
Influence of Domestic Abuse on the Adolescent's Anti-Social Behaviour in Secondary Schools in Akwa Ibom State

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the influence of domestic abuse on the adolescent's anti-social behaviour in secondary schools in Akwa Ibom State. The study centered on domestic abuse such as siblings' rivalry and parental physical maltreatment of children. 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 800 respondents (200 teachers and 600 students). The instrument used by the researcher for the study was a research questionnaire tagged "DOMESTIC ABUSE AND ADOLESCENT ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIUR QUESTIONNAIRE" (DAAABQ). The instrument passed through face and content validation by experts in the field and the reliability coefficient obtained was 0.75. The data obtained was analyzed using regression analysis. The result of the findings revealed that there is significant influence of siblings rivalry on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State. Also there is significant influence of parental physical maltreatment of children on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State. One of the recommendations was that Parents must not impose physical force on children in attempt to correct them, as this is likely to cause physical harm, and poor academic performances.

KEYWORDS: Domestic abuse, Adolescent, Anti-social behavior, Rivalry, Maltreatment

Introduction

The issue of domestic abuse today is prevalent and its implications in our society are enormous. Parts of the effects of domestic abuses are felt on the adolescent's anti-social behaviour and it has been an area of constant debate. The problems of domestic abuse has kept wide gap between the expectations of the society and its actual manifestation. Hardly would a day go by without a record of one form of social problem or the other in the school, (Chipman, 2000). In line with the above, Osarenren (2002) argued that societal attitudes change because society is dynamic and changes occur quite frequently and to support her claims, she advanced some fundamental reasons for anti-social behaviours in the society. For her, one of the reasons is domestic abuse among parents; secondly, the change in the structure of the society which happens to be as a result of rapid transition from rural to urbanization and industrialization; thirdly, there has been a serious disruption of sense of community solidarity and of the integrity of the extended family structure.

Domestic abuse can take several forms, the prominent ones, according to Reynolds (2010) are sibling's rivalry, physical maltreatment of children, domestic enslavement of children, parents demeaning comments on children, and parental fight among themselves. 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 and husband/partner (Glaser 1997). In these situations, a man uses violence to control his partner and children, often in the belief that violence is a male prerogative or that, his victims are responsible for his behavior.

Sibling's rivalry and parental physical maltreatment 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. This includes hitting, kicking, biting, or wounding a child in any way, knowingly exposing a child to alcohol or illegal drugs, making methamphetamines around the child. In other words, in his home he tries to impair himself with such substances, while also caring for the 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. Osarenren (2002) stated that any behaviour which does not conform to the rules, regulations, norms and values of a given time is viewed as anti-social behaviour. Attason, (2001) alleged that, anti-social activities originate from home and are attributed to domestic violence. According to him, it is rampant in the contemporary Nigerian Society and this is evident in the deluge of social problems witnessed on regular bases.

Parental physical maltreatment as the determining factor of anti-social behaviour among youths has created much effect in our society today. According to Coleman (1999), these conditions prevent members of a society from developing and using their full potentials. Those conditions like poverty, racism, unequal opportunity are, therefore the elements of anti-social behaviour in any social setting. There is a common consensus among experts that deviance is anti-social behaviour and could be seen as a product of domestic abuse, personal and social traits. From their accounts put forward in the background of this study, it is obvious that Nigeria, as a society, is plagued with multi-faceted social problems. These problems include domestic abuse and affecting every segment of the society including the secondary schools environment faced with students' antisocial behaviour. The thrust of this study is to explore the effect of this domestic abuse of adolescent on their anti-social behaviour in secondary school in Akwa Ibom State.

Statement of the Problem

In recent times, it has become a common phenomenon to read, or hear about or witness incidences of domestic abuse via sibling's rivalry, parental physical maltreatment of children, domestic enslavement of children, parental fight among themselves, parents demeaning comments on children, emotional deprivation of needs of children and financial deprivation as well. 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.

Many have agreed that anti-social behaviour acts perpetrated by students in the secondary schools are responsible for the downward turn in the academic performance and social maladjustment of these students. Indeed this problem of anti-social behaviour in school has created much concern in the minds of so many people. It has caused loss of life to many students as well as destruction of the school properties. 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 was conducted to examine the extent to which the aforementioned components of 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 examine the influence of domestic abuse on the adolescent's anti-social behaviour in secondary schools in Akwa Ibom State, while specific objectives were as follows:

1. To find out the influence of siblings rivalry on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.
2. To determine the influence of parental physical maltreatment of children on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.

Research questions

The following research questions were answered:

1. What is the influence of sibling's rivalry on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State?
2. What is the influence of parental physical maltreatment of children on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State?

Research Hypothesis

The following research hypotheses will be tested:

1. There is no significant influence of siblings' rivalry on anti-social behavior of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.
2. There is no significant influence of parental physical maltreatment of children on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.

Literature Review

Concepts of Anti-social Behaviour

Anti-social behaviour is generally 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 behaviour may seem charming, but often cause harm to others and show little remorse for their actions. Antisocial behaviour 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 behaviour 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 behaviour 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) alleged that, engaging in antisocial behaviour poses great risk to an individual's mental and physical health. That puts one at increased risk for alcoholism, cigarette smoking, illegal drug use, high-risk sexual behaviour, depression, and engaging in violent acts towards others and self. Chipman, (2000). Anti-societal behaviour has additional health consequences by virtue of its relationship with high-risk sexual behaviour and depression. High-risk sexual behaviour poses life threatening consequences due to the risk of HIV/AIDS (human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome). Depression, though not life threatening itself, is characterized by negative emotional, cognitive, and motivational symptoms; low self-esteem; and generally diminished quality of life. By placing individuals at risk for these behaviours and conditions, antisocial behaviour is clearly associated with undesirable mental and physical health outcomes that may ultimately lead to loss of life. (Andrew, 2009).

The Concept of Adolescence

Osarenren (2002) viewed adolescence from the age grade and physiological dimensions. She sees adolescence as a period between puberty and adulthood, a period heralded by a final surge of all round physical growth. Going by this definition, the period between puberty and adulthood is between 11- 19 years for boys and girls. In the educational system of Nigeria, this is a period when boys and girls are in the secondary school. The physiological changes that occur during this period are usually accompanied by new, and often times confusing emotional responses. 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.

Sibling Rivalry and Anti-Social Behaviour

As postulated by Donna, (2004) sibling rivalry is the jealousy, competition and fighting between brothers and sisters. It is a concern for almost all parents of two or more kids. Problems often start right after the birth of the second child. Sibling rivalry usually continues throughout childhood and can be very frustrating and stressful to parents and as well contribute to social problems. According to observational studies by Judy Dunn (2000), alleged that, children are sensitive from the age of one year to differences in parental treatment. Children have a sophisticated grasp of social rules; can evaluate themselves in relation to their siblings, and know how to adapt to circumstances within the family.

According to Kennedy-Moore, & Katayama, (2005), sibling rivalry often continues throughout childhood, and can be very frustrating and stressful to parents and can influence the children negatively by causing them to be involved in anti-social behaviours in school. Adolescents fight for the same reasons younger children fight, but they are better equipped physically and intellectually to hurt and be hurt by each other in the school. Fighting with siblings as a way to get parental attention may increase adolescence involvement in social problems like fighting and bullying others in the school.

According to Dr. Jonathan Caspi, professor of family and child studies at Montclair State University, dismissing sibling rivalry can cause more harm than good to their studies and bring about a poor academic performance. Most people see aggression between siblings as an unavoidable, normal and ultimately harmless aspect of child development. He observed that this can often cause social maladjustment and behavioural problems. In his view, some of which may be severe and even precursors to other forms of violence. Weihe, (1997) suggests that four criteria should be used to determine if questionable behaviour is rivalry or sibling abuse which affects their relationship with others in class rooms. First, one must determine if the questionable behaviour is aged appropriate: e.g., children use different conflict-resolution tactics during various developmental stages. Second, one must determine if the behaviour is an isolated incident or part of an enduring pattern: abuse is, by definition, a long-term pattern rather than occasional disagreements. Third, one must determine if there is an "aspect of victimization" to the behaviour: rivalry tends to be incident-specific, reciprocal and obvious to others, while abuse is characterized by secrecy and an imbalance of power. Fourth, one must determine the goal of the questionable behaviour: the goal of abuse tends to be embarrassment or domination of the victim.

Parental Physical Maltreatment of Children and Anti-Social Behaviour

Okon, (1999) stated that a number of complex issues need to be considered when trying to define a form of parental maltreatment of children. Child maltreatment reflect cultural values and beliefs. Behaviour that is considered abusive in one culture may be considered acceptable in another (e.g., corporal punishment). Child maltreatment can be defined either using abusive or neglectful adult behaviours (e.g., the definition of child physical abuse would comprise parental behaviours such as hitting or shaking), or by the harm caused to the child as a result of such behaviours (e.g., child physical abuse would be indicted if the child displayed physical symptoms such as bruising or swelling). Although perpetrator intent to maltreat a child is often a useful indicator of child maltreatment, there are a number of instances where abuse or neglect

can occur even though the perpetrator did not intend to commit it (e.g., neglectful parents may have had no intention of neglecting their children), (Bromfield, 2005).

Zamas, (1990) opines that other factors that can contribute to parental physical child abuse include parents' immaturity, lack of parenting skills, poor childhood experiences and social isolation, as well as frequent crisis situations, drug or alcohol problems and domestic violence.

The result of the work of Ade and Haruna, (2007) reveals that physical indicators of abuse includes bruises; lacerations; swollen areas; and marks on the child's face, head, back, chest, genital area, buttocks or thighs. Wounds like human bite marks, cigarette burns, broken bones, puncture marks or missing hair. At this juncture, a child's behaviour might signal that something is wrong. Victims of physical abuse may display withdrawn or aggressive behavioural extremes, complain of soreness or uncomfortable movement, wear clothing that is inappropriate for the weather, express discomfort with physical contact or become chronic runaways.

Method

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 800 respondents (200 teachers and 600 students) for the study.

Instrumentation

The instrument used by the researcher for this study was a research questionnaire tagged "DOMESTIC ABUSE AND ADOLESCENT ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR QUESTIONNAIRE" (DAAABQ).

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 0.75 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 later 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.

Results and Discussions

Hypothesis One

The null hypothesis states that there is no significant influence of siblings rivalry on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State. In order to test the hypothesis simple regression was used to analyse the data, (see table 1).

Table 1: Simple regression of the influence of siblings rivalry 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	0.98a	0.96	0.96	0.35	0.96

***Significant at 0.05 level; df = 238; N = 240; critical r-value = 0.139**

The table 1 shows that the calculated R-value 0.98 was greater than the critical R-value of 0.139 at 0.5 alpha level with 238 degree of freedom. The R-square value of 0.98 predicts 98% of the influence of siblings' rivalry on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.

This rate is highly positive and therefore means that there is significant influence of siblings' rivalry 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 class of independent variable as responded by each respondent (see table 2).

Table 2: Analysis of variance of the influence of siblings' rivalry on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	753.49	1	753.491	6204.26	.000 ^b
Residual	28.90	238	0.121		
Total	782.39	239			

a. Dependent Variable: ANTI_SOCIAL_BEHAVIOUR

b. Predictors: (Constant), SIBLING_RIVALRY

The above table presents the calculated F-value as (6204.26) and the critical f-value as (000^b). Being that, the critical f-value (000^b) was below the probability level of 0.05, the result therefore means that there is significant difference in the influence exerted by the independent variables (sibling rivalry) on the dependent variable which is anti-social behaviour.

Hypothesis Two

The null hypothesis states that there is no significant influence of parental physical maltreatment of children on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State. In order to test the hypothesis simple regression was used to analyse the data, (see table 3).

Table 3: Simple regression of the influence of parental physical maltreatment 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	0.88a	0.77	0.77	0.87	0.77

***Significant at 0.05 level; df = 238; N = 240; critical r-value = 0.139**

The table 3 shows that the calculated R-value 0.88 was greater than the critical R-value of 0.139 at 0.5 alpha level with 238 degree of freedom. The R-square value of 0.88 predicts 88% of the influence of parental physical maltreatment of children on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.

This rate is highly positive and therefore means that there is significant influence of parental physical maltreatment 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 class of independent variable as responded by each respondent (see table 4).

Table 4: Analysis of variance of the influence of parental physical maltreatment of children on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	603.24	1	603.24	801.39	.000 ^b
Residual	179.15	238	0.75		
Total	782.39	239			

a. Dependent Variable: ANTI_SOCIAL_BEHAVIOUR

b. Predictors: (Constant), PARENTAL_MALTREATMENT

The above table presents the calculated F-value as (801.39) and the critical f-value as (000^b). Being that the critical f-value (000^b) was below the probability level of 0.05, the result therefore means that there is significant difference in the influence exerted by the independent variables (parental maltreatment) on the dependent variable which is anti-social behaviour.

Discussion of the Findings

The result of the data analysis in tables 1 and 2 were significant due to the fact that the obtained R-value (0.98) and calculated F-value (6204.26) were greater than their respective critical -values at 0.05 level with 238 degree of freedom. The result implies that, there is significant influence of siblings' rivalry on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State. The finding agrees with the opinion of Donna (2004) that, sibling rivalry is the jealousy, competition and fighting between brothers and sisters. It is a concern for almost all parents of two or more kids. He alleged that the problems often start right after the [birth of the second child](#). Sibling rivalry usually continues throughout childhood and can be very frustrating and stressful to parents and as well contribute to social problems. The significance of the result caused the null hypotheses to be rejected while the alternative one was accepted.

The result of the data analysis in tables 3 and 4 were significant due to the fact that the obtained R-value (0.88) and calculated F-value (801.39) were greater than their respective critical -values at 0.05 level with 238 degree of freedom. The result implies that, there is significant influence of parental physical maltreatment of children on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State. The finding agrees with the opinion of Okon, (1999) who stated that a number of complex issues need to be considered when trying to define a form of parental maltreatment of children. That Child maltreatment reflect cultural values and beliefs. Behaviour that is considered abusive in one culture may be considered acceptable in another (e.g., corporal punishment). The significance of the result caused the null hypotheses to be rejected while the alternative one was accepted.

Conclusion

There are cases of siblings' rivalry among secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State. In Akwa Ibom State secondary school, students for instance are identified with anti-social behavior. There is significant influence of siblings' rivalry on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State. There is also significant influence of parental physical maltreatment of children on anti-social behaviour of secondary school students in Akwa Ibom State.

Recommendation

1. Parents must not impose physical force on children in attempt to correct them, as this is likely to cause physical harm, and poor academic performances.
2. Parents must not ignore their children's reaction to sibling rivalry as they are training them into bullying other children in schools.
3. Parents must learn never to compare or typecast their children with other siblings; this can reduce the incident of siblings' rivalry in homes.
4. Report any form of rivalry from siblings and physical maltreatment from parents to proper authorities.

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