

## SOLUTIONS FOR JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS AS EXPRESSED BY EDUCATED PEOPLE IN ONDO WEST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, ONDO, ONDO STATE

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### Abstract

*The study investigated the solutions for juvenile delinquency among adolescents in secondary schools as expressed by educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo, Ondo State. For the sampling technique procedure, the researchers stratified the respondents into different strata of gender, age, academic qualification and religion. The researchers then employed simple random sampling technique to select three hundred (300) respondents consisting of 140 females and 160 males. Questionnaire titled, Solutions for Juvenile Delinquency among Adolescents Questionnaire (SFJDAAQ) was administered to the respondents to collect relevant data. The t-test and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) statistics were used to test four null hypotheses and where the result of ANOVA showed a significant difference, Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) statistics was used to determine the group(s) that led to the significant difference. All null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 alpha level of significance. The findings from the solutions for juvenile delinquency among adolescents showed that, item 5 which states "Restorative justice should be carried out by each school administrator on the offenders" with a mean score of 2.86 ranked 1st while item 6 which states "There should be a room for guidance counsellor in each secondary school" with a mean score of 2.58 ranked 10th. Furthermore, the findings showed that there was a significant difference in the report of the respondents based on gender and religion, while there were no significant difference noted based on age and academic qualification. Based on the findings, it was recommended that the government at all levels should enlighten the parents, teachers and students on the solutions for juvenile delinquency on the secondary school students' academic performance.*

**Keywords:** Adolescents, Educated people, Solutions, Juvenile delinquency.

### Introduction

A juvenile is a child or a young person between the age of 7 and 17 years. The dictionary defines juveniles as 'young persons no longer babies but not yet fully grown (Macmillan English Dictionary, MED, 2002) 'Delinquency on the other hand, is defined as the quality or state of being delinquent; a tendency towards behaviour that is not in accordance with accepted social standard or with the law; having a tendency to exhibit socially unacceptable behaviour (Adebowale & Anifowose, 2017). Juvenile delinquency therefore is an anti-social misdeed in violation of the law by a minor that is punishable. The law also defines a delinquent juvenile as a young person who has violated the criminal code (Adebowale & Anifowose, 2017). The Nigerian constitution of 1999 as amended, defines juvenile delinquency as "a crime committed by a young person under the age of 18 years as a result of trying to comply with the wishes of his peers or to escape from parental pressure or certain emotional stimulation". Juvenile Delinquency is defined as any social deviation by a youth from the societal

norms which result in his contact with law enforcement agents. It is an act committed by a young person who violated the stipulated law of that country or society.

In Nigerian schools, the problem of juvenile delinquency is a topical issue. In his article on discipline in the Free State township schools, Akinmola (2021), cites a number of newspaper reports of juvenile delinquency among school children. This problem is not unique to Nigeria, but affects many industrialised countries today (Akinmola, 2021). De Wet's study (2004) on school vandalism, which is an example of antisocial behaviour, reveals that the problem also affects South Africa, Britain, USA, Canada, France, the Netherlands and Australia, amongst others. Juvenile delinquents are children or adolescents who engage in illegal acts like stealing. Teenagers admit to committing offences of one sort or the other, but most times they do not commit major crimes. Instead, they engage in petty stealing, disorderly conduct, and acts that are illegal for their age such as underage drinking, violating curfews and running away from home and school (Edo-Olotu, 2006 in Akinmola, 2021). Today, more than ever, the problem of juvenile delinquency pricks at the conscience of many societies, and Nigeria is not an exception. In this study, the researcher discusses the experiences and views of educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo, Ondo State regarding juvenile delinquency. The problem was investigated from the perspective of socio-education, a field of research which, amongst others, studies the role of social factors that feature in the development of children and youth during their growth to adulthood.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The extent of juvenile delinquency and crime in Nigerian schools, as alluded to earlier on, and the apparent permissiveness of society, were cause for concern for the present researchers. According to Horne (2004), adolescence is a normal, albeit frustrating, but inevitable process of development from puberty to adolescence. Steyn (2008) concurs and states that it is a temporary state normally discontinued in adulthood. This latter statement notwithstanding, there is a need to refocus on the problem in Nigeria, where the youth consistently misbehave due to numerous factors, some of which are beyond their control like unemployment, but which have the consequences of undermining the socialising role of the home, in particular, and the school, especially in black township schools.

Socio-educational studies in Nigeria and media reports suggest that juvenile delinquency is the result of a decline in morality in the society (Madernather, 2005; Ramphela, 2011; Masitsa, 2008; Tyson & Stones, 2002). These sources, amongst others, played a major role in developing the researchers' interest in investigating the solutions for juvenile delinquency. Quite often, initiatives to curb the problem consist of awareness campaigns which are not accompanied by effective interventions to fight the problem. However, such an approach will not address it, especially if it is ignored at its onset, usually in the home and school environments.

### **Research Question**

The following research question was raised for the study.

1. What are the solutions for juvenile delinquency among adolescents in secondary schools as expressed by educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo, Ondo State?

### **Research Hypotheses**

The following research hypotheses were raised to guide the study.

1. There is no significant difference in the solutions for juvenile delinquency among adolescents

in secondary schools as expressed by educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo, Ondo State based on gender.

2. There is no significant difference in the solutions for juvenile delinquency among adolescents in secondary schools as expressed by educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo, Ondo State based on age.
3. There is no significant difference in the solutions for juvenile delinquency among adolescents in secondary schools as expressed by educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo, Ondo State based on qualification
4. There is no significant difference in the solutions for juvenile delinquency among adolescents in secondary schools as expressed by educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo, Ondo State based on religion.

### **Methodology**

The research design that was adopted for this study was descriptive survey method which generally involves collection of data from a defined population to describe the present condition of the population being investigated using the variables under survey. Based on this, the researchers considered the method as being appropriate to use for the present study since the method would facilitate in making inferences from data collected.

The target population for this study consisted of educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo, Ondo State. However, three hundred (300) respondents were randomly selected consisting of 160 males and 140 females. The respondents were stratified into different strata of gender, age, qualification and religion. After which a simple random sampling technique was employed to select 300 respondents.

The main instrument used for collecting data for this research was developed by the researchers and it was tagged “Solutions for Juvenile Delinquency among Adolescents Questionnaire” (SFJDAAQ). Items in the questionnaire were derived from information obtained from the review of related literature. The instrument has four sections, that is, sections ‘A’ and ‘B’. Section ‘A’ contains personal information of the respondents, while section ‘B’ consisted of items on solutions for juvenile delinquency among adolescents as reported by educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo, Ondo State. The 4-point Likert type response format was adopted for use in section B, C and D, thus: SA = Strongly Agree (4 points), A = Agree (3 points), D – Disagree (2 points), SD = Strongly Disagree (1 point) All the items were positively structured, which means that the scores would be reversed.

In order to ensure both content and face validity, the instrument was validated by five experts in Department of Educational Psychology and Counselling, Adeyemi Federal University of Education, Ondo. The reliability of the instrument used for this study was established using test-retest method within an interval of four weeks. After which the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Co-efficient was used in computing the data generated and co-efficient of 0.78 was obtained which means that the instrument was reliable for usage.

### **Method of Data Analysis**

The researchers employed inferential statistics for the data analysis. The t-test and Analysis of Variance

(ANOVA) and Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) statistical tools were used to test the null hypotheses. All the null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 alpha level of significance.

## Results

The purpose of this study was to determine the solutions for juvenile delinquency among adolescents as reported by educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo, Ondo State. This section therefore, presents the result obtained from the analysis of data and the interpretation of the findings on the study.

The results are presented in three sections. The first section provides the descriptive (demographic) data which was analysed using frequency counts and simple percentages, while the second section was analysed with the use of inferential statistic. The results obtained from null hypotheses postulated and tested are presented in this section. The third section of this study presents the discussion of findings.

### Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

This section covers demographic data of the respondents using frequency counts and percentages.

S/N	Items	Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Gender			
		Male	160	53.3
		Female	140	46.7
		<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100</b>
2.	Age			
		20-30 years	80	26.7
		31-40 years	110	36.7
		41-50 years	90	30.0
		51 years and above	20	6.7
		<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100</b>
3.	Academic Qualification			
		NCE/OND	90	30.0
		HND/First Degree	130	43.3
		Master Degree	70	23.3
		Ph.D	10	3.3
		<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100</b>
4.	Religion Affiliation			
		Christianity	150	50.0
		Islam	145	48.3
		African Trad. Rel (ATR)	5	1.7
		<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 1: The distributions of respondents on variables**

Table 1 indicated that 160 (53.3%) of the respondents were males while 140 (46.7%) were females. Between the ages of 20-30 years, we have 80 (26.7%) respondents, between 31-40 years we have 110 (36.7%) respondents, between ages 41-50 years, we have 90 (30.0%) respondents, while between ages 51 years and above, we have 20 (6.7%). For academic qualification, 90 (30.0%) of the respondents have NCE/OND, 130 (43.3%) of the respondents have HND/First Degree, 70 (23.3%) of the respondents have Master Degree while, 10 (3.3%) of the respondents have Ph.D. For religion affiliation, 150 (50.0%) of the respondents were Christians, 145 (48.3%) were Islam while 5 (1.7%) were African

Traditional Religion (ATR).

**Research Question 1:** What are the solutions for juvenile delinquency among adolescents in secondary schools as expressed by educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area of Ondo State?

**Table 2: Mean and rank order analysis on solutions for juvenile delinquency among adolescents in secondary schools as expressed by educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area of Ondo State**

Item No	Solutions	Mean	Rank
5	Restorative justice should be carried out by each administrator on the offenders.	2.86	1 <sup>st</sup>
8	The family, state and other social control agencies should not ignore the problem since they are accountable for children's misconduct.	2.85	2 <sup>nd</sup>
1	The government should initiate the moral regeneration movement to address the declining moral fibre in the schools such as establishment of juvenile detention centres.	2.84	3 <sup>rd</sup>
7	Children needed nurturing and care through adult supervision.	2.79	4 <sup>th</sup>
2	Adolescents need to feel reassured that they matter to others and can make a difference.	2.73	5 <sup>th</sup>
10	The school and society should treat juvenile delinquents and criminals humanely, with the purpose of repairing the damage caused by their offending.	2.72	6 <sup>th</sup>
3	Mastering to others plays a powerful and protective role against antisocial behaviour.	2.70	7 <sup>th</sup>
4	Collective responsibility of the administrators, parents and the government.	2.68	8 <sup>th</sup>
9	The family, state and other social control agencies have a collective duty towards the well-being of children and youth by training them to be human.	2.66	9 <sup>th</sup>
6	There should be a room for guidance counsellor in each secondary school.	2.58	10 <sup>th</sup>

Table 2 shows the mean scores and ranking, according to the respondents' responses on the solutions for juvenile delinquency among adolescents in secondary schools as expressed by educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area of Ondo State. Item 5 which states "Restorative justice should be carried out by each administrator on the offenders." with a mean score of 2.86 ranked 1st while, item 6 which states "There should be a room for guidance counsellor in each secondary school" with a mean score of 2.58 ranked 10th.

### Hypotheses Testing

In this study, four (4) null hypotheses were formulated and tested using t-test and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) statistical procedure. Significant differences were determined at 0.05 alpha level of significance.

**Hypothesis 1:** There is no significant difference in the solutions for juvenile delinquency among adolescents in secondary schools as expressed by educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo, Ondo State based on gender.

**Table 3: Mean, Standard Deviation and t-value of respondents' expression on the basis of gender**

Gender	N	Mean	SD	Df	t-Cal.	t-Crit.	Decision
Male	160	51.34	1.43	298	2.73	1.96	Rejected
Female	140	53.75	1.72				

\* Significant;  $p < 0.05$  alpha level

Table 3 above shows the mean, standard deviation and t-value of respondents on the basis of gender. The result on the above table revealed that the calculated t-value of 2.73 is greater than the critical t-value of 1.96 with 298 degree of freedom at 0.05 level of significance, thus, null hypothesis is rejected. Thus, there is a significant difference in the solutions for juvenile delinquency among adolescents in secondary schools as expressed by educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area of Ondo State based on gender.

**Hypothesis 2:** *There is no significant difference in the solutions for juvenile delinquency among adolescents in secondary schools as expressed by educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area of Ondo State based on age.*

**Table 4: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) comparing respondents on significant difference in the solutions for juvenile delinquency among adolescents in secondary schools as expressed by educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area of Ondo State based on age**

Source	df	SS	MS	Cal. F-val.	Crit. F-val.	Decision
Between Group	3	1751.188	583.729	0.85	2.60	Accepted
Within Group	296	15927.478	53.809			
<b>Total</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>17678.667</b>				

\* Significant;  $p < 0.05$  alpha level

Table 4 above presents the calculated F-value of 0.85 which is less than the critical F-value of 2.60 at 0.05 alpha level, thus the hypothesis is accepted. This implies that there is no significant difference. Thus, there is no significant difference in the solutions for juvenile delinquency among adolescents in secondary schools as expressed by educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area of Ondo State based on age.



**Hypothesis 3:** There is no significant difference in the solutions for juvenile delinquency among adolescents in secondary schools as expressed by educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area of Ondo State based on academic qualification.

**Table 5: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) comparing respondents on significant difference in the solutions for juvenile delinquency among adolescents in secondary schools as expressed by educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area of Ondo State based on academic qualification**

Source	df	SS	MS	Cal. F-val.	Crit. F-val.	Decision
Between Group	3	1668.759	556.253	0.28	2.60	Accepted
Within Group	296	16009.908	54.088			
<b>Total</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>17678.667</b>				

\* Significant;  $p < 0.05$  alpha level

Table 5 above presents the calculated F-value of 0.28 which is less than the critical F-value of 2.60 at 0.05 alpha level, thus, the hypothesis is accepted. This implies that there is no significant difference. Thus, there is no significant difference in the solutions for juvenile delinquency among adolescents in secondary schools as expressed by educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area of Ondo State based on academic qualification.

**Hypothesis 4:** There is no significant difference in the solutions for juvenile delinquencies among adolescents in secondary schools as expressed by educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area of Ondo State based on religion.

**Table 6: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) comparing respondents on significant difference in the solutions for juvenile delinquency among adolescents in secondary schools as expressed by educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area of Ondo State based on religion**

Source	Df	SS	MS	Cal. F-val.	Crit. F-val.	Decision
Between Groups	2	589.135	294.568	5.12	3.00	Rejected
Within Group	297	17089.531	57.541			
<b>Total</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>17678.667</b>				

\* Significant;  $p < 0.05$  alpha level

Table 6 above presents the calculated F-value of 5.12 which is greater than the critical F-value of 3.00 at 0.05 alpha level of significance, thus, the hypothesis is rejected. This implies that there is a significant difference. Thus, there is a significant difference in the solutions for juvenile delinquency among adolescents in secondary schools as expressed by educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area of Ondo State based on religion. In order to determine the mean value(s) that led to the significant difference observed in the ANOVA results of Table 6, the Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) was used as a post-hoc test. The results of the DMRT procedure are displayed in Table 7.

**Table 7: Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) showing differences in the solutions of juvenile delinquency among adolescents in secondary schools as expressed by educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area of Ondo State based on religion**

Religion	Duncan's Grouping	Mean	N	Group
African Trad. Religion	A	55.00	5	1
Muslim	B	53.82	145	2
Christianity	C	51.07	150	3

Table 7 above present Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) result to show group means that led to the significant difference noted in the ANOVA result of Table 6. The DMRT results indicated that group 1 with mean score of 55.00 differed from group 2, with a mean score of 53.82 and differed significantly from group 3 with a mean score of 51.07 respectively. Hence, the significant difference noted in the DMRT result was due to the fact that groups 1 and 2 differed from each other and from group 3.

### Discussion of Findings

The results of findings showed that educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area in Ondo State expressions differed based on gender and religion but similar based on age and academic qualification.

The first null hypothesis showed that there was a significant difference in the solutions for juvenile delinquency among adolescents in secondary schools as expressed by educated people in Ondo West Local Government Area, Ondo, Ondo State based on gender, which implies that the ways the male respondents expressed differ from that of female respondents. The result of finding corroborate the findings of Adebawale and Anifowose (2017) which showed that the respondents differed in their responses to solutions for juvenile delinquency.

The second null hypothesis showed that there was no significant difference in the expressions of the educated people on the solutions for juvenile delinquency based on age. The result negates the result of Akinmola (2021) which showed that the respondents had different responses for remedies on juvenile delinquency.

The third null hypothesis indicated that there was no difference in the expressions of the respondents based on academic qualification. This means that irrespective of the academic qualification of the respondents, they had similar expressions, which is in line with the finding of Tyson and Stones (2002), which showed that the respondents had similar responses.

The fourth null hypothesis showed that, the expressions of the respondents differed based on age. This indicates that different age groups' expressions differed from one another. This finding is in line with the finding of Akinmola (2021) which indicated that the respondents had different responses for their solutions for juvenile delinquency.

### Conclusion

The findings of the study revealed that two null hypotheses were accepted while none two were rejected. .

### Recommendations/Counselling Implications

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. The government at all levels that is, Federal, State and Local Government Areas should enlighten the



parents, teachers and students on the solutions for juvenile delinquency on the secondary school students' academic performance.

2. The policy makers should make laws that will lead to the remedies for juvenile delinquencies on secondary school students particularly in Nigeria.
3. The curriculum planners should implement the school curriculum on how juvenile delinquency can be controlled if not totally eradicated at all levels especially in secondary schools.
4. There should be room for guidance counsellors in each secondary schools to counsel the students on the solutions for juvenile delinquency.

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