Domestic Enslavement of Children and Parental Fight Among Themselves as Correlates of Anti-Social Behaviour of Secondary School Students in Akwa Ibom State

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the domestic enslavement of children and parental fight among themselves as correlates of anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State. *The research design used for this study was Expost-Facto design. The population consisted of all teachers and students of the secondary schools in Akwa Ibom State. Proportionate stratified random sampling method was used to select the 220 respondents (20 teachers and 200 students). The instrument used by the researcher for the study was a research questionnaire tagged "DOMESTIC ENSLAVEMENT, PARENTAL FIGHT AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR QUESTIONNAIRE" (DEPFABQ). The instrument passed through face and content validation by experts in the field and the reliability coefficient obtained was 0.81. The data obtained was analyzed using independent t-test analysis. The result of the findings revealed that, there is significant influence of domestic enslavement of children on anti-social behavior of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State. Also that, there is significant influence of parental fight among themselves on adolescence anti-social behaviors. One of the recommendations was that Parents must not argue or fight in the presence of their children, as this is likely to cause psychological damage, and poor academic performance in schools.*

KEYWORDS: Domestic abuse, Adolescent, Anti-social behavior, domestic enslavement, parental fight.

Introduction

The concern of domestic abuse today is widespread and its insinuations in our society are mammoth. Parts of the effects of domestic abuse are felt on the adolescent's anti-social behaviour and it has been an area of constant debate. Domestic abuse can take several forms, the prominent ones, according to Reynolds (2010) are domestic enslavement of children, and parental fighting among themselves. In their text, Block & Potthast, (2008) look at emotional deprivation of needs as another type of domestic abuse. According to them, emotional abuse has been seen as a repeated pattern of damages of interactions between parent(s) and children. They opined that, it has become typical of the relationship when a person conveys to a child that he or she is worthless, flawed, unloved, unwanted and endangered.

Domestic abuse also known as family violence, or domestic violence includes abuse of the right of a child, which usually refers to the physical assault of children and women by male relatives, usually a father or husband/partner (Wiehe 1997). In these situations, a man uses violence to control his partner and children. He believes that violence is a male prerogative ("I'm a guy, I can

control myself"), or that his victims are responsible for his behavior ("You are the architect of your problems"). Whilst women may also be perpetrators of family violence, they usually "fighting back" against a physically abusive partner, and it is unusual for violent women to inflict the same scale of harm to children or house mate.

Domestic abuse has caused many children to encounter much of physical child abuse which covers bodily injury or harm to a child, whether the abuse was intentional or not, he does not care. The abuse may be in form of hitting, kicking, biting, or wounding a child in any way without knowing may also be exposing a child to alcohol or illegal drugs, making a child to be howling methamphetamines around him in his home and this may be impairing him with such substances without caring for your child is also physical abuse. This problem of domestic abuse, according to Reynolds (2010) is rampant among families in Nigeria and it the prime factor of anti-social behaviour among secondary school students.

Statement of the Problem

In recent times, it has become a common phenomenon to read, or hear about or witness incidences of domestic abuse such as domestic enslavement of children and parental fight among themselves. It is common to see a brother and a sister or two brothers or two sisters fighting against each other and giving themselves wounds or injuries with regret at a long run. Sometimes some parents also take pleasure or feel satisfied by causing their wards to pass through physical maltreatment in their hands. They forget that it is that same way the children will extend to schools and the larger society.

One of the common elements of domestic abuse is parental fight among themselves. The question is why must parent fight before their wards since they see fight as the major means of resolution of conflict or differences? They forget that as watchful as they are, are bound to practice same even with more coercion within and outside home. One truth is that all these behaviours extend the effect on to the school environment. The root of all these societal problems is domestic abuse. In the light of prevalent domestic violence and resultant overall challenges of anti-social problems in schools, this study is conducted to examine the extent to which the aforementioned components domestic abuse contribute to anti-social behaviour of the adolescents in secondary schools in Akwa Ibom State.

Objectives of the study

The main objective of this study is to find out if domestic enslavement of children and parental fight among themselves are correlates of anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom, while specific objectives were as follows:

1.   To find out the influence of domestic enslavement of children on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.

2.   To ascertain the influence of parental fight among themselves on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.

Research Questions

1. To what does domestic enslavement of children contribute to anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State?

2. What is the influence of parental fight among themselves on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State?

Research Hypothesis

1. There is no significant influence of domestic enslavement of children on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.

2. There is no significant influence of parental fight among themselves on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.

Literature Review

Labeling Theory: Howard Becker (1963)

Labeling theory is another theory that strengthens the importance of this study. The theory was propounded by Howard Becker (1963). Howard Becker viewed deviance as the creation of social groups and not the quality of some act or behaviour. He believed that social groups create deviance by making rules whose infraction creates deviance, and by applying those roles to particular people and labeling them as outsiders. From this point of view, deviance is not a quality of the act the person commits, but rather a consequence of the application of rules and sanctions to an 'offender".

The deviant is one to whom the label has been successfully attached. According to Becker (1963), studying the act of the individual is unimportant because deviance is simply rule breaking behaviour that is labeled deviant by persons in positions of power. He viewed those people that are likely to engage in rule breaking behaviour as essentially different from members of the rule making or rule abiding society. Those persons who are prone to rule breaking behaviour see themselves as morally at odds with those members of the rule abiding society. Becker (1963) also detailed the process of how these deviant outsiders become involved in secondary deviance. Primary deviance is the first step, and the primary act may be either intentional or non-intentional. He argued that most people only think or fantasize in a deviant manner. The process of being caught and labeled deviant by a person in position of authority leads to secondary deviance. Secondary deviance involves the acceptance of the deviant label. Certain rule breakers come to accept the label of 'deviant' as status. In this study, labeling theory provides a framework for explaining the way and manner society reacts to known cases of deviance. Also, the study attempts to investigate primary and secondary deviance as well as distinguish behaviors that society terms as 'socially acceptable' from 'rule breaking' behaviors.

Conceptual Review

Concept of Antisocial Behavior

Antisocial behavior can generally be characterized as an overall lack of adherence to the social mores and standards that allow members of a society to co-exist peaceably. Many people who display this type of behavior may seem charming, but often cause harm to others and show little

remorse for their actions. Antisocial behavior can be part of a larger conduct disorder, or personality disorder, such as antisocial personality disorder, and is seen in men more commonly than women. However, people with antisocial personalities are also more likely to abuse alcohol and drugs Bayse, Allgood, & Van Wyk, (1991). According to Block& Potthast, (2008), antisocial behavior often includes hostility and aggression, which may take the form of verbal or physical abuse. Some people may angrily refuse to follow the rules of a situation, or actively defy the authority of a parent, teacher, or employer. Both children and adults may lie and steal to get what they want or simply to hurt others. Antisocial behavior consists of acts that impose physical or psychological harm on other people or their property. Lying, stealing, assaulting others, being cruel to others, being argumentative, and being sexually promiscuous are all examples of antisocial behavior, Chamberlain, Fisher, & Moore, (2003). Research indicates that family environment, personality characteristics, peer environment, and social contexts all play a role in influencing the development and maintenance of antisocial behavior.

The Concept of Adolescence

In the words of Cassimjee (1993), adolescence is a transitional period between childhood and adulthood, which is marked by changes in the body, mind and social relationship. It is a period of physiological transformation which turns the body to that of a full adult (Omoegun, 1998). Rogers (1981) chose to see adolescence as a process rather than a period; a process of achieving the attitudes and beliefs needed for effective participation and functioning in the society. Sexual maturity during this time causes some shift in attitude towards the masculine and feminine sex role so that new sexual and social roles are established with the opposite sex (Sigmund Freud, 1952) said that apart from the sexual and physiological dimensions to adolescence, Adams (1996) viewed adolescence as 'a holding period in which education, maturation, and waiting are the major tasks to be faced. It is a period when the child feels less need for the security of familial supervision and protection. It is a period of transition from the dependent childhood to independent adulthood. (Onyejiaku, 1991). It is a period of identity crises, a period of finding out one's self or self-discovery and self-definition (Osarenren, 2002). The issue of independence leads to constant disagreements between the parents, adults and the adolescent on many issues, which may lead to antisocial behaviors.

Child Enslavement and Adolescence Anti-Social Behavior

According to Zamas (1990), child labor is the employment of children in a manner that deprives them of their childhood right, and is harmful to their physical, mental development and academic development. Africa has the world's highest incidence rates of child labor. Loretta, (2004) the problem is severe in sub-saharan Africa where more than 40% of all children aged 5–14 labor for survival, or about 48 million children. The concept of domestic enslavement is relatively new in Western society, although there is historical evidence that children have long been murdered, abandoned, incarcerated, mutilated, sexually exploited, beaten, and forced into labor by their parents and caregivers. For instance, in colonial America, children were flogged to instill discipline, and in the early twentieth century, children routinely worked 14-hour days in mills and mines. Beverly, (2009) such actions were not formally defined as domestic enslavement; however, public authorities seldom interceded on the children's behalf. The emergence of official definitions of unacceptable treatment of children has helped to trigger and sustain efforts by authorities to protect children from enslavement.

Parental Fighting and Adolescence Anti-Social Behavior

Dan, (2003) said that parental fighting has a negative Impact on children's Mental Health, academic performance and relationship with other students. It is destructive, psychologically for children to experience their parents' continuing, unresolved, hostility. Research indicates that children are resilient and highly adaptive and usually unable to cope with difficult situations such as separation and divorce. Denilson, (2002) asserts that, what severely damage children emotionally is bitterness, long-lasting, and ongoing conflict between parents, whether the parents live together or not. That when parental conflict continues, it creates tension between the parents, and children. There is also likelihood that psychological difficulties will result in children of such emotional and behavioral problems. Anxiety, depression, sleeping in the class, low self-esteem among mates in the school, school problems like fighting others students and a number of other difficult situations are what children leant from parent. He further explains that chronic parental conflict creates a climate of tension, chaos, disruption and unpredictability in the family environment that was meant to be safe secure and be comfortable. To grow up and learn in this kind of environment create anxiety. Children are always helpless to see their parents fight in the house this create a sense that they cannot get close to their parents for academic assistant. They may be worried about their own safety and of their parents' safety, even if there has been no actual or threatened violence. Howards, (2003), said that, children's imaginations are powerful and they may imagine harm coming to themselves or to one of their family members. If parents are still together, there is also worry about divorce and the family being split up. Zornitsky and Martin (2006) observes that persistence parental fighting can usually result to: Anxiety, Fear, and emotional Problems.

Anxiety and Fear

When children observe their parents fighting attitude, they feel more vulnerable. They wonder about their parents' abilities to protect and care for them, because their dysfunctional behavior shows they're unable to take care of themselves. As a result, the world appears threatening and less safe to the child. He might become anxious, depressed, and may develop low self-esteem in public places like schools and amusement parks. While fighting, parents also involved in combatant behaviors. This help to shift the attention of their ward away from them, which would also deprive the child much needed parenting care during crucial times. The child might be reluctant to approach his/her father or mother, even during those moments when he needs them most.

Emotional Problems

Children model their behavior by observing their parents, including how they deal with and resolve conflicts. Child may learned how to handle conflict through parents. Parents needs to behave well in order to make their children good citizens of the country they come from. Parents at all times should not allow their children to live in fear and anxiety. Rather, should make the children to know that they have good parents whom they can be confiding with, in times of trouble. Many children are far away from their parents because they do not put their trust in their parents rather they have trust in the outside. Most children can tell their secret to their pastors instead to tell to their parents because of how their parent behaves.

Trust Issues

Parents who fight send their children a message that intimacy can bring pain and turmoil. Although they also see their parents being loved to one another but regretted to see them often fight with themselves and this always upset them. This is the reason they always develop trust outside the home. As a result, the child might develop trust issues and avoid developing intimate relationships to protect himself from being hurt. He'll steer clear of close relationships because he believes they inevitably lead to constant fighting. Or, he'll form relationships, but develop a pattern of ending them just as intimacy develops.

Parent-Child Relationships May Suffer

In the absence of severe problems, it is healthy for children to be allowed to develop a relationship with both parents regardless of how the parents feel about each other. If a child constantly hears bad things about one parent from another parent, the danger is that the parent-child relationship may be weaken. This can also work in the opposite direction, since a child can resent a parent who criticizes and refuses to respect the other parent, especially as the child grows older.

Quality of Parenting Decreases

Chronic parental conflict increases stress on parents, this may weaken effective parenting skills over time, this may also negative impact on the children.

Methodology

Research Design

An Expost-Facto design was used for this study. In this type of design the researcher cannot manipulate the effect on the dependent variable but just obtain the effect already existing in the natural course of events.

Area of the Study

The area of this study was secondary schools in Akwa Ibom State.

Population of the Study

The population of this study consisted of all teachers and students of the secondary schools in Akwa Ibom State.

Sample and Sampling Techniques

Proportionate stratified random sampling method was used to select the 220 respondents (20 teachers and 200 students) for the study.

Instrumentation

The instrument used by the researcher for this study was a research questionnaire tagged "DOMESTIC ENSLAVEMENT, PARENTAL FIGHT AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR QUESTIONNAIRE" (DEPFABQ).

Validation of the Instrument

The instrument passed through face and content validation and was validated by the experts in test and measurement. The items in the questionnaire were properly worded to meet the respondent's level of understanding.

Reliability of the Instrument:

In order to establish the reliability of the instrument, experts in test and measurement and statistics were contacted for rating in respect of the consistency with the research objectives. The items in which at least two experts agreed upon were regarded as suitable. Reliability coefficient obtained was 0.81 and this was high enough to justify the use of the instrument.

Procedure for Collecting Data

The researcher wrote a letter of introduction. This letter was to introduce the researcher to the heads of the organizations for understanding and assistance. The questionnaires were issued and retrieved 3 days after from each respondent. The exercise took about one week.

Method of Data Analysis

The data obtained were analyzed using descriptive analysis for the research questions and regression analysis for the hypothesis. The calculated values were compared with the critical values for proof of significance or non-significance of the result at 0.05 alpha level.

Result and Discussion

Hypothesis 1

The null hypothesis states that there is no significant influence of domestic enslavement of children on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State. In order to test the hypothesis regression analysis was performed on the data, (see table 1).

TABLE 1: Simple regression Analysis of the influence of domestic enslavement of children on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State

Model	R	R-Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. error of the Estimate	R Square Change
1	0.74a	0.54	0.54	1.23	0.54

*Significant at 0.05 level; df= 218; N= 220; critical R-value = 0.139

The table shows that the calculated R-value 0.74 was greater than the critical R-value of 0.139 at 0.5 alpha level with 218 degree of freedom. The R-Square value of 0.54 predicts 54% of influence of domestic enslavement of children on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State. This rate of percentage is highly positive and therefore means that

there is significant influence of domestic enslavement of children on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.

It was also deemed necessary to find out the extent of the variance of each case of independent variable as responded by each respondent (see table 2).

TABLE 2: Analysis of variance of the influence of domestic enslavement of children on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	387.07	1	387.07	257.69	.000b
Residual	327.46	218	1.50		
Total	714.53	219			

Dependent Variable: Anti-Social Behaviour
Predictors: (Constant), Domestic Enslavement

The above table presents the calculated F-value as (257.69) and the P-value as (000). Being that the P-value (000) is below the probability level of 0.05, the result therefore means that there is significant influence of domestic enslavement of children on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.

Hypothesis 2

The null hypothesis states that there is no significant influence of parental fight among themselves on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State. In order to test the hypothesis regression analysis was performed on the data, (see table 1).

TABLE 3: Simple regression Analysis of the influence of parental fight among themselves on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State

Model	R	R-Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. error of the Estimate	R Square Change
1	0.71a	0.51	0.51	1.27	0.51

*Significant at 0.05 level; df= 218; N= 220; critical R-value = 0.139

The table shows that the calculated R-value 0.71 was greater than the critical R-value of 0.139 at 0.5 alpha level with 218 degree of freedom. The R-Square value of 0.51 predicts 51% of influence of parental fight among themselves on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State. This rate of percentage is highly positive and therefore means that there is significant influence of parental fight among themselves on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.

It was also deemed necessary to find out the extent of the variance of each case of independent variable as responded by each respondent (see table 4).

TABLE 4: Analysis of variance of the influence of parental fight among themselves on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	363.34	1	363.34	225.54	.000b
Residual	351.19	218	1.61		
Total	714.53	219			

Dependent Variable: Anti-Social Behaviour
Predictors: (Constant), D0mestic Enslavement

The above table presents the calculated F-value as (225.54) and the P-value as (000). Being that the P-value (000) is below the probability level of 0.05, the result therefore means that there is significant influence of parental fight among themselves on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.

Discussion of the Findings

The results of the data analyses in tables 1 and 2 were significant due to the fact that the calculated R-value 0.74 was greater than the critical R-value of 0.139 at 0.05 level with 218 degree of freedom. The result implies that there is significant influence of domestic enslavement of children on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State. The result therefore is in agreement with the research findings of Beverly, (2009) who asserted that actions were not formally defined as domestic enslavement; however, public authorities seldom interceded on the children's behalf. The emergence of official definitions of unacceptable treatment of children has helped to trigger and sustain efforts by authorities to protect children from enslavement. The significance of the result caused the null hypotheses to be rejected while the alternative one was accepted.

The results of the data analyses in tables 3 and 4 were significant due to the fact that the calculated R-value 0.71 was greater than the critical R-value of 0.139 at 0.05 level with 218 degree of freedom. The result implies that there is significant influence of parental fight among themselves on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State. The result therefore is in agreement with the research findings of Denilson, (2002) asserts that, what severely damage children emotionally is bitterness, long-lasting, and ongoing conflict between parents, whether the parents live together or not. That when parental conflict continues, it creates tension between the parents, and children. There is also likelihood that psychological difficulties will result in children of such emotional and behavioral problems. Anxiety, depression, sleeping in the class, low self-esteem among mates in the school, school problems like fighting others students and a number of other difficult situations are what children leant from parent. The significance of the result caused the null hypotheses to be rejected while the alternative one was accepted.

Conclusion

The problems of domestic abuse have kept a wide gap between the expectations of the society and its actual manifestations. Hardly would a day go by without a record of one form of social

happening or the other in the school extended from home. Domestic abuse has caused many adolescents to encounter much of physical child abuse which covers domestic enslavement and fight among parents, exposing a child to alcohol or illegal drugs. Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions were drawn: That, there are cases of domestic violence such as domestic enslavement and fighting among parents in Akwa Ibom State. Secondary school students were identified with displaying anti-social behaviors in schools. These led to the conclusion that there is significant influence of domestic enslavement of children on anti-social behavior. Also that there is significant influence of parental fighting among themselves which led to adolescence anti-social behaviors.

Recommendations

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

1. Parents must not argue or fight in the presence of their children, as this is likely to cause psychological damage, and poor academic performance in school.
2. The federal government should spell out officially unacceptable treatment of children. This will help sustain efforts by authorities to protect children from enslavement.
3. All forms of domestic enslavement and parental fighting should be reported to appropriate agency of Government for reprimand.

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