

**CORRELATES OF DELINQUENCY AMONG SELECTED SECONDARY  
SCHOOL STUDENTS IN OYE LOCAL GOVERNMENT,  
EKITI STATE.**

**BY**

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**SEPTEMBER, 2016.**

**CERTIFICATION**

I certify that this study was carried out by Matins Amarachi Rita in the Department of Sociology, of the Federal University Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State under my supervision.



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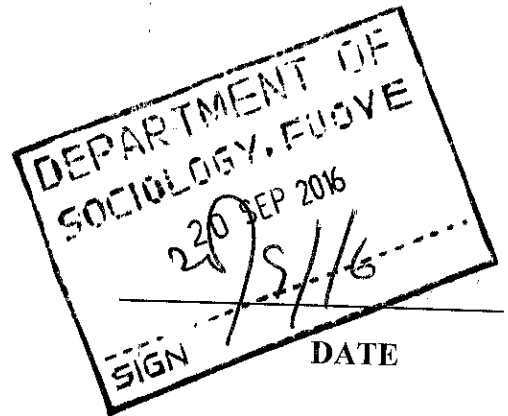
19/9/2016

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## **DEDICATION**

This dissertation is dedicated to Almighty God for the gift of a rare gem in person of Mrs. Veronica Egwuonwu.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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## List of Abbreviations

<b>FUOYE</b>	Federal University Oye Ekiti, Ekiti State
<b>SPSS</b>	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
<b>Insg.dq</b>	Insignificant delinquents
<b>Abs.dq</b>	Absolute delinquents
<b>SES</b>	Socio-Economic Status
<b>CIS</b>	Concentric International School, Oye-Ekiti
<b>ESGC</b>	Ekiti State Government College, Oye-Ekiti
<b>CHS</b>	Community High School, Aiyegbaju
<b>IOCCHS</b>	Itapa-Osin Community Comprehensive High School
<b>IHS</b>	Ilupeju High School, Ilupeju

## ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to investigate correlates of delinquency among selected secondary school students in Oye-Ekiti. The Family, peer group influence and Economic factors was used as the independent variables to determine the association with delinquent behaviour. A cross sectional research design was used in the study with a population study of 200 students (40 students from each school) from Concentric International School, Ekiti State Government College,; Ilupeju High School, Itapa-Osin Community Comprehensive High School and Community High School in Oye Local Government. Data for the study was collected through the distribution of 200 copies of the questionnaire. Data analysis was done through SPSS using univariate, bivariate and chi square was performed to test the association between the variables.

This study found that majority of the respondents was between 13-15 (45.5%) years old and with more male (57.5%) than female (42.5%). Most of the respondents came from single-parent families (25.0%) and most of them belonged to low income profile (27.0%) and were prone to bad association with friends (28.0%) which increases the rate of delinquent acts notwithstanding other factors that influence delinquent behaviour.

The findings of this study established a significant relationship between family, economic factors peer group influence. The study established that the level of delinquency in Oye-Ekiti is high as 56.2% respondents were insignificant delinquents while 43.8% were absolute delinquents. The study's recommendations are that there is need eradicate poverty and that parents should pay proper attention to their children to restrain them from delinquent behaviour.

### **Keywords**

*Delinquency, Delinquent behaviour, adolescents, Family, Economic, Peer Group, Oye.*

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Children are born with special needs, desires and behaviour that can be aroused in reaction to hunger or uneasiness. Despite the fact that the child's need is satisfied in compromise with the mother's need, as each has a need to satisfy; the mother finds remedy from the pressure of milk within the breast, and also meeting the infants' welfare; on the other hand, the child finds the energy and the necessary nutrients required for growth. At this level, nobody would think about such behaviour as sudden due to the fact he/she is aggressive and compelled to struggle with such method to benefit satisfaction for his/her desires. But the underlying forces that in the end make adolescents prone to unacceptable behaviour, often, are simply these traits: aggression, a sense of autonomy, the sense of achieving dreams, and willingness to struggle for satisfactions.

In older children, the struggle to gain their very own pleasure may be expressed within the nature of stealing, lying or destruction of homes, bullying, disobedience, and revenge, among the host of others. This struggle will become more extreme and more evident throughout adolescents, if the behaviour have not been deterred in early formative years, and can be regularly expressed as delinquent behaviour. However, findings by Sampson and Laub (1997), predicted that human beings change over time and the factors that cause anti-social behaviour evolve through the years. As anticipated, degrees of cumulative problem increase, delinquency-resisting factors of social existence are impaired. Adolescents who are convicted of delinquency at an early age are much more likely to develop anti-social attitudes later in life. However, involvement in delinquency of adolescents who have long-time exposure to poverty may additionally improve.

Delinquency is defined as "illegal acts, whether criminal or status offences, which are committed by youth under the age of 18" (Shoemaker 2010). Therefore delinquency is

behaviour this is punishable by the law to a teenager below 18 years of age. There is no universally accepted and approved definition of delinquency, different countries define the delinquency based totally on the existing laws, which stipulate specific age bracket for juveniles. Furthermore, delinquency is every now and then used interchangeably to explain illegal acts committed by an adolescent or a teenager. Nevertheless, the law is commonly unique in its definition of an adolescent or teenagers as delinquents (Shoemaker 2010).

Delinquency is also used to describe criminal acts committed by adolescents. These criminal acts become crime when committed by an adult. Delinquency also describes adolescents' anti-social behaviours which are not criminal in nature.

The psychologists, sociologists and criminologists have lengthily debated biological and social factors as the reasons for delinquency in adolescents. While a few strain social factors like family, economic, peer group influence and other elements, some stress personal factors. Psychologists maintain that every one of these delinquent character may be constructed as a result of defenses in opposition to dissatisfactions and disappointment which had been uncovered throughout adolescents' infancy. The sum total is delinquent behaviour or unacceptable conduct. Nevertheless, the social factors such as family, economic factors and peer group influence are variables which are very relevant in explaining delinquency in adolescents. The adolescent age has been defined as a period of transition characterized by the fact that an adolescents participate in unpredictable behaviour that can be considered unacceptable by the larger society (Busari, 2010).

The family and school are two extremely crucial institutions within the life of an adolescent who is neither an adult nor a child. The impact the family has on the adolescent goes a long way in figuring out what the adolescent might be as an adult, the sort of friends he/she might have or the sort of parents he/she would be in future. The school is similarly an essential socialization method which impacts significantly on the adolescent.

Factors such as family, economic and peer groups were studied in this research in terms of how they each affect adolescents' behaviour and circumstances. These variables are correlated with the manifestations of delinquent acts which incorporates; cruelty, bullying, fighting, vandalism, roughness during games, use of foul language, stealing, lying, cheating, examination malpractice, gambling, truancy, drug abuse, noise-making, disobedience, stubbornness, apathy, untidiness, failure to wear correct school uniform, reading of pornographic materials, sexual immorality, mob action, loitering, and carrying of weapon among others (Sanni et al, 2010).

Eke (2004) noted that there are two most important categories of delinquent behaviours which Nigerian adolescents engage in; these are: status and criminal offences. The status offences consist of: running away from home, malingering, truancy among others. However, she listed criminal offences to encompass: stealing, arson, rape, drug offences, murder, burglary, pick pocket, and armed robbery.

This study examines more closely the influence of the family, economic factors, and peer groups on delinquency.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Everywhere in the world, adolescents engage in delinquent behaviour like bullying, truancy, absenteeism from school, running away from domestic duties, murder or rape in excessive cases and those antisocial behaviours have turn out to be one of the fundamental problems confronting adolescents during the development or transition into adulthood. In 2010, juveniles were 24% of the U.S. resident population. The Census Bureau estimates that this proportion would decline to 21% by 2050 i.e., the relative increase in the adult population will exceed the increase in the juvenile population during the first half of the 21st century (World Youth Report 2003).

Adolescents in contemporary Nigeria are primarily involved in armed robbery, cultism, drug abuse and different criminal activities. There is also a raise in reports from schools concerning the increase in delinquency in secondary schools. To this end, the social organization of the family has a role to play in making sure that adolescents transition into adults who abide with the legal guidelines of the society (Muhammed et al 2010; Ajake et'al, 2010). The constant increase in delinquency is overwhelming as it affects the academic achievement of the adolescents, leads to loss of lives and properties, social stigma and if not properly addressed, leads to anti-social behavior in adulthood thereby producing a high population of criminals.

### **1.3 Research Objectives**

The general objective of this study is to examine the correlates of delinquency among selected secondary school students in Ekiti State. The specific objectives are to;

- i. investigate the relationship between family and delinquent behaviour among selected secondary school students;
- ii. examine the relationship between economic factors and delinquent behaviour among selected secondary school students and;
- iii. identify the relationship between peer groups and delinquent behaviour among selected secondary school students.

### **1.4 Research Questions**

The following research questions were raised to guide this study:

1. To what extent does familial factor influence adolescents' delinquent behaviour?
2. To what extent does economic factor influence delinquent behaviour among secondary school adolescents?
3. To what extent does peer group influence adolescents' delinquent behaviour?

## 1.5 Research Hypotheses

The research hypotheses which was tested at 0.5 level of significance, guided the study:

1.  $H_0$ : there is no significant relationship between familial factors and delinquent behaviour.
2.  $H_0$ : there is no significant relationship between economic factor and delinquent behaviour.
3.  $H_0$ : there is no significant relationship between peer group influence and delinquent behaviour.

## 1.6 Significances of the Study

The study of delinquency will go a long way in contributing to the existing literature and theoretical framework on delinquency among secondary school students in Nigeria; and additionally, bridge the gap in knowledge about delinquent behaviour through investigation of the attitude and knowledge of adolescents about the phenomenon under investigation. Additionally, the study can also be justified considering that it represent a feasible policy material upon which action can be taken by means of government or its organizations for securing the life and health of adolescents in the area. The study is also important for shielding the future leaders from engaging in impulsive behaviour that can truncate their lives and derail them from reaching their complete potentials. Ensuring that adolescents desist from anti-social acts and protect their lives throughout every phase of development needs to be an essential international precedence.

In view of the widespread of undesirable behaviours in youths, this study exposed the students to the harmful effects of delinquent behaviour on attitudinal behaviour, practice, educational performance and thus serves as a cautionary measure for students in Oye local government, nearby local governments and Nigeria at large.



## 1.7 Operational Definitions of Key Concepts

Below are operational definitions of key concepts and variables of this study;

**1.7.1 Correlates:** This was the independent variable which measured the degree and type of relationship between any two or more quantities (variables) in which vary together over a period.

It referred to family, peer group and economic factors which contribute to delinquent behavior.

- **Familial factors:** This is an independent variable which was measured by a self report questionnaire. It referred to family structure, communication, monitoring, family organization and disorganization related to respondents;
- **Nuclear family structure:** this referred to a household headed by both husband and wife raising children either biological or non biological. It is also known as the traditional family. It was an independent variable which was measured in the questionnaire.
- **Extended family structure:** this referred to a house hold headed by two or more people. It included family members like mother, a father, an aunt, grandparent, an uncle, niece, nephew and other extended family members. Due to its structure, this study considered it as a non-traditional family structure. It is an independent variable which was measured in the questionnaire.
- **Single parent family:** this referred to a house hold headed by one person or a family member and this may be a mother, a father, an aunt, grandparent, an uncle or a brother. It could also be defined operationally to mean children residing in single-parent households or any type of household other than a household in which both biological parents are present.
- **Communication:** this referred to the level of interaction between adolescents and their families.
- **Monitoring:** this referred to the ability to monitor the activities of adolescents.

- **Family organization and disorganization:** this referred to the level of serenity in the homes of the adolescents. It also referred to violence experienced by adolescents in their various homes.
- **Economic factors:** This is an independent variable was measured by a self reported questionnaire. It referred to lifestyle components and measurement of both financial viability and social standing. It directly influences social privilege and levels of financial independence. Factors such as income, education and social environment were studied in terms of how they affect and produce delinquency among adolescents. Socio-Economic Status (SES) was divided into two categories for the purpose of this research; high and low SES:
  - **High socio-economic status:** referred to respondents from rich family backgrounds that reside in a more conducive environment or urban areas, earn higher income with a high level of educational qualification.
  - **Low socio-economic status:** referred to respondents from poor family backgrounds that reside in an unfavorable environment or rural areas, earn lower income with a low level of educational qualification. They are prone to poverty and lack of basic care.
  - **Peer group:** A peer group is a social group and primary group of adolescents who have similar interests and members of this group are likely to influence the beliefs and behaviour of the adolescent. Adolescents between the ages of 8 and 18 begin to confide less in parents and more in peers and are more influenced by those peers by seeking assistance in making decisions about what behaviour to adopt.

**1.7.2 Delinquency:** This is the dependent variable which referred to deviation from the norms set by the society which are manifested through cruelty, bullying, fighting, vandalism, roughness during games, use of foul language, stealing, lying, cheating, examination malpractice, gambling, truancy, drug abuse, noise-making, disobedience, stubbornness, apathy, untidiness, failure to wear correct school uniform, reading of pornographic materials, sexual immorality, mob action,

loitering, and carrying of weapon. However, juvenile offending can be considered a normative adolescent behaviour because most adolescents tend to commit delinquent acts only once or a few times, it is only when such acts are performed repeatedly and violently that it becomes threatening to the society at large (Steinberg, 2008).

This study therefore, considered one to have committed delinquent behaviour if he or she had repeated behaviour more than once.

- **Insignificant delinquent Act:** Insignificant delinquent acts are those delinquent acts committed once or have never been committed by the respondents.
- **Absolute Delinquent Act:** Absolute delinquent acts are multiple delinquent acts committed by the adolescents repetitively ranging from two, three, four, five or more times. This study is more focused on absolute delinquents.
- **Deviance:** Deviance describes an action or behavior that violates social norms, including a formally enacted rule (e.g. crime), as well as informal violations of social norms (e.g. rejecting folkways and mores).

**1.7.2. Secondary School Adolescents:** Male and Female students attending Secondary School (JSS1-SSS3) at selected Secondary Schools (Itapa-Osin Community Comprehensive High School, Itapa; Community High School, Aiyegbaju; Ilupeju High School, Ilupeju; Concentric International School, Oye-Ekiti; Ekiti State Government College, Oye-Ekiti.) in Oye local government between the age range of 12 to 18 years.

## 1.8 The Prevalence of Delinquency

The problem of delinquency is not peculiar to Nigeria alone. Nevertheless, the increase in serious cases of delinquency has been extremely alarming especially in Europe, where nations in Europe recorded an increase in delinquency all through the late Nineteen Nineties and early parts of the 2000s, apparently because of social and economic upheaval and change that was witnessed throughout the continent, has lead to high incidence of delinquency. In Africa, industrialization is taken into consideration as one of the key reasons for the rise in economic-based, nonviolent offenses which are found amongst youth in these areas. However, thriving nations within the Arab world are also reporting increases in delinquency (World Youth Report, 2003).

Statistical records imply that clearly all over the world, with the United State being excepted, noted the increase in the rate adolescents' delinquent behaviour and increase in crime throughout the world during the 1990s. Available records in Western Europe indicates that, incarceration of delinquents and offenders who are below 18 years of age multiplied by 50 percentage between the 1980s and early 1990s. developing countries have also witnessed a drastic upward thrust in number of juvenile delinquents since 1995, juvenile crime levels in many countries in Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth States have extended by more than 30 percent. Some of the criminal offences are associated with drug abuse and excessive alcohol use (World Youth Report, 2003).

The World Youth Report (2003), a complete document describing juvenile delinquency round the world, shows that the range of adolescents in difficult delinquent situations is estimated to have increased from 80 million to 150 million between 1992 and 2000. Even as most might agree that those youths are at multiplied risk of committing delinquent acts.

According to Sickmund and Puzanchera, (2014), the juvenile population is increasing similarly to other segments of the population. In 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that 74,181,500 persons in the United States were under the age of 18, the age group commonly

referred to as juveniles. The juvenile population reached a low point in 1984, at 62.5 million, then grew each year through 2010, increasing 19%. Current projections indicate that the juvenile population will continue to grow throughout the 21st century. The Census Bureau estimates that it will increase 10% between 2010 and 2035 about one-half of one percent per year. By 2050, the juvenile population will be 16% larger than it was in 2010.

In 2010, juveniles were 24% of the U.S. resident population. The Census Bureau estimates that this proportion would decline to 21% by 2050 i.e., the relative increase in the adult population will exceed the increase in the juvenile population during the first half of the 21st century.

In Africa, there is a tendency to attribute to starvation, poverty, malnutrition, family instability and unemployment, which are linked to the marginalization of adolescents in an already disadvantaged society (World Youth Report 2003).

Due to the rapid population increase, adolescents in Africa will soon represent two-thirds of the s population. Each year approximately 790,000 people enter into the labour market, at the same time as the economic system generates fewer than 60,000 jobs. One half of all households in Africa are residing in relatively poor environments. A few number of the urban poor stay in slum and squatter settlements with overcrowded, bad housing and lack of basic services. It is right here that the majority of urban adolescents live. One of the most serious issues is the increase in the number of street children, whose numbers had been developing as a result of wrong government policies and armed conflicts leading to the advent of HIV/AIDS, and the breakdown of a centuries-antique manner of living and social behaviour.

Juvenile crime and delinquency are at the rise, also due to the rapid and dramatic social, political and economic adjustments which have taken place in Africa currently and in the past. The main offences indulged by adolescents are theft, robbery, smuggling, prostitution, the abuse of narcotic materials, and drug trafficking; (World Youth Report 2003).

### **1.8.1 The Extent and Nature of Delinquency among Nigerian Adolescents**

In Nigeria the manifestation of delinquent behaviour is alarming most specially within the secondary schools and has remained a problem which needs to be addressed accurately. A look at a study by Ajake et'al, (2010), showed that there may be an increasing rate of complaint from schools concerning student delinquency. At this level, the social organization like the family and school has a role to play in making sure that the adolescent grows into adults with the norms guiding the society. The level to which parents and other significant adults close to the adolescent within may also predispose kids to indulge in antisocial act has generated a number of issues in our contemporary Nigeria and Oye-Ekiti especially. Accelerated interest should be given to the capacity of individuals and households to efficaciously treat the terrible impact of delinquency.

There is an age jurisdiction or meaning abiding over all those under age 18 in most countries with regards to delinquent acts, status offenses, abuse and neglect from others and against others.

**Some of the incidence of delinquent report in some newspaper shows the following trend:**

**Punch Newspaper, Page 5**

**February 8, 2010**

#### **11-year-old stabs mother to death**

The victim, Yaya, noticed her son with sunglasses and queried him threatening to kill him with a knife. He pounced on her for asking where he got the item from and allegedly grabbed the knife from her and started to stab her.

**Juvenile Delinquency: Junior student stabs senior prefect to death for punishing him**

A Senior Secondary School 2 student of Gaskiya College, Lagos State, Saka Ahmed, popularly known as Ejo (Snake), is on the run after he allegedly stabbed the senior prefect of the school, Saheed Jimoh, to death, because he was punished.

**Son kills father on Christmas Day in Enugu**

A youth, Anselm Ugwuoke, is currently on the run after killing his father, Paulinus Ugwuoke, 60, on Christmas Day, in Enugu by hitting with a heavy object, after a heated argument. The incident occurred in Imilike-Agu, a community in Udenu Local Government Area of Enugu State.

**Peer Pressure, Poor Parenting and Drug Abuse; Compounding Mental Health Problems among Young Nigerians.**

According to a new report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, more than four per cent of the global youth population is using psychotic substances such as cocaine, heroin and marijuana to cope with midlife crises and commit crime.

**1.8.2 Delinquent Behaviour**

Over the years, adolescents have demonstrated their delinquent behaviour in many forms:

- From mentally disturbed to habituated behaviour.
- From striving for recognition to just a way of lifestyles.
- From way of survival to self-indulgent behaviour.
- From individual to vastly prepared behaviour.

- From limited acts to well known deviation.
- From prankish behaviour to intentional harm.
- From the isolated act to continual behaviour.
- From status offenses to criminal law violations.

### 1.8.3 Crime

Crime is from the Latin word “crimen” that means accusation or fault. Crime is a defiance of societal rules of behaviour as stipulated and articulated by using a criminal legal code created by using social and political influence. People who violate those guidelines are subject to sanctions through state authority, social stigma and loss of status occupied in the society (Adegoke, 2015). Crime has come to be a standard social problem in the world threatening life and the society. It has come to be a domestic phrase used interchangeably in many contexts. Different countries and individuals in the society differ in their definition of crime.

According to Durkheim (1897), crime is a product of the society, determined by social circumstances, which can only be controlled only in social context. Crime is therefore a normal product in all societies and a society free from crime would disintegrate.

Despite the fact that the concept of crime does not have a precise definition, some compromise now exist among criminologists that crime must have the following features (Adegoke, 2015):

- Crime must be legally prohibited.
- Have to engender the concern of other people.
- It must be an intentional act and additionally with a criminal purpose.
- The criminal intention need to correspond with the criminal action.
- There must be a causal association among the lawfully forbidden act and the intended act.



#### **1.8.4 Juvenile Justice System**

Juvenile is a term used interchangeably with minor, infant or a younger person. Therefore it is a term used to describe a person who is not yet a grownup. The juvenile justice system is a branch of criminal justice administration charged with the duties of coping with juvenile cases. Offending juveniles are kept in borstal, group domestic homes and different juvenile facilities available. The child is placed under such facility for correction and rehabilitation. It is also crucial for the child to feel love and affection with the aid of the powers (family) controlling him (Cited in CLEEN, 2001).

#### **1.8.5 Criminology**

Criminology is a sub-division of sociology that scientifically studies crime. It focuses on the causes and prevention of crime. It also includes the study of making law, breaking law and the reaction towards the breaking of law. Criminologists also use theories to understand the etiology of crime in the society. Criminologist focus on the four correlates of crime which includes; age, sex, race and social class. It has been argued that some criminal behaviour is common within an age bracket, especially during the youthful age and diminishes as the person grows older. Also some criminal activities vary among the sexes and across race. The social status of an individual also affects the nature and trend of crime in the society.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

#### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter is concerned with the review of related literature and theoretical frameworks on “Correlates of Delinquency among selected Secondary School Students in Oye Local Government in Ekiti State”. The question that readily comes to mind is what factors lead adolescents into committing delinquent behaviour. The primary element that could predispose adolescents’ delinquent behaviour is the family. Certainly the family has a lot of role to play as the number one agent of socialization. Adolescent age is a time of exploring vulnerabilities and possibilities that accompany the widening social lifestyles beyond the school or family; however it starts with the family.

Adolescent age is complex and it is the age in which the children expand questionable adjustments both biologically and psychologically, develop self-esteem both normative and motivational, maintaining their social identities, social integration, sense of right or wrong, orientated to reject the adult models and search their own models which reflects the instable character of adolescents (Kavita, 2013).

Hawkins ET’al., (1998), recognized social, family and individual factors as predictors of teens behaviour. However, this study focuses on relevant literature and theoretical framework on family, peer group and economic factors, how these factors predispose an adolescent into delinquent behaviour. Nevertheless, this is consistent with the aim and objectives of the study.

## **2.2 Review of Literature**

These key studies related to the present study will be reviewed according to the stated objectives.

### **2.2.1 Family Factors of Delinquency**

The family is the bedrock of human society and the most vital agent of socialization. It is in the family that children are first taught to reject unacceptable behaviour, to postpone gratification and to respect the right of others (Adegoke, 2015).

During the past centuries, significant adjustments have occurred within the family. Present day family systems range widely due to the diversification of the modern family. Differing family structures may additionally have an effect on the steadiness of the family, domestic and the functioning of adolescents and teenagers (Adegoke, 2015). Nuclear (traditional) families have strong bond which serves as a restrains youth to conform to the norms of the society compared to the non-conventional families including single-parent, families run via grandparents or different own.

Animasahun, and Aremu (2015), found that there are numerous motives that could be attributed to the change in family structures. One of the reasons according to the researchers is economic pressure. The monetary realities are such that each parent ought to spend ample time outside the house for long hours working. The children are left to themselves or at the mercy of housemaids or relatives who need monitoring themselves. When children grow up, they start to practice many negative behaviours and acts from the people that their parents had enlisted to take care of the children of their absence.

A study by Ojo (2012) is also consistent with the previous research. The researcher listed change in family structure as one of the reasons for delinquency. It was discovered that most of the boys in his study were from dysfunctional families. A few boys who were orphans without guardians, others had single or divorced parents, and some had mother and father with addiction,

starting from alcoholic mother and father' or guardians who couldn't offer desirable parenthood. Fathers of the respondents are either deceased or have been born out of wedlock, and a few were either orphans or by no means knew each their mother and father having been abandoned while young. On educational level, it was established that more young people convicted of one violent act or another, did not go beyond secondary school.

Another study by Adegoke (2015) argued that unstable homes considerably make a contribution to juvenile delinquency among other elements. Conversely, families can teach children aggressive, anti-social, and violent behaviours. Also, children who are rejected by their parents, who grow up in homes with conflicts, or who are inadequately supervised are at the greatest risk of becoming delinquents.

A study carried out in Chingola, Zambia on "Familiar correlates of delinquent behaviour" found that single-parents structure is associated with antisocial behaviour as 75 percentages of absolute delinquents were from single-parent family structures. The findings are an indication that delinquents come from single headed families rather than nuclear family systems. (Nanyangwe, 2013).

The Chingola study findings are in congruent with Fry's (2010) study, which has shown that increase in divorce, single-parent families, and parents involved in active occupation, can increase the likelihood of adolescent delinquency. Single-parent families have become distinctly huge factor when predicting the variant in juvenile violent crime. The finding shows the influence of divorce on violent juvenile crime which supports preceding research showing that single-parent families can lead adolescents into delinquency.

The study is also consistent with Parks' (2013) study on "The Effects of Family Structure on Juvenile Delinquency". The study asserted that the rate delinquency is higher among adolescents from single households compared to adolescents from two-parent households. This

finding is due to the level of social control present in two-parent families, where parents sustain a strong bond and control over their children due the presence of both parents.

Cassidy's (2011), findings on "Family Background and Environment, Psychological Distress, and Juvenile Delinquency" is in contrast with the preceding study. The researcher asserted that the family factors do seem to have an impact on family relations. Single-parent households exhibited same degree of relationship with intact families due to the divorce or death of a mother or father. However the adolescents from single-parent families showed a higher level of psychological distress than the nuclear households.

Schroeder, et al., (2010), findings is consistent with preceding studies. The researchers argued that, family dissolution through divorce or separation is not associated with a significant relationship with delinquent offence. Further, no different distinct pattern of association was found between family structures and adjustments in delinquent acts, type of family, or parental attachment are apparent in their study.

The cause for this can be evident inside the figure-adolescent relationships. Due to the difficult and troublesome nature of the adolescent age, parents often disagree with their children. Some parents sometimes cannot tolerate the unruly behaviour in their adolescent wards, and they engage in one argument or the other. It may also be over the selection of food, friends, style of fashion, career among other choices. The adolescent becomes rebellious to whatever the parents want them to do and if care is not taken, delinquency could arise. The adolescent wants to get back at the parent who is forcing him to do what he does not want to do. Still it could be as a result of having favourites among children. Maybe because of a particular child's brilliance or special endowment, he/she is given special privileges at the expense of the less performing child; the latter may become delinquent in order to protest the lack of warmth in the family (Schroeder, et al., 2010).

Furthermore, Schroeder, et al., (2010), argued that it could be the family type. It is believed that children from broken homes are commonly delinquent. This is not always the case, as studies has proven that even adolescents from intact families do engage in antisocial acts while the children from so called broken homes, are well behaved. What matters are factors inclusive of love, warmth, acceptance, supervision, understanding, which would determine whether the adolescent becomes delinquent or not, though intact households are more preferable for child upbringing.

### **2.2.2 Economic Factors of Delinquency**

Adolescents in the process of transition to adulthood try to adapt to socially authorized means of achieving their dreams through conformity, seeking for jobs and creating employment. However, when these goals become tough to achieve, they are likely to deviate from the norms of the society. This difficulty in change can be because of the level of the economic status of the family together with level of training, living situation, income, which predispose young people to search for adolescents to engage in antisocial behaviours inclusive of robbery, smoking, consuming, truancy, resentment toward the wealthy, or rape and murder in severe instances (kavita, 2013).

The economic reality is such that parents from lower social class are forced to end their children to reside with other family members. Low social economic status households are more likely to grow to be non-traditional families because of the pressure attributed to low income, illiteracy and living conditions.

Ineffective parenting is likewise a predictor of antisocial and unhealthy behaviour in adolescents. The cause is that single parents in paid labour rather than stay at home to take care of their children, is saddled with duty of taking care of the own family all by themselves. The parents engage in paid labour to increase the level of education level and economic independence

in the family. Thus, the parent's or guardian's involvement with the adolescents decreases and thus leads to delinquent behavior (Ekaterina et al., 2012).

Many economic factors have been studied in an attempt to understand the etiology of delinquency. For example, Steketee et al., (2013), argued that the ruling class is a predominant class that encompasses a large proportion of resources, so the subordinate class is unable to struggle against them. As a consequence, adolescents of high class suppress their antisocial beliefs, which lead to less delinquent involvement.

Similarly, Saravi and Makowski (2011) also reported that hatred against the rich may affect the reaction of teachers and low SES students toward the high SES students. On one hand, this could be as a result of the values of teachers and low SES students that have been affected by society; on the other hand, it is because high SES students are seen as coldhearted, arrogant, and insolent. Consequently, these negative attitudes or behaviors posed by high SES students lead them to experience punishments through being labeled by their teachers and other adolescents. This in turn produces delinquent behaviour in adolescents of high SES as a defence mechanism or as a result of constant labeling.

In contrast, Adegoke (2015) reported that poverty significantly contributes to delinquency. This summation is based on various indicators such as poor housing, feeding, and the inability to shoulder financial burden, where adolescents submitted that they were pushed into street hawking by maintenance needs. Also children are forced into delinquency by the need to contribute to family up keep and lack of education that can guarantee gainful employment after school.

Family SES is also related to other factors that causes delinquency. For example, Ling's (2013) study in Hong Kong showed that family SES was positively related to social bonding which may be illustrated by parenting style because family SES is a substitute to determine parenting styles in relation with financial, social, and educational level. Parents with a higher

occupational level will have a higher level of independence to educate their children authoritatively, whereas parents with a lower occupational level educate their children restrictively. Also, lower family SES adolescents receive relatively less warmth from their parents and experience more parental conflicts because of bridge in communication and economic strain.

The research is also consistent with Uçanok's and Gure's (2012) study. The researchers asserted that the low family SES youth have lower social bonding with their parents. According to Wan (2012) lower parental concern resulted from poor relationships between youth and parents, which may lead to the lack of material and emotional support. Consequently, the youth may commit crime to fulfill their physical or emotion needs. In contrast, parental support is able to reduce delinquency because parental support serves as a means to develop social bonds over adolescents. Therefore, parental support is essential to protect adolescents far away from delinquent behavior.

### **2.2.3 Peer Group Influence and Delinquency**

Adolescents' social networks are not adversely influenced by low family SES alone. In fact, emotional support is very important for adolescents. However, low SES adolescent fail to gain support from their families and peers in social institutions such as the education system. Thus, they perceive more alienated feelings. Probably, adolescent tend to be a non-engaged person rather than a delinquent. The alienated adolescent feels powerless and frustrated when they are excluded by others. Thus, they may withdraw from the social network such as truancy to protect themselves (Saravi and Makowski, 2011).

Parents directly influence delinquent behavior in their children through their parenting techniques and the family structure. Effective monitoring and support, as well as consistent punishments are vital to raising a child. When these areas are lacking an adolescent is more likely to turn to delinquent behavior. A parent indirectly influences deviant behavior through a



non-traditional. A non-traditional family holds a greater number of opportunities to take part in delinquent behaviors. Part of a child's community is their school. A parent will teach values to their children that are accepted in school (Carlson, 2010). When these values are not taught, an adolescent's school bond is broken, causing their academic performance to suffer. Without a strong bond to school, an adolescent will begin to associate with delinquent peers. Delinquent friends pressure the adolescent to begin or continue partaking in delinquent actions.

Nisar et al., (2014) argued that adolescents with positive feelings toward their school are less likely to be deviant. When parents do not have a strong bond with their child and do not teach them pro-social values, the adolescent has difficulties in school. These difficulties lead to rejection by conventional peers and they drift into association with delinquent peers. This form of participation in deviance is a direct influence from delinquent peers. Now that the adolescent is relatively unrestrained from the opinions of parents, teachers, and conventional peers, their new delinquent friends encourage and reinforce them to participate in delinquent behaviours. Most of the respondents in this study agreed that they spend most of the time with their friends and also blamed them for their negative personality.

This previous findings is in line with that of Odiase's and Ekechukwu's (2015) study. The researchers found that there is a direct and positive relationship between the delinquent peer association and delinquent behavior. The study also found that Port Harcourt adolescents who associate with delinquent peers have problems in the home, school or neighborhood and are apt to become delinquent or join gangs.

Mukama's (2010) findings showed that peer group influence was not significantly related to delinquency and that the most important influences on adolescents' attitudes come from the most significant adults in these young people's lives, and these are parents and teachers. This implies that parents and teachers influence upon adolescents' may be related to delinquent behaviour.

Farmer (2010) also affirms that peers group relationship can be both positive and negative; He further said that, peer friendships, group interactions and influences are a part of positive development. Young people learn to evaluate themselves through the eyes of their peers, they get feedback on their personal characteristics, they gain social skills and confidence and they learn how to defer personal gratification to group goals. Young people also learn how to make themselves more attractive and interesting to others; they learn to control their aggressive reactions in the interest of fitting with others. And that peers can help develop various social skills, such as leadership, teamwork and empathy.

### 2.3 Theoretical Framework

In the process of explaining delinquent behaviour, many theories have been developed. However, in process of this study, the strain and social control theories was reviewed as it closely relates to the objectives of the study.

Two key theories formed the foundation for this study. They were:

- Social control theory.
- Strain theory.

The social control theory argued that socialization, relationship, commitment, values, and beliefs encourage conformity and self-control (Nye 1958). He identified four types of control:

- **Direct control:** this takes the form of punishment for bad behaviour and reinforcement for a good behaviour by parents, family, or by any other authority involved.
- **Indirect control:** this happens when an individual refrain from bad behaviour by considering the disappointment it would bring to the family and other authority figures who they value.
- **Internal control:** this is when an individual desists from bad behaviour due to the self discipline which is controlled by the superego. It is an individual volition not to indulge in crime.

- **Control through needs satisfaction:** when an individual is not lacking any basic need, they refrain from committing crime.

Crime steams up when the social bond of the family as the primary agent of socialization is broken. Hirschi (2002) related the beginning of delinquency to the breaking of the bond between adolescents and their families. Naturally, adolescents are violators of law but are kept under control because of the fear of being punished or the fear of disappointing their parents who have placed so much trust in them.

The proponents of social control theory for example, Reiss (1951) also argued that the instability in social institutions such as the family, to make norms or values effective is one of the factors causing delinquent behaviour. The inability of families to provide reinforcement was crucial to the explanation of delinquency. Delinquent behaviour is reinforced when parents or constituted authorities fails to punish adolescents in accordance with an offence committed. The delinquent behaviour is reinforced and more likely to be repeated by the adolescent. Reiss (1951) noted that this instability and neglect can be attributed to poverty, discontent with family living conditions and family conflicts which motivates adolescents' delinquent behaviour.

The instability in the family may include death of a parent, divorce, poverty which may instigate a parent to send off their children to live with other family members (aunt, uncle, grandparent, and kinsman). Traditional/nuclear families are more likely to maintain their social bond due to the presence of both father and mother in the life of the adolescent. Consequently, adolescents from non-traditional families are not properly attached to their new family. The relationship bond is weakened or broken when separation occurs. Adolescents, from this background are likely to have complete freedom that would lead them to participate in delinquent activities. It can be speculated that children of single parents may live in poverty and under stress conditions, which are strongly associated with juvenile delinquency (Nanyangwe, 2013).

Strain theory developed by Merton (1938) is one of the oldest theories that explain crime. It has its roots in Durkheim's (1897) theory of anomie (normlessness). The theory posits that crime is as a result of variance between socially approved means of attaining cultural goals (money, status or respect). When people cannot attain these goals they experience pressure or stress and if these goals are not met, people are likely to respond to this strain or pressure through engaging in crime to reduce or escape from the strain or pressure they are experiencing.

Merton's (1938) strain theory begins with the examination of wealth as the widespread goal and the society does not provide enough opportunity to achieve wealth. However, success is gained through hard work. Merton (1938) asserted that conformity is the most widely spread and most common form of adjustment; this is evident since the society is unchanging.

Agnew (1999) categorized two general factors that contribute to crime:

- When others prevent you with achieving your goals,
- When others deprive you of noxious valued stimuli.

In relation to delinquency, Adolescents are socialized to the goals of society, and to abide by the rules, the norms, values, beliefs, is acting in compliance to the societal goals and means of achieving success goals. The adolescents most likely to conform are those from wealthy families, who act in accordance with culturally approved goals and have legal or institutionalized means for accomplishing those goals (money, respect, status) Merton, 1938.

These norms constrain adolescents from breaking the rules and regulations of the society. However, an adolescent is most likely to neglect these socially approved means of attaining success when faced with poverty, poor living conditions, low level of education, etc. Adolescents engage in income-generating crime because they want to get money but cannot easily get it in any other means. Delinquent behaviour is more common among adolescents who are dissatisfied with their monetary or living situation and this is also common with adolescents from lower class and even those from upper social class who still want to get more money.

Adolescents who engage in income-generating crime do it to gain autonomy from an adult, which is ability of adolescents to make decisions without the consent of adults (parents, teachers, older siblings). The denial of this autonomy from adults causes strain which may result in delinquent behaviour which ranges from; stealing money to gain financial independence, engaging in sexual intercourse to show maturity, becoming aggressive towards adults, engaging in violence to end harassment from others, running away to escape from abusive parents, selling of drugs, prostitution, engaging in delinquent subculture like peer groups or gang who offer them the autonomy they desire.

Rather than focusing on the economic structure as the major cause of strain, Messner and Rosenfeld (1994) reformulated Merton's idea. They focus on how the various institutions (i.e.; religion, education, family and the polity) lose their ability to control and regulate the behaviour of adolescents. Family through its structure primarily supports the quest for material success. Social institutions such as the family are responsible for inculcating values and norms in adolescents. When these norms, values and beliefs weaken, strain or pressure ensues, thus leading to delinquent behaviour. Adolescents from non-traditional and lower class families are more likely than adolescents from nuclear families to respond to strain which results as a of lack of social control and adaptive mechanism for survival due to the absence of approved means of obtaining a goal or absence from both parents.

Adolescents who are not committed to the norms and values of the society are potential candidates for gang socialization (Toby 1957). The family as an agent of social control has failed to purnish behaviours contrary to socially approved means of achieving goals. Through the encouragement of income-generating crimes, delinquent behaviour will be reinforced and become more chronic with the involvement with other delinquent peers.

Reinforcement can be either positive or negative. Positive reinforcement motivates adolescents to commit delinquent acts like taking drugs for the pleasure, to gain approval from

friends, lack of parental supervision. While negative reinforcement encourages delinquent behaviour, this could be as a result to labeling and strong peer influence.

Reckless (1951), contributed to social control theory based on push and pull factors that predisposes adolescents to crime, and the most effective way to control these factors is through containment. The push factors include; dissatisfaction from living condition, family disintegration, aggressiveness, frustration and the pull factors include; delinquent peers and delinquent subcultures. An adolescent is constrained by the bond he/she has with conventional institution like the family. However, if that constraint is lacking, adolescents become free to break the rules and engage in delinquent behaviour and they are not deterred by the punishment meted out on them and with the involvement of gang socialization, such behaviours becomes chronic.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This section describes the method and sources of data that will be used in the research work. It includes the population, sample size, technique, data collection and data analyses technique. Methodology is defined as the process and procedure used in carrying out a research study.

##### **3.1.1 Historical Background of Oye**

Oye is one of the 16 kingdoms of Ekiti land. Oye people are a group of the south-western Yoruba, inhabiting the administrative headquarters' of the present Oye Local Government area of Ekiti State. Oye is the Headquarter of Oye Local Government Area in Ekiti State, Nigeria. Oye Local Government Area was carved out of the defunct Ekiti North Local Government on 17th May, 1989.

Oye Local Government is bounded by Ilejemeje Local Government to the North, Irepodun/Ifelodun to the South, Ikole local Government to the East and Ido/Osi Local Government to the West.

It comprises the following towns and villages: Oye Ekiti, Ilupeju Ekiti, Ayegbaju Ekiti, Ire Ekiti, Itapa Ekiti, Osin Ekiti, Ayede Ekiti, Itaji Ekiti, Imojo Ekiti, Ilafon Ekiti, Isan Ekiti, Ilemeso Ekiti, Omu Ekiti, Ijelu Ekiti, Oloje Ekiti and a host of others.

There are no distinctive ethnic groups in the Local Government as a greater percentage of the people residents are of the Yoruba Language race. Nearly all the people speak Yoruba Language with negligible dialectical variations. (Wikipedia)

The population of Oye- Ekiti according to the 1952 national census was 13,696, (National Archive, Ibadan), 57,196 in 1963 and in 2006 the population was 168,251 (National

Population Commission 2006). Oye-Ekiti is located at a general altitude around 1500 feet with hills and granite outcrops rising to about 200 feet. It is covered by thick forest with very small patches of high forest and is surrounded by hills which provide her protection in times of war. In fact, the hills were a blessing to the people especially during the Benin invasion in the 19th century (Akinyoye 1921).

The origin of Oye Ekiti which is also known as Obalatan land is associated with the founder of the town, Oloyemoyin who was born in Imore district of Ile Ife (Owoyomi 1995). Thus, the name Oye was coined from his name 'Oloyemoyin', a name supposedly put together because of the circumstances surrounding the birth of the founder of Oye who was said to have been born during a terrible and 'hostile' harmattan which normally blows from the Sahara desert over and across North African countries and to all parts of Nigeria. And to preserve his life, he was kept in a dark room with female deity called 'Obalatan' for an unspecified period of time. Thus, he was observed as a wonderful prince whose birth had been accompanied by a horrible harmattan, while, traditional lamps were lit and arranged in the room both day and night to keep the room warm, coupled with the harmattan was the attendant dryness of his mother's breast so much that she could not breast feed him and rather he was fed with honey in place of breast milk. This is why he was named Oloyemoyin, meaning a harbinger of harmattan who fed on honey and this is express in the cognomen to the child and by extension all autochthons of Oye as; Omo Oloye, Omo ora ufe ketaana Osan gangan, meaning that Oloye is an aboriginal son of Ile-Ife who always put on light during the day (Onipede, 1995).

Farming is the major occupation, with cocoa as the cash crop. The food crops include yam, maize, rice, plantain, banana, cocoyam, cassava and pepper. Majority of Oye indigenes are Christians, but Islam is also represented. There is also a sizeable number of custodian and devotees of various deities and traditional religions such as Sango (the god of thunder), Ogun (the god of iron), Yemoja (the goddess of the river), Eborá (the god of the dead) and Eye/Oro-



Ode (the god of harmattan), which is the course of the most important festival in Oye-Ekiti. A variety of tourist attractions, most of which have to be modernized, also abound around Oye-Ekiti.

### **3.2 Research Design**

Research design is a generic term used to describe a number of decisions which a researcher needs to take in relation to collection of data in the process of investigation (Nwana, 1981). It makes provision for the necessary steps which direct the researcher in solving the research problem and this varies depending on the nature and scope of the research.

A cross-sectional design was adopted in the process of this research. This method is less time consuming and relatively cheap.

### **3.3 Population of the Study**

Population means, all the people that fit a certain specification of the research. The population of study included selected students drawn from five (5) secondary schools through random sampling and geographic proximity.

The villages/towns of study population include: Ayegbaju, Oye-Ekiti, Ilupeju and Itapa.

### **3.4 Sample Size/Sampling Technique**

Sample is a segment of a population chosen for the study and sample size is the method used in selecting the samples from the population. A sample size of two hundred (200) JSS1-SSS3 students were selected from the following schools with forty [40 (2.7%)] students from each school: Itapa-Osin Community Comprehensive High School, Itapa; Community High School, Aiyegbaju; Ilupeju High School, Ilupeju; Ekiti State Government College, Oye-Ekiti; Concentric International School, Oye-Ekiti. The choice of the five schools is purely based on geographical proximity.

Purposive and snow balling sampling technique were used as 2.7% of the study population represented each selected school. This technique is essential in the study due to its benefit as it allowed the research to use prior knowledge in selecting the respondents. However, it is not rigorous and time consuming in its approach.

The sample was selected using the following inclusion and exclusion criteria:

#### **3.4.1 Inclusion**

Adolescents between the age bracket of 12 and 18 years in JSS1-SSS3.

#### **3.4.2 Exclusion**

Adolescents in JSS1-SSS3 who fall below the age of 10 years and above 18 years were excluded from the study.

### **3.5 Data Collection Instrument**

The instrument of data collection was through standard questionnaire. This was drawn by the researcher with the help of the Supervisor. The questionnaire was divided into four sections with each addressing issues on demographic characteristics, family factors, economic factors, and peer/adolescents activities in relation to the delinquent behaviour of the adolescents. The questionnaire was then administered on the respondents.

### **3.6 Data collection Procedure**

Access was gotten to the selected secondary schools through an introductory letter from the Department of Sociology, Federal University Oye-Ekiti and permission from the Principals and Teachers of the selected schools. With this permission, consent of adolescents from 12 years and 18 years in JSS1-SSS3 was sought. Questionnaire was administered to the consenting adolescents by the researcher. However, confidentiality was maintained by not assigning names to participants but with the use of random numbers.

### **3.7 Data Analysis**

Data collected was coded for easy quantitative analysis. Descriptive statistical techniques like simple tables, frequency tables and charts were used to analyse the frequencies of delinquent behaviours. Testing of the three stated hypotheses was done using independent T-test and this study generally involved the use of descriptive analysis. All levels of analyses was done using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

### **3.8 Ethical Considerations**

Informed consent was sought from the school authorities and the adolescents. The researcher was aware of the social and emotional needs of the respondents and also their intellectual capacities. The identities of the respondents were not divulged and the information provided was used strictly for the purpose of this research. However, the purpose of this research was explicitly explained to the students.

### **3.9 Limitations of the Study**

The study has notable limitations just like other previous studies which are worth considering when making interpretations and designing policy.

- The first limitation stems from the theoretical framework of the study rooted in strain and social control theories. The theory's belief that strain resulting from poverty, frustration and lack of social bonding or attachment are major factors that cause delinquent behaviour among adolescents. The limitation of these theories is that it neglect, biological characteristics and other socialization agents like religion, and communities as determinants of delinquent behaviour among adolescents.
- The second limitation is based on the fact that the study is dependent on self reporting, were both dependent and independent variables were reported by the adolescents. Consequently, respondents might not have been truthful or did not recall past events

which could affect this research findings. Also self reporting might have prompted respondents to respond in desirable manner rather than honest and consistent manner which might reduce the validity in the findings.

- The researcher cannot generalize the result of this study beyond Oye Local Government.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

#### 4.1. Introduction

This chapter aims at examining the “Correlates of Delinquency among selected Secondary School Students in Oye Local Government Ekiti State”. This chapter is concerned with the presentation and analysis of data gathered through the use of questionnaire distributed to the respondents. The data was contained in two hundred (200) completed copies of the questionnaire retrieved from the respondents out of 200 copies of the questionnaire distributed.

##### 4.1.1 Demographic Variables of Respondents

The result of the analysis, at univariate level and bivariate level are shown. The Socio-demographic characteristics include; Age, sex, Name of school, etc.

**Table 1: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Age, sex, name of school of respondents**

Variables	Frequency	Percent (%)
<b>Age Groups</b>		
10-12	34	17.0
13-15	91	45.5
16-18	75	37.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	115	57.5
Female	85	42.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Name of School</b>		
CIS	40	20
ESGC	40	20
CHS	40	20
IOCCHS	40	20
HIS	40	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Author's field work 2016*

The data presented in table 1 above revealed that 17.0% of the respondents belong to the age group 10-12, 45.5% of them belong to the age group 13-15 and 37.5% belonged to the age group 16-18 years bracket. This supports the definition by Shoemaker that delinquency is defined as “illegal acts, whether criminal or status offences, which are committed by youth under the age of 18” (Shoemaker 2010). This study recorded 57.5% male and 42.5% female. This shows that there are more male than female students in the schools and the male respondents are likely to show a higher rate of delinquent behaviour compared to their female counterparts. All the respondents were equally represented in the five selected schools with 40 (20%) students from each school. The respondents from the private school 40 (20%) students are likely to record less involvement in delinquent acts; this might be as a result of parental control, supervision, high salary income, which is necessary for adolescents in transition to adulthood.

#### **4.1.2 Family Factors and Delinquency**

**Q. 1:** The first research question ‘*To what extent does familial factor influence adolescents’ delinquent behaviour?*’ are presented in the table below which shows the summary of the frequencies and percentiles of each family factor which affects adolescents delinquent behaviour.

**Table 2: Table showing the Percentage Distribution of parents' level of education, type of family, marital status, level of parents' supervision, punishment related to the respondents family.**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent(%)</b>
<b>Parents' level of Education</b>		
Attended Primary Sch.	11	5.5
Completed Primary Sch.	20	10.0
Attended Secondary Sch.	14	7.0
Completed Sec. Sch.	46	23.0
Completed Tertiary Educ.	15	7.5
Attended Adult Educ.	83	41.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Type of family</b>		
Nuclear	158	79.0
Extended	42	21.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Married	150	75.0
Single-parent family	50	25.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>How often do your parents' supervise your activities?</b>		
Never	27	13.5
at least once each day	91	45.5
at least once each week	12	6.0
at least once in a month	34	17.0
more than once in a month	36	18.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>In what way do you get punished for any offenses committed?</b>		
Warned verbally	126	63.0
Locked up in house	13	6.5
Hit with an object	29	14.5
Prevented from visiting friends	31	15.5
Others	1	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Author's field work*

The data on the table above showed that 5.5% of the respondents' parents attended primary school, 10.0% completed primary school, 7.0% attended secondary school, 23.0% completed secondary school, 7.5% completed tertiary education and 41.0% attended adult education as shown in table 2. The table also showed that 79.0% of respondents grew up in a nuclear family, while 21.0% grew up in the extended family.

Most of the respondents, (75.0%) are from households where the families are currently married, while 25.0% of the respondents belong to single parents, due to death of father, mother, or both in some cases.

However, the table showed that 8.0% of the respondents attest that their parents' or guardian behaviors to them is harsh, 48% agreed that their parents are caring, 35% loving and 9% are indifferent.

On supervision, 13.5% of the respondent agreed that their parents never monitored their activities, 45.5% agreed that their parents only monitored their activities at least in a day, 6.0% at least once in a week, 17.0% of the respondents were monitored at least once in a month and 18% of the respondents parents checked their activities more than once in a month.

The level of punishment whether high or low also determines the level of absolute and insignificant delinquent behaviour as 63% of the respondents get warned verbally when they commit any offenses, 6.5% get locked up in the house, 14.4% get hit with an object, 0.5% get prevented from visiting their friends.



### 4.1.3 Economic Factors and Delinquent Behaviour

**Q.2:** The data presented in table 2 below answered the second research question 'To what extent does economic factor influence delinquent behaviour among secondary school adolescents?'

**Table 2: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Parents Social Class, occupation, monthly income, expenses, and influence of poverty on respondents.**

Social Class	Frequency	Percent
Upper Class	10	5.0
Middle Class	136	68.0
Lower Class	54	27.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Parents' occupation</b>		
Unemployed	9	4.5
Trader	53	26.5
Public Servant	92	46.0
Farmer	46	23.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>father monthly income</b>		
below 18000	25	12.5
19,000-30,000	23	11.5
31,000-50000	25	12.5
above 50000	41	20.5
no response	86	43.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Mother's monthly income</b>		
below 18000	37	18.5
19,000-30,000	37	18.5
31,000-50000	26	13.0
above 50000	20	10.0
no response	80	40.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Guardian monthly income</b>		
below 18000	6	3.0
19,000-30,000	14	7.0
31,000-50000	2	1.0
above 50000	2	1.0
no response	176	88.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Do your parents' income match with family expenses</b>		
Yes	118	59.0
No	82	41.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Can poverty make you engage in delinquent behavior?</b>		
Yes	62	31.0
No	138	69.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Author's field work, 2016*

On the occupation of respondent's parents, 1.0% of the respondent's parents are unemployed, 26.5% are traders, 46% worked as both Public and Private Workers, 23% are Farmers who survive on their agricultural products, and 3.5% belonged to other categories of occupation. The income level also varies from fathers, mothers and guardians. For the monthly income, 12.5% of respondents fathers received below 18,000 naira a month, 11.5% receive 19,000-30,000 naira per month, 12.5% received above 50,000 naira per month. 18.5% respondents' mothers received below 18,000 naira per month, 13.0% received 31,000-5000 naira per month while 1% of the respondents' guardian received above 50,000 naira per month.

Also 59.0% of the respondents attest that their parents' or guardian income match the family expenses, while 82% agreed that their parents' income do not match with the family expenses, 31% of the respondents agreed that poverty makes them engage in delinquent behavior, while 69% do not agree.

#### 4.1.4 Peer Group Influence and Delinquency.

**Q.3:** The third research question 'to what extent does a peer group influence adolescents' delinquent behaviour?' data is presented in the table 3 below which provides answers to the question.

**Table 3: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Friends' influence of decision, the type of decision influenced, parental control and reason for the reaction of the respondents.**

Variables	Frequency	(%)
<b>How often do you see your friends in a day?</b>		
Never	53	26.5
Several times	83	41.5
More than one time	37	18.5
One time	27	13.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Do your friends influence your decisions?</b>		
Yes	138	69.0
No	62	31.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>What type of decision has been influenced by your friends?</b>		
good decisions	40	20.0
fair decisions	30	15.0
poor decisions	32	16.0
no response	98	49.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Do you feel angry when your parent influence your decision?</b>		
Yes	80	40.0
No	120	60.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>why do u feel angry when your parents influence your decision?</b>		
to gain autonomy	63	31.5
rebel against foster parents	3	1.5
no response	134	67.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Have you ever been arrested</b>		
Yes	28	4.0
No	172	6.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Author's field work*

The table above revealed that 26.5% of the respondents agreed that their friends never influence their decisions, 41.5% agreed their decisions are being influenced by friends several

times, 18.5% more than one time and 13.5% one time which is insignificant in this study, 20.0% of the respondents friends influence their decisions in a positive way, while 31% were influenced negatively.

The table also showed the respondents' attitudes towards parental control, as 40% of the respondents were angry that their parents influence their decisions while 60% of the respondents were comfortable with their parents influencing their decision.

The reason why 31.5% respondents were angry with their parents influencing their decision is because they want to gain autonomy while 1.5% rebel against control by non-biological parents. 14.0% of the respondents have been arrested over delinquent behaviors, while 86% have never been arrested.

#### 4.1.5 Delinquent Behaviour

Since absolute delinquency was measured as multiple occurrence of a delinquent behaviour, an examination of the 23 variables of delinquency was first done to have a profile of each variable.

**Table 4: Delinquents Acts Committed by Respondents**

Delinquent acts	Frequency					
	0	1	2	3	4	5
Bullying	75	29	5	12	8	71
Fighting	61	35	21	8	5	70
Stealing	109	21	8	8	7	47
Drug/substance abuse	129	15	15	6	8	27
Disobedience	83	24	8	12	5	65
Stubbornness	77	22	16	7	7	69
Untidiness	120	22	10	5	5	36
Sexual immorality	130	21	10	10	8	19
Cheating	108	27	12	10	11	31
Examination malpractice	108	29	11	6	10	34
Gambling	116	27	10	9	9	28
Roughness during games	101	36	10	6	2	44
Absenteeism from school	112	18	10	4	5	49
Rudeness towards teachers	133	9	7	7	3	40
Running away from home	134	22	17	15	3	8
Use of foul language	37	19	2	4	4	133
Hawking on the street	159	7	12	1	3	17
Destruction of property	138	15	11	7	8	20
Cruelty	122	15	7	8	13	34
Watching/ Reading pornographic materials	103	21	11	11	13	40
Mob action	134	17	8	4	15	21
Loitering	122	14	12	8	13	30
Carrying of dangerous weapon	151	11	6	15	4	12

*Source: Author's field work*

**Table 5: Percentage Distribution of Respondents Delinquent acts like bullying, stealing, fighting, drug abuse, examination malpractice and gambling.**

Delinquent acts	Never	Once	Two Times	Three Times	Four times	Five times and Above	Total
Bullying	75 (37.5%)	29 (14.5%)	5 (2.5%)	12 (6.0%)	8 (4.0%)	71 (35.5%)	200 100
Stealing	109 (54.5%)	21 (10.5%)	8 (4.0%)	8 (4.0%)	7 (3.5%)	47 (23.5%)	200 100
Fighting	61 (30.5%)	35 (17.5%)	21 (10.5%)	8 (4.0%)	5 (2.5%)	70 (35.0%)	200 100
Drug use	129 (64.5%)	15 (7.5%)	12 (6.0%)	6 (3.0%)	8 (4.0%)	27 (13.5%)	200 100
Examination malpractice	108 (54.0%)	30 (15.0%)	11 (5.5%)	6 (3.0%)	10 (5.0%)	35 (17.5%)	200 100
Gambling	116 (58.0%)	28 (14.0%)	10 (5.0%)	9 (4.5%)	9 4.5	28 (14.0%)	200 100

*Source: Author's Construct, 2016*

The table above revealed that 37.5% of the respondents never engage in bullying, 14.5% have engaged once, 2.5% twice, 6.0% three times, 4.0% four times, and 35.5% engaged in bullying five times above. 54.5% of the respondents never engage in stealing, 10.5% have engaged once, 4.0% twice, 4.0% three times, 3.5% four times, and 23.5% engaged in stealing five times above.

30.5% of the respondents never engage in fighting, 17.5% have engaged once, 10.5% twice, 4.0% three times, 2.5% four times, and 35.0% engaged in fighting five times above.

64.5% of the respondents never engage in drug use, 7.5% have engaged once, 7.5% twice, 3.0% three times, 4.0% four times, and 13.5% engaged in drug use five times above. 58.0% of the respondents never engage in gambling, 14.0% have engaged once, 5.0% twice, 4.5% three times, 4.5% four times, and 14.0% engaged in gambling five times above. The respondents who never committed these delinquent acts or committed it once are recorded as insignificant while those who committed these delinquent more than once are recorded as absolute deviants.

#### 4.1.6 Bivariate Analysis

##### 4.6.1 Hypothesis I:

The hypothesis 'there will be no significant relationship between familial factors and delinquent behaviour' was tested at  $p < 0.05$  to see whether an association existed.

Some of the delinquent acts were tested with the family structure to find out the percentages of insignificant delinquents (delinquent acts committed once) and absolute (delinquent acts committed more than once) delinquents in married and single-parent families in table 6 below.

**Table 6: Frequency of Insignificant and Absolute Delinquent Acts by Family Factors.**

Delinquent Acts	Married (n=150)		Single-Parent Family (n=50)	
	Insg.dq.	Abs.dq.	Insg.dq.	Abs.dq.
Bullying	61.7%	38.3%	32.8%	67.2%
Fighting	54.9%	45.1%	34.3%	65.7%
Stealing	76.7%	23.3%	41.8%	58.2%
Examination malpractice	81.2%	18.8%	45.5%	54.5%
Cheating	77.4%	22.6%	49.3%	50.7%
Mob action	83.5%	16.5%	61.2%	38.8%
Gambling	82.0%	18.0%	52.2%	47.8%
Running away from home	86.5%	13.5%	62.7%	37.3%
Destruction of property	87.2%	12.8%	56.7%	43.3%

*Source: Author's field work, 2016*

**Key:** *insg.dq.*=insignificant delinquents, *Abs.dq.*=Absolute delinquents.

Table 6 revealed that for the variable bullying, 61.7% of respondents from married parents were insignificant deviants while 38.3% were absolute deviants. For the same variable, 32.8% of respondents from single-parent households were insignificant deviants while 67.2% were absolute deviants.

Fighting showed 54.9% and 45.1% insignificant and absolute deviance respectively from respondents with married parents while single-parent family structure recorded 34.3% and 65.7% insignificant and absolute deviance respectively.

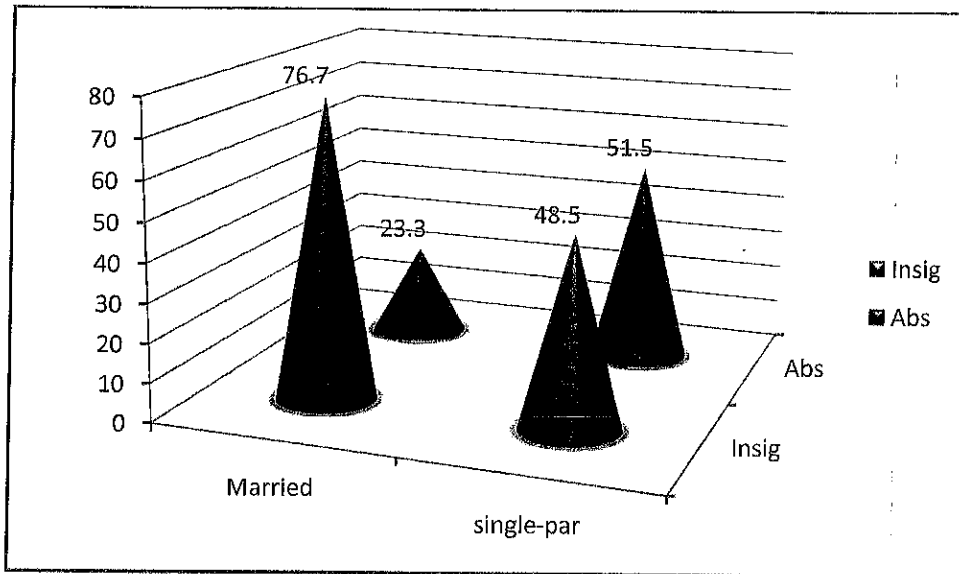
It was noted that 76.7% of participants from married family structure had engaged in stealing up to 1 time while 23.3% of participants from married family structure had engaged in stealing more than one times. For the same variable 41.8% recorded insignificant deviance and 58.2% were absolute deviants from single-parent headed homes.

Examination malpractice indicated 81.2% in significant deviance and 18.8% absolute deviance from married parents headed homes, while from single parents headed homes 45.5% were insignificant deviants and 54.5% were absolute deviants.

Destruction of property was another variable that was investigated and results showed that 87 percent of respondents from married parent's household were insignificant deviants and 12.8% were absolute deviants whereas, 56.7% from single-parents headed homes were insignificant deviants while 43.3% were absolute deviants.

However an association test was performed on family factors and delinquents acts in order to make a general conclusion on the relationship between the variables. Out of 150 respondents from married households 76.7% were insignificant delinquents while 23.3% were absolute delinquents whereas out of the 50 respondents from single parent household, 48.5% were insignificant delinquents while 51.5% were absolute delinquents as shown in figure 1 below.





Source: Author's field work

Figure 1: family factors and category of delinquents.

Table 7: Association of Family Factors and Adolescents' Delinquent Behaviour

Delinquent acts	Type of household	N	X <sup>2</sup>	Std.dev	Df	t <sup>value</sup>	P-val Sig.level
Bullying	Married	150	1.367	.484	198	-6.012	.000
	Single	50	1.820	.389	103.694	-6.705	
Fighting	Married	150	1.447	.499	198	-3.699	.000
	Single	50	1.740	.443	93.649	-3.925	
Stealing	Married	150	1.233	.424	198	-6.581	.000
	Single	50	1.700	.463	78.279	-6.300	
Examination malpractice	Married	150	1.187	.391	198	-7.169	.000
	Single	50	1.674	.473	70.600	-6.505	
Cheating	Married	150	1.220	.416	198	-5.627	.000
	Single	50	1.620	.490	73.891	-5.181	
Mob action	Married	150	1.147	.355	198	-5.754	.000
	Single	50	1.520	.505	65.903	-4.847	
Gambling	Married	150	1.173	.378	198	-6.353	.000
	Single	50	1.600	.495	69.252	-5.574	
Running away from home	Married	150	1.153	.362	198	-3.789	.000
	Single	50	1.400	.495	67.283	-3.248	
Destruction of property	Married	150	1.113	.318	198	-7.703	.000
	Single	50	1.580	.499	62.816	-6.211	

Source: Author's field work, 2016

The independent t-test scores from the above table revealed that the association between family factors such as family structures and some deviant behaviours: bullying, fighting, stealing, examination malpractice, cheating, mob actions, gambling, running away from home

and destruction of properties were found to be statistically significant ( $P < 0.05$ ). The significant relationship is an indication that the null hypothesis has been rejected.

*Hypothesis II: there will be no relationship between economic factors and adolescents' delinquent behaviour.*

**Table 8: Frequency of Insignificant and Absolute Delinquent Acts by Economic Factors.**

Delinquent Acts	What social class do your parent belong to?			
	Rich (n=10) %		Poor (n=150) %	
	Insg.dq	Abs.dq.	Insg.dq	Abs.dq.
Gambling	100%	0%	70.5%	29.5%
Sexual immorality	100%	0%	75.1%	24.9%
Disobedience	80.0%	20.0%	52.1%	47.9%
Stealing	80.0%	20.0%	64.2%	35.8%
Rudeness to teachers	100%	0%	70.0%	30.0%
Fighting	70.0%	30.0%	46.8%	53.2%
Running away from home	90.0%	10.0%	77.9%	22.1%
Absenteeism	90.0%	10.0%	64.0%	36.0%

*Source: Author's field work, 2016*

Table 4.3 revealed that for the variable gambling, 100% of respondents from upper social class were insignificant deviants while 0% were absolute deviants. For the same variable, 70.5% of respondents from poor class were insignificant deviants while 29.5% were absolute deviants.

Sexual immorality showed 100% and 0% insignificant and absolute delinquents respectively from respondents' rich family background and lower social class recorded 75.1% and 24.9% insignificant and absolute delinquents respectively.

It was noted that 80% of participants from upper social class engaged in stealing up to 1 time while 20% of participants from rich class social class had engaged in stealing more than one times. For the same variable 64.2% recorded insignificant deviance and 35.8% were absolute deviants from poor social.

Rudeness to teacher indicated 100% in significant deviance and 0% absolute deviance from respondents whose parents belonged to the upper social class, and from the respondents whose parents belonged to the poor social class 70.0% were insignificant deviants and 30.0% were absolute deviant.

Absenteeism from school was another variable that was investigated and results showed that 90.0% of respondents from parent's who belonged to the upper social class were insignificant deviants and 10.0% were absolute deviants whereas, 64.0% from parents who belonged to the middle social class were insignificant deviants while 36.0% were absolute deviants who do not attend school regularly.

**Table 9: Association of Economic Factors and Adolescents' Delinquent Behaviour**

Delinquent acts	Parents' social class	N	X <sup>2</sup>	Std.dev	Df	t <sup>value</sup>	P-val Sig.level
Gambling	Rich	10	1.000	.000	198	-2.034	.000
	Poor	190	1.295	.457	189.000	-8.887	
Sexual immorality	Rich	10	1.000	.000	197	-1.810	.000
	Poor	190	1.249	.433	188.000	-7.888	
Disobedience	Rich	10	1.200	.422	198	-1.728	.000
	Poor	190	1.479	.501	10.384	-2.018	
Stealing	Rich	10	1.200	.422	198	-1.018	.003
	Poor	190	1.358	.481	10.271	-1.146	
Rudeness towards teachers	Rich	10	1.000	.000	198	-2.060	.000
	Poor	190	1.300	.459	189.000	-9.000	
Fighting	Rich	10	1.300	.483	198	-1.429	.000
	Poor	190	1.532	.500	10.044	-1.475	
Running away from home	Rich	10	1.100	.316	198	-.906	.031
	Poor	190	1.221	.416	10.710	-1.159	
Absenteeism	Rich	10	1.100	.316	197	-1.686	.000
	Poor	190	1.359	.481	11.332	-2.452	

*Source: Author's field work, 2016*

The t-test scores from the above table revealed that the association between economic factors and some deviant behaviours: gambling, sexual immorality, disobedience, stealing, rudeness towards teachers, fighting, running away from home and absenteeism were found to be

statistically significant ( $P < .05$ ). The significant relationship is an indication that the null hypothesis be rejected as adolescents who came from lower social class showed absolute delinquent act compared to those adolescents from upper and middle classes.

**Hypothesis III: There will be no relationship between peer pressure and adolescents' delinquent behaviour**

Table 10: Frequency of Insignificant and Absolute Delinquent Acts by Peer Group influence. Delinquent Acts	Do your friends influence your decisions?			
	Yes(n=138) %		No(n=62) %	
	Insg.dq	Abs.dq	Insg.dq	Abs.dq
Drug/substance abuse	67.4	32.6	82.3	17.7
Disobedience	52.2	47.8	57.4	42.6
Fighting	44.9	55.1	54.8	45.2
Gambling	69.6	30.4	77.4	22.6
Stealing	60.1	39.9	75.8	24.2
Sexual immorality	72.3	27.7	85.5	23.6
Running away from home	71.7	28.3	93.5	6.5
Mob action	74.6	25.4	79.0	21.0

**Source: Author's field work, 2016**

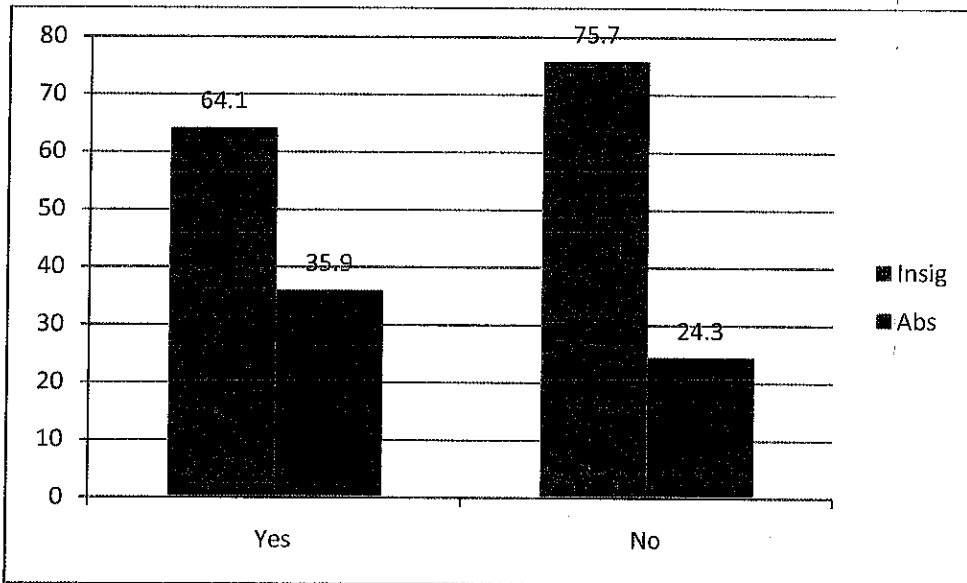
Table 10 revealed that for the variable drug/substance use, 67.4% of respondents whose friends influence their decisions were insignificant deviants while 32.6% were absolute deviants. For the same variable, 82.3% of respondents whose friends do not influence their decisions were insignificant deviants while 17.7% were absolute deviants.

Disobedience showed 52.2% and 47.8% insignificant and absolute deviance respectively from respondents whose friends influence their decision, and respondents whose friends do not influence their decision recorded 57.4% and 42.6% insignificant and absolute deviance respectively.

Fighting indicated 45% in significant deviance and 55% absolute deviance from respondents whose friends influence their decision while from respondents whose friends do not influence their decision 54.8% were insignificant deviants and 45.2% were absolute deviants.

Sexual immorality was another variable that was investigated and results showed that 72 percent of respondents whose friends influence their decision were insignificant deviants and 28% were absolute deviants whereas, 85.5% of respondents whose friends do not influence their decision were insignificant deviants while 23.6% were absolute deviants.

However an association test was performed on peer group influence and delinquents acts in order to make a general conclusion on the relationship between the variables. Out of 138 respondents that agreed that their friends influenced their decisions, 64.1 % were insignificant delinquents while 35.9% were absolute delinquents whereas out of the 62 respondents who do not agree that their friends influenced their decisions, 75.7% were insignificant delinquents while 24.3% were absolute delinquents as shown in figure 2 below.



*Source: Author's field work*

*Figure 2: peer influence and level of delinquent acts*

**Table 11: Association of Peer Group Influence and Adolescents' Delinquent Behaviour**

Delinquent acts	do your friends influence your decisions	N	X <sup>2</sup>	Std.dev	Df	t <sup>value</sup>	P-val Sig.level
Drug/substance abuse	Yes	138	1.161	.371	198	-2.534	.000
	No	62	1.333	.473	147.689	-2.776	
Disobedience	Yes	138	1.371	.487	198	-1.792	.002
	No	62	1.507	.502	120.823	-1.813	
Stealing	Yes	138	1.403	.495	198	-2.232	.502
	No	62	1.572	.497	117.986	-2.235	
Gambling	Yes	138	1.129	.338	198	-3.255	.000
	No	62	1.349	.478	161.746	-3.699	
Fighting	Yes	138	1.145	.356	198	-4.230	.000
	No	62	1.442	.498	160.703	-4.794	
Sexual immorality	Yes	138	1.997	.299	197	-3.178	.000
	No	62	1.299	.460	173.043	-3.713	
Running away from home	Yes	138	1.081	.275	198	-3.161	.000
	No	62	1.275	.448	179.818	-3.767	
Mob action	Yes	138	1.194	.398	198	-1.029	.031
	No	62	1.261	.441	129.160	-1.069	

*Source: Author's field work, 2016*

The independent T-test scores from the above table revealed that the association between peer group influence and some deviant behaviours: drug or substance use, sexual immorality, disobedience, fighting, gambling and mob action and running away from home were found to be statistically significant ( $P < 0.05$ ), while stealing, was not statistically significant ( $P > 0.05$ ).

#### 4.2 Discussions of Major Findings

##### ► Decision Rule for testing the study hypotheses

This finding is supported by the rule which states that when P-value is  $> 0.05$ , then we can say that there is no significant relationship between the variables and not statistically significant, therefore the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) will be accepted and when the p-value is  $< 0.05$ , we can conclude that there is a significant relationship and the null hypothesis will be rejected and the alternate ( $H_1$ ) accepted.

#### **4.2.1 Familial Factors and Delinquency**

**Objective 1:** *To investigate the relationship between family and delinquent behaviour among selected secondary school students;*

The data on Table 2 provided answers to the first research objective. It showed that most of the respondents' parents or guardians were not formally educated in standard institutions as majority of them attended adult education (41.5%). It is mentionable that adolescents from homes with low educational attainment might lack necessary moral teachings due to the illiteracy level of the parents or guardians. Ling's (2013) study in Hong Kong showed that family socio-economic status was positively related to social bonding which may be illustrated by parenting style because it consequently determines parenting styles in relation with financial, social, and educational level.

According to the data on the table, 79.0% of respondents grew up in a nuclear family, while 21.0% grew up in the extended family. Small family units are more likely to have strong bond, care and control over an adolescent compared to large family units. In contrast, extended family, due to its large structure may experience less control, supervision, violence, which increases the chances of adolescents to engage in delinquent behaviour. According to the study by Adegoke, (2015), Nuclear families have strong bond which serves as a social control for adolescents to conform to the norms of the society compared to the extended families such as single parent, family run by grandparents or other family members.

Nuclear (traditional) families have strong bond which serves as a social control for adolescents to conform to the norms of the society compared to the non-traditional families such as single parent family run by grandparents or other family members.

Most of the respondents, (75.0%) are from households where the families are currently married, while 25.0% of the respondents belong to single parents, due to death of father, mother, or both in some cases. The structure of the family is diversified, for example, the increase in

single-parent families (25.0%) and non marital unions as well as extended family (21.0%) arrangement which may directly impact on the stability of the family, home and the functioning of children and adolescents (Adegoke, 2015).

Fry's (2010) study also showed that increase in divorce, single-headed households, and working parent, can increase the likelihood of juvenile delinquency. What matters are factors such as love, warmth, acceptance, understanding and discipline of the adolescent which would determine whether the adolescent becomes delinquent or not, though married households are more preferable in the upbringing of a child.

On parents supervision, 13.5% of the respondent agreed that their parents never monitored their activities, 45.5% agreed that their parents only monitored their activities at least in a day, 6.0% at least once in a week, 17.0% of the respondents were monitored at least once in a month and 18% of the respondents parents checked their activities more than once in a month. This shows that the level of delinquent behaviour would be higher among adolescents who lack proper supervision and lower among adolescents whose parents check their activities daily. This finding is in line with Adegoke's (2015) stud which showed that children who are rejected by their parents, who grow up in homes with considerable conflicts, or who are inadequately supervised are at the greatest risk of becoming delinquent.

***Test of Hypothesis I:*** The first hypothesis (*'there is no significant relationship between familial factors and delinquent behaviour'*) was tested at  $p < 0.05$  to see whether an association existed. Therefore, based on significant level of t-test scores from table 7 revealed that there is a strong association between family factors and some deviant behaviours such as: bullying (.000) , fighting (.000), stealing (.000), examination malpractice (.000), cheating (.000), mob actions (.000), gambling (.000), running away from home (.000), and destruction of properties (.000), were found to be statistically significant at ( $P < 0.05$ ). The strong significant relationship is an



indication that the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) has been rejected and the alternate hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) accepted.

Based on the data presented on table 7, the independent T-test analysis on family factors and some of the delinquent acts between married and single parent households reviewed that bullying, fighting, stealing, examination malpractice, cheating and mob action were statistically significant.

Some of the delinquent act presented on table 7 like bullying yielded a mean deviation of 1.367 for married and 1.820 for single-parent household with a standard deviation of .484 and .389 accordingly. The  $t^{\text{value}}$  of -6.012 and -6.705 with a significant value of .000 which is significant. Fighting showed a mean deviation of 1.447 and 1.740 respectively with a standard deviation of .484 and .389 respectively for married and single-parent households. The  $t^{\text{value}}$  revealed -6.012 and -6.705 at .000 level of significance.

Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected while the alternate hypothesis accepted, which means that there is a strong significant relationship between the independent family factors of marital status and dependent delinquent behaviour. Thus family factors affect adolescents' delinquent behaviour. Notwithstanding, there are also other family factors like level of supervision that affects delinquent behaviour among adolescents.

However an association test was performed on family factors and delinquents acts in order to make a general conclusion on the relationship between the variables. Out of 150 respondents from married households 76.7% were insignificant delinquents while 23.3% were absolute delinquents whereas out of the 50 respondents from single parent household, 48.5% were insignificant delinquents while 51.5% were absolute delinquents. This finding is supported by Parks' (2013) study which asserted that delinquency rates are higher among youth from single families when compared to youth from two-biological-parent (married) families due to the level of social control found in two-biological-parent (married) families, where parents exercise

control over the adolescents compared to a single parent who is saddled with the responsibility of providing for the family as shown in Table 7 and figure 1.

#### **4.2.2 Economic Factors and Delinquency**

**Research objective 2:** The answer to the second research objective (*To examine the relationship between economic factors and delinquent behaviour among selected secondary school students*) data presented in table 3 showed that the economic reality of the families of respondents can also influence delinquent behaviour in adolescents both positively and negatively. Table 3 revealed that 5.0% of the respondent's parents belonged to the upper class, 68% to the middle class, and 27% to the lowest class.

The income level automatically places families into the different social classes as the total percentage of parents (father, mother, guardian) who earn below 18,000 naira per month stood at (34.0%), and those who earn 19,000-30,000 naira per month (37.0%) while those who earn 31,000-50,000 naira per-month (26.5%) and those who earn above 50,000 naira per month (31.5%). Those who earn below 18,000-50,000 naira per-month (97.5%) were classified into the lower social class for the purpose of this study while those who earn above 50,000 naira per-month (31.5%) belong to the upper social class. This finding is in line with Steketee et al., (2013), findings that the ruling class is a predominant class that encompasses a large proportion of resources, so the subordinate class is unable to struggle against them. As a consequence, adolescents of high class suppress their antisocial beliefs, which lead to less delinquent involvement.

The type of occupation of the respondents' parents; farmer (23.0%), trader (26.5%), public servant (46.0%) among others is dependent on the level of education of the parents of the respondents as majority of them attended adult education (41.5%), while 7.5% completed tertiary education as presented in Table 2. All this factors contributes to the delinquent act of the

adolescents who are frustrated with their living conditions. Adolescents from lower social class are more likely to commit delinquent acts.

The findings is supported by Ekaterina et'al., (2012), they researchers argued that economic class instigates parents with lower class into sending their children to reside with their extended family members. Lower class families (27.0%) are more likely to become single-parents household families (25.0%) because of the stress attributed to low income, illiteracy and living arrangements as shown in Table 3 and 2 respectively. Single parents in paid labour market rather than stay at home to take care of their children, is saddled with responsibility of taking care of the family alone.

The relationship is also strengthened by the data in Table 8 that adolescents are pushed into street hawking (48.1%) by maintenance needs as (41.0%) of the respondents reported that their family's income do not match their monthly expenses. Furthermore, (31.0%) respondents reported that poverty can make them engage in delinquent behaviour as presented in Table 3 above.

**Test of Hypothesis II:** The hypothesis that '*there is no relationship between economic factors and adolescents' delinquent behaviour*' was rejected. The t-test scores from table 9 revealed that the association between economic factors and some delinquent acts: gambling (.000), sexual immorality (.000), disobedience (.000), stealing (.000), rudeness towards teachers (.003), fighting (.000), running away from home (.000), and absenteeism from school (.000), were found to be statistically significant ( $P < 0.05$ ).

Some of the delinquent act like gambling yielded a mean deviation of 1.000 for the rich class and 1.295 for poor class with a standard deviation of .000 and .457 accordingly. The  $t^{\text{value}}$  of -2.034 and -68.887 with a significant value of .000 which is significant. Stealing showed a mean deviation of 1.200 and 1.358 respectively with a standard deviation of .422 and .481

respectively for rich and poor social class. The  $t^{\text{value}}$  revealed -1.018 and -1.146 at .003 level of significance.

Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected while the alternate hypothesis accepted, which means that there is a strong significant relationship between the independent variable of economic factors and dependent delinquent behaviour. Thus economic factor of social class affect adolescents' delinquent behaviour. Notwithstanding, there are also other economic factors that can also affect delinquent behaviour in adolescents.

The strong significant relationship is an indication that the null hypothesis be rejected and the alternate hypothesis accepted as adolescents who came from a poor social class showed absolute delinquent act compared to those adolescents from rich social class. According to the results shown in Table 3, parents with a higher occupational level will have a higher level of independence to educate their children authoritatively, whereas parents with a lower occupational level will educate their children weakly. Also, in lower social class, adolescents receive relatively less warmth from their parents and experience more parental conflicts because of bridge in communication and economic strain.

#### **4.2.3 Peer Group Influence and Delinquency**

**Research objective 3:** The third research objective (*to identify the relationship between peer groups and delinquent behaviour among selected secondary school students*), which was presented in table 3 above provided answers to the questions.

The data in the table 3 above showed that effective monitoring and support, as well as less violent punishments are vital to raising a child. When these areas are lacking an adolescent is more likely to turn to delinquent behaviour. Part of a child's community is their school. A parent will teach values to their children that are accepted in school and when this is not done, high delinquent acts can occur among adolescents (Carlson, 2010). Adolescents who engage in

income-generating crime do it to gain autonomy (31.5%) from an adult, which is ability of adolescents to make decisions without the consent of adults (parents, teachers, older siblings).

The denial of this autonomy from adults causes strain which may result in absolute delinquent behaviour which ranges from; stealing (45.0%) to gain financial independence, engaging in sexual intercourse (23.5%) to show maturity, becoming aggressive towards adults, engaging in violence to end harassment from others, running away (21.5%) to escape from abusive parents, selling of drugs, prostitution, engaging in delinquent subculture like peer groups or gang who offer them the autonomy they desire as shown in Table 4 and 5. The result also showed that adolescents from single parents household were potential gang members as their activities were not monitored daily (31.5%) by their ward compared to the married household where adolescents were supervised on a daily basis (45.5%).

This finding is in line with Nisar et al., (2014), they argued that when parents do not have a strong bond with their child and do not teach them pro-social values, the adolescent has difficulties in school and are likely to be influenced by delinquent peers.

**Test of Hypothesis III:** The third hypothesis of this study (*there is no relationship between economic factors and adolescents' delinquent behaviour*) was tested, at 0.05 level of significance to see whether an association existed.

The independent t-test scores from table 11 revealed that there is an association between peer group influence and some deviant behaviours: drug/substance abuse (.000), fighting (.002), sexual immorality (.000) , gambling (.000), disobedience (.002), mob action (.031), running away from home (.000) were found to be statistically significant ( $P < 0.05$ ), while, stealing (.501), was not statistically significant ( $P > 0.05$ ).

Some of the delinquent act presented on table 11 like drug/substance abuse yielded a mean deviation of 1.161 for respondents whose decisions are influenced by their friends and

1.333 for respondents whose decisions was not influenced by their friends with a standard deviation of .371 and .473 accordingly. The  $t^{\text{value}}$  of -2.534 and -2.776 with a significant value of .000 which shows a strong significant relationship. Running away from home also showed a mean deviation of 1.081 and 1.275 respectively with a standard deviation of .275 and .448 respectively for adolescents who reported yes and no on influence of decisions by their friends. The  $t^{\text{value}}$  revealed -3.161 and -3.767 at .000 level of significance.

Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected while the alternate hypothesis accepted, which means that there is a strong significant relationship between the independent variable of peer group influence and dependent delinquent behaviour. Thus peer group influence affect adolescents' delinquent behaviour.

Adolescents from home with considerable conflict are likely to be involved with delinquent gangs, who engage in delinquent acts to show autonomy (31.5%) as shown in table 4. Adolescents are advised by their delinquent peers to run away from home to avoid punishment, they are also advised by their delinquent peers to abuse drugs and it is as a result of the time they frequently spend with their friends (41.5%) which affects their behaviour as shown in table 4.

Notwithstanding, there are also other family factors like level of supervision that affects delinquent behaviour among adolescents. Stealing yielded a mean deviation of 1.403 for respondents whose decisions are influenced by their friends and 1.572 for respondents whose decisions were not influenced by their friends with a standard deviation of .495 and .497 accordingly. The  $t^{\text{value}}$  of -2.232 and -2.235 with a significant value of .502 which is not statistically significant.

This relation can be attributed to other significant adults in the lives of adolescents like parents, older siblings or teachers who the adolescents interact with. When adolescents are relatively restrained to the opinions of parents, teachers, and older siblings, their new relationship can encourage and reinforce them to participate in delinquent behaviours as most of the

respondents in this study agreed that they spend most of their time with their siblings and also blamed them for their negative personality.

According to Farmer's (2010) findings that peer group relationship can be both positive and negative; according to his findings peer friendships, group interactions and influences are a part of positive development. This existing literature supported the findings of this research as 20.0% of the respondents enjoy the friendship they have with their friends as shown in table 4.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 Introduction

This chapter contains a summary of the study in reference to the aims and objectives stated in this study.

#### 5.2 Summary

The general objective of this study was to examine the correlates of delinquency among selected secondary school students in Ekiti State.

The specific objectives are to; investigate the relationship between family and delinquent behaviour among selected secondary school students, to examine the relationship between economic factors and delinquent behaviour among selected secondary school students, and to identify the relationship between peer groups and delinquent behaviour among selected secondary school students.

In order to achieve these objectives, a survey was carried out among five selected secondary schools in Oye local government which consist of 200 respondents.

Chapter two covered the research topic at large including the review of related literature and theoretical framework (strain and social control theories) which were used in the study.

Chapter three contains methodology, which includes research design, population of study, sample size/sampling technique, data collection instrument, data collection procedure, data analysis, ethical considerations and limitation of study. The analysis is done using univariate and bivariate levels of analyses. Univariate analysis which was frequency tables, expressed mainly in terms of percentages while bivariate analysis was used to examine the relationship between family, economic and peer group influence.



In chapter four, results were presented and the stated objectives were tested using chi-square. The independent t-test analysis shows a significant relationship between family factors and delinquent acts. Marital status, level of education, income, social class, influence by peer groups and other significant adults (parents, teachers and siblings) are significantly related to delinquent behaviour.

### **5.3 Conclusion**

The aim of the study was to determine the correlates of delinquency and establish an association between family, economic and peer group factors that propel delinquent behaviours. From the findings, it is evident that family factors such as the structure and supervision among a host of other factors affect adolescents' delinquent behaviour. The findings revealed that delinquent belonged to age bracket of 12-18 years. Those adolescents who live with their biological parents show lower manifestation of delinquent behaviour compared to those living in single-parent households. Most of the respondents' parents are involved in low paying jobs and the adolescents are not satisfied with their family income which is one of the basic reasons adolescents engage in delinquent behaviour.

Single-parent households showed higher economic stress and this result in the single-parent spending a lot of time outside the home working for long hours. The children are left to themselves or at the mercy of housemaids or relatives who need monitoring themselves. Consequently, the children would grow up into adolescents and they begin to practice negative behaviour from those people that their parents had enlisted to take care of the children in their absence. Peer group also has an influence on the adolescents' delinquent behaviour as most of the respondents spend a lot of time with their friends.

For the research, Strain and social control theories were found most suited to explain delinquency. Agnew (1992) stated that adolescents often reject institutionalized means of

achieving success goals when faced with economic constraints. These groups of people can result to delinquent acts to achieve their goals. The social control theory argued that the family performs a socialization function to adolescents and when the bond is absent, adolescents are likely to seek comfort from their peers who might reinforce their anti-social behaviour.

The study indicates that the level of delinquency in Oye-Ekiti is high as 56.2% respondents were insignificant delinquents while 43.8% were absolute delinquents.

#### **5.4 Recommendations**

**The implications of this study on policy makers and on future researches are identified as follows:**

- ▶ The policy makers through its established rural counselors should take necessary steps to educate the parents on how important and relevant it is for children to grow up in homes with love and care and also on the importance of supervision, discipline and not harsh punishment.
- ▶ Secondly, if given the opportunity, counselors should educate parents on how to socialize their wards to accept cultural norms and reject anti-social behaviours. Parents should also be educated on the how important it is to live by good example and character worthy of emulation as children learn best and faster from what they see.
- ▶ Finally on policy makers, the need to maintain a peaceful, harmonious home and a close bond between parents and their wards should also be stressed by the counselors as parent-child relationship gives a child the feeling of belonging and acceptance.

#### **Suggestion for further Studies:**

- ▶ In the area of future studies, other than theories explaining social factors of delinquency, future theoretical framework should trace delinquent behaviours through psychological and biological factors to determine another angle into understanding delinquent behaviour which can help early intervention if detected in childhood stage.

► It is also recommended that qualitative approach like participant observation in natural environment, in-depth interview should be employed to determine salient point which cannot be uncovered using questionnaire which is limited in scope.

► Lastly, future studies should include larger population so as enhance validity and aid generalization of findings beyond Oye Local Government.

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**APPENDIX A: Introductory Letter from the Department**



Department of Sociology  
Faculty of Social Sciences  
Federal University Oye-Ekiti  
11/01/2016.

.....  
.....  
.....

Dear Sir/ Ma,

**LETTER OF INTRODUCTION: MARTINS AMARACHI RITA**

The above named person is a final year student of the Department of Sociology, Federal University Oye-Ekiti; she is currently embarking on a field work as part of the requirements for completing her Long Essay.

Your School has been selected as one of the places to visit for her field work.

Kindly gie her due attention required to enable her carry on this assignment.

Thank for your cooperation.

Dr. Omotosho B.J

Head of Department



**APPENDIX B: Questionnaire**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OYE-EKITI, NIGERIA.**

Dear Valued Respondent,

I am an Undergraduate Student of the Department of Sociology, Federal University Oye-Ekiti, conducting a research on "Correlates of Delinquency among Selected Secondary School Students in Oye Local Government, Ekiti State" as my final year project. I shall appreciate it if you would be kind enough to devote sometime to be part of this study.

Kindly note that your identity is not required in participating in this survey and the information provided will be treated with confidentiality. There is no right or wrong answer, just your honesty in answering the questions based on your personal opinion or past experience.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours Sincerely,  
Martins Amarachi Rita.  
Matric No: SOC/12/0706

**SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS**

Please fill the following as correctly as possible or by ticking (✓) the appropriate block.

Q. 1. How old were you as at your last birthday? \_\_\_\_\_

Q. 2. What is your sex?

Male	
Female	

Q. 3. In which Class are you? \_\_\_\_\_

Q. 4. Which School do you attend? \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION B: FAMILY FACTORS**

The following questions are related to your family situation. Please answer the following questions by ticking (✓) against the statement where appropriate.

Q. 5. How many are you in your family? (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Q. 6. What is your position in the family? \_\_\_\_\_

Q. 7. What is the marital status of your parent(s)/guardian(s)?

Married	
Single	
Dead mother	
Dead father	
Both parents are dead	
Divorced	
Other (specify)	

Q. 8. In which of the following type of family have you been brought up?

Nuclear family	
Extended family	

Q. 9. Who among the following act as your parent(s)/guardian(s) at home?

Father and mother	
Mother only	
Father only	
Step mother/father	
Uncle or aunt	
Grandparent(s)	
Brother(s) or sister(s)	
Neighbours	
Nobody	
Others (specify)	

Q. 10. What is the educational level of your parent(s)/guardian(s)?

Attended primary school?	
Completed primary school?	
Attended secondary school?	
Completed secondary school?	
Attended tertiary institution?	
Completed tertiary education?	
Attended adult education program?	
None	

Q. 11. How would you describe your parent(s)/guardian(s) behaviour towards you?

- (a) harsh      (b) caring      (c) loving      (d) indifferent  
 (e) others (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Q. 12. Do your parent(s)/guardian(s) give you and your siblings' equal treatment?

- (a) Yes      (b) No

Q. 13. If no, who does he/she prefer? (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Q.14. Why does your parent(s)/guardian(s) prefer your sibling?

(Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Q. 15. Are you confident that your parent(s)/guardian(s) will listen to you? (a) Yes      (b) No

Q. 16. Are you confident that your parent(s)/guardian(s) will try to understand your feelings?

- (a) Yes      (b) No

Q.17. How often does your parent(s)/guardian(s) monitor your activities?

- (a) At least once each day      (b) At least once each week      (c) At least once each month  
 (d) More than once each month      (e) Never

Q. 18. Do your family member(s) get along with each other? (a) Yes      (b) No

Q. 19. If no, why? (Please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

- Q. 20. Have your parent(s)/guardian(s) punished you in any of the following ways?  
 (a) warned you verbally (b) locked you up in the house  
 (c) hit you with an object (d) prevented you from visiting friends  
 (e) others (specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Q. 21. Do your parent(s)/guardian(s) like your choice of friend(s) (a) Yes (b) No
- Q. 22. If no, why? (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Q. 23. Do your family member(s) drink alcohol or smoke cigarette? (a) Yes (b) No  
 If yes, please specify which of the family member(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- Q. 24. Has any of your family member(s) been in jail before? (a) Yes (b) No
- Q. 25. If yes, please specify which of the family member(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION C: ECONOMIC FACTORS**

The following questions are related to your family economic situation. Please answer each question by ticking (✓) against each statement in the appropriate block next to each question.

Q. 26. What does your parent(s)/guardian(s) do for a living?

Unemployed	
Trader	
Public servant	
Farmer	
Others(specify)	

Q. 27. What social class does your parent(s)/guardian(s) belong to?

Upper class	
Middle class	
Lower class	

Q. 28. What is the monthly income of your family member(s)? Please specify

- (a) Father \_\_\_\_\_ (b) mother \_\_\_\_\_ (c) guardian \_\_\_\_\_  
 (d) Others (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Q. 29. Do your parent(s)/guardian(s) income match with the family expenses? (a) Yes (b) No

Q. 30. If yes, what are the expenses fulfilled?

(Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Q. 31. If no, how are the expenses fulfilled?

(Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Q.32. How would you describe your teacher (s) behaviour towards you?

- (a) harsh (b) caring (c) loving (d) indifferent  
 (e) others (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Q. 33. Can poverty make you engage in delinquent behaviour? (a) Yes (b) No

Q. 34. If yes, why or how?

(Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Q. 35. If no, give reasons \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION D: PEER/ ADOLESCENT ACTIVITIES**

Please carefully read through this list and tick (✓) against the appropriate answer to the question.

Q.36. What is your view regarding your friend(s)?

(Please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Q. 37. How often do you see your friend(s) in a day?

(a) Several times (b) More than one time (c) One time (d) Never

Q. 38. Do you feel angry when your parent(s)/guardian influence your decisions? (a) Yes (b) No

Q. 39. If yes, why? (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Q. 40. Do your friends influence your decision? (a) Yes (b) No

Q. 41. If yes, what type of decision has been influenced by your friend(s)?

Please describe \_\_\_\_\_

**Please answer these questions as well as you can.**

**Below are some the activities adolescents' engage in, please tick how many times you have engaged in any of the following activities.**

Q. 42. How often do you commit the following delinquent acts?

Delinquent acts	Never	Once	Two times	Three Times	Four times	Five times and Above
Bullying						
Fighting						
Stealing						
Drug/substance abuse						
Disobedience						
Stubbornness						
Untidiness						
Sexual immorality						
Cheating						
Examination malpractice						
Gambling						
Roughness during games						
Absenteeism from school						
Rudeness towards teachers						
Running away from home						
Use of foul language						
Hawking on the street						
Destruction of property						
Cruelty						
Watching/ Reading pornographic materials						
Mob action						
Loitering						
Carrying of dangerous weapon						

Q. 43. What types of delinquent acts have you committed? (Please specify.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_

Q. 44. At what age did you start committing these delinquent acts?  
(Please specify.) \_\_\_\_\_

Q. 45. What reasons led you into committing these deviant behaviors?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Q.46. How do you feel whenever you are punished for doing something wrong?  
(Please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Q. 47. Have you ever been arrested for any delinquent behavior? (a) Yes (b) No

Q. 48. What delinquent behaviour were you arrested for? \_\_\_\_\_

Q. 49. If you were arrested, how many times were you convicted?  
(Please specify.) \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank You for taking the time to complete the questionnaire.**