

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AS PREDICTOR OF DELINQUENT BEHAVIOURS AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN PORT HARCOURT METROPOLIS, RIVERS STATE NIGERIA

Odiase Jerry Edobor (Ph.D) & Dienye Maseba Ebiye (B.Sc.Ed, ME.d)
Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance & Counselling
Faculty of Education, University of Port Harcourt
NIGERIA

ABSTRACT

This study investigated Emotional Intelligence as a predictor of delinquent behaviours among secondary school students in Port Harcourt Metropolis. Six research questions and six hypotheses guided the study. Two instruments were used for the study, Schutte Self Report Emotional Intelligence Test (SSEIT), and Students Delinquent Questionnaire (SDBQ). Correlation Research design was used and 400 sample size was also used for the study. Validity and reliability of the instrument were established, a reliability index of 0.80 for SSEIT and 0.89 for SDBQ were realized. Simple Linear regression was used to answer research questions 1-5, and test its corresponding hypotheses. It was found out that emotional intelligence significantly predicts bullying, fighting and drug abuse, while on the other hand emotional intelligence does not predict truancy and promiscuity. It was recommended that government, parents, psychologists, counsellors and classroom teachers should help raise the child inadequate ways to abstain from delinquent act.

Keywords: Emotional Intelligence, Delinquency, Behaviour, Bulling, Truancy, Promiscus.