



Types, Causes and Consequences of Deviant Behaviours Among Adolescent Senior Secondary School Students in Egor Local Government Area of Edo State

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Abstract

The study considered types, causes, consequences and counselling strategies for managing deviant behaviours. Deviant behaviours among youths and adolescents have become a global issue of concern to the security of the Nation in general. Croosman (2014) defined deviant behaviour as being in contrary to the norms of the society. It can be addressed as behaviours that are not in conformity with cultural and societal norms and values. The study enumerated types of deviant behaviours such as truancy, stealing, cultism, prostitution, bullying, indecent dressing, sexual immorality and others. Also, possible causes that can lead to deviant behaviours such as parental background, influence of mass media, society and peer group influences were considered. Onyekwuru and Thompson (2012) reported that some deviant persons who grow up in a dysfunctional family and environment can usually suffer from psychological problems such as rejection, no self-worth, bullying, criminality and suicide attempts. It therefore become necessary to multiplicity address the types, causes and consequences of deviant behaviours. These young ones need not to be ignorant of beliefs, roles, skills, values and setting up good goals for better achievement and adjustment in life. Also, for deviant behaviours such as bullying and truancy, victims might always feel unhappy, anxious and find it difficult to concentrate on their studies. They may stay away from school and such situation can lead to poor academic performance, failures and can end up as school drop-out, thereby constituting risk for criminality. Some may end up in robbery, prostitution among others. Various therapeutic measures and recommendations were then stipulated such as modelling, shaping, use of Rational Emotive Therapy among others to use in managing deviant behaviours.

Keywords: Deviants, Parental background, Values, Poor academic performance, Criminality.

Introduction

Negligence to adequate upbringing of a child's behaviour can lead to inadequate adjustment in life. Every individual passes process of development from birth, of which the adolescents are not exempted.

School is a place for acquisition of formal learning or knowledge. Formal and informal education is powerful sources of acquiring desirable behaviours, values, skills, knowledge for learners to be well adjusted in life. To achieve maximum adjustment, the extent the individual or student is connected to his or her environment such as home and school without becoming a deviant is of great importance (Bean, 2011).

Deviant behaviour can be described as a behaviour that violates acceptable norms and values of an institution or group. Deviant behaviours can be addressed as behaviours that do not conform to

societal norms. Deviant behaviour can also be referred to as any behaviour expressed by anyone, or group which is at variance with the principles, rules and norms of the society (Hayden, 2016). Without good disciplinary measures in schools, teachers will find it difficult to teach students and students cannot effectively learn (Hayden, 2011).

Deviant behaviour is very common within the Secondary School system and many of the adolescents are, within the adolescent stage. Most of these adolescents like to form gangs or peer group. According to Leober (2013), these peer groups love to socialize with one another they form values, love to explore, and may not have the capacity to resist some negative behaviours, and in the process of belonging may engage into deviant behaviours.

Statement of the Problem

Within schools in Nigeria, teachers, parents and general public are worried about deviant behaviours that are being exhibited by these students such as fighting, damaging school properties, aggression, stealing, and cultism among others. Parents are naturally concerned and worried why their child steals, run out of home. The implication is that when these children are neglected and not given proper or desirable upbringing, it can result into deviant behaviours. Such deviant individual can result to dysfunctional society, full of threats to life and properties, which may be due to unresolved behaviours and psychological problems.

Types of Deviant Behaviours

So many behaviours exhibited by individuals who do not conform to principles, values, goals and norms of the society include truancy, stealing, cultism, prostitution, kidnapping, aggressiveness/bullying, stubborn behaviour, indecent dressing, sexual immorality, drug abuse, cheating/internet fraud with handset and others.

Causes of Deviant Behaviours among School Adolescents

Parental or home background: In homes characterised by violence, family instability, hostility, socio-economic factors, child abuse, smoking, alcoholic are all prone to give rise to children that are deviant in behaviours. Ehidero (2015) asserted that parental socio economic status relate to parental Education, Income and Occupation. The occupation and education can affect the income which can influence the upbringing of the child. In homes where the needs of the children are not met, can make the child become deviant. The child's physical, academic and emotional needs can lead to deviant behaviours.

Cone (2012) observed that children that are deviant are not happy, they are rebellious; they do odd jobs like hawking to survive. They feel that the only way to make it is to rebel against the authority. Azoro (2010) explained that broken homes has high risks of indulging in deviant behaviours as a result of homes that contribute with violence and unstable home.

Stealing: This involves the act of taking another person's property without permission. Stealing can project to armed robbery when not curbed. Stealing or armed robbery are acts of deviant behaviours. It can be seen as a kind of misconduct behaviour. Grant (2011) observed that adolescent, who steals have impairments in problem-solving skills and a cognitive bias towards inappropriate solutions to problems. In addition to parent-child problems, school failures, negative peer influences can underlie adolescent

stealing. This can provide clues that students who stole, stealing can be associated with alcohol and drug use and smoking which may have multiple reasons of influences due to environmental contingencies.

Biological factors can contribute to participation in addictive behaviours. On the other form, those who steal may try unsuccessfully to cope with guilt by using drugs, alcohol and smoking.

Cultism: Cultism is an act of deviant behaviour, especially among adolescents. This cultism can start from bad association or company. Cultism is a social vice that needs to be controlled from adolescent school stage as it becomes more pronounced during tertiary institution (Ejike, 2014). Ejike (2014) explained that students join cultism from 15 years to 23 years, and they do so as a result of intimidation or personal volition and some due to influence from peer groups. In addition, other reasons of joining cult can be to crave for supremacy, for protection, love for female students, inferiority complex, revenge bid and many other reasons.

Prostitution: Prostitution involves making money through sexual behaviours. Majority of adolescents between 14 – 22 years are involved as it is a growing phenomenon across the globe (Penna et al. 2019). Prostitution mostly among female is a concern both as public health and economic perspective which they see as means of survival. The psychological and physical danger inherent in prostitution makes it most damaging repercussion of homeless among youths (Greene et al. 2019). Such danger includes infections such as HIV, drug addiction, suicide, depression amongst others.

Ayado (2012) remarked that such female appear in skimpy and emotionally provoking dresses, taking excessive alcohol while looking for highest bidder irrespective of the customer's state of health. These acts of deviant behaviours can be common among females and can do anything to get a man.

Drug Abuse: Drug Abuse can be another deviant behaviour among adolescents. According to Memahon (2014), up to 80 % of mentally deranged persons roaming along the streets are victims of drug/substance abuse. Drug/substance abuse involves taking drugs not prescribed by a medical expert, including expired drugs, taking overdose, taking hard drug like heroin, cocaine and sleeping pills. The use of such drugs can have effect in their lives. Some may lose their senses and personality due to drug abuse.

Mass Media: Mass media includes audio-visual, print media and audio systems. All these are means of getting information. The growing phenomenon due to mass media seems to be producing more of negative influence resulting into deviant behaviours than positive character. Through the dynamic explosion in

mass media system from programs in the televisions, cassettes, magazines, radio, video, films, newspapers, and other sources has added greatly to acquisition of deviant behaviours such as indecent dressing, sexual immorality, scamming among others.

The Society: Nigeria adults are materialistic and corrupt. Everyone is looking for the slightest opportunity to dupe the other person. This can be noticed by the deviant behaviours of the youths that want to live in affluence without labouring for it. Some are being recruited as thugs during crises periods or elections and many of these members are ritualists, fraudsters, murderers (Umuezulike, 2014).

Peer Group Pressure: This may have positive or negative influence pending on the type of peer groups in question. If it is positive peer group, will help in character formation but if it is negative, may result into deviant behaviours such as smoking Indian hemp, marijuana, cocaine, drunkenness among others. In such cases, they need help and intervention before they go out of hand to handle.

Causes of Deviant behaviours

Varieties of things might lead to causative factors of deviant behaviours. Studies have revealed that men and women can engage in deviant behaviours. Among the causative factors can includes family issues, mental health issues, peer pressure, social media, cultism and nature of society among others.

Family Issues: From most family background, some parents may not show good models or be concerned about their children behaviours. Situations where children lack love, their basic needs such as physical, financial, academic and emotional needs are not provided, the children can easily become deviant in their behaviours.

Peer Groups: Adolescents need guidance as they may be exposed to some complexities in life. They may want to form friends to socialize and explore things, of which in the process can lead them into, behaviours that are deviant such as gambling, smoking, fighting, indecent dressing, drunkenness among others.

Mass media: Through mass media, wrong information can produce negative impact on character formation and adjustment of the individuals such as in internet frauding.

Consequences of Deviant Behaviours

Some deviant persons who grow up in a dysfunctional family and in an environment as reported by Oyeyemi et al. (2019), can have several behavioural problems and symptoms psychologically. They can suffer from depression,

fear of recurrence, feelings of isolation, sadness, rejection, anger, insecurity, abandonment, no self-worth and other behavioural consequences, among others which may include fighting, chemical dependence, violence, criminality, bullying and suicide attempts. They further asserted that such persons can indulge in deviant behaviours such as bullying, can have problem with their cognition and psychological issues, and might have learnt such bullying from the environment, or may be responding to early life experiences with their parents and immediate family. When the family system is healthy, the adolescents or children with every member within the family functions optimally because of love, commitment, and respect for members, openness and cooperation will be in place, for goal achievement.

Other consequences of deviant behaviours like bullying and truancy may include, the victims being unhappy, anxious and may find it difficult to concentrate on their studies, stay away from school, and such situation can lead to fears, health problems, poor academic performance and the child can end up as school dropout thereby constituting risk for becoming a hardened criminal. Some victims may become prone to mental illness. The school environment may look hostile and not conducive for learning. Solomon (2014) revealed that deviants can constitute nuisance because many do absent themselves from schools, thereby failed to perform well in examinations and most times often cheat and repeat classes. They may not still perform better instead drop out of school and some may end up as armed robbers for boys, while the girls become prostitutes all in the name of survival.

Conclusion and Recommendations

According to Bandura (1968) behaviours can be learned and can also be unlearned. This means that maladaptive behaviours like deviant behaviours stealing, truancy, cultism among others can be unlearned, using some modifications. The modification can be done by applying; Cognitive behavioural therapies such as Rational Emotive Therapy (RET), Behavioural Counseling approach such as use of rewards, reinforcements systematic desensitization, self-management programs, behavioral rehearsal therapies, among others. For instance stealing, it is normal for people to cherish things that is not their own. Parents, Teachers Counsellors and others are to continue to inculcate into them as they grow up about property rights, and be good models. Children who repeatedly steals may have difficulty trusted, and should be referred to counselor or mental health providers.

Recommendations

Since behaviours are subject to changes, deviant behaviours can also be subject to changes.

The following Techniques can be used to manage deviant behaviours;

1. Modeling; Umezulike (2010) explained that to model means to imitate and exhibit a kind of trend about something. It can also mean a type of learning where target behaviour can be exhibited by the model either by a counsellor, teacher or resource person. This means that parents need to be good role model by showing good examples both in character and in their endeavours.
2. Role play; Role play can be used to rehearse a desired behaviour.
3. Story telling; Story telling of a hero with great achievement can be used to encourage the client or person. Also, films, tapes and pictures that will enhance changes to a new desired behaviour can be used.
4. Shaping; This method can be used to eliminate undesirable behaviours that are deviant. It involves using therapeutic measures that will encourage better desirable behaviours
5. Self-management; Self-management is a cognitive techniques, used to ensure for a rational thinking processes. It enables the client to first make decisions on what is needed, assess his or her potentials, self-concepts, weaknesses and their strong areas to diagnosis to be able to arrive at solutions to the problems. It may also involve self-monitoring by recording and analyzing a given behaviour.
6. Moral Instruction; Children should be made to learn morals, values, attitudes and positive behaviours that can help change deviant behaviours. It should be used by parents teachers, pastors since the fear of God can be a means to instill a positive change.
7. Financial and Skill Empowerment; Skills should be created to engage those that are ideal so that as they make money, and become self-reliant, they should be able to carry on with their responsibilities.
8. Government should establish industries and assist people with loans to those who intend to open businesses. This will help to engage them instead of roaming in idleness within the streets, thereby committing different

crimes along. It is of hope that these recommendations, deviant behaviors will become a thing of extinction.

Conclusion

The parents, Teachers and Counsellors need to guide these young ones especially the adolescents on the knowledge of who they are, their potentials, values, skills, decision making and to learn and set desirable goals for optimal adjustment in life.

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