



**PARENTAL ROLE AS PREDICTOR OF SECONDARY SCHOOL ADOLESCENTS' INVOLVEMENT IN DEVIANT BEHAVIOURS IN ENUGU STATE**

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**Abstract**

*The main purpose of this study was to ascertain how parental role could predict secondary school adolescents' involvement in deviant behaviours in Enugu state. Descriptive survey research design. was adopted for the study. Three research question and three hypotheses guided the study. This study was conducted in Enugu state Nigeria. A sample of 884 secondary school adolescents (511 from urban schools and 373 from rural schools) was used in the study. Instrument used for data collection was Adolescents' Behaviour Scale (ABS). The instrument was developed by the researcher and validated by three research experts. The reliability coefficient for the instrument was .87 obtained through the Cronbach's Alpha method. Research questions were answered using mean with standard deviation while hypotheses were tested using z-test statistic. Major findings of the study revealed that parental role can inhibit secondary school adolescents' involvement in health related deviant behaviours to a great extent. It was recommended among other things that parents should play their parental roles effectively so as to help their adolescents abhor involvement in deviant behaviours.*

**Keywords:** Parental role, Predictor, Secondary school adolescents, Involvement, Deviant Behaviors

**Introduction**

Adolescence is a transition period between childhood and adulthood. Adolescence is a period of marked change in the person's cognitive, physical, psychological and social development and in the individual's relations with the people and institution of the social world, (Bhat and Aminabhasi, 2001). Adolescence is a marvelous new birth. It is a period of change more rapid than at any other time in human development other than infancy. It is a

developmental period when a lot of changes take place. It is usually a time of excitement and of troubles and can thus be a confusing time. Adolescence period is sometimes referred to as a period of stress and storm due to some biological changes they experience in their bodies. According to Iyang (2016) adolescence falls within the Piaget's formal operational stage of cognitive or intellectual development. Jean Piaget calls adolescence the period of formal operations. Its hallmarks are social and abstract reasoning. Adolescence produces its own form of egocentrism (Anyafulude, 2015). For the adolescent, this period is a dramatic challenge. While some adolescents are very receptive, some are very aggressive and unfriendly.

The end of adolescence and beginning of adulthood varies by country and by function, from one socio-economic level to another, from culture to culture. Furthermore, even within a single nation, state or culture there can be different ages at which an individual is considered mature enough for society to entrust them with certain privileges and responsibilities, such as driving a vehicle, having legal sexual relationships, serving in armed forces or in a navy, purchasing and drinking alcohol, voting and marriage. Some psychologist maintained that chronologically adolescence lives roughly between ages of 12-18 years. Oyekan (2015) describes adolescence as a search for risk taking without risk taking, teenagers would not have the motivation or confidence necessary to make the change in society. However, involvement in deviant behaviors have led many adolescents to delinquency, depression, aggressiveness, negative attitudes or responses to elders (Mbua and Adigeb, 2015). Mbua and Adigeb maintained that the adolescents can be saved from the negative aspect of their involvement in deviant behaviors through proper parenting role.

Deviant behaviour, according to Upe (2012), are those behaviours that can have adverse effects on the overall well being of youths or that might prevent them from future successes and development. Jeff (2012) submitted that deviant behaviours are behaviours that cause immediate physical injury as well as behaviours with cumulative negative effects. Jeff listed deviant behaviours to include obesity a behaviour and unhealthy dieting, physical violence, substance abuse, unsafe sexual practices, reckless driving with poor adherence to traffic rules, cultism and any action on one's part that may result in a bad consequence. Additionally, Gbenga (2013) enumerated insurgency restiveness, rioting, rape, arms-bearing, physical inactivity, alcoholism, tobacco and substance abuse, ritualism, unintentional injuries, violence and robbery as prevalent

risky behaviours among Nigerian youths. Gbenga alleged that the rate of youth's involvement in these and other deviant behaviours has tripled within the last two decades. Gbenga (2013) further classified deviant behaviours into three, namely, Health-related, Crime-related and Social-related deviant behaviours. Health related deviant behaviours are those behaviours that can affect the health of the culprits. These include unhealthy dieting, physical inactivity, poor hygiene, and so on. Crime-related deviant behaviours include fighting, violence, cultism, arms bearing, and so on. While Social related deviant behaviours include gambling, aggressiveness, indecency, pretense, in-tolerance, and so on. These three categories of deviant behaviors were the focus of this study.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The main purpose of this study was to ascertain how parental role could predict secondary school adolescents' involvement in deviant behaviours in Enugu state. In specific terms, the study sought to;

- i. establish how parental role could predict secondary school adolescents' involvement in health related deviant behaviours in Enugu state
- ii. establish how parental role could predict secondary school adolescents' involvement in crime related deviant behaviours in Enugu state
- iii. establish how parental role could predict secondary school adolescents' involvement in social related deviant behaviours in Enugu state

### **Research Questions**

The following research questions guided the study;

1. What is the extent to which parental role could inhibit secondary school adolescents' involvement in health related deviant behaviours in Enugu state?
2. What is the extent to which parental role could inhibit secondary school adolescents' involvement in crime related deviant behaviours in Enugu state?
3. What is the extent to which parental role could inhibit secondary school adolescents' involvement in social related deviant behaviours in Enugu state?

## Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were tested at .05 significant level;

1. There is no significant difference between the extent to which parental role could inhibit urban and rural secondary school adolescent's involvement in health related deviant behaviours in Enugu state.
2. There is no significant difference between the extent to which parental role could inhibit urban and rural secondary school adolescent's involvement in crime related deviant behaviours in Enugu state.
3. There is no significant difference between the extent to which parental role could inhibit urban and rural secondary school adolescent's involvement in social related deviant behaviours in Enugu state.

## Methodology

The research design adopted in the conduct of this study was descriptive survey research design. Three research questions and three hypotheses guided the study. The area covered in this study was Enugu state of Nigeria consisting of six education zones. A sample of 884 secondary school adolescents (511 from urban schools and 373 from rural schools) was used in the study. Instrument used for data collection was Adolescents' Behaviour Scale (ABS). It was made up of 55-items. The response options were scored as follows;

**VGE** = Very Great Extent = 4 points

**GE** = Great Extent = 3 points

**LE** = Low Extent = 2 points

**VLE** = Very Low Extent = 1 point

This instrument was developed by the researcher and validated by three research experts. The reliability coefficient for the instrument was .87 obtained through the Cronbach's Alpha method. Research questions were answered using mean with standard deviation while hypotheses were tested using z-test statistic.

## Results

### Research Question 1

What is the extent to which parental role could inhibit secondary school adolescents' involvement in health related deviant behaviours in Enugu state?

**Table 1:** mean and standard deviation scores on research question 1 items

Item		Urban			Rural			Overall		
		Mean	SD	Remark	Mean	SD	Remark	Mean	SD	Remark
1	Please indicate the extent to which parental role could inhibit secondary school adolescents' involvement in the following;									
1	Unhealthy dieting	2.7	1.50	GE	2.7	1.24	GE	2.7	1.81	GE
2	Unsafe sexual practices	3.2	1.28	GE	3.0	1.51	GE	3.1	1.51	GE
3	Prostitution/premarital sex	3.1	1.31	GE	3.3	1.11	GE	3.2	1.11	GE
4	Wrong posturing	2.9	1.33	GE	2.8	1.61	GE	2.8	1.61	GE
5	Poor hygiene	2.6	1.16	GE	2.8	1.52	GE	2.7	1.52	GE
6	Self medication	3.0	1.43	GE	3.1	1.41	GE	3.0	1.73	GE
7	Masturbation	3.2	1.42	GE	3.2	1.12	GE	3.2	1.10	GE
8	Lesbianism/homosexuality	2.9	1.16	GE	2.6	1.09	GE	2.8	1.33	GE
9	Sexual harassment	3.1	1.51	GE	3.2	1.16	GE	3.1	1.28	GE
10	Drug /substance abuse	2.9	1.11	GE	3.0	1.43	GE	3.0	1.31	GE
11	Alcoholism	2.8	1.61	GE	2.8	1.42	GE	2.8	1.33	GE
12	Smoking/tobacco use	2.6	1.52	GE	2.5	1.16	GE	2.5	1.43	GE
13	Sharing of unsterilized sharp objects	3.1	1.73	GE	2.9	1.81	GE	3.0	1.42	GE

14	Not reporting sick	2.8	1.10	GE	3.0	1.41	GE	2.9	1.14	GE
15	Incest	2.6	1.33	GE	2.6	1.12	GE	2.6	1.51	GE
16	Excessive consumption of junk foods	2.7	1.21	GE	2.6	1.09	GE	2.6	1.19	GE
<b>GRAND</b>		<b>2.9</b>	<b>1.36</b>	<b>GE</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>1.33</b>	<b>GE</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>1.40</b>	<b>GE</b>

From table 1, the grand mean for urban students was 2.9, it was also 2.9 for rural while the overall grand mean was 3.0. This result indicates that parental role can inhibit secondary school adolescents' involvement in health related deviant behaviours to a great extent.

### Research Question 2

What is the extent to which parental role could inhibit secondary school adolescents' involvement in crime related deviant behaviours in Enugu state?

**Table 2:** mean and standard deviation scores on research question 2 items

Item		Urban			Rural			Overall		
		Mean	SD	Remark	Mean	SD	Remark	Mean	SD	Remark
	Please indicate the extent to which parental role could inhibit secondary school adolescents' involvement in the following;									
17	Violence/fighting	2.8	1.42	GE	3.0	1.73	GE	2.8	1.61	GE
18	Cultism	2.5	1.16	GE	3.2	1.10	GE	2.6	1.52	GE
19	Stealing/armed robbery	2.9	1.81	GE	2.8	1.33	GE	3.1	1.73	GE
20	Rape	3.0	1.41	GE	3.1	1.28	GE	2.8	1.10	GE
21	Gun/weapon carrying (arms bearing)	2.6	1.12	GE	3.0	1.31	GE	2.6	1.33	GE
22	Unlawful processions/demonstrations	2.6	1.09	GE	2.8	1.33	GE	2.7	1.21	GE

23	Insurgence/terrorism	2.7	1.24	GE	2.7	1.50	GE	2.9	1.36	GE
24	Militancy/treason	3.0	1.51	GE	3.2	1.28	GE	3.2	1.10	GE
25	Suicide	3.3	1.11	GE	3.1	1.31	GE	2.8	1.33	GE
26	Murder	2.8	1.61	GE	2.9	1.33	GE	3.1	1.28	GE
27	Cheating	2.8	1.52	GE	2.6	1.16	GE	3.0	1.31	GE
28	Fraud	3.1	1.41	GE	3.0	1.43	GE	2.8	1.33	GE
29	Internet crimes	3.2	1.12	GE	3.2	1.42	GE	2.5	1.43	GE
30	Kidnapping	2.6	1.09	GE	2.9	1.16	GE	3.0	1.42	GE
31	Ritualism	3.2	1.16	GE	3.1	1.51	GE	2.9	1.14	GE
32	Looting/vandalism	3.0	1.43	GE	2.9	1.11	GE	2.6	1.51	GE
<b>GRAND</b>		<b>2.9</b>	<b>1.32</b>	<b>GE</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>1.33</b>	<b>GE</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>1.36</b>	<b>GE</b>

From table 2, the grand mean for urban students was 2.9, it was 3.0 for rural while the overall grand mean was 2.8. This result indicates that parental role can inhibit secondary school adolescents' involvement in crime related deviant behaviours to a great extent.

### **Research Question 3**

What is the extent to which parental role could inhibit secondary school adolescents' involvement in social related deviant behaviours in Enugu state?

**Table 3:** mean and standard deviation scores on research question 3 items

Item		Urban			Rural			Overall		
		Mean	SD	Remark	Mean	SD	Remark	Mean	SD	Remark
	Please indicate the extent to which parental role could inhibit secondary school adolescents' involvement in the following;									
34	Reckless driving	3.5	1.51	VGE	3.9	1.61	VGE	3.7	1.51	VGE
35	Dishonesty	3.8	1.11	VGE	3.7	1.52	VGE	3.5	1.11	VGE
36	Unintentional injuries	3.6	1.61	VGE	3.7	1.41	VGE	3.5	1.61	VGE
37	Time mismanagement	3.7	1.52	VGE	3.8	1.12	VGE	3.5	1.31	VGE
38	Idleness/laziness	3.8	1.73	VGE	3.7	1.09	VGE	3.7	1.33	VGE
39	Excessive play	3.5	1.10	VGE	3.6	1.16	VGE	3.5	1.16	VGE
40	Social media/TV addiction	2.7	1.50	GE	2.7	1.24	GE	2.7	1.81	GE
41	Pen pal/social media friendship	3.2	1.28	GE	3.0	1.51	GE	3.1	1.51	GE
42	Inassertiveness	3.1	1.31	GE	3.3	1.11	GE	3.2	1.11	GE
43	Gambling	2.9	1.33	GE	2.8	1.61	GE	2.8	1.61	GE
44	Indecent dressing/nudity	2.6	1.16	GE	2.8	1.52	GE	2.7	1.52	GE
45	Taunting	3.0	1.43	GE	3.1	1.41	GE	3.0	1.73	GE
46	Loitering	3.2	1.42	GE	3.2	1.12	GE	3.2	1.10	GE
47	Pornography	2.9	1.16	GE	2.6	1.09	GE	2.8	1.33	GE
48	Aggressiveness	3.1	1.51	GE	3.2	1.16	GE	3.1	1.28	GE
49	Intolerance	2.9	1.11	GE	3.0	1.43	GE	3.0	1.31	GE
50	Unruly/behaviours	2.8	1.61	GE	2.8	1.42	GE	2.8	1.33	GE



51	Rumor mongering/gossips	2.6	1.52	GE	2.5	1.16	GE	2.5	1.43	GE
52	Undecisiveness	3.1	1.73	GE	2.9	1.81	GE	3.0	1.42	GE
53	Pretence	2.8	1.10	GE	3.0	1.41	GE	2.9	1.14	GE
54	Inconsistency	2.6	1.33	GE	2.6	1.12	GE	2.6	1.51	GE
55	Truancy	2.7	1.21	GE	2.6	1.09	GE	2.6	1.19	GE
<b>GRAND</b>		<b>3.1</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>GE</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>1.32</b>	<b>GE</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>GE</b>

From table 3, the grand mean for urban students was 3.1, it was also 3.1 for rural and overall. This result indicates that parental role can inhibit secondary school adolescents' involvement in social related deviant behaviours to a great extent.

### Hypothesis 1

There is no significant difference between the extent to which parental role could inhibit urban and rural secondary school adolescent's involvement in health related deviant behaviours in Enugu state.

**Table 4: z-test analyses for hypothesis 1**

Group	n	$\bar{x}$	SD	z-calculated	z-critical	Remark
Urban	511	2.9	1.36	0.43	1.96	Not significant (Do not reject hypothesis)
Rural	373	2.9	1.34			

From table 4, z-calculated (0.43) is less than z-critical (1.96). Hence, at .05 significant level, the mean ratings of the two groups (urban and rural) do not differ significantly. Consequently, hypothesis one is not rejected as stated, implying that there is no significant difference between the extent to which parental role could inhibit urban and rural secondary school adolescent's involvement in health related deviant behaviours in Enugu state.

## Hypothesis 2

There is no significant difference between the extent to which parental role could inhibit urban and rural secondary school adolescent's involvement in crime related deviant behaviours in Enugu state.

**Table 5: z-test analyses for hypothesis 2**

Group	n	$\bar{x}$	SD	z-calculated	z-critical	Remark
Urban	511	2.9	1.32	0.70	1.96	Not significant (Do not reject hypothesis)
Rural	373	3.0	1.30			

From table 5, z-calculated (0.70) is less than z-critical (1.96). This implies that, at .05 significant level, the mean ratings of the two groups (urban and rural) do not differ significantly. Hence, hypothesis two is not rejected as stated, implying that there is no significant difference between the extent to which parental role could inhibit urban and rural secondary school adolescent's involvement in crime related deviant behaviours in Enugu state.

## Hypothesis 3

There is no significant difference between the extent to which parental role could inhibit urban and rural secondary school adolescent's involvement in social related deviant behaviours in Enugu state.

**Table 6: z-test analyses for hypothesis 3**

Group	n	$\bar{x}$	SD	z-calculated	z-critical	Remark
Urban	511	3.1	1.38	0.60	1.96	Not significant (Do not reject hypothesis)
Rural	373	3.1	1.32			

From table 6, z-calculated (0.60) is less than z-critical (1.96). Implying that at .05 significant level, the mean ratings of the two groups (urban and rural) do not differ significantly. Therefore, hypothesis three is not rejected as stated, implying that there is no significant difference between the extent to which parental role could inhibit urban and rural secondary school adolescent's involvement in social related deviant behaviours in Enugu state.

## **Summary of Findings**

Findings of this study can be summarized thus;

1. Parental role can inhibit secondary school adolescents' involvement in health related deviant behaviours to a great extent.
2. Parental role can inhibit secondary school adolescents' involvement in crime related deviant behaviours to a great extent.
3. Parental role can inhibit secondary school adolescents' involvement in social related deviant behaviours to a great extent.
4. Influence of parental role on secondary school adolescent's involvement in deviant behaviours in Enugu state do not differ significantly.

## **Discussion**

Findings of this study have serious implications. Parenting role includes the characteristics of a parent that changes the effectiveness of family socialization practices and children's receptiveness to such practices. Parental roles are broad patterns of childrearing practices, values and behaviours. It is the way parents or caretakers take care of their children which can have impact on the children's personality development, and the ways of interacting socially and with close relations. The most common caretaker in parenting is the biological parent(s) of the child in question, although others may be an older sibling, a grandparent, a legal guardian, aunt, uncle or other family members or a family friend. Parenting is the process of promoting and supporting the physical, emotional, social and intellectual development of a child from infancy to adulthood. Parenting refers to the aspects of raising a child aside from the biological relationship. A parental role is the overall emotional climate in the home. The child-parent relationship has a major influence on all aspect of the child development. In parenting, parents should neither be punitive nor aloof rather they should develop rules for their children

and be effective with them. Parenting is a serious issue because we need to train children and adolescent properly to enable them take over the future and ensure continuity. When parenting is inadequate, the result is negative and unwanted behaviours from the youths. There is no doubt that unwanted behaviours and deviant behaviours constitute major trait to the survival and continuity of any society.

Deviant behaviours include any consciously or non-consciously controlled behaviour which deviates from the norms and values of the society. Such behaviours may have devastating costs for the physical, economic or psychosocial well-being of oneself or others. It is increasingly recognized, however, that certain behaviours have the potential to become addictive. Such substances such as alcohol and narcotics are rewarding and habit forming, so too are some behaviours. For people with behavioral addictions, once relatively being behaviour can escalate, leading them to spend inordinate amounts of time preparing for or engaging in the habit, while neglecting other areas of life. These repetitive habits persist even though the person experiences have any conscious control over the behaviour. Adolescents will often begin experimenting with deviant behaviours due to inadequate parental roles as implicated in this study. It is therefore expected that the more parents ignore their parental roles, the more the dangers of adolescents' involvement in deviant behaviours.

## **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are deemed necessary.

1. Parents should play their parental roles effectively so as to help their adolescents abhor involvement in deviant behaviours.
2. Secondary school teachers should from time to time investigate the parental roles their students are exposed to so as to identify their individual differences.
3. Regular seminars, workshops and conferences should be organized for parents of secondary school adolescents on parental roles needed to aid better development of their wards.

4. Regular seminars, workshops and conferences should be organized for secondary school teachers and educational psychologist to acquaint them with knowledge on influence of parental roles on adolescents' involvement in deviant behaviours.

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