# Parental Styles and Moral Disengagement as Predictors of Attitude towards Cybercrime among Undergraduates

**Chiamaka Vivian Okeke[1,3], Harry Obi-Nwosu[1,2], & Okechukwu Christian Onuoha[1,2]**

[1]Department of Psychology Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, Nigeria

[2]Centre for Counselling and Career Development, Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, Nigeria

[3]Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja, Nigeria

Corresponding Author's Email and Orcid: kammamartins@gmail.com

https//orcid.org/0009-0001-7227-6247

## Abstract

This study examined parental styles and moral disengagement as predictors of attitude towards cybercrime among undergraduates of Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka. Purposive sampling method was utilized in the selection of two hundred (196) undergraduates from four different departments; they included 148 female and 48 male. Their age ranged from 18 to 25 years with mean age of 22.18 years and standard deviation of 1.82. Three instruments, namely: Attitude towards Cybercrime (ATC); The Parental Authority Questionnaire (PAQ), and Moral Disengagement Scale (MDS). Correlational design was used as the research design in the study, while multiple linear regression analysis was adopted as statistical tools for analysis. The result showed that authoritative and authoritarian parental style are not among the predictors of attitude towards cybercrime among undergraduates at $\beta$ = .-124, t = -1.726, P > .05 and $\beta$ =.020. t = .272, P > .05 respectively. Thus hypothesis one and two were rejected. However, it was observed that permissive parental style and moral disengagement predicted attitude towards cybercrime; as such, hypothesis number three and four were accepted at $R^2$=.273, F(191,195)=19.35, P<.001 and $R^2$=.027, $\beta$= .164, t=.2.316, P<.05 respectively. Based on the research outcome, it was recommended among many other that Parents' should adopt positive parenting style filled with warmth relationship between parents' and children as well as appropriate communication so as to reduce the observed high rate of cybercrime among University undergraduates.

*Keywords:* parenting style, moral disengagement and attitude towards cybercrime.

## Introduction

Getting rich has become so applauded that some people usually do not mind how the wealth is acquired while so many others are on social media, busy publishing individuals' who made their money in crime and their flamboyant lifestyle; as such, applauding criminality as well as negatively impacting the moral stand of many youths, not minding the poor socio

economic state, as well as the high rate of poverty in our society. Moreover, many youths in Nigeria after graduating from the university have no job or even hope of employment, leading to the slogan "school is a scam". Thus, influencing the undergraduates whose majorities of them are youths into all sort of crime; aimed at improving their socioeconomic state as well as increasing their chances of stability even after graduation. Hence, the high rate of cybercrime among undergraduates.

Cybercrime according to Adesina (2017) was defined as any form of unhealthy act directed towards any cyberspace user; intending to make the individual lose valuables such as information, finance, integrity, morality, market value, customers, etc. Cybercrime is seen as a vital risk why because, its' impact could be devastating and could lead to breach of some sensitive data as well as serious loss of reputation and could also have financial implications. According to Izevbuwa and Ngwoke (2022), cybercrime could be seen as any form of harmful and socially undesirable activities perpetuated using internet enabling gadget or digital device on the cyberspace; and such corrupt mindset of defrauding other cyberspace users; with intention of getting rich could account for the negative attitude towards of some undergraduates towards the usage of cyberspace; as such, could have negative impact on genuine online business owners.

The influx of many Nigerian undergraduates into cybercrime could be because they can indulge in such crime at the comfort of their home. Also, such criminality requires just an internet enabling device as well as internet access to perpetuate such crime. Many others indulge in cybercrime simply because they want to get easy money without stress (soft work). However, internet based criminality observed among Nigerian youth could be traced to a number of sorry factors such as, bad educational system, bad parenting style, corrupt government as well as loss of societal values. Moreover, the high rate of unemployment in Nigeria makes cybercrime an avenue for survival and a sign of creative thinking for the criminally minded youth (Adesina, 2017). Therefore, such social-economic excuses giving by criminally minded undergraduates for their actions shows an element of moral disengagement which is justification of cyber-criminality as creative act and proactive reasoning so as to prevent future unemployment and escape the poor social standard set via bad governance in Nigeria. Hence, such justification could as well impact the attitude of the youths towards cybercrime. Nevertheless, since the family is the bedrock of the society, it is

important and potent enough to influence ones bevaviour through parents' child interactive approaches (parental styles). Thus, understanding the impact of parenting styles as well as moral disengagement on cybercrime will be of great importance. Therefore, it is a noteworthy research to examine the predictive impact of parental styles and moral disengagement on attitude towards cybercrime among undergraduates.

Parenting style as one of the independent variables is a type of attitudes, approaches as well as behavior pattern that parents' implements while interacting, relating or raising their kids (Spera, 2005). According to Darling and Steinberg (1993), parenting style account for the total sum of parents' behaviour and attitude towards their children, as well as how they express their emotional towards them. By implication, a parent's childhood experiences account for the approach to parenting they will use while training their own children. As such, influences the mental schema of their children, their personality, how they express their emotions, self-image, as well as behaviour etc. According to Bessant and Hill (1998), in some cases, parent are responsible for their children's behavior and can be penalized for the antisocial conduct of their kids; reasons because, approach to parenting among the factors that determines a child's personality. A secured and warmth based relationship between parents and their children that is the resultant of the approach to the parent's style of training, would allow the kids to grow freely, exploring and as well, learning from their environment; which will lead to the development of adaptive personality. Nurkhodjaev et al. (2020) opined that the child's environment as well as other social agencies are relevant for the development of the child; nonetheless, children build and develops their mental frame from the foundation cultivated by their family. As such, making parental style an important factor in child rearing.

The significant nature of parenting style on their children's behavior cannot be over emphasized; hence, examining the influence of parenting styles on their children's behavior is on the bases that parents differ in their approach and patterns of parenting; as such, these different patterns could have substantial influence on how their kids' behavior, their well-being as well as their personality development. Based on this differences in approaches to parenting, Baumrind (1967) classified parenting style using three different style which includes: authoritarian, authoritative and permissive style of parenting.

Authoritarian parenting style are those type of parents that are so strict with their ideas concerning maintaining order and moral standard and their decisions are not open to dialogue. This form of caregivers are rigid on controlling, and assess the character as well as attitude of their kids based on strict rule. To them, obedience and respect for authority are the yardstick for being responsible.

For authoritative parenting, these kind of parents are those that are ready to discuss their idea about, reasons for changes as well expected ways of lifestyle with their children, with proper clarification. Such parents expects matured behaviour from their children. Authoritative caregivers are always warm in their strictness and they expects appropriate behaviour the children. This parenting style allows a free flow communication between them and their children.

Furthermore, Permissive style of parenting are those type of caregivers or parents that are too relaxed with their thoughts concerning how their children behaves. They tolerate so much, though, they sometimes punishment their children by confining them.

Moral disengagement as another variable in this study refers to the process where a person or group detach from the social norm or normal ethical standards and started practicing a new unethical and in a socially unacceptable way (Okafor et al., 2024). A study by Knoll et al. (2016) observed that before a person or groups can approve or behave in an unethical behavior, they have to go through the process of moral disengagement. From the outcome of the study, they proposed four stage or processes in which individuals disengages morally, before they can engage in an unacceptable behavior; which are:

1. At first, the individual or group will mentally rationalize or convince themselves that what they are about to do is not bad. For instance, telling themselves that people do more than that and their action is not in any way against the law.
2. The second step involves a process where they reduce the part they will play in such action. In this situation, they blame other people as the coordinators of such action.
3. At the third stage of the process, they will inhibit themselves from seeing the implications of the actions they are about to take or the implications of their inactions.

4.  At the end of the process, they will have to alter how they see the victim. Maybe, by decreasing the impact of their actions on the victim.

This progressive nature of moral disengagement clearly explain how individuals who are involved in cybercrime handle the supposed cognitive dissonances expected to emanate from their ill moral action and unethical behaviour. According to Bandura's (2016) moral disengagement helps criminally minded people behave in a socially unacceptable way and still maintain a positive view of themselves as good individuals (DeSmet et al., 2016). Cybercriminals forgets about their victims immediately after victimization; thus, overlooking the possible implications of their action on their victims.

Theoretically, this present study anchored on Strain theory which states that unprivileged individuals' within the society are likely going to take up honest mode of living as well as goal attainment; however, might end up being less successful than others from a privileged class. Thus, they will start to question the rational reasons for their adherence to the socially acceptable means when they can arrive at the institutionalized goals faster and less stressful via the socially unacceptable  way; hence, deviant behaviours (cybercrime). Nonetheless, an individual cannot become a deviant without first going through the processes of moral disengagement; thus, there is an association between the life of crime and moral disengagement. According to Merton (1983)'s assertion on strain theory, the structural gap or imbalance between goal and approved means explains nonconformist behaviours, not only at societal levels but also at individual levels. As such, such nonconformist behaviour of a parent could be transmitted to his or her child through parents-child-relation (interpersonal situation), leading to the life of anything goes; thus, cybercrime. This relationship between crime, moral disengagement and parental style was empirically validated by Zhang et al. (2021) in a study titled parenting style and cyber-aggression in Chinese youth: the role of moral disengagement and moral identity. Their observation showed that parenting style was related to cyber-aggressive behavior through moral disengagement.

Empirically, some scholars have established some empirical evidence in respect to the variables (parenting styles, moral disengagement, and attitude towards cybercrime) of this

study; such as Hinnant et al. (2016); Alvarez-Garcia et al. (2019); Nonum and Nwankwo (2020); Zhang, et al. (2021); Onsando et al. (2021); Sharma and Imran (2023). They conducted studies on parental styles, and found an association between some dimensions of parenting styles attitude towards cybercrime as well as other maladaptive behaviour.

Furthermore, Parlangeli et al. (2019); Fissel, et al. (2021); Sari et al. (2022), and Okafor et al. (2024). Investigated the influence of moral disengagement on maladaptive behaviour and found a relationship between moral disengagement and maladaptive behaviour.

**Hypothesis**

1. Authoritative parenting style will significantly and positively predict attitude towards cybercrime among undergraduates.
2. Authoritarian parenting style will significantly and positively predict attitude towards cybercrime among undergraduates.
3. Permissive parenting style will significantly and positively predict attitude towards cybercrime among undergraduates.
4. Moral disengagement will significantly and positively predict attitude towards cybercrime among undergraduates.

**Method**

**Participants**

The participants for this study were 196 undergraduates drawn from Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria. Their age ranged from 18 to 25 years with mean age of 22.18 years and standard deviation of 1.82. Among the 196 participants, 50 were from Edu foundation, 49 were from Marketing, 49 were from Sociology, while 48 were from Applied Biochemistry. Among the respondents, 7 were married whereas 189 were single. 191 among them were Christians while 4 were Muslims. The other 1 participant did not disclose his religious affiliation.

**Instruments**

Three instruments were used in this study for data collection; they include: Attitude towards Cybercrime (ATC) Scale developed by Gozler and Tasci (2015); The Parental

Authority Questionnaire (PAQ), developed by Baumrind (1991) and Moral Disengagement Scale (MDS) developed by Moore et al. (2012).

**Attitude towards cybercrime questionnaire**

Attitude towards Cybercrime (ATC) Scale developed by Gozler and Tasci (2015); consists of 16 items that measures attitudes towards cybercrime, including the perception of cybercrime as a serious problem, the likelihood of being a victim of cybercrime, and the responsibility of individuals and organizations for preventing cybercrime; and it is rated on a 5 point Likert scale ranging from (1) "Strongly Agree" to (5) "Strongly disagree"; with a Cronbach Alpha internal consistency coefficient of 0.84. A sample item of attitude towards cybercrime includes: The punishment for cybercrime should be more severe than for traditional crimes. Okafor et al. (2024) reported a discriminant validity of -.65, and a Cronbach alpha reliability coefficient of .70.

**The Parental Authority Questionnaire (PAQ)**

The Parental Authority Questionnaire (PAQ), developed by Baumrind (1991). Is developed to measure parenting principle styles which are perceived by children as approaches their parents use to take care of them. The instrument consists of 30 items with three sub-dimensions that include: permissive, authoritarian, and authoritative. One of the sample item for authoritative include is, "even if their children didn't agree with them, my parents felt that it was for our own good if we were forced to conform to what they thought was right". For authoritarian, "as I was growing up, once family policy had been established, my parents discussed the reasoning behind the policy with the children in the family". While for permissive, "while I was growing up my parents felt that in a well-run home, the children should have their way in the family as often as the parents do". The scale is rated on a four point Likert scale which ranged from strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (4). According to Aroyewum et al. (2023) The Cronbach alpha value for each of the dimensions for Nigerian samples are, authoritative (0.71) authoritarian (0.70), permissive (0.79). While the value for the total score is 0.90. Moreover, Tobih et al. (2024) reported a reliability alpha coefficient of .72 for authoritative, .76 for authoritarian, .75 for permissive and .87 for the total value.

**Moral disengagement scale**

The Moral Disengagement Scale (MDS) short form is a 7-item questionnaire developed by Moore et al. (2012). It was designed to measure an individual's tendency to disengage from moral standards and ethical norms as well as assesses proneness to moral disengagement. The items are rated on a five point scale ranging from 1 to 5. 1 meaning "Strongly Agree" while 5 means "Strongly disagree". The MDS assesses eight mechanisms of moral disengagement: Moral justification, Euphemistic language, Advantageous comparison, Displacement of responsibility, Diffusion of responsibility, Distorting consequences, Attribution of blame, and Dehumanization. One of the items in MDS include; "it is okay to spread rumors to defend those you care about". The author established internal consistency of .82 for the scale. Okafor et al. (2024) reported a discriminant validity of -.72, and a Cronbach alpha reliability coefficient of .69 for MDS.

**Procedure**

The researchers randomly selected 4 faculties from the 14 faculties in Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka; they include: Education, Law, Bio Sciences and Social Sciences. Furthermore, four departments were selected from the four randomly selected faculties; one from each department using convenient sampling method. After which, the researchers obtained a letter of introduction from the Head of Department (HOD) of Psychology of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka that served as a formal means of introducing to the study participants.

After the researchers went to the office of the HOD of each of the Departments for a formal introduction before going to the undergraduate students for data collection. Purposive sampling method which was based on the inclusion criteria of the study was used in selecting 50 undergraduate students that were administered the copies of the questionnaires from each of the four selected departments. The participants were giving both oral and written instructions on how they may fill the questionnaire and were also assured of the confidentiality of their personal information. From the 200 administered copies of the questionnaires, 196 properly filled copies were selected and coded for analysis.

To be included in the study, (inclusion criteria) the participant must be a student in any of the 4 selected departments and must be willing to participate in the study.

**Design and Statistics**

This study utilized a correlational design and multiple regression analysis was adopted as the statistical tools for analyses using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25.

**Results**

Table: 1, Multiple regression analysis predicting Stress Symptoms from: AU, PR, EM, PL, PG and SA

|  | R Square | Adjusted $R^2$ | df1 | df2 | F | $\beta$ | SE | t | Sig |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Model 1 | .027 | .022 | 1 | 194 | 5.36 |  |  |  |  |
| MDS1 |  |  |  |  |  | .164 | .053 | 2.316 | .022 |
| Model 2 | .288 | .273 | 4 | 191 | 19.35 |  |  |  |  |
| Authoritative |  |  |  |  |  | -.124 | .056 | -1.726 | .086 |
| Authoritarian |  |  |  |  |  | .020 | .060 | .272 | .786 |
| Permissive |  |  |  |  |  | .472 | .052 | 7.045 | .000 |

Table 2 explain the model of the equation. In model one, MDS was entered in the first model of the equation and it accounted for a total of 16.4% variance in predicting attitude towards cybercrime ($R^2$=0.27, $\beta$ = .164, t=.2.316, P<.05). Hence, the fourth hypothesis of the study which stated that moral disengagement will significantly and positively predict attitude toward cybercrime was accepted.

In model 2, the parenting styles (authoritarian, authoritative and permissive parenting styles) were entered in the second model of the equation and their inclusion accounted for 27.3% variance in predicting attitude towards cybercrime (Adjusted $R^2$=.273, $F(191,195)$=19.34, P<.001). However, among the parenting styles, only permissive parenting style was observed to have a significant predictive effect on attitude towards cybercrime; hence, hypothesis number three which stated that permissive parenting style will significantly and positively predict attitude towards cybercrime was accepted at ($\beta$ = 472, t = 7 .045, P < .001). Authoritative and authoritarian parenting style did not predict attitude towards cybercrime. Thus, the first hypothesis that stated that authoritative parenting style will significantly and positively predict attitude towards cybercrime was rejected at (β = -.124, t = -1.726, P > .05). Furthermore, the second hypothesis that stated that authoritarian parenting style will significantly and positively predict attitude towards cybercrime was as we rejected at (β =.020. t = .272, P > .05).

## Discussion

This present study examined the predictive effect of parental styles and moral disengagement on attitude toward cybercrime among undergraduates of Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka. From the findings of this study, it was observed that the first hypothesis of the study was rejected which indicated that authoritative parenting style does not predict attitude towards cybercrime among undergraduates. This observation was in line with the findings of Also, Alvarez-Garcia et al (2019). They investigated the Effect of Parental Control on Cyber-Victimization in Adolescence: The Mediating Role of Impulsivity and High-Risk Behaviors and found out that parental control are negatively related with the adolescent's engaging in high-risk internet behaviors.

Nonum and Nwankwo (2020) investigated the Effect of Parenting Style on Children's and observed that parents that practice authoritative parenting style could have very few young ones that are involved in cybercrimes.

Zhang, et al. (2021) examined Parenting Style and Cyber-Aggression in Chinese Youth: The Role of Moral Disengagement and Moral Identity and identified that parental rejection and over-protection were positively related to cyber-aggression. The observations of Nonum

and Nwankwo (2020) and that of Zhang, et al., (2021) are not in consonance with this recent findings; however, factors such as the research participants as well as their culture could account for the differences in the research outcome. For instance, Nonum and Nwankwo (2020) conducted a study involving the parents' as the research participant while the present study selected University undergraduate; thus, the differences in the developmental stage of the participants in this two studies could be the reason for the observed differences. In the same vein, Zhang, et al., (2021), conducted their study involved Chinese college students. The observed discrepancy between their finding that this present study could be as a result of cultural differences between their study participants and those in this present study.

The second hypothesis of this study was also rejected; indicating that authoritarian parenting style is not among the predictors of attitude towards cybercrime among University undergraduates. This observation is in line with the findings of Alvarez-Garcia et al (2019). They conducted a study titled the Effect of Parental Control on Cyber-Victimization in Adolescence: The Mediating Role of Impulsivity and High-Risk Behaviors and found that parental restriction and supervision are negatively related with adolescent's engagement in high-risk internet behaviors.

Also, Nonum and Nwankwo (2020) investigated the effect of Parenting Style on Children's Involvement in Cyber Crime, found that Parents who are authoritarians will not tolerate cybercrimes.

Moreover, Zhang, et al. (2021) that investigated Parenting Style and Cyber-Aggression in Chinese Youth: The Role of Moral Disengagement and Moral Identity observed that parental emotional warmth was not related to cyber-aggression. Going with the result from this present study and finding from other researchers, authoritarian parenting style is not among the factors, leading to attitude towards cybercrime.

The third hypothesis of this study was accepted indicating that permissive parental style is among the predictors of attitude towards cybercrime among University undergraduates. This observation is in line with the findings of Hinnant et al. (2016). They investigated Permissive Parenting, Deviant Peer Affiliations, and Delinquent Behavior in Adolescence:

the Moderating Role of Sympathetic Nervous System Reactivity, and found an indirect effects between permissive parenting and delinquency via affiliation with deviant peers.

Nonum and Nwankwo (2020) examined the Effect of Parenting Style on Children's Involvement in Cyber Crime and found out that permissive parents are more likely to have young ones that are involved in cybercrime.

Onsando et al. (2021) conducted a study on the Influence of Parenting Style on Male Juvenile Delinquency: A Case of Kamiti Youth Correction and Training Center (KYCTC), Kiambu County, Kenya. Their finding indicated that permissive parenting style posed the greatest danger to the development of juvenile delinquency.

Furthermore, Sharma and Imran (2023) investigated the Influence of Parenting Style on Juvenile Delinquency and found that permissive parenting styles had a higher mean score on delinquency.

The fourth hypothesis of the study was as well accepted indicating that moral disengagement is as well among the factors that predicts attitude towards cybercrime among University undergraduates. This observation is in line with the finding of Okafor et al., (2024). They investigated moral disengagement as a predictor of attitude towards cybercrime: the moderating role of social identity and found that moral disengagement positively and significantly predicted undergraduates' attitude towards cybercrime.

Sari et al. (2022) explored the correlation between parental communication pattern, self-esteem, and moral disengagement with cyberbullying behavior in early adolescents and found a significant correlations between cyberbullying behavior and moral disengagement.

Moreover, Fissel, et al., (2021) did a study on cyberstalking perpetration among young adults as an assessment of the effects of low self-control and moral disengagement and found that moral disengaged individuals are more likely to engage in cyberstalking perpetration.

Furthermore, Parlangeli et al. (2019) conducted a study on offensive acts and helping behavior on the internet: An analysis of the relationships between moral disengagement,

empathy and use of social media in a sample of Italian students and found that offensive behaviors are related to mechanisms of moral disengagement.

## Implication of the study

Theoretically, this present study validated the theoretical framework of the study by observing the fact that both parental style and moral disengagement places a role in attitude towards cybercrime. Thus, the new literature and empirical finding in this work could be used in further elaboration of the theoretical framework of the study.

Being that permissive parental style predicts attitude towards cybercrime, it implies that there is need to educating the parents' on the impact of their mood of parenting as well as their relationship with their children on their children's personality as well as behaviour.

Since moral disengagement is observed to be among the factors leading to attitude towards cybercrime, it is relevant that lecturers, clergy men, social media, and other media station advocate for good moral standing as well as to stop popularizing flamboyant lifestyles of dubious individuals.

## Limitation of the study

The study was a survey research and depended on self-report questionnaire; thus respondents might respond in a way that will make them look more responsible thereby having negative impact on the research outcome. Though, participant were assured of the confidentiality of their personal information and they are not relevant in this study. As such would have led to a more transparent responses.

## Recommendations

The recommendations are made in line with the findings of this study

1. Parents' should adopt positive parenting style filled with warmth relationship, as well appropriate communication in training their children.
2. More emphases should be made on educating the parents' on the relationship between their approach to parenting and the personality as well as the behaviour of their children.

3.  Since moral disengagement was observed as one of the factors that predicts attitude towards cybercrime, in other to reduce cybercrime, there is need for advocacy for good moral standing.

4.  Media stations should stop the unnecessary applaud and recognitions been accorded to individual who made their money in an illegal means.

**Suggestion for future studies**

As permissive parental style and moral disengagement were observed in this present study as predictors of attitude towards cybercrime, the researchers urged future researchers on this topic to try to ascertain the possible mediating, moderating or demographic factors that could be associated with attitude towards cybercrime.

**Conclusion**

This research that investigated parental styles and moral disengagement as predictors of attitude towards cybercrime among University undergraduate. From the purpose and objective of the study, four hypotheses were proposed and tested. The first and second hypothesis of the study were rejected. As such, rejection of first and second hypothesis implied that authoritative and authoritarian parental style does predict attitude towards cybercrime. By implication, children trained by authoritative or authoritarian parents' are not likely to be involved in cybercrime. Nonetheless, the third and fourth hypothesis of the study were accepted; indicating that permissive parenting style and moral disengagement are predictors of attitude towards cybercrime among undergraduate. So to say, permissive parenting could lead to the life style of anything goes among undergraduates; thus, moral disengagement as well as cybercrime.

**References**

Adesina, O. S. (2017). Cybercrime and poverty in Nigeria. *Canadian social science*. 13(4), 19-29.

Álvarez-García, D., Núñez, J., C., González-Castro, P., Rodríguez, C., & Cerezo, R. (2019). The Effect of Parental Control on Cyber-Victimization in Adolescence: The Mediating Role of Impulsivity and High-Risk Behaviors. *Fronter Psychology, 10: 1159.*

Bandura, A. (2016). *Moral Disengagement*: How People Do Harm and Live with Themselves. New York, Macmillan

Baumrind, D. (1967). Child care practices anteceding three patterns of preschool behavior. *Genetic psychology monographs,* 75(1), 43-88.

Bessant, J., & Hill, R. (1998) *Youth, Crime & the Media: Media Representation of and Reaction to Young People in Relation to Law and Othe*r. Hobart: National Clearinghouse for Youth Studies.

Darling, N., & Steinberg, L. (1993). Parenting style as context: An integrative model. *Psychological Bulletin*, 113(3), 487-496.

DeSmet, A., Bastiaensens, S., Van Cleemput, K., Poels, K., Vandebosch, H., Cardon, G., et al. (2016). Deciding whether to look after them, to like it, or leave it: a multidimensional analysis of predictors of positive and negative bystander behavior in cyberbullying among adolescents. *Computers in Human Behaviour.* 57, 398–415.

Fissel, E. R., Fisher, B. S., & Nedelec, J. L. (2021). Cyberstalking perpetration among young adults: An assessment of the effects of low self-control and moral disengagement. *Crime & Delinquency*, 67(12), 1935-1961.

Hinnant, J. B., Erath, S. A., Tu, K. M., & El-Sheikh, M. (2016). Permissive Parenting, Deviant Peer Affiliations, and Delinquent Behavior in Adolescence: the Moderating Role of Sympathetic Nervous System Reactivity. *Journal of abnormal child psychology*, 44(6), 1071–1081.

Izevbuwa, O. G., & Ngwoke, R. A. (2022). Combating the Menace of Cybercrime in Nigeria: *A Review of the Cybercrime* (Prohibition, Prevention etc) Act 2015 and Other Legislations.

Knoll, L., J., Weinberg, L., M., Speekenbrink, M. & Blakemore, S. (2016). Social Influence on Risk Perception during Adolescence. *Psychology Science*, 26(5), 583-592

Merton, R., K. (1938). Social Structure and Anomie. *American Sociological Review*, 1, 672-682

Nonum. E., O. & Nwankwo, O., G., (2020) The Effect of Parenting Style on Children's Involvement in Cyber Crime. *Journal of Humanities and Sciences*, 20 (6): 384-399

Nurkhodjaev, S., Babarakhimova, S., & Abdullaeva, V. (2020). Early Detection and Prevention of Suicidal Behavior in Adolescents. *Indian Journal of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology*, 14(4).

Okafor, J., C., Nwafor, C., E., Ezenwa, M., O., Onuoha, O., C. (2024). Moral disengagement as a predictor of attitude towards cybercrime: the moderating role of social identity. *Practicum Psychologia,* 14 (1), 27-40.

Onsando, E., Mwenje, M., K. & Githui, P. (2021) The Influence of Parenting Style on Male Juvenile Delinquency: A Case of Kamiti Youth Correction and Training Center (KYCTC), Kiambu County, Kenya. *European Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences.* 1(3):21-29

Parlangeli, O., Marchigiani, E., Bracci, M., Duguid, A. M., Palmitesta, P., & Marti, P. (2019). Offensive acts and helping behavior on the internet: An analysis of the relationships between moral disengagement, empathy and use of social media in a sample of Italian students. Work: *Journal of Prevention*, 63(3), 469-477.

Sari, R. M., Merdekawati, D., Marisdayana, R., & Yuliyana, R. (2022). The correlation between parental communication pattern, self-esteem, and moral disengagement with cyberbullying behavior in early adolescents: A cross-sectional study. *Jurnal Ners,* 17(1).

Sharma, K. & Imran, M. (2023) Influence Of Parenting Style on Juvenile Delinquency. *International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts*. 11 (6): 878-884.

Spera, C. (2005). "A Review of the Relationship among Parenting Practices, Parenting Styles, and Adolescent School Achievement". *Educational Psychology Review*. 17 (2): 125–146.

Tobih, M., B., Obi-Nwosu, H. & Onuoha, O., C. (2024). Parenting styles and hostility as predictors of suicidal ideation among university undergraduates. *Practicum Psychologia*, 14 (1), 12-25.

Zhang, Y., Chen, C., Teng, Z., & Guo, C. (2021). Parenting Style and Cyber-Aggression in Chinese Youth: The Role of Moral Disengagement and Moral Identity. *Frontiers in psychology. 12: 621878.*