

Perceived Youth Gangs and Peers Imitation as Correlates of Adolescent Delinquent Behaviour in Ibadan Metropolis, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT This study examined the relationship between youth gang, peer imitation, peer friendship network and adolescent delinquency among secondary school students in Ibadan metropolis. Data was collected using the Adolescent Delinquent Behaviour Questionnaire (ADBQ). Results indicate that adolescent delinquency increases as youth gangs increases, this means that as adolescents form an attachment with gangs the more they become delinquent. The coefficient of determination ($r^2 = 0.140$), peer imitation was also found to be significant, ($r(171) = 0.458$, $p < 0.05$). This shows that as peer imitation increases, so does delinquent behaviour increases. Finally the result shows that as age increases, adolescent delinquency also increases. This could be because as adolescents grow older, they tend to have more courage to try out new things (even bad ones) and their rebellious nature also increases ($r(179) = 0.602$, $p < 0.5$). Therefore, the study recommends that family, community and social workers should find ways of integrating adolescents back into the society so that they can also play their own meaningful social roles. This can be done by linking community service with school learning which has a capacity of providing adolescents with supportive and non-parental mentors.