

Full Length Research

Rethinking the Role of Family in Combating Juvenile Delinquency in Nigeria

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Abstract: Many families have failed in performing their major role of protection, provision for their members, socializing their members and ensuring they conform to the socially acceptable patterns of behaviour in society, thereby increasing the rate of adolescent delinquencies in society. The literature emphasizes that the home front is the root cause of juvenile delinquency. In this context, this paper examines the role of the family in adolescent anti-social behaviour and maintains that the family sustains the corrective ability to combat juvenile delinquency. The paper found that divorce, improper use of the internet by juveniles, dysfunctionality in the home, single parenthood, substance abuse, weak parenting, poverty, and constructed realities by the media, amongst others, were examined as the cause of these behaviours. The paper explains the challenges many homes face in raising law-abiding citizens and the aftermath effect of these challenges. However, this could be tackled by developing a child's security, values and skills. Consequentially, the paper recommends families placing more emphasis on meeting the psychological need of the adolescent, family bonding, and cohesion as well as adequate provision for every child by parents and guardians to curb this menace.

Keywords: Juvenile Delinquency: Family Roles: Divorce: Broken Homes: Peer Influence.

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1.0 Introduction of the Study

The alarming rate of adolescent delinquency in our contemporary society cannot be over-emphasized, even as society metamorphoses into the information age (Ofobrukweta, 2019). Several studies have connected the increase in young adults' criminal activities and its remedial actions to environmental, technological and socioeconomic/structural factors (Flynn et al., 2017; Kratcoski et al., 2019). However, very few have understudied families' role in combating delinquencies in adolescents and young adults. Hence this study examines the interplay between family and its corrective measures of ensuring conformity of its erring adolescents. Moreover, according to Ofobrukweta (2019), the factors causing young people to offend are diverse and complex, and parents and young people are to be blamed. However, parents and family should take the bulk of the blame due to inadequate parental training, which is majorly responsible for juvenile delinquency in Nigeria (James & Jonah, 2022; Falode & Mustapha, 2022a). Parents who are the family heads are responsible for bringing up their children and wards responsibly and positively, which will make such children and young people law abiding even in the absence of their parents and guardians.

From time immemorial, the family has been saddled with the responsibility of socialization, training new members of the society to conform to social roles, cultural values and norms of the society, especially during formative adolescent years (Abor & Oyafunke-Omoniyi, 2019). However with the advent of industrialization, globalization and technology there was a shift of these familial roles to the educational institution and the media, due to this transitioning, several anomalies ensued which resulted into the non-

conforming roles of new members of the society. For instance, pitiable parental monitoring of adolescents is usually observed as a negative feature of delinquency and crime. Adolescents with such background described above are considered liable to engage in criminal activities compared to adolescents who do not. However, in rare situations where a child finds him/herself in an affectionate and compassionate family that is deviating from the norm, the family is expected to increase adolescents' understanding of the acceptable behaviour of the society and as such eliminate the tendencies of engaging in criminal activities even in the case of opposing situations (Akinyi, 2015; Garbarino & Plantz, 2017).

The presumed connection between childhood delinquency and the home front is germane because the societal household setting is speedily shifting. In recent times, it can be deduced that the role of parenting has shifted to babysitters and day care providers (Abor & Oyafunke-Omoniyi, 2019). However, with this new development, many families in Nigeria manage to keep their primary responsibilities of caring and providing for the new members of the family, although a few families are failing under stress thereby destroying the present and the posterity of their adolescents. Glaringly, the family cannot control all the external influences its members are exposed to. However, it can have a substantial impression on shaping the magnitude of how its members are exposed to the other controlling force of socialization in society.

The relationship between the family and adolescent is pronounced in society because the first point of contact of the child with the larger society for learning (whether passively or actively) and socialization is the family and family members (Ryan, 2017; Garbarino & Plantz, 2017). In other words, there is the possibility of these anomalies being correctible via the same defaulting system, the Family, especially in correcting, guarding and advising the juveniles on the correct use of the internet. It is within the above background that this article is undertaken to reexamine the roles of family in combating juvenile delinquents in Nigeria. The specific research questions for this study are as follows:

- i. What are the challenges families face in raising law-abiding and responsible adolescents?
- ii. What are the factors responsible for juvenile delinquency?
- iii. What are the effects of delinquency in Nigeria?
- iv. To what extent has the family helped to decrease juvenile delinquency in Nigeria?

2.0 Conceptual Clarifications of the Study

2.1 Delinquency

Ofobrukmeta (2019) defines a delinquency as conduct that does not conform to society's legal or moral standards; it usually applies only to acts that, if performed by an adult, would be termed criminal. Juvenile delinquency, also known as youth crime or juvenile offending, is the participation of young adults in prohibited behaviours (Definition.net). According to Petrosino (2011), criminologists defined juvenile delinquency as entailing all the public wrongs committed by those between the ages of 12 and 20. At the same time, sociologists opine that juvenile ill behaviours may be the expression of either the beginning of a long-term culture of criminal activity or a normal part of the process of growing up (Kratcoski et al., 2019). Ugwuoke (2020) categorized delinquents into two (a) individual delinquents and (b) sociologic delinquents.

According to Ugwuoke (2020), an individual delinquent is a young offender who, because of the distorted or unhealthy parent-child relationship and other negative experiences of early childhood, has failed to develop an active conscience and is unable consequently to distinguish between what is right and what is wrong. It is evident that such individuals may, in later years, indulge in acts such as prostitution and vandalism (Egounleti, 2022; Hassan et al., 2022). Such adult delinquents who were sexually molested as children who were physically abused can therefore be cited as good cases of individual delinquents in this context. On the other hand, the sociologic delinquent is a product of his or her home and other environmental forces which have deliberately and consciously taught him or her that what the rest of the society considers to be wrong is not wrong in his or her immediate social environment. The sociologic delinquent is, therefore, a cultural deviant who violates the norms of his or her culture (Mustapha, 2022; Wubante et al., 2022).

Sociological theories, however, highlight that the social structure, environment and the learning process as role players in delinquent behaviour. Nevertheless, several studies have posited that several factors are responsible for adolescent delinquent behaviour aside from the aforementioned sociological theories, which have been classified into two groups, individual factors and situational factors (Kratcoski et al., 2019; Sharma, 2021).

The Global Youth Justice system highlighted underage consumption of alcohol, theft/larceny, vandalism, staying at a friend or families house without parent permission, illegal conduct, alcohol offences (underage purchase or possession, underage consumption of alcohol, providing alcohol to underage persons), tobacco, simple assault or battery, possession of drugs, curfew violations, school disciplinary offences, possession of marijuana, traffic violations, truancy, runaways (running away from a noncustodial parents house, criminal trespasses, mischiefs, fraud, burglary, harassment, false reporting, loitering, possession of stolen properties, possession of a weapon, resisting an officer without violence, reckless endangerment (hanging on to a moving car, speeding out of a parking lot), going to another city/state when forbidden by a parent, unauthorized use of vehicles) are all juvenile delinquents (Ugwuoke, 2020; Okpa et al., 2021).

In Ryan's article, Adolescent criminal behaviour was referred to as an exciting yet challenging occurrence in the criminal justice system of the United States. Researchers (Mwangangi, 2019; Okpa et al., 2021) have spent some level of attention on the causes of unhealthy behaviours among adolescents. They have found that several questions are germane to understanding adolescents' criminal behaviours, such as who compels criminal acts? Are tendencies of juvenile criminal behaviour growing or declining? What can society do to inhibit juvenile criminal behaviour? The answers are deeply engrained in the philosophies of juvenile delinquencies. Their studies have revealed that adolescents exposed to dysfunctional homes headed by alcoholic and drug-abusing parents/guardians, slums and poor environments, who are in possession of contra-banned weapons are prone to enticement by criminal groups and are, of course, exposed to constant poverty and consistent violent behaviour (Ryan, 2017; Mwangangi, 2019; Okpa et al., 2021).

Broken families, single-parent families, separated families, frequent parents fighting, lack of trust and confidence among the parents, criminal parents or psychological problems in parents can be the most crucial reason behind juvenile delinquency (Mwangangi, 2019; Okpa et al., 2021; Sharma, 2021). Other factors responsible for juvenile crimes have been identified as peer influence, which is more pronounced and promoted by social media and internet use. Socialized delinquents commit more offences due to their close connection to their social class and role models and legitimize their social group and bonds (Ofobrukweta, 2019; Sharma, 2021).

2.2 Family

There is no one generally accepted definition of the family because the family is subjected to contextual meanings and conceptualization and varies in size and parts in different societies. However, the family is viewed as the smallest environment of great significance to the formation of the behaviours of people; connection with its members and their different personalities operate at a mini-society level which may influence criminal behaviours in adolescents (Rathinabalan, 2017; Rutten et al., 2017). The Bureau for Population Reference posited that a family is a group of individuals brought together by commonalities such as residence, birth, marriage, adoption or close emotional attachment. The family is also a kinship unit; even though they might not live together in a household, it still exists as a social reality (Sharma, 2021; UNESCO, 2022)

All around the world, there are a number of families scattered around. The growing frequency of families splitting up through divorce and remarriage has brought about the occurrence of reconstructed families (stepfamilies). However, there are commonalities, such as the protection of vulnerable members, economic support, nurturing, socialization and perpetuating the family grouping (Stalans & Finn, 2016; Young et al., 2017). Customarily, the notion of family includes responsibilities and functions such as intimacy and affection, security, childbearing and child-rearing. Furthermore, the following are referred to as its tasks include handing over roles, allocating resources, guaranteeing social interaction between family members, providing bodily care, continuing morale and motivation and relating to external society and its institutions. The home front has been further categorized in several ways, such as by position (patrilocal and matrilocal) by kind of marriage (monogamous, polygamous), by kin composition (nuclear, joint) and by authority (patriarchy, matriarchy), and (UNESCO, 1992) Changes in the society always necessitate an adjustment in the family organization and responsibilities.

2.3 Juvenile Delinquency

Juvenile delinquency is a universal phenomenon existing globally. Since 1995, the crime levels of adolescents relating to drug abuse and alcohol intake have grossly increased in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States by precisely thirty percent (World Youth Report, 2003). Adolescents who live in challenging situations have been on the increase estimates from UNICEF, and UN is 80 million to 150 million between 1995 to 2000. These challenges range from parental alcoholism, poverty, broken homes, divorce, communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, stressful life events like the death of a loved parent, insurgencies, armed conflicts, lack of basic amenities and food, clothing and shelter, poor environment and overcrowded homes have more significant risks of engaging in juvenile ill activities (Mwangangi, 2019; UNICEF, 2022).

In developing countries, Africa's delinquent rise is strongly affiliated with poverty, hunger, malnutrition, and youth unemployment (Tsegaye, 2022; Ohanyelu, 2022). The population of African youth have been projected to constitute two-thirds of the region's population; however, the job opportunities available for the teeming youth population are far beneath the population yearly. Half of the African families live below the poverty line, with many living in terrible housing conditions with little or no health service provisions and basic amenities. This is the situation many youths have found themselves (Mwangangi, 2019).

The adolescents and young person law (CYPL) in Nigeria posits that three categories of adolescents may become involved with the juvenile justice system: *adolescents in conflict with the law* (those who have committed crimes similar to adult crimes), *adolescents in need of care and protection* (those who have been abandoned or left destitute by their parents, or adolescents of criminals, beggars or destitute), and *adolescents beyond parental control* (those brought to the attention of the authorities by their parents and are alleged to have engaged in minor criminal activity as well as truancy and running away from home) (Sharma, 2021).

In Nigeria, An adolescent is said to have committed a juvenile offence when the young person is below the age of 18 and is found trying to obey the wishes of his peers or escape from the protection of his parents or some ideal emotional nudges. A youth can be charged as delinquent when he/she has been arraigned in front of a court and proven guilty of the offences beyond every reasonable doubt, such offence listed such as some instances of offences are habitual truancy, drug addiction, prostitution, stealing, cultism, armed robbery etc. (Mwangangi, 2019). Studies on juvenile delinquency corrective systems have shown that the formation, rehabilitation and reintegration of juvenile's goals are being defeated due to the fact that many facilities in place before now have been deteriorating since the 1980s. This may be due to a lack of proper policy, legal and institutional frameworks, gross underfunding, inadequate staff, and lack of necessary training facilities (Bella et al., 2010).

2.4 Family, Delinquent and Law-Abiding Adolescents: The Nexus

Since the beginning of time, almost all societies have seen teenage criminality as a major issue, and our civilization is no different (Falode & Mustapha, 2022b; Yani et al., 2022). Consequently, the underlying concept of juvenile justice has become quite intriguing and of concern throughout the history of child cares in Nigeria. Gradually, research on this issue has shifted from examining an individual's physical and psychological makeup to considering how their social environment may affect them (Flynn et al., 2017). When families stay together, it positively influences the welfare, growth and development of adolescents. An ideal family can reduce juvenile delinquency; however, when there are structural challenges in the family, such as single parenthood, broken home, divorce, and loss of partners, adolescents have higher tendencies of delinquency.

Raithinabalan (2019) conducted a study on the role of household on Juvenile delinquency. The study revealed that in homes where the paternal age is above 50 years, the father smokes, high rate of alcohol intake, substance abuse and criminal activities, mothers are educated and are employed, adolescents are born as a single child, having separated parents or single parent are high indicators of Juvenile unhealthy behaviours (Raithinabalan, 2017). Studies have shown that divorce is an unfailing causal factor of juvenile delinquency. It has been identified as a critical parental risk factor for criminal behaviour in adolescents and young adults (Burt, 2008). According to Van de Weijer (2015), behavioral issues in adolescents have long been considered from theoretical standpoints to include responsive distress from parents splitting up. Consequently, adolescents from single-parent families tend to be

unemployable, quit school and have low self-esteem and will be more inclined to sexual violence than children from families with both parents staying together (Van de Weijer, 2015; Mwangangi, 2019).

Yinusa’s study on family and insurgencies in Nigeria revealed that weak parental tutoring, weak parental care and inefficient monitoring of adolescents are the reasons for children’s engagement in insurgencies in the northern part of Nigeria. In his study, he identified that children with access to good education, ideal upbringing, strong parent-child connection and relationship, quality monitoring and exemplary parenthood were identified measures to forestall future occurrence of insurgency activities (Yinusa et al., 2018). Regardless of the well-meaning of the parents, it is simply challenging for a parent to solely play all the needed roles of a two-parented home. Hence, the term “broken home” is conceptualized to depict adolescents living in a home built by a single parent other than homes built by both parents living together. According to Adegoke (2015), homes referred to as ‘Intact families are also called nuclear families; both biological parents reside in the household with their adolescents. “Intact family arrangements” contrasts other new family structures, including single-parent structures, two-parent structures involving a step-parent, extended family structures, and the adoptive family structure (Sharma, 2021; Kierkus & Bauer, 2002).

Therefore, a broken home strongly contributes to adolescents’ delinquent behaviour. The consistent growth of large numbers of working-class women and mothers has grossly affected the home front, especially in countries like America. One of the significant challenges working mothers face is the inability to locate proper care for the child yet reasonable charges. This has fashioned a concept Ryan calls “latchkey adolescents”, which captions adolescents who come back from school and meet an empty house. These adolescents are much more likely to get into trouble than adolescents who return home to the embrace of their parent or guardian (Ryan, 2017). However, The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the U.S Justice Department, in a national report on Juvenile Offenders and Victims, discovered that juveniles who grew up with their parents together seldom involve themselves in criminal behaviours and, as such, stay clear of activities such as drug abuse, sexual violence. This report found that only 5% of youths who lived with both parents engaged in delinquent acts, as opposed to 12% of youths who lived in other family arrangements (Stalans & Finn, 2016; Mwangangi, 2019). This connotes a strong correlation between broken homes and juvenile delinquents among youths. Juveniles who are from broken homes, single parents, or parents with divorced history are more likely to engage in delinquent behaviour than juveniles who are staying with both parents.

3.0 Methodology of the Study

The use of secondary data was adopted for this paper. The articles were identified by searching the databases DOAJ, ALLIED, SCOPUS, Google Scholar, Medline, and PubMed under particular parameters. These databases are chosen because they provide the most relevant content. The searches only cover articles published within the period 2005 until 2022. To delimit a search (Polit & Beck, 2017), Boolean operators "AND," "OR" were employed with particular constraints. Only articles that related to juvenile delinquency were used and analysed in this paper. For this study, the quantitative research method via secondary data was adopted to collect necessary information for a period of 5 years (i.e. 2005-2022). The secondary data were obtained through the use of published documents or reports, articles and journals. This implies that only articles and report published in reputable journals from 2005 to 2021 were selected for this study. Figure 1 describe the results of the search and selection process, from the number of records identified in the search to the number of studies included in the review, ideally using a systematic review flow diagram based on

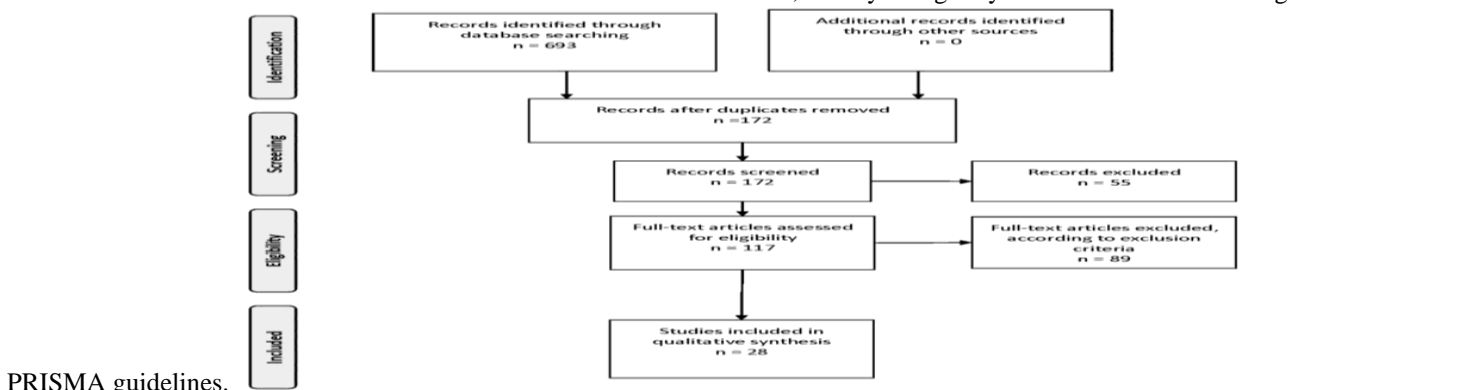


Figure 1: Systematic review flow diagram based on PRISMA guidelines

Basically, out of the total articles and reports retrieved from the literature search, only 28 are deemed applicable to the research (See Figure 1). This implies that a total of 28 articles and relevant report were selected and considered relevant for this study. The author assessed the reliability of the articles and reports used and then examined how it varies and is similar across the States in the United States.

4.0 Analysis of Research Questions

4.1 Analysis of Research Objective 1: Challenges Families Face in Raising Law Abiding and Responsible Adolescents

The articles reviewed showed that family, which includes parents and guardians, is the child's first contact. Suppose the family, via the parents and guardians, provides adequate socialization for the child. In that case, such a child will become a law-abiding and responsible child in the future and will not deviate even in the absence of his or her parents. Unfortunately, the family faces diverse challenges in effectively raising law-abiding and responsible adolescents. Based on the articles reviewed, the following challenges were identified:

- i. **Scarcity of Time:** One of the major challenges for the parent is striking a balance between parenting and work. The works of Sharma (2022) affirmed that most parents find themselves juggling multiple tasks at work and several other responsibilities to partners, friends, and networks of people, however, paying attention to apportion time to their home and adolescents. However, if proper planning is engaged with time management skills, there could be time for everything without forfeiting one.
- ii. **Imbalanced life “Busy Syndrome”:** This was clearly demonstrated by Young et al. (2017). They revealed that another similar challenge parent is busyness. While it is true that parents cannot disregard their essential duties of life that involve the home front, work, and other things, striking a balance is the key to their efficiency. Parents who do not make head waves with these struggle down the line and end up having an imbalanced life (Secure teens)
- iii. **Lack of Emotional Bonding:** This work of Mwangangi (2019) asserted that emotional bonding with children takes time, and the lack of bonding creates a distance that, if not well taken care of, will both be coverable. By implication, many kids find it difficult to relate with their parents because the parent has not bonded emotionally to the child, and knowing and understanding their emotions is essential in relating with adolescents (Secure teens)
- iv. **Poor Socialization:** Rathinabalan & Naaraayan (2017) claimed that parents' failure to inculcate social norms, values and cultures into the new members of the society. This results in adolescents not being able to identify the socially acceptable rights from the wrongs, and also, due to the influx of technology and gadgets, adolescents go ahead and self-educate themselves sadly with all manner of information available to them with little or no restrictions.

4.2 Factors Responsible for Juvenile Delinquency

Findings from the reviewed articles showed that juvenile delinquency could be linked to economic, political and social factors. Stalans & Finn (2016) established that socioeconomic factors such as poverty, high unemployment, low income, and lack of education could increase the prevalence of criminal activities. This suggests that the inability to provide basic necessities such as food, clothing, and shelter is a red flag for adolescent ill behaviours. It was also revealed that a large number of adolescents are found in slums and inadequate housing due to a lack of proper shelter over their heads. This group of juveniles can easily be enticed to engage in delinquent activities with either food or little money.

The submission of Mwangangi (2019) also revealed that high costs of schooling, hunger during school periods, long trekking spaces from schools, having abusive or absent teachers, and poor quality teachers and educational services may also end in frustration, desperation and idleness among adolescents, boosting them to engage in antisocial actions. This corroborated the works of Nanjala (2018), who claimed that high living standards portrayed by the media, which are not affordable by families, are one of the leading causes of delinquent behaviours by the youth in society. Few persons in the population have had the luxury of access to all necessary resources such as education, professional training, satisfactory employment and income, health services, and adequate housing, and some people wish they had but cannot by legal means, which creates some level of disappointment in many young people. One of the

ways they seek to achieve this is by engaging in delinquent activities. This implies that unhealthy behaviours of adolescent are caused by extreme concentration on proposed living standards or constructed realities supported by the media combined with inadequate resources to realize them.

Extant review of literature also showed that structural changes in society, such as urbanization, have also been highlighted as a significant causal factor in adolescent behaviour. Urbanization also funds juvenile delinquent behaviour. The characteristics of the urban environment allow for the development of new waves of behaviours attached to the structural changes. Such behaviours are excessive concentration on the media, the tendencies of anonymous relationships, and reduced social relationships. These traits are common in most urban societies, usually caused by high population density and increased heterogeneity. Studies (i.e. Bella & Omigbodun, 2010; Kratcoski et al., 2019; Buchanan et al., 2020) on juvenile crimes revealed that adolescents adequately cared for while growing up are less likely to be involved in delinquent activities.

In addition, the systemic review also revealed that media has been strongly attached to the criminal influence of adolescents, reiterating the influence of media on delinquency. The unguarded use of the internet by adolescents and the laxity of the adult family members in throwing in the caution have been observed to be positively related to the rate of adolescent ill behaviours. The internet provides a wide range of information to the adolescent, whether advantageous or not for their consumption hence, the need for caution in accessing information. However, the lack of adequate parental supervision in the children spare time has led to all sorts of pollution of the adolescent mind, many youths have been given to sexual violence, hacking, cyber-crime, internet –solicited prostitution, using virtual chat group to market illicit drugs, child pornography and the rest (Stalans & Finn, 2016)

Before the advent of the internet, juveniles committed only old crimes of robbery, rape, alcohol, cultism, murder, theft, burglary, and running from home; however, the internet brought about advancement in criminal dexterity committed even by children below the age of 12. Majorly by the personal possession and use of mobile phones by adolescents. According to Al-Aga's study in 2009, juvenile delinquents use the internet and mobile phones in negative ways more than others. Moreover, a more drastic difference is their risk of addiction to the internet, increasingly amongst students who have free access to the internet, such as University Students. Other factors, such as family-related factors influencing or causing Juvenile Delinquency, as highlighted by Mwangangi (2019) in her most recent publication, are;

- i. **Parental Attitudes:** the kind of relationship that ensues between the child and the parent has much impact on the child's delinquent behaviour, and as such, promoting positive social behaviour beginning with the parent is essential to the child's social behaviour in the long run. The child learns faster and more actively from what they are told and what they see their parents do. The home front is also expected to provide the affection the child needs to function well in society. Lack of parental care and support can inhibit the child's personality development and encourage unhealthy behaviour (Bella & Omigbodun, 2010; Akinyi, 2015).
- ii. **Violence:** Adegoke (2015) advocated that violence in the home can make children liable to violent behaviours. Conforming adolescents have their behaviours traced to non-violence in the home sphere; violence in the home can influence juvenile delinquency.
- iii. **Uninvolved Parenting:** Ofobrukweta (2019) affirmed that uninvolved parenting occurs when a parent intentionally maintains a distance from a child's overall well-being and life, which Hearne refers to as uninvolved parenting. This implies that where the parent stays away from relating with the child, spending no time with the child, not attending school program of the child, show little or no warmth and love to the child, it is expected that the child will turn to other agents that readily provides what is lacking in the child's life, which can lead to engagement in delinquent.

It is also worthy of note that another factor responsible for adolescents' delinquent activities is using drugs in the wrong ways. Adolescents who abuse drugs have many challenges with learning and concentrating at school, health issues and diseases, and poor relationships with families and relatives. Drug abuse can lead to complications such as compulsive economic behaviour, where many drug users resort to violence to provide for their addiction and can grossly affect their communications (Powell, 2011; Peterson, 2018). In addition to these, adolescents born with anti-social personality disorder are closely linked with anti-social behaviour, adolescents suffering from this behaviour have little reference for right and wrong, and they recklessly involve themselves with drugs and violence. Most times, they are reprovved as juvenile delinquents (Tufts, 2013).

4.3 Effects of Delinquency in Nigeria

As much as the prevalence of delinquencies exists in society, their effects are consequentially unavoidable. In Nigeria, one of the effects of delinquency is the damage of human lives and possessions through vandalism, drug abuse, psychological problems, destruction of the country's image, and increased rate of life-threatening diseases such as cancers, HIV/AIDS, and increased adolescent mortality. The youth are looked upon as the future of any country; however, in the event of high rates of delinquent activities, such accolade is stonewashed not only to the members of the society but also to the international community's (Garbarino & Plantz, 2017; Okpa et al., 2021). Delinquency is also responsible for low academic performance among the youths in the society. The aftermath effect of these social ill is the inability to concentrate on studies, alcoholism, fraud, rape, isolation from family and family members, rape, and so on. These further lead to an increase in social vices among youths, vandalism, mental disorders, little or no respect for the elderly (Abor & Oyafunke-Omoniyi, 2019; Mwangangi, 2019).

4.4 Family Roles as a Panacea for Decreasing Juvenile Delinquency in Nigeria

One of the important functions of the family institution is to prevent deviant behaviors in the society as well as to correct erring members of the society especially the young adults and adolescents. Hence it is believed the responsibility of the family expressed through the parents the proper upbringing of the child. Okpa et al. (2021) affirmed that parents are to support the system of the society by establishing acceptable behavioral attitudes in the children. These attitudes and values learnt from the home front go a long way in determining their future lifestyle. Parent who fail to instill positive attitudes in their child end up raising anti-social adolescents which persist even into adulthood (Bella & Omigbodun, 2010; Ofobrukweta. 2019). However, Mwangangi (2019) in her most recent article developed three roles of family institution in curtailing juvenile delinquency, these roles are the development of a child security, development of value and the development of a child's skills:

- i. **Development of a Child's Security:** one of the expected roles that the family institution should play is the provision of the child's financial, material, social and emotional security. When a child's basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter are met, it presents an atmosphere of peace and sufficiency, which a child needs for his mental and physical development having the confidence that there is no lack or want the child is ready to develop their skills and talent. Children who are made secure grow up with positive self-esteem and self-assertiveness. They learn to trust people and the system better than insecure children.
- ii. **Development of Values:** Adolescents often learn faster by following the exemplary lives of their parents. Moreover, the home being the first socialization agent, they learn the importance of the values and the sanctions attached to not conforming to them.
- iii. **Development of a Child's Skills:** this includes the responsibilities of the home to help build; emotional skills, relationship skills, and life skills in adolescents. This is important to shape their ability to fulfil their potential and encourage their peers to do the same. These skills are essential to help them deal with life events and stress.

5.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

This paper examined the role played by family as one of the major determinants and causal factors of juvenile delinquency and as well as its role in serving as a panacea to juvenile delinquency. In this paper, it was revealed that parental and family negligence, poverty, socioeconomic stability, lack of parental upbringing, slack parental attitudes, especially as it concerns guiding their children and ward in the use of the internet, lack of family cohesion, divorce, broken homes, lack of access to quality education as factors responsible for juvenile delinquency with the family related factors. Consequently, this creates a bad image for the Nigerian society, increase the rate of crime in the society as well as deadly communicable diseases and illness such as cancers and high rate of mortality. This study hence recommends the following measures to curb juvenile delinquencies

- i. There should be more family bonding, cohesion and inter-connectedness where societal values can be instilled in the lives of young adults. There is a need for self-control to be put in place relating to the use of social media and digesting information from the internet by adolescents. Working-class parents should place more priority on meeting the psychological needs of their adolescents.

- ii. Parents and guardians should ensure the physical needs of their wards are adequately attended to, and of course, every child should be put in quality schools where they can learn in the right atmosphere.
- iii. The government should create more employment opportunities for youths and several skill acquisition platforms to curb idleness amongst youths and minimize the devotion to internet surfing.

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