

**FAMILY BACKGROUND AND JUVENILE
DELINQUENCY: A STUDY OF INMATES AT
THE JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION
IN IBADAN, OYO STATE NIGERIA.**

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Abstract

Family plays a major role in determining the levels of juvenile delinquency in adolescents. This study examined family background as determinant of juvenile delinquency among inmate of Juvenile correctional Institution in Ibadan. Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study and the target population comprised of inmate of remand home in Ibadan metropolis. Ninety-three (93) inmates at the centre were sampled. A research instrument tagged "Family Background and Juvenile Delinquency" (FBJQ) was used to collect information for the study. Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used to analyse the data collected.

Findings revealed that there is significant relationship between family stability and Juvenile Delinquency ($r = 337, N = 93, P < .05$).

The study therefore discusses the significance of family stability to the broader incidence of delinquency among juveniles. There is also the urgent need to proper institutionalization of Remand homes for correctional

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purposes. Remand homes should be well equipped with competent staff, and as correctional institutions, should also be mandated to provide educational, vocational training and recreational facilities for institutionalized offenders. It is also recommended that the services of social workers should be utilized to alleviate the incidence of juvenile delinquency in society.

Keywords: Family Background, Juvenile Delinquency, Correctional Institution

Introduction

Family is the first social environment of a child and one of the strongest socializing forces in life. The process of naturing and nurturing of a child to control unacceptable behaviour, delay gratification, and to respect the rights of others begins in the family. According to Akubue and Okolo (2008) family is a small kinship structural group with the key function of natural socialization of the new born while Okunniyi (2004) define family as a primary social group of parents, offspring and possibly other members of the household; Family background refers to all the conditions and circumstances in the family which influence the child physically, intellectually and emotionally through his/her formative development (Muola, 2010) and as such children/adolescents coming from different family backgrounds are affected differently by such family conditions.

These are better examined in terms of marital stability as well as the resources in term of family income, occupation and education. Studies have revealed that family background is a major predictor of delinquency. For example, Muhammed et al (2009) attributed the rise of anti-social behaviours among young people in Nigeria to family instability among other factors. It is noted that children from unstable families have multiple behavioural problems which impel them to engage in delinquent behaviours. This, according to them is because the warmth, direction, love and protection which the parents would have provided for them are lost and then sought in anti-social behaviours such as drug abuse.

According to Udom, Anyanime, Nnabuk and Umuna, (2022), children in unstable homes are more likely to be delinquent. There is evidence to suggest that such families expect less of their children, spend less time monitoring them and use less effective techniques to discipline them. This means that such children have greater opportunities and motivation to participate in delinquent acts than those living with parents who give more attention to their children. Hence, the absence of stability is a major predictor for juvenile delinquency (Mack et al., 2006). Children who grew up in such unstable families are at a greater risk of experiencing a variety of behavioural and educational problems, including; smoking, drug abuse, vandalism, violence and criminal acts than children from stable families (Sheryln, 2008).

There is no universal definition of a juvenile or delinquency. The laws of different nations stipulate different age bracket for juveniles. In Nigeria the term juvenile is derived from the Children and Young Persons Laws and “all the enactments contain provisions relating to special treatment of juvenile offenders and welfare of juveniles”. Each enactment defines “a child as a person who has not attained the age of 18 years. For example, in Northern Nigeria enactment defines a “young person” as a person who has attained the age of 14 years but has not attained the age of 17 years. The other enactments in Nigeria define the term “young person” as a person who has attained the age of 14 years but has not attained the age of 18 years (Obilade, 2011:217). Besides, the concept of a juvenile is sometimes used interchangeably with other concepts like a child, an adolescent and a youth. But the law is usually more specific in its definition of a child or juvenile or youth. Manifestations of delinquency among secondary school adolescents in Nigeria include: cruelty, bullying, fighting, vandalism, stealing, lying, sexual immorality, mob action, carrying of weapons etc (Sanni, Udoh, Okediji,, Modo & Ezech., 2010). According to Eke (2004) there are two main categories of delinquent behaviours which Nigerian adolescents engage in; these are: criminal and status offences. The criminal offences include: stealing, arson, rape, drug offences, murder, burglary, pick pocket, cultism, kidnapping, cyber-crime, and armed robbery etc. The status offences on the other hand include: truancy, curfew violation, possession or use of tobacco,

possession or use of alcohol, running away from home and generally being ungovernable.

Although, juvenile delinquency has been an age long problem, it has taken a new dimension in recent times as anti-social behaviour often associated with the juvenile delinquents, such vices as ritual killings, drug abuse, kidnapping, alcohol abuse, rape, examination malpractices, school violence, bullying, cultism, truancy, school drop-outs seems to be on the increase. Unless something is done to roll back the wave of juvenile delinquency, the prospect of a better, safer and more prosperous and crime free society emerging in Nigeria may remain elusive (Kudirat et,al 2010). Scholars who claimed that family structure is a major factor in the cause of juvenile delinquency worked on the assumption that, if the family background (especially the general atmosphere of the home and the attitude of the other members of the family) is congenial for proper development of a child, it is likely that the child will grow up to be law abiding (Khan, & Rehman, 2017; Wangangi, 2019).

The significance of children to the future of any society has never been in doubt. Consequently, investing in social development of those who become delinquent and pose a menace or threat to social order require protecting and safeguarding their interest by providing them yet another path towards a prospective future. This action also serves the interest of the larger community towards safeguarding against aggravating the threat to security. The government therefore established Juvenile Correctional Institutional homes for offenders for the firm purpose of reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration of juveniles and as such facilities for vocational and formal educational instruction were put in place in order to realize these goals. These facilities are structurally designed to prevent escape and restrict the movement of the juvenile offender Institutional care for juveniles in Nigeria could be in remand homes, approved schools or borstal institutions. Remand homes serve as detention/ custody sites (maximum of 3 months) for juveniles awaiting trial, or disposal after a guilty verdict (Aremu, 2012).

Children in need of care and protection and children beyond parental control are also commonly kept in the remand home while a social inquiry report is being prepared. Approved schools are more permanent educational facilities for children in contact with juvenile justice where they are placed for at least 3 years, while Borstal institutions are specifically designated for the institutionalization of offenders and other categories of children between the ages of 16-21, for a period of about 5 years. The Children and Young Persons Act II is the major piece of legislation dealing with matters affecting children and young persons in Nigeria. Its stated purpose is "to make provision for the welfare of the young, and the treatment of young offenders and for the establishment of juvenile courts' (Child Rights Act, 2003).

George (2007) observed that over the past ten years, the number of juvenile courts cases have doubled. The rise in destructive acts amongst youths seems to be evident in school dropout rates, teenage pregnancies, drug abuse and quite apparently substantial increase number of teenagers in mental homes. Inadequate supervision arising from family structure seems to be another issue associated with juvenile delinquency (Alfrey, 2010). Alfrey further explained that children from unstable families tend to receive lower levels of supervision. According to him, this inadequate parental supervision has a tendency to increase the likelihood of juvenile delinquency. Family disability in terms of marital status and lack of resources in term of income, education often results in lack of parental monitoring and control which contributes not only directly to children's anti-social behaviours, but also indirectly as it contributes to exposing them to associate with deviant peers, which is predictive of higher levels of deviant acts (Okorodudu, 2010).

According to Uwaoma and Udeagha (2007) unstable home often lack the ability to control and monitor their children which is detrimental to socialization and personality adjustment. The resultant effect is that a child may be more vulnerable to negative peer pressure and may ultimately commit delinquent acts not committed by children from stable families where there is a balanced structure of two parents who act as good role models in the child's acquiring proper roles.

Statement of the Problem

Juvenile delinquency in Nigeria has been a persistent source of apprehension to parents, school authorities, government and the society at large. Participation in delinquent acts by young people is assuming an alarming proportion and dangerous dimension. Although, there are no available statistics to confirm, however, there has been a growing interest on the subject of Juvenile delinquency in Nigeria attracting interest from a variety of academic fields, who remain heavily reliant on sociological theories for guidance. For example, Abdulraheem-Mustapha (2016), analysed the causes of juvenile delinquency in Nigeria from the legal perspective on whether Nigeria's legal framework adequate grasps and addresses the growing menace. Similarly, worthy of note is the fact that some sociological scholars had earlier highlighting the sensitivity and significance of Justice in the study of Juvenile Delinquency in Nigeria which if not carefully administered could easily result in victimization, and injustice in the society (Saád, 2008).

Juvenile Correctional Institutions

The Children and Young Persons Act II is the major piece of legislation dealing with matters affecting children and Young persons in Nigeria. Its stated purpose is to make provision for the Welfare of the young and the treatment of young offenders and for the establishment of Juvenile Courts (see Child Right Act, 2003). The Act was first enacted in Lagos, representing the Southern Protectorate in 1943 by the colonial government in 1958; the same Act was established in the Northern region of the nation. According to the United Nations minimum standard rules for administration of Juvenile Justice, a 'Juvenile' is defined as a child or young person who under the respective legal systems is dealt with differently from adult for offences they have committed. In the same vein, the United Nations Convention on the rights of the child (UN Convention) and the African charter on the Rights and Welfare of the child (African Charter) a child is defined as a human being under the age of 18 years. (Inyang, 2004), notes that in the United Nation definition of the child. There are four types of juvenile institutions in Nigeria.

Juvenile Courts

These courts are meant specifically for handling cases involving juveniles who need care and protection of the society. One of the major features of juvenile court is that, charges by a prosecutor are not encouraged. Instead, a report is presented to the court by a probation officer and/or a social worker as provided for by the Child Right Act [CRA 2003, Section 217 (6a)]. The presentation of the report is not read aloud, but provides the substance of the offence or the problem labelled against the juvenile and the circumstances surrounding the offence/problem. The fact that Juvenile Justice does not operate with a criminal procedure, and does not aim at a conviction and sentencing of the juvenile delinquents, but aimed at aiding the juvenile offender who is assumed to have committed an offence for some psychological or socio-economic reasons, gives the juvenile courts a caring and loving atmosphere in dealing with juvenile cases, hence, culminating the knowledge of law, science, social science and social work to manage cases of juvenile offenders (Child Rights Act, 2003).

Borstal Centre

Borstal centre derives its name from the village called Borstal, just outside Rochester, where it was first set up in Britain (Wills, 1962). The introduction of Borstal home in Nigeria could be seen to have legal backing from the Children and Young Persons' Law (CYPL). The CYPL, as reiterated by Sa'ad (2009), evolves to legislate: Borstal institutions are specifically designated for the institutionalization of offenders and other categories of children between the ages of 16-21, for a period of about 5 years. The Borstal Institution receives persons from age 16- 19 who must be discharged out of the place on or before the attainment of 21 years of age; The Borstal training Institutions are established with the view that a young person should not be criminalised or penalised for behaviour that does not cause serious damage to the development of the person or harm to others. There are three Borstal centers in Nigeria, one in Lagos, Abeokuta and Ilorin (Saád, 2009). The programmes range from educational to vocational learning. The policy the institution involves:

- The provision of opportunities in particular educational institutions and vocational centres to meet the diverse needs of young

persons as well as provide supporting direction for safeguarding the development of all young persons, especially those who are not able to pass through the process of formal education and are in need of special care and protection.

- The provision of opportunities in particular educational institutions and vocational centres to meet the diverse needs of young persons as well as provide supporting direction for safeguarding the development of all young persons, especially those who are not able to pass through the process of formal education and are in need of special care and protection.
- The institution programme is designed in such a way that members of the society and the families of persons on admission at the centre work hand in hand with the institution's personnel to ensure that young persons are routed to acceptable behavioural standards and norms.
- The over-all interest of the young person is the main reason for any official intervention in the welfare of juveniles. The individual takes part deciding any programme that will help him/her to make positive adjustments.
- The rights and the interest of the young person is given premium in the efforts to safeguard his/her welfare and development.

Juvenile Correctional Institution, Ibadan

The children are of three categories. The first are juvenile offenders who cannot be sent to prison because of their age. They are children who are 17 years old and below. The second category is for children beyond parental control. These children are referred to the home by their parents due to their offences. The third category encompasses children on the streets; those in need of care and protection. We protect them until we can locate their parents" (Adegoke,2021:1).

Parenthood is a responsibility requiring the full cooperation of both parents that must ensure the total development of their offspring(s). The home therefore provides the environment where children can be nurtured for a positive or negative development. Mullens (2004) stated that juveniles from

broken homes are more likely to run away from their family than children living in stable families. This assumption is based on the fact that a broken home is an imbalance atmosphere and as a result is detrimental to a child's socialization and personality adjustment. As a result, a child may be more susceptible to negative peer pressure and may ultimately commit acts of delinquency not committed by children from stable families where there is a balanced structure of man and woman who act as good role models in the child acquiring more law abiding roles.

According to Ajao (2014) sometimes the death, separation or divorce of a spouse whereby a husband loses his wife or the wife lose her husband may pave way for juvenile delinquency in the sense that the children may lack effective parental care. The worst is when both parents die; the affected children may seek for means of survival by all means which may result to juvenile delinquency, a gateway to remand home for children. In line with this statement, Kimani (2020) found a positive relationship between broken homes and juvenile delinquency. Azoro (2010) asserted that children from broken homes have a higher risk of indulging in delinquent acts than children from stable families. He argued that lack of attachment to their parents exposes the children to anti-social behaviours. Hence, children from broken homes suffer from emotional pains which may propels them to engage in vicious crimes such as assault, rape, etc.

A study by Naboth & Ikpah (2020) investigated the influence of family structure on the incidence of juvenile delinquency among public secondary school student in Rivers State. Hypotheses revealed that male and female students agreed that single parent family structure had significant influence on the incidence of juvenile delinquency among public secondary school students. Also male and female students accepted that nuclear family structure influences the incidence of juvenile delinquency among public secondary school students. In conclusion, the researcher observed that certain behaviour exhibited or displayed by children in the school are as a result of dysfunctional family structures.

In a related study by Sanni, Udoh, Okediji, Modo & Ezech (2010) examined on investigating the influence of family structure on juvenile delinquency

among secondary school students in Nigeria. Using the multistage random sampling technique, 200 students were selected for the study from five public secondary schools in Uyo metropolis. The self-report family delinquency questionnaire was used for data collection. The researchers found out that only 32% of the respondents that showed symptoms of delinquency came from stable families as opposed to 68% from unstable families. Based on the findings, the researchers suggested that family instability has a significant influence on juvenile delinquency. Another study by Azoro (2010) on the public perception of the effects of broken homes on the family in Awka South Local Government using a sample of 124 respondents found out that out of the total number of respondents sampled, 62.9% were of the view that broken homes lead to juvenile delinquency thus suggesting a significant relationship between broken homes and juvenile delinquency.

Jekayinfa (2010) has asserted that children from divorced homes are more likely to be maladjusted in the society. She suggested that when a marriage breaks down, men and women alike often experience a diminished capacity to parent. Hence, parents affected by divorce give less time, provide less discipline and are less sensitive to their children since they themselves are caught up in its aftermath. Alfrey (2010) observed that the very absence of a two-parent family makes gang membership more appealing. Hence, children residing in single-parent families are at a greater risk of joining gangs than children from two-parent families. Heck and Welsh (2010) argued that the risk of delinquency is highly significant among children from broken homes compared to children from stable families. The authors drew the inference that overall, the lack of supervision and absence of close relationships between the teenager and his parents are factors that influence delinquency.

Kimani (2010) investigated the influence of family structure on juvenile delinquency using a sample size of 51 children drawn from the Nakuru children's Remand Home in Kenya found out that 65.4% of the respondents came from a single parent home. Based on the findings, the researcher concluded that children in a single parent led family had a high tendency to engage in juvenile delinquency than children from stable homes. Khan &

Rehman (2017) stated that divorce is an available evil that undermines the peace and happiness of the whole family that may eventually lead to the destruction of the lives of the children. A child who is easily roused to anger needs calm and controlled home atmosphere and a great deal of understanding which is not available in a dysfunctional or conflict environment. The authors concluded that separation can be a significant impetus for social, economically and behavioural such as juvenile crime,

In agreement with the above assertion, Uwaoma & Udeagha (2007) have also argued that children who are from divorced families have been found to have multiple behavioural problems which impel them to engage in delinquent behaviour. They further explained that this occurs because the warmth, direction, love and protection which the parents would have provided for them are lost and sought in anti-social behaviours such as drug abuse and prostitution. Wardle (2007) opined that "divorce also is indirectly associated causally with juvenile delinquency". Wardle further explained that children from homes broken by divorce are more at risk of being maltreated, and that maltreatment correlates strongly with delinquency. Children of divorce suffer heightened levels of emotional trauma when compared to children from stable families. Hence, increased rate of juvenile delinquency is witnessed among children of divorced parents (Heck and Welsh, 2000). Siegel and Welsh (2008) have argued that divorce may influence children's misbehaviour through its effects on parental misbehaviour. They further explained that divorce may encourage deviance since a stable marriage cushions parental misbehaviour. For them, parents who are caught up in post-divorce turmoil may influence their children to misbehave.

Another survey into the influence of family structure on juvenile delinquency by Murry, William and Salekin (2006) using a sample size of 442 juveniles in a borstal institution found out that 53% of the sample came from one parent households. The findings of the research indicate that proportionately, more juvenile offenders come from family arrangements other than the two-parent family home. However, the researchers explained that family arrangements combined with other factors such as

environmental factors, situational factors, and functional factors may provide more insight into juvenile delinquency. A study by Ngale (2009) which explored the relationship between family structure and Juvenile delinquency using a sample of 120 juveniles drawn from the Betamba children's correctional centre with a questionnaire found out that 66.1% or about three-fifths of the children came from two-parent (stable) homes, 16.05% of the children came from homes in which their parents live apart through divorce or temporary separation, while 5.35% of the children do not know their fathers, 12.5% of the children have either lost one or both of their parents. Based on the findings of the study, Ngale suggested that joblessness and economic hardship are major impediments to family cohesion which could be predictors for juvenile delinquency.

Family conflict can have an adverse effect on the child behaviour. For example, Patrick (2006) studied two hundred and twenty three (223) young adolescent and their parents for one year longitudinal studies. The researcher came out with the following findings; that when a child observed hostility, anger and stone walling between their parents, they react with significant distress. Children who witnessed this unhealthy relationship pattern grew up with a misunderstanding of what a healthy relationship looks like, and they are likely to repeat the same relationship when they grow up. Most times they develop anti-social behaviour and often have no regard for law. According to Emery and Laumann-Billings (2001), conflict in a context concerning the child may be more distressing to the child and thus may be more closely related to behaviour problems. Poor conflict resolution may produce continued tension in the family and lead to more frequent episodes of conflict with adverse negative effect on their behaviour.

Research objectives

The following objectives were dealt with in this study:

- There significant relationship between marital stability and juvenile delinquency among inmates of juvenile correctional institution
- There significant relationship between family conflict and juvenile delinquency among inmate of correctional institution.
- Assessing the impact of family background to Juvenile Delinquency among inmate of correctional institution in Ibadan

Methodology

The research format applied in this study was a descriptive survey research technique. The method allows for the description of the type of relationship that exists between the variables being studied.

Total population of the inmates in juvenile correctional institution in Ibadan were used for the study. Total sampling was used to select all the 93 inmates at the centre.

A research instrument tagged “Family Background and Juvenile Delinquency Questionnaire” (FBJQQ) was the main instrument that will be used for the study. The instruments consist of three sections, section A measured Family Marital Stability, section B, measured Family Conflict while section D measured Juvenile Delinquency.

Face and content validity was used to determine the validity of the instrument and only items that are relevant and valid constituted the contents of the questionnaire. The instrument was also pre-tested on inmates of juvenile correctional home in a different location to ensure reliability. The instrument was scrutinized and necessary modifications were made before the final administration of the questionnaire. The reliability co-efficient was 0.82.

Data Analysis

The data collected was analysed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) to determine the relationship between the variables.

H₀1: There will be no significant relationship between marital stability and juvenile delinquency among inmates of juvenile correctional institution.

Table 1: Person Correlation showing the relationship between marital stability and juvenile delinquency among inmates of juvenile correctional institution

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.	n	R	P	Remark
Marital Stability	32.6900	6.2958	93	.337*	.001	Sig.
Juvenile Delinquency	22.8500	6.6192				

* Sig. at .05 level

It is shown in the above table that there was a significant relationship between Marital Stability and Juvenile Delinquency ($r = -.337$, $N = 93$, $P < .05$). Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected.

Hypothesis 2:

H₀₃: There will be no significant relationship between family conflict and juvenile delinquency among inmates of juvenile correctional institution.

Table 2: Pearson Correlation showing the relationship between family conflict and juvenile delinquency among inmate of juvenile correctional institution

H₀₃: There will be no significant relationship between family conflict and Juvenile delinquency

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.	n	R	P	Remark
Family Conflict	12.0500	4.2932	93	.834*	.000	Sig.
Juvenile Delinquency	22.8500	8.6192				

* Sig. at .05 level

It is shown in the above table that there was significant relationship between Family Conflict and Juvenile Delinquency ($r = .834$, $N = 93$, $P < .05$). Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected.

Hypothesis 3:

H₀₃: There will be no joint effect of the independent variables (marital stability, and family conflict) on juvenile delinquency

Table 4: Joint effect of the independent variables (Marital Stability, Parental Educational Status and Family Conflict) on Juvenile Delinquency

R	R Square			Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	
.843	.710			.701	4.7112	
A N O V A						
Model	Sum of Squares	DF	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Remark
Regression	5224.034	3	1741.345	78.457	.000	Sig.
Residual	2130.716	96	22.195			
Total	7354.750	99				

Above table shows that the joint effect of the independent variables (Marital Stability, Parental Educational Status and Family Conflict) to the prediction of the dependent variable. i.e Juvenile Delinquency was significant.

Discussion of Findings

Findings in table one revealed that there was a significant relationship between marital stability and juvenile delinquency. The family is a critical element for child development and therefore is a determining factor for children's involvement in crime. This finding is in line with various studies such as (Breivik, Olweus, & Endersen, 2009; Mandara & Murray, 2006) which revealed that marital instability is a major predictor of delinquency. Similarly, Simons, Simons & Wallace (2004) reported that children in single-parent homes are more likely to be delinquent. The type of relationship between parents and their children to a large extent determine whether a child becomes a delinquent (wangangi, 2019). For example, affectionate, and supportive homes are likely to promote conformist and constructive social behaviour, because a positive family environment leads to well behaved personality.

However, a lack of parental support in form of affection and support, or in more severe cases parental indifference, hostility or rejection, causes children to feel emotionally insecure and may lead to anti-social behaviour, thus encouraging delinquent behaviour. The implication of this is that adolescents from trouble homes lack adequate parental monitoring and thus have greater opportunities and motivation to participate in delinquent acts than do those living in a stable two-parent family. Children growing up in unstable families are at a greater risk of experiencing a variety of behavioural and educational problems, including; smoking, drug abuse,

cultism, cyber-crimes, vandalism, violence and other criminal acts than children from stable families (Sheryln, 2008).

This finding in table two revealed that there was significant relationship between Family Conflict and Juvenile Delinquency. Family conflict can cause a wide range of adverse consequences for adolescents including serious immediate and delayed psychological distress or disorder and a variety of practical upheavals such as placement in foster care or the need to flee the home. He concluded that children from such homes are likely to display more aggressive behaviour than comparison children. For some children, witnessing marital violence is as detrimental to healthy adjustment as experiencing physical abuse. In the same vein, Wolfe, Sternberg, Lamb, Guterman and Abbott (2006) found out that children are more likely than adults to report levels of maladjustment that varied depending on recent or concurrent exposure to family conflict.

The table three shows a coefficient of multiple correlation ($R = .843$ and a multiple R^2 of .710. This means that 71.0% of the variance was accounted for by the predictor variables when taken together. The significance of the composite contribution was tested at $p < .05$. The table also shows that the analysis of variance (ANOVA) for the regression yielded a F-ratio of 78.457 (significant at 0.05 level). This implies that the joint contribution of the independent variables to the dependent variable was significant and that other variables not included in this model may have accounted for the remaining variance. This is an indication the independent variables (marital stability and marital conflict) predict juvenile delinquency in adolescents.

Unhealthy family are characterized by substantial parental conflict which pose a clear risk for children's wellbeing both because of the direct negative effects that result when children witness conflict between parents and because of conflicts' indirect effects on parenting skills. He concluded that children who grow up in intact two parent family with both biological parents present do better on a wide range of outcomes than children who grow up in a single parent family. Furthermore, children in intact families are less likely to drop out of school.

Implications for Social Workers

Social work is a helping profession that plays a major role in facilitating the personal, social and educational growth of individuals in order to help them reach their full potential in the society (International Federation of Social Workers, 2014). Understanding family background will determine to a large extent the delinquent behaviour of adolescents and can help to enhance the design and development of effective crime prevention programmes. Social workers should play active role in designing policies and programmes in the reformation of juvenile correctional homes for adolescents so that inmates in these homes would become useful to themselves, their family, the community and the society at large. Social workers are also expected to work in collaboration with other professionals such as teachers, counsellors, psychologists and parents at ensuring that the adolescents sail through the stage with minimal disruptions. Social workers can act as counselors in variety of setting, linking clients to other services and suggested strategies to achieve goals (Miller 2015).

Conclusion

The study revealed that the family has a very important role to play at ensuring that the moral development of the adolescents. Family background influences delinquency in a variety of ways. Children reared by parents who neglect or reject them are likely to be greatly influenced by negative peer behaviour. Whereas adolescents reared by caring and affectionate parents are unlikely to commit serious crimes either as juveniles or as adults. Parents should realise that they are the architect of their children's therefore they should rise up their children properly and their upbringing by inculcating moral discipline into them as they grow.

Recommendations

Based on the result of this research, the following recommendations are made;

- Juvenile correctional institutions such as remand homes should be well equipped and have competent staff. Institutions should be mandated to provide educational and vocational training, provide adequate health care, sanitation and personal hygiene, and recreational facilities for institutionalized offenders.

- The services of social workers should be utilized in secondary schools. They should give counselling to all students especially those who are not doing well in their academic work. Social workers are in a better position to look into the family challenges of such students and take necessary corrective actions.
- Teachers also should endeavour to inform parents regularly of the academic progress of their children with a view to taking corrective steps whenever they notice any anti-social behaviour.
- Parents should endeavour to monitor the activities of their children closely especially when they are in school by updating themselves on the appraisals of their children and showing them love which will improve their emotion stability.
- There is a growing need for welfare and support for parents in child rearing. Counselling and other forms of material support is required for parents who are struggling with care due to work schedule or single parenting.

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