



**ABUSIVE PARENTING AS PREDICTOR OF INTERNALIZING AND
EXTERNALIZING BEHAVIOURS AMONG IN-SCHOOL ADOLESCENTS IN OGUN
STATE**

By

Aderonke A. Akintola

Department of Behavioural Studies, Redeemer's University, Ede, Osun State, Nigeria.
+2348033879244

Abstract

A number of children in Nigerian cities especially in Ogun State exhibit various emotional and self-destructive problems, and delinquent activities as a result of harsh and hazardous conditions they are exposed to from abuse and neglect by parents/guardians. Hitherto, researchers have looked into risky and delinquent behaviors of adolescents, vis a vis a number of factors, but not much has been done to ascertain child abuse as a cause. This study therefore investigated abusive parenting as a predictor of internalizing, externalizing behaviors among in-school adolescents in Ogun State. The study adopted cross sectional survey method. Using purposive and convenient sampling techniques, 238 adolescents, 116 males (49%) and 122 females (51%) with mean age =16.71±2.21 years were selected from three secondary schools in Ifo Local Government Area of Ogun State as participants in the study. Data was collected using self-report measures on abusive parenting, internalizing and externalizing behaviors. Two hypotheses were generated and tested with Multivariate Analysis of Variance and One-Way ANOVA. Results revealed that abusive parenting had significant influence on internalizing behaviours, externalizing behaviours and delinquent activities among adolescents jointly [$F(2, 256) = .76, p < .01$]. Independently, abusive parenting significantly influenced internalizing behaviours [$F(1, 257) = 77.31, p < .01$], and externalising behaviours [$F(1, 257) = 9.20, p < .01$], but not on delinquent activity [$F(1, 257) = .90, p > .05$] among adolescents. Results underscore the need by collective efforts for policy makers and professionals to address family problems and educate parents on skills to adopt in parenting, using various means to enlighten parents about the consequences of child abuse.

Keywords: *Abusive parenting, internalizing and externalizing behaviors, delinquent behaviors*

Introduction

Internalizing behaviors refer to behavior problems that are inner-directed and over-controlled (Li, 2022). Such include; social isolation, withdrawal, anxiety, and depression. Whereas externalizing behaviour includes a wide range of generally antisocial behaviours that violate social norms, and or harmful to others. These acts or behaviours include those that are targeted at others like aggression as well as behaviours that may be considered victimless such as substance use (Kauten & Barry, 2020). American Psychiatric Association (2013), described internalizing behaviors as encompassing a dimension of childhood psychopathology that includes behaviors that are directed inward or are over-controlled and are associated with a number of depressive and anxiety disorders, and externalizing behavior as disruptive, impulse-control, and conduct disorders including behaviors that “violate the rights of others or bring the individual into significant conflict with societal norms or authority figures. Specifically, internalizing problems are a broad class of co-occurring problems that mainly involve inner distress whereas externalizing problems mainly involve conflict with others and social mores. Such behaviors are problematic for society because the adverse effects of internalizing and externalizing behaviors are not only immediate but long-term as well, and they have a negative effect both on the individual and on the public (Georgiou & Symeou, 2018).

Internalizing and externalizing behaviours which often start in childhood can extend into adolescence, and are also manifested in adulthood as antisocial behaviour if the problems are not addressed in good time. Adolescence is a transitional period of development from childhood to adulthood with evident biological and emotional changes. When considering a healthy development of adolescent in terms of moral, emotional and psychological, the quality of parent-adolescent relationships is vital. The ways that parents shape their children’s development have been a long-standing source of theorizing by scientists especially developmental psychologists. Parents are the primary contexts in which young children learn what kinds of social behaviors to expect from others as well as how to interpret and send emotional signals to others. Parents are considered as the central socializing agents responsible for instilling in youth a set of norms, values, beliefs, and ideals. The failure of parents to accomplish this task may result in serious consequences such as the internalizing and externalizing behaviours which are problematic to both the child and the society at large. (Marcone et al., 2020).

Studies have clearly unveiled that parenting accounts for more variance in externalizing behaviors in adolescence than any other developmental stages (Marcone et al., 2020; Mendez et al., 2020). Harsh parenting, such as threatening, yelling, or screaming in response to misbehavior, is thought to contribute to more frequent externalizing behaviors that normalize violence or aggression (Fuentes-Balderram, 2020; Marcone et al., 2020). Also, inconsistent parental disciplinary behaviors may even inadvertently reinforce adolescent's conduct problems. Adolescents' aggressive and noncompliant behavior is reinforced when parents engage in an inconsistent discipline practice when the parent makes a request, the adolescent responds negatively, and the parent backs down. For example, inconsistent discipline, relative to more consistent discipline, has been associated with problematic psychological adjustment of adolescents, such as depression and anxiety (Fletcher et al., 2017) and externalizing behaviors, such as oppositional defiant disorder and conduct disorder (Bauer et al., 2021).

Delinquent activities are described as habitual committing of criminal acts or offenses by a young person, especially one below the age at which ordinary criminal prosecution is possible. They are form of behaviours that contradicts certain social norms that are also seen as antisocial or externalizing behaviours that are considered unlawful, examples of include lying, sexual licentiousness, cheating, involvement in fights, vandalism, substance abuse, arson, rape, bullying, aggression, theft, violence, gangsterism, hitting or physical assaulting others, driving without a license; carrying weapon, drinking alcohol, engaging in premarital sex, and teenage pregnancy etc. Children as young as two years can begin to display externalizing behaviours, however, early-onset antisocial behaviour starts around age 11 and could lead to chronic juvenile delinquency in adolescence and adulthood (Abdullah et al., 2015; Johnson et al., 2015). A range of interacting factors such as parent-child hostility, poor parenting practices, and peer deviance, to community structure and social support have been linked to delinquency. Considerable evidence shows that the family plays an important role in the development of adolescent delinquent behavior through inappropriate reinforcement practices as parent constitutes the basic ecology in which the child's behavior is manifested by way of positive or negative reinforcement (Abdullah et al., 2015; Johnson et al., 2015). Furthermore, children who experience maltreatment in the form of physical and emotional abuse are more likely to develop antisocial behaviors and form relationships with

other antisocial people (U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice, 2017).

Abusive parenting represents an interaction between aversive parental behaviors and the special vulnerabilities and strengths of a given child (Ajayeoba, 2011). Abusive parenting can thus be defined as the subjection of a child by parent or guidance to emotional, social and physical maltreatment with the aim of rebuking, correcting, building, and modifying behavior of the child. It can include inflicting or allowing someone to inflict physical injury, emotional or psychological pains other than by accidental means on a child.

Emotionally abusive behaviours include excessive and continuing criticism, denigration, terrorizing, repeated blaming, insults, and threats against children by their caretakers. For example, parents/caregivers may use extreme or bizarre forms of punishment, such as lengthy confinement of a child in a dark closet. Emotionally neglectful behaviours include failure of a parent or caregiver to supply a child with the love and support necessary for a healthy emotional development; examples include failure to provide warmth, attention, supervision, affection, praise or encouragement to a child, gross indifference and inattentiveness to a child's developmental or special needs. These emotional abusive or neglectful behaviours by the parents or caregivers can cause serious behavioural, cognitive, emotional, or mental problems (Maguire et al., 2015; Zhou & Zhen, 2022). Physically abusive behaviour includes children being punching, kicking, hitting, (with a hand, fist, or object), beating, biting, burning, throwing, stabbing, shaking, or otherwise harming a child. The harm is inflicted by a parent or caregiver responsible for the child's care, and is considered abuse whether the adult intended harm or not (Zhou & Zhen, 2022; Wu & Xu 2020), whereas sexual abuse is commonly defined as unwanted sexual experiences (i.e. indecent exposure, sexual threats, touching, attempting sex) committed by an adult (MacMillan et al., 2001) with both (physical and sexual) having internalizing and externalizing behaviour consequences in the children and adolescents, Lewis et al. (2016) reported significantly more problems in the sexually abused children in their longitudinal study than the maltreated ones over time. Internalizing problems were higher for sexually abused boys compared to girls. However, with increase in age, internalizing problems increased for the girls, but not externalizing problems relative to boys. This pattern was similar among maltreated but not sexually abused youth.

For some parents, childrearing is a difficult and aversive event that can escalate unpredictably into a sudden abusive incident, or more gradually turn into avoidance and neglect. Also, lacking experience in childrearing and development, unmanageable stress, and at-risk parents might overreact to a child's action or misbehavior (WHO 2022; Wolfe et al., 2010). Abusive parents are more likely to be young, single, poor and unemployed and to have less education than their non-abusing counterparts. In both developing and industrialized countries, poor, young, single mothers are among those at greatest risk for using violence towards their children. These parents may also be uninformed and have unrealistic expectations about child development (AAP, 2022; WHO 2022). It is noted that physical abuse as well as emotional maltreatment occurs most often in the context of social and economic family deprivation, which can transform or predispose, high-risk parents into abusive or neglectful ones. The greater degree of stress in the social environment of the parent increases the probability that physical or verbal abuse or violence will surface as an attempt to gain control or cope with irritating, stressful events (Oshio & Umeda 2016; Wu & Xu 2020).

Statement of the Problem

The adolescence developmental stage is often portrayed as stressful for both parents and teens. Research demonstrates that teens undergo a number of developmental adjustments including biological, cognitive, emotional and social changes on their way to becoming adults (Backes & Bonnie, 2019). However, the rate at which adolescents engage in delinquent activities has been increasing concern not only to the law enforcement agencies and the general public in Nigeria, but has also drawn the attention of developmental psychologists (Kumuyi et al., 2019). Delinquency among adolescents is a critical challenge which has to be squarely faced and tackled by the society if it is not to pay heavily for youth aberrance.

Several researches both locally and internationally have been carried out in determining the causal factors responsible for adolescents' internalizing and externalizing behaviour and delinquent activities but not much has been documented in Nigeria especially regarding abusive parenting being a causative factor. The general public and concerned individuals are horrified and worried at the hazardous nature and harsh conditions that some children in Nigerian cities especially in Ogun State are exposed to as a result of abuse and neglect by parents/guardians. A number of the

activities that these children are involved in do not only endanger their health but also leave them exposed to the nefarious activities of the human ritualists, gang raping and some of these children are by themselves involved in various antisocial behaviours. They engage in various acts ranging from begging on the streets, hawking of wares while others are porters and bus conductors. These they do after school hours and some do not attend school, playing truancy.

The children also have the tendency to frequently run into problems with either themselves, members of the public as well as the law enforcement agencies. Most disturbing is a case in which juvenile armed robbers adopted names of renowned notorious armed robbers who were publicly executed in the country in the 70s. Furthermore, it was confirmed that the mother to one of these teenagers usually fortified him and his gang with charms so that they won't be arrested. (This Day, 11 Nov, 2022). This is a reflection of how bad things have gone, and it is an offshoot of some of these adolescents' attempts to survive by all means. Others who do not exhibit externalizing behaviours have internalizing problems; a number of cases of adolescents' suicide or suicidal attempts both in-school and out of school have been reported. Considering these problems and the fact that they have not been assessed from the perspective of parental abuse, this study therefore investigates the role of abusive parenting in adolescents' internalizing and externalizing behaviour and delinquent activities among in-school adolescents' resident in Ogun State, Nigeria, specifically, in a local government notorious for youth externalizing behaviour and accompanying internalizing behaviour. It is hoped that the findings from this study will fill in the gap.

In view of the foregoing, the following hypotheses were generated:

Hypotheses

1. Abusive parenting will significantly predict internalizing and externalizing behaviour among adolescents in Ogun State.
2. Abusive parenting will significantly predict delinquent activities among adolescents in Ogun State.

Methods

Design

A cross-sectional survey design was used in this study. The dependent variables are internalizing and externalizing behaviors, and delinquent activities, while the independent variable is abusive parenting.

Setting/Participants

The study was carried out in the classrooms of five public secondary schools in Ifo Local Government Area of Ogun State. Purposive sampling was employed in the selection of the particular local government used which is known for the delinquent activities of the in-school adolescents. Using simple random sampling technique by balloting, five schools were selected from the 10 secondary schools in the local government. Convenient sampling technique was then employed in selecting 50 respondents from each of the school, giving a total of 250 out of which two hundred and thirty-eight questionnaires were viable for analysis: male=116 (49%) and female=122(51%) between 12 – 21 years (mean =16.71; SD =2.21) from the five secondary schools. Parents of the adolescents also participated in the study making it a dyadic study.

Instruments

Data were gathered through two well-structured questionnaires, one for the adolescent, while the other was for the parents.

Sections A of the Adolescent's comprised demographic variables- age and gender.

Section B: Delinquent activity was measured using Delinquent Activity Scale developed by Reavy, et al., (2012). It consisted of 40 items. The instrument is rated on 5-point Likert scale (1= Never 2= Once or twice 3= Once in a month 4= Once in a week 5= severally). Sample item on the scale include: "Attacked someone with the idea of seriously hurting or killing him/her" "Used force (strong-arm methods) to get money or things from other students." The Cronbach Alpha obtained in this study is .95. Adolescents whose scores tend towards high extreme of the scale are depicted as being high on delinquent activities, while low score indicates low delinquent activities.

Parent's questionnaire comprised of three sections (Section A-C).

Section A was used to gathered socio-demographic information, which includes age and gender. Section B: Abusive parenting was measured using Brief Child Abuse Potential Inventory developed by Ellonen, et al., (2019). The scale consists of total 27 items. The instrument is rated on 5-point Likert scale Strongly Disagree (SD)=1, Disagree (D)=2, Undecided (U)=3, Agree (A)=4, Strongly Agree (SA)=5. Sample item on the scale include: "Children should be quiet and listen." "I know what is the right and wrong way to act". The Cronbach alpha obtained in this study is .90. High score obtained indicates high level of abuse by parent, while low score indicates low abuse by parent.

Section C: Internalizing and externalizing behaviour was measured using items from 'Child and Adolescent Behaviour Inventory' (CABI) (Cianchetti et al., 2013). The inventory has 75 items measuring wide range of disorders. On a broader categorization, 16 items measuring internalisig disorders (items 5 – 10 and items 19 – 28) were adopted to measure internalising behaviours, while 14 items measuring externalising disorders were (items 29 – 42) adoped for the measure of externalising behaviours. This amount to a total of 30 items measuring internalising and externalising behaviours. The instrument is rated on 3-point Likert; 1=Not True (NT), 2= Somewhat or sometimes True (ST), 3=Very True (VT). Sampled items includes, "He is quick-tempered and has fits of anger" and "He worries about school too much". Cianchetti et al. (2013) obtained an internal consistency reliability value for the instrument. A chronbach's alpha coefficient value of .82 was obtained for internalising scale, while .87 was obtained for externalising scale. The Cronbach alpha obtained in this study is .86 and .87 respectively for internalising and externalising behaviours. High score obtained indicates high level of internalizing or externalizing behaviour, while low score indicates low internalizing or externalizing behaviour.

Procedure

Prior to the administration of the questionnaire, the researchers obtained permission from the school administrator to carry out the research. 250 students were sampled for the study. The parents' questionnaires with consent form were first distributed to the participants on a Friday with the instruction to return them back to school on Monday. Students whose parents participated in

the study by filling the questionnaires were then given a copy of questionnaire to fill, with they also filling the assent form. The purpose of the study was earlier explained to the participants and they were also given assurance of confidentiality and anonymity of their identities and responses. In addition, the respondents were informed that there were no right or wrong answers, and as such should try to be honest as possible in their responses. However, only two hundred and thirty-eight (238) were found dully completed.

Data Analysis

In order to determine the extent and direction of relationships among the study variables, Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) analysis was used. The hypotheses were tested using Multivariate Analysis of Variance (MANOVA) and ANOVA. All analyses were conducted using SPSS 20 Wizard.

RESULTS

Table 1

Correlation Matrix showing Existing Relationships among Study Variables

Variables	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean	SD
1. Adolescent Age	1							16.71	2.22
2. Adolescent Gender	-.11	1						-	-
3. Parent's Gender	-.08	.56**	1					-	-
4. Abusive Parenting	-.06	-.23**	-.08	1				74.49	19.78
5. Internalising Behaviours	-.03	-.10	-.07	.48**	1			27.74	6.40
6. Externalising Behaviours	.09	-.04	-.12	.19**	.56**	1		22.38	6.06
7. Delinquent Activity	.04	-.01	-.17*	.11	.24**	.41**	1	62.26	25.19

Note: ** p < 0.01, * p < 0.05, N= 259

The result in Table 1 revealed that abusive parenting was positively related to internalising behaviours [$r(257) = .39, p < .01$]. This implied that the higher the abusive parenting, the more the internalising behaviours of adolescents in Ogun State. In a similar form, abusive parenting had a significant positive relationship with externalising behaviours [$r(257) = .19, p < .01$]. By implication, externalizing behaviours increases when there is also an increase in the experience of abusive parenting among adolescents. However, abusive parenting was not significantly related

with delinquent activities among adolescents [$r(257) = .11, p > .05$]. This implied that changes in abusive parenting were not associated with the delinquent activities of adolescents.

Considering the association among the dependent variables, it was observed that the relationship between internalising behaviours and externalizing behaviours was positively significant [$r(257) = .56, p < .01$]. Also, the relationship between internalising behaviours and delinquent activity was positively significant [$r(257) = .24, p < .01$]. A positive relationship was observed between externalising behaviours and delinquent activity was positively significant [$r(257) = .56, p < .01$].

The test on the socio-demographics tested in the study shows that adolescents' age had no significant relationship with any of the major variables of the study. Adolescents' gender was significantly related with abusive parenting [$r(257) = -.23, p < .01$] such that female adolescents tend to be lower on measure of abusive parenting, while male adolescents scored higher. Parental gender had a significant relationship with delinquent activities [$r(257) = -.17, p < .05$] such that females measured lower on delinquent activities.

Table 2
Mean and Standard Deviation Summary

Dependent Factors	Abusive Parenting	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Internalising Behaviours	Low	24.38	6.07	118
	High	30.55	5.23	141
	Total	27.74	6.40	259
Externalising Behaviours	Low	21.15	6.47	118
	High	23.41	5.52	141
	Total	22.38	6.06	259
Delinquent Activity	Low	60.64	24.11	118
	High	63.62	26.06	141
	Total	62.26	25.19	259

The descriptive statistics showing the mean distributions of abusive parenting on internalizing behaviours, externalizing behaviours, and delinquent activity were presented in Table 2. It was noted that adolescents with high abusive parenting ($M=30.55, SD=5.23$) were higher on internalizing behaviours compared to those with low abusive parenting ($M=24.38, SD=6.07$). In a

similar trend, it was noted that adolescents with high abusive parenting ($M=23.41$, $SD=5.52$) were higher on externalising behaviours compared to those with low abusive parenting ($M=23.41$, $SD=5.52$). Lastly, adolescents with high abusive parenting ($M=63.62$; $SD=26.06$) measured higher on delinquent activity compared to those with low abusive parenting ($M=60.64$; $SD=24.11$).

On a broader comparison, it was found that abusive parenting had higher impact among adolescents internalizing behaviours with a mean difference of 6.17 compared to its impact on externalizing behaviours ($md= 2.26$) and delinquent activity ($md= 2.98$).

For further understanding on the role of abusive parenting on adolescent behaviours, the variables were subjected to MANOVA to test for the significance of the observed variations in the mean and also confirm possible influence of abusive parenting on internalizing behaviours, externalizing behaviours, and delinquent activity independently and interactively. The result is presented below:

Table 3

Summary of MANOVA Showing the Interactive Influence based on Abusive Parenting

		Multivariate Tests ^b				
Effect		Value	F	Hypothesis df	Error df	Sig.
Abusive Parenting	Pillai's Trace	.242	27.151 ^a	3.000	255.000	.000
	Wilks' Lambda	.758	27.151 ^a	3.000	255.000	.000
	Hotelling's Trace	.319	27.151 ^a	3.000	255.000	.000
	Roy's Largest Root	.319	27.151 ^a	3.000	255.000	.000

It was indicated in the above table that there was a significant difference in internalizing behaviours, externalizing behaviours, and delinquent activity based on abusive parenting [$F(2, 256) = .76$, $p < .01$]. This implied that the observed variances in the way abusive parenting affected internalizing behaviours, externalizing behaviours, and delinquent activity were significant. It could therefore be concluded that internalizing behaviours, externalizing behaviours, and delinquent activity will significantly depend on the extent of abusive parenting adolescents were exposed to. To determine how the dependent factors differ from the independent variable, the table presenting the test between subjects effect was presented below.

Table 4

Summary of One-Way ANOVA showing the Influence of Abusive Parenting on Internalising Behaviours, Externalising Behaviours and Delinquent Activities

Source	Dependent Variable	SS	df	MS	F	p
Abusive Parenting	Internalising Behaviours	2446.98	1	2446.98	77.31	.000
	Externalising Behaviours	327.76	1	327.76	9.20	.003
	Delinquent Activity	573.74	1	573.74	.90	.343
Error	Internalising Behaviours	8134.69	257	31.65		
	Externalising Behaviours	9153.40	257	35.62		
	Delinquent Activity	163076.41	257	634.54		
Total	Internalising Behaviours	10581.67	258			
	Externalising Behaviours	9481.16	258			
	Delinquent Activity	163650.15	258			

Note: I&E Behaviours = Internalising and externalising behaviours

The ANOVA(s) summary revealed that abusive parenting significantly influenced internalizing behaviours [$F(1, 257) = 77.31, p < .01$]. This implied that the variations observed in the mean and standard deviation table above were valid. Thus the extents of abusive parenting adolescents were exposed to increases with their internalizing behaviours. In a similar trend, abusive parenting significantly influenced externalising behaviours [$F(1, 257) = 9.20, p < .01$]. By implication, the mean and standard distribution table above was confirmed and the higher the abusive parenting of adolescents, the higher their externalising behaviours would turnout. The results confirmed hypothesis 1.

Further observations revealed that abusive parenting did not significantly influence delinquent activity among adolescents [$F(1, 257) = .90, p > .05$]. This means that the exposure of adolescents to abusive parenting was not a major determinant of their engagement in delinquent activity. This negates hypothesis 2.

Discussion

This study investigated the abusive parenting as predictor of internalizing and externalizing behavior and delinquent activities among adolescents in Ogun State. The results in this study indicated that abusive parenting predicted internalizing and externalizing behaviour among the

adolescents. Findings which are attested to in literature; Yoon et al., (2021) in their study found that emotional abuse was associated with both internalizing and externalizing behaviours, whereas physical abuse was associated with externalizing behaviour. Similarly, Khoury et al. (2022) reported from their study that parent's history of child maltreatment was associated with parent-reported, but not self-reported, youth internalizing and externalizing problems. The results for this study are further supported by Hess's (2022) findings on the effects of child abuse and domestic violence exposure in childhood on adolescent internalizing and externalizing behaviors. Her findings showed that child abuse, domestic violence, and both in combination (dual exposure) increase a child's risk for internalizing and externalizing outcomes in adolescence. Zainab and Sattar (2022) also indicated that normative parental behavior may have a significant early influence on limbic structures of normally developing children and adolescents. Accelerated or delayed limbic structure maturation may account for children's and adolescents' behavioral inadequacies and a risk of developing specific mood disorders or substance abuse problems later in life.

The hypothesis on significant prediction of abusive parenting on delinquent activities was not confirmed which is not in line with literature. Yusuf et al., (2021) from his study concluded that abusive parenting is more effective in inducing delinquent act among adolescents and this was confirmed by You and Lim (2015) and a host of other literature. One reason for this finding in this study might due to the fact that items on the delinquent scale were measuring constructs similar to what the externalizing behaviour instrument was measuring. Behaviours such as anxiety symptoms, depressive symptoms, oppositional defiant symptoms, conduct disorder and attention deficit/hyperactive disorder, research has confirmed get translated to delinquent behaviours as the child matures if the problems are not arrested early enough.

The second implication of the findings is that the participants have not fully graduated to some of the behaviours measured in the delinquent scale, even though they exhibit externalizing behaviours. Nonetheless, in correlation matrix, the gender of the parents, specifically male, was found to be significantly correlated with adolescent delinquency. This implies that when fathers are the ones engaged in abusive parenting, the problem is made worse for the adolescents to the point of exhibiting delinquency.

Conclusion

The study investigated abusive parenting as predictor of internalizing and externalizing behavior and delinquent activities among in-school adolescents in Ogun State. Findings of the study showed that abusive parenting predicted internalizing and externalizing behaviour among the adolescents. However, the prediction of delinquent activities among the adolescents by abusive parenting was not significant which could be a factor of the youth not exhibiting yet, the behaviours measured on the scale, and or that the delinquency scale has items that are measured by the externalizing scale. Nonetheless, correlation analysis showed that the adolescents have the predisposition towards delinquency when abused by their fathers.

Limitation of the Study

A larger sample size of adolescents in Ogun State would have increased the generalizability of the study.

Consent

As per international standard or university standard, participants' written consent has been collected and preserved by the author.

Competing Interests

There are no competing interests.

References

- Abdullah, H., Ortega, A., Ahmad, N., & Ghazali, S. (2015). Aggressive and delinquent behavior among high risk youth in Malaysia. *Asian Social Science* 11(16). [https://doi: 10.5539/ass.v11n16p620](https://doi.org/10.5539/ass.v11n16p620)
- Ajayeoba, O. A. (2011). Australian institute of family studies: The link between child maltreatment and adolescent offending. *Australian Institute of Family Studies*. Australian Government.
- Albar, Z., & Sattar, A. (2022) Effects of Parental Internalizing and Externalizing Behavior Problems on Children's Limbic Brain Structures—An MRI Study. *Brain Sci.* 12, 1319. [https://doi.org/ 10.3390/brainsci12101319](https://doi.org/10.3390/brainsci12101319)
- American Academy of Pediatrics (2022). Child Abuse and Neglect: What Parents Should Know *healthy children.org*

- American Psychiatric Association (2013). *Diagnostic Statistical Manual 5th Edition*.
- Backes, E. P., & Bonnie, R. J. (2019). The Promise of Adolescence: Realizing Opportunity for All Youth. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US); May 16. 2, *Adolescent Development*. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK545476/>
- Bauer, A., Hammerton, G., Fraser, A., Fairchild, G., & Halligan, S. L. (2021) Associations between developmental timing of child abuse and conduct problem trajectories in a UK birth cohort. *BMC Psychiatry* 21, 89 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12888-021-03083-8>
- Cianchetti, C., Pittau, A., Carta, V., Campus, G., Littarru, R., Ledda, M. G., Zuddas, A., & Fancello, G. S. (2013) Child and Adolescent Behavior Inventory (CABI): A New Instrument for Epidemiological Studies and Pre-Clinical Evaluation. *Clin Pract Epidemiol Ment Health*. 9:51-61. doi: 10.2174/1745017901309010051. Epub 2013 Feb 22. PMID: 23539369; PMCID: PMC3606945
- Ellonen, N., Rantanen, H., Lepistö, S., Helminen, M., & Paavilainen, E. (2019). The use of the Brief Child Abuse Potential Inventory in the general population in Finland. *Scandinavian Journal of Primary Health Care*, 37:1, 128-134, DOI: 10.1080/02813432.2019.1571002
- Fletcher, A. C., Buehler, C., Buchanan, C. M., & Weymouth, B. B. (2017). Parenting Stressors and Young Adolescents' Depressive Symptoms: Does High Vagal Suppression Offer Protection? *Physiol Behav*. 2017 Mar 1;170:78-87. doi: 10.1016/j.physbeh.2016.11.036. Epub 2016 Dec 12. PMID: 27979628; PMCID: PMC5328282
- Fuentes-Balderrama, J., Cruz delCastillo, C., Garcia, A. O., Loving, R. D., Plaza, B. T. & Cardona, J. R. P. (2020). The Effects of Parenting Styles on Internalizing and Externalizing Behaviours: A Mexican Preadolescents Study. *International Journal of Psychology Resources* (Medellin). 2020 Jan-Jun; 13(1): 9–18. doi: 10.21500/20112084.4478
- Georgiou, S.N. & Symeou, N. (2018). Parenting Practices and the Development of Internalizing/Externalizing Problems in Adolescence. *Parenting Empirical - Advances and Intervention Resources*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.5772/66985>
- Hess, S. (2022) Effects of Inter-Parental Conflict on Children's Social Well-Being and the Mediation Role of Parenting Behavior. *Applied Research Quality Life* 17, 2059–2085 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11482-021-10022-y>
- Johnson, V. A., Kemp, A. H., Heard, R., Lennings, C. J., & Hickie, I. B. (2015) Childhood- Versus Adolescent-Onset Antisocial Youth with Conduct Disorder: Psychiatric Illness, Neuropsychological and Psychosocial Function. *PLoS One*. 2015 Apr 2;10(4): e0121627. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0121627. PMID: 25835393; PMCID: PMC4383334.
- Kauten, R., & Barry, C.T. (2020). Externalizing Behavior. In: Zeigler-Hill, V., Shackelford, T.K. (eds) *Encyclopedia of Personality and Individual Differences*. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-24612-3_894
- Khoury, J. E., Tanaka, M., Kimber, M., MacMillan, H. L., Afifi, T. O., Boyle, M., Duncan, L., Joshi, D., Georgiades, K., & Gonzalez, A. (2022) Examining the Unique Contributions of Parental and Youth Maltreatment in Association with Youth Mental Health Problems.

Child Abuse & Neglect, Volume 124, 2022, 105451, ISSN 0145-2134, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2021.105451>.

Kumuyi, D. O., Akinnawo, E. O., Akintola, A. A., Akpunne, B. C., & Onisile, D. F. (2021) Parental Factors as Determinants of Conduct Disorder among In-School Adolescents in Ibadan Metropolis, Nigeria. *Psychology*, 12(4).

Lewis, T., McElroy, E., Harlaar, N., & Runyan D. (2016). Does the impact of child sexual abuse differ from maltreated but non-sexually abused children? A prospective examination of the impact of child sexual abuse on internalizing and externalizing behavior problems. *Child Abuse Negl.* 51, 31-40. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2015.11.016>.

Li, P. (2022) Internalizing Behaviour in Children: Examples and Risk Factors. *Parenting for Brain*.

MacMillan, H. L., Fleming, J. E., Streiner, D. L., Lin, E., Boyle, M. H., Jamieson, E., & Beardslee, W. R. (2001). Childhood abuse and lifetime psychopathology in a community sample. *American Journal of Psychiatry*, 158, 1878-1883.

Maguire, S. A., Williams, B. Naughton, A., Cowley, L. E., Tempest, V., Mala Kanthi Mann, M. K., Teague, M. & Kemp, A. M. (2015). A Systematic Review Of The Emotional, Behavioural and Cognitive Features Exhibited by School-Aged Children Experiencing Neglect or Emotional Abuse. *Child Care Health and Development* 41(5) DOI:10.1111/cch.12227 PubMed

Marcone, R., Affuso, G. & Borrone, A. (2020). Parenting styles and children's internalizing-externalizing behavior: The mediating role of behavioral regulation. *Curr Psychol* 39, 13–24. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12144-017-9757-7>

Mendez, J. H. M., Sánchez, J. P. E., & Becerra, M. I. C. (2020). Role of parenting styles in internalizing, externalizing and adjustment problems in children. *Salud Ment*,43(2). <https://doi.org/10.17711/sm.0185-3325.2020.011>

Oshio, T., & Umeda, M. (2016) Gender-specific linkages of parents' childhood physical abuse and neglect with children's problem behaviour: Evidence from Japan. *BMC Public Health* 16, 403 <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-016-3072-3>

Reavy, R., Stein, L. A., Paiva, A., Quina, K., & Rossi, J. S. (2012). Validation of the delinquent activities scale for incarcerated adolescents. *Addict Behaviour*, 37(7), 875-889. doi: 10.1016/j.addbeh.2012.03.007.

This Day Nigerian Newspaper (2022). Nov. 11th

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, *National Institute of Justice*, (2017).

Wolfe, D. A. & McIsaac, C. (2010). Distinguishing between Poor / Dysfunctional parenting and child emotional maltreatment. *Ottawa: Public Health Agency of Canada*.

World Health Organization (2022) *Child Maltreatment*.

- Wu, Q. & Xu, Y. (2020). Parenting stress and risk of child maltreatment during the covid-19 pandemic: A family stress theory-informed perspective. *Developmental Child Welfare*, 2(3).
- Yoon, D., Yoon, S., Pei, F., & Ploss, A. (2021). The roles of child maltreatment types and peer relationships on behavior problems in early adolescence, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 112, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2020.104921>.
- You, S. & Lim, S. A. (2015). Development pathways from abusive parenting to delinquency: the mediating role of depression and aggression. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 46, 152-162, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2015.05.009>.
- Yusuf, S. A., Daud, M. N., & Arshat, Z. (2021). Perception on the role of parenting style on juvenile delinquency among adolescents in the government remand homes, Lagos State Nigeria. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, 11(6), 1425–1441.
- Zhou, X. & Zhen, R. (2022). How do physical and emotional abuse affect depression and problematic behaviors in adolescents? The roles of emotional regulation and anger. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 129, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2022.105641>.