

# Parental Socio-Economic Background and Its Consequences on Youth Delinquency in Northern Senatorial District of Taraba State, Nigeria

Dr. Mbase Joshua Garba,<sup>\*1</sup> Prof. Noah Lumun Abanyam<sup>2</sup>, Madaki Ali Ibrahim<sup>3</sup>

Department of Sociology, Taraba State University, Jalingo

Correspondent Author: [madakiali001@gmail.com](mailto:madakiali001@gmail.com)

**Abstract:** Youth delinquency has remained a persistent challenge to social stability and human development, particularly in regions where poverty, unemployment, and family instability are widespread. This study examined the consequences of parental socio-economic background on youth delinquency in the Northern Senatorial District of Taraba State, Nigeria. Adopting a descriptive survey design, the study sampled 387 respondents drawn from youths, parents, teachers, traditional rulers, and security stakeholders across six Local Government Areas. Data were collected using structured questionnaires and in-depth interviews to capture both quantitative and qualitative perspectives on delinquency. Descriptive statistics, Pearson correlation, and Chi-square tests were employed to analyze the quantitative data, while thematic analysis was applied to qualitative responses. Findings revealed that parental socio-economic disadvantages particularly poverty, low educational attainment, unemployment, and family instability were strongly associated with delinquent outcomes such as truancy, substance abuse, theft, and violent conduct. The correlation results ( $r = 0.651$ ,  $p < .05$ ) confirmed a significant positive relationship between low socio-economic status and delinquency. Furthermore, cultural tolerance of adolescent misconduct in some communities reinforced deviant behaviors, normalizing truancy and petty theft as youthful exuberance. Anchored on Control Theory and Cultural Deviance Theory, the study concludes that delinquency in Northern Taraba is shaped by both structural poverty and permissive cultural norms. It recommends parental economic empowerment, inclusive educational reforms, and community-level reorientation programs to address the root causes of youth delinquency and promote social stability.

**Keywords:** Parental socio-economic background, Consequence, Youth delinquency, Family instability, Poverty and education

## Introduction

Youth delinquency has emerged as one of the most pressing social challenges in contemporary societies, drawing the attention of scholars, policymakers, and community leaders across the globe. Delinquent behavior among adolescents and young adults undermines community cohesion, strains justice systems, and hampers socio-economic development (UNICEF, 2020). While delinquency is a universal phenomenon, its prevalence and consequences are more pronounced in developing societies where structural poverty, weak institutions, and inadequate social services intersect to create fertile ground for deviant behaviors. The World Health Organization (2021) has consistently emphasized the centrality of family context, particularly socio-economic conditions, in shaping youth outcomes.

Across Africa, socio-economic hardship has been shown to predispose young people to delinquent behaviors. Akinyemi and Adebayo (2019) argued that economic deprivation, weak family structures, and limited opportunities for education and employment create conditions where crime becomes both a coping mechanism and a survival strategy. In South Africa, Dlamini and Ndaba (2020) demonstrated that adolescents from impoverished households were disproportionately represented in crime statistics, confirming the nexus between parental socio-economic disadvantage and youth delinquency.

In Nigeria, the problem is even more pronounced due to widespread poverty, unemployment, and structural inequality. Nduka and Eze (2021) reported that children from poor families are at greater risk of delinquency owing to limited educational access, inadequate parental supervision, and frustration arising from deprivation. This challenge is exacerbated by corruption and weak state institutions, which further marginalize vulnerable populations (Adetola & Ogunbiyi, 2020). Youth delinquency in Nigeria manifests in various forms, including substance abuse, truancy, cultism, petty theft, and violent crimes, all of which carry serious implications for national stability and development.

In Taraba State, particularly within the Northern Senatorial District, socio-economic realities mirror these national trends. The region's predominantly agrarian economy has been undermined by climate change, recurring conflicts, and limited infrastructure (Ahmed & Musa, 2021). Many families live below the poverty line, and parents often struggle to provide basic needs such as education, healthcare, and nutrition. This economic vulnerability, coupled with cultural tolerance of certain adolescent misbehaviors, contributes to the growing challenge of youth delinquency. Garba and Yakubu (2022) observed that poverty and weak family structures in urban centers of Taraba correlate strongly with substance abuse and violent activities among adolescents.

Theoretically, Becker's (1964) human capital theory suggests that parental socio-economic background determines the resources available for children's development, including access to education, health care, and safe social environments. In contexts where economic deprivation is widespread, the absence of these resources exposes youths to deviant pathways. Similarly, Control Theory posits that weak parental bonds and poor supervision increase the likelihood of delinquency, while Cultural Deviance Theory emphasizes the role of community norms in sustaining or tolerating deviant behaviors.

This study therefore focuses on examining the consequences of parental socio-economic background on youth delinquency in Northern Senatorial District of Taraba State. Unlike broader studies that generalize across Nigeria, this work narrows its scope to a specific region with unique socio-economic and cultural dynamics, thereby contributing context-sensitive insights to criminological discourse and policy debates. The key research question guiding this paper is: What are the consequences of parental socio-economic background on delinquent behavior among youths in the Northern Senatorial District of Taraba State?

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- i. To examine the socio-economic background of parents in the Northern Senatorial District of Taraba State.
- ii. To identify the common forms of delinquent behaviors exhibited by youths in the study area.
- iii. To analyze the relationship between parental socio-economic background and youth delinquency in the Northern Senatorial District of Taraba State.

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **Parental Socio-Economic Background and Youth Delinquency**

Globally, a considerable body of literature has documented the relationship between parental socio-economic background and juvenile delinquency. Research from developed nations indicates that socio-economic disadvantage increases the risk of adolescent involvement in deviant behavior. For example, Farrington (2019) showed in a longitudinal study in the United Kingdom that children from low-income families were more likely to engage in theft, truancy, and substance abuse, compared to their peers from higher-income backgrounds. Similarly, Loeber and Farrington (2020) argue that persistent poverty, family instability, and low parental education constitute "developmental risk factors" that shape delinquent trajectories.

In the United States, Pratt and Cullen (2020) confirmed that socio-economic status mediates access to resources that can prevent delinquency, such as quality schools, healthcare, and community support services. They found that when these resources are lacking, youths are more vulnerable to peer influence and gang involvement. Social disorganization theory has also been employed to explain how neighborhoods characterized by poverty and instability create environments where informal social control is weak, thereby encouraging deviant behaviors (Sampson & Groves, 2019). These findings underscore that socio-economic background is not merely a household characteristic but a broader structural determinant of youth behavior.

Cross-national studies reinforce this connection. A meta-analysis by Murray, Eisner, and Wikström (2019) involving 20 countries revealed that socio-economic disadvantage is consistently associated with higher rates of delinquency, regardless of cultural context. However, the study also found that effective social policies such as welfare support, universal education, and community-based youth programs can significantly mitigate these risks. Thus, while poverty and socio-economic hardship are global drivers of delinquency, the availability of social safety nets moderates their impact.

In Africa, where poverty and inequality are widespread, the consequences of parental socio-economic background on youth delinquency are particularly pronounced. Akinyemi and Adebayo (2019) observed that in sub-Saharan Africa, the absence of robust welfare systems leaves families to cope with economic hardship on their own, often resulting in poor supervision and neglect of children. This situation creates fertile ground for delinquent activities such as truancy, theft, and substance abuse.

In South Africa, Dlamini and Ndaba (2020) found that adolescents from impoverished households were disproportionately involved in violent crimes and substance abuse, attributing this to the interaction of poverty, unemployment, and community disorganization. Similarly, Nsanzimana (2019), studying Rwanda, demonstrated that exposure to violence and poverty in family settings was a strong predictor of adolescent delinquency. These findings affirm the strain theory perspective that youths under chronic economic and social stress may resort to crime as a coping mechanism.

Studies in Ghana also highlight the significance of parental education and occupation. Gyansah, Soku, and Esilfie (2015) reported that adolescents whose parents lacked formal education were more likely to engage in petty crimes and truancy than those whose parents had higher education. They argued that educated parents not only provide better supervision but also instill values that discourage deviant behavior. This underscores the role of parental education as a protective factor against delinquency.

Across Africa, peer influence compounds socio-economic vulnerabilities. Walters (2020) noted that peer groups often reinforce delinquent behavior among disadvantaged youths, especially in urban slums where opportunities for education and employment are limited. The combination of economic deprivation, weak parental supervision, and negative peer influence creates a cycle of delinquency that is difficult to break.

In Nigeria, youth delinquency has been extensively linked to socio-economic realities such as poverty, unemployment, and educational disadvantage. Nduka and Eze (2021) argued that poor families are unable to provide for their children's education and supervision, exposing them to early involvement in street trading and criminal activities. Their study further revealed that socio-economic disparities manifest not only in material deprivation but also in the psychological frustration that drives youths into delinquency.

Adetola and Ogunbiyi (2020) also emphasized the role of corruption and inequality in sustaining delinquency in Nigeria. They found that in urban centers, where wealth disparities are stark, youths from poor families often experience resentment and exclusion, which increases their likelihood of engaging in theft, cultism, and violence. Similarly, Garba and Yakubu (2022) highlighted the connection between family instability and youth crime in Taraba State, pointing out that children from broken homes were particularly vulnerable to substance abuse and violent behavior.

Empirical evidence from Northern Nigeria further confirms this trend. Ibrahim and Adamu (2023) reported that in Taraba's Northern Senatorial District, widespread poverty and lack of educational opportunities correlated strongly with delinquent behaviors such as truancy, theft, and gang involvement. They stressed that socio-economic deprivation in this region is compounded by cultural tolerance of adolescent misconduct, making interventions more complex.

Moreover, studies by Nwankwo and Usman (2023) revealed that cultural practices often downplay the seriousness of adolescent misconduct, treating acts such as truancy or petty theft as "normal stages" of growing up. This cultural permissiveness, combined with economic hardship, entrenches delinquency in communities. These findings confirm the relevance of both Control Theory and Cultural Deviance Theory in explaining delinquency within the Nigerian context.

## **CRITICAL SYNTHESIS AND RESEARCH GAP**

The reviewed literature consistently shows that parental socio-economic background plays a pivotal role in shaping youth delinquency across different contexts. Globally, low socio-economic status correlates with higher delinquency rates, while welfare systems moderate this impact. In Africa, poverty, family instability, and peer influence interact to heighten vulnerability, while in Nigeria, structural inequality, corruption, and cultural permissiveness further exacerbate the problem.

However, a critical gap remains in the literature: many studies in Nigeria adopt a broad, national perspective, overlooking regional variations. Few studies focus specifically on the Northern Senatorial District of Taraba State, a region with unique socio-economic and cultural dynamics. Existing works tend to generalize findings across states or geopolitical zones, thereby missing the localized nuances that shape delinquency in Taraba. Additionally, while prior studies identify socio-economic background as a risk factor, fewer examine its consequences in depth, particularly the ways in which parental poverty and low education manifest in specific delinquent outcomes such as substance abuse, truancy, or violent crime.

This gap justifies the present study, which narrows its focus to the consequences of parental socio-economic background on delinquency among youths in the Northern Senatorial District of Taraba State. By contextualizing the problem within the unique socio-economic and cultural realities of Taraba, the study contributes region-specific insights that can inform both academic discourse and targeted policy interventions.

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **Control Theory**

Control Theory, as articulated by Travis Hirschi (1969), posits that individuals refrain from delinquency when they maintain strong bonds to conventional institutions such as family, school, and community. According to Hirschi, these bonds are composed of four elements: attachment, commitment, involvement, and belief. When these bonds are weakened—whether through parental neglect, poor supervision, or disconnection from educational institutions—youths become more susceptible to delinquent behavior.

Attachment refers to the emotional ties youths develop with parents and authority figures. In contexts of poverty and family instability, these attachments are often weak, leaving adolescents vulnerable to negative peer influence. Commitment involves the investment individuals make in conventional pursuits such as education and career goals. In the Northern Senatorial District of Taraba State, widespread poverty and poor educational access undermine such commitment, as youths often perceive limited opportunities for upward mobility (Ibrahim & Adamu, 2023). Involvement refers to participation in legitimate activities; however,

when parents lack resources to engage their children in constructive pursuits such as schooling or vocational training, idle time may increase the likelihood of deviant behavior. Finally, belief in societal norms is eroded when youths observe systemic inequality and corruption, which diminish confidence in social institutions.

Control Theory thus explains why parental socio-economic background is pivotal in youth behavior. Parents who are unemployed, poorly educated, or living in poverty may not provide adequate supervision or support, thereby weakening social bonds. Empirical evidence from Nigeria supports this position: Garba and Yakubu (2022) reported that youths from broken homes in Taraba State were more likely to engage in substance abuse and violent behaviors due to reduced parental monitoring. Therefore, in the context of Northern Taraba, Control Theory underscores how socio-economic disadvantage disrupts family bonds and facilitates delinquency.

### **Cultural Deviance Theory**

Cultural Deviance Theory, advanced by Shaw and McKay (1942) and later expanded by theorists like Miller (1958), emphasizes that delinquency emerges not only from weak social bonds but also from cultural norms and values that sustain deviant behavior. According to this theory, certain communities develop subcultures that tolerate, excuse, or even encourage delinquency, making it part of the social fabric.

In many African societies, including parts of Northern Nigeria, cultural attitudes toward adolescence often normalize behaviors such as truancy, fighting, or minor theft as “rites of passage” (Nwankwo & Usman, 2023). Such cultural permissiveness diminishes the stigma attached to delinquency, thereby reducing the effectiveness of social control. In the Northern Senatorial District of Taraba State, these dynamics are particularly evident in communities where traditional leaders and parents view certain deviant acts as youthful exuberance rather than serious misconduct. Over time, these attitudes become embedded within the socialization process, making delinquency an accepted form of behavior among youths.

The Cultural Deviance perspective also highlights how socio-economic hardship interacts with cultural tolerance. Poverty-stricken families may not have the capacity to enforce discipline, while communities may prioritize survival over conformity to social norms. As a result, deviant behavior becomes normalized. This aligns with findings by Walters (2020), who showed that in African urban centers, peer groups reinforce deviance among adolescents from disadvantaged backgrounds, creating a culture where delinquency is both tolerated and rewarded.

Applied to this study, Cultural Deviance Theory explains why socio-economic disadvantage alone does not fully account for delinquency in Northern Taraba. Instead, the interaction between poverty and cultural permissiveness produces an enabling environment for deviant behaviors. Thus, interventions must address not only economic empowerment but also cultural reorientation to challenge norms that sustain delinquency.

### **Integrative Relevance to the Study**

The combination of Control Theory and Cultural Deviance Theory provides a comprehensive framework for analyzing youth delinquency in Northern Taraba. Control Theory emphasizes the role of weakened family and institutional bonds, while Cultural Deviance Theory explains how community norms sustain and normalize delinquency. Together, they illuminate why poverty, low parental education, unemployment, and broken homes translate into specific delinquent outcomes such as truancy, substance abuse, and violent behavior.

This dual-theoretical approach also strengthens the explanatory power of the study by highlighting the interplay between structure and culture. While socio-economic disadvantage constitutes a structural condition that predisposes youths to deviance, cultural norms shape how these disadvantages are expressed in behavior. Hence, tackling youth delinquency in Northern Taraba requires multi-sectoral interventions that simultaneously strengthen family bonds and challenge cultural norms that perpetuate deviance.

### **METHODOLOGY**

This study adopted a descriptive survey design to examine the consequences of parental socio-economic background on youth delinquency in the Northern Senatorial District of Taraba State, Nigeria. The design was considered appropriate because it allowed the researcher to collect both quantitative and qualitative data on prevailing socio-economic conditions and delinquent behaviors in the study area. The population of the study comprised parents, youths, teachers, traditional rulers, and security stakeholders across six Local Government Areas within the Northern Senatorial District. Using stratified and purposive sampling techniques, a total of 400 structured questionnaires were distributed, of which 387 were returned and found valid for analysis. In addition, in-depth interviews were conducted with key informants including traditional leaders, teachers, and security officials to complement and validate the survey findings .

Data collection involved the use of a structured questionnaire designed on a Likert scale to capture respondents' socio-economic conditions and perceptions of youth delinquency, alongside interview guides that explored cultural and contextual nuances of deviance in the district. Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, and means, while inferential tests including Pearson correlation and Chi-square were employed to test hypotheses and establish relationships between parental socio-economic background and delinquency. Qualitative data were transcribed and analyzed thematically to provide contextual explanations for quantitative results. To ensure reliability, the instruments were pre-tested and yielded a Cronbach's alpha coefficient above the 0.70 benchmark, while content validity was established through expert review. This mixed-methods approach enhanced the robustness of the study, enabling a more comprehensive understanding of how parental socio-economic conditions shape delinquent outcomes among youths in Northern Taraba.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Results

Table 1 presents the socio-economic background of parents with delinquent youths in the Northern Senatorial District of Taraba State. The data reveal that a significant proportion of parents were from low-income households, with limited educational attainment and unstable employment. Specifically, 56.3% of parents reported earning below ₦50,000 monthly, while only 18.5% had tertiary education. Family instability, including single-parent households, was also common.

Table 1: Socio-Economic Background of Parents with Delinquent Youths

Variable	Frequency (n=387)	Percentage (%)
Monthly Income < ₦50,000	218	56.3
Monthly Income ₦50,000–₦100,000	97	25.1
Monthly Income > ₦100,000	72	18.6
Parents with No Formal Education	115	29.7
Parents with Secondary Education	200	51.7
Parents with Tertiary Education	72	18.5
Single-Parent Households	142	36.7
Intact Families	245	63.3

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 2 summarizes the prevalence and nature of delinquent behaviors among youths. The findings indicate that truancy (48.6%), substance abuse (44.1%), and theft (39.2%) were the most frequently reported behaviors. Violent conduct, including fighting and cult-related activities, was also notable (27.6%).

Table 2: Prevalence and Nature of Delinquent Behaviors Among Youths

Delinquent Behavior	Frequency (n=387)	Percentage (%)
Truancy	188	48.6
Substance Abuse	171	44.1
Theft/Petty Stealing	152	39.2
Violent Conduct/Fighting	107	27.6
Cultism	93	24.0
Other Behaviors (e.g., Vandalism, Bullying)	82	21.2

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 3 reports the correlation analysis between parental socio-economic status and youth delinquency. The Pearson correlation coefficient was  $r = 0.651$ ,  $p < 0.05$ , indicating a strong and statistically significant positive relationship between low socio-economic background and delinquency. In other words, the lower the socio-economic status of parents, the higher the likelihood of delinquent outcomes among youths.

Table 3: Correlation Between Parental Socio-Economic Status and Youth Delinquency

Variable	Youth Delinquency (r)	p-value
----------	-----------------------	---------

Parental Income	0.62	<0.05
Parental Education	0.57	<0.05
Family Stability	0.49	<0.05
Overall SES–Delinquency Index	0.651	<0.05

Source: Field Survey, 2025

## DISCUSSION

The findings of this study highlight the profound consequences of parental socio-economic background on youth delinquency in Northern Senatorial District of Taraba State. The high prevalence of low-income households, low educational attainment, and family instability among parents of delinquent youths underscores the structural roots of deviance in the region. This is consistent with Farrington (2019), who observed that socio-economic disadvantage increases the risk of persistent delinquency by undermining parental supervision and limiting children's access to opportunities.

The prevalence of truancy, substance abuse, and theft as dominant delinquent behaviors suggests that delinquency in the study area is not only a reflection of individual choices but also of survival strategies in contexts of deprivation. This aligns with Agnew's strain theory, which posits that when youths are unable to achieve socially approved goals due to economic barriers, they may resort to deviant behavior as an alternative pathway.

The correlation analysis further confirms the strength of this relationship. The significant positive correlation ( $r = 0.651$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) between parental socio-economic background and delinquency illustrates that socio-economic disadvantage is not peripheral but central to the problem. Similar results were reported by Garba and Yakubu (2022), who found that adolescents from broken homes in Taraba exhibited higher rates of substance abuse and violent behaviors.

The findings also resonate with Control Theory. The weakening of parental attachments, reduced commitment to education, and lack of involvement in structured activities due to poverty all contribute to the erosion of social bonds, thereby increasing susceptibility to delinquency (Hirschi, 1969). In addition, Cultural Deviance Theory provides further explanatory power: cultural norms in some communities treat behaviors such as truancy and petty theft as youthful exuberance rather than serious misconduct (Nwankwo & Usman, 2023). This permissiveness normalizes deviance and perpetuates a cycle of delinquency.

Situating these findings in the broader African and Nigerian context, it becomes clear that delinquency in Northern Taraba is shaped by the dual pressures of structural poverty and cultural permissiveness. Addressing one without the other would likely be insufficient. Therefore, interventions must integrate economic empowerment of parents with community-level reorientation to challenge cultural norms that tolerate delinquency.

## CONCLUSION

This study has demonstrated that parental socio-economic background exerts a profound influence on youth delinquency in the Northern Senatorial District of Taraba State, Nigeria. The findings revealed that poverty, low educational attainment, unemployment, and family instability among parents are strongly correlated with delinquent outcomes such as truancy, substance abuse, theft, and violent behavior. Beyond economic constraints, cultural permissiveness in some communities further normalizes these deviant acts, thereby compounding the problem. Anchored on Control Theory and Cultural Deviance Theory, the study concludes that youth delinquency in Northern Taraba is not merely an individual moral failing but a structural and cultural phenomenon rooted in socio-economic deprivation and weak socialization mechanisms. Addressing the issue requires a holistic approach that combines parental economic empowerment, inclusive educational reforms, youth engagement programs, and community-level reorientation to reshape cultural attitudes toward adolescent misconduct.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Parental Economic Empowerment:** Targeted economic empowerment programs should be introduced for low-income families in the Northern Senatorial District of Taraba State. This could include access to microcredit schemes, vocational training, and agricultural support, enabling parents to improve household income and reduce the economic pressures that predispose youths to delinquency.
- 2. Educational and Youth Development Interventions:** Government and NGOs should expand access to quality education and vocational training for adolescents from disadvantaged backgrounds. Providing scholarships, school feeding programs, and skill acquisition centers will reduce school dropouts, foster commitment to legitimate pursuits, and limit idle time that often leads to deviant behaviors such as truancy and substance abuse.
- 3. Community-Level Cultural Reorientation:** Community leaders, traditional institutions, and religious organizations should collaborate to challenge cultural norms that tolerate or excuse adolescent misconduct. Awareness campaigns,

parenting workshops, and youth mentorship programs should be introduced to promote stricter supervision, instill positive values, and reinforce societal disapproval of deviant behaviors.

### References

- Adetola, A., & Ogunbiyi, O. (2020). Socio-economic inequalities and youth crime in Nigeria: A criminological perspective. *Nigerian Journal of Social Sciences*, 16(2), 45–59.
- Ahmed, B., & Musa, I. (2021). Climate change, agriculture, and rural poverty in Northern Nigeria: Implications for social stability. *African Journal of Development Studies*, 13(1), 101–116.
- Akinyemi, A., & Adebayo, T. (2019). Socio-economic challenges and youth involvement in crime in sub-Saharan Africa. *Journal of African Criminology and Justice Studies*, 12(1), 89–105.
- Becker, G. S. (1964). *Human capital: A theoretical and empirical analysis, with special reference to education*. University of Chicago Press.
- Dlamini, Z., & Ndaba, S. (2020). Poverty, social exclusion and youth crime in South Africa: A socio-economic analysis. *South African Review of Sociology*, 51(3), 57–75. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21528586.2020.1797643>
- Farrington, D. P. (2019). Longitudinal research on crime and delinquency. *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, 109(2), 345–368.
- Garba, M., & Yakubu, A. (2022). Family instability and delinquent behaviour among adolescents in Taraba State, Nigeria. *Taraba Journal of Sociology*, 4(2), 33–49.
- Gyansah, S., Soku, J., & Esilfie, G. (2015). Family background and juvenile delinquency: A Ghanaian perspective. *International Journal of Social Sciences*, 7(1), 122–135.
- Hirschi, T. (1969). *Causes of delinquency*. University of California Press.
- Ibrahim, M., & Adamu, S. (2023). Socio-economic deprivation and youth criminality in Northern Taraba State. *Journal of Nigerian Criminology*, 5(1), 55–72.
- Loeber, R., & Farrington, D. P. (2020). Risk and protective factors in the development of delinquency and conduct disorder. *Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Clinics of North America*, 29(2), 131–144. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chc.2019.11.003>
- Miller, W. B. (1958). Lower class culture as a generating milieu of gang delinquency. *Journal of Social Issues*, 14(3), 5–19. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1540-4560.1958.tb01413.x>
- Murray, J., Eisner, M., & Wikström, P. O. (2019). Socio-economic disadvantage and youth delinquency: A cross-national meta-analysis. *European Journal of Criminology*, 16(4), 412–431. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1477370818801115>
- Nduka, J., & Eze, B. (2021). Poverty and the rise of juvenile delinquency in Nigeria: A socio-legal analysis. *International Journal of Law and Criminology*, 9(1), 1–14.
- Nsanziimana, P. (2019). Family poverty and youth delinquency in post-genocide Rwanda. *African Journal of Criminology*, 8(2), 59–77.
- Nwankwo, K., & Usman, A. (2023). Cultural practices and adolescent deviance in Northern Nigeria. *Journal of Cultural Sociology*, 11(3), 210–227.
- Pratt, T. C., & Cullen, F. T. (2020). Revisiting strain and social control: Family poverty and delinquency. *Criminology*, 58(1), 1–27. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9125.12219>
- Sampson, R. J., & Groves, W. B. (2019). Community structure and crime: Testing social-disorganization theory. *American Journal of Sociology*, 94(4), 774–802. <https://doi.org/10.1086/229068>
- Shaw, C. R., & McKay, H. D. (1942). *Juvenile delinquency and urban areas*. University of Chicago Press.
- Smith, J., & Nobles, R. (2021). Socio-economic background and youth outcomes: A cross-national review. *Journal of Comparative Social Research*, 40(2), 75–96.
- UNICEF. (2020). *The state of the world's children 2020: Children, food and nutrition*. United Nations Children's Fund. <https://www.unicef.org/reports/state-of-worlds-children-2020>
- Walters, G. D. (2020). The role of peers in criminal socialization: Evidence from African urban centers. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 64(7), 673–690. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0306624X19877402>
- World Health Organization. (2021). *Adolescent health and development*. WHO Regional Office for Africa. <https://www.afro.who.int/publications/adolescent-health-and-development>