Parenting styles, social network and socio-demographic factors on deviant behavior among In-school adolescents

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Abstract: Deviant behaviors among in-school adolescents have been on the increased over the years. Studies that have examined different predictors of deviant behaviors have produced varied results. Therefore, this study examines parenting styles, social network, age and gender as predictors of deviant behavior among in-school adolescents in Ibadan South-west Local Government Area (LGA). Cross-sectional survey design was adopted while simple random sampling technique was used to select five public secondary schools in the LGA. Data were collected from 200 in-school adolescents using validated scales and analyzed using multiple regression and independent samples t-test to test two hypotheses. The result showed that parenting styles and social network jointly predicted deviant behavior among in-school adolescents (R^2 = .05, F (2, 194) = 4.89, p < .05). Also, the result revealed that age and gender jointly predicted deviant behavior [R^2 = .10, F(5,195) = 2.13, p <.05]. Finally, both age (β = -.14, p <.05) and gender (β =.17, p <.05) independently predicted deviant behavior. The study concluded that parenting styles, social network, age and gender are excellent predictors of deviant behavior among in-school adolescents. The study recommended parents, school counselors and other stakeholders should provide good examples for adolescents against deviant behaviors.

Keywords: Parenting Styles; Social Network; Deviant Behavior, In-School Adolescents

Introduction

Deviant behavior is described as an anti-social activity carried out by an individual that affects other individuals, families and the larger society (Idris, 2023). Deviant behavior is a cultural bound phenomenon as what is acceptable in one culture may not be acceptable in another culture. One group of individuals in the society in which their deviant behaviors continue to be a source of concern is the in-school adolescents. The rate at which they participate in deviant behavior has been on the increase. Some of the deviant behaviors among in-school adolescents include examination malpractices, fighting, gossiping, truancy, disrespect to constituted authorities and elders, cultism, premarital sex, smoking and drinking, bullying, cybercrimes, vandalism, stealing, destruction of school properties, etc (*Ibuchim,*

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C.O.(2016).Parent and Maladjusted Children, n.d.). The consequences of these deviant behaviors among in-school adolescents fall back on the families, the school environment and the larger society.

Some factors have been investigated as predictors of deviant behavior among different samples and across different populations. Parenting style is considered in this study as one factor that is likely to predict deviant behavior. It is described as a psychological concept that explains how parents and children interact together overtime (Moitrc & Murkerjee, 2012). It has also been conceived as "a behavioral construct which sets the emotional context within which parents and children interact" (Larsen et al., 2015). Literature has identified two dimensions of parenting styles as demandingness, that is, how much control parents' exercise over their children, and responsiveness, that is, how receptive and accepting parents' response to their children's needs (Baumrind, 1991). Based on these two dimensions, there are four types of parenting styles. Authoritative parenting style is associated with a high level of demandingness and high level of responsiveness to the children (Baumrind, 1991). Authoritarian parenting style has high demandingness but low responsiveness, that is, rules are set but with less parental influence on the needs of the children (Baumrind, 1991). Permissive parenting style has low demandingness with high responsiveness, meaning few rules but high engagement with the children's needs (Baumrind, 1991). The uninvolved parenting style has both low demandingness and low responsiveness (Baumrind, 1991).

Baumrind (2012) found the types of parenting styles executed by the parents to directly and indirectly predict deviant behavior among pre-adolescence, adolescence and post-adolescence stages. For example, (Luyckx et al., 2011) asserted that authoritarian and authoritative parenting styles foster adequate interaction between parents and children which leads to less deviant behavior among adolescents. Other studies have confirmed that children brought up in an environment of affection, care as well as discipline is less likely to get involved in deviant behaviors (Eke, 2004 ; Gitau & Maroko, 2021, (Parveen et al., 2021) On the other hand, studies have found permissive and uninvolved parenting styles where parents do not spend enough time with their children, do not set rules and monitored what their children do to lead to deviant behavior (Adesanya & Osinowo, 2019; (Nnani et al., 2020; (Parveen et al., 2021).

Social network is the second factor considered in this study to predict deviant behavior among in-school adolescents. Social network (or social media network) explains the communication patterns among individuals through which thoughts and ideas are shared online using Internet-based computer platforms (Eteng et al., 2021) .These virtual platforms include Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, YouTube, X(Twitter), LinkedIn, etc. Studies have found the use of social networks to be the causes of various deviant behaviors such as substance abuse, cyber bullying, deviant sexual behavior, aggressive behaviuor (Odofin, 2019; Usman & Iman, 2023). Specifically,(Adegboyega, 2020) found the use of social networks to engage in illicit sexual behaviors lead to unwanted pregnancies among teenagers. When social networks are ineffectively used, the results are that of high levels of deviant behavior both at the individual and collective levels (Siddiqui & Singh, 2016). Concluding, (Ogodo et al., 2022) found social media as a significant predictor of deviant behavior among in-school adolescents.

Two demographic variables considered in this study as likely to predict deviant behavior among in-school adolescents are age and gender. Deviant behavior progresses with age. For example, deviant behavior started from ages 11 to13 years, then gradually develops at ages 15-17 and become more pronounced at ages 18-20 which are the stage of exuberant behaviors where adolescents could carelessly indulge in various dangerous deviant behaviors (Omorogiuwa & Omorogiuwa, 2017). (Oguntayo et al., 2020) had confirmed that the age at which adolescents engages in deviant behavior differs from society to society.(Suleiman et al, 2018) further found that deviant behavior increases with an increase in the age brackets among adolescents. This implies that adolescents with higher age brackets would always be daring and bold to exercise their deviant behaviors regardless of the consequences of their behaviors. This would in turn encourage them to lure other adolescents to indulge in more serious deviant behaviors.

Finally, gender of the in-school adolescents whether they are males or females was considered as a likely predictor of deviant behavior. For example,(Adebule & Ibimluyi, 2012) found the rate at which deviant behavior of sexual immorality occurs to be higher among females than their male counterparts. Also, (Shraboni, 2016) found higher prevalence of HIV/AIDS among female patients than their male patients due to their ignorance in the use of contraceptives. Also, (Omorogiuwa & Omorogiuwa, 2017) found more female in-school adolescents to indulge in sexual (deviant) behavior than their male counterparts which resulted in their poor academic performance and eventually dropped out from school. (Eteng et al., 2021) did not find gender differences among their study participants.

Deviant behavior among in-school adolescents has become a consistent issue affecting the parent, educators (teachers), government and the larger society. Studies that investigated predictors of deviant behaviors have produced varying results. Also, studies linking parental styles, social network, age and gender to deviant behavior in Nigeria are lacking which created gaps in knowledge that need to be filled. Therefore, this study was executed to determine the predictability of parenting styles, social network, age and gender on deviant behavior among in-school adolescents in Ibadan South-west LGA in Oyo State, Nigeria. The study was guided by this research question: Would parenting styles, social network, age and gender jointly and independently predict deviant behavior among in-school adolescents in Ibadan South-west Local Government Area in Oyo State, Nigeria?.

The study findings would give an insight into the predictability of parenting styles, social network, age and gender on deviant behavior among in-school adolescents in the study population. Also, parents, teachers and other stakeholders would find the results of this study useful in implementing policies that would reduce deviant behavior among in-school adolescents. Finally, data generated in this study would provide a baseline for further studies on predictors of deviant behavior across different populations and samples.

Method

The study utilized cross-sectional survey design while data were collected using validated questionnaires. The independent variables investigated were parenting styles, social network, age and gender while the dependent variable was deviant behavior. The study was conducted among in-school

adolescents in Ibadan South-west Local Government Area (LGA) in Oyo State, Nigeria. The LGA is the largest of the 33 LGAs in Oyo State with 36 public secondary schools.

The study adopted purposive sampling technique was used to select four public senior secondary schools (SSS) in Ibadan South-west LGA for the study while convenience sampling method was used to select in-school adolescents for data collection.

Data were collected using different validated questionnaires. For example, Deviant Behavior Scale (Mushtaq & Kausar, 2018) was used to measure deviant behavior among in-school adolescents. It is a 25- item scale rated on a 4-point Likert's format ranging from 1=Almost not to 4= Almost always. Sample items include: "I feel angry at home", "I feel angry in school" and "I feel angry with friends". High scores on the scale reflect increased deviant behavior and low scores reflect reduced deviant behavior among in-school adolescents. (Mushtaq & Kausar, 2012) obtained Cronbach's alpha of 0.70 while in the present study, Cronbach's alpha of 0.68 was obtained.

Also, Parenting Style Scale (Robinson et al., 1995) was used to assess parenting styles. It is a 21-item scale rated on a 4-point Likert's format ranges from 1=All the time to 4=Never). Sample items include: "1 would like to be a friend, philosopher and guide to my child" and "I give valuable reward to my child for obeying me or behaving well". High scores on the scale indicate a high level of parenting styles and low scores indicate a low level of parenting styles. The authors obtained Cronbach's alpha of 0.92 and in the current study, Cronbach's alpha was 0.89.

Finally, Social Networking Usage Questionnaire (Bashir & Gupta, 2018) was used to evaluate social networks among in-school adolescents. It is a 19-item scale presented on a 5-point Likert's format ranging from 1=strongly disagree to 5=strongly agree. Sample items include: "I use social networking sites to solve academic problems", "I use social networking sites to do research work" and "I use social networking sites for collaborative learning". (Bashir & Gupta, 2018) obtained Cronbach's alpha of 0.83 and in the current study, Cronbach's alpha of 0.79.

The procedure for the study involved the collection of letter of introduction from the Department of Psychology, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. The selected schools were approached by the researchers where the purpose of the study was explained to the school authority. Based on the approval by the school authority, teachers were assigned to the researchers to gather students in Senior Secondary School (SSS) 1, 2 & 3 in a designated classroom to participate in the study. The researchers briefed the students on the purpose of the study while both verbal and written consent were sought and obtained from them. They were told that participation in the study was voluntary and that they can decide not to fill the questionnaires at any point in time. They were told all their responses would be treated confidentially as no item would be traced to them or to their schools. Students who agreed to participate in the study were given the questionnaires to complete which took less than 15 minutes. A total of 200 questionnaires were administered and collected on the spot, however, three questionnaires were improperly filled and were removed thus leaving 197 used for the analysis.

Finally, data collected were analyzed using IBM SPSS version 23. Both descriptive and inferential statistics was performed on the data. Multiple regression analysis was used to test hypotheses 1 and 2 while all hypotheses were accepted at a $p < .05$ level of significance

Result

Descriptive statistics revealed that 89(45%) of the participants were males while 108(55%) were females. In terms of their age bracket, 59(30%) of the participants were between 13 and 14 age bracket, 63(32%) were between 15 and 16 age bracket, 67(34%) were between 17 and 18 age bracket while 8 (4%) were 19 years and above. Also, the data showed that 62(31%) of the participants were in SSS1, 66(32%) in SSS2 while 69(35%) were in SSS3. Finally, the participants' ethnic groups indicated that 136 (69%) were Yoruba, 38(19) were Igbo, 10(5%) were Hausa while 13(7%) were from unclassified ethnic groups.

H1: Parenting style dimensions of authoritarian, authoritative, permissive and uninvolved and social network would jointly and independently predict deviant behavior among in-school adolescents in Ibadan South-west Local Government Area (LGA) in Oyo State. The hypothesis was tested using multiple regression analysis and the result is presented in Table 1.Tables

Table 1

Multiple Regression of Parenting Styles and Social Network as Joint and Independent Predictors of Deviant Behavior among In-School Adolescents

Predictors	β	t	p	R	R^2	F	p
Authoritarian	-.01	-.89	>.05	.32	.10	2.132	.05*
Authoritative	.13	2.46	<.05				
Permissive	-.12	-1.55	>.05				
Uninvolved	-.09	-1.29	>.05				
Social Network	.23	2.75	<.05				

* Significant at p <.05

Table 1 shows the result of parenting styles (authoritarian, authoritative, permissive, and uninvolved) and social network on deviant behavior. The results revealed that components of parenting styles and social network jointly predicted deviant behavior among in-school adolescents (R2 = .10, F (2, 194) = 2.132, p < .05). This accounted for 10% of variance observed on deviant behavior as the result of the interaction of the independent variables. Also, the result showed that social networks (β = .23, p < .05) and authoritative parenting style (β = .13, p < .05) independently predicted deviant behavior among study participants. However, authoritarian (β= -.01, p < .05), permissive (β = -.12, p > .05) and uninvolved (β = -.09, p > .05) parenting styles did not independently predict deviant behavior among study participants. Therefore, the hypothesis was partially supported.

H2: Age and gender would jointly and independently predict deviant behavior among in-school adolescents in Ibadan South-west LGA. The hypothesis was tested using multiple regressions and the result is presented in Table 2.

Table 2

Multiple Regression of Parenting Styles and Social Network as Joint and Independent Predictors of Deviant Behavior among In-School Adolescents

Predictors	β	t	p	R	R^2	F	p
Gender	.17	2.38	<.05	.22	.05	4.89	.05*
Age	-.14	-2.05	<.05				

Dependent variable: Deviant behavior
* Significant at p <.05

Table 2 depicts age and gender as joint and independent predictors of deviant behavior among in-school adolescents. The result indicated that gender and age jointly predicted deviant behavior among study participants (R2 = .05, F (2, 194) = 4.89, p < .05). The result explained 5% of variance in deviant behavior as the result of the interaction of age and gender. Further analysis revealed that both age (β = -.14, p <.05) and gender (β =.17, p <.05) independently predicted deviant behavior among in-school adolescents. The result therefore supported the hypothesis.

Discussion

This study examines parenting styles, social network, age and gender as joint and independent predictors of deviant behavior among in-school adolescents in Ibadan South-west Local Government Area (LGA) in Oyo State, Nigeria. Two hypotheses were stated and accepted at p < .05 level of significance.

The hypothesis that parenting styles and social networks would jointly and independently predict deviant behavior among in-school adolescents was partially supported. The results showed that parenting styles of authoritarian, authoritative, permissive and uninvolved coupled with social network jointly predicted deviant behavior among in-school adolescents in Ibadan South-west LGA. The authoritarian parenting style allows children to follow rules but accommodates responses and questions from the children directed to their parents (Luyckx et al., 2011; Gitau & Maroko, 2021; Parveen et al., 2021). For the authoritative parenting style, the rules are set but there are rooms for the children to express themselves with liberty and clear conscience. However, for the permissive parenting style where there is high responsiveness and low involvement compared to the uninvolved parenting style where there is no demanding and responsiveness on the part of the parents, children are left on their own resulting in high levels of deviant behavior. The finding of this study lent credence to previous results

that good parenting styles help to reduce children going into deviant behavior (Nnani et al., 2017;Omorogiuwa & Omorogiuwa, 2017; Oguntayo et al., 2020)

Also, social networks were found to contribute to deviant behavior among study participants. In-school adolescents exposed to negative influence of social networks tend to influence them negatively which in turns would lure them to participate in deviant behavior. Again, this finding supported previous studies that in-school adolescents who see social networks as interaction platforms, a media of social interaction, would do things that make them indulge in deviant behavior (Odofin, 2019; Usman & Iman, 2023). Finally, the finding lent credence to previous results that in-school adolescents exposed to social networks are at the risk of using psychoactive substances, leading to a series of deviant behaviors (Siddiqui & Singh, 2016) Also, the study supported the previous results that individuals who frequently used social networks to engage in illicit sexual behaviors lead to unwanted pregnancies among teenagers. When social networks are ineffectively used, the results are that of high levels of deviant behavior both at the individual and collective levels (Siddiqui & Singh, 2016).

The hypothesis that age and gender would jointly and independently predict deviant behavior among in-school adolescents was confirmed. This means that age and gender of in-school adolescents have both independent and main interaction effects on the types and natures of their deviant behaviors. The age of in-school adolescents and their gender correlated with the types of deviant behaviors they are engaged in. This finding supported (Adebule & Ibimluyi, 2012) result that age and gender are significant predictors of adolescents' deviant behavior which by extension include in-school adolescents. Also, the study supported finding by (Suleiman et al, 2018) and(Oguntayo et al., 2021) that age and gender are good predictors of deviant behaviors among adolescents in their study.

Conclusions

The study has empirically confirmed that interaction of parenting styles and social network predicted deviant behavior among in-school adolescents in the study population. Also, age and gender were found to be significant predictors of deviant behavior among in-school adolescents in the study population.

Since authoritative parenting style independently predicted deviant behavior among study participants in this study, it is recommended that more parents should adopt authoritative parenting style to prevent children developing deviant behavior. Because age and gender jointly and independently predicted deviant behavior among study participants, it recommends equal attention in terms of training and modeling should be given to both genders at the early age to reduce incidence of engaging in deviant behavior.

The study has some limitations which should be addressed in further studies. To begin with, data were collected using self-reported questionnaires which were not free of response bias. Further studies would benefit from using focus group discussion and documentary reports from the school counselors to triangulate data collected from questionnaires. In addition, data were collected from 200 in-school adolescents from one out of 33 LGAs in Oyo State which hindered generalization of study findings. Further studies would benefit by increasing the sample size and the number of LGAs in the State. Finally,

the independent variables studied were not exhausted. Further studies should explore personality traits, self-esteem and learned helplessness.

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