

Correlate of Authoritative and Authoritarian Family Communication Patterns and Anti-Social Personality Development among Inmates of Juvenile Welfare Homes in North-Eastern, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The study examined correlate of Authoritative, Authoritarian family communication patterns and anti-social personality development among inmates of juvenile welfare homes in North-eastern Nigeria. Two objectives, two research questions and two null hypotheses guided the study. Survey research design was adopted for the study. The population of the study consisted of 257 inmates of juvenile welfare homes. Total population sampling technique was used. The data collected were statistically treated using mean, standard deviation and Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) was used. The results revealed that authoritative family communication patterns have significant correlation, while authoritarian family communication pattern has no significant relationship with anti-social personality development. It was recommended, among others, that parents should adopt authoritarian communication pattern in relating with their children as a factor that influence healthy personality development.

ARTICLE INFO

Article History

Received: December, 2023

Received in revised form: December, 2023

Accepted: March, 2024

Published online: March, 2024

KEYWORDS

Authoritative, Authoritarian and Anti-Social Personality Development

INTRODUCTION

Family is the first contact for every individual in the society where all subsequent experiences are built. It is important to note that the first learning instance is the most lasting for every individual. The family plays an important role in shaping a person's fate or destiny. The family environment in which the child grows up exerts a profound influence upon personality development. For the most part, families naturally fulfill this responsibility by simply being responsive to their child's needs and providing a safe environment to grow and learn. As children grow older, their socio-emotional development continues through their experiences and interactions with extended family, teachers, sports, activities, peers, friends, community leaders, media personalities, and many other life experiences. As parents, it is important to encourage the children to expand their circle of

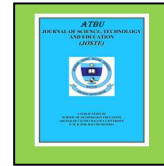
influence and to find more ways to support their socio-emotional growth. The goal is to raise happy children who become positive contributing members of the society. Parental techniques for raising children and families' training systems are among the most fundamental factors for a child's personality formation. These can serve as deterrent or encouraging factors in their growth process. Parental communication patterns are significant factors in human development. Communication among family members is very important because it afford members the outlet to express their needs, wants and concerns to each other. Honest and direct communication provides a conducive atmosphere that enable family members to express their differences as well as love and admiration for one another. It is through such communication that family members are able to resolve the unavoidable problems that arise in all families.

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Authoritative family communication pattern, this type of communication pattern not only values open conversation but also conformity within the family. Members of the family communicate freely about their thoughts, feelings and activities, but at the same time parents make final decisions about important issues. Burke, Woszildo and Segrin (2013) contend that these two somewhat conflicting orientations lead to tensions caused by the parents desire to be open but also have control. In such families Koener and Fitzpatrick (2002) argued, parents usually go a great length explaining the rationale behind their decisions, values and beliefs, and their children learn to accept and value conversations and often adopt the family value system. Families with such type of communication pattern try to avoid conflict with members especially children as it threatens the hierarchical structure in which the parents make choices for the family.

Another form of family communication pattern is the authoritarian style. Families that adopt the authoritarian communication pattern differ slightly from the authoritative approach. Such families are oriented towards conversation but away from conformity. Parents in these families believe in the virtues of social learning or life lessons and expect their children to develop through their interaction with other people outside the family circle. Pluralistic families are egalitarian in that decisions are taken collectively with everyone having equal input. Such families are not afraid of disagreements and often engage in open conflict resolution. They have perfected good strategies to resolve differences. Ijeoma et al (2016) observed that children from authoritarian families learn to be independent and have confidence in their ability to make decisions.

Authoritarian communication is another type of family communication pattern. Families that adopt this approach are usually authoritarian, do not value open conversation and are oriented toward strict conformity. Children in such families are expected to obey family orders and parents usually do not share their reasoning for decisions. Akinsola (2013) argued that although are usually few in such families because of the childrens orientation of strict obedience to family norms,

however when conflict arises, members of the family are equipped to handle the situation. This invariably affects the children's self confidence and their ability to make decisions.

Anti-social personality is the development of a mental condition in which a person regularly shows no regard for right, wrong, and has no feelings for others. Individuals with such personality disorder result in poor communication and relationship that most often violate the laws hence may become criminals. They may likely develop a propensity to antagonize, manipulate and treat others with indifference. They may lie, behave or react impulsively and violently. Such individuals are often likely to have problems with drugs and alcohol use. Due to these factors, persons with anti-social personality disorder find it difficult to meet up with responsibilities or expectations of the family, work or school. Persistent anti-social behaviors places a burden on the family, the justice system, the public health system and the community at large. Although the exact cause of personality disorder is unknown, however certain factors seem to increase the risk of developing the problem, such as poor family communication and being subjected to abuse or neglect especially during childhood. Others are family history of anti-social personality disorders or mental illness.

Children who need care and protection are those abandoned or left destitute by their parents. Children beyond parental control are those alleged to have engaged in minor criminal activity usually directed at family members and neighbors. Such children are brought to the attention of the authorities by their parents. These children are handled by the juvenile courts in the exercise of its civil jurisdiction. The juvenile offenders on the other hand are children who have committed offences under laws that are applicable to adults. Such children may be arraigned before a juvenile court in the exercise of its criminal jurisdiction and if found guilty be sent to a remand home for a period of not more than three months. Institutional care for juveniles in Nigeria could be in Remand Homes, Approved Schools or Borstal Institutions.

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Remand Homes serve as detention/custody sites for maximum of 3 months for juveniles awaiting trial or disposal after a guilty verdict. The Act seeks to make provision for the welfare of the young and the treatment of young offenders and for the establishment. Juvenile Welfare Homes otherwise called Remand Homes were established by both the federal and state governments to help care for abandoned children as well as those with behavioral problems. The objective was to help the at-risk children in the Remand Homes through skills acquisition programs designed to double the child's skills and improve their attitudes. They are counseled, trained and empowered to transform their attitudes positively.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The increasing number of children and young person getting involved in criminal activities and being admitted into the juvenile welfare homes is generating a lot of concern to governments, parents and the general public in the region. The increasing problem of anti-social personality disorders like delinquency, low self-esteem, anxiety, depression, bullying, truancy, thuggery, vandalization of school property and social maladjustment poses a great threat to peace, security and harmony in the study area, and continues to cause concern for parents, teachers and governments. In the past, children were known and reported to be involved in minor offences such as stealing pieces of meat from cooking pot to robbing peers of their foods or toys. However, today a lot of children have been found to have moved on from such minor offences to more serious crimes, such as prostitution, rape, drug trafficking, arson, armed robbery, suicide bombing and other acts of terrorism.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in its annual report of 2021 on the impact of conflict on development in the North East, Nigeria, highlighted the social consequences of Boko Haram insurgency to include among others, broken or weakened family institutions. Thus, the report attributed the increased number of juvenile related offences in the region to this phenomenon. A report by the

Borno state ministry for Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement indicated that a total number of 56 juveniles were admitted to the Maiduguri Remand Home in 2019 and taught vocational skills. The figure rose to 106 in 2020 and 117 in 2021. This indicates a growing number of juveniles who have developbehavioural challenges and need help. In a similar vein, the Bauchi state ministry of Youth and Social development, worried by the growing trend of juvenile related offences especially by the dreaded group of juveniles called Yan Sara Suka, rejuvenated the Ibrahim Abacha rehabilitation centre to cater for the increasing figures and provide counseling and training in skills acquisition. Records obtained from the Gombe state ministry for women affairs and social development indicates that in 2019, 15 children were admitted in its rehabilitation home, 28 in 2020 and 52 in year 2021. These juveniles were processed by the courts and sentenced to the mandatory 3 months incarceration for rehabilitative counselling as well as training in vocational skills. It is against these problems that the paper seeks to find out the relationship between the authoritative and authoritarian family communication patterns and how this influence anti-social personality development among juvenile inmates of welfare homes in North-East region of Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

Specifically, the study aim to achieve the following objectives;

1. Find out the relationship between the authoritative family communication pattern and anti-social personality development among inmates of juvenile welfare homes in North Eastern Nigeria.
2. Find out the relationship between the authoritarian family communication pattern and anti-social personality development among inmates of juvenile welfare homes in North – Eastern Nigeria.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study;

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- i. What is the mean score of authoritative family communication pattern items on inmates of juvenile welfare homes in North Eastern Nigeria?
- ii. What is the mean score of authoritarian family communication pattern items on inmates of juvenile welfare homes in North Eastern Nigeria?

Research Hypotheses

On the basis of the research objectives and questions advanced, this study intends to test the following hypotheses;

- Ho₁** There is no significant relationship between Authoritative family communication patterns and anti-social personality development among inmates of juvenile welfare homes in North – Eastern Nigeria.
- Ho₂** There is no significant relationship between Authoritarian family communication patterns and anti-social personality development among inmates of juvenile welfare homes in North – Eastern Nigeria.

METHODOLOGY

The research adopted the survey design approach, which is concerned with finding, describing and interpretation of result. The area of the study comprised of juveniles in welfare homes in the six states in the north eastern states of Nigeria. The population of the study includes all the 257 inmates in the welfare homes. A five scaled Likert questionnaire was used for data collection. The questionnaire developed was validated using face and construct validation. The reliability index of the questionnaire was found to be .716. The instrument was administered by the researchers with the help of trained research assistants. The data was analyzed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient.

RESULTS

Research Question One

- i. What is the mean score of authoritative family communication pattern items on inmates of juvenile welfare homes in North Eastern Nigeria?

Table 1: Mean score of Items of Authoritative Family Communication Pattern

S/N	Items	N	Mean	SD	Remarks
1	My parents make the final decisions	257	3.39	1.226	Accepted
2	There is more emphasis on obeying rules in our family	257	2.69	1.036	Rejected
3	My parents get irritated when i ask questions	257	3.40	1.110	Accepted
4	My parents often criticize my views	257	3.03	1.077	Accepted
5	My parents often say i will understand better when i grow up	257	3.42	1.080	Accepted
6	My Parents beat me whenever i go against their opinion	257	3.42	1.177	Accepted
7	My Parents do not engage me in decision making	257	3.58	1.112	Accepted
Grand Mean			3.27		

The result of items 1-7 in table one above was used to answer research question one. The mean range was from 2.69 to 3.58 with a grand mean of 3.27, which shows that Authoritative Family Communication pattern has an impact on anti-social personality development.

Research Question Two

- i. What is the mean score of authoritarian family communication pattern items on inmates of juvenile welfare homes in North Eastern Nigeria?

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Table 2: Mean score of items of authoritarian family communication pattern

S/N	Items	N	Mean	SD	Remarks
1	My parents hear my opinion even when they don't like it	257	3.66	1.121	Accepted
2	I discuss everything with my parents without hesitation	257	2.76	1.051	Rejected
3	In our family, we do not talk about our plans and hopes for the future	257	3.09	1.173	Accepted
4	My parents encourage exchange of ideas about issues	257	3.27	1.066	Accepted
5	My parents often say their decisions are always right and I should not challenge them	257	3.54	1.121	Accepted
6	My parents engage me in all they want to do	257	3.35	1.126	Accepted
7	In our family children are encouraged to say their opinion	257	3.44	1.067	Accepted
Grand mean		257	3.29		

The result of items 1-7 in table two above was used to answer research question one. The mean range was from 2.76 to 3.66 with a grand mean of 3.29, which shows that Authoritative Family Communication pattern has an impact on anti-social personality development.

Research Hypotheses

Ho₁ There is no significant relationship between Authoritative family communication patterns and anti-social personality development among inmates of juvenile welfare homes in North – Eastern Nigeria.

Table 2: Result on Authoritative family communication patterns and anti-social personality development

Variables	N	Mean	SD	r	P-value	Decision
Authoritative	257	22.92	4.74	.507	.000	Rejected
Anti-social	257	33.48	4.76			

P<0.05

Table 2 above shows a computed-test for the relationship of mean performance scores of Authoritative family communication patterns and Anti-social personality development based on inmates juvenile children. The result indicated significant relationship between the two variables (r = .507, p = .000 < 0.05). Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected.

Ho₂ There is no significant relationship between Authoritarian family communication patterns and anti-social personality development among inmates of juvenile welfare homes in North – Eastern Nigeria.

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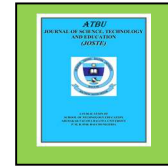


Table 3: Result on Authoritarian family communication patterns and anti-social personality development

Variables	N	Mean	SD	r	P-value	Decision
Authoritarian	257	21.79	4.84	.034	.585	Accepted
Anti-social	257	33.48	4.76			

P>0.05

Table 3 above shows a computed r-test for the relationship of mean performance scores of Authoritarian family communication patterns and Anti-social personality development based on inmate juvenile children. The result indicated no significant relationship between the two variables ($r = .034$, $p = .585 > 0.05$). Therefore, the null hypothesis was accepted.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The results of research question one and its corresponding null hypothesis revealed that authoritative family communication pattern has a significant influence on anti-social personality development. The findings agree with studies of Akhter, Noor and Iqbal (2016) who carried out a survey study to determine the effects of authoritative parenthood on the personality traits of elementary school children. The study found out that there is a highly significant and positive relationship between authoritative parenting style and positive personality traits among the adolescents. The study therefore recommended that parents should practice the authoritative communication style in order to raise strong and healthy individuals and subvert the negativism in the personality of the children.

In a similar survey study by Kashahu, Osmanaga and Bushati (2014) titled relationship between demographic characteristics, parenting style and academic achievement of elementary school students, The study finds that parenting with authoritative style, which is different from the more severe authoritarian style, shows more successful results in terms of overall social adjustment and academic achievement

In similar vein, Nkemjika (2013) examine the impact of parenting styles on parent-child relationship on secondary school parents. The findings revealed that authoritative parenting style helps in building both parent-child

communication, child's overall positive behaviour and expectations. Thus, the study recommended that, in line with the principle of authoritative communication, parents should take into consideration the emotional feelings of their children. This will go a long way in helping the children develop healthy personalities.

Authoritative family communication pattern has been found to be more effective in preventing the development of anti-social behaviour among adolescents. This was corroborated by the work of Maddahi, Javidi, Samadzadeh and Amini (2014). The study explored the relationship between parenting styles and personality dimensions (including five factors; extroversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism and openness to experiences). The findings show that among all the components of personality, there is direct and significant relationship between openness personality trait and authoritative style. That is to say that authoritative parenting style is positively correlated with developing openness personality trait components (including having desire for curiosity, imagination, aesthetics, wisdom, enlightenment and humanism).

The result of research question two and its corresponding null hypothesis two revealed that authoritarian family communication pattern has no significant relationship on anti-social personality development. This agree with the finding of Howeinstien, Kumar, Casamassimo, McTigue, Coury and Yin (2015) who conducted a study Correlating Parenting Styles with Child Behaviour and Caries. The study evaluated the relationship between parenting style, socio-demographic data, caries status and child behaviour. Findings revealed that children with authoritarian parents exhibited more negative behaviour ($p > .001$) compared to children with authoritative parents. They concluded that

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authoritarian parenting negatively correlates with children's social adjustment.

Authoritarian parenting style has been associated with social anxiety, socially withdrawn behaviour, delinquency, poor academic performance, low self-esteem, increased feelings of loneliness, higher suicidal ideation, hopelessness and trauma. This is the finding of Sahithya, Manohari and Raman (2019) in their study titled Parenting styles and Its Impact on Children - a Cross Cultural review with focus on India. The study concluded that authoritarian parenting style was associated with better outcomes than authoritative and neglectful parenting style.

A child's personality and behaviour has always been a reflection of his/her upbringing and the values that the parents have given him/her. Nayak and Kochar (2015) conducted a study on the role of parenting styles in determining self-esteem and loneliness among undergraduate students. The findings indicate that over controlling (authoritarian) and Indifferent parenting leads to an increased feeling of loneliness and tendency to deviant behaviours.

Sharma and Pandey (2015) conducted a study titled Parenting Styles and Effects on Self-esteem of Adolescents. The selected sample for the study consisted of 120 respondents (60 females and 60 males). Two questionnaires were used to generate data for the study. These are Coopersmith Inventory and Parental Authority Questionnaire. Standard Deviation and PPMC were used to analyse the data. The study found that authoritarian style of parenting yields negative results on self-esteem of children and adolescents.

In a multi-cultural study titled Bidirectional Relations between Parenting and Behaviour Problems from Age 8 - 13 in nine countries, Lansford, Rothernberg, Jensen and Lippold (2018) used data from 12 cultural groups in China, Colombia, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Philippines, Sweden, Thailand and the United States. The study revealed that parental authoritarian control lead to children externalizing behaviour. In other words, the research concluded that authoritarian parenting style results in the

development of anti-social behaviours among early adolescents.

CONCLUSION

Literature have shown that there is increasing number of juveniles getting sentenced to varying terms of incarceration in the welfare homes across the north east region of Nigeria, and the problem is attributed to the type of communication pattern parents used in relating with their children. This has led to the development of anti-social personality traits such as thievery, substance use and abuse, rape, vandalism and other criminal activities, which in turn has affected their life style. Authoritarian family communication patterns was found to be strong predictor of anti-social personality development among juveniles in north eastern Nigeria.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the quantitative and qualitative data analysis and conclusion of this study, the following recommendations were made;

1. Parents should encourage and allow their children to freely express their needs, worries and wants. This will help them influence and shape the development of healthy personality in children.
2. Parents should be aware that a positive parenting (a mixture of both authoritative and authoritarian communication patterns) will greatly enhance the development of positive personality traits such as self-confidence, cooperation and self-esteem among children.

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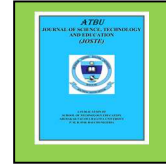
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