



# Delinquency Among Senior Secondary School Adolescents: Psycho-Personological Factors

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## Abstract

Modern society today is replete with stories of in-school adolescents demonstrating delinquencies due to depleting psychological factors, poor economic factors, moral degradation, social laxity, and wanton crime of humanity against humanity. Hence, this study investigated some psycho-personological factors affecting delinquency among adolescents. Descriptive survey research was employed, and a random sampling technique was also deployed in selecting 400 participants in-school adolescents from 10 schools randomly selected in the Ibadan North Local Government area of Oyo state. Valid and standardized instruments were utilized for information gathering. The age ranged between 13 years to 19 years. Pearson product-moment correlation and multiple regression analysis were used to analyze the data. The result showed that each of the psycho-personological factors jointly influences delinquent behavior among the in-school adolescents ( $F(3396)=25.458$ ;  $R=0.647$ ;  $R^2=0.445$ ;  $Adj.=0.439$ ;  $P<0.05$ ) total variation of 58% and the most potent contributors to delinquency were family structure ( $B=0.625$ ,  $t=10.483$ ,  $p<0.05$ ), followed by social media ( $r=0.588$ ,  $p<0.05$ ) than peer pressure ( $r=-0.053$ ;  $p>0.05$ ). It was concluded that parents and teachers must instill good morals into adolescents and watch keenly the kind of peers they move with. The government should put policies in place to address the problem of delinquencies.

**Keywords:** Adolescence, Delinquency, family structure, social media, peer pressure

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## 1. Introduction

Today, more than ever, the problem of adolescent delinquency pricks at the conscience of many societies. There has been an epidemic increase in the number of secondary school adolescents involved in delinquent behaviors in present-day society (Mohammad et al., 2016). As a result, the scope of the problem of delinquent behavior is broader than it appears, permeating everything related to adolescents' behaviors or attitudes. Delinquent behavior, especially among teens, can be socially, psychologically, and intellectually disastrous. According to Lambert et al. (2013), delinquency and other problem behaviors rise during adolescence for various reasons. These years provide increased freedom from parental observation and more possibilities to engage in socially

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inappropriate behavior. Teenagers develop new, often costly cravings for sound systems, apparel, automobiles, and alcohol, yet acceptable means of gratifying these needs are frequently unavailable (Aschkenazi et al., 2019). The acclaimed civility and freedom among adolescents nowadays have further increased the crises and conflicts during this vulnerable time and raised the likelihood of issues at home, at school, and with the law (Kanmodi et al., 2020).

Additionally, there is frequently a mismatch between the opportunities offered to adolescents by their social environment and their needs, contributing to delinquency. According to Barnert et al. (2015), unfulfilled demands and disappointments in early childhood can sometimes smolder into delinquent behavior in later years. Parents want their children to be independent, yet they struggle to let go. These tensions often lead to interparental conflict and parenting life situations. Specifically, young children and adolescents are involved in social groups where delinquent behaviors are the norm. These peers are often pressured into engaging in similar activities, and eventually, the group members will adopt attitudes and beliefs favorable to crime and delinquency. Also, absenteeism, school dropout, poor academic performance, and a disrespectful attitude toward teachers and other school authorities are risk factors for delinquent adolescents (Dong et al., 2015). It is crucial to understand that adolescent's delinquent behavior affects not just the teenager but society. Increased dependency rates, insecurity, overcrowding, and rising unemployment are a few repercussions on society.

Researchers have made significant strides in their knowledge of adolescent and problematic behaviors (Ferguson & Meehan, 2011; Christofides, Muise & Desmarais, 2012; Underwood & Ehrenreich, 2017). "High-risk" adolescents, who make up the bulk of delinquent adolescents, have the most troubling and problematic elements in their lives. The high-risk adolescents frequently struggle with a variety of issues: they often grow up in families and communities that are struggling economically; they frequently experience physical and sexual abuse; they typically lack the necessary educational and job skills; and they are more likely to engage in delinquent behavior and abuse alcohol and other drugs. Delinquency has several social impacts on adolescents, including rape, disrespect for authority figures, and hatred for oneself. Additionally, Olanrewaju and Omojonle (2017) found that exposure to adolescent deviant behavior can play a substantial role in early sexual behaviors, teenage pregnancy (unwanted pregnancy), significantly more sexual activity with non-romantic companions, self-esteem, and masturbation, among other things.

Further, delinquency among adolescents usually graduates in social notoriety like cultists, mafia, armed robbers, thugs, and social miscreants (Willem, Araüna, Crescenzi & Tortajada, 2012). This will be imminently detrimental to a country's social and economic development while equally affecting the way foreigners perceive the safety and citizens of such a nation internationally. In this instance, the country's economic level is adversely affected as such an environment does not attract investors and would-be

organizations. This then renders environmental development slow, and job opportunities that its citizens may have had access to are limited. Delinquent acts among adolescents, especially in their late adolescent years, have attracted the attention of different organizations, child welfare groups, the government, and society that have embarked on various remedial programs to eradicate or minimize the adolescent's delinquent behaviors. The problem, meanwhile, seems to defy every effort made in the recent past, as positive results were not observed. This study therefore determined to investigate (family, social media, and peer pressure) as the three cardinal determinants of delinquent behavior among secondary school adolescents.

### *1.1. Family*

One of the most potent socializing influences in life is the family. They instruct kids on how to rein in inappropriate conduct, manage gratification, and respect the rights of others. On the other hand, according to Herrenkohl, Maguin, Hill, Hawkins, Abbott, and Catalano (2010), families can teach children violent, aggressive, and antisocial behaviors. Family systems' effects on adolescent behavioral development have been studied by researchers (Lambert, 2013; Steinberg, 2007). Support from the family can be a crucial barrier to delinquent behavior. However, in other circumstances, a tumultuous family environment may swiftly become a risk factor that heightens a child's propensity for criminality (Harmening & Gamez, 2016). The most important social influences on children's development, according to Lamb (2012), are the relationships between parents and children and between parents and significant others. Attachment theory offers a theoretical justification for this significance (for example, Bowlby, 1953). Active child behavioral outcomes in high-risk contexts are linked to parents' and children's connections (Cummings et al., 2019).

A few elements that contribute to positive parenting have been identified by Bartollas & Schmallegger (2014) and Vries et al. (2014), including meeting children's requirements for food, shelter, water, love, warmth, and affection as well as for education, control, monitoring, discussion, and supervision. Positive parenting practices have also been demonstrated to help adolescents succeed academically, stay out of trouble, and foster a sense of ethnic pride in young people from ethnic minorities. Delinquent acts, as maladjusted behaviors, are more phenomenal to single parenting. Omoponle and Olanrewaju (2019) explained that single parenting contributes to outstanding actions among adolescents; the absence of a father in the home may not provide an identity image or model for the child and, therefore, is deficient. In the study of psychological and environmentally induced factors by Odgers (2007), it was explained that where parents love and demonstrate understanding in dealing with the adolescents, it was discovered that many adolescents are pleasant and cooperative, primarily when handled with love and compassion. It was clear that one's background often places

tremendous constraints on whether one lives uprightly or crookedly to become delinquent.

Adolescents from fractured homes tended to be more delinquent than kids from intact homes, according to Schroeder et al. (2010). However, there was no correlation between the process of family breakdown and contemporaneous rises in crime. According to research findings on family size, youngsters from larger households often engaged in more delinquency than youngsters from smaller homes. There is some proof that troubled siblings picked up bad habits from their families (Adewuyi, 2019; Bartollas & Schmalleger, 2014). Other studies have shown that the rate of delinquent behaviors in children was more influenced by the quality of the home environment, as defined by marital adjustment and harmony within the household, than by whether the family was intact. According to Sickmund et al. (2014), the marriage's happiness determines whether children become involved in delinquent behaviors or not (Bartollas & Schmalleger, 2014).

### *1.2. Social media*

In today's society, social media has ingrained itself into daily life. Adolescents may quickly obtain all kinds of information using computers and mobile devices. Adolescents all around the world are using social media networking sites like Whatsapp, Facebook, and YouTube more and more frequently. Social media has dramatically altered many facets of adolescent lives (Frison & Eggermon, 2016; Giedd & Chief, 2021). Making the world a community where simple and effective social connection among these youths living far away has been ensured is one of history's most significant turns of events (Ibrahim, 2017; Lin et al., 2016). Teenagers are increasingly connecting to social media sites using their smartphones, tablets, and computers, according to Livingstone et al. (2017). This suggests that technological developments have allowed adolescents to interact with their peers and access excellent and negative information (Mugari, 2020; Smith & Steffgen, 2013; Kiefer, 2013). Social media platforms have become essential for adolescents' behavioral development due to the rising popularity of technology among young people (Lenhart et al., 2015; Hunt et al., 2018). This rise in popularity inspired the researcher to investigate the relationship between the increased delinquent behavior and how adolescents create their psychosocial identities and well-being using these technological advancement options.

Despite the risks of harm from strangers associated with it, social media use among young people is rising. Adolescents consider two factors when interacting with new people: if they have spoken to someone they haven't personally met before and whether they have physically met that person. According to the 2020 poll, 37% of kids between the ages of 9 and 16 had interacted with strangers online. 16% of respondents claimed to have since met the individual in person (Mugari, 2020). This research has

become necessary because of the well-documented detrimental effects of social media on teenage social, psychological, and educational development and the broader adverse effects on adolescent well-being. According to Livingstone et al. (2017), face-to-face interactions have been replaced by online exchanges, which has increased young people's reliance on social media platforms. The debate today centers on how internet communication aids in the growth of positive social skills and the extent to which it promotes acceptable or incorrect health information harmful to the well-being of young people (Hunt et al., 2018; Shaw et al., 2015).

### *1.3. Peer pressure*

One of the potential causes of the incidence of adolescent misbehavior is peer pressure (Delisi, 2013; Harmening & Gamez, 2016). Teenagers from affluent schools exhibit more misbehavior than their peers from underprivileged institutions, according to (Vandivere et al., 2004; Barnert et al., 2015). When a teen is dissatisfied with their family, they frequently turn to their friends for support. Getting friends' approval for many things continues to be of the utmost importance at this period because friends are the most vital source of support in a teenager's life. According to earlier research, friends have a significant impact on someone's conduct (Berns, 2007; Corcoran, 2010; Derzon & Lipsey, 2018). According to a previous study, reward plays a crucial role in the influence of peers. Peers become more significant during adolescence because adolescents seek guidance on the proper ways to think and act. Adolescents are more inclined to engage in certain conduct if they believe their peers will react favorably.

According to Mann et al. (2015), delinquency or associated behaviors and qualities may affect how adolescents choose their peers. Children who begin hanging out with troubled classmates are likelier to develop permissive attitudes toward delinquent activities (Pardini, Loeber, & Stouthamer-Loeber, 2015). Children are exposed to delinquent behavior when they live in troubled neighborhoods or go through adverse life events, and contrary peer associations may further model, reinforce, and give a child the opportunity to engage in such delinquent behaviors, according to Ferguson & Meehan (2011). Therefore, peer delinquency is anticipated to worsen the effects of neighborhood issues and adverse life events on child delinquency (Ferguson & Meehan, 2011). Rankin and Quane (2012) discovered a connection between neighborhood traits and peer misbehavior. According to Leventhal and Brooks-Gunn's (2014) study, adolescents conduct most crimes in groups, and affiliation with antisocial peers may be the strongest indicator of involvement in future, potentially more severe kinds of antisocial behavior. Peer groups can provide young people with connections, emotional support, and social interaction, as well to escape from other areas of their lives, according to Lachman, Roman, and Cahill (2012). Additionally, studies have indicated that specific peer group characteristics, such as how much time kids spend together, are essential for

comprehending how kids create peer groups and how the group affects people's delinquent conduct (Greene & Banerjee, 2008).

#### *1.4. Purpose of the Study*

This study aims to determine the factors resident in adolescents that subjected them to delinquent behaviors in secondary schools. The investigation will proceed to

1. Identify the joint contribution of family, social media, and peer pressure on adolescent delinquent behavior in secondary school.
2. Investigate the relative contribution of the independent variables as they predispose adolescent students to delinquent behaviors.
3. Examine the significant effect of home/family-related factors such as family structure on the resurgence of contrary acts among adolescents.
4. To determine the impact of social media on delinquency among in-school adolescents.

#### *1.5. Research questions/hypothesis*

Given the problems identified during this study, the following questions were raised to guide the study:

- i. To what extent could the joint contribution of family, social media, and peer pressure affect delinquency?
- ii. What is the relative contribution of the independent variables as they predispose adolescent students to delinquent behavior?
- iii. Hypothesis 1 shows no significant relationship between family structure and delinquent behavior among in-school adolescents.
- iv. Hypothesis 2 shows no significant relationship between social media and delinquent behavior among in-school adolescents.
- v. Hypothesis 3 shows no significant relationship between peer pressure and delinquent behavior among in-school adolescents.

## **2. Methodology**

### *2.1. Research Design*

The research design for this study was a survey research design since the main thrust of this research is to investigate the correlation between psycho socio-economic factors and delinquent behavior among in-school adolescents in Ibadan North Local Government of Oyo state.

## *2.2. Population*

The population for this study covered all secondary school students in the Ibadan North local government area of Oyo state.

### **Sample and Sampling Techniques**

For investigation, to generalize the population, the researcher selected a sample of people using random sampling techniques and established ten (10) schools for its study.

The following are the ten selected schools:

1. Abadina College, U.I
2. Immanuel College High School
3. Methodist Grammar School, Bodija
4. Oba Akinbiyi School I Mokola
5. Ikolaba Grammar School Agodi
6. Immanuel Grammer School
7. Humani Alaga High School Sango
8. St. Louis Grammar School Mokola
9. St. Patricks G/S Orita Basorun
10. Bishop Onabanjo High School Bodija

Four hundred (400) students were randomly selected across the ten (10) schools. Forty (40) students were selected from each school with the age range of between thirteen (13) to nineteen (19) years of age; the rationale for adopting simple random sampling for the selection in each school was to give each an equal chance. This would no doubt give rise to generalized research.

## *2.3. Instrumentations*

Data gathering involved the use of a structured questionnaire. There were two sections to the questionnaire (A and B). The respondents' demographic data is shown in Section A, including Age, sex, religion, and parental education level are some of these demographic traits. The other three standardized tests that were employed in the study are included in Section B. These are Delinquent Behavior Rating Scale ( $\alpha=0.76$ ), Family Structure Scale ( $\alpha=0.81$ ) Peer Pressure Questionnaire ( $\alpha=0.84$ ), Social Media Involvement Scale ( $\alpha= 0.78$ ).

## *2.4. Procedure*

An introduction letter was collected from the Head of the Ethical Committee of the Department of Guidance and Counseling, Faculty of Education, University of Ibadan, which was presented to LIE, Local Inspector of Education, to collect the number of secondary schools in Ibadan North Local Government Area of Oyo state. After this, there was a random selection of ten (10) schools through visitation to the sample schools,

consent of the school principals was sorted, and the questionnaire was administered on students; it was supervised and monitored to avoid missing questionnaires.

### 2.5. Data Analysis

The data collected from the study were analyzed using Pearson product-moment correlation and multiple regression analysis.

## 3. Results and Discussion

This chapter presents the analysis and results on the effect of psychosocial factors on delinquency among in-school adolescents in the Ibadan North Local Government area of Oyo State. The summary of the findings is presented below:

### 3.1. Research Question One:

To what extent could the joint contribution of each independent variable (Family structure, Social media and Peer pressure), when combined, determine the delinquency behavior of in-school adolescents?

**Table 1:** Summary of Regression Analysis on Sample Data

Multiple R = .647					
Multiple R <sup>2</sup> = .445					
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup> = .439					
Std. Error of Estimate = 21.25359					
ANOVA					
Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	28256.635	3	2697.359	25.458	.000
Residual	36514.119	396	514.147		
Total	64737.197	399			

It was found that the linear combination of Family structure, Social media, and Peer pressure on delinquent behavior was significant ( $F(3, 396) = 25.458$ ;  $R = .647$ ;  $R^2 = .445$ ;  $Adj. R^2 = .439$ ;  $P < 0.05$ ). The total variation accounted for by the independent variables was 58%, while the remaining 42% might be due to the effect of extraneous variables not controlled for by the dependent variable.



**3.2. Research Question 2:**

To what extent would the independent variables (Family Structure, Social Media, and Peer Pressure) relatively contribute to delinquency behavior among in-school adolescents?

**Table 2:** Relative contribution of the independent variables to delinquent behavior among in-school adolescents.

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	52.540	5.594		21.122	.000
Family structure	.521	.043	.625	10.483	.000
Social media	-.105	.033	-.017	-1.305	.160
Peer pressure	.311	.057	.247	2.072	.000

It was observed that while Family structure ( $\beta = .625, P < 0.05$ ), Peer pressure ( $\beta = .247, P < 0.05$ ) were significant with delinquent behavior among in-school adolescents, Social media ( $\beta = -.017, P > 0.05$ ) is not substantial. Therefore, table 3 showed that only family structure and peer pressure had relative effects on delinquent behavior among in-school adolescents. Also, the Family structure had the more significant relative effect of ( $\beta = .625, t = 10.483, P < 0.05$ )

**Hypothesis 1:**

There is no significant relationship between family structure and delinquent behavior among in-school adolescents.

**Table 3** shows the relationship between family structure and delinquent behaviour among in-school adolescents.

Variables	N	Mean	Std. Dev	R	Df	Sig
Delinquent behavior	400	12.22	2.26	0.022	388	0.667
Family Structure	400	17.08	5.11			

From Table 3, the result reveals a positive and significant relationship of ( $r = 0.667$ ;  $< 0.05$ ) between family structure and delinquent behavior among in-school adolescents at  $\alpha = 0.05$  level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected.

### Hypothesis 2

There is no significant relationship between social media and delinquent behavior among in-school adolescents.

**Table 4** shows the relationship between social media and delinquent behaviour among in-school adolescents.

Variables	N	Mean	Std. Dev	R	Df	Sig
Delinquent behavior	400	12.22	2.26	-0.027	388	0.588
Family Structure	400	12.25	3.80			

It is shown from Table 4 that a positive and significant relationship of ( $r = 0.588$ ) existed between social media and delinquent behavior among in-school adolescents at  $\alpha = 0.05$  level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected.

### Hypothesis 3

There is no significant relationship between peer pressure and delinquent behavior among in-school adolescents.

**Table 5** shows the relationship between peer pressure and delinquent behaviour among in-school adolescents.

Variables	N	Mean	Std. Dev	R	Df	Sig
Delinquent behavior	400	12.22	2.26	-0.053	388	0.293
Family Structure	400	33.43	9.21			

Table 5 shows no significant relationship ( $r = -0.053$ ;  $P > 0.05$ ) between peer pressure and delinquent behavior among in-school adolescents at  $\alpha = 0.05$  level of significance. Therefore, the hypothesis is accepted.

In response to the first research question, which stated that, to what extent could the joint contribution of each of the independent variables (family structure, social media and peer pressure) determine delinquency among in-school adolescents? The outcome showed a significant positive association between the independent and dependent variables. This goes together with the study of Hoge, Andrews, and Leschied (2014), who

investigated three delinquent behavior-related theories. In their research, they used a sample of 338 teenagers. The first discovery focuses on interactions between parents and children, the second on peer pressure, and the third on attitudes toward authority. The research makes it abundantly evident that several factors rather than just one are the best predictors of delinquent behavior. They point out that the best predictor of delinquency is a combination of familial ties and affiliation with criminal peers.

Similarly, other research has discovered a strong link between parental rejection and delinquent behavior (Bartollas & Schmallegger, 2014). Contrary conduct may be related to inadequate parental supervision and correction (Bartollas & Schmallegger, 2014). According to Button et al. (2017), a family impacts a adolescent's interpersonal behaviors because the teen wants to imitate family dynamics in peer relationships. In another study, Hen-Len Chung (2006) revealed that parenting styles were not directly associated with crime. There was a clear marginal relationship between social cohesion and peer deviance, pointing to neighborhood ties as a potential contributing factor. This is consistent with previous studies linking youngsters hanging out with more rebellious friends to peer deviance. A few family traits have been linked to delinquent behavior. According to Harmening & Gamez (2016), status offenses show a stronger correlation between broken homes and delinquency than more severe offenses. Research has been done on the apparent overrepresentation of single-parent households among juvenile offenders (Bartollas & Schmallegger, 2014).

From the second research question, only family structure and peer pressure had relative effects on delinquent behavior among in-school adolescents. The family structure had a more significant relative impact on delinquent behavior among in-school adolescents. In consonance with this result, Bartollas & Schmallegger (2014) found family discipline to be vital in preventing contrary conduct among adolescents. Also, parental rejection and peer attachment are the most significant predictors of severe and chronic delinquency (Button et al., 2017). Lack of mother supervision, father and mother's inconsistent or harsh discipline, parental rejection, and peer attachment also play a significant role. In low-risk households, strong mother-child bonds may increase the kids' emotional security and positively affect behavior. Even if they are not individually protective, the cumulative effects of support and shared responsibility may positively affect the family environment, the accessibility of resources, parenting, and the emotional stability of children (e.g., Curry et al., 2022; Lamb, 2012). Research has also highlighted the relationship between social media, offline experiences (such as bullying in schools), and online ones. Increased levels of online aggressiveness and bullying are evident as young people conduct more of their social lives online and through social media platforms and messaging services, affecting the behavioral standard of these adolescents. Cyberbullying victims may experience social isolation at school, a loss of belonging, and a

withdrawal from extracurricular activities (Okorodudu & Okorodudu, 2003; Lambert et al., 2013).

The result of the first hypothesis indicated positive and significant relationship between family structure and delinquent behavior among in-school adolescents, is in line with the findings of Odgers et al. (2017), who found that family structure offers support that can be interpreted as nurturance, attachment, acceptance, and love. These qualities are shown in parental behaviors toward the child, such as praising, encouraging, and conducting physical affection, which shows the child that they are accepted and loved. Parental attempts to exert control can take various forms, from coercive measures like striking, yelling, and threats to inductive efforts like parents explaining why the adolescents shouldn't have done something and how they expect the child to behave going forward. Ineffective parenting, teenage delinquency, and parental criminal behavior were all shown to be associated in Drapeau et al.'s (2007) study. Risk factors for adolescent failure include familial traits like lousy parenting, large families, conflict in the home, child abuse, and antisocial parents.

Direct parent-child interactions were revealed to be the most effective predictors of delinquency and other juvenile behavior issues in the Sampson and Laub (1994) meta-analysis. The influence of parenting on the emergence of juvenile delinquency has also been studied by researchers (Meldrum et al., 2016). According to Meldrum et al.'s (2016) research, low parental self-control was linked to various elements of family contexts, including delinquency. Additionally, they discovered that family circumstances acted as a mediating factor in the relationship between inadequate parental self-control and teenagers' misbehavior. This is because parents with poor self-control are less adept at creating loving, supportive homes, correctly regulating and correcting adolescent conduct, and are more prone to encourage delinquent behaviors.

The second hypothesis showed that a positive and significant relationship existed between social media and delinquent behavior among in-school adolescents. This aligns with the research by Clark and Shields (2017) who looked at how social media and family communication affected delinquency trends. From their research, they found that effective family communication can be broadly considered to have a good impact on both children and adults. It does appear more likely that children will feel understood and welcomed when parents can speak with them in caring, supporting, and non-judgmental tones. This communication pattern is more likely to promote a positive sense of self and self-worth and operate as a protective shield against any negative external stimuli. Some claim that the 'emphasis' of the communication, rather than just the message itself, is of utmost importance (Clark and Shields, 2017).

In the same vein, the Comparative worldwide research, including the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) survey, demonstrates a substantial and consistent link between teenage delinquency and problematic social media usage (showing addiction-like symptoms) (Dawes & Xie, 2017). Young people who use social media in this way run the danger of being victims of cyberbullying and engaging in more violent online behavior, especially guys. Teens who use alcohol and other drugs heavily and problematically may also be exposed to peers and societal norms that accept and encourage aggressive conduct, including cyberbullying and other delinquent actions on the social media. One of the issues with social media contact is that there are no longer cues for communication in face-to-face interactions, which can cause misunderstandings and hasten the escalation of exchanges into instances of delinquent behavior. Online banter or joking can easily be mistaken for aggressive behavior, harming victims and making it more challenging to recognize and intervene (Adeyemo & Opesemowo, 2020; Geist, 2012).

Sexting among young people is becoming more common, according to a meta-analysis of 39 worldwide research (Pittman & Reich, 2016). While common and accepted among young people, sexual communication is nevertheless a highly sophisticated form of communication. In the context of a consenting relationship, the sending or receiving of sexual messages may be purposeful. However, there are worries that sexual content can get into the wrong hands, be used for inappropriate reasons, or, in the worst situations, be viewed as material for child sexual abuse. As a result, peer-to-peer sexual communication utilizing digital technologies and social media platforms is frequently accompanied by complex safety messages and occasionally conflicting regulatory requirements (Verduyn et al., 2015). Here, the emphasis is on instances of sexual harassment from inappropriate internet communication as a form of delinquencies.

The third hypothesis's result showed no significant relationship between peer pressure and delinquent behavior among in-school adolescents. This corroborated Wong and Hiew's (2005) research, which focuses on social bonds, which can be likened to the peer group, as a strategy for promoting antisocial conduct. She argues that young people who associate with individuals or groups working toward good causes are much less likely to engage in antisocial behavior. The research contradicts Dong and Khorn's (2015) in their study which claim that "peers are loosely organized groups that are constantly changing, consolidating, reorganizing, and splintering" On the other hand, it was discovered by Omopomle and Oyetunji (2019) and Esbensen et al. (2001) that individuals who belonged to a peer group that was somewhat organized (with initiation rites, established leaders, and symbols or colors) reported higher rates of delinquency and involvement in more delinquent severe acts than others. According to Greene and Banerjee (2018), peer pressure from belonging to a gang led to increased antisocial

behaviors (such as excessive substance misuse and more serious criminal behavior). Youth gangs continue to exist partly because they satisfy their members' requirements, such as respect, status, a sense of belonging, or protection (Papachristos, 2009). Adolescents join gangs for various reasons, but the main one is that the unit serves as a stand-in for their family (Jackson et al., 2016). They receive the security, protection, and love that they may not be able to attain in their biological families.

According to Papachristos' (2009) research, peers endure partly because they satiate members' desires for respect, prestige, a sense of belonging, and imagined protection. Due to "collective honor," which required prompt, forceful, and violent replies, one of their members' derogatory remarks was taken personally. It has been found that peer membership fully mediates the relationship between parenting practices and levels of individual violence (Bellair & McNulty, 2009; Onyemah & Omoponle, 2022; Tolan et al., 2003). Studies by (Dong and Khron's 2016; Adewuyi, 2021) identified evidence suggesting that peers operated in circumstances that encouraged criminality. A study also found that the relationship between peer affiliation and criminal behavior persisted over time, across regional and national borders, across distinctions based on sex, race, or ethnicity (Fagbule et al., 2021; Decker et al., 2022) also, perceived peer association served as a noted risk factor for gang participation and associated increased levels of deviant behaviors next to other risk factors. Abdullah et al. (2015) and Warr (2002) found that perceived delinquent peer association was one of the strongest predictors of criminal offending, especially in adolescents.

#### **4. The implication of the findings**

The findings of this study are, however, not without some implications. The study has implications for adolescents, parents, teachers, and government. It implies that students should take note of the kind of peers they mingle with, as shown in the instead, peer groups does not compulsorily lead to Bad/delinquent behaviour but the type of peer group tha adolescents belong. The study is also of immense value to the parents, who must guide their wards to prevent them from being immersed in delinquent behaviors in their respective societies. Further, teachers and school guidance psychologists should note any delinquent attitude demonstrated by students and facilitate adjustment to them. From these findings, it could also be implied that lack of discipline in schools and society is a significant factor that encourages delinquency. Therefore, the government should put disciplinary measures to be enforced by the school management.

#### **5. Recommendations**

Having gone through the study and discovered that some factors affect delinquent behaviors among in-school adolescents, the following recommendations are therefore

highlighted for counseling psychologists, teachers, parents, and government consideration.

- Schools should employ qualified counselors to help facilitate adequate counseling processes to avoid delinquencies.
- Parents should be wary of the kind of friends or peers their wards move with.
- Teachers should ensure students are taught various skills that would bring about an adjustment in delinquent students.
- School administrators should put specific laws in place that will be void of delinquency.

## **6. Conclusions**

This research has examined the effect of psychological and sociological factors on delinquent behaviors among in-school adolescents, and the result showed a positive correlation between the independent and dependent variables. Also, it was observed that family structure and peer pressure also have a significant effect on delinquent behavior. It is therefore concluded that both parents and teachers need to instill good morals into the adolescent. Also, they need to watch keenly on the adolescents as regards their behavioral attitude and the kind of peers they follow.

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