with.
3. Further studies should be conducted on the same topic in the same or similar setting with larger samples, so as to help in verifying the findings of this study.

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