



Influence of Family Structure on the Incidence of Juvenile Delinquency among Public Senior Secondary Schools Students in Rivers State

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated the influence of family structure on the incidence of juvenile delinquency among public senior secondary school student in Rivers State. Six research questions and six hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. A descriptive survey design was used for the study. Population of the study consisted of 158,875 students of all the public senior secondary schools in Rivers State which is made up of 75,934 males and 82,951 females. The sample size of the study was 796, consisting of 398 each for male and female respectively. This was obtained by applying Taro Yamene's formula to each of the population of male and female. The instrument for data collection was a self-structured instrument titled 'Juvenile Delinquency Influence Scale'. It has two sections A and B. Section A elicited the demographic data of respondents with interest on their family structures while Section B was partitioned into six blocks addressing a specific family structure. The format is a 4-point Likert rating scale of agreement where respondents are expected to rate the statement based on their opinion. The instrument was validated by three experts including the supervisor, expert in guidance and counselling and expert in Measurement and Evaluation. The reliability index of 0.80 was obtained using the Pearson product moment correlation (PPMC). Research question were answered using criterion mean while z-test was used for the hypotheses and were tested at 0.05 level of significance. The tested hypotheses shows that male and female students agreed that single parent family structure had significant influence on the incidence of juvenile delinquency among public senior secondary school students in Rivers State. Also male and female students accepted that nuclear family structure influences the incidence of juvenile delinquency among public senior secondary school students in Rivers State. In conclusion, the researcher observed that certain behaviour exhibited or displayed by children in the school are as a result of dysfunctional family structures. The researcher therefore made some recommendations among which are; that parents should be strict on the implementation of rules and regulation guiding their homes, also, that the government should formulate and implement policies that will consolidate the integrity of the family, this is in view of the integral role the family plays in the socialization and moral upbringing of the children.

Keywords: family structure, juvenile delinquency, school, students

INTRODUCTION

Juvenile delinquency is a mild and pleasant name for criminal acts committed by minors, it s remains a challenging behaviour in the 21st century. Globally, many young persons below the age of 18 have continued to behave in ways that contravene social norms contrary to societal expectations.

Juvenile delinquency is not alien to the Nigerian State. Oyafunke (2014) disclosed that juvenile delinquency has always been a problem in Nigeria. Corroborating this fact, Ebere (2016) advanced that 57% of Nigerians in Nsukka a satellite city in Enugu State acknowledge that they are aware of incidents of juvenile delinquency in the country, while 81% acquiesce that there exists juvenile delinquency remediative services in the nation. Observable incidents of juvenile delinquency in Nigeria that necessitate such services include but are not limited to; stealing, drug abuse, rape, character defamation and tardiness, truancy, indecency, oil bunkering, armed robbery, prostitution and

pen robbery, roaming the street at night, doing illegal business, violation of rules and regulations, driving without license, and running away from home for sexual escapades. Rivers State which is the setting of the study is not left out in the trend of juvenile delinquency across the federation (David, 2018). The State being the treasure base of the nation has had a fair share in the scourge of juvenile delinquency because its enormous population of 5,198,716 makes it the sixth most populated federating unit in the country (National Population Commission, 2006). Its enormous population which is attributable to oil exploration has led to the influx of individuals from all walks of life in the State, coupled with the associated family/societal decadence. This makes it a fertile ground for juvenile delinquency to thrive. This is so because the State has experienced lots of armed conflicts orchestrated by young persons in recent times over resource control (Koos & Pierskella, 2015).

The incidence of juvenile delinquency in Rivers State is a social problem and as such, it is necessary to trace it to its root which is the family. The family is a primary social group that reproduces and oversees the upbringing of young members of the society. It is a microcosm of the larger society. The pivotal nature of family makes it the basic unit of societal structure and function. By implication, every delinquent child in Rivers State and beyond belongs to one family structure or the other. Iwundu (2014) disclosed that delinquent acts in families can range from under-age smoking/drinking to property crimes, and violent crimes. Moffit (2006) espoused that two different types of offenders emerge in families. The first is the repeat offender who begins offending or showing asocial/antisocial behaviour in childhood or adolescence and continues into adulthood, while the second is the age-specific offender, whose offending begins and ends at adolescence.

Ezekiel-Hart and Adiele (2010) espoused that the family is the basic unit of social life. It is a primary social group that is made up of a group of people who are closely related by consanguinity, affinity or propinquity (Joel, 2007). As a primary social group, the family performs the basic and fundamental function of socialization. By way of definition, socialization is the process of teaching and/or learning the norms, customs and ideologies of a social group in order to fit in acceptably in society. Since socialization primarily takes place in families, it stands to reason that juveniles acquire a great deal of the norms, they use or misuse from their families.

A nuclear family is a family structure that is made of two biological parents and their biological children. Members of this family structure live together as one in their abode. They are usually flamboyant financially (Haviland, Prins & Walrath, 2007).

As the name implies, a single parent family, is a family structure that is made up of one parent and his/her children. A single parent is a person who raises a child or children without a partner. Considering the economic challenges in the world, members of this family structure in Rivers State may experience financial problems (Rampell, 2010).

An extended family is a family structure that encompasses the entire lineage of a given family. It includes aunts, uncles, cousins and their relatives. Juveniles in this family structure are exposed to multiple role models (Ezekiel-Hart & Adiele 2010). An extended family structure is a family unit that accommodates or maintains ties with its relatives. Members of this family structure co-share responsibilities.

A foster family is a family structure in which kids are adopted and raised by mature mutually consenting adults. Foster care is bedeviled by the problem of bonding (Swain, 2013).

Statement of Problem

The home or family is a natural social environment where children learn initial moral standards that help them to conform with the norms of the larger society like the school and the community. Unfortunately, what is witnessed today in most families, in schools and the society at large is all forms of aberrant behavior exhibited by adolescents who put themselves and everybody at risk. There is no doubt, adolescents and by extension secondary schools student exhibit all manners of delinquent behaviour ranging from stealing, raping, bullying, cultism, exam malpractice etc.

The study was borne out of the researcher's dismay over the gross misconducts of most of the juveniles in the State. The rate at which these groups of persons violate psycho-social norms is not only alarming but annoying. It is not uncommon to see them join cults, dress indecently, drink and smoke, fight, steal, engage in indiscriminate sex, vandalize public utilities, rebel against constituted authorities, troll people on line and spread fake news via social media as to incite civil unrest. The trend of the incidents of juvenile delinquency in the State is worsening by the day. The case of an eleven year old girl who ran away from home recently for sexual escapade with her lover and that of a

twelve year old boy apprehended for stabbing his mother over pocket money cannot be forgotten easily. Therefore, it is against this background that this research is been carried out.

Purpose of Study

In specific terms, the study investigated:

1. The influence of single parent family structure on the incidence of juvenile delinquency among public senior secondary school students in Rivers State;
2. The influence of nuclear family structure on the incidence of juvenile delinquency among public senior secondary school students in Rivers State;
3. The influence of extended family structure on the incidence of juvenile delinquency among public senior secondary school students in Rivers State;
4. The influence of foster family structure on the incidence of juvenile delinquency among public senior secondary school students in Rivers State;

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the conduct of the study:

1. What is the influence of single parent family structure on the incidence of juvenile delinquency among public senior secondary school students in Rivers State?
2. What is the influence of nuclear family structure on the incidence of juvenile delinquency among public senior secondary school students in Rivers State?
3. What is the influence of extended family structure on the incidence of juvenile delinquency among public senior secondary school students in Rivers State?
4. What is the influence of foster family structure on the incidence of juvenile delinquency among public senior secondary school students in Rivers State?

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were tested by the researcher:

1. There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of male and female students on the influence of single parent family structure on the incidence of juvenile delinquency among public senior secondary school students in Rivers State.
2. There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of male and female students on the influence of nuclear family structure on the incidence of juvenile delinquency among public senior secondary school students in Rivers State.
3. There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of male and female students on the influence of extended family structure on the incidence of juvenile delinquency among public senior secondary school students in Rivers State.
4. There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of male and female students on the influence of foster family structure on the incidence of juvenile delinquency among public senior secondary school students in Rivers State.

Review of Related Literature

Sigmund Freud in his psycho-dynamic theory explains the different developmental stages of a child or juvenile and how each stage affects the behaviour later on in life. The stages are;

Oral Stage and Juvenile Delinquency in Family Structures

Freud theorized that during the oral stage, the mouth is the point of gratification. On this, Dworetzky (1994), explained that at the oral stage (0-1 year), the child obtains the greatest pleasure from stimulation of the lips, mouth, tongue, and gums. Negative fixation or frustration at this stage in families and schools, manifest as malfeasance later on (Kaufman, Heims & Reiser, 1961). In affirmation, Iwundu (2015), explicated that negative fixation at this stage, manifests itself in gluttony, loquaciousness, excessive smoking, alcoholism and materialism, inter alia. In this regard, Martins, Aron, Karuch, Richman and Knapp (1966), found that smokers were significantly more oral than non-smokers using Rorschack ink block test. From the preceding requisite and exquisite exposition, it is explicit that negative fixation at the oral stage is a prerequisite of juvenile delinquency.

Anal Stage and Juvenile Delinquency in Family Structures

Freud postulated that during the anal stage, the anus, is the point of gratification because, it is the store house of the libidinal energy. Dworetzky (1994) elucidates that during the anal stage, which spans from (1-3 years), the child tends to gain greatest pleasure from exercising control over the anus during elimination and retention of faeces. Rigid or frigid toilet training in families and schools culminates

into negative fixation at the anal stage. Negative fixation may manifest itself later on as piggishness, aggressiveness, selfishness, stinginess and rudeness, among others. Corroborating this fact, Richard, Roger and Seymour (1992), found that 'toilet humour' correlated with stubbornness, stinginess and disorderliness later on. This underscores the underlying influence of fixation or frustration at the anal stage, on the emergence, of juvenile delinquency in families and schools.

Phallic Stage and Juvenile Delinquency in Family Structures

Freud adumbrated that the phallic stage, which lasts from; three to five years, is a period of frivolous incestuous sexual desires. In the phallic stage of human psychosexual development, a boy's decisive experience is the Oedipus complex, which evinces son-father competition for sexual possession of mother. While a girl's decisive experience is the electra complex, which evince daughter- mother conflict for sexual possession of father. Iwundu (2004), inferred that negative fixation at the phallic stage culminates into; wife or husband battery or abuse, homosexuality, pathological jealousy or narcissism, and so on, in later life. Battery, abuse, and homosexuality, among adolescents in families and schools tantamount to juvenile delinquency. However, research has largely failed to support the supposed influence of phallic fixation on family and school structures as influence on juvenile delinquency. More than one in ten male children in the United Kingdom is raised by lone mothers without any research correlating homosexuality to Oedipus conflict (Keith, 2011).

Latency Stage and Juvenile Delinquency in Family Structures

Latency stage, as postulated by Sigmund Freud, lasts from six to eleven years. During this stage, the libido or sexual energy becomes dormant because it is sublimated into physical and intellectual activities. Iwundu (2007), in collaboration with Dworetzky's (1994), espoused that negative fixation during the latency stage results in individualism, deviant behaviour and schizoid personality disorder. In confirmation, Erikson (1959) cited in Mcleod (2013), observed that the latency stage is a period in which children develop industriousness or inferiority in families and schools. Development of industriousness is protective and productive, while development of feelings of inferiority is defective and destructive.

Genital Stage and Juvenile Delinquency in Family Structures

Genital stage lasts from eleven years to eighteen years. Freud postulated that it is the period of the development of heterosexual desires. During this stage, adolescents start approaching the opposite sex for friendship or courtship in families and schools. When reproaching confronts approaching persistently, adolescents feel embittered and embattled with the opposite sex. Corroborating this fact, Iwundu (2007), inferred that negative fixation at the genital stage culminates into sadistic attitude towards the opposite sex, gamophobia, homosexuality and paraphilia's such as; rapism, pedophilia, gerontophilia, sodomy and masochism and so on. The degree of adjustment at the genital stage, was seen by Freudians as inversely correlated with susceptibility to neurosis (Otto, 1946). Conversely, fixation or frustration at the genital stage hampers the development of normal sexual relationships (Brown, 1987).

Albert Bandura in his social and observational behaviour modelling theory, states that social and observational behaviour modeling is hinged on the premise, that; human learning is an unending and corresponding interaction between cognition and action in the environment.

Social Learning and Juvenile Delinquency in Family Structures

Exponents of social learning theory believe that criminal behaviour is a response to the events or stimuli in one's environment, and as such, criminal behaviour is the product of defective social learning experience (Iwundu, 2015). It is the view of this theory too that juvenile delinquency could be the result of motivated delinquency through vicarious reinforcement in families and schools. When a delinquent is accepted and adored in families and schools the tendency that such action and inaction will instigate other juveniles into delinquency is an indubitable possibility or probability. To this end, Iwundu (2007) in collaboration with social learning theorists, opined that the negative influence of the social media on our youths, especially the negativity show cased on our television houses and on the internet' in relation to sexually provocative and violent films have done great harm to the moral fiber and psyche of our youths.

Social Control and Juvenile Delinquency in Family Structures

Control theory posits that social control is easily to be achieved and maintained when there is a strong social bond. Control theorists believe that deviance is caused by the absence of contagion. They see conformity as being a product of social control. Therefore, absence of social control causes deviance. Travis (1970) identified four components of social bonds, namely; attachment, commitment, involvement and belief. Attachment is a strong, mutual, social bond that motivates society members to conform. Close attachment to others in families and schools prevents an individual from deviating from socially disapproved norms. Without attachment the opinion of others does not count. Thus, detached individual blatantly or flagrantly violate social norms in families and schools.

Commitment is equally a pertinent social bond. The stronger a juvenile's commitment and loyalty to legitimate authority, the greater the chances of conformity in families and schools. This is so, because; conviction in conventional morality promotes conformity. In sum, social control theory asserts that the fear of being reproved reduces deviance.

Social learning theory is of great importance to the study as it illuminates how behavior is acquired through observation and imitation. It systematizes how both desirable and undesirable behaviours are acquired. The relevance of social learning theory to the study lies in its well structured stance on how drive, cue, response, and reward work hand in hand with observation and imitation to bring about the acquisition of behaviour. This model equally has bearing on the dynamics of social control in families.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The study adopted descriptive survey design. This study attempts to collect data from representative samples in the given population, analyse and describe the features and characteristics of the variables in the target population without manipulating any variable.

Population of Study

The population of the study comprised all the Public Senior Secondary School Two (2) Students in Rivers State. As at the time of this study, Rivers State has 278 public senior secondary schools with SS2 students' population of 24,942 consisting of 12,223 male and 12,719 female students

Sample and Sampling Technique

The sample size of this study was 3,869 senior secondary school (two) students, consisting of 1,915 male and 1,954 female students. Multistage sampling technique was adopted in selection of sample size.

Instrument for Data Collection

Research Instruments are tools such as questionnaires or scale designed to obtain data on a topic of interest from a research topic. The format is a 4-point likert rating scale of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD) with numerical values of 4, 3, 2 and 1 respectively.

Method of Data Analysis

Research questions were answered using descriptive statistics of mean and standard deviation, while hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance using the z-test. A criterion mean of 2.50 obtained by taking the mean of the rating scales was set as benchmark for decision. Any item with a mean rating of 2.50 and above was accepted, while item with mean value less than 2.50 was considered as disagree. For hypothesis testing, if the calculated value of z (z_{cal}) is less than or equal to the critical value, it was accepted otherwise reject the hypothesis.

RESULT

Research Question 1

What is the influence of single parent family structure on the incidence of Juvenile delinquency among public senior secondary school students in Rivers State?

Table 4.1: Mean Ratings of Male and Female Students on the Influence of Single Parent Family Structure on the incidence of Juvenile Delinquency among Public Senior Secondary School Students in Rivers State (Decision ≥ 2.5 Agreed) N = 796

| S/N | Items | Male (n = 1268) | | | Female (n = 1367) | | |
|-----|---|-----------------|------|-----|-------------------|------|-----|
| | | \bar{X} | SD | RMK | \bar{X} | SD | RMK |
| 1 | My single parent is not always able to provide for all my needs hence I am forced to get them by all means. | 3.01 | 0.12 | A | 2.79 | 0.12 | A |
| 2 | Hunger drives juvenile in Single Family into stealing | 2.90 | 0.12 | A | 2.70 | 0.11 | A |
| 3 | I often quarrel with my single parent because of his / her friends | 2.46 | 0.11 | A | 2.86 | 0.12 | A |
| 4 | Cultism and gangsterism are common among Juveniles from single parent families | 2.80 | 0.12 | A | 3.02 | 0.12 | A |
| 5 | Single parenting and the lack of care predisposes juvenile to delinquent acts such as drug abuse | 3.50 | 0.15 | A | 3.60 | 0.16 | A |

The above table shows an item-by-item analysis of the responses of male and female students on the influence of single parent family structure on the incidence of juvenile delinquency among public senior secondary school students in Rivers State.

Research Question 2

What is the influence of nuclear family structure on the incidence of Juvenile delinquency among public senior secondary school students in Rivers State?

Table 4.2: Mean Ratings of Male and Female Students on the Influence of Nuclear Family Structure on the incidence of Juvenile Delinquency among Public Senior Secondary School Students in Rivers State (Decision ≥ 2.5 Agreed) N = 796

| S/N | Items | Male (n= 1268) | | | Female (n=1267) | | |
|-----|--|----------------|------|-----|-----------------|------|-----|
| | | \bar{X} | SD | RMK | \bar{X} | SD | RMK |
| 6 | Stealing is rampant in my immediate family hence I have learnt how to steal | 2.51 | 0.11 | A | 2.70 | 0.11 | A |
| 7 | Proper Socialization is a problem in my immediate family and this has affected me negatively | 3.11 | 0.13 | A | 2.52 | 0.11 | A |
| 8 | Children raised in Nuclear Family are capable of becoming delinquent | 2.86 | 0.12 | A | 2.81 | 0.12 | A |
| 9 | The exclusive nature of my immediate family makes it difficult for me to get along in school | 3.05 | 0.13 | A | 2.88 | 0.12 | A |
| 10 | Juveniles in Nuclear family are over bearing and over demanding | 2.80 | 0.12 | A | 2.50 | 0.11 | A |

From the above table, the responses showed that the respondents are in line with the items description, mean ratings for all the items are above the decision mean; implying that they are in agreement with the items as described.

Research Question 3

What is the influence of extended family structure on the incidence of juvenile delinquency among public senior secondary school students in Rivers State?

Table 4.3: Mean Ratings of Male and Female Students on the Influence of extended Family Structure on the incidence of juvenile delinquency among Public Senior Secondary School Students in Rivers State (Decision ≥ 2.5 Agreed) N = 796

| S/N | Items | Male (n = 1268) | | | Female (n=1367) | | |
|-----|--|-----------------|------|-----|-----------------|------|-----|
| | | \bar{X} | SD | RMK | \bar{X} | SD | RMK |
| 11 | My Uncles exposed me to bad models at home | 3.55 | 0.16 | A | 3.02 | 0.12 | A |
| 12 | Stealing and lying are common among my cousins and this predisposed me to such acts in school | 3.03 | 0.12 | A | 3.11 | 0.13 | A |
| 13 | Sex talks and scandals are common among my cousins and these have influenced me negatively | 3.21 | 0.13 | A | 2.47 | 0.11 | A |
| 14 | Open rebellion and bullying are common sights among my uncles, aunties and cousins and these have made me to be unnecessarily violent and aggressive | 2.86 | 0.12 | A | 2.55 | 0.11 | A |
| 15 | Most of my uncles and aunties are unfriendly hence I learnt how to be unfriendly too | 3.42 | 0.14 | A | 3.22 | 0.13 | A |

The table above revealed that all respondents share the same view that extended family structure has influence on the incidence Juvenile delinquency among public senior secondary school students in Rivers State.

Research Question 4

What is the influence of foster family structure on the incidence of Juvenile delinquency among public senior secondary school students in Rivers State?

Table 4.4: Mean Ratings of Male and Female Students on the Influence of foster Family Structure on the incidence of Juvenile Delinquency among Public Senior Secondary School Students in Rivers State (Decision ≥ 2.5 Agreed) N = 796

| S/N | Items | Male (n= 1268) | | | Female (n=1367) | | |
|-----|---|----------------|------|-----|-----------------|------|-----|
| | | \bar{X} | SD | RMK | \bar{X} | SD | RMK |
| 16 | Lack of secured attachment in my Foster home makes it difficult for me to get along well with others in school | 3.31 | 0.14 | A | 3.40 | 0.14 | A |
| 17 | My habit of bullying juniors in school is as a result of how badly I am being treated badly by my Foster Parents | 2.80 | 0.12 | A | 2.61 | 0.11 | A |
| 18 | I am a victim of child abuse and this makes me molest little children in school because of maltreatment from my Foster Parent | 3.11 | 0.13 | A | 2.82 | 0.12 | A |
| 19 | The pressure attached to being fostered influenced my drug related offences | 3.70 | 0.16 | A | 3.24 | 0.13 | A |
| 20 | My foster parent discriminate against me and that is why I have no empathy or sympathy for anyone | 3.20 | 0.13 | A | 2.87 | 0.12 | A |

Table 4.4 shows the mean responses on foster family structure on Juvenile delinquency among public senior secondary school students in Rivers State. Respondents agreed with all the items described on foster family structure, with mean ratings higher than the decision mean of 2.50.

Table 4.5: Z-test Analysis of Male and Female Students Responses on the Influence of Single Parent Family Structure the incidence of on Juvenile Delinquency among Senior Secondary School Students in Rivers State

| Variables | N | Mean | SD | Std Error | Df | t _{calc} | t _{crit} | α | Remarks |
|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|------|-------------------|-------------------|------|-----------------|
| Male | 1268 | 3.0 | 0.12 | | | | | | |
| | | | | 4.87 | 2633 | 0.02 | 1.96 | 0.05 | Not Significant |
| Female | 1367 | 3.10 | 0.13 | | | | | | |

The table reveals a calculated t-value of 0.02 which is far below the critical value of 1.96. This computed value is too insignificant at 0.05 level hence the null hypothesis of no significant difference in the mean response of male and female on influence of single parent family structure on the incidence of juvenile delinquency among senior secondary school students in Rivers State is accepted. **H₀₂**: There is no significant difference between the mean rating of male and female students on the influence of nuclear family structure on the incidence of juvenile delinquency among senior secondary school students in Rivers State.

Table 4.6: z-test Analysis of Male and Female Students Responses on the Influence of Nuclear Family Structure on the incidence of Juvenile Delinquency among Senior Secondary School Students in Rivers State

| Variables | N | Mean | SD | Std Error | Df | t _{calc} | t _{crit} | α | Remarks |
|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|------|-------------------|-------------------|------|-----------|
| Male | 1268 | 2.90 | 0.12 | | | | | | |
| | | | | 4.68 | 2633 | 0.02 | 1.96 | 0.05 | Accept Ho |
| Female | 1367 | 2.80 | 0.12 | | | | | | |

From the table, it could be observed that the computed value of t = 0.02 is lower than the critical value (1.96). Since the calculated value is lower than the critical value, the null hypothesis is retained at 0.05 level of significant.

H₀₃: There is no significant difference between the mean rating of male and female students on the influence of extended family structure on the incidence of juvenile delinquency among senior secondary school students in Rivers State.

Table 4.7: z-test Analysis of Male and Female Students Responses on the Influence of Extended Family Structure on the incidence of Juvenile Delinquency among Senior Secondary School Students in Rivers State

| Variables | N | Mean | SD | Std Error | Df | t _{calc} | t _{crit} | α | Remarks |
|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|------|-------------------|-------------------|------|-----------|
| Male | 1268 | 3.20 | 0.13 | | | | | | |
| | | | | 4.88 | 2633 | 0.06 | 1.96 | 0.05 | Accept Ho |
| Female | 1367 | 2.90 | 0.12 | | | | | | |

The result of the z-test analysis above shows that the calculated value of 0.06 is less than the table value that is {t_{calc} (0.06) > t_{crit} (1.96)}. Since the calculated t-value is less than tabulated value, it implies that the computed value is not significant at the 0.05 level. Therefore, the null hypothesis of no significant difference between the mean rating of male and female on the influence of extended family structure on the incidence of juvenile delinquency among senior secondary school students in Rivers State is accepted.

H₀₄: There is no significant difference between the mean rating of male and female students on the influence of foster family structure on the incidence of juvenile delinquency among senior secondary school students in Rivers State.

Table 4.8: z-test Analysis of Male and Female Students Responses on the Influence of Foster Family Structure on the incidence of juvenile Delinquency among Senior Secondary School Students in Rivers State

| Variables | N | Mean | SD | Std Error | Df | t _{calc} | t _{crit} | α | Remarks |
|-----------|------|------|------|-----------|------|-------------------|-------------------|------|-----------------|
| Male | 1268 | 3.20 | 0.14 | | | | | | |
| | | | | 5.27 | 2633 | 0.04 | 1.96 | 0.05 | Not Significant |
| Female | 1367 | 3.00 | 0.13 | | | | | | |

From the above table, it could be inferred that male and female agree on their opinions regarding the influence of foster family structure on the incidence of juvenile delinquency among senior secondary school students in Rivers State.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The finding of the study vis-à-vis research questions one revealed that there was no significant difference in the responses of male and female on influence of single parent family structure on the incidence of juvenile delinquency among senior secondary school students in Rivers State.

Again, the finding of this study showed that male and female accepted that nuclear family structure influences the incidence of juvenile delinquency among senior secondary school students in Rivers State.

In Addition, the finding of this study revealed that there is no significant difference in male and female mean ratings and this suggests that the two groups agreed that extended family structure has significant influence on the incidence of juvenile delinquency among senior secondary school students in Rivers State.

Finally, the finding of this study showed that both male and female agree that foster family structure has significant influence on the incidence of juvenile delinquency among senior secondary school students in Rivers State. It could be inferred that environment may also have affected or influenced the choice of the foster child.

Counselling Implication of the Findings

The findings of the study have the following counselling implications:

- 1 Parents need to be counseled on how to manage juvenile in this 21st century.
- 2 Counselors' need to top up their game to help resolve the unresolved persona social problems of juvenile.
- 3 Applied behaviour analysis is supposed to be used to help juvenile learn proper behaviour and equally unlearn improper ones. ‘
- 4 Guidance and Counseling theories, such as reality therapy, gestalt therapy, and rational emotive behaviour therapy are needed to rescue juveniles from the shackles of faulty learning, and negative social influences.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings, it was concluded that certain behaviours displayed by children in the school are a result of family structures; a child who feels neglected by the parents carries the aggression to the school. Such a child may push other children, throw stones and distract others in the classroom. Teachers have also encountered aggressive behaviour from parents of some children and from this study it is clear that such attitudes are products of broken homes or single parents. The difficulties encountered by counsellors in certain cases are rooted in the influence exerted by the type of family from which the client comes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

1. Parents should be strict on the implementation of the rules and regulations that guide their homes.
2. Governments should formulate and implement policies that would consolidate the integrity of the family. This is in view of the integral role the family plays in the socialization and moral upbringing of the children.
3. Parents and care-givers should endeavour to make out sufficient time to spend with their children in order to monitor and supervise their activities especially what they watch on television and their use of the internet.
4. Single parenting, broken homes, and poor parenting style should be reduced to the barest minimum so that the delinquent behaviours of our children will be curtailed

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