



Parental Factor as a Leverage For Adolescents' Criminal Behaviour In South-West, Nigeria



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Abstract

The study investigated the extent to which parental factor act as a leverage for adolescents' criminal behaviour in South-West, Nigeria. Parental factor includes Parenting styles, Parental criminality, Parent educational achievement, Family type, Family conflict, and Family financial capability. The Ex-post facto research design was adopted for the study. The simple random as well as purposive sampling technique was used to select adolescents in Juvenile correctional centres and Medium correctional services across South-West Nigeria. A total of 240 participants took part in the study, while data was collected through the responses from the respondents to the Adolescents Criminal Exposure Behaviour Questionnaire (ACEBQ). The data collected was analyzed using the Univariate Analysis of variance [UNIANOVA] at 0.05 level of significance. A significant F-value ($F=4.551; P < 0.05$) The findings revealed that parental factor significantly disposed adolescents in Southwest Nigeria to criminal behaviours and exposure to correctional institutions. This study concluded that parents and guardians need to have firm grip on their wards, so as to prevent them from being negatively influenced by criminally inclined adolescents. The issue of family planning should also be taken seriously, if possible government should mandate couples not to have more than 2 children irrespective of their gender and teaching on dangers and consequences of divorce should be constituted into the counselling sessions for intending couples during their joining at the marriage registry. This is because it was revealed in the course of this research that majority of the adolescents inmates in the correctional institutions visited, were not from intact homes.

Keywords: Parental factor; Leverage; Adolescents; Criminal behavior; Correctional institutions.

1. Introduction

Crime during adolescence is one of the dreadful social problems globally in recent times. The effect of parenting on the outcome of adolescents cannot be overemphasised. The first agent of socialisation that the child is exposed to is the family. Once the parents shirk in responsibility and roles in the life of a child, there is tendency for a bad upbringing which may easily expose an adolescent to criminal behaviour and consequent incarceration. A parent is one who gives birth to or adopt a child and raises him or her by providing the basic needs of life (primary, secondary, and tertiary needs) The responsibility of nurturing, providing physical and emotional needs of the child from birth to adulthood is bestowed upon the parent. At adolescence however, the parents need additional emotional skills and wherewithal for a successful parenting. Brooks (2001) describes a parent as a mother, a father, one who generates new life, a guardian, and a protector. Parenting is recognised as an important human experience that changes people emotionally, socially, and intellectually. The process of parenting has the capability of having lasting effects on an individual from childhood through adolescence to adulthood. Parenting is seen as a crucial part of socialisation process. Buchanan and Flouri (2002) writes that researchers have shown that family conflict, punitive child rearing practices, parental depression, single parenting, family stress, poor family relationships and economic disadvantage have direct bearing on emotional and behavioural problems in adolescents.

Macionis (2018), also affirms that parenting is very expensive and it is a lifelong commitment, which has the greatest impact on the attitudes and the behaviour of the child as the family is the first setting of socialisation. The poor parenting style exhibited by many parents has disposed their adolescent wards to criminal behaviour and consequently to correctional institutions where persons who are lawfully detained by government are held, whether they are already convicted, serving jail term, awaiting trials or are suspects undergoing interrogation. Correctional institutions include: Medium and Maximum custodial centres and correctional services, Juvenile correctional centres, Police station/ custody/cell.

Teenage crime is on the rise on a daily basis, especially among those in secondary schools, higher institutions and even those who have dropped out of school. Adolescents who are neither adults nor children perceive themselves to be mature enough to take decisions regarding their lives; therefore, they mostly detest corrections and counsel from their parents, guardians, teachers and older members of the society.

Crime, though not a new phenomenon, is widely spread among teenagers and adolescents. Marshi (2011) explain that many countries in the world have seen the need to make the juvenile system more punitive and to transfer their cases to adult system. This is due to great increase in adolescents' crime and violence in the societies. Crime can be said to be as old as the existence of man himself. Plummer and Macionis (2005), opine that crime has always existed and it is hard to find societies where no crime exists. Crime exists in all societies and it is the most obvious form of deviance. Deviant behaviour violates the laws which are specific rules, recognised in a community and adopted officially by a government body that are enforceable by established process (Croteau and Hoynes, 2013). Rosie and Woodfield (2018), described crime as an illegal act that is punishable by law. They listed murder, robbery as an example of crime. They further explained that if one commits a crime and it is detected, the fellow could be arrested. Charged and prosecuted if found guilty, they will receive sentences like fines or imprisonment.

All human beings are born into an existing social world not free of crime. This implies that every child has the potential to be a criminal based on the nature of the society especially the contemporary society where different types of deviant behaviours and crimes are committed and shown on the internet, television and other forms of media. Even a child who is born into a decent and well-cultured family could be exposed to the different forms of crime. People tend to learn criminal behaviour, therefore, who a person associates with is crucial. One's family and friends which may be termed as primary groups are important sources of attitude towards crime, knowledge about how to commit crime and rationalizations that help one to live with being a criminal (Pearson, 2005, as cited in Marshi (2011)).

According to Macionis (2018), official crime rates rise sharply globally during adolescence, peak in the late teens, and fall as people get older. Adolescents' involvement in crime is one of most important issues that Nigeria faces as a nation in recent times. Ayoola *et al.* (2015) are of the opinion that, in South West of Nigeria, there has been series of reports on juvenile crimes ranging from theft, rape, cultism, alcoholism, drug abuse, internet fraud otherwise known as yahoo fraud, murder and kidnapping for rituals killings, and ransom. The most frightening, and painful aspect of this crime saga is the high rate of adolescents' involvement. In the recent times, they take pride in violating the cultural norms of their locality. There has been upsurge in violence, kidnappings, murder, suicide and internet fraud among teenagers. The adolescents are ready to take risk and venture into any dangerous acts.

According to Akinsola (2006) many communities and families have compromised their traditional roles. He stresses further that the school and the teachers are not exempted. The traditional institution or values are now being replaced with cravings for materialism and accumulation of wealth, corruption, malpractices, impatience and get-rich-quick-by-any-means syndrome. The increased urbanisation, modernisation and technological advancement are accompanied by increase in crime, moral laxity and decadence which are contributing largely to social problems. Those who are to be the future leaders have taken largely to crime and many of them are behind bars in both Juvenile correctional centres and medium correctional services in South West Nigeria.

The study sought to answer the following question:

- To what extent does parental factor act as a leverage for adolescents' criminal behaviour in South-West, Nigeria?
- Research Hypothesis

Parental factor (Parenting style, Parental academic achievement, Parental criminality and Parental economic capability) will not significantly dispose adolescents to criminal behaviours and expose them to correctional institutions in South West Nigeria

2. Review of Related Literature

Parental factor in the upbringing and nurturing of a child from childhood to adolescence stage which is not a walk in the park cannot be overemphasised. How well parents play their roles in terms of provision of needed physical and emotional needs, protection from dangers and negative influences, and inculcating the societal norms, moral values and standards in to the adolescents may largely determine how they turn out. The under listed risk factors may expose adolescents to criminal behaviour and consequent incarceration.

- Parenting styles
- Parental criminality
- Parent personality
- Parental educational achievement
- Parental economic capability
- Family structure

2.1. Parenting Styles

Parenting styles are methods and strategies adopted by parents or guardians in nurturing and training their children or wards. It involves manners by which children are being brought up, it is called home training in a layman's language. [Steinberg L. et al. \(2011\)](#) explains parenting styles as the consistently used patterns of parenting techniques and practices, level of expectations, performance demand expected, values and standards, modes and styles of discipline employed by parents in enforcing the actualisation goals in their children. [Baumnad \(1991\)](#) identifies four parenting styles and techniques:

- Authoritative parents
- Authoritarian parents
- Permissive/indulgent parents
- Uninvolved parents

2.2. Authoritative Parents

They are warm but firm; they encourage their adolescents to be independent while maintaining limits and control on their actions [Wright and Cullen \(2001\)](#) states that parents who are supportive and effectively control their children in a non-coercive fashion are more likely to raise children devoid of delinquency.

2.3. Authoritarian Parents

They display little warmth and high controlling. They are strict disciplinarians who use a punitive and restrictive style and insist their children follow parental control' they often rely on force to get cooperation from their children and largely unresponsive to them. [Carter \(2001\)](#) expresses that the likelihood of delinquency increases if parents are unable to provide the family structure that gives the adolescents the ability to assert their individuality and regulate their own behaviours.

2.4. Permissive/Indulgent Parents

This group is very warm but un-demanding. They are indulgent and passive in their parenting, they do not like to say no so as not to disappoint children. [Shalimi \(2006\)](#), writes that the children of parents who are permissive learn more by trials and errors than by guidance. In this case it is easier for their adolescent children to seek counsel and guidance from their peers and this might be a wrong counselling.

2.5. Uninvolved/Neglectful Parents

They are neither responsive nor demanding, their expectations of their children is very low. They place more emphasis on their work and ambition; therefore do not spend energy on their children. [Echedom et al. \(2018\)](#), express that uninvolved parents are indifferent to their adolescents needs, whereabouts, or experiences at school or with peers. This parenting style is associated with neglect and abuse. Clarke and Dunn in their own opinion stress that when adolescents are tempted during dangerous situations and having no minimal adult supervision, their inclination to engage in risk – taking behaviour with their lack of self-regulatory skills can make them vulnerable to a host of negative outcomes and criminal behaviours. Adolescents from neglectful or indulgent homes are likely to participate more significantly in crime.

2.6. Parent Criminality

Parent criminality has always been believed to be one of the predictors of criminal intent in adolescents. The notion has always been that of criminal begets criminals. [Steinberg L. D. and Levine \(1997\)](#), writes that academic research confirms that criminal and antisocial parents tend to have delinquent and antisocial children. [Farrington et al. \(2009\)](#) corroborates this by expressing that, having a convicted parent or a delinquent older siblings was consistently among the best predictors for antisocial behaviour. [Abudugana \(2005\)](#) observes that most parents who ought to monitor the behavioural trend of their wards and discourage them from criminal tendency behaviours have no moral justification to caution them as they are at the centre of crimes, such as drunkenness, drug trafficking and abuse, prostitution, and armed robbery. Adolescents who have parents who are into crime, may find it easy to delve into crimes.

2.7. Parent Personality

Personality is the overall attributes of an individual, the way he or she sees himself or herself and the way others seem or her. It is the totality of characters exhibited by an individual when interacting with other people in his environment. [Larsen and Buss \(2010\)](#) explain personality to mean a dynamic organisation, embedded inside of an individual that creates the person's characteristic patterns of thoughts, feelings and behaviours [Onyebuchukwu \(2014\)](#) identifies heredity and environment as the two major factors that determines personality.

2.8. Heredity

The parents qualities are passed on to children through the molecular structure of genes located in the chromosomes in daily activities and interactions which is why we often hear the statement 'like father like son, like mother like daughter'.

2.9. Environment

Environment consists of family, locality, culture, social and situational factors.

Personality reflects individual differences. [Barnow et al. \(2005\)](#), in the summary of their findings that there are associations between parent personality and antisocial behaviours in children and adolescents, but they establish that correlation is stronger in adolescents. Either inherited or imitated, the character and personalities of parents reflect in the moral exhibition of the adolescents. Adolescents whose parents fight and are aggressive may have and also exhibit such traits in relating and interacting with people around them.

2.10. Parent Educational Achievement

Parental educational achievement, among other factors plays a vital role in shaping the moral life of an adolescent, as parents who are highly educated will also value higher educational attainment for their wards. In ensuring that this aim is achieved, they will be ready to sacrifice all it takes to meet the emotional, academic and physical needs of their adolescent children. They go all out to see that their adolescent children do not go stray away from their laid – down aims, goals and objectives of becoming a noble person in the society. [Dosunmu and Pemede \(2018\)](#), summarise education as the development of the individual according to his needs and demands of the society. According to [Kobiowu \(2016\)](#), education means an upward movement on the social ladder, he stresses that education has both a practical and a symbolic value and that education can enhance the social standing of individuals. Education through formal schooling, builds up an individual to become an all-round developed and acceptable being in the society. On the other hand, adolescents from non - educated parents may not have the opportunities which their counterparts from educated parents have. The parents may not be enlightened enough to give the right career counsel to their adolescent wards.

2.11. Parental Economic Capability

Economic capability has to do with occupational and financial stability. Parents who have good and viable sources of income will have adequate and substantial financial wherewithal to cater for the needs of their adolescent wards with few exceptions., Adolescence is a very demanding stage in of life for both the adolescents and their parents, they want to explore series of activities, there is change in their dress sense, styles and tastes which is completely different from when they were younger. Parents need to provide adequate material resources such as money, clothing, food, educational and recreational materials for their adolescents. However, poor parents may not be able to afford all their adolescents require, forcing such adolescents to device alternative means of getting these essential material resources, which may not be societal acceptable means. [Odedeji \(2009\)](#), explains that people seek all kinds of ways to meet their needs and attain goals which have been denied them based on their class situation. The frustration emanating from this situation can give rise to deviant and criminal behaviour such as armed robbery, prostitution, kidnapping, ritual killings, murder, exam malpractices, cultism among others. [Owombi \(2013\)](#), posits that poverty is one of the conditions that may lead adolescents to unacceptable behaviours.

2.12. Family Structure

Family is the basic unit on which society is built, every individual belongs to a family setup. Whatever structure the family has, it is made up of individuals. A family can be defined as a group of people who are related by bonds of blood, marriage or adoption and live together to form an economic unit, bear and raise children. [Kendal \(2010\)](#) defines family as relationship in which people live together with commitment, form an economic unit and care for any young and consider the identity to be significantly attached to the group. [Ken \(2020\)](#) in his own words describes the family as one of the most important institutions and it is a basic unit of social organisation which plays a key role in socializing children into the culture of their society. In most cases, the family structure will likely determine the type of parenting. Identifies five types of parenting.

2.13. Nuclear Parenting

This is when biological father and mother are responsible for the total dependent care of the adolescent. This is a normal and expected human experience and a tool for proper growth, and all-round development for the adolescent child.

2.14. Extended Parenting

Other members of the extended family along with the biological parent take responsibility for the growth and development of the adolescents. This allows for adequate monitoring of the adolescents, ([Abolarin, 2017](#)) stresses that in the traditional societies, growing up in extended family setting enables the child to have adequate resource, parent and role models for behaviour and learning of values. Therefore adolescents from this type of home setting are not likely to stray into criminal behaviour, unless there is negative influence among the extended family members.

2.15. Step Parenting

This is a situation whereby one of the parents is being replaced due to separation, divorce, or death. The step parents accept the moral, religious, financial and other responsibilities of the missing parent. Step parenting may not be as bonded to the child as the natural parents thereby reducing the likelihood that step parents will be motivated to adequately socialise the child. [Demuth and Brown \(2004\)](#) are of the opinion that adolescents from single parents, and

reconstituted families participate more frequently in criminal activities than those from intact families. Cases of incest are easily aroused and adolescents in step-parenting family structure are more likely to be involved in criminal behaviour than their counterparts in intact families.

2.16. Single Parenting

This occurs when only one of the biological parents is available or present in the family setting to play the role of both parents. In South West Nigeria, most single parents are mothers. This may be as a result of separation, divorce, or death. Ken (2020) states that lone parenthood has been presented as one of the major social problems as the lone parent are usually overloaded with the financial responsibilities of the child alongside other responsibilities such as emotional and social. This implies that adolescents in single parent family type are likely to suffer economic deprivation which will prevent them from enjoying some social amenities that are readily accessible their counterparts in two-parent family setup.

2.17. Adoptive Parenting

The normal confrontation of adolescents and parents may be more painful in adoptive parents. Adolescents may use the fact of adoption, as a tool for denying parental authority or as justification for bad behaviour. This is also an indicator that adolescents in adoptive-parent family structure may be more inclined to criminal behaviour than their counterparts in nuclear-parenting family structure.

Nkhata and Mwale (2016), observes that adolescents have advanced rates of recklessness, norm breaking, and antisocial manners than either children or adults. This is one of the reasons all trending criminal news are always having the adolescents as the major actors, culprits and accomplices. The adolescents can then be said to be the most sets of deviants in the society. It is obvious that the media, internet, peer groups and gangsters are the models to these youths. They are fully exposed to pornographic pictures and films and the filthiness of the society is so enormous that even a child from a very descent, modest, and morally upright home finds it hard to survive and even eclipse their moral uprightness.

Bella *et al.* (2010), Nigeria is of particular interest in terms of risk of exponential rise in the number of children and adolescents coming in contact with the Juvenile Justice System. The involvement of adolescents in crime ns is alarmingly high globally, and Nigeria is not exempted. This is evident in the trending news in all social and mass media. They are involved in various crimes such as cultism, Internet fraud otherwise known as yahoo which has been upgraded to yahoo plus, ritual killings, drug abuse, murder, kidnapping, burglary, prostitution, and all forms of deviant behaviours. It is in this light that this study has been conceived and carried out to investigate parental factor as a leverage for adolescents' criminal behaviour in Lagos State.

3. Methodology

3.1. Research Design

The *Ex-post facto* research design was adopted for this investigation. To this end, the instrument used for data collection was Adolescents Criminal Exposure Behaviour Qusssestionnaire (ACEBQ), collated, analyzed, interpreted and used as basis for drawing conclusions about the extent to which parental factor act as a leverage for adolescents' criminal behaviour in South-West, Nigeria.

3.2. Population/Sample

The population for this study comprises of all adolescents in Juvenile correctional centres and Medium correctional services across Southwest Nigeria. A total of 240 respondents were selected using the simple random as well as purposive sampling technique and used in the study.

3.3. Data Collection

Data were collected through the Adolescents Criminal Exposure Behaviour Questionnaire (ACEBQ), designed by the researchers and face validated by a panel of three experts in Sociology of Education constituted for content and criterion related validities. The reliability before administration was determined through a pilot study using the test-retest method with 20 copies of the validated instrument administered in a correctional institution on twenty respondents who were not part of the core study, twice with two weeks interval between the first and second administrations. The two sets of scores obtained from this exercise were analysed using the Cronbach test at an r-value of 0.70. A total of 240 copies of ACEBQ were administered on all selected respondents. Thus, 40 copies of the ACEBQ were administered on selected respondents from each South-West state of Nigeria. Invariably, a total of 20 copies of ACEBQ were administered in each Juvenile correctional centre and each Medium correctional service in each state.

4. Results

Data collected were presented and analyzed using percentage as well as the Univariate Analysis of variance [UNIANOVA] at 0.05 significance level.

Table-1. Demographic distribution of respondents

| Variables | Classes | | | | | | Total 240 (100%) |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Sex | Male 224 (93.3%) | Female 16 (6.7%) | | | | | |
| Age | Below 14 years 15 (6.3%) | 14-17 years 128 (53.3%) | Above 17 years 97 (40.4%) | | | | |
| Highest Educational Level | JSS 111 (46.3%) | SSS 48 (20%) | SSCE 29 (12.1%) | JSS Dropout 32 (13.3%) | SSS Dropout 20 (8.3%) | | |
| Parental Qualification (Father) | No Formal Education 113 (47.1%) | WAEC 97 (40.4%) | NCE/OND 16 (6.7%) | HND/BSC 9 (3.8%) | Masters 5 (2.1%) | PhD - | |
| Parental Qualification (Mother) | No Formal Education 131 (54.6%) | WAEC 74 (30.8%) | NCE/OND 25 (10.4%) | HND/BSC 5 (2.1%) | Masters 4 (1.7%) | PhD 1 (0.4%) | |
| Parental Employment Status (Father) | Trader 101 (42.1%) | Artisan 80 (33.3%) | Business Man/Woman 34 (14.2%) | Civil Servant 15 (6.3%) | Private Company Employee 10 (4.2%) | | |
| Parental Employment Status (Mother) | Trader 121 (50.4%) | Artisan 64 (26.7%) | Business Man/Woman 44 (18.3%) | Civil Servant 8 (3.3%) | Private Company Employee 3 (1.3%) | | |

The sex distribution on table 1 above shows that 224 (93.3%) of the total respondents were males, while the remaining 16 (6.7%) were females. As regards age distribution, 15 (6.3%) of the total respondents were below 14 years, 128 (53.3%), being the majority, were between 14-17 years, while the remaining 97 (40.4%) were above 17 years of age. The Highest Educational Level distribution shows that 111 (46.3%) of the total respondents had highest educational level of JSS3, 48 (20%) with SSS, 29 (12.1%) were able to take WASC/NECO examinations. However, 32 (13.3%) and 20 (8.3%) were drop outs at JSS and SSS levels respectively. From the Parental Educational Qualification distribution, it could be observed that 113 (47.1%) and 131 (54.6%) of the fathers and mothers of the total respondents respectively had no formal education, 97 (40.4%) and 74 (30.8%) of them had their fathers and mothers respectively having WASC/NECO as the highest educational qualification. The fathers and mothers of the respondent’s with HND/BSc and Masters as the highest educational qualifications were 9 (3.8%) and 5 (2.1%) and 4 (1.7%) respectively. None of the respondent’s father had a PhD, but only one 1 (0.4%) had the mother hold a PhD. Furthermore, the parental employment distribution shows that 101 (42.1%) and 121 (50.4%) of the fathers and mothers of the total respondents were traders respectively, 80 (33.3%) and 64 (26.7%) of them had their fathers and mothers respectively being artisans. Those with parents as businessmen/businesswomen had the distribution as; fathers 34 (14.2%) and mothers 44 (18.3%). Parents of the respondents who were civil servants were 15 (6.3%) for fathers and 8 (3.3%) for mothers respectively. Respondents having their fathers and mothers being private company employees were 10 (4.2%) and 3 (1.3%) respectively.

Table-2. UNIANOVA result of parental factor as a leverage for adolescents’ criminal behaviour in South-West, Nigeria.

| Source | Type III Sum of Squares | Df | Mean Square | F | Sig. |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----|-------------|---------|-------|
| Corrected Model | 3989.414 ^a | 14 | 284.958 | 4.551 | 0.000 |
| Intercept | 27976.010 | 1 | 27976.010 | 446.801 | 0.000 |
| Parental Factor | 3989.414 | 14 | 284.958 | 4.551 | 0.000 |
| Error | 14088.170 | 225 | 62.614 | | |
| Total | 316998.000 | 240 | | | |
| Corrected Total | 18077.583 | 239 | | | |

a. R Squared = 0.221 (Adjusted R Squared = 0.172) Dependent Variable: Criminal Behaviours

From table 2 above, it could be observed that a significant F-value (F=4.551; P<0.05) was obtained at 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, hypothesis one as stated is hereby rejected. This implies that parental factor significantly disposed adolescents in Southwest Nigeria to criminal behaviours and exposure to correctional institutions.

5. Discussion

In testing hypothesis one, the UNIANOVA statistics was employed and a significant F-value was obtained at 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, the hypothesis which states that parental factor will not act as a significant leverage for adolescents’ criminal behaviour in South-West, Nigeria was rejected, implying that parental factor significantly acts as a leverage for adolescents’ criminal behaviour in South-West, Nigeria. This finding is in consonance with that of Sanni et al. (2010) where they stated that, adolescence is a time of expanding vulnerabilities

and opportunities that accompany the widening social and geographical exposure of life beyond the school or family, but it all starts with the family. This expression reveals that the parent plays a significant role in molding an adolescent child.

Parental factor comprises of parenting style, parental criminality, negative parental influence, parental educational achievement, family style, conflict in the home, parental personality and family economic/ financial capability. All these have influence on adolescents' criminal behaviour and exposure to criminal correctional institutions. Siegel *et al.* (2003), related that the relationship between broken homes and crime was established in early research, according to them Adolescents growing up in broken homes were more likely to be involved in crime than those who lived in two-parent households. They opined that as the number of single-parent surged up in the population, so did the juvenile crime rate. The parental socio-economic status has influence on adolescents' behaviour.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

In today's world, the values that defined our lives in time past has been eroded and compromised to a very large extent based on the alarming rate of crime and antisocial behaviour among the young population which is also a reflection of the decadence in the homes that make up the smallest unit of society, not leaving out the sheer negligence on the part of parents. The study has been able to establish that parental factor significantly acts as leverage for adolescents' criminal behaviour in South-West, Nigeria. The unscrupulous cravings for accumulated wealth, extravagant lifestyles and moral laxity have replaced modesty and lifestyle of contentment. The study recommends that parents should pay valuable attention to the quality of lifestyle that they model for their offspring commencing from infancy as well as monitor their activities throughout childhood to adolescence. Parents and guardians should endeavor to devise effective strategies to mentor their children and wards, especially adolescents, to ensure that they are not negatively influenced by their peers who are criminally inclined. The issue of family planning should be taken more seriously. If possible, the government should mandate couples not to have more than two children, irrespective of their sexes, and the dangers and consequences of divorce on the children, especially the adolescents should be constituted into the counselling sessions for intending couples during their joining at the registry. This is necessary because, from the research carried out in the course of this study, revealed that majority of the inmates in Juvenile correctional centres and medium correctional services who are adolescents are not from intact homes.

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