

FAMILY DYNAMICS AS DETERMINANTS OF DELINQUENT BEHAVIOURS AMONG IN-SCHOOL ADOLESCENTS IN ASARI-TORU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF RIVERS STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated family dynamics as determinants of delinquent behaviours among in-school adolescents in Asari-Toru Local Government Area of Rivers State. Two research questions and two corresponding null hypotheses guided the study. The instrument titled Adolescents' Delinquent Behaviours Scale" (ADBS) was used for data collection. Four Hundred and Forty Five (445) respondents drawn from SS1 and SS2 classes formed the sample from ten government senior secondary schools. Ex-post facto research designs was used for the study. Reliability coefficient of 0.69 was obtained for the instrument which indicated high level of reliability. ANOVA, means and standard deviations were used to analyze the data. Findings were that parent socio-economic status has influence on students' delinquent behaviours. While on the other hand, family size was found not to have any significant influence on delinquency. Based on the findings, it was recommended that parents, guardians, classroom teachers, guidance counselors and other individuals involved should help raise children/wards in a ways that promotes the collective interest of the society..

Keywords: Family dynamics, Family size, Delinquent behavior and In-school adolescents.