

## PARENTING STYLES AS PREDICTORS OF IN-SCHOOL ADOLESCENT STUDENTS' DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR IN EDO STATE.

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### Abstract

The study investigated parenting styles as predictors of in-school adolescent students' involvement in delinquent behaviour in Edo State. It was a survey research that employed a descriptive method. Two hundred and forty-six (246) students participated in the study. Parenting Styles and Peer Pressure Questionnaire (PSPQ) was used to obtain the data for the study. The psychometric properties of the instrument were established. The content validated was done by three experts in the field of Educational Evaluation and Counselling Psychology. The reliability of the instrument was established using Cronbach Alpha statistics and the reliability coefficient values of .66, .68 and .63 were obtained for parenting styles, peer pressure and delinquency scales respectively. The data were analysed using descriptive statistics and linear regression. The findings revealed that parenting styles (authoritative, authoritarian and permissive) specifically permissive and peer pressure significantly predict adolescent students' involvement in delinquent behaviour in Edo State. The findings equally revealed sex differences in the adolescents' involvement in delinquent behaviour. Based on the findings, it was recommended among others the need for parents to exercise some degree of monitoring on the activities of their children and the need for school counselors to constantly organize a workshop on the impact of antisocial behaviours on students' overall wellbeing.

Keywords: Parenting styles, adolescent students and delinquent behaviour.

### Introduction

The 21<sup>st</sup> century has witnessed an unprecedented swift of events in the disposition and activities of in-school adolescents in most parts of the world (including Nigeria). They appear to be more involved in anti-social behaviours of criminal status sequel to their age normally referred to as juvenile delinquent behaviours. Different variables like peer pressure influence, family types, mass media influence and school environment have been predicated. Besides, parenting styles have highly been suspected as a major variable of interest that play a significant role in shaping adolescents' behaviours. It connotes parents' dominant approach in rearing and establishing a relationship with

children. This involves the technique of transmitting the personal and unique values of parents to their children (Adebale, 2017).

Baumrind in the early 1960s identified three parenting styles which included authoritative, authoritarian and permissive parenting styles. These parenting styles are suspected to exert a degree of influence on children's behaviours as they are predicated on parental demandingness and responsiveness. Coste (2015) and Hoeve, et al (2009) associated children's juvenile delinquent behaviour closely with parents' behaviour towards their children and explained why young adolescents' parents are frequently blamed for the delinquent behaviours of their children. Available literature; Hoeve et al., (2009) and Johnson, (2016) revealed the existence of some levels of consistency in parenting styles' association with juvenile delinquency or externalized behaviours.

Juvenile delinquency is a social issue of global concern that refers to law-breaking acts by adolescents under the age of 18. It is a social problem, a criminal act that violates an ordinance or law of jurisdiction. It refers to destructive acts which are related to intentional, overt and covert aggression towards other persons. Juvenile behaviour connotes the failure of a child or student in obeying rules that are set to ensure order in the community or society. It can be stealing, robbery, refusal to adhere to parental demands, cheating, misconduct, truancy, alcohol/substance abuse, violence and rape etc. According to Differential Association Theory (DAT), delinquent behaviour is learnt through interaction by imitating others. Thus, children imitate behaviour from their parents, peers and others in their environment. It is prevalent among secondary school students as they have an increased number of persons who are involved in risky behaviour like early sexual activities, bullying, running away from school and rudeness (Ojo, 2015 cited in Ashraf et al, 2019). A child is considered delinquent when he acts in contrast to acceptable norms and contravenes the societal rules. As a recognized social problem, studies have examined parenting and adult criminality (Schroeder et al, 2010) and perceived gender differences in parenting styles and delinquency (Kausar & Pinqart, 2016). Considering the apparent spate of delinquency among in-school adolescents in some parts of Edo State, it has become extremely important to study and examine parenting styles concerning in-school adolescents' juvenile delinquent behaviour in the South Senatorial District of the State.

The authoritative parenting style is characterized by parents' responsiveness to the child's needs with set expectations of behaviours and consequences for noncompliance. It uses a bidirectional communication pattern and encourages the children to cultivate self-control. Parents that adopt this style monitor their children's behaviour, and provide distinct standards of conduct and discipline hinge on reasoning rather than power assertion. This parenting style adopts a high degree of strict behavioural supervision with a high sense of emotional support. Johnson (2016) asserted that children raised with this style of parenting tend to be more self-reliant, self-controlled, self-assertive and exploratory. Thus, this parenting style provides a balance between restrictiveness and autonomy (Kausar & Pinqart, 2016). The children of this parenting style according to Cernkovich and Giordano (2001) are less engaged in criminal behaviours in adulthood as they demonstrate higher degrees of psychological adjustment. Sequel to the traits of autonomy and self-control associated with children of

this parenting style, it is seen as a strong buffer against delinquency that influences the healthy psychosocial development of adolescents. Thus, Okorodudu and Nwamaka (2010), Kauser and Pinguart (2016), Amran and Basri (2020) studies revealed that this style is associated with a lower level of delinquency among adolescents.

The authoritarian parenting style is characterized by high parental demandingness and less responsiveness to the children's needs. It is known to use power assertive discipline and love withdrawal in order to gain compliance from the children. Parents who adopt an authoritarian parenting style emphasize conformity and obedience from the children without explanation in a less warm environment. The authoritarian parenting style appears to be more concerned with the traditional family structure and so the parents channel the children's freedom to adhere to parents' orders without any questions. This parenting style ultimately leads to children's dependence on parental guidance and direction. It is known to apply strict observance of regulations and it is associated with parental hostility that can foster anger and frustration in children. Such attitude can ultimately lead to a high degree of adolescents' involvement in antisocial behaviours. Sarwar (2016) asserted that authoritarian parenting leads the children to become rebellious and adopt problematic behaviour due to parents' unnecessary power enforcement on them. On the contrary, the study of Okorodudu and Nwamaka (2010) revealed no significant relationship between authoritarian parenting and adolescent delinquency. Lind (2013) asserted that children of authoritarian parents are found to have few behavioural problems and are less pro-social than children of authoritative homes. On the contrary, the studies of Kauser and Pinguart (2016); Amran and Basri (2020) revealed that authoritarian parenting is closely linked with higher levels of delinquency among adolescents.

The permissive parenting style is further divided into; indulgent and uninvolved (neglectful). It is generally characterized by a high degree of responsiveness and absence or a very low level of demandingness. Parents who adopt this parenting style apply a higher degree of warmth with a low level of control over their children (Aduale, 2017). It is rooted in the natural tendency of children to learn on their own and act on the knowledge when they are ready to do so (Cramer, 2002). The permissive indulgent parenting style allows the children to make their own decisions and set their targets with parents providing little or no guidance. The permissive uninvolved (neglectful) parenting style is characterized by neglect of parenting responsibilities. Parents who adopt this style are neither responsive nor demanding. They (parents) provide some of the physical necessities for the children but have little if any relationship with the children. So, the children do what they want, when they want without regard for the rights or safety of others (Johnson, 2016). The nature of this parenting style suggests that it leads children to engage in social misconducts like drug abuse, and vandalism. Thus, Rothrauff, et al. (2009) alleged that children of this parenting style reported low psychological well-being and more depressive symptoms than those from authoritative parenting. Thus, Schroeder, et al (2010) associated children of this parenting style with significant high criminal behaviours in adolescents and adults. Conversely, Amran and Basri (2020) noted that permissive parenting does not significantly influence adolescent delinquency.

Engaging in delinquent behaviour may differ by sex as biological differences between male and female students could be assumed. The study of Onyechi and Okere (2007) established no sex differences in students' involvement in delinquent and deviant behaviours. However, the study of Sekuku, et al (2003) posited that until recently male adolescents were more involved in delinquent behaviour than female adolescents. Similarly, Quinsey et al (2004) asserted that the majority of delinquent behaviour offences are committed by males as they show a higher rate of conduct problems from childhood than females. However, there are some delinquent behaviours like truancy, eloping from school and incorrigibility that are commonly committed by both sexes.

Peers association (peer group pressure/influence) as part of social relationships could exert a degree of influence on students' involvement in delinquent behaviour. It refers to the pressure exerted by a peer group encouraging an individual to change their own attitude, values and behaviour so as to yield to the group's conduct or norms. Such pressure can lead to positive or negative influences on the individual. Peer association is considered vital as adolescents appear to take on their peer group as their models. Ntshangase (2015) emphasized overwhelming evidence that peer influence is the breeding ground for delinquency for vulnerable adolescents as some reportedly engage in drinking alcohol, smoking and conflict with parents as a result of peer influence. This could be predicated on the fact that children spend the most time within the school hours with their friends than their parents; consequently, their behaviour could easily be influenced by their peers. Adolescents delinquency are committed in group by members as they often steal, rob, rape, and commit other delinquent acts in group. Flannery et al (1999) asserted that peer influence is greater if there is a lack of adult supervision after school. McCord et al (2001) asserted that peer attachment or allegiance to peers and peer pressure for deviance are associated with adolescents' antisocial behaviour. However, not all children may yield to the negative pressure of their peers. Parents' attitude can enhance, escalate, prevent or reduce peer pressure influence.

### **Rationale for the study**

Globally, there appears to be an increasing spate of juvenile delinquent behaviours among in-school adolescent students in the last ten years. This is evident in students' total disregard for school regulations and respect for their fellow students. The International Self-Reported Delinquent Study (ISRD) revealed that delinquency levels increase from 13.8% to 40% in English speaking countries (Ashraf et al, 2019). As a psychosocial phenomenon, it can be attributed to different factors like; a family environment in general, peer group influence, immediate community influence and bad associations. However, the impact of parenting and peer pressure in shaping the behaviours of individual child/student cannot be undermined. This is predicated on the fact that the home (where children are raised) is the ideal place where normal and healthy development of children begins and parents form an indispensable component of the home. Poduthase (2012) argued that adolescents can be led towards delinquent behaviour when they are exposed to a lack of intimacy, guidance, parental involvement and interactions. Thus, parenting styles could contribute to the molding and shaping of the children's behaviour. Therefore, this study seeks to examine the extent to which

parenting styles and peer pressure predict or influence in-school adolescents' involvement in delinquent behaviour in Benin City, Edo State.

The findings of the study will provide parents, education stakeholders and counsellors the relevant information on the contributions of parenting styles and peer association toward adolescents' habit formation and disposition. It will equally furnish parents with the knowledge of the most adopted method and enhance the formation of socially acceptable behaviour in adolescents. Consequently leading to the development of a balanced personality as stipulated in the National Policy on Education in Nigeria (FRN, 2013).

### **Research questions**

To guide the study the following research questions were asked.

1. What parenting styles (authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive) are adopted by parents of in-school adolescents in Benin City, Edo State?
2. What parenting styles (authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive) are adopted by parents of male and female in-school adolescents in Benin City, Edo State?
3. What is the level of peer pressure on in-school adolescents in Benin City, Edo State?

### **Hypotheses**

The following hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance.

1. Parenting styles (authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive) will not significantly predict in-school adolescents' delinquent behaviour in Benin City, Edo State.
2. Parenting styles (authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive) will not significantly predict in-school adolescents' delinquent behaviour by sex in Benin City, Edo State.
3. Peer Pressure will not significantly predict in school adolescents' delinquent behaviour in Benin City, Edo State.

### **Methodology**

The study adopted a descriptive survey design essentially meant to substantiate the predictive strength of the independent variables (parenting styles and peer pressure) on the dependent variable (delinquent behaviour) of in-school adolescents in Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria. It is not meant to establish any cause-effect association.

The participants were 246 Senior Secondary School II (SSSII) students from the population of 2471 SSSII students in Benin City, Edo State. The participants were both male and female secondary students within the age levels of 12 to 20 years. A multistage random sampling procedure was employed to select six from the thirteen public Senior Secondary Schools in the Local Government Area (LGA). First, all the Senior Secondary Schools II in the Local Government Area were identified. Second, three co-educational and three non-co-educational Senior Secondary Schools II were randomly selected in the LGA. Forty-one Senior Secondary School II students were randomly selected from each of the schools using non-proportional quota sampling which amounted to 246 students.

The instrument was titled “Parenting Styles and Peer Pressure Questionnaire” (PSPPQ). The instrument had two sections; section A and section B. Section A contained the bio-data information of the respondents. Section B had three subscales (parenting styles, peer pressure and delinquency) of thirty items eliciting a response from the students on parenting styles, peer pressure and delinquent behaviour. It was four-point scale of strongly agree = four (4 points), agree = three (3 points), disagree = two (2 points) and strongly disagree = one point (1 point) for all positively worded items and reverse for all negatively worded items. The content validity of the instrument was established by three experts in the Department of Educational Evaluation and Counselling Psychology. The reliability of the instrument was established using Cronbach Alpha statistics, the reliability coefficients of .66, .68 and .63 were obtained for parenting styles, peer pressure and delinquency scales respectively.

The data were obtained with the aid of the questionnaire administered to the 246 participants of the study in secondary schools in Egor Local Government Area of Edo State. After obtaining permission and approval from the school authorities, the researcher met with the students to seek their consent to participate in the study. The researcher discussed the purpose of the study with the students who accepted to participate in it. The counsellors in the schools helped in administering the questionnaire. The completed copies of the questionnaire were retrieved the same day in each of the schools. Inferential statistics using linear regression was used to analyze the hypotheses.

## Results

The results of the study are presented in the Tables below.

Research question 1: What parenting styles (authoritative, authoritarian and permissive) are adopted by parents of in-school adolescents in Benin City, Edo State?

**Table 1: Description of Parenting Styles Adopted by Parents of In-School Adolescents in Benin City, Edo State**

Parenting styles	N	Mean	SD	Percentage (%)
Authoritative	246	15.6504	2.65571	78.25
Authoritarian	246	25.9553	4.56451	64.89
Permissive	246	9.4106	2.57582	47.05

Table 1 shows the mean and percentage of 15.6504 and 78.25% for authoritative parenting, the mean and percentage of 25.9553 and 64.89% for authoritarian parenting, and the mean and percentage of 9.4106 and 47.05% for permissive parenting style. This shows the authoritative parenting style (78.25%) as the most adopted parenting style, closely followed by authoritarian (64.89%) and permissive (47.05%) being the least adopted style in the studied population.

**Research question 2:** What parenting styles (authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive) are adopted by parents of male and female in-school adolescents in Benin City, Edo State?

**Table 2: Description of Parenting Styles (Authoritative, Authoritarian, and Permissive) Adopted by Parents of Male and Female In-School Adolescents in Benin City, Edo State**

Sex		N	Mean	SD	percentage (%)
Male	Authoritative	123	15.7967	2.59874	78.98
	Authoritarian	123	26.4797	4.54729	66.20
	Permissive	123	9.5528	2.68024	47.76
Female	Authoritative	123	15.5041	2.71418	77.52
	Authoritarian	123	25.4309	4.53959	63.58
	Permissive	123	9.2683	2.46973	46.34

Table 2 shows the mean and percentage of 15.7967 and 78.98% for authoritative parenting, the mean and percentage of 26.4797 and 66.20% for authoritarian parenting, and the mean and percentage of 9.5528 and 47.76% for permissive parenting style for male adolescent students. Similarly, it shows the mean and percentage of 15.5041 and 77.52% for authoritative parenting, the mean and percentage of 25.4309 and 63.58% for authoritarian parenting, and the mean and percentage of 9.2683 and 46.34% for permissive parenting style for female adolescent students. The Table shows the authoritative parenting style as the most adopted style by parents for both sexes, closely followed by an authoritarian parenting style with permissive as the least adopted by parents for both sexes in Benin City, Edo State.

**Research question 3:** What is the level of peer pressure on in-school adolescents in Benin City, Edo State?

**Table 3: Description of Peer Pressure on In-School Adolescents' Delinquent Behaviour in Benin City, Edo State.**

	N	Mean	SD	Percentage (%)
Peer pressure	246	8.1016	2.89578	40.51%

Table 3 shows the mean and percentage of 8.1016 and 40.51% of peer pressure on in-school adolescents with delinquent behaviour in Benin City, Edo State. This implies that peers exert a relatively low pressure on students' delinquency in Benin City, Edo State.

**Hypothesis 1:** Parenting styles (authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive) will not significantly predict in-school adolescent students' delinquent behaviour.

**Table 4a: Regression Table of Parenting Styles (Authoritarian, Authoritative, Permissive) and In-School Adolescents' Behaviour in Benin City, Edo State**

Model	Sum of Square	df	Mean square	F	Sig
Regression	206.50	3	68.836	11.965	.000
Residual	1392.293	242	5.753		
Total	1598.801	245			

Table 4a shows an F value of 11.965, P-value of .000, testing at an alpha level of .05. The P-value is lesser than the alpha level. This implies that parenting styles significantly predict in-school adolescents' delinquent behaviour. So, hypothesis one that states parenting styles (authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive) will not significantly predict in-school adolescents' delinquent behaviour is rejected. It is, therefore, concluded that parenting styles (authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive) significantly predict in-school adolescents' delinquent behaviour in Benin City, Edo State.

**Table 4b: Model Summary of the Contribution of Parenting Styles to In-School Adolescents' Delinquent Behaviour in Benin City, Edo State.**

Model	Standard Error	B	R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>2</sup> adjusted	Sig
Constant	1.325	5.921			.000
Authoritative	.058	-.106			.068
Authoritarian	.035	-.018	.129	.118	.616
Permissive	.063	.337			.000

Table 4b reveals the P values of .068, .616 and .000 for authoritative, authoritarian and permissive parenting styles respectively. This implies that a permissive parenting style alone significantly predicts students' involvement in delinquent behaviour. The Table also shows R<sup>2</sup> value of .129 (12.9%) which reflects the predictive strength of parenting styles (authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive) to in-school adolescents' delinquent behaviour in Benin City, Edo State.

**Hypothesis 2:** Parenting Styles (Authoritative, Authoritarian, permissive) will not significantly predict in-school adolescents' delinquent behaviour by Sex in Benin City Edo State.

**Table 5a: Multiple Linear Regression Analysis of Parenting Styles on In-School Adolescents' Delinquent Behaviour by Sex**

SEX	Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Male	1	Regression	164.629	3	54.876	11.311	.000
		Residual	577.339	119	4.852		
		Total	741.967	122			
Female	1	Regression	55.643	3	18.548	2.755	.046
		Residual	801.154	119	6.732		
		Total	856.767	122			

Table 5a shows the stepwise multiple linear regression analysis of parenting styles on in-school adolescents' delinquent behaviour by Sex. From the Table, males have an F value of 11.311, a P value of .000, while females have an F value of 2.755, a P value of .046, tested at .05 alpha level. The P-value of both male and female students is lesser than the alpha level. It implies that parenting styles significantly predict in-school adolescents' delinquent behaviour in Benin City. Therefore, the null hypothesis that says parenting styles will not significantly predict in-school adolescents' delinquent behaviour by sex is rejected and the alternate is accepted. In conclusion, parenting styles significantly predict in-school adolescents' delinquent behaviour by sex in Benin City, Edo State.

**Table 5b: Coefficient of Parenting Styles on Delinquent Behaviour by Sex**

SEX	Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
			B	Std. Error	Beta		
		Permissive	.428	.079	<b>.465</b>	5.420	.000
Female	1	(Constant)	6.346	2.027			.002
		Permissive	.236	.099	<b>.220</b>	2.390	.018

Table 5b shows the relative contribution of Parenting Styles (authoritative, authoritarian, permissive) to Delinquent Behaviour by Sex. Using the stepwise method of analysis it can be seen that only the permissive Parenting Style was found as the only significant variable among the Parenting Styles that predicted delinquent behaviour in both male and female students. However, the beta-value (.465 > .220) of male was higher than that of female students.

**Table 5c: Model Summary of the Contribution of Parenting Styles to Delinquent Behaviour by Sex**

SEX	Model	R	R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>2</sup> Adjusted	Std. Error of the Est
Male	1	.471	.222	.202	2.20263
Female	1	.255	.065	.041	2.59468

Table 5c shows the relative contribution of parenting styles to in-school adolescents' delinquent Behaviour by sex. The Table shows the R<sup>2</sup> values of .222 (22.2%) and .065 (6.5%) of parenting styles contributions to male and female in-school adolescents' involvement in delinquent behaviour respectively.

**Hypothesis 3:** Peer pressure will not significantly predict in-school adolescents' delinquent behaviour in Benin City, Edo State.

**Table 6a: Regression of Peer Pressure on In-School Adolescents' Delinquent Behaviour**

Model	Sum of Square	df	Mean square	F	Sig
Regression	349.783	1	349.783	68.331	.000
Residual	1249.018	244	5.119		
Total	1598.801	245			

Table 6a shows the F value of 68.331, P-value of .000, tested at an alpha level of .05. The P-value is lesser than the alpha value. This implies that peer pressure significantly predicts in-school adolescent students' involvement in delinquent behaviour. Therefore, the null hypothesis that says peer pressure will not significantly influence in-school adolescents' delinquent behaviour in Benin City, Edo State is rejected and the alternate is accepted. In conclusion, peer pressure significantly predicts in-school adolescents' delinquent behaviour in Benin City, Edo State.

**Table 6b: Model Summary of the Contribution of Peer Pressure to Delinquent Behaviour**

Model	R	R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>2</sup> Adjusted	Std. Error of the Esti
Peer	.468	.219	.216	2.26250

Table 6b shows the relative contribution of peer pressure to in-school adolescents' delinquent behaviour. The Table shows R<sup>2</sup> value of .219 (21.9%) contribution of peer pressure to in-school adolescents' delinquent behaviour in Benin City, Edo State.

### Discussion of findings

The findings of the study revealed that authoritative parenting was the most adopted parenting style by parents closely followed by authoritarian parenting style regardless of the sex of the student as well as for both sexes (male and female). This implies that the respondents of this study were exposed to a degree of guided parenting that offers children opportunities to express themselves as well as setting limits to their use of discretion by their parents. The finding equally revealed that the peer pressure level on in-school adolescents' delinquent behaviour was relatively low. This suggests the existence of other variables that probably exert a degree of impact on in-school adolescents which predisposed them towards delinquent behavioural disposition in the studied population.

The study equally revealed that parenting styles (authoritative, authoritarian and permissive) significantly predict in-school adolescents' involvement in delinquent behaviour in Benin City, Edo State. This finding affirms the assertion of Coste (2015) that associated children's delinquent behaviour with their parents' attitude. A detailed statistical analysis showed that only a permissive parenting style significantly predicted

students' delinquent behaviour. Thus, the finding corroborates the assertion of Schroeder et al (2010) that a permissive parenting style is highly associated with criminal behaviours in adolescents. Conversely, the assertion of Cernkovich and Giordano (2001), Okorodudu and Nwamaka (2010), Johnson (2016), Kauser and Pinquart (2016), Amran and Basri (2020) that authoritative parenting style is associated with children of low delinquency level and are less engaged in criminal behaviours is confirmed by this finding. Similarly, the finding further corroborates the assertion of Lind (2013) that authoritarian parenting is associated with children of few behavioural and less pro-social problems. However, the findings run contrary to the assertion of Sarwar (2016) that the authoritarian parenting style is associated with rebellious and problematic children. The findings of the study have suggested the fact that children with little or no parental control are more susceptible to maladaptive and antisocial behaviours. The analysis revealed that parenting styles contributed 12.9% to students' delinquent behaviour which implies that other variables accounted for the remaining 87.1% of the manifested delinquent behaviour of in-school adolescent students in Edo State. This has a lot of counselling implications as it suggests the overbearing impact of other variables on the observed delinquency among in-school adolescents in Benin City, Edo State.

The findings revealed no sex differences in in-school adolescents' involvement in delinquent behaviour. This finding corroborates the assertion of Onyechi and Okere (2007) that established no sex differences in students' involvement in delinquent behaviour. The finding further revealed the P-value of .000 for male students and the P-value of .046 for female students. This implies that male students are more involved in delinquent behaviour as their P-value is higher than that of female students. This corroborates the earlier claim of Quinsey et al (2004) that the majority of delinquent behaviour offences are committed by male students. Specifically, the study revealed that parenting styles contributed 22.2% to male in-school adolescents' involvement in delinquent behaviour and 6.5% to female students' involvement in delinquent behaviour. This is further buttressed by the beta coefficient value of .465 (46.5%) and .220 (22.0%) for male and female students respectively. This suggests that the parenting styles tend to give more attention to the female children's wellbeing than the male children. There appears to be a constant check on the female children's activities with the intent of guarding them against abuses and assaults, which restrain them from most antisocial/criminal activities like delinquencies. This finding can be attributed to the numerous awareness created among parents of the need to protect especially their female children from various antisocial and criminal tendencies in Edo State. The perceived general belief is that the females (girls) are more susceptible to various abuses and less defensive than the boys. This attitude appears to have a negative impact on the male folks as both sexes need the same or equivalent attention for protection by parents in society.

The findings revealed that peer pressure significantly predicts in-school adolescents' delinquent behaviour. This finding is an affirmation to the assertions of Ntshangase (2015) and McCord et al (2001) that peer is the breeding ground of delinquency for vulnerable adolescents. The study actually revealed that peer pressure contributed 21.9% to the in-school adolescent students' delinquent behaviour. This can be attributed to the fact that most students spend most hours of the day (6 to 7 hours)

with their peers in school either in the classroom or at playgrounds than with their parents. This offers them opportunities to be more in constant contact than even their parents.

## Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that parenting styles specifically permissive parenting style significantly predict in-school adolescent students' delinquent behaviour. Besides, there was no significant sex difference in students' involvement in delinquent behaviour and finally, peer pressure significantly predicts in-school adolescent students' involvement in delinquent behaviour in Edo State, Nigeria.

## Recommendations

Sequel to the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made.

1. Parents are required to apply some levels of check or monitoring on the activities of their children, especially their male children.
2. School counsellors are highly encouraged to organize seminars and workshops for students regularly on the negative impact of all antisocial/criminal behaviours on adolescents in society.
3. School counsellors are required to constantly organize intervention programmes that would assist students to imbibe positive adjustment strategies for those who are already involved in delinquent behaviour.
4. School administration in collaboration with parents, education stakeholders and other agencies are encouraged to create awareness and sensitization programmes among students on the dangers inherent in different antisocial and uncivil behaviours.

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