

**INFLUENCE OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY ON STUDENTS ACADEMIC
ACHIEVEMENT IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN HONG LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AREA OF ADAMAWA STATE, NIGERIA: COUNSELING IMPLICATIONS**

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ABSTRACT

Today, more than ever, the problem of juvenile delinquency pricks at the conscience of many societies, and Nigeria is not an exception. Juvenile delinquency is a global problem which is increasingly influencing every segment of the society. It surfaces due to the influence exerted by an unsuitable external environment on children's behavior. Reports from educators in Nigeria suggest that juvenile delinquency and other crimes are increasingly becoming a major problem in Nigerian secondary schools with estimation that 40% of youth are involve in juvenile delinquency. Juvenile delinquency has devastating effects especially on students' academic achievement and future career prospects. It is on the basis of these that the study is undertaken to examine the influence of juvenile delinquency on the academic achievement of secondary schools students in Hong local government area of Adamawa state, Nigeria. The aim of the study is to examine the major causes of juvenile delinquency among secondary school students in Hong local government area of Adamawa State. The research design used in this research is survey research design. The population of the study is one thousand four hundred. From that population 300 were sampled, out of that number 284 returned. The instrument used for the data collections is questionnaire. Data obtained was analyses using simple percentage for bio data variables, mean and standard deviation for the research questions and independent t-test was used to test the strength of the impact because of the two groups. The findings reveals poverty and drug abuse are factors responsible for the causes of juvenile delinquency. The study recommend that the Government can help by creating more job opportunities especially for the youths so that they can engage themselves in meaningful work.

Keywords: Juvenile Delinquency, Academic Achievement, Secondary School, Students

Introduction

The best legacy parents can give to their children is education. It is a social process and medium for the acquisition of relevant knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for survival in the changing society. Education remains an important instrument of change and development. Consequently, the significance of education in the overall development of children cannot be overemphasized. Education at secondary school level is the bedrock and the foundation towards higher knowledge in tertiary institutions. It is an investment as well as an instrument that can be used to achieve a more rapid economic, social, political, technological, scientific

and cultural development in the country. The role of secondary education is to lay the foundation for further education and if a good foundation is laid at this level, there are likely to be no problem at subsequent levels (Bello and Bukar 2016). However, this most important level of education is faced with a serious threats challenging its future existence. One of such is Juvenile delinquency.

Juvenile delinquency pertains to the unlawful act committed by the person who has not yet reached the age of maturity (Shoemaker, 2018). On the other hand, juvenile delinquency is defined as an anti-social act that is illegal or criminalistic in nature, done persistently by a minor and cannot be handled by the parent or guardian but requires the help of law enforcement agencies as the act threatens the well-being of the society (Samuel, 2015). Seeing a child of less than the legal age (below 18 years) getting involved in criminal activities is disgusting and alarming. Factors traceable to juvenile delinquency could be economical, biological, socio-cultural, environmental and situational. A close observation of what is happening in secondary schools will definitely show that juvenile delinquency is a very serious obstacle to students' academic progress.

According to Crime Prevention Unit (2019), juvenile arrest statistics in the index crime in 2017 recorded 1722 juvenile arrested, and in 2018, 1286 juvenile were arrested. Criminal offences among adolescents, especially students in the country, are at an alarming rate; thus, the need to intensify preventive efforts. In every human society, majority of criminal activities started at the young age and there are very few criminals who started at adult age. One of the strategies to reduce crime in the society is to prevent juvenile delinquency.

Nearly every society since the dawn of history has looked on youth crime as a serious problem and our society is not different. A nation that properly manages its juvenile justice system is only preparing the future generation that will give in turn: hope, development, peace, growth, prosperity and security. It is universally believed that the youth of any nation are the leaders of tomorrow, they are seen as the vehicle through which possible changes can be realized. This is why no nation in the world plays with the future development of its youths. Government, parents and guardians devote a lot of time and resources in order to explore and harness the potentialities of the youths (Obudho, 2014).

The Problem

In the last four (4) decades, the number of youths male and female engages in juvenile delinquency were very rare and minimal. Juvenile delinquency in secondary schools was totally

unacceptable, prohibited and is considered abnormal and a serious offence which could lead to expulsion from the school by the authorities. However, reverse is the case in contemporary times as juvenile delinquency pose a very big problem not only in schools but in the world today and it is ruining the lives of millions of people both in adolescent and general population.

The occurrence of juvenile delinquency has become a major societal concern caused by various factors both at the micro and macro levels. The problem of juvenile delinquency, has grown significantly in recent years. In 2018 United Nation International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) report an increase in numbers of young Nigerians who are getting involved in criminality. Global Survey of Juvenile Crime (GSJC) report that in Nigeria juvenile delinquency has increase by 5.7%. George (2017) observes that over the past ten years, the number of Juvenile court cases have doubled in Nigeria. The alarming increase in destructive acts amongst youths is evident in the high number of dropout, cybercrime, teenage pregnancies, drug abuse and the increase in teenage crimes committed.

More so, In 2019 Daily Trust report that an estimated 20,000 cases that involved juveniles charged with criminal law violations. Delinquency is more prevalent today than in the past. According to Law Enforcement and Juvenile Crime, 2019 report that juvenile courts experience 30% increase in court case between 2019 and 2020. Adolescents are nonetheless experiencing increased involvement in criminality, creating problems for parents, schools, communities, and other children who are in the presence of juvenile delinquents.

Juvenile delinquency has also contributed to the bad image of our country Nigeria. For the fact that most of the delinquent want to get rich quick, corruption and ritual killing has become the order of the day, advance fraud and other type of cybercrimes, do or die politics where thuggery and fighting is the norm. These and many other consequences of delinquency have had drastic effect on the academic, political, social and economic reputation of the Nation.

The consequences of Juvenile delinquency in Nigerian society are not only devastating but enormous. They destroy both lives and properties and they also retard the growth and development of the country. It is on the basis of these that the study is undertaken to assess the influence of juvenile delinquency on the academic achievement of secondary schools students in Hong local government area of Adamawa State

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to examine the causes of juvenile delinquency among secondary school students in Hong local government area of Adamawa State, Nigeria.

Research Question

What are the causes of juvenile delinquency among secondary school students in Hong local government area of Adamawa state, Nigeria?

Research Hypothesis

There is no significant difference in the opinions of male and those of female respondents on the causes of juvenile delinquency among secondary schools students in Hong local government area of Adamawa State, Nigeria.

Methodology

The research design used in this study is survey research design. The population of the study is one thousand four hundred. From that population 300 was sampled, out of that number 284 returned. The instrument used for the data collections is questionnaire. Data obtained were analyses using simple percentage for bio data variables, mean and standard deviation for the research questions and independent t-test was used to test the strength of the impact because of the two groups.

Concept of Juvenile Delinquency

According to Samuel (2015) Juvenile Delinquency is an umbrella term for a wide variety of socially unaccepted behaviors of adolescent which varies with time, place and cultural variance in socio-economic and political conditions of a country. Juvenile delinquency as an anti-social act that is illegal or criminalistics in nature, done persistently by a minor and cannot be handled by the parent or guardian but requires the help of law enforcement agencies as the act threatens the well-being of the society Siroh (2015). Juvenile delinquency as defined by Etifit (2014) “is any social deviation by a youth from the societal norms which results in his contact with law enforcement agents. Idowu and Abbas (2019) defined juvenile delinquency as the act perpetuated by the juveniles as a violation of laws, codes and ethics, the proscriptions and prescriptions set by the society to guide its members on how to behave. Haruna (2019) defined juvenile delinquency as any social deviation by a youth from the societal norms which results in his contact with law enforcement agents or an act committed by a young person who violated the stipulated law of that country or society. The Nigerian constitution of 1979 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. Before a youth in Nigeria is classified a delinquent, he must have been arraigned before a juvenile court and proved to be guilty of some offences. This study concur with the definition of Samuel (2015) with

says define juvenile delinquency as an anti-social act that is illegal or criminalistics in nature, done persistently by a minor and cannot be handled by the parent or guardian but requires the help of law enforcement agencies as the act threatens the well-being of the society

Types of Juvenile Delinquency

According to Rohit (2020), Ted (2023), Sai (2023) and Davasis (2022) stated that there are four main types of juvenile delinquency individual, group-supported, organized and situational

Individual delinquency: according to Sai (2023) individual delinquency is used to describe the behavior of a child who engages in criminal activities on their own accord without any assistance from others. Individual delinquency refers to one child committing an act on his or her own, with the argument that the delinquency is caused by family problems. Individual delinquency can be marked by an adolescent either in a good family or bad family. Sometimes to solve one's individual problem a young person can take a wrong attempt in the family, in the neighbor or in the society (Rohit, 2020).

Group-supported delinquency: Group-supported delinquency refers to the behavior of a child who engages in anti-social activities in companionship with others. Group-supported delinquency occurs when multiple children get together and commit delinquent acts in their neighborhood. Delinquents develop this behavior under the influence of the culture prevailing in their immediate neighborhood and social groups outside the family. According to the reports of the United Nations, two third of the total cases of juvenile delinquency are committed by teenagers who group themselves into gang-like organizations (Sai, 2023).

Organized Delinquency: Organized delinquency is committed by a group of young people formally organized to engage in criminal activities. These organizations have a hierarchical structure and are guided by the established values and norms of the group (Sai, 2023). Organized delinquency dates back to the 1950s. These are almost like gangs when members would encourage others in the group to commit crimes and reward them accordingly

Situational delinquency: Situational delinquency refers to acts that are committed with little thought. The person simply has little impulse control and committed the act on a whim. But situational delinquency is not deep-rooted; rather, the cause and means of control are relatively simple (Sai, 2023).

Common Delinquency among Adolescent

Adolescent misconduct in schools includes the following:

Truancy: One of the major delinquent activities of secondary school students is truancy. Truancy is any intentional, unjustified, unauthorized, or illegal absence from compulsory education. It is a deliberate absence by a student's own free will and usually does not refer to legitimate excused absences (Marsh, 2017). Truancy is when a school-age child or adolescent frequently misses school without an adequate excuse. Most communities face problems of truancy. Truancy are more common among secondary school students, especially in urban city schools. Truancy can be caused by a wide range of factors. While schools often cite parenting and home life as the cause of truancy, truant youth often report school issues as the cause. For example, poor relationships with teachers, boring classes, and lack of interest in school.

Substance abuse: Substance abuse refers to the use of certain chemicals for the purpose of creating pleasurable effects on the brain (Fairchild, 2017). According to the World Health Organization (2018), Substance abuse refers to the harmful or hazardous use of psychoactive substances, including alcohol and illicit drugs. The danger of substance abuse among the students of secondary schools has been in a Centre of attraction for researches, discussion and debate among the public and media among others. It is a well-known fact that substance abuse have become major health concerns in many societies all over the globe (Osna, 2020). The percentage of substance abuse has increased significantly in a number of ways, making it a matter of national concern. Substance abuse have found their way into the educational system and has been connected with high waves of crimes embracing our secondary schools today.

School Violence: School violence is another, delinquent activities among students in secondary schools. School violence is broadly defined as encompassing multiple types of aggressive acts, including physical aggression, bullying, fighting, forceful behavior, bringing a weapon to school, and serious violence (Jullian and Sonja, 2022). According to Sanjana (2023) School violence refers to violence that takes place in a school setting. This includes violence on school property, on the way to or from school, and at school trips and events. It may be committed by students, teachers, or other members of the school staff; however, violence by fellow students is the most common. School violence can be anything that involves a real or implied threat it can be verbal, sexual, or physical, and perpetrated with or without weapons (Sanjana, 2023).

Carrying of weapons to school: A weapon is any instrument used with intent to inflict physical or mental harm on another person. A weapon is defined as “any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, firearm, shotgun, rifle and any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious bodily harm (Monica, 2022). Weapons have been found and used on school campuses

nationwide Carrying weapons to school has become an acceptable risk for many students, both those who are fearful and those who intend to exploit others. Regardless of whether weapons are used in an act of aggression or as a defense against another's aggression, the reason weapons are brought to school often is related to the proliferation of gangs and drug activity on or near many school campuses (Health line, 2023). A survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that nearly 12% students in secondary schools carried a weapon on school property.

Theft/Stealing: Another delinquent activities disrupting the activities of secondary schools is theft or stealing. Stealing can take various forms and kinds, it can be robbery, forgery, plagiarism, infidelity depriving someone of something belonging to him or embezzlement (Mphail, 2018). Stealing among secondary school students is a big problem in Nigerian public schools. National Crime Prevention (2018) observed that young people between the ages of 12 – 17 are far more likely to be victims of property crime than adults. At this age most of the young people are expected to be in school in according to the Child Rights Acts (2010). Moreover, according to Olubade (2013) about 85% percent of public secondary school in Nigeria recorded one or more incidence of stealing each year. Thus stealing behavior could be a significant problem affecting the school life of students in public secondary schools. This situation has been a major concerned to parent and school authority to suggest disciplinary strategies as a systematic way to solving the problem.

Bullying: School bullying, refers to one or more perpetrators who have greater physical strength or more social power than their victim and who repeatedly act aggressively toward their victim. Bullying can be verbal or physical. Bullying refers to acts or behavior of intentionally causing harm or discomfort to another person (Monica, 2020). Sadly, bullying is a very serious and dangerous presence in schools. Bullying is a subcategory of aggressive behavior that is characterized by hostile intent (the harm caused is deliberate), imbalance of power (real or perceived power inequality between bully and victim), and repetition over a period of time. It is estimated that anywhere from 13 to 18 million students are bullied in the secondary schools severely impacting education and safety. Tragically, increasing numbers of young people who find themselves the victims of bullying are turning to self-harm (Harry, 2022). Bullying has become a pervasive problem that negatively affects all who are involved. Bullying is linked to numerous negative effects including mental health problems, low academic performance, and suicide. The emotional toll of bullying affects not only the victims, but also the bullies, bystanders, and the overall school atmosphere.

Examination Malpractice: According to Hornby, (2020) Examination malpractice is a wrong or illegal behavior exhibited by a person while discharging professional responsibilities. Examination malpractice is a kind of conduct that violates the acceptable laid down rules and regulations of

Nigeria's education system. On the other hand, examination malpractice is any wrong doing before, during or after any examination. Examination malpractice occurs in both internal and external examination. It is a problem which has been afflicting the educational system for many years. It seems to have defied solutions, as all antidotes applied so far have been faulted by fraudsters. In fact, it constitutes the most serious problem facing Nigerian education system in general and secondary education in particular (Adegoke, 2015).

Rape: One of the prevailing menace of every modern society in the world today is the issue of rape which has increased drastically over the years. Rape is the act of forcefully having sexual relations with a person without consensual approval with threats of death if the disclosure is made (Efiokobong, 2016). Rape has caused fears in the minds of these victims as they are afraid to seek help. Rape in Nigeria is practically no news as cases of rape are being heard on a daily basis with child rape taking the lead in this grievous scenario. It is a serious situation that should not be taken lightly as the negative impact on rape victims is more gruesome leaving them scarred for life. Most rape victims in Nigeria are stigmatized as unnecessary blame are being leveled against them by the society and as such victims become wary of voicing out their plight which often times as resulted in painful silence.

Causes of Juvenile Delinquency

There are factors that predispose adolescents to engage in delinquent acts. Some of these factors are hereby reviewed below:

Family: The home is the one of the major factor contributing to juvenile delinquency. According to Andrianna (2022) Family is the most important thing in every child's life. It provide knowledge, love, safety, support, as well as other things necessary for proper development. If children do not get this from their families, they tend to go down the wrong road in life. One of the reasons why children might become involved in criminal activities is the inability of their parents to teach them the right things or to contain them. According to Etifit (2014) Presently, more mothers are going to work leaving their children unattended at home or on the street, thereby depriving children at their early age of motherly love and affection and irresponsible fathers who always got drunk and too occupied with nocturnal activities would have little or no time for his children. A consistent absence of a guardian or a parent is another leading factor for why juvenile crimes are on the rise. Most juvenile crimes cases have parents who themselves have many issues which cause them to neglect their child (Mark, 2023).

Biological Cause: The protagonist of the biological conceptual explains that criminals are predestined towards criminal behavior by factors such as their biological makeup is the gene which is the carrier of hereditary materials (Etifit, 2014). Associated with the above position is

the theory developed by Cesare Lombroso from the positive school of thought that criminals were born to be criminals and that they were characterized by numerous physical features thereby explaining human behavior by biological determinism (Marriam, 2016). Also, related to the above theory is the concern for inheritance of criminal traits developed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries particularly by Richard Dugdale New York, when he concluded that crime and other social problems were inherited and that certain biological factor like body size could trigger the exhibition of criminal behavior.

The Media: The media plays a major role in delinquent behavior among youths. The media has immensely contributed to the delinquent nature of youths. Children of today are being exposed to all kind of movie, pictures and books, the press are no longer censored and film producers take advantage of the current situation for their selfish gains. Presently, cinema halls show film that encourages sex and violence have increased tremendously and nobody is doing anything about it. When children watch movies or play videogames that are not for children and then try to recreate them in real life (Etifit, 2014). Moreover, lack of supervision leads to the exposure of all sorts of content on television, making the child want to model it. Since the ability to tell wrong from right is not present, they go for what is exciting without foreseeing the consequences.

Peer Pressure: Peer relationships are significant contributor to understanding adolescents' development. As children enter adolescence, friends take on a more prominent role in their lives. Research has shown that young people who form relationships with positive individuals and groups that pursue positive commitments tend to shun delinquent behaviors. While on the other hand, juveniles can be engaged in activities that do not have concrete objectives and commitments. These types of activities are likely to lead to volatile relationships that may promote delinquent behavior. These behaviors are drinking and smoking among others (Khushali, 2020). peer pressure is linked with adolescent girls' decision to become sexually active, and both male and female adolescents' decision to smoke, use of drugs and other anti-social delinquent behaviors (John-nelson et al, 2021) Peer pressure can also cause a juvenile to become involved in delinquent and illegal behavior.

Substance Abuse: Another reason why underage children become delinquents is substance abuse. There is a relationship between substance abuse and juvenile delinquency, as the former tends to hamper an individual's psychological functioning (Margaret, 2016). While it is a crime in itself in most countries, it can also push the children to commit crimes. Various substances, especially addictive ones, change the chemistry of the brain and distort reality, which can lead to unlawful activities. Most delinquent activities happens under alcohol or drug influence, as the perpetrator is not mentally aware of his actions but controlled by the drug or alcohol in his system and during this time, the perpetrator is uncontrollable (Efiokobong, 2016).

Academic failure: Learners whose school performance is poor tend to choose risky outlets such as drinking alcohol, abusing drugs, fighting and other antisocial behaviors to offset feelings of frustration. Learners who fail academically due to subject-streaming practices become frustrated and lose interest in their studies, turning to delinquent behavior such as truancy and violence (Margaret, 2016).

The Community: A community as a social group of people that shares common geographical boundaries, values and interests (Chindi, 2016). The concept is often used interchangeably with society and environment. Factors such as over-population, high density housing, diverse racial, ethnic or cultural composition. This phenomenon causes the individual to be obsessed with self-enrichment and personal gratification, thus causing him/her to be at risk of offending (Margaret, 2016). Moreover, the environment that is, the society is a major shaper of an individual. The society which plays a major role in delinquent behavior among youths. Society as a whole can pressure the children into becoming criminals. The luxurious and extravagant lifestyle of the affluence in the society. This could serve as an incentive as the youth would like to be like them (Etifit, 2014).

Answering the Research Question

Question 1: what are the **Causes of Juvenile Delinquency among Secondary School Students**

Table 2

S/N	Items	SA(%)	A(%)	D(%)	SD(%)	Mean	Stand.	p-value
1	Broken families are responsible for the major causes of juvenile delinquency among students	115(40.5)	57(20.1)	28(9.8)	84(29.6)	2.29	1.27	0.000
2	Child's labor and violation of child's right is responsible for the cause of juvenile delinquency among students.	107(37.7)	53(18.7)	35(12.3)	89(31.3)	2.37	1.27	0.000
3	Peer group influence is another major cause of juvenile delinquency among student	207(72.9)	53(18.7)	14(4.9)	10(3.5)	1.39	0.74	0.483
4	Social pressure is also a factor causing juvenile delinquency among students	9(3.2)	246(86.6)	20(7.0)	9(3.2)	2.10	0.46	0.343
5	Poverty is a major cause of juvenile delinquency among secondary schools students	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	224(78.9)	60(21.1)	3.21	0.41	0.000

6	Genetic, hereditary or biological factor is another major cause of juvenile delinquency among students	211(74.3)	39(13.7)	19(6.7)	15(5.3)	1.43	0.84	0.000
7	The school environment is another factor responsible for the cause of juvenile delinquency among students	34(12.0)	205(72.2)	12(4.2)	33(11.6)	2.15	0.78	0.761
8	Poor academic performance is a major cause causes of juvenile delinquency among students	64(22.5)	80(28.2)	48(16.9)	92(32.4)	2.15	1.2	0.541
9	Drug abuse is another factor responsible for the cause of juvenile delinquency among students in secondary schools	75(26.4)	156(54.9)	20(7.0)	33(11.6)	2.59	1.16	0.160
10	Mental disability is another big cause of juvenile delinquency.	50(17.6)	50(17.6)	51(18.0)	133(46.8)	2.04	0.89	0.410

Source: Field Survey 2024

The table shows that the causes of juvenile delinquency on the academic achievement of secondary school students. Item 1 says broken families are responsible for the major causes of juvenile delinquency among students with result showing 115 strongly agreed 57 agreed 28 disagreed and 84 strongly disagreed. The mean score for the item is 2.29. This shows that broken families are not responsible for the causes of juvenile delinquency among secondary school students. Item 2 deals with whether Child's labor and violation of child's right is responsible for the cause of juvenile delinquency among students. The result shows that 107 strongly agreed 53 agreed and 35 disagreed while 89 strongly disagreed. The mean score for the item is 2.37 which shows that Child's labor and violation of child's right is not responsible for the cause of juvenile delinquency among students.

In item 3, 207(72.9%) and 53(18.7%) of the respondents who strongly agreed and agreed respectively with the term that peer group influence is another major cause of juvenile delinquency among student. Only 14 (4.9%) and 10(3.5%) of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed. The mean score is 1.39 which shows that peer group influence is not a cause of juvenile delinquency among student. In item 4 9(3.2%) and 246 (86.6%) of the respondents who strongly agreed and agreed respectively that Social pressure is also a factor causing juvenile delinquency among students. Only 20 (7%) and 9 (3.2%) disagreed and strongly disagreed. The mean score is 2.10 which means that Social pressure is not a factor causing juvenile delinquency among students.

Items 5 deals with whether Poverty is a major cause of juvenile delinquency among secondary schools students. The result shows that none 0 (0%) and 0 (0%) Strongly agreed and agreed while

224 (78.9%) disagreed and 60 (21.1%) strongly disagreed. The mean score is 3.21 which means Poverty is a major cause of juvenile delinquency among secondary schools students. Item 6 deals with whether Genetic, hereditary or biological factor is another major cause of juvenile delinquency among students. The result shows 211 (74.3%) strongly agreed 39 (13.7%) agreed while 19 (6.7%) disagreed and 15 (5.3%) disagreed. The mean score is 1.43 which means Genetic, hereditary or biological factor is not a cause of juvenile delinquency among students.

In item 7, 34 (12%) and 205 (72.2%) of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively that school environment is another factor responsible for the cause of juvenile delinquency among students. Only 12 (4.2%) and 33 (11.6%) of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed. The mean score is 2.15 which means that school environment is not responsible for the cause of juvenile delinquency among students. In item 8, 64 (22.5%) and 80 (28.2%) of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed that Poor academic performance is a major cause causes of juvenile delinquency among students. Only 48 (16.9%) and 92 (32.4%) of the respondents disagreed and strongly disagreed. The means score is 215 which means poor academic performance is not a cause causes of juvenile delinquency among students

Finally, item 9, deals with whether Drug abuse is another factor responsible for the cause of juvenile delinquency among students in secondary schools. The result shows 75(26.4%) strongly agreed 156 (54.9%) agreed while 20 (7%) disagreed and 33 (11.6%) strongly disagreed. The mean score is 2.59 which means that drug abuse is responsible for the cause of juvenile delinquency among students in secondary schools. Item 10, deals with whether mental disability is another big cause of juvenile delinquency. The result shows that 50 (17.6%) strongly agreed and 50 (17.6%) agreed and 51 (18%) disagreed and 133 (46.8%) strongly disagreed. The mean score is 2.04 which means that mental disability is not a cause of juvenile delinquency.

Hypothesis Testing

Table 2. Test of Hypothesis Between variables and Gender

Variables	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	p-value	Decision
Causes of Juvenile Delinquency among Secondary School Students	Male	142	2.055	.2534	0.527	Not significant
	Female	142	2.449	.2387		

Source: Field Survey 2024

Statistical analysis using the independent t test and correlation analysis shows $p > 0.05$ so we agree that there is no significant difference in the opinions of male and those of female respondents on the causes of juvenile delinquency among students in Hong local government area of Adamawa State.

Summary of Major Findings

The data shows that students strongly disagree that peer group influence and genetic, hereditary or biological factor are not cause of juvenile delinquency among students with mean values 1.39 and 1.45 respectively (which falls within 1-1.74 mean value). However, the students agree that poverty and drug abuse are factors responsible for the causes of juvenile delinquency (because their mean value falls within 2.5-3.24).

Discussion on Findings

This study assessed the influence of Juvenile Delinquency on the Academic Achievement of Secondary School Students in Hong Local Government Area of Adamawa State, Nigeria. The first research question investigate the causes of juvenile delinquency among secondary schools students. The findings reveals poverty and drug abuse as the factors responsible for the causes of juvenile delinquency. This is in line with Efiokobong, (2016), Margaret, (2016) and Andrianna, (2022) who posit that there is a relationship between substance abuse and juvenile delinquency, substance abuse can also push the children to commit crimes. Various substances, especially addictive ones, change the chemistry of the brain and distort reality, which can lead to unlawful activities. Moreover, when such substances run out, juveniles might commit crimes just to get more. Most delinquent activities happens under alcohol or drug influence, as the perpetrator is not mentally aware of his actions but controlled by the drug or alcohol in his system and during this time, the perpetrator is uncontrollable.

Conclusion

This research work has examined the influence of juvenile delinquency on the academic achievement of secondary school students in Hong Local Government Area of Adamawa State. It is clear that poverty and drug abuse are factors responsible for the causes of juvenile delinquency, other factors include home environment/family socioeconomic status and peer group influence. This includes lack of proper counselling from parents and school guidance and counsellors, students uncooperative stand, educational level of parents, among others. The researcher has verified the various findings and come to a conclusion that if the problems mentioned above are addressed the students will have a better academic achievement.

Recommendations

The researcher presents the under mentioned points as recommendations that will further have positive influence on the academic achievement of students in secondary schools

1. A well-organized institution with its collective personnel can initiate necessary changes in the youth's conceptions. The government and voluntary organizations should be involved in fighting these delinquent acts by providing recreational facilities to the youths.
2. Parents should be enlightened on the effects of unmet needs like starvation (food), parental care and affection, etc. on their children to enable them (parents) make adjustment.
3. The Government can help by creating more job opportunities especially for the youths so that they can engage themselves in meaningful work.
4. There should be social/recreational programmes like games and sports activities. Seminars and debates to help the youths utilize their leisure time more meaningfully.

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