

**FAMILY INCOME AND PARENTAL LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AS
PREDICTORS OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AMONG PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL
STUDENTS IN OGIDI EDUCATION ZONE OF ANAMBRA STATE; IMPLICATIONS FOR
SCHOOL MANAGEMENT**

IRONKWE, ATHANASIOUS CHINWEZE (M.ED)

Abstract

This study investigated family income and parental educational attainment as predictors of juvenile delinquency among public secondary school students in Ogidi education zone of Anambra State. In all, two purposes, two research questions and two hypotheses guided the study. The study adopted a correlational design. The sample size was 359 students in senior secondary school (SS2) in Ogidi Education Zone. The simple random sampling technique was used to select the sample size from the population of 3457 senior secondary school students in SS2 in Ogidi Education Zone of Anambra State. A self- developed delinquency questionnaire titled 'students juvenile delinquency questionnaire' (SJDQ) was the instrument used for data collection for this study. The questionnaire has two sections A and B. Section A measured personal information and family income and parental level of education data while Section B contained 20 items which was used to seek the response of students on juvenile delinquency. The instrument was face and content validated by two experts in Educational Management and one expert from Measurement and Evaluation in the Department of Educational Foundations, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, The reliability of the instrument was ascertained through a test re-test method and Pearson product moment correlation co-efficient Analysis and the reliability Co-efficient of 0.75 for juvenile delinquency were obtained. The data collected was analysed using simple linear regression analysis for both the research questions and the hypotheses. The hypotheses were tested at .05 level of significance. The findings of the study revealed that family income and parental level of educational attainment were modest contributors of juvenile delinquency among students in Ogidi Education Zone. However, analysis of the hypothesis showed that family income and parental level of educational attainment significantly contributed to juvenile delinquency among students in the zone. Based on the findings of the study, the study recommended among others that the Federal and State government should try as much as they can to ensure, promote and encourage the financial empowerment programmes to ensure that families with low income are improved upon with the consequent reduction in delinquent behaviours of children.

KEY WORDS: FAMILY INCOME, PARENTAL LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, JUVENILE DELINQUENCY.

Background of the Study

Juvenile delinquency refers to delinquent and criminal behaviour among young people as they negotiate the transition from childhood to adulthood in an increasing complex and confusing world. Although the issue of juvenile delinquency is an age long problem, it seems that the juvenile delinquency of the past cannot be compared with that of the present era. The anti-social behaviours often associated with the juvenile delinquents include vandalism, drug abuse, weapon carrying, alcohol abuse, rape, bullying, cultism, truancy, school drop-outs, to mention but a few (Anmasahun & Aremu, 2015) . Obviously, unless something drastic is done to roll back the wave of juvenile delinquency, the prospect of a better, safer and more prosperous society emerging in Nigeria will remain elusive. Hence this study investigates family income and parental level of educational attainment as predictors of juvenile delinquency among public secondary school students in Ogidi Education Zone of Anambra State.

Cuentas (2014) in Secure-Teen opined children are more likely to reside in low income families than adults. Studies conducted by Ratcliffe (2015) and Ratcliffe & Kalish (2017) show lower number of adults lives in poverty as compared to children. The younger a child is the more likely he or she will live in poverty. In the earlier years of a teen's life, the risk of developing a tendency to turn towards crime is at the peak. A child, for instance, living in low-income family between the ages of 6 to 11 is at a greater risk of becoming linked in violent crime and becoming a juvenile delinquent rather than a child who falls between 12 to 15 years. However, there is no income barrier that a family can cross to get rid of the risk of their child turning into a juvenile delinquent. Some very rich families have teens that get involved in crimes and are convicted. Cuentas (2014) opined that it is evident from research that the more income a family has, the less risky is for

kids to turn to crime. Parker in Webster and Kingston (2014) contended that violence is one of the few options available to those without economic means to deal with problems of crises of everyday life. Absolute impoverishment may also give rise to emotional situations which escalate into violence. Simply put, the absolute impoverishment approach suggests that violence may result among such individuals due to everyday life is difficult. The family income in this study was categorized into low and high. Those who earned from one hundred naira to one hundred and twenty thousand naira (#100 - #120,000) in a month belong to low income families while those from one hundred and twenty thousand naira to one million naira (#120,000 - #1,000,000) and above were termed high income families.

Children of parents with low education are more likely to be involved in delinquent behaviour. One reason for this is that parents are more likely to raise children in ways that are conducive to crime. Alternatively, additional parental education may change parents' behaviour in ways that ultimately reduces their children's tendency to commit crime (Chalfin & Deza, 2019). Quantifying the extent to which teenagers' criminal participation can be reduced by increasing their parents' education is crucial for estimating the social benefits of policies that increase educational attainment. While the effects of education on long term outcomes such as earnings, crime, fertility, subjective well-being and morality among other outcomes for generation directly affected by compulsory schooling laws have been well documented (Chalfin & Deza, 2019). Parental level of education attainment in this study was grouped into low and high. Parents with First School Leaving Certificate (FS LC), West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) or Senior Secondary Certificate of Education (SSCE) or General Certificate of Education (GCE) belong to low level of education attainment; while those with bachelor degrees (e.g. B.A/B.SC), masters degrees (e.g. M.A/ M.SC) and doctorate degrees (e.g. P. HD) belong to high level of education attainment.

Delinquency is more widespread today than in the past, as juvenile courts handled 30% more cases in 2009 than in 1985 (Knoll & Sickmund, 2012). In 1960 in U.S, approximately 1,100 delinquency cases per day were processed daily. In 2007, juvenile courts handled about 4,600 delinquency cases per day (Puzzanchera, Adams and Sickmund, 2010). Olayinka and Bello-Awusah (2014) observed that recent reports in Nigeria indicated a geometric rise in Juvenile delinquency, with an overwhelming majority of this increase being attributed to adolescents being declared beyond parental control.

Animasahun and Aremu (2015) stated that manifestations of delinquency among secondary school students in Nigeria include: Cruelty, bullying, fighting, vandalism, stealing, lying, sexual immorality, mob action, carrying of weapons et cetera. However, they noted that there are two main categories of delinquent behaviours which Nigerian adolescents engage in. These are: criminal and status offences. The criminal offences are stealing, arson, rape, drug offences, murder, burglary, pick-pocket and armed robbery. Hence, they listed status offences to include: running away from home, malingering, truancy et cetera.

In Nigeria, secondary school students in the past were known to be respectful to their parents, elders and teachers while drinking, stealing, truancy, examination malpractices, smoking, were not common practices among youths, these were termed as forbidden (a reticence that occurs from social custom or emotional repugnance) to the society. Chaba in Agbowuro, Taiwo, Umeh and Solomon (2016) observed that students often get involved in antisocial behaviours because they feel that if they do not, they will be social misfits or termed as old fashioned among their peer groups and friends.

Must children be nurtured under supervision, guidance, protection and discipline in right proportions in order to avoid juvenile delinquencies? Will life styles of parents and teachers serve as models worth of emulation by children? Has family income any relationship with juvenile delinquency? Has Parents level of educational attainment any part to play in children risky behaviours? This study sought to examine more closely the family income and parental level of educational attainment as predictors of juvenile delinquency among secondary school students in Ogidi Education Zone of Anambra State.

Method

This study adopted correlational design. According to Ifeakor and Osegbo (2018), this type of study seeks to establish what relationship exists between two or more variables. Usually such studies indicate the direction and magnitude of the relationship between the variables. Nworgu (2015) observed that they employ a special group of statistics known as correlation coefficient or regression for data analysis. Statistical tools commonly used are the Pearson Product Moment Correlation coefficient, and simple linear regression analysis.

The study was carried out in public secondary schools in Ogidi Education Zone of Anambra State. Ogidi Education zone is partly located in Anambra central and Anambra North Districts. Ogidi Education Zone is made up of three Local Government Areas; namely: Idemili North, Idemili South and Oyi. Ogidi Education Zone has 40 public secondary schools in the zone (Post Primary Schools Service Commission, Ogidi Zones. The Lingua Franca of the areas is Igbo and English language. .

The population of the study consisted of all the 3457 senior secondary school students in SS2 in Ogidi Education Zone of Anambra State.

The sample size was 359 students in senior secondary school (SS2) in Ogidi Education Zone.

The researcher employed simple random sampling technique to draw the sample size of 359 students in the study. The researchers' choice to put into use the simple random sampling is because it is by far the easiest and simplest probability sampling technique in terms of conceptualization and application. It does not necessarily require knowledge of the exact composition of the population, so long as one can reach all the members of the population.

Structured questionnaire designed by the researcher was used for data collection in this study. The questionnaire is titled "Students Juvenile Delinquency Questionnaire" (SJDQ). The questionnaire has two sections A and B. Section A measured personal information and family income and parental level of education attainment data. Section B contained 20 items which was used to seek the response of students on juvenile delinquency. The questionnaire was designed with the help of the researcher's supervisors to elicit information from respondents. The students response was scored along a four-point scale summated of strongly agree (SA), agree (A), disagree (D) and strongly disagree (SD). The response format of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD) was weighed or quantified respectively as 4 points, 3 points, 2 points and 1 point. The questions were simple to be understood by the respondents because of the level of their education.

The instrument was face and content validated by two experts in Educational Management and one expert from Measurement and Evaluation in the Department of Educational Foundations, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University. These experts were given the questionnaire, purpose of study, research questions and the null hypotheses. They were requested to validate it in terms of content and criterion validation to know if it is capable of testing what it is supposed to test, clarity of the words and instructions therein. The corrections pointed out by the three expert valuers were effected and new copy of the instrument was produced.

The reliability of the instrument was ascertained through a test re-test method. The instrument was first administered to 20 students in Enugu Education Zone in Enugu State who were not used for the study. This is to avoid contamination. After two weeks, the instrument was re-administered to the same students. The scores of the two tests were correlated using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Co-efficient Analysis and the reliability Co-efficient of 0.75 for juvenile delinquency were obtained. This indicated that the instrument was reliable.

The researchers with the assistance of two research-assistants, who were given proper orientation on what is required, administered the copies of the questionnaire to students in their respective schools with the co-operation of the school authorities. In addition to instructions written on the questionnaire, the respondents were given verbal instructions and clarifications where necessary. Copies of the questionnaire were retrieved after completion through direct means without subjecting the respondents to time constraint. This implies that the researcher with the two research- assistants delivered the questionnaire by hand, waited for completion and collected them back. All the 359 questionnaires were administered to the students in their respective schools within the period of three weeks. The 359 questionnaires were all retrieved and used for the data analysis.

The research questions were answered with simple linear regression analysis; while the hypotheses were tested at .05 level of significance with simple linear regression analysis.

Results

Research Question 1: In what way will family income predict juvenile delinquency among public secondary school students in Ogidi Education Zone?

Table 1. Summary of simple regression analysis with family income as predictor of juvenile delinquency among secondary school students

	Unstandardized B	SE B	Standardized β
Constant	34.294	2.391	
Family income	3.562	1.355	.139
R	.139		
R ²	.019		

The data analysis in table 1 shows that the simple regression coefficient (R) is .139 while the coefficient of determination (R²) is .019. This indicates that family size is a modest predictor of juvenile delinquency among secondary school students in Ogidi Education Zone. The unstandardized beta weight ($B = 3.562$) shows that family size has positive relationship with delinquency among secondary school students in Ogidi Education Zone such that a unit increase in family size (From small = 0 to large =1) leads to 3.562 increase in juvenile delinquency.

These findings suggests that family income is a modest positive predictor of juvenile delinquency among public secondary school students in Ogidi Education Zone.

Research Question 2: In what way will parental level of education attainment contribute to juvenile delinquency among public secondary school students in Ogidi Education Zone?

Table 2. Summary of simple regression analysis with parental level of educational attainment as a contributor of juvenile delinquency public among secondary school students

	Unstandardized B	SE B	Standardized β
Constant	33.967	2.269	
Parental level of education	3.836	1.309	.155
R	.155		
R ²	.024		

As shown in table 2, the simple regression coefficient (R) is .155 while the coefficient of determination (R²) is .024. This shows that Parental occupation is a modest predictor of juvenile delinquency among public secondary school students in Ogidi Education Zone. The unstandardized beta weight ($B = 3.836$) shows that as parental occupation increases by 1 unit (From Public=0 to Private = 1) delinquency increases to 3.836. This suggests that parental occupation is a modest predictor of juvenile delinquency among secondary school students in Ogidi Education Zone.

Hypothesis 1: Family income does not significantly predict juvenile delinquency among secondary school students in Ogidi Education Zone.

Table 3. Test of Significance of Simple Regression Analysis with family income as predictor of juvenile delinquency among students

	B	B	T	P
Constant	34.294		14.341	.000
Family income	3.562	.139	2.629	.009
R	.139			
R ²	.019			
F	6.913			.009

As shown in table 3, the simple regression coefficient (R) is .139 while the R² is .019. The F-ratio associated with the regression R is 6.913 and the P-value = .009, since the P-value is less than the stipulated .05 level

of significance, it was decided that family size is a significant predictor of juvenile delinquency among students in Ogidi Education Zone. The null hypothesis was therefore rejected.

Hypothesis 2: Parental level of educational attainment does not significantly contribute to juvenile delinquency among secondary school students in Ogidi Education Zone.

Table 4. Test of Significance of Simple Regression Analysis with parental level of educational attainment as a contributor of juvenile delinquency among students

	<i>B</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>P</i>
Constant	33.967		14.969	.000
Parental level of education	3.836	.156	2.931	.004
<i>R</i>	.155			
<i>R</i> ²	.024			
<i>F</i>	8.591			.004

As shown in table 4, the simple regression coefficient (*R*) is .077 while the *R*² is .006. The *F*-ratio is 2.096 and the *P*-value = .004, since the *P*-value is less than the stipulated .05 level of significance, it was resolved that Parental occupation is a significant predictor of juvenile delinquency among students in Ogidi Education Zone. The null hypothesis was therefore rejected.

Discussion of the findings

The findings indicated that family income is a modest predictor of juvenile delinquency among secondary school students in Ogidi Education Zone. The unstandardized beta weight (*B* = 3.562) shows that family income has positive relationship with delinquency among public secondary school students in Ogidi Education Zone such that a unit increase in family income (From small = 0 to large =1) leads to 3.562 increase in juvenile delinquency. The finding from the analysis of the first hypothesis revealed that family size is a significant predictor of juvenile delinquency among students in Ogidi Education Zone. The null hypothesis was therefore rejected. This finding is in agreement with that of Faisal and Hussainat (2012) which stated that environmental variables like income of the family can contribute to juvenile delinquency. Cuentas (2014) also supported this idea when he said that children from low income families are likely to be delinquents.

The finding of the study shows that Parental level of education attainment is a modest contributor of juvenile delinquency among public secondary school students in Ogidi Education Zone. The unstandardized beta weight (*B* = 3.836) shows that as parental occupation public increases by 1 unit (From Public=0 to Private = 1) delinquency increases to 3.836. This suggests that parental level of educational attainment is a modest contributor of juvenile delinquency among public secondary school students in Ogidi Education Zone. Also, the simple regression analysis of the second hypothesis showed that Parental level of educational attainment is a significant contributor of juvenile delinquency among students in Ogidi Education Zone. The null hypothesis was therefore rejected. This finding supported that of Chalfin and Deza (2019) who opined that Children of parents with low education are more likely to engage in delinquent behaviour. One explanation for this is that parents are more likely to raise children in the ways that are less conducive to crime.

Conclusion

This study has tried to probe the prediction of juvenile delinquency among students in public secondary schools in Ogidi Education Zone by family income and parental level of educational attainment. From the findings of the study, it was concluded that family income and parental level of educational attainment are statistically significant in the prediction of juvenile delinquency among students in public secondary schools in Ogidi Education Zone.

Implication to Educational Management

This will help the school administrators to avoid overcrowding in their school and classes so as to enhance proper management and supervision of their students which will go a long way to curtail juvenile delinquency in their schools.

The implication of this study to school management is that the principals of secondary schools in Anambra will be well informed of one of the trending issue in schools now and to marshal out disciplinary measures on how to address it; and they could also organize awareness programmes for parents to see how they can

improve on both their economic and educational status which will in turn ameliorate the propensity of their children to committing crimes.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made:

1. The Federal and State governments should try as much as they can to ensure, promote and encourage financial empowerment programmes for the parents with the consequent reduction in delinquent behaviour of their children
2. Parents with delinquent children should be cautioned, so that they will help to check the activities of their children and wards. This will promote parent-child relationship with the consequent reduction in delinquent behaviour of children
3. Parents should enroll even on part time education programmes to improve on their educational status so as to be better equipped to train their children.
4. Parents and teachers should monitor the type of friends and peer groups of their children/students. The children should be advised to dissociate from friends or peers whose behaviour do not conform to the norms and values of the society.
5. School administrators should endeavour to put in place disciplinary measures to checkmate delinquent behaviours among their students

REFERENCES

- Agbowuro, C., Taiwo, O.L., Umeh, N.M. & Solomon, S. (2016). The dilemma of juvenile delinquency among government secondary schools in Jema'a local government area of Kaduna state, Nigeria. *International Journal of Academic Research in Education and Review*, 4(3), 96 – 102.
- Animasahun, R.A. & Aremu, O.A. (2015). Correlational study of age, family warmth and school connectedness as factors affecting juvenile delinquency among secondary school adolescents in Osun state, Nigeria. *International Journal of Psychology and Behavioural Sciences*, (2), 80 – 88.
- Chalfin, A. & Deza, M. (2019). The intergenerational effects of education on delinquency. *Journal of Economic Behaviour & Organization, Elsevier*, 159(C), 553 – 571.
- Cuentas, A. (2014). Poverty: Key factor contributing to high juvenile delinquency rates. Retrieved from <https://www.secureteen.com>.
- Faisal, I.M. & Hussainat, M.M. (2012). Juvenile delinquency and family environment in Jordan. *Journal of Sociological Research*, 3(2), 598 – 617.
- Ifeakor, A.C. (2018). *What to write & how to write research proposal and report*. Onitsha: Lancel Publishers.
- Knoll, C. & Sickmund, M. (2012) *Delinquency cases in juvenile court, 2009*. U.S. Department of Justice.
- Nworgu, B.G. (2015). *Educational research: Basic issues and methodology (3rd edition)*. Nsukka: University Trust Publishers.
- Olayinka, A., & Bella-Awusah, T. (2014). The beyond parental control label in Nigeria. *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, 37(3), 313 – 319.
- Puzzanchera, C., Adams, B. & Sickmund, M. (2010). Juvenile court statistics 2006 – 2007. *National Juvenile Court Archive*, P.8.
- Ratcliffe, C. (2015). Child poverty and adult success. Washington, DC: Urban Institute.
- Ratcliffe, C. & Kalish, E. (2017). Escaping poverty. Washington, DC: Urban Institute.
- Webster, C.S. & Kingston, S. (2014). Anti-poverty strategies for the UK: Poverty and crime review. Project report, Joseph Rowntree Foundation.