

## PEER PRESSURE AND PARENTAL ATTITUDES AS PREDICTORS OF CYBERCRIME AMONG UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS OF KWARA STATE UNIVERSITY, MALETE

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### Abstract

*This study examined Peer Pressure and Parental Attitudes as Predictors of Cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University Malete. The study adopted descriptive survey research design. This study adopted descriptive survey research design. The population of the study comprised of 7,329 of level and 400 level undergraduates students male only. The research advisors (2006) was used to select 365 of 300 level and 400 level undergraduates students male only as sample respondents for the study. The research instruments included the followings; Peer Pressure Scale (PPS) with the reliability coefficient 0.68. Parental Attitude Scale (PAS) with the reliability coefficient 0.80. Students' Attitude Towards Cyber Fraud Scale (ATCS) with the reliability coefficient 0.70. Also, the two research hypotheses were tested using Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) Statistic all at 0.05 level of significance. The study concluded that out of 365 (100%), 79 (22%) low level and 286 (78%,) high the level of Peer Pressure towards cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University Malete. The study revealed that out of 365 (100%), 111 (30%) low level and 254 (70%,) high level the level of Parental Attitudes towards cybercrime among Undergraduate Students was high. It was also revealed that out of 365 (100%), 95 (26%) low level and 270 (74%) high level the level of cybercrime among Undergraduate Students was high. There was significant relationship between Peer Pressure and cybercrime among Undergraduate Students (calculated r-value (0.89 was greater than the Critical r-value 0.13). There was significant relationship between Parental Attitudes and cybercrime among Undergraduate Students (calculated r-value 0.74 was greater than the Critical r-value 0.32). Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made. The proper enlightenment and sensitization exercise against the cybercrime should be encouraged and supported by parents, educational psychologists, school counsellors, and school management.*

**Keywords:** Peer Pressure, Parental Attitudes, Cybercrime, Undergraduate Students

### Introduction

Cyber-crimes are international in nature and do not respect political or geographical boundaries. Cybercrime is a crime perpetrated using computer tools on the internet. Cybercrime is also referred to as a crime committed using computer and network. The first cybercrime recorded can be dated back to 1820 during the days of abacus computer. Cybercrime according to Das and Nayak (2013) is a crime committed mostly by the individuals or organised groups; in which computers or computer networks are a tool, a target, or a place of criminal activity and include everything from electronic cracking to denial of service attacks. Cybercrimes also entails offences that are committed against individuals or groups of individuals with a criminal motive to intentionally harm the reputation of the victim or cause physical or mental harm to the victim directly or indirectly, using modern telecommunication networks

such as internet (Chat rooms, emails, etc) and mobile phones (Muraina & Muraina, 2015). Examples of cyber-crime as contained in the work of Kshetri (2010) include: denial of service attacks, cyber-theft, cyber trespass, cyber obscenity, critical infrastructure attacks, online fraud, online money laundering, ID fraud, cyber terrorism, and cyber extortions.

Nigeria on the other hand has been at the spot high from the international community for its citizen involvement in cyber-crime. It is ranked as the third in the world behind the United States and Britain, and the first within the Africa continent in the rate of cyber-crime prevalence (Malhotra & Malhotra, 2017). This conspicuous position has been a catalyst in the way the nation has handled issue concerning cyber-crime. Therefore, it has become to find out the factors that cause or responsible for the adolescents in the involvement of cybercrime.

Diana and Sheri (2018) examined the effect of parental attitude on Cybercrime involvement among secondary school students. They found that there was low level of parental support towards cybercrime. Filipa and Marlene (2016) examined parental attitude on Cybercrime involvement among students in tertiary institutions. The finding revealed that there was high level of parental attitude and support towards cybercrime among students in tertiary institutions.

Ruth (2013) examined the relationship between peer pressure and cybercrime among high school students in Germany. They conducted the study to ascertain the extent of peer influence that promotes cybercrime among high school students. The study found that peer group do not influence cybercrime among high school students at all. Berry and Bainbridge (2017) examined the relationship between peer influence and cybercrime among high school students. Hundred people who use internet frequently were surveyed to ascertain their cybercrime experience and determine if there is any relationship exists between their demographics and peer group. The result revealed that there is relationship between peer pressure and cybercrime among high school students. However, it is as a result of the above assertion that study intends to investigate Peer Pressure and Parental Attitudes as Predictors of Cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University Malete.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Cybercrime is the new face of crime that can also be called digital crime. The problem of cybercrime has become a serious concern to governments, organizations and individuals over the years. The problem of cybercrime has been increasing and it remains difficult to put a definite end to. This is because the crime can be conducted from any part of the world anonymously. For some decades now, the issue of cyber fraud among adolescents and early youths especially in Nigeria has become so worrisome to government, parents and security agents. Internet fraud also known as Cybercrime has become a global threat from Europe to America, Africa to Asia.

In Nigeria, perpetrators of this crime who are usually referred to as “yahoo yahoo boys” are taking advantage of ecommerce system available on the Internet to defraud victims who are mostly foreigners in thousands and sometimes millions of dollars. They fraudulently represent themselves as having particular goods to sell or that they are involved in a loan scheme project. They may pose to have financial institution where money can be loaned out to prospective investors. In this regard, so many persons have been duped or fallen victims. But this could not only be the techniques used by these cyber criminals.

Okeshola and Adeta (2013) found that majority of those involves in cybercrime are students who are adolescents and early youths. The youths in every society is of great importance and concern to that

society because they are looked upon as the leaders of tomorrow. Olaide and Adewole (2019), found that a sizeable number of criminals in Nigeria fall within early youths. The adolescents and early youths at present have discovered different ways of using the internet in doing different types of criminal activities and these age brackets are usually found in tertiary institutions in Nigeria. Therefore, this study seeks to examine the Peer Pressure and Parental Attitudes as Predictors of Cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University Malete.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The main aim of this study is to determine the Peer Pressure and Parental Attitudes as Predictors of Cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University Malete. Specifically, this study seeks to:

1. The level of Peer Pressure towards cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University, Malete.
2. The level of Parental Attitudes towards cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University, Malete.
3. examine the level of cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University, Malete.
4. find out the relationship between Peer Pressure and cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University, Malete.
5. investigate out the relationship between Parental Attitudes and cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University Malete.

### **Research Questions**

The following research questions were raised to guide the conduct of this study:

1. What is level of Peer Pressure towards cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University, Malete?
2. What is the level of Parental Attitudes towards cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University, Malete?
3. What is the level cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University, Malete?
4. Is there any significant relationship between Peer Pressure and cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University, Malete?
5. Is there any significant relationship between Parental Attitudes and cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University, Malete?

### **Research Hypotheses**

The following null hypotheses were formulated and tested in the study.

H<sub>01</sub>: There is no significant relationship between Peer Pressure and cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University, Malete

H<sub>02</sub>: There is no significant relationship between Parental Attitudes and cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University, Malete.

### **Methodology**

This study adopted descriptive survey research design. According to Nworgu (2006), 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. The population of the study comprised of 7,329 of level and 400 level undergraduates students male only. The study used the

research advisors (2006) to select 365 of 300 level and 400 level undergraduate male students only as sample respondents for the study.

Three researcher designed questionnaires were used for the data collection from the respondents. The research instruments included the followings; Peer Pressure Scale (PPS) with the reliability coefficient 0.68. Parental Attitude Scale (PAS) with the reliability coefficient 0.80. Students' Attitude Towards Cyber Fraud Scale (ATCS) with the reliability coefficient 0.70. Each of the three instruments has 10 items with 4 points scale ranging from Strongly Disagree (1), to Disagree (2), Agree (3) and Strongly Agree (4). The research questions were answered using frequency count and percentage. Also, the two research hypotheses were tested using Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) Statistic all at 0.05 level of significance.

## Results

### Answering of Research Questions

1. What is the level of Peer Pressure towards cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University, Malete?

**Table 1: Showing frequency and percentage of level of Peer Pressure towards cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University, Malete**

S/No	Frequency	Percentage	Decision
1	79	22.%	Low level
2	286	78.%	High level
<b>Total</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

Table 1 revealed that out of 365 (100%), 79 (22%) low level and 286 (78%,) high level. This indicates that the level of Peer Pressure towards cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University Malete was high.

2. What is the level Parental Attitudes towards cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University Malete?

**Table 2: Showing frequency and percentage of Parental Attitudes towards cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University Malete**

S/No	Frequency	Percentage	Decision
1	111	30%	Low level
2	254	70%	High level
<b>Total</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

Table 2 revealed that out of 365 (100%), 111 (30%) low level and 254 (70%,) high level. This indicates that the level of Parental Attitudes towards cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University, Malete was high.

2. What is level of level cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University Malete?

**Table 3: Showing frequency and percentage of level cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University, Malete**

S/No	Frequency	Percentage	Decision
1	95	26%	Low level
2	270	74%	High level
<b>Total</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

Table 3 revealed that out of 365 (100%), 95 (26%) low level and 270 (74%) high level. This indicates that the level of cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University Malete was high.

### Testing of Hypotheses

H<sub>01</sub>: There is no significant relationship between Peer Pressure and cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University Malete

**Table 4: Showing Correlation between Peer Pressure and cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University Malete**

Variables	N	Mean	SD	Df	Cal. r-value	Critical r-value	Decision
Peer Pressure	365	21.96	11.77	363	0.89	0.13	Rejected
Cybercrime	365	43.86	12.33				

P>0.05

Table 4 revealed that the calculated r-value (0.89) is greater than the Critical r-value (0.13) at 0.05 level of significance and 363 degree of freedom. Hence, the null hypothesis is not rejected. This implies that there was significant relationship between Peer Pressure and cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University Malete

H<sub>02</sub>: There is no significant relationship between Parental Attitudes and cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University Malete

**Table 5: Showing Correlation between Parental Attitudes and cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University, Malete**

Variables	N	Mean	SD	Df	Cal.r-Value	Critical r-value	Decision
Parental Attitudes	365	24.76	4.10	363	0.74	0.32	Rejected
Cybercrime	365	53.48	2.51				

P>0.05

Table 5 showed that the calculated r-value (0.74) is greater than the Critical r-value (0.32) at 0.05 level of significance and 363 degree of freedom. Hence, the null hypothesis is not rejected. This implies that there was significant relationship between Parental Attitudes and cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University Malete

### Discussion

Research question one revealed that Table 1 revealed that out of 365 (100%), 79 (22%) low level and 286 (78%,) high level. This indicates that the level of Peer Pressure towards cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University, Malete was high.. The finding of this study



corroborates with Diana and Sheri (2018) found that there was low level of parental support towards cybercrime. While do not agrees with it Filipa and Marlene (2016), the finding revealed that there was high level of parental attitude and support towards cybercrime among senior secondary school students. Research question two revealed that out of 365 (100%), 111 (30%) low level and 254 (70%,) high level. This indicates that the level of Parental Attitudes towards cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University Malete was high. The finding of this study agrees with Berry and Bainbridge (2017) found that peer group do influence adolescents into cybercrime. While finding of Ruth (2013) disagrees with it and found that peer group do not influence cybercrime among high school students at all.

Research question three revealed that out of 365 (100%), 95 (26%) low level and 270 (74%) high level. This indicates that the level of cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University Malete was high.. The finding of this study corroborates with Olaide and Adewole (2019), found that a sizeable number of criminals in Nigeria fall within the adolescents and early youths.

The result of hypothesis one showed that there was there was significant relationship between Peer Pressure and cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University Malete. The finding of this study corroborate with the finding of this study corroborates with Diana and Sheri (2018) revealed that there was significant relationship between level of peer pressure and cybercrime involvement by the students. While do not agrees with it Filipa and Marlene (2016), revealed that since there was high level of peer pressure and support towards cybercrime among senior secondary school students. Also, there was no significant relationship between level of peer pressure and cybercrime involvement by the students.

The result of hypothesis two revealed that there was significant relationship between Parental Attitudes and cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University Malete. The finding of this study agrees with study of Berry and Bainbridge (2017) found that there was significant relationship exists between their demographics and peer group. The result revealed that there is relationship between Parental Attitudes and cybercrime among high school students. Contrarily Ruth (2013) conducted the study to ascertain the relationship between Parental Attitudes and cybercrime among. Students.

## Conclusions

Based on the findings of this study the followings were the conclusion. The level of Peer Pressure towards cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University Malete was high. The level of Parental Attitudes towards cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University Malete was high. level of cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University Malete was High. There was significant relationship between Peer Pressure and cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University Malete. There was significant relationship between Parental Attitudes and cybercrime among Undergraduate Students of Kwara State University Malete.

## Recommendations

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

- 1.The Proper enlightenment and sensitization exercise against the cybercrime should be encouraged and supported by parents, educational psychologists, school counsellors, and school management.
- 2.Society should not place much emphasis on materialism rather it should encourage and foster positive and socially acceptable behaviour; hard work etc. rather that glorifying the students who are making money through dubious mean.

3. Rules and regulations that deal with cybercrimes should be implemented strictly across the nation.
4. A better economic system, creation of job opportunities, empowerment for the in-school adolescents and youth should be prioritised by the three tiers of government in Nigerian country.
5. Parents and guardians should endeavour cater for the needs of their children and also they should develop negative attitude towards involvement of their children in cybercrimes

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