

**INFLUENCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND PEER
PRESSURE ON ADOLESCENT DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR
AMONG SOME SELECTED SECONDARY SCHOOL
STUDENTS IN KEFFI TOWN**

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ABSTRACT: Delinquent behaviours in adolescence have been an increasing cause for concern in every part of the world. It is on this account, that this study aims to investigate the influence of domestic violence and peer pressure on adolescent delinquent behaviour among selected secondary school students in Keffi, Nigeria. A sample of 255 participants, comprising 130 (51%) males and 125 (49%) females participated in the study. The study made use of a survey research design and employed a structured questionnaire as a means of data collection. Descriptive statistics, hierarchical regression and Pearson correlation were used for data analysis. Results of the findings indicate that a positive correlation emerged between domestic violence and delinquent behaviour ($r = .154, p < 0.05$), while a negative correlation was observed between peer pressure and delinquent behaviour ($r = -.167, p < 0.05$). Furthermore, a joint predictive effect was evident, with domestic violence and peer pressure collectively impacting adolescent delinquency ($R = .200, F = 5.268, p < 0.01$). Notably, gender distinctions did not significantly influence delinquent behaviour ($t = -1.501, p > 0.05$). In light of these results, recommendations advocate for the implementation of guidance and counselling programs tailored to adolescents, aiming to equip them with coping mechanisms for life challenges.

Keywords: Domestic Violence, Peer Pressure, Adolescent Delinquent Behaviour,
Secondary School Students, Keffi Town

INTRODUCTION

For a considerable time, researchers in the fields of criminology, psychology, neuroscience, and sociology have been investigating complicated antisocial behaviours. According to Kaunitz, et al., (2010), delinquent behaviour is a broad category of behaviours that substantially depart from accepted social norms. These behaviours, which can vary depending on the cultural setting, include drug misuse, stealing, and hostility. They are also frequently referred to by a

variety of labels, such as "offender," "conduct disorder," or "delinquency." Scholars like Coie and Dodge (1998), and Rutter, Giller, and Hagell (1998) define delinquent behaviour as actions resulting in physical or psychological harm, or property loss, irrespective of their alignment with criminal statutes. Although some behaviours may be developmentally normative during certain phases of childhood, their persistence into adolescence can serve as potent predictors of future adjustment difficulties, potentially culminating in criminal conduct during adulthood, as articulated by Kohlberg, Ricks, and Snarey (1984).

As observed by Gendreau, Little, and Goggin, (1996); Loeber, Stouthamer-Loeber, and Green, (1991); Moffitt, (1993); Patterson, Capaldi, and Bank, (1991) youth who become involved in criminal behaviour in late childhood or early adolescence appear to be at an especially high risk for continuing such behaviours during adulthood. These same youth may also be faced with and are at high risk for other problems, such as academic difficulties, substance abuse and early sexual behaviour, each of which may have serious long-term consequences (Dryfoos, 1990; Hawkins, et al., 1995).

Meanwhile, delinquency refers to a juvenile's behaviour pattern characterized by repeated offending, and is regarded mainly in its social, but also criminal aspects. Delinquent and non-delinquent individuals may be a product of the same society or even the same family. Young individuals who are unable to find affection and protection within the family may become more susceptible to delinquency as a form of empowerment. More than socioeconomic conditions, the lack of interaction between parents and children, the existence of psychopathological problems in either parent and academic problems together with a biological vulnerability, may be deciding factors for the involvement of young individuals in delinquent behaviour.

Peer pressure is one factor considered in this study that could likely influence anti-social behaviour. Peers play a large role in the social and emotional development of adolescents Allen (2005). Their influence begins at an early age and increases through the teenage years, it is natural, healthy and important for adolescents to have and rely on friends as they grow and mature. A peer could be anyone you look up to in behaviour or someone who you would think is equal to your age or ability (Hardcastle, 2002). On the other hand, the term "pressure" implies the process that influences people to do something that they might not otherwise choose to do. According to Hartney, (2011) peer pressure refers to the influences that peers can have on each other. Peer pressure is emotional or mental forces from people belonging to the same social group (such as age, grade or status) to act or behave in a manner similar to themselves (Weinfied 2010).

Peer pressure is commonly associated with episodes of adolescent risk-taking (such as delinquency, drug abuse, and sexual behaviours) because these behaviours commonly occur in the company of peers. It can also have positive effects when youth are pressured by their peer toward positive behaviour. Such as volunteering for charity or excelling in academics (Kellie, 2013). However, peers can also have a negative influence. They can encourage each other to skip classes, steal, cheat, use drugs or alcohol, or become involved in other risky behaviours.

The majority of adolescents with substance abuse problems began using drugs or alcohol as a result of peer pressure. Negative peer pressure may influence in various ways like joining a group that drinks alcohol, smokes cigarettes and Indian hemp among others. It may also lead to the decision to have a boyfriend/girlfriend, Peer pressure indulges youth into loitering about in the streets, watching films and attending parties during school hours, and taping as an alternative to stealing which may eventually graduate into armed robbery (Arief, 2011).

Consequently, domestic violence is one of the social factors considered in this current study to likely influence delinquent behaviour. To understand the effects of domestic violence on the anti-social behaviour family, it involves the physical, sexual, emotional, or financial abuse of one person by another. The abuser is often the stronger one in the relationship, and through violence, they use this strength to exert control over the other person. Though women and children, along with the elderly, are the most common survivors of domestic violence, men also experience abuse. When you don't know what signs to look for, it can be difficult to recognize abuse. Even some survivors don't know that they are experiencing domestic violence right away. Many believe at the time of the abuse that it is a one-time. More importantly, domestic violence is a serious issue; it can damage the mental, physical, and emotional health of the individual and contribute to generational cycles of violence. Children who grow up in abusive households are more likely to experience abusive relationships as adults, and adults who experience it experience significantly higher rates of post-traumatic stress disorder. Furthermore, unchecked domestic violence can escalate into life-threatening situations.

Gender constitutes another differential factor when the indicators and the source of troubles are examined during adolescence (Claes, et al., 2004). Whereas, several authors consider that, globally, risk factors of conduct problems are identical in girls and boys (Ary, et al., 1999; Barrera, et al., 2001; Storvoll & Wichstrom, 2002), others observe that gender moderates the strength of parental bonding as a protective factor against deviant behaviours, the protective effect being stronger in girls than in boys (Jessor, et al., 1995). These observations incite many authors to approach these questions separately and to investigate the differential impact of risk factors for boys and girls (Sorenson, et al., 1997).

Many factors have been identified and stipulated to be associated with delinquency among secondary school students (Adewole, 2018). Also, studies affirm that some factors that may contribute to delinquency behaviour include parental attitude, school location, sex of the student, peer influence, and personality traits of the individual (Anifowose, 2004). In this view, this current research aims to investigate the influence of domestic violence and peer pressure on adolescent delinquent behaviour among selected secondary school students in Keffi, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

Researches reveal a high prevalence of domestic violence in Nigeria. Witnessing or being a victim of domestic violence causes lots of emotional stress which tends to negatively impact the worldview and actions of an individual within the society. Inmates of domestic violence were sent there in the first place because of assumed or overt behavioural disorders. Judging

from the available research on exposure to domestic violence in Nigeria, it is assumed in this study that at one time or another, these inmates must have been victims of domestic violence, especially in the bid of parental corrections methods. Despite the large number of research efforts on the rate of domestic violence in Nigeria, there is a paucity of research effort on whether or not it affects the mental health status of individuals. This study is therefore aimed at examining the perceived influence of domestic violence and peer pressure on the delinquent behaviour of adolescents in Keffi, Nigeria.

Objective of the Study

This study seeks to:

1. evaluate the significant relationship between domestic violence and adolescent delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Keffi Town
2. find out the significant relationship between peer pressure and adolescent delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Keffi Town
3. to assess the significant joint influence of domestic violence and peer pressure on adolescent delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Keffi Town
4. To determine the significant gender difference in adolescent delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Keffi Town

Hypotheses

1. There will be a significant relationship between domestic violence and adolescent delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Keffi Town
2. There will be a significant relationship between peer pressure and adolescent delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Keffi Town
3. Domestic violence and peer pressure will jointly predict adolescent delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Keffi Town
4. There will be a significant gender difference in delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Keffi Town

Empirical Review of Literature

Domestic Violence and Delinquent Behaviour

Moylan, Herrenkohl, and Russo (2000) investigated the impact of childhood exposure to child abuse and domestic violence on adolescents' internalizing and externalizing behaviours. With 457 respondents, their findings revealed statistically comparable effects for boys and girls, indicating that such exposure heightens the risk of internalizing and externalizing outcomes during adolescence. Additionally, Chung and Steinberg (2006) observed that adolescents increasingly rely on peer acceptance over familial approval. As peer pressure intensifies, adolescents may prioritize the opinions of peers over those of parents (Santor, et al., 2000).

In a study examining the correlation between community violence and adolescent delinquency and substance use, Zinzow et al. (2009) discovered that adolescents who associate with peers exhibiting delinquent behaviours are more inclined to engage in similar behaviours themselves. Similarly, in research investigating the influence of peer pressure on delinquent conduct, Mahoney and Stattin (2000) found no significant link between adolescents' amount of free time and household responsibilities and delinquent behaviour. However, they observed that adolescents who spent time with peers involved in drug and alcohol use, truancy, and physical aggression were more prone to engaging in delinquent activities. These findings emphasize the association between delinquent behaviour, exposure to domestic violence, and susceptibility to peer influence.

Peer Pressure and Delinquent Behaviour

Monahan, Steinberg, and Cauffman (2013) conducted a study on 1,354 adolescent juvenile offenders (1,170 males and 184 females) to evaluate the influence of peer-related factors on changes in antisocial behaviour from adolescence to young adulthood. The study aimed to examine the relationships between antisocial behaviour, peer delinquency, resistance to peer influence, and whether changes in these factors influence each other over time. Statistical analyses included standard deviation and correlation tests. The results indicated a significant decline in antisocial behaviour over time, with more pronounced decreases in early adolescence compared to late adolescence. Internal consistency of measures was satisfactory ($\alpha = .73$), and the scale demonstrated good fit to the data (comparative fit index [CFI] = .94, root mean square error of approximation [RMSEA] = .04).

Gender and Delinquent Behaviour

The co-occurrence between delinquency and substance use is a consistent finding in the juvenile justice literature (e.g., Monahan, Rhew, Hawkins, & Brown, 2013; Tripodi & Bender, 2011), with degree of severity in one behaviour often indicating severity in the other (Brunelle, Tremblay, Blanchette-Martin, Gendron, & Tessier, 2014). Among delinquent youths, males and females tend to have similar rates of problematic substance use (Welch-Brewer, Stoddard-Dare, & Mallett, 2011). Although research supports the idea that substance use and delinquency are associated for both female and male youths, the two genders have been shown to have different rates of problem behaviours, somewhat different presentations of these behaviours, and different pathways to risk behaviour. Overall, males are more likely to use substances (Mennis & Mason, 2012) and exhibit offending behaviour (Loeber et al., 2013), but more complex gender patterns have been identified in the literature.

Concerning delinquent or antisocial behaviours, Jennings, Maldonado-Molina, and Komro (2010) conducted a trajectory analysis of delinquent offending in a high-risk sample, and found that a subpopulation of females displayed a declining pattern of offending not found among the males in the study. A review of offending behaviour (Fontaine, Carbonneau, Vitaro, Barker, & Tremblay, 2009) advocated further study of delinquency trajectories among female youths, with a specific focus on patterns that have so far been found to be distinct in females (“adolescence-limited” and “adolescence-delayed-onset,” p. 378). In the case of substance use,

previous research has found that males may be more likely to be classified in heavy binge-drinking groups (Chassin, Pitts, & Prost, 2002), potentially obscuring substance use and abuse heterogeneity specific to female adolescents (Marti, Stice, & Springer, 2010). A longitudinal study of substance use found females to use substances more frequently in early in adolescence, but males use more beginning in mid-adolescence (Chen & Jacobson, 2012).

Risk factors for delinquency are largely similar for both genders and encompass such dimensions as family and peer relations, attachment to and achievement in school, neighbourhood environment, mental health symptoms, and trauma history. However, gender differences are evident in that males and females respond to or are exposed to these risk factors differentially (Cauffman, 2008; Zahn, 2007). For example, victimization is associated with an increased likelihood of delinquency for male and female youths, but the strength of the relation between maltreatment and delinquency may be stronger for females (Zahn, 2007). Furthermore, sexual violence is particularly prevalent in the histories of female offenders, relative to males (Chesney-Lind & Irwin, 2007). Regarding substance use, it has been suggested that males are more sensitive to a cluster of risk factors, including expectations that males will use substances, higher tolerance, and later development than female youths, particularly in late adolescence and early adulthood (Schulte, Ramo, & Brown, 2009). A study of mediators of the gender effect on substance use found that males and females experience victimization, school engagement, and peer associations differently and that all these factors were associated with substance use. In other words, risk for substance use is gendered (Whaley, Hayes-Smith, & Hayes-Smith, 2013). Specific to substance use and delinquency, researchers and theorists have documented gender differences in both the incidence and the impact of various risk factors (Cauffman, 2008; Welch, Roberts-Lewis, & Parker, 2009).

METHOD

Research Design

A survey research design was adopted for this study because it is most suitable for collecting responses that elicit information from the public (participants) basically with a large sample size. It also enables the researcher to administer questionnaires within a large population at a single point in time.

Population, Sample and Sampling Techniques

The study population comprised 1292 individuals, with a sample size of 260 participants selected from Government Secondary School, Kofar Hausa, and Al-Iman School in Keffi Town. Each participating school had 721 and 561 students, respectively, chosen due to their demographic suitability for studying vulnerability to violence and peer pressure. Demographic data from 255 participants who fully responded to the study questionnaire indicated an age range of 13-19 years (mean age: 16.02, SD: 1.821), with 51% male (N=130) and 49% female (N=125). Religious affiliation included 45.5% Christianity (N=116) and 54.5% Islam (N=139). Class distribution comprised 32.9% SSI (N=84), 34.1% SSII (N=87), and 32.9% SSIII (N=84). The stratified Sampling Technique was employed to select the participants.

Instruments

The data collection instruments utilized in this study are outlined below:

The Child Exposure to Domestic Violence Scale (CEDV) was developed by Jeffery Edleson (2007). It is a 26-item scale which measures children's exposure to domestic violence. Responses are rated on a four-point Likert scale ranging from "Never = 1" to "Always = 4". Higher scores indicate greater exposure to domestic violence. Reliability estimates range from 0.79 to 0.97, with test-retest reliability indicating consistent measurement over time.

The Exposure to Peer Pressure questionnaire (Allen & Yen, 2002) comprises forty items assessing adolescents' exposure to peer pressure. Responses include "Always = 1", "Sometimes = 2", and "Never = 3". The scale demonstrates adequate reliability, with a Cronbach's Alpha of .85.

The frequency of the Delinquent Behaviour Scaling Instrument (FDBSI) was developed by Kumuyi, Akinnawo, and Akintola (2020). It is a 25-item instrument with six subscales which measure various delinquent behaviours such as vandalism, theft, physical aggression, truancy, destructiveness, and status offences. Responses are categorized as "Never", "1-2 Times", "3-6 Times", "7-9 Times", and "More than 10 times". High scores indicate greater engagement in delinquent behaviour. The instrument demonstrates satisfactory reliability ($\alpha = .79$) and validity ($r = .32, p = .00$).

Method of Data Analysis

Various statistical approaches were employed to analyse the collected data. Pearson product-moment correlation was utilized to examine the relationships between study variables, addressing hypotheses 1 and 2. Multiple regression analysis was employed to ascertain the predictive impact of variables on delinquent behaviour, corresponding to hypothesis 3. Additionally, an independent samples t-test was conducted to establish mean differences between male and female scores in delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Keffi town, as outlined in hypothesis 4.

Procedure

Upon obtaining the necessary permissions, participants were briefed on the study objectives and informed about the voluntary nature of participation and the option to withdraw at any time. Participants were instructed to read the statements quickly and indicate their responses accordingly. Questionnaires were administered using a stratified sampling technique across all classes (SS I to SS III) with the assistance of research assistants. The completed questionnaires were collected and analysed using SPSS version 26.

Ethical Considerations

This study ensured that the authorities of the schools gave their permission and that the participants' consent was obtained with the assurances that the information provided was for academic purposes only. They were also informed that the study would not harm them or the school. The study participants were debriefed after the collection of data. Were promised to give feedback on the outcome of the study. All cited material used in this study were referenced.

RESULTS

Table 1: Relationship between Domestic Violence and Adolescent Delinquent Behaviour among Secondary School Students in Keffi

Variables	M	SD	df	r	Sig.
Domestic Violence	59.04	22.286	253	.154	.014
Delinquent Behaviour	66.10	9.642			

$r(253) = -0.154, P < 0.05$

Table 1 shows the summary results of the relationship between domestic violence and delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Keffi town. The results revealed the mean and standard deviation scores for domestic violence (M= 59.04; SD= 22.286) and delinquent behaviour (M= 66.10; SD= 9.642). Furthermore, the Pearson Correlation results revealed a statistically significant relationship [$r(253) = -.154, P < 0.05$] between domestic violence and delinquent behaviour. In this light, the hypothesis was supported. This implies that an increase in domestic violence results in a significant increase in delinquent behaviour among students in Keffi Town.

Table 2: Relationship between Peer Pressure and Adolescent Delinquent Behaviour among Secondary School Students in Keffi

Variables	M	SD	df	r	Sig.
Peer Pressure	66.26	27.00	253	-.167	.008
Delinquent Behaviour	66.10	9.642			

$r(253) = -0.167, P < 0.05$

Table 2 presents the summary results of the relationship between peer pressure and delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Keffi. The results revealed the mean and standard deviation scores for peer pressure (M= 66.26 SD= 27.00) and delinquent behaviour (M= 66.10; SD= 9.642). Further analysis of the data using Pearson Correlation revealed a

statistically significant inverse relationship $r(253) = -.167, P < 0.05$ between peer pressure and delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Keffi. In other words, this hypothesis was confirmed significant in this study. Therefore, this implies that increased peer pressure results to a significant decreased in delinquent behaviour among students in Keffi.

Table 3: Summary Results of the Multiple Regression Analysis on Adolescent Delinquent Behaviour in Keffi Town

Variables	B	t	R	R ²	F
Domestic violence	-.050	-1.802	.200	.040	5.268**
Peer pressure	-.027	-2.084*			

* $P = .05$; ** $P = .01$ ($df = 2, 252$)

Table 3 shows the summary results of the Multiple Regression Analysis, where the results significantly revealed that domestic violence and peer pressure jointly predicted school adolescent delinquent behaviour [$R = .200$; $F = 5.268, P < .01$] therefore, accounted for about 4.0% variance for the delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Keffi town. Also, the results significantly revealed that peer pressure independently predicted [$\beta = -.048, t = -2.084, p < .05$] adolescent delinquent behaviour while domestic violence indicates an insignificant relationship [$\beta = -.050, t = -1.802, p > .05$] on adolescent delinquent behaviour among students in Keffi town.

Table 4: Gender Difference in Delinquent Behaviour among Secondary School Students in Keffi

Gender	N	M	SD	df	t	Sig.
Male	130	65.22	8.989	253	-1.501	.135
Female	125	67.02	10.259			

$t(253) = -1.501, P > 0.05$

Table 4 shows the summary result of the Independent Sample t-test on delinquent behaviour among secondary school students where it revealed the mean and standard deviation scores for male ($M = 65.22$; $SD = 8.959$) and female ($M = 67.02$; $SD = 10.259$). Further analysis of the results revealed a no statistically significant [$t(253) = -1.501, P > 0.05$] difference between male and female students on delinquent behaviour in Keffi town. In other words, this hypothesis was not confirmed.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The present study investigated the influence of Domestic Violence and Peer Pressure on Adolescent Delinquent Behaviour among some selected Secondary School Students in Keffi town of Nasarawa State. The first hypothesis which stated that there will be a significant relationship between domestic violence and adolescent delinquent behaviour was confirmed. This finding is consistent with previous studies, that delinquent behaviour is caused by many oppositional behaviours (Moylan, Herrenkohl & Russo, 2000). The study aimed to strengthen research on the unique combined effects of exposure to child abuse and domestic violence on psychosocial outcomes in adolescents and examine the gender interactions with abuse and domestic violence exposure in the prediction of youth outcomes. Moylan, Herrenkohl and Russo (2000). In addition, the result is in line with their studies that, children who are exposed to pressure or influence from colleagues or schoolmates are likely to exhibit anti-social behaviour (Dodd, 2009; Lazenbatt & Thompson-Cree, 2009).

The second hypothesis stated that there will be a significant relationship between peer pressure and adolescent delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Keffi Town. This hypothesis was confirmed as statistically significant it revealed that an increase in peer pressure might lead to a significant decrease in delinquent behaviour among students in Keffi. The finding was consistent with Huizingra, Esbensen, & Weiher, (1991) that indicated that antisocial behaviour showed significant decline over time, with more rapid declines occurring in early adolescence than in late adolescence. This is consistent with the studies of Monahan, et al. (2013) that supported this finding by reporting that there is an impact of two peers' related variables on changes in antisocial behaviour over adolescence and young adulthood.

Contrarily, Chung and Steinberg (2006) found that children begin to depend on their peers for acceptance, rather than their families, during adolescence. Peer pressure eventually becomes harder to resist at this stage such that the opinions of peers often matter more than those of parents (Santor, et al., 2000; Zinzow, 2009). In a study that was focused on how violence in the community relates to delinquency and substance use in adolescents, Zinzow et al. (2009) found that when adolescents form relationships with people who display delinquent behaviour, they are likely to take part in the behaviour themselves. In another study on peer pressure and delinquent behaviour, Mahoney and Stattin (2000) found no relationship between the students' amount of free time outside of school activities and household chores and delinquent behaviour. However, they did find that if adolescents spent time with deviant peers, who consumed drugs and alcohol, did not attend school regularly, and were physically aggressive, the adolescents were more likely to engage in delinquent behaviour as well research has shown a relationship between delinquent behaviour, domestic violence, and peer pressure.

The third hypothesis states that domestic violence and peer pressure will jointly and independently predict adolescent delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Keffi Town. The result was confirmed using the Pearson Correlation on Peer Pressure and Adolescent Delinquent Behaviour that an increase in peer pressure might lead to a significant decrease in delinquent behaviour among students in Keffi. This is consistent with the study of Moylan, Herrenkohl and Russo (2000) who opined that the effect exposure for boys and girls

are statistically comparable and child peer pressure and domestic violence increase a child's risk for internalizing and externalizing outcomes in adolescents. In their study, Dishon & Dodge, (2005) opined that during adolescence, domestic violence and peer relationships take on increasing importance and play a critical role in adolescents' development of intimacy, social skills and self-concept. Similarly, in a study carried out by Walby & Allen (2004) in England and Wales findings show that 1 in 17 women disclosed experiencing one or more of the measured forms of domestic abuse and peer pressure during the previous year, and 1 in 25 disclosed domestic assaults or threats in the same period. 72% reported more than one such in-year incident, and the average was 20; a small percentage of women experienced an exceedingly high number of threats and assaults. 37% endured severe forms of violence (being kicked, bit, hit with a fist or weapon, choking, threats to kill, or threats with a weapon), averaging 18 such incidents in the past year. 72% of women were injured in the worst last year incident (Walby & Allen 2004). Migrant women in the United Kingdom were found to be more vulnerable to abuse, due to factors such as isolation and a disproportionately high number of women refugees from ethnic minorities (Uddin, 1999, Mirrlees-Black, 1999).

The fourth hypothesis stated that male students will significantly exhibit high score on delinquent behaviour than the female students. This finding of this study revealed that gender indicate no significant mean difference on delinquent behaviour among Secondary School Students in Keffi Town. The finding is consistent with the finding of Jennings, Maldonado-Molina, and Komro (2010) which reported that a subpopulation of females displayed a declining pattern of offending not found among the males in the study. A review of offending behaviour (Fontaine, Carbonneau, Vitaro, Barker, & Tremblay, 2009) advocated further study of delinquency trajectories among female youths, with a specific focus on patterns that have so far been found to be distinct in females ("adolescence-limited" and "adolescence-delayed-onset," p. 378). In the case of substance use, previous research has found that males may be more likely to be classified in heavy binge-drinking groups (Chassin, Pitts, & Prost, 2002), potentially obscuring substance use and abuse heterogeneity specific to female adolescents (Marti, Stice, & Springer, 2010). A longitudinal study of substance use found females to use substances more frequently early in adolescence, but males using more beginning in mid-adolescence (Chen & Jacobson, 2012).

Similarly, this finding also supports the findings of Brunelle, Tremblay, Blanchette-Martin, Gendron, and Tessier, (2014) which reported that, among delinquent youths, males and females tend to have similar rates of problematic substance use. Similarly, Welch-Brewer, Stoddard-Dare and Mallett, (2011) opined that substance use and delinquency are associated for both female and male youths, the two genders have been shown to have different rates of problem behaviours, somewhat different presentations of these behaviours, and different pathways to risk behaviour. On the contrary Cauffman, (2008); Welch, Roberts-Lewis, and Parker, (2009) who reported that specific to substance use and delinquency, researchers and theorists have documented gender differences in both the incidence and the impact of various risk factors.

Implications of the Study

The results of the study indicate that domestic violence and peer pressure will jointly and independently predict adolescent delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Keffi Town. In essence, these have some implications as it may likely influence delinquent behaviour. In Nigerian secondary schools, professional care for adolescent is limited. This calls for an urgent need and application of psychological services to delinquent behaviour; as adolescent who are influence by peer pressure and domestic violence are prone to vandalism, drug abuse, weapon carrying, alcohol abuse, rape, examination malpractices, school violence, bullying, cultism, truancy, school drop-outs, to mention but a few. Obviously, unless something is done to roll back the wave of juvenile delinquency, the prospect of a better, safer and more prosperous society emerging in Nigeria will remain elusive.

Conclusion

This study concluded that peer pressure encourages delinquent behaviour among adolescents. It is becoming clear that one of the major ways deviant secondary students become even more deviant is through unrestricted interaction with deviant peers. Ironically, many of the common treatments for deviant secondary school students involve placing them in settings that aggregate them with other deviant secondary school students. Certainly, more complex and updated studies should be developed on the relationship between the possible interactions experienced by the delinquent juvenile, concomitantly, in the family, at school and with different types of peers.

Recommendations

- i. School authorities and parents should educate the children/students on the negative and positive influence of peer pressure on their behaviour in the society.
- ii. The school authorities and parents should attend seminars or workshops on domestic violence and delinquent behaviour to be able to acquire knowledge on how to manage conflict at home and address factors that lead to domestic violence and antisocial behaviours.
- iii. The study established that most students freely share their problems with their peers in school. For this reason, the school management should engage the services of a psychologist/counsellor to counsel teachers, parents and students on how to manage both the negative and positive influence of peer pressure.
- iv. Both male and female students should be given adequate attention in terms of their conduct/behaviour at home and in school to help in managing anti-social tendencies among children/students.

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