

## Parenting Styles as predictors of Adolescents' Delinquent Behaviour among Secondary School Students in Dutsin-Ma Metropolis, Katsina State, Nigeria

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### **Abstract**

*The study investigated the influence of parenting styles on adolescents' delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Dutsin-ma metropolis of Katsina State, Nigeria. The study adopted the descriptive survey design. A sample of 318 respondents was used for the study. Four research questions and four research hypotheses were formulated for the purpose of the study. The instruments used for the data collection were Parenting Style Questionnaire (PSQ) and Self-Report Delinquency Survey (SDS) which were validated by experts in the field of education. Cronbachs' Alpha reliability was used to obtain a reliability coefficient of 0.76 and 0.86 for PSQ and SDS respectively. Pearson Product Moment Correlations Coefficient (r) was used to see if there exist any significant relationship between each parenting style and delinquent behaviour. Multiple Regression analysis was used to ascertain if there exists any combined influence of parenting styles on delinquent behaviour. The findings indicated that the combined influence of the parenting styles accounted for 2.3% of the total variance. The laissez-faire parenting style accounted for the significant difference. Autocratic and Democratic parenting styles showed to have negative and insignificant relationship with delinquent behaviour among secondary schools' students whereas the laissez-faire parenting style had a weak positive relationship with the students' delinquent behaviour. On these grounds, it was concluded that autocratic and democratic parenting styles does not have any relationship with delinquent behaviour of secondary school students. Whereas laissez-faire parenting style has a positive relationship with delinquent behaviour of secondary school students. Some recommendations were made.*

**Keyword:** Parenting Styles, Delinquent Behaviour, Adolescents

### **Introduction**

Adolescents' delinquent behaviour has been a global issue. Etymologically, the word adolescent was derived from a Latin word *adolescere* which means to grow. Also, delinquency was derived from the Latin word *delinquer* which means to omit. An adolescent is known as delinquent when he/she commits a mistake which is against the law and which is not accepted by the society. Adolescents' delinquent behaviour is defined as a situation whereby an individual under the age of 18, fails to abide by the law (Bada, 2017).

The problem of adolescents' delinquent behaviour has always been a concern to the society at large because the adolescent period is a period of storm and stress (Eke, 2004). The issue of adolescent delinquency is a global occurrence (Odok & Usman, 2017)). The participation of adolescents in delinquent activities has been on the increase (Okorodudu, 2010). The last two

decades witnessed crimes ranging from minor stealing to major robbery and killings perpetuated by teens (Okorodudu , 2010). In 2017, law enforcement agencies estimated that there were 807,700 arrest made with regards to juvenile crimes (Corbett, 2019). The majority of adolescent delinquents are males, engaged in violent and illicit crimes including rape, murder, property crimes, and many more of such crimes comprises of violent crimes, state offenses and drug violations (Sawar, 2016).

Other categories of crimes committed by adolescents includes crime against persons, crime against status and theft crime (Bada, 2017). Violent crimes includes homicides weapon possession, burglary, robbery, assault auto theft, rape, property destruction. State offences includes violation of curfew law, violation of liquor law and disorderly conduct. Drug violations such as drug abuse, underage consumption of alcohol, possession of drugs, and selling of drugs (Sawar, 2016). Juvenile delinquency in our schools today has become a major problem. Some of the delinquent behavior in school include: Truancy, Bullying, Habitual Lateness to school, Examination malpractice, Violation of school uniform, Stealing, (from student and school property), Canalization of school properties, Walls defacing, Running away from school before the closing hours, Cultism and other antisocial gangs, Traffic offences, Indiscipline, Fighting in school, Isolation and aggression among others (Bada & Jafaru, 2022).

Some of the causes of adolescents' delinquent behaviour includes environmental factors such as peer, parental, drug abuse, family factor, physical factor and psychological factors (Okorodudu 2003). Eke (2004) believes that biological or genetic make-up of individuals can expose adolescents participation in delinquent actions. Many researchers believe that most of the delinquent behaviours orientation and attitude development is rooted from their homes and the basis for good behaviour orientation and attitude development is based on positive parenting style (Nova, 2017). Parents play important roles in molding and shaping the behaviour of adolescents. With regards to this, family environment, which includes parenting style and family structure contributes significantly towards impacting an adolescents' development of delinquent behaviour, partly because adolescents spend a lot of time with parents who play an influential role in molding and shaping their behaviour (Buliva, 2020).

Bulivia, (2020) recognizes the work of Baumrind, a clinical as well as developmental psychologist who is considered to be the pioneer of introducing parenting styles. Baumrind recognized three parenting styles based on parental demandingness and responsiveness, which included authoritative parenting, authoritarian parenting, and permissive parenting. Demandingness, refers to claims in which parents are supposed to be integrated into community and family by their maturity and expectation, disciplinary effort, supervision and willingness to confront a disruptive child.

The three parenting styles can also be seen as autocratic (authoritarian), democratic (authoritative), and laissez-faire (permissive). The autocratic parenting style constitutes of parents who are often strict and harsh. Democratic parents, are flexible and responsive to the

child's needs but still enforce reasonable standards of conduct. While laissez-faire parents are those who impose few restrictions, rules or limits on their adolescents (Ang & Groh, 2006).

### **Statement of the Problem**

Children's upbringing is often regarded as very important in the development of a growing child. parenting style is very important in a child's development of delinquent behaviour since it creates different social environment in the lives of children within the home that eventually impact their social behaviour outside the home. One major concern of educational groups, families and society at large is the problem of adolescents' delinquent crimes. It has been a tough problem even for the government to deal with.

Most existing studies related to this study have generally investigated on the relationship between parenting styles and academic performance (Bada & Pwajok, 2020 ; Zahedan, 2016). Influence of parenting styles on social development (Mensah, 2013), Influence of parenting styles on self esteem (Wolff, 2000). Few studies that have been done on influence of parenting styles on adolescents' delinquent includes (Corbett, 2019 ; Buliva, 2020 ; Okorodudu, 2010). However, In dutsin-ma local government area of katsina state, researches on the influence of parenting styles on adolescent delinquent are rare.

Since the home is a basis for character formation, as stated in the introductory part, it becomes necessary for researches to be done with regards to different parenting styles and finding out which one is best for the control and prevention of delinquent behaviour. As far as the problem of adolescents' delinquent behaviour is concerned, Dutsin-Ma local government of Katsina state is not an exception. There has been several reports with regards to activities such as substance abuse, shop lifting, theft, assault, rape, etc. A large number of those partaking in the above crimes mentioned are adolescents.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the study is to:

1. investigate if there is any combine influence of parenting styles (autocratic parenting style, democratic parenting style, and laissez-faire parenting style) on adolescents' delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Dutsin-ma metropolis.
2. examine if there is any relationship between autocratic parenting style and adolescents' delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Dutsin-ma metropolis
3. determine the relationship between democratic parenting style and adolescents' delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Dutsin-ma metropolis.
4. find out if any relationship exists between laissez-faire parenting style and adolescents delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Dutsin-ma metropolis.

### **Research Questions**

To guide the investigation, the following research questions were formulated

1. Does the combine influence of parenting styles (autocratic parenting style, democratic parenting style, and laissez-faire parenting style) predict adolescents' delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Dutsin-ma metropolis?
2. Does any significant relationship exist between autocratic parenting style and adolescents' delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Dutsin-ma metropolis?
3. Does any significant relationship exist between democratic parenting style and adolescents' delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Dutsin-ma metropolis?
4. Does any significant relationship exist between laissez-faire parenting style and adolescents' delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Dutsin-ma metropolis?

### **Null Hypotheses**

**Null Hypothesis 1:** There is no combine influence of parenting styles (autocratic parenting style, democratic parenting style, and laissez-faire parenting style) on adolescents' delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Dutsin-ma metropolis

**Null Hypothesis 2:** There is no significant relationship between autocratic parenting style and adolescents' delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Dutsin-ma metropolis

**Null Hypothesis 3:** There is no significant relationship between democratic parenting style and adolescents' delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Dutsin-ma metropolis

**Null Hypothesis 4:** There is no significant relationship between laissez-faire parenting style and adolescents' delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Dutsin-ma metropolis

### **Scope of the Study**

The study reviewed the influence of parenting styles on adolescents' delinquent behaviour in Dutsin-Ma metropolis Katsina state. This study is limited to all public senior secondary schools in Dutsin-Ma metropolis. These are: Government senior secondary school Darawa (430), Government Pilot Senior Secondary School (629), Government Girls Arabic Senior Secondary School (304) and Government Girls Day Senior Secondary School (490).

### **Methodology**

A descriptive survey was used because the researcher cannot manipulate the variables under investigation. This study was carried out to look into the influence of parenting styles on adolescents' delinquent behaviour. The three main parenting styles adopted were identified as the Autocratic, Democratic, and Laissez-faire parenting styles. The target populations of this research were all public senior secondary school (SS2) students in Dutsin-ma metropolis which comprises of about 1853 students.

**Table 1:** Population and Sample Size of SS2 Students in Dutsin-ma Metropolis

S/N	Name of School	Total SS2 students	Sample size	%
1	Government Pilot Secondary Schools	629	108	33.9
2	Government Day Senior Secondary Darawa	430	74	23.2
3	Government Girls Arabic Senior Secondary School	304	52	16.4
4	Government Girls Day Senior Secondary School	490	84	26.5
	Total	1853	318	100

The instruments used for the data collection were the Parenting Style Questionnaire (PSQ) and the Self-Report Delinquency Survey (SDS) which were carefully designed by the researcher. The PSQ was divided into Section A and Section B. Section "A" comprises of the bio-data of the respondent. Section "B" is made up of 3 parts: part 1 (Autocratic Parenting Style), part 2 (Democratic Parenting Style) and part 3 (Laissez-faire Parenting Style). Each part is made up of 5 questions. The Self-reported Delinquency Survey (SDS) comprises of 10 statements. The instruments are made up of 4 scale responses: Strongly Agreed (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD)

The questionnaire for the study was developed and given to the experts in the field of educational psychology to render judgment about the validity of the instrument. The Face validity of the instrument was considered. The instrument was then amended according to the comments and recommendations of the experts before being administered on a pilot sample that was representative of the variety of individuals that the main study intended to cover. The reliability of the instrument was checked through a pilot study on 40 students from a school that was not included in the sample of study but has similar features with the schools under investigation. Test-retest reliability was employed within an interval of three weeks. Cronbach's Alpha reliability was used to test the reliability of the instruments and they yielded a reliability coefficient of 0.76 and 0.87 for PSQ and SDS respectively. The instruments were administered by the researcher. Multiple Regression and Pearson Product Moment Correlation statistics were used to test the research hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

## Results

The data collected was analyzed based on the four research questions and the four formulated hypotheses as follows:

**Null Hypothesis 1:** There is no combine influence of parenting styles (autocratic parenting style, democratic parenting style, and laissez-faire parenting style) on adolescents' delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Dutsin-ma metropolis

**Table 2:** Summary of Regression analysis on the Combined Influence of Parenting Styles (Autocratic Parenting Style, Democratic Parenting Style, and Laissez-Faire Parenting Style) On Adolescents' Delinquent Behaviour

Model	R	R-Square	Adjusted R-Square	Standard Errors	F
1	.150 <sup>a</sup>	.023	.013	5.71271	3.2.410

Table 2 shows that the combined effect of independent variables (autocratic parenting style, democratic parenting style, and laissez-faire parenting) accounted for the R- square value of .023 (2.3%) of the total variance to secondary school students' delinquent behaviour in Dutsin-ma metropolis.

**Table 3:** Multiple Regression Analysis Showing the Relationship between Autocratic Parenting Style, Democratic Parenting Style, Laissez-Faire Parenting Style and Secondary School Students' Delinquent Behaviour in Dutsin-Ma Metropolis

Model	SS	Df	MS	Cal. F-value	Cal. p-value	Decision
<b>Regression</b>	235.978	3	78.659	2.410	0.00	Significant
<b>Residual</b>	10483.387	314	32.635			
<b>Total</b>		317				

Table 3 shows that the calculated F-value was 2.410, degree of freedom (3,314) with a p-value of 0.00 at 0.05 level of significance. Since the calculated f-value is less than the table value at 0.05 level of significance, the hypothesis was rejected. Therefore there was a significant relationship between the combined parenting styles (democratic parenting style, autocratic parenting style, laissez-faire parenting style) and senior secondary school students' delinquent behaviour in Dutsin-ma metropolis of Katsina state.

**Table 4:** Contributions of Independent Variables to Secondary School Students' Delinquent Behaviour

Model	Unstandardized coefficients		Standardized Coefficient		
	B	Std. error	Beta	t	Sig.
1. Constant	23.115	2.540		9.101	.000
2. Autocratic parenting style	-.012	.114	-.006	-.104	.917
3. Democratic parenting style	-,229	.126	-.106	-1.816	.070
4. Laissez-faire parenting	.191	.098	.109	1.945	.053

Dependent variable: parenting styles      significance:  $p < 0.05$

The result in Table 4 shows that the unstandardized regression weights (B) range from .191 to -.012; and the standardized regression weight (beta) range from .109 to -.006 and the standard error of estimates (Std. Error) range from .098 to .126 which showed that most of the research independent variable are not significant in predicting the objective measures of secondary school students' delinquent behaviour.

The standardized coefficients in Table 4 revealed that the independent variable, laissez-faire parenting style has the strongest positive relationship with secondary school students' delinquent behaviour because the Beta ( $\beta = .109$ ,  $p < .053$ ) shows no statistically significant relationship at an alpha value less than 0.05. The independent variable autocratic parenting style is next because Beta ( $\beta = -.006$ ,  $P < .917$ ) shows no statistically significant relationship because the alpha value is greater than 0.05. The independent variable democratic parenting style has a negative relationship with secondary school students delinquent behaviour because the Beta ( $\beta = -.106$ ,  $P < .070$ ) shows no significant relationship because the alpha value is less than 0.05.

**Null Hypothesis 2:** There is no significant relationship between autocratic parenting style and delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Dutsin-ma metropolis.

**Table 5:** Pearson Correlation between Autocratic Parenting Style and Delinquent

Variable	N	r (Pearson)	P-value
Autocratic parenting	318	-.038	.505
Delinquent behaviour	318		

Significance: ( $p > 0.05$ )

The result in Table 5 depicts that the r-value is -.038 and the p-value is .505. This revealed that there was a weak negative relationship between autocratic parenting style and adolescents' delinquent behaviour. The P-value of .505 which is greater than 0.05, implies that

the null hypothesis two was not rejected. i.e. There is no significant relationship between autocratic parenting style and adolescents’ delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Dutsin-ma metropolis

**Null Hypothesis 3:** There is no significant relationship between democratic parenting style and adolescents’ delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Dutsin-ma metropolis.

**Table 6:** Pearson Correlation between Democratic Parenting Styles and Delinquent Behaviour

Variables	N	r(Pearson)	P-value
Democratic parenting	318	-.106	.066
Delinquent behaviour	318		

Significance: ( $p > 0.05$ )

Table 6 shows that the r-value is -.106 and the p-value is .066. The r-value of -.106 reveals that there was a weak negative relationship between democratic parenting and delinquent behaviour of students. The p-value of .066 which is greater than 0.05 reveals that the null hypothesis was not rejected. This implies that there is no significant relationship between democratic parenting style and adolescents’ delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Dutsin-ma metropolis?

**Null Hypothesis 4:** There is no significant relationship between laissez-faire parenting style and adolescents’ delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Dutsin-ma metropolis

**Table 7:** Pearson Correlation between Laissez-Faire Parenting Style and Student’s Delinquent Behaviour

Variable	N	r(Pearson)	p-value
Laissez-faire parenting	318	.105	.063
Delinquent behaviour	318		

( $p > 0.05$ )

Table 7 revealed that the r-value is 0.105 and the p-value  $0.063 > 0.05$ . This revealed that there was a positive relationship between laissez-faire parenting style and adolescents’ delinquent behaviour among secondary school students.

### Discussions of Findings

The first hypothesis which was tested to ascertain if there any relationship between the combined effect of parenting styles and delinquent behaviour revealed that there is a significant



combined influence of parenting styles on adolescent's delinquent behaviour. The R square value of 0.023 indicates that combined parenting style accounts for 23% of the total variance which is statistically significant.

Autocratic parenting style shows to be statistically significant with a positive relationship with delinquent behavior. This correlates the work of William (2006) who affirmed that authoritarian (autocratic) parenting and permissive (laissez-faire) parenting is likely to increase delinquency among adolescents. The regression coefficient indicated that laissez-faire parenting style had stronger effect on delinquency than the autocratic parenting style and democratic parenting style. The democratic parenting style showed to be negatively correlated with delinquent behaviour. These findings are similar to the work of other authors who found laissez-faire parenting to have positive correlation with delinquent behaviour. Okorodudu (2010), Bulivia (2020) and Williams (2006), asserts that laissez-faire parenting positively correlates to delinquent behaviour. Okorodudu (2010) in her study on "Influence of Parenting Styles on Adolescent Delinquency in Delta Central Senatorial District", the analyses showed that laissez-faire parenting style effectively predicts adolescents' delinquency while authoritarian and authoritative did not. Parents who are positively directed in their styles (demanding and responsiveness) will make their adolescents to have good social adjustment and become goal – oriented. Bulivia (2010), asserts that permissive (laissez-faire) parenting style has a positive relationship to forms of delinquent behaviour. William (2006) stated that the authoritarian (autocratic) parenting and permissive (laissez-faire) parenting is likely to increase delinquency among adolescents.

In the same vein, the second hypothesis which was put under test in order to ascertain if there exist any relationship between autocratic parenting style and adolescents' delinquent behaviour revealed a negative insignificant relationship between autocratic parenting style and adolescents' delinquent behaviour . This work aligns with that of Okorodudu (2010) which states that there is no significant relationship between autocratic parenting style and delinquent. However, this finding is at discrepancy with that of Ajiboye (2015) which states that there is a positive relationship between autocratic parenting style and forms of delinquent behaviour.

Analysis of the third hypothesis showed a negative relationship between democratic parenting style and delinquent behaviour of students. This result is in correlation with the work of Bulivia (2020) and Okorodudu (2010), which also indicated that there was a negative relationship between democratic parenting and delinquent behaviour among students. Johnson (2016) stated that Children and adolescents in democratic homes demonstrate higher degrees of psychological adjustment.

The fourth hypothesis indicated that there exists a positive relationship between laissez-faire parenting and delinquent behaviour. This finding correlates with that of Bulivia (2021) and Okorodudu (2010). Okorodudu (2010) reported that laissez- faire parenting style is without well-defined or clear-cut goals and that such parent play passive role in the up-bringing of

adolescents. The children tend to be less self-controlled, immature, and demonstrate more antisocial behaviour than those raised with authoritative parenting (Johnson, 2016).

### Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, after the data have been analyzed, it is obvious that laissez-faire parenting style is more practiced by parents under the study area more than democratic and autocratic parenting styles, which contributes immensely to the delinquent behaviour of the students. Therefore, this may be the reason why adolescents' delinquent behaviour is on the increase. However, democratic and autocratic styles of parenting have negative relationship with delinquent behaviour.

### Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made;

1. Parent should be dynamic in the application of the different parenting styles in a moderate manner.
2. Parents should give room for their adolescents to exercise some level of independence as this will help them stand on their own when they get to full maturity.
3. Parents should think critically on which parenting style to use at a particular time and make efforts to provide guidelines for their adolescents.
4. Parents should employ a better parenting style (democratic) when interacting with their adolescents. This will help the adolescents make good choices with regards to their lifestyle.

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