

Parenting Styles, Family Structure, and Peer Pressure as Predictors of Delinquent Behaviour in Adolescents in Delta North Senatorial District

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Abstract

This study investigated the impact of family structure, parenting style, and peer pressure as predictors of delinquent behaviours among adolescents in Delta North Senatorial District using 3 hypotheses that were tested at a 0.05 level of significance. Leveraging the social control theory of Hirschi 1969, the study explored a correlational survey design via a multistage random sampling technique to select 480 male and 480 female respondents. A revised 4-point Likert-scale questionnaire for Family Structure, Parenting Styles, Peer Pressure, and Delinquency Scale (FPPDS) was utilised. The reliability was established using the Cronbach analysis to yield a reliability index (α) of 0.81 for parenting styles, 0.78 for peer pressure, and 0.82 for delinquent behavior. Multi-regression was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05. Results revealed that there is no significant relations between family structure, parenting styles, peer pressure, and adolescent delinquency. In addition, it found no significant moderating impact (i.e. gender and location) on the relations between family structure, parenting style, peer pressure, and delinquency in adolescents. The study recommended for parents to create good family structures by adopting workable and effective parenting styles to help their adolescent children adjust properly and avoid delinquency. Counselors must create peer education programmes to help address peer-pressure issues that will foster a positive peer-influence. Finally, gender and location should not be a major consideration in the development of programmes aimed at managing delinquency.

Keywords: Parenting Styles, Family Structure, Peer Pressure, Delinquent Behaviour And Adolescents

Introduction

Adolescence is often considered a time of self-discovery, misplaced identity, recklessness, autonomy, and self-awareness for youths or adolescents (Ojugo and Eboka, 2021). These are largely described by a variety of storms (Ananga, 2021), rebellion, stress, and in some climes – their inherent know-it-all attitude expressed through obstinacy towards their elders, parents, and guardians (Nygård & Katsikas, 2022; Ojugo et al., 2013). These adolescents feel they have become and should be treated equally as adults – even with their child-like tendencies, behaviours, and misdemeanors. Additionally, it is also a transitional phase with physical and psychological developments that generally occurs that morphs a young adult through puberty to adulthood (Malasowe et al., 2023; Oyemade et al., 2016) – and often associated with the teenage years via which they witness rapid physical, psychological and cognitive growth that metastasizes how they feel, think, and interact with

the society (Malasowe, Edim, et al., 2024; Reichert et al., 2020). This stage in an adolescent's life is rippled with great opportunities for exploration, which is easily also marred with vulnerabilities that result in havoc from numerous experimentations and immersion with new ideologies and paradigm shifts (Ojugo & Eboka, 2018) as novel options. These experimentations often birth the manifestation and emphasis of a variety of new behaviors in their bid to seek this hurried new identity (Okofu et al., 2024). While, this inherently cultivated shift in behaviors may be safe; Others may turn out to be risky and non-compliant with family norms and beliefs (Ojugo & Otakore, 2020b, 2020a), and in turn – referred to as delinquent behaviors.

Delinquent behavior refers to misdemeanor actions or commitments, that confront a law offender in any society (Brindlmayer et al., 2022; Haipinge et al., 2022; Nguyen et al., 2022). It is the non-adherence to societal norms of law or morality. A person who has committed an offense that society views as bad or criminal – is termed a delinquent (Borgonovi & Ferrara, 2022; Patrinos et al., 2022) and is usually associated with young adulthood. Thus, juvenile delinquency is criminal behavior performed by an adolescent (Muslikh et al., 2023; Muxtorjonovna, 2020; Setiadi, Susanto, et al., 2024). This, unlawful behavior (i.e. juvenile) is often characterized by an antisocial and illegal direction that ripples off in itself as (in)actions that inevitably harm both other individuals and the society at large. Such behaviors tend to rise gradually and reach their peak at 16 to 17 years. The onset-and-peak behaviours can often vary for different delinquent acts as well as between boys and girls (Christian & Author, 2022). Afterward, delinquent acts decline as the youth enters early adulthood. Also, the teenagers cannot easily explain why they acted how they did; while, noting such behaviours as a coping mechanism (Malasowe, Aghware, et al., 2024; Malasowe, Ojie, et al., 2024; Malasowe, Okpako, et al., 2024) appropriate to dealing with the challenges of the times as necessary.

Achieving socially accepted norms and behaviour – is an expected byproduct and a major development in the juvenile years. This feat often contributed to the life of adolescence via family structure(s), beliefs, norms, and values (Aghware, Adigwe, et al., 2024; Aghware, Ojugo, et al., 2024; Okpor et al., 2024). Thus, the family structure becomes a pivotal point and plays such a critical role therein – as it depicts relationship patterns and style upon which a family trend, is fashioned and excels. This structure witnesses changes when impacted by certain factors such as divorce, separation, death of a partner, etc (Amelia et al., 2020; Komolafe et al., 2020; Nilam et al., 2020). Various family structures (s) exist within our

society today ranging from the nuclear family (Crawford et al., 2020), single-parent family (Divayana, 2021), and the grand-parent extended family (Agostinelli et al., 2022; Chen et al., 2022). Such family dynamics play crucial roles in juvenile growth and development. Family may and continue to impact a person through infancy to adolescence to help develop their cognitive, psychomotor, and physical growth. Adolescents living in 2-parent household tend to develop more positive progressive outcomes than those living with single-parent household (Ako et al., 2024; Ojugo et al., 2021). This implies that adolescents raised by a single parent are more prone to delinquent behaviours than adolescents raised by 2-parent(s). This can be attributed to factors such as dealing with stress, socioeconomic challenges, and the strained conflict imposed therein – which is indicative that delinquent behaviour largely correlates to family structure (Ejeh et al., 2024; Ifioko et al., 2024). With the large rate of divorce and separation today due to misplaced priorities and lack thereof of understanding between couples – deviant and delinquent behaviours are on the rise, which suggests the inherent changes in family structure may contribute to an increase in criminal behaviour in the population. There is a need to ascertain the relationship between family structure and delinquent behaviour among adolescents.

The Family as Solution Panacea for Delinquent Behaviours: A Literature Review

Common delinquent behaviours include absenteeism, truancy, theft, murder, rape, vandalism, terrorism, fraud, drug peddling/trafficking, hooliganism, foul language, obscene abuse, abusive harassment, drunkenness, prostitution, etc (Akazue, Edje, et al., 2024; Joloudari et al., 2022). These, often downgrade human dignity as well as societal morality. They are contributed via peer pressure for the need for social acceptance within a certain group. While, delinquency is not an inherent condition – it is cultivated via peer-association, societal influences, observed imitations, and desires of acceptability (Atuduhor et al., 2024; Obasuyi et al., 2024). Factors that steer delinquency stem from feats grouped into societal decadence, parenting and family structure, peer influence, poverty, educational background, and cultural beliefs (Adewale et al., 2012). The family as the first change agent seeks to mold relations, value foundation, and action socialization frontier(s) for each child. It is operated by parents such that, strong-willed and positive-founded parents will always nurture and transmit positive morals and acceptable societal norms to their children (Duarte Filho & Barbosa, 2013; Rufai et al., 2015; Soad et al., 2016). Parents utilize a variety of styles towards their children's formative years instead of their societal upbringing, moral values, and growth. Parenting style is viewed as psychological actions that examine the mode and

methods via which parents communicate with, respond to, and have demands of their children (Jiménez-Olmedo et al., 2018; Safriandono et al., 2024; Setiadi, Nugroho, et al., 2024).

Parenting styles are constructs that describe the different strategies explored by parents in nurturing their children towards maturity to adulthood. It is poised to help parents to socio-economically, psychologically, and educationally support the development of their children (Yang, 2013; Zelick, 2013). These consist of parents' behaviours, attitudes, and emotional relations within the environment in which they nurture their children – which vary from one parent to another. Dominic and Francis (2015) identified 4-parenting styles as authoritative, authoritarian, permissive, and negligent parenting (Dominic & Francis, 2015) – to comprise acceptance, responsive, demand, and control features. The authoritative style is often the optimal mode whereby parents validate their children, focusing on the positive disciplines and techniques enforced with a rule set when necessary (Hidayat & Utomo, 2016). The authoritarian mode conversely, allows parents to influence and control their children to comply with set regulations as guides – hinging on compliance, obedience, and respect for authority (Fioravanti & Barbosa, 2017). The permissive style allows parents to exercise little control over a child's behaviour. With more freedom to the children, it demands lesser obedience of children to parental rules and regulations; while leveraging the commitment of children towards a more responsive style of parental norms and beliefs. This permissive style has noted that parents struggle to create boundaries and rules; thus, resulting in children with more behavioural challenges. The negligent style yields a structure with un-involved parenting. It is undemanding and yields a non-responsive environment where parents set a few rules with non-robust, non-enforced child nurturing. Thus, it can be stated that uninvolved parents allow adolescents to actively participate without being concerned about their actions (Suleiman, 2022).

Study Rationale

The study is motivated based on the following problems as thus:

1. **Increased Delinquency in Society:** There is an increased manifestation of delinquent behaviours amongst youths and at an alarming rate, which has seen the upsurge in the abuse of illicit drugs, internet fraud, parental disobedience, criminality, violence, insurgence, murder, and other forms of antisocial behaviours. These have continued to pose serious challenges to societal development and growth vis-a-vis creating a constant youth disregard that erodes the rule of law in our society. Such negative traits create an

unsafe community that hampers societal peace, which has long been known to be a panacea for growth and development (Adebayo & Abdulhamid, 2019). Thus, delinquency threatens the peace and tranquillity in families, schools, and communities.

2. **Family Imbalance:** Many continue to question – “Where are the parents of these delinquent adolescents”, (Are you dealing with youths or adolescents?) “How and why have they been abandoned by their families”, “What parenting style was adopted in their nurturing?” – and many others. Parents claim to have trained their adolescents right. But, the far-reaching negative effects of such behaviours on society has made it imperative to critically examine the family structure concerning delinquent behaviours.
3. **Predictor Features:** Delinquent behaviours can result in instability, insecurity, and insurgency. Parenting processes such as beliefs, sensitivity, discipline, and cognitive stimulation must be explored as key features to nurture children and play crucial roles in their lifestyle and behavioural manifestation.

The study hinges on what precipitates delinquent behaviour among adolescents in secondary schools vis-à-vis prevention strategies that can be factored in to help ameliorate as well as effectively manage this menace. Thus, we explored features such as family structure, parenting style, and peer pressure about how they impact adolescent delinquent behaviour among secondary school students.

Objective of the study

1. To identify the possible influence of family structure, parenting styles and peer pressure on delinquent behaviour among adolescents in Delta North Senatorial District of Delta State.
2. To assess the relationship among family structure, parenting styles and peer pressure as predictors of delinquent behaviours among adolescents in Delta North Senatorial District of Delta State.
3. To explore the moderating effects of gender and location on delinquent behaviours among adolescents in Delta North Senatorial District of Delta State.

Research Questions

The following questions formed our study guide to aid evidence-based decision support:

1. What is the extent of the relationship between family structure, parenting style, peer pressure, and delinquent behaviours among adolescents?
2. What is the moderating impact of gender on the relationship between family structure, parenting style, peer pressure, and delinquent behaviours among adolescents?

3. What is the moderating impact of location on the relationship between family structure, parenting style, peer pressure, and delinquent behaviours among adolescents?

Hypotheses of the Study

The following null hypotheses were formulated to guide the study and were tested at 0.05 alpha level:

1. There is no significant relationship between family structure, parenting style, peer pressure and delinquent behaviours among adolescents in Delta North Senatorial District of Delta State.
2. There is no significant moderating impact of gender on the relationship between family structure, parenting style, peer pressure and delinquent behaviours among adolescents in Delta North Senatorial District of Delta State.
3. There is no significant impact of location on the relationship between family structure, parenting style, peer pressure and delinquent behaviours among adolescents in Delta North Senatorial District of Delta State

Materials and Methods

Study Materials

A variety of materials was explored towards the targeted ground truth and in our quest to unveil the relationships therein family structure, peer pressure, and parenting styles vis-à-vis delinquent behaviour in adolescents in the Delta North Senatorial District in Nigeria. these are further explained thus (Okonta et al., 2013, 2014; Oladele et al., 2024; Wemembu et al., 2014):

1. **Study Design** adopted the correlational survey design to investigate family structure, parenting style, and peer pressure as predictors of delinquent behaviours among adolescents in Delta North Senatorial District. This design is suitable because it seeks to investigate the predictive relationship between the independent variables and dependent variables without manipulating any of the variables of investigation.
2. **Study Population** was drawn from all the Secondary School Students in Delta North Senatorial District, Nigeria. Specific attention for Senior Secondary Students One (SSS-1) and Two (SSS-2). A total of 9,560 participants were drawn composed of 4,493 males and 5,067 females as registered for the 2023/2024 Academic Session from the 172 Secondary Schools from the Delta State Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education in Asaba for the year 2023.

3. **Sample/Sampling Technique:** The study adopted a multi-stage random sampling to select 3,187 respondents from the total population. The Delta North Senatorial District comprises Nine (9) Local Government Areas, which include: Aniocha North, Aniocha South, Ika North East, Ika South, Ndokwa East, Ndokwa West, Oshimili North, Osimili South, and Ukwani local government areas. Simple random sampling was used to select three (3) LGAs (Oshimili South, Ika North East, and Ndokwa West) based on ethnic affiliation. Secondly, six (6) secondary schools with even distribution were chosen. Finally, from all the Secondary Schools –1,062 respondents were chosen from the 9 LGAs in Delta North Senatorial District.

Instrumentation: Reliability and Validity

The research instrument utilized a 4-point Likert scale questionnaire titled “Family Structure, Parenting Styles, Peer Pressure and Delinquency Scale (FPPDS)” for all respondents as adapted from various sources. The following were adopted: (a) Parenting Style Four Factor Questionnaire (PS-FFQ) (Bi et al., 2018), (b) Exposure Peer Pressure Questionnaire (EPPQ) (Vanassche et al., 2014), and (c) Self-Report Delinquency Behaviour Scale (SRDS) (Storer et al., 2014). These were tailored for the environment under investigation to yield the revised Family-Structure Parenting-Styles Peer-Pressure Delinquency-Scale (FPPDS), grouped into (a) part-A for respondents' demographics, and (b) part-B consists of 4-subsets namely Family Structure (6-items), Parenting Styles (32-items), Peer Pressure (35-items), and Delinquency (21-items) to all yield a total of 94-items (Ojugo, Akazue, et al., 2023).

To establish the instrument's validity, it was subjected to the Ethics Committee of the Department of Guidance and Counselling at the Faculty of Education with the Delta State University Abraka, for critique and corrections. These experts rendered the face validity for the instrument; While, for instrument estimation of content and construct validity, a factor analysis and principal component analysis was utilised. Each subscale demonstrated good content validity for all items – yielding 92.6% for parenting styles, 94.4% for peer pressure, and 91.7% for delinquent behaviour. This, reveals the instrument possesses good content validity. In addition, the instrument's validity was estimated using the rotated loading matrixes with an eigenvalue above 1 to select factors that genuinely measure similar constructs. Instruments items that measured parenting styles had factor loading matrix range [0.69, 0.98], peer-pressure range [0.54, 0.84], and delinquent-behaviour range [0.57, 0.84]. These values indicate good construct validity – ensuring its validity for the study. The

construct and content validity was established using the factor analysis and principal component analysis, adopting the extraction method. The reliability of the instrument was established using Cronbach alpha statistics analysis and it yielded a reliability index (α) of 0.81 for parenting styles, 0.78 for peer pressure, and 0.82 for delinquent behaviour. The Multi-Linear Regression was used to test hypotheses at an alpha 0.05 level of significance.

Experimentation: The Adapted Stimulus-Organismic-Response (S-O-R) Framework

The conceptual framework as in Figure 1 – is based on the Stimulus-Organism-Response (S-O-R) paradigm which is built on the behavioral theory of Skinner as developed by Kanfer and Philips (1970). It explains juvenile delinquent behaviours in adolescents as the effect of family structure, parenting styles, and peer pressure (Akazue, Okofu, et al., 2024; Bello et al., 2017). It posits family structure, parenting styles, and peer pressure as predictor variables for behavioural change(s) that represent a stimulus (S). Hereafter, the model leverages moderating variables within an Organismic dimension that allows for processing between the predictors and their corresponding outcomes. These are often spatiotemporal (location-based) and gender-specific. Lastly, there is the dependent variable criterion that allows for interplay between the independent and moderating variables to yield change as effected by the subjects known as the outcome. The outcome here, is the delinquent behaviour in adolescents, and it constitutes the response (R) dimension (Ojugo, Odiakaose, et al., 2023); It justifies “stimulus-organism-response” linear model for the change predictor in analyzing delinquent behaviours that permit consideration of variables in an orderly fashion. Thus, this study is conceptualized as delinquent behaviour among adolescents can be predicted by the nature of family structure, parenting style, and peer pressure, as moderated by gender and location of respondents.

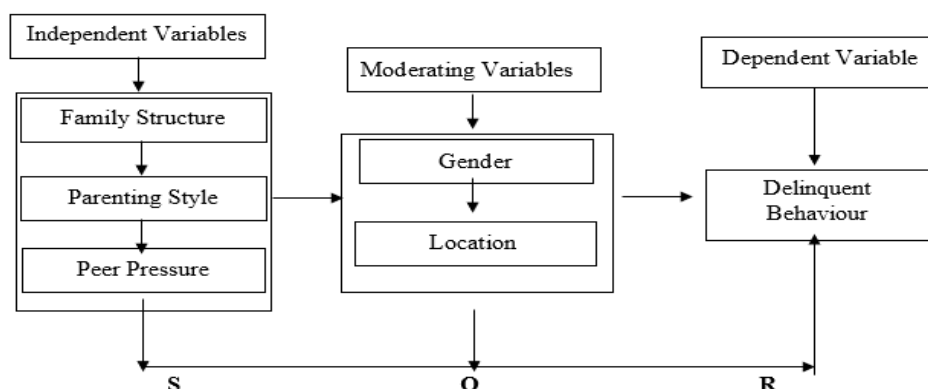


Figure 1. The schematic diagram of the Skinner Model as adapted by Kanfer and Philips

The revised FPPDS instrument was administered using trained research assistants to the respondents with administrative permission sought through the Ministry and School Heads – who adequately explained to the respondents before this experimentation. Thus, respondents were equally encouraged to answer objectively in place of the non-disclosure (NDA) clause as contained in the revised instrument. This became necessary so as not to distort respondents' information in place of the generality of the response for the study. Copies of the questionnaires were retrieved after completion. And collected data were analyzed via the Pearson Product Moment Correlation, the Coefficient of Determination for the respondents' answers; and the multi-linear Regression to test the hypotheses at a 0.05 level of significance.

Findings and Discussion

Result Findings

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant relationship between family structure, parenting styles, peer pressure, and delinquent behaviours among adolescents in Delta North Senatorial District of Delta State.

Table 1: Multi-regression analysis of relations between Family Structure, Parenting Styles, Peer Pressure and Delinquent Behaviour

ANOVA						
Model		Sums of Square	DoF	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	2510.608	3	836.869	24.211	.000 ^b
	Residual	33045.258	956	34.566		
	Total	35555.866	959			
		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
Model		B	Std Error	Beta	t	Sig
1	(Constant)	35.281	2.156		16.361	.000
	Family Structure	.137	.140	.030	.975	.330
	Parenting Styles	.182	.036	.159	5.006	.000
	Peer Pressure	.169	.030	.181	5.684	.000

Table 1 shows the predictive relations between family structure, parenting style, peer pressure, and delinquent behaviours in adolescents in Delta North Senatorial District of Delta State. It yields an ANOVA DF = 959, F= 24.211, p= 0.000. When compared with the alpha value of 0.05, the p-value is less than the alpha value ($p.000 < .05$), which shows that the

predictive relationship between family structure, parenting style, peer pressure, and delinquent behaviours among adolescents in Delta North Senatorial District of Delta State, is significant. This implies that the hypothesis which states that there are no relations between family structure, parenting style, peer pressure, and delinquency among adolescents in Delta North Senatorial District of Delta State, is hereby rejected. There is a relationship between family structure, parenting style, peer pressure, and delinquent behaviours among adolescents in Delta North Senatorial District of Delta State, which agrees with the study of (Silas et al., 2023). In addition, the coefficient table notes individual contribution of the variables of family structure, parenting styles, and peer pressure to study delinquent behaviour, is presented.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant moderating impact of gender on the relationship between family structure, parenting style, peer pressure, and delinquent behaviours among adolescents in Delta North Senatorial District of Delta State.

Table 2: Multi-Regression Analysis of the Moderating Impact of Gender on the Relations between Family Structure, Parenting Styles, Peer Pressure and Delinquent Behaviour

ANOVA						
Model	ANOVA	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
		B	Std Error	Beta	t	Sig
1	(Constant)	35.390	2.214		15.981	0.000
	Family Structure	0.137	0.140	0.031	0.978	0.329
	Parenting Styles	0.183	0.036	0.160	5.007	0.000
	Peer Pressure	0.168	0.030	0.180	5.671	0.000
	Gender	-0.083	0.381	-0.007	-0.218	0.827

Table 2 shows that the standardized coefficient (beta) for family structure is 0.031, with values of $t = 0.978$, and $p = 0.329$; Parenting styles yield a value of 0.160, with $t = 5.007$ and $p = 0.000$; while Peer pressure yields a value of 0.180 with $t = 5.671$ and $p = 0.000$ for the gender-specific value of -0.007 with $t = -0.218$ and $p = 0.827$. This result indicates that the moderating variable (i.e. gender) yields a p-value of 0.827, which is found to be higher than the alpha level of 0.05 ($p > 0.05$). This result indicates that the null hypothesis that states there

is no significant moderating impact of gender on the relationship between family structure, parenting style, peer pressure, and delinquent behaviours among adolescents in Delta North Senatorial District of Delta State – is thus, *accepted*. This agrees with the works of (Obiemeka et al., 2022).

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant moderating impact of location on the relationship between family structure, parenting style, peer pressure, and delinquent behaviours among adolescents in Delta North Senatorial District of Delta State.

Table 3: Multi-Regression Analysis of the Moderating Impact of Location on the Relations between Family Structure, Parenting Styles, Peer Pressure and Delinquent Behaviour

ANOVA						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
		B	Std Error	Beta	t	Sig
1	(Constant)	35.929	2.195		16.366	0.000
	Family Structure	0.148	0.140	0.033	1.052	0.293
	Parenting Styles	0.184	0.036	0.160	5.052	0.000
	Peer Pressure	0.170	0.030	0.183	5.741	0.000
	Location	-0.597	0.387	-0.048	-1.544	0.123

Table 3 shows that the standardized coefficient (beta) for family structure is 0.033, with values of $t = 1.052$, and $p = 0.293$; And, Parenting styles yield a value of 0.160, with $t = 5.052$ and $p = 0.000$; And, Peer pressure yields a value of 0.183 with $t = 5.741$ and $p = 0.000$ for the location-based value of -0.048 with $t = -1.544$ and $p = 0.123$. This result indicates that the moderating variable of location also yields a p-value of 0.123, which again (like the gender factor) is higher than the alpha level of 0.05 (i.e. $p > 0.05$). This result indicates that the null hypothesis that states there is no significant moderating impact of location on the relationship between family structure, parenting style, peer pressure, and delinquent behaviours – is thus, *accepted*. This agrees with the works of (Ekedama & Ugoji, 2024), and it also implies that the moderator variable of location had no significant moderating impact on the relationship between family structure, parenting style, peer pressure, and delinquent behaviours among adolescents in Delta North Senatorial District.

3.2. Discussion

Table 1 implies that the family structure coefficient values of beta (β) = .030, $t = 0.975$, $p = 0.330$; And the parenting style values of beta (β) = 0.159, $t = 5.006$, $p = 0.000$; And the peer pressure coefficient values of beta (β) = 0.181, $t = 5.684$, $p = 0.000$ – reveals that both parenting styles and peer-pressure yielded the highest impact on delinquent behavior in adolescents; while, family structure of either the single or 2-parent household had no significant impact. This was also agreed with by the works of (Falconnet et al., 2023; Okobah & Ojugo, 2018)

Table 2 implies that the family structure coefficient values of beta(β) = 0.031, $t = 0.978$, $p = 0.329$; And, Parenting styles value of beta(β) = 0.160, $t = 5.007$, $p = 0.000$; And the peer pressure values of beta(β) = 0.180, $t = 5.671$, $p = 0.000$ for the gender-specific value of beta(β) = -0.007, $t = -0.218$ and $p = 0.827$ – reveals that gender yields no significant effect on both parenting styles and peer-pressure on delinquent behaviour in adolescents; But, had a significant impact on the family structure of either the single or 2-parent household. This was also agreed with the works of (Buari et al., 2022). Thus, moderator variable of gender had no significant moderating impact on the relationship between family structure, parenting style, peer pressure, and delinquent behaviours among adolescents in Delta North Senatorial District of Delta State.

Table 3 implies that the family structure coefficient values of beta(β) = 0.033, $t = 1.052$, $p = 0.293$; And, Parenting styles value of beta(β) = 0.160, $t = 5.052$, $p = 0.000$; And peer pressure values of beta(β) = 0.183, $t = 5.741$, $p = 0.000$ for the location-based value of beta(β) = -0.048, $t = -1.544$ and $p = 0.123$ – reveals that location yields no significant effect on both parenting styles and peer-pressure for delinquent behaviour in adolescents; But, had a significant impact on the family structure of either the single or 2-parent household. This also agrees with the works of (Aghware et al., 2023b, 2023a; Brizimor et al., 2024). Thus, the moderator variable of location had no significant moderating impact on the relationship between family structure, parenting style, peer pressure, and delinquent behaviours among adolescents in Delta North Senatorial District of Delta State.

Conclusion

The study concludes that there is no significant predictive relationship between family structure and delinquent behaviour among adolescents. Furthermore, the study concluded that there is significant relationship between parenting styles, peer influence, and delinquent behaviour among adolescents. We established that there is no moderating impact of gender

and location in the significant predictive relationship between family structure, parenting styles, peer influence, and delinquent behaviour among adolescents.

Recommendations

1. Parents should create good family structure, adopt effective parenting styles to enhance positive behaviours and help their children to be well-adjusted.
2. School guidance counsellors should create peer education intervention programmes that address issues of peer pressure so as to foster positive peer influence.
3. School counsellors should raise awareness on the need for parents to monitor the kind of peers their children associate with to forestall negative peer influence.

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