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SELF-CONCEPT AND PARENTAL NEGLECT AS PREDICTORS OF AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION SPECIAL OYO, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates self-concept and parental neglect as predictors of aggressive behaviour among adolescents. The total population of the study constitutes of all students in Federal College of Education (Special), Oyo. Simple random sampling technique was used to select the respondents for the study, the research instrument used for the study is self-constructive questionnaire which was subjected to pilot study and validated at 0.70 before administered to the targeted population. Also, Descriptive statistics of frequency count and percentages to analyze the demographic data of the respondents while inferential statistics of Chi-square (χ^2) was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 alpha level of significance. According to result of the findings it was revealed that there is significant relationship between self-concept and age on aggressive behaviour among adolescents with χ^2 cal. value 80.87 greater than table value of 26.30, there is significant contribution of parental neglect and gender on aggressive behaviour among adolescents with χ^2 value of 70.28 greater than table value of 25.30, there is significant difference between positive self-concept and parental neglect on aggressive behaviour of adolescents as the χ^2 value of 105.06 is greater than the table value of 28.30 at alpha level of 0.05 respectively. Based on the result of the findings, it was recommended that among others that people with low-self-esteem behaviours should be helped to live an improved life styles by helping them to identify and challenge their negative beliefs about themselves and also, that neglectful parenting should be discouraging in the society by the government and nongovernmental organizations in order to eradicate behaviours that dismiss child's emotions and opinions.

Key words: Self-Concept, Parental Neglect, Aggressive Behaviour, Adolescents.

INTRODUCTION

The rate of increase in antisocial behaviour in the society is alarming (Mwenje & Kamunyu, 2024). Antisocial behaviour resulting in series of crime appears to be a constant source of social concern (Alayande & Uchechi, 2023). Escalating levels of insecurity, fear of violence, aggressive behaviour, the threat of public disorder, rioting, household burglary, children out of school, new forms of terrorism, football hooliganism, mindless vandals and a growth in all manner of antisocial behaviour are but a few of the enduring image that characterize a society that is apparently drifting further and further into lawless. Specifically, in Nigeria, incidence of aggressive behaviour and law breaking of all kinds are common, alcoholism, drug abuse, smoking, internet fraud, suicide and others such as rape, cultism, prostitution, kidnapping, ritual killings and all antisocial behaviour are traceable to negative or low self-concept and parental neglect of an adolescents (Adejoh, Bello & Shotunde, 2024).

Aggressive behaviour is one of the major problems associated with adolescents and it is one of the most frustrating issues parents, teachers, lecturers, and society at large face. Obviously, some adolescents in school exhibit one form of aggressive behaviour or the other. This act of aggression against persons or property takes place very frequently in the higher institutions of learning which could be as a result of the negative self-concept and parental neglect. Aggressive behaviour is a menace that has lasting cosequences and could affect school avoidance and academic performance (Ajiboye and Adeleke 2024). Wood and Boyd (2005) defined it as "the intentional infliction of physical or psychological harm on other". From this

definition, it is obvious that aggressive behaviour has been associated with the attitude of hostility, cruelty, brutality, harassment duress, threats, compulsion, coercion and force.

Self-concept plays a critical role in the life of individual, self-concept is a cognitive process which provide individuals the opportunity to evaluate their abilities, value, knowledge, overall capacity and it is the self-determined assessment that encompasses one's overall perception and judgement oneself. Self-conception of adolescent's changes in structure, so adolescents are more likely to employ complex, abstract and psychological self-characterization. Self-esteem, the evaluative side of self-concept, is also modified during these years. Adolescent's well organized self-description and expanded sense of self-esteem provide the cognitive foundation for constructing an identity. Adolescence is the period of heightened sensitivity for rapid learning and of critical acquisitions which determine the general style of adult life. There is high probability that adolescents with high self-concept are considered to achieve high academic achievements which will provide their identity in the society, get good career opportunities, get acceptance from peers, parents and teachers, develop leadership qualities, and enhance their life skills etc. The term self-concept is a general term used to refer to how someone thinks about, evaluates or perceives themselves. To be aware of oneself is to have a concept of oneself. According to Baumeister (2013) self-concept is "The individual's belief about himself or herself, including the person's attributes and who and what the self is".

According to Rogers, (1979) one's self -concept influences how one regards both oneself and one's environment. The self-concept of a mentally healthy person is consistent with his or her thoughts, experiences, and behavior. Self-concept is defined as the value that an individual place on his or her own characteristics, qualities, abilities, and actions (Wool-folk 2011). Self-concept is not innate but is developed or constructed by the individual through interaction with the environment and reflecting on that interaction. This aspect of self-concept is important because it indicates that it can be modified or changed (Franken, 1994). The way an individual view himself accounts to a large extent for his success. An adolescent who has an adequate self-concept is likely to follow the problem-solving approach and tends to be spontaneous, creative, and original and have high self-esteem. He trusts himself and has good academic achievement motivation and is free to accept others without any negative feelings. In the work of James (2014), he concluded that Self-concept is not static, meaning that it can change.

The Environment plays a role in this process, with places that hold a lot of meaning to us actively contributing to our future self-concept both through the way we relate these environments to ourselves and how society relates to them. Self-concept can also change based on the people with whom we interact. This is particularly true with regard to individuals in our lives who are in leadership roles as they can impact the collective self (the self in social groups) and the relational self (the self in relationships). Negative self-concept in adolescence has been associated with various maladaptive behavioral and emotional problems (Obikeze & Obi, 2020). Problems and difficulties can lower self-concept; but low self-concept can also cause aggressive behaviour in an individual.

Self-Concept as a predictors of Aggressive Behaviour Among Adolescent

Self-concept heavily influences behavior because it causes a person to dictate to themselves what they may or may not be able to accomplish through self-categorization. Researchers on one side of the debate have argued that there was positive correlation between self-Concept and aggressive behaviour of Adolescents (e.g., Ajiboye & Adeleke 2024). Parental neglect is an act of omission by the parents that involves refusal or delay in provision of basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter and education." (Adomah, Agyeiwaa and Aboh, 2023). Child neglect is the most common and important type of child maltreatment that has worsening impacts on personality development and cognitive restructuring of the child. There are many types of child neglect like physical neglect, emotional neglect, health neglect and educational neglect (Zeanah and Humphreys, 2018). Although there is not a single cause for this matter but there are variety of causes responsible for this act. In most of the cases parents are the eventual source of neglect for their children.

Parents who disregard their children in any issue particularly related with their indispensable educational right have some characteristics like isolation, anxiety, frustration, tension, stress, apathy, antisocial behavior, low self-esteem, loneliness, drug usage or low level of tolerance etc. Among these behaviours, the society to which an individual belongs has laid down penalties for their infliction on one another (Obikeze & Obi, 2020). Notwithstanding this personality distortion and behavioral amendments depends strongly on the frequency and duration of child neglect (Onukwufor, 2019). Greater frequency and duration of child neglect results in many behavioral problems with the children such as anger, aggression, hostility and inadequate personality development (Kaufman and Cicchetti, 2010).

Moon-Seo, Sung, Moore & Koo (2021) suggested that responsiveness and demandingness among parents can be used as instruments in understanding the types and ways to which parents apply any parenting style in handling their children. Responsiveness among parents means willingly being available to exhibit care, love, and concern and provide the basic and meta needs of children, while parental demandingness implies the level of control to which the parent has been able to control their children to stay away from certain habits or phenomena.

Parental neglect is the most common type of child maltreatment (DePanfilis, 2016), neglect frequently goes unreported and historically, has not been acknowledged or publicized as greatly as child abuse. Abuse often leaves visible bruises and scars, whereas the signs of parental neglect tend to be less visible.

However, the effects of neglect can be just as detrimental. In fact, some studies have shown that parental neglect maybe more detrimental to children's early brain development than physical abuse. Males tend to be more physically aggressive than females from an early age. There is evidence that shows that males are quicker to violence and more likely than females to express their anger physically (Frey, 2013). Females are less likely to be involved in physical violence. They can express violence by using a variety of non-physical means. The exact method which women use to express aggression is something that varies from culture to culture. In eastern Nigeria, the Igbo culture is based on male dominance and physical violence; women tend to get into quarrying with other women more frequently than with men. At times when there is conflict with male, instead of using physical means, they will look for something that will keep them busy in order to overcome the temptation (Anichebe, 2016).

Parental Neglect is a highly prevalent, yet historically understudied form of maltreatment. Recent research has revealed the far reaching and unique effects that neglect has on subsequent cognitive, behavioural and socio- emotional development and on long-term physical and mental health outcomes. Adolescent interpersonal functioning is important to explore given the significant relational transitions that occur during this stage of development, and the known impact that these social changes can have on future life outcomes. Both the self-concept and parental neglect have serious effects on aggressive behaviour among adolescents.

Statement of the Problem

Aggressive behaviour is a pattern of behaviour that is converting and need serious attention because the consequences will or may affect the person and the society such individual belongs. The reason for this, is the high Level of violence and aggressive behaviour that has recently been associated with student's activities. However, this aggressiveness is directed to other students, other members in the academic community such as friends, lecturers and members of the society at large. Considerable evidence suggests that Self-concept and parental neglect context provide the proximal nexus which genetic and many other social contextual factors converge to provide aggressive behaviour among adolescents. Due to poor self-concept and parental neglect the adolescents are likely to engage in antisocial behaviour such as the use of alcohol, organized gang, violence, aggressiveness, rape and many more. Consequently, some of these adolescents in tertiary institution graduate with more aptitude for aggressive behaviour than have been enthusiastic in contributing to national growth and social development through their acquired training from Ivory towers. From birth through early adolescents' parents predominantly influence them through direct interpersonal relationship with the growing child, discipline responses to both

desired behaviour and mis-behaviour and management of the child's environment. By early adolescents, the self-concept and perception about oneself has a great impact in whether or not the child will be aggressive, through decision about child care, schooling, after school placement. This pattern of accelerating self-concept on anti - social behaviour co - occur with changes in brain structure and function during this period that include heightened reward processing coupled with immature self-regulatory system. In view of this, the situation needs counselling intervention to redress such ugly trend. Against this background the study is set to investigate self-concept and parental neglect as predictors of aggressive behaviour among adolescents.

Purpose of the Study

The broad purpose of this study is to investigate self-concept and parental neglect as predictors of aggressive behaviour among adolescents. In particular, the study will specifically examine: the

- 1) Relationship between self-concept and Age on aggressive behavior of adolescents.
- 2) Significant contribution between parental neglect and gender on aggressive behaviour among adolescents.
- 3) Significant relationship between positive self-concept and parental neglect on aggressive behaviour among adolescents.

Research Hypotheses

- Ho 1. There is no significant relationship between self-concept and Age on aggressive behaviour among adolescents.
- Ho 2. There is no significant contribution of parental neglect and gender on aggressive behaviour among adolescents
- Ho 3. There is no significant relationship between positive self-concept and parental neglect on aggressive behaviour of adolescents

Significance of the Study

This finding of this study will be useful and have a long-term positive consequence the students, school administrators, family and peer group in the following ways. The first beneficiary of this study is the adolescents with the notion that it will help them to understand the concept of self-concept and parental neglect and the effects on their aggressive behaviour. This study will help them to take informed decision and deviate from all causes if aggressive behaviour and how to manage it. Also, the school administrators, counseling psychologists and teachers will benefit from the study as it may guide them in developing sound school - based strategies in their bid to ensure a nondiscriminatory and safe school environment for learners. It is envisaged that such an environment will be devoid of aggressive behaviour and how to manage such adolescents in a peaceful co- existence manner. Also, the parent and friends, the findings of this study may lead them to having a more in depth understanding of the link between self-concept and parental neglect and the influence on aggressive behaviour, this in advance help and effective support for adolescents to prevent aggressive behaviour and parent will know their role in the life of the adolescents. Finally, this study will help the institutions and government to know their role on how to manage aggressive behaviour whenever it occurs.

Scope of the Study

This research work focuses on the entire adolescents in tertiary institution which was limited to Federal College of Education (Special), Oyo, Oyo state. To examine self-concept and parental neglect as predictors of aggressive behaviour among adolescents.

METHODOLOGY

Design

The research design adopted for this research work was descriptive survey research design which collected information from a representative group and based on such sample, inferences was drawn about the behaviour of the entire population.

Settings

The research was conducted in Federal college of Education (SP) Oyo, the participants were met after the general course lecture (General Education) during the day at their respective Lecture halls, so as to retrieve the questionnaire immediately.

Population

The population of this research study are the entire adolescents in Federal college of Education (Sp) Oyo, Where the specific population of one hundred (100) were drawn for the study.

Sample and Sampling methods

Simple random sampling techniques was used to select hundred (100) students from four schools among 100, 200 and 300 level students in Federal College of Education (Special) College of Education Special Oyo state.

Instruments

The research instrument used for the collection of data was a self-structured questionnaire to find out the opinion of the respondents, the questionnaire consisted of two sections. Section A of the questionnaire contained the respondents' demographic data while Section B contained the 20 items whereby the respondents will be required to respond to the items indicating their levels of agreement and disagreement in a four-point Likert scale comprising (4) Strongly Agreed (SA) (3) Agreed (A) (1) Disagreed (D) (0) Strongly Disagreed (SD). The questionnaire was first subjected for pilot study among 15 adolescent students in the College and the result was validated at 0.70, which authenticated its usage for the participants.

Procedure

The research instruments (questionnaire) were administered personally by the researcher and other two research assistants for easy collection in the study area. The researcher seek for the permission of the course lecture in order to administer the questionnaire.

Statistical Instruments

The data was analyzed using descriptive statistics of frequency count, simple percentage for demographic data of the respondents while inferential statistics of Chi-square (χ^2) was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 alpha level of significance.

RESULTS

Ho 1: There is no significant relationship between self-concept and Age on aggressive behaviour among adolescents.

Table 1: Relationship between self-concept and age on aggressive behaviour among adolescent

Responses	Percentage	χ^2 Value	Table Values	Df	Remark
Age	19.15	80.87	26.30	30	Rejected
Self-concept	80.85				
	100				

Table 1; stated that there is no significant relationship between self- concept and age on aggressive behaviour among adolescents. According to the table, the calculated chi-square (χ^2)

value of the responses was 80.87 which is greater than the table values of 28.30 at alpha level of 0.05. The hypothesis one was hereby rejected. This revealed that there is significant relationship between self- concept and age on aggressive behaviour among adolescents.

Ho 2: There is no significant contribution of parental neglect and gender on aggressive behaviour among adolescents

Table 2: Significant contribution of parental neglect and gender on aggressive behaviour among adolescent

Responses	Percentage	X ² Value	Table Values	Df	Remark
Gender	68.75	70.28	25.30	30	Rejected
Parental neglect	31.25				
	100				

Table 2; which stated that there is no significant contribution of gender and parental neglect on aggressive behaviour among adolescents. The calculated chi-square (x^2) values of the responses was 70.28 which is greater than the table value of 28.30 at alpha level of 0.05. Consequently, the null hypothesis was rejected, therefore, there is significant contribution between gender and parental neglect on aggressive behaviour among adolescents.

Hypothesis 3:

There is no significant relationship between positive self-concept and parental neglect on aggressive behaviour of adolescents

Table 3: significant relationship between positive self-concept and parental neglect on aggressive behaviour of adolescents

Responses	Percentage	X ² Value	Table Values	Df	Remark
Positive self-concept	72.50	105.06	28.30	30	Rejected
Parental neglect	27.50				
	100				

Table 3, stated that there is no significant relationship between positive self-concept and parental neglect on aggressive behaviour of adolescents. The table showed that the calculated chi-square (x^2) values of the responses was 105.06 which is greater than the table value of 28.30 at alpha level of 0.05. Consequently, the null hypothesis was rejected. Therefore, there is significant relationship between positive self-concept and parental neglect on aggressive behaviour of adolescents.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Hypothesis one: Stated that there is no significant relationship between self- concept and age on aggressive behaviour among adolescents. The null hypothesis was rejected. This revealed that there is significant relationship between self- concept and age on aggressive behaviour among adolescents. This result is in line with Adejoh, et al (2024), asserted that parental separation can lead to abuse of a child which may later affect the behavioral development of a child. It further explain that parental attitude is a considerable factor to directly affect developmental outcomes in a child, and the mother's parenting skills could be affected by the mother's education level.

Hypothesis two: Stated that there is no significant contribution of gender and parental neglect on aggressive behaviour among adolescents. Based on the result above null hypothesis was rejected, therefore, there is significant contribution between gender and parental neglect on aggressive behaviour among adolescents. This is in accordance with Adomah et al (2023), he found out that that aggressive behavior was significant and related to physical, family, academic, social and emotional self-concepts in adolescent.

Hypothesis three: Based on the result above the stated hypothesis that there is no significant relationship between positive self-concept and parental neglect on aggressive behaviour of adolescents, was rejected. Therefore, there is significant relationship between positive self-concept and parental neglect on aggressive behaviour of adolescents. This also revealed that adolescent with self-confidence always let go things quickly compare to people with low self-esteem. This is also in line with Martin, (2022) who posited that adolescent with high self-esteem treats failure as "try-again" without blaming self-blame. Adolescent with low self-concept treats failure as "denial" and away welcome self-blaming.

Conclusion

Based on the findings derived from this study, it was concluded that there is significant relationship between self-concept and parental neglect on aggressive behaviour among adolescents. It was revealed that adolescent who experiences parental neglect tend to have low self-concept. A child who is neglected suffered have low perception of themselves among peers later in life. Adolescent who experienced parental neglect seek first for other people before they could do anything and also that adolescent who come from intact home always consider myself to be a very upright and highly strong person.

Recommendation

On the basis of the findings and conclusion of the study, the following recommendations are hereby made;

1. People with low-self-esteem behaviours should be helped to live an improved life styles by helping them to identify and challenge their negative beliefs about themselves
2. For child development both existing and future parents should engage physical care, love for these are very important for behavioural growth.
3. Unfavourable parental attitudes should be discouraged through awareness and campaigns as this has negative effect on personality development of a child in a way that as children grows older anti-social behaviour in the form of aggression
4. Neglectful parenting should be discouraging in the society by the government and non-governmental organizations in order to eradicate behaviours that dismiss child's emotions and opinions.
5. There is need to address the aggressive behavior among students in institutions on top priority basis by arranging counseling services for students with to provide them psychotherapy for relaxation from aggressive behavior.

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