

Influence of Parenting Styles on Bullying Behaviour of Pupils in Public Schools in Ajeromi Ifelodun Lgea Of Lagos Educational District

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Abstract: *The study adopted a descriptive survey research design. All of the public school students in Lagos State's Ajeromi Ifelodun Local Government East Area made up the study population. Out of the 25 public primary schools in the Ajeromi Ifelodun Local Government East Area, 10 public primary schools were randomly chosen for the sample, and 70 primary three students were also randomly chosen. A self-designed instrument titled, Parenting Styles Influence on pupils' Bullying Behaviours Questionnaire (PSIPBBQ) was used for the study. The questionnaire had two sections, section A entails demographic information of learners such as gender while Section B had 10 items that entails questions on parenting styles and forms of behaviours that reflect bullying activities. Frequency count of mean, standard deviation and percentage and t-test was employed to analyze the research questions and hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The findings of this study revealed that, parenting style has a high influence on bullying behaviour of pupils. The study also revealed that, there was no significant difference in the influence of parenting style on pupils' bullying behaviour. This study concluded that, pupils bullying behavior in school, home, or environment can be promoted or enhanced by the style of parenting employed at their homes. Also, both male and female pupils bullying behaviour are significantly influenced in the same way with little or no differences. This recommendation was given among others; Parents should be sensitized on the appropriate parenting style to employ at home as this can significantly influence bullying behaviour of pupils*

Keywords: Bullying, Parenting styles, behaviour

Introduction

Bullying at schools has existed for as long as education. It is viewed as a severe threat to schools today. Bullying among students and its relationship to parents and guardians have now been established. Studies have shown that kids whose parents foster a loving and peaceful home environment are more likely to act in socially acceptable ways at school and in general, and they are also more likely to perform well academically than kids whose parents exhibit negative tendencies at home or tolerate permissiveness. The upbringing of students might have an impact on how they behave at school.

According to Braithwaite (2018), hostility can be learnt through parental and other prominent adults modeling violent behavior. Parents' parenting style and home environment have a significant impact on bullying and other aggressive behaviors in schools. If precautions are not taken, a cycle of violence may also be perpetuated through the generations as a result of these behaviors (Efobi, A & Nwokolo, 2014). All because families are strong influences in children's lives, and poor child-rearing techniques and ineffective communication with the young have exposed them to a variety of immoral activities like disobedience to adults, eluding authority figures, evading parental authority, fleeing from home and school, crime, sexual risk behavior, violence, hooliganism, smoking, and drinking, among other things (Micki, 2018).

Numerous studies on parental practices and bullying behavior have been conducted. For instance, Nirmala and Baki (2019) conducted research on how parental practices and adolescents' responses to conflict relate to one another. The study demonstrated that the family is a setting where abilities are passed down and the foundation for personality development and increased adaptability is established. Parenting practices and self-concept on emotional adjustment of Nigerian secondary school children were similarly explored by Lazarus, Mohammed, and Adigun in 2012. The results showed that parenting practices and self-concept have a higher impact on respondents' emotional adjustments. The parenting style used by the pupils' parents may be one of the causes of their poor academic achievement.

Parenting style influences a child's well-being in the areas of social competence, academic achievement, psychosocial development, and problem behavior, according to a study on parenting style and its correlates by Omotose (2017). Wu (2018) conducted research on the variables influencing juvenile delinquency in Singapore. Additionally, it was shown that while the mean delinquency scores for the age groups of 12, 13, and 14 and older are roughly the same, the mean delinquency ratings for the age

group of 15 deviate significantly from those of the other age groups. Duncan (2014) conducted study on how family dynamics affect bullies at school and the people they target. The research identified disparities in family traits between youngsters without major engagement in bullying and kids who were bullies, victims, or bully-victims (youth who both bully others and are bullied).

Bullying throughout childhood can leave wounds that last a lifetime and impede adult development, according to Umoke et al. (2020). It was also mentioned that children who engage in bullying behaviors run a significant risk of experiencing behavioral, physical, and mental health issues as well as suicide thoughts. According to Ortiz and Ruiz (2017), there is a connection between parenting styles, disciplinary procedures, and bullying activity during adolescence because abusive disciplinary procedures make teens more susceptible to maltreatment at school. To prevent all the aforementioned, it is therefore highly essential to carry out investigation on the influence of parenting styles on bullying among primary school pupils in Ajeromi Ifelodun Local Government Area of Lagos state.

Statement of the Problem

There is a rapid increase in the rate and number of bullying and violence cases in the country and in the world at large which is constantly having negative impacts on the child's academic performance, emotional development and personality development. The size phenomenology and predictors of bullying conduct in collectivistic cultures are still largely unknown. Bullying is a significant issue in societies that value individualism. According to some research, 40% of all pupils experienced bullying at least once during their time in school. It's true that estimates of how widespread bullying behavior is vary among studies. But there is no doubt that middle schools, or adolescents, are where bullying conduct occurs most frequently. This phase is also essential for the growth of identity and a healthy self-concept.

Ajeromi Ifelodun LGEA has been observed to be a highly populated community in which social vices thrive greatly in most of the primary schools in the local government area and this has led to threatening of learning activities and survival of learners in the community. A lot of factors might have contributed to the situation in the schools which are yet to be investigated by researchers. Despite various researches that had been carried out on parenting styles and bullying, it was observed that no research has targeted the influence of parenting styles on bullying behaviour of pupils. This therefore required investigation at Ajeromi Local Government Area of Lagos State. The researchers could not find research work on the current research work and it is against this background and gap that the influence of parenting styles on bullying behaviour of primary school pupils in AJIF is therefore done to fill the gap.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the study:

1. What is the parenting style that influences pupil's bullying behaviours in Ajeromi Ifelodun LGEA?

Research Hypothesis

The following formulated hypothesis will be tested at 0.05 level of significance:

Ho1: There is no significant difference of m parenting style that influences pupil's bullying behaviours in AJIF LGEA based on gender

Methodology

The study adopted a descriptive survey research design. The study population for this study comprised of all public pupils in Ajeromi Ifelodun Local Government East Area of Lagos State. The sample comprised 10 public primary schools that were randomly selected out of 25 public primary schools in Ajeromi Ifelodun Local Government East Area and 70 primary three pupils were also randomly selected. A self-designed instrument titled, Parenting Styles Influence on pupils' Bullying Behaviours Questionnaire (PSIPBBQ) was used for the study. The questionnaire had two sections, section A entails demographic information of learners such as gender while Section B had 10 items that entails questions on parenting styles and forms of behaviours that reflect bullying activities. Frequency count of mean, standard deviation and percentage and t-test was employed to analyze the research questions and hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

Results

Research Question 1: What is the parenting style that influences pupil's bullying behaviours in Ajeromi Ifelodun LGEA

Table 1: Table showing the percentage and mean distribution on the parenting style that influences pupil's bullying behaviours

S/N	ITEM	SA	A	D	SD	MEAN
1	My Mother bully me	31(44.3)	39(55.7)	-	-	3.44
2	My Father bully me	25(35.7)	34(48.6)	7(10.0)	4(5.7)	3.14
3	My Mother gets so angry each time i offends her	30(42.9)	22(31.4)	11(15.7)	7(10.0)	3.07
4	My Fathers gets so angry each time i offends him	25(35.7)	38(54.3)	5(7.1)	2(2.9)	3.23
5	My Parents are aggressive	22(31.4)	28(40.0)	13(18.6)	7(10.0)	2.94
6	My Parents are loving and caring	30(42.9)	18(25.7)	12(17.1)	10(14.3)	2.97
7	My Friends bullies me	39(55.7)	14(20.0)	11(15.7)	6(8.6)	3.23
8	I bully my friends in return	28(40.0)	34(48.6)	5(7.1)	3(4.3)	3.24
9	I have seen my parents bully people	19(27.1)	34(48.6)	13(18.6)	4(5.7)	2.97
10	I have been bullied in school	37(52.9)	16(22.9)	11(15.7)	6(8.6)	3.20
WEIGHTED MEAN 3.1						

Note: The figures in parentheses are in percentages

Table 1 shows the extent of parenting style that influences pupil’s bullying behaviours. The following shows the parenting style that influences pupil’s bullying behaviours as follows: My Mother bully me (3.44), My Father bully me (3.14), My Mother gets so angry each time i offends her (3.07), My Fathers gets so angry each time i offends him (3.23), My Parents are aggressive (2.93), My Parents are loving and caring (2.97), My Friends bullies me (3.23), I bully my friends in return (3.2), I have seen my parents bully people (2.97), and I have been bullied in school (3.20). The weighted mean is 3.1, which means that calculated mean was greater than fixed mean (2.5). This implies that parenting style influences pupil’s bullying behaviours is high.

Research Hypothesis

Ho1: There is no significant difference of parenting style that influences pupil’s bullying behaviours in AJIF LGEA based on gender

Table 3: Summary of t-test result showing the significant difference of m parenting style that influences pupil’s bullying behaviours in AJIF LGEA based on gender

	Gender	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	t	F	df	Sig	Decision
Gender	Male	36	30.42	4.97	-1.89	0.12	68	0.73	Not Sig
	Female	34	32.50	4.19					

Table 3 shows summary of t-test result showing the significant difference of m parenting style that influences pupil’s bullying behaviours in AJIF LGEA based on gender. It was revealed that respondents in male pupils had mean score 30.42 with standard deviation 4.97 while respondents in female pupils had mean score 32.50 with standard deviation 4.19, the T_{cal} was -1.89, degree of freedom 68, F was 0.12 and significant level of 0.73 ($P>0.05$). This implies that there is no significant difference of m parenting style that influences pupil’s bullying behaviours in AJIF LGEA based on gender. Therefore, the null hypothesis that states that there is no significant difference of m parenting style that influences pupil’s bullying behaviours in AJIF LGEA based on gender was not rejected.

Discussion of Findings

The results of this study showed that parental practices had a significant impact on children's bullying behavior. This research suggests that parents' parenting practices have a favorable or negative impact on their children's bullying behavior. This result is

consistent with Reb's (2019) conclusion that parental style influences secondary school students' bullying behavior in Jigawa in a favorable way. This conclusion conflicts with what Paul (2017) found in his study on the influence of parenting practices on pupils' bullying behavior in Ekiti State. This study demonstrated that bullying behavior among adolescents may be caused by a variety of circumstances, including a student's peer group, their interests, or their parents' socioeconomic level, rather than their parenting practices at home.

Another finding of this study showed that there was no discernible difference in how parenting styles affected students' bullying behavior. This research suggests that parenting practices have an impact on the bullying behavior of both male and female students. There was no discernible difference in the bullying behavior of male and female students when it came to the impact of parenting style. This result supports that of Hessy (2020), who found no significant differences in the influence of parenting practices on students' bullying behavior. The results of this study contradict Usman's assertion from 2022 that parenting practices have a greater impact on the bullying behavior of female children than male students.

Conclusion

It is clear that parental parenting practices have an impact on their children's bullying behavior. This study came to the conclusion that a child's bullying behavior at home, school, or in the community can be encouraged or exacerbated by the parenting methods used there. Additionally, bullying behavior among students of both sexes is greatly influenced in a similar manner with few to no variations.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were given:

1. Parents should be sensitized on the appropriate parenting style to employ at home as this can significantly influence bullying behaviour of pupils
2. Male and female pupils should be educated on bullying and how it affects their behaviour
3. Schools should be informed that bullying behaviour in pupils could be as a result of parenting styles.

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