



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

***PERCEPTION ON THE ROLE OF PARENTING STYLES AND PEER  
INFLUENCE ON JUVENILE DELINQUENCY AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN  
THE GOVERNMENT REMAND HOMES IN LAGOS, NIGERIA***

**YUSUF SODIQ ADEWALE**

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By

**YUSUF SODIQ ADEWALE**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in  
Fulfilment of the Requirements for Degree of Master of Science**

**September 2021**

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## DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my mother and my late father.



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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

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**September 2021**

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**Faculty : Human Ecology**

Adolescence is a time in which a juvenile seeks autonomy and begin to develop their own identity. Some adolescents engage in activities that are both criminal and risky to their well-being. Juvenile delinquency has been a phenomenon sweeping across the entire globe. It has become a major concern of government, parents, schools, and society. To put it into perspectives, social scientists agreed that behaviours against the laws and societal norms are classified as delinquent behaviour. Researchers have attempted to explain the causes of delinquent behaviours, relating them to factors such as peer pressure, as well as family and school environment. The present study attempted to examine the perception of adolescents in the government remand homes, Lagos state, Nigeria on the link between parenting style, peer influence and juvenile delinquency issues.

The research design is a descriptive correlational study. Data were collected through questionnaires. The variables in this research refer to parenting styles (abuse, indifferent and over control), peer influence and juvenile delinquency. In this study, the population was on the adolescents with delinquency issues who were placed at remand homes within Lagos state, Nigeria. The total populations consist of 216 juveniles from the three (3) government remand homes in Lagos state, which comprise both male and female members of the remand homes. The targeted population range between the ages of 10 – 18yrs. The sample size required was estimated by using a sample size formula proposed by Krejcie and Morgan (1977). The total sample size is 170 juveniles, comprising 146 males and 24 females of the remand homes.

The findings show significant relationship between abuse parenting style and juvenile delinquency ( $r = 0.189, p < 0.05$ ), and also shows that there is no significant relationship between indifferent parenting style and juvenile delinquency ( $r = 0.075, p > 0.05$ ) and also no significant relationship between over control parenting style and juvenile

delinquency ( $r = -.071$ ,  $p > 0.05$ ). Also, the multiple R ( $R = .285$ ) revealed a significant moderate relationship between independent variable parenting style (indifference, abuse and over control), peer influence and dependent variable (juvenile delinquency). The regression analysis showed that parenting style and peer influence, jointly contributed 8.1% of the variance in juvenile delinquency, given the  $R^2 0.081$ . This suggested that to improve adolescents' behaviour, an effective parenting style is vital.

This study found that there is no relationship between indifferent and over control parenting styles and juvenile delinquency. This finding indicates that Nigerian parents' traditional practice in their parenting process is acceptable to some extent from the adolescents' perspectives. One possible reason could be that the practice has been accepted as societal norms. The adolescents adjusted and accustomed to these practices due to consistent exposure to the norms since they were small. This finding further shows that urbanization has not significantly impacted how adolescents interpret their parents' ways of bringing up and educating them. However, abusive parental practice triggers antisocial behaviour. Consequently, it encourages adolescents to abandon their parents to seek emotional support from their peers. Hence, it was concluded that offensive and violence parenting could not be compromised, leading to more destructive consequences in adolescents. As an implication, parents should be encouraged to adopt the best parenting practices consistent with the adolescent's psychological and behavioural development as well as consistent with their local culture, value, and practices. In terms of knowledge development, this present study contributes to bridging the literature gap concerning the role of parenting and peers' influence on juvenile delinquency among adolescents in Lagos, Nigeria.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

**PERSEPSI TERHADAP PERANAN GAYA KEIBUBAAPAN, PENGARUH RAKAN SEBAYA DAN KESALAHAN JUVANA DALAM KALANGAN REMAJA DI RUMAH TAHANAN KERAJAAN DI LAGOS, NIGERIA**

Oleh

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Zaman remaja adalah masa di mana seseorang remaja akan mencari autonomi dan mula mengembangkan identiti mereka sendiri. Sesetengah remaja melibatkan diri dengan aktiviti jenayah dan berisiko terhadap kesejahteraan diri mereka. Jenayah juvana dalam kalangan remaja telah menjadi fenomena yang melanda seluruh pelosok dunia. Hal ini telah menjadi kebimbangan utama pihak kerajaan, ibu bapa, sekolah, dan masyarakat. Untuk meletakkannya dalam perspektif, pakar-pakar sains sosial bersetuju bahawa tingkah laku yang melanggar undang-undang dan norma masyarakat diklasifikasikan sebagai tingkah laku delinkuen. Para penyelidik telah berusaha untuk menjelaskan punca-punca tingkah laku delinkuen, mengaitkannya dengan faktor-faktor seperti tekanan rakan sebaya, serta persekitaran keluarga dan sekolah. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji persepsi remaja yang ditempatkan di rumah tahanan milik pemerintah di Lagos Nigeria, mengenai hubungan antara gaya keibubapaan, pengaruh rakan sebaya dan isu tingkah laku delinkuen.

Reka bentuk penyelidikan ini adalah terdiri daripada kajian korelasi deskriptif. Data telah dikumpulkan melalui kaedah soal selidik. Pemboleh ubah dalam penyelidikan ini merujuk kepada gaya keibubapaan (penderaan, sikap tidak peduli, dan mengongkong), pengaruh rakan sebaya, dan kesalahan juvana. Dalam kajian ini, populasi merujuk kepada pesalah juvana yang ditempatkan di rumah tahanan milik kerajaan di Lagos, Nigeria. Jumlah populasi terdiri daripada 216 remaja dari tiga (3) rumah tahanan milik kerajaan di Lagos, termasuk remaja lelaki dan perempuan. Julat populasi yang disasarkan adalah di antara usia 10 hingga 18 tahun. Saiz sampel yang diperlukan telah dianggarkan dengan menggunakan formula ukuran sampel yang dicadangkan oleh Krejcie dan Morgan (1977). Jumlah sampel tersebut adalah 170 remaja, terdiri daripada 146 lelaki dan 24 perempuan.

Penemuan daripada kajian tersebut telah menunjukkan wujudnya hubungan yang signifikan di antara gaya keibubapaan yang melibatkan penderaan daripada ibu bapa dan tingkah laku delinkuen ( $r = 0.189$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) dan ia juga menunjukkan bahawa tidak ada hubungan yang signifikan antara sikap ibu bapa yang tidak peduli dan tingkah laku delinkuen ( $r = 0.075$ ,  $p > 0.05$ ). Selain itu, tiada hubungan yang signifikan antara gaya keibubapaan yang mengongkong dan tingkah laku delinkuen ( $r = -.071$ ,  $p > 0.05$ ). R berganda ( $R = .285$ ) mendedahkan hubungan secara sederhana yang signifikan antara pemboleh ubah bebas iaitu gaya keibubapaan (sikap tidak peduli, penderaan, dan mengongkong) pengaruh rakan sebaya, dan pemboleh ubah bersandar (tingkah laku delinkuen). Analisis regresi menunjukkan bahawa gaya keibubapaan dan pengaruh rakan sebaya, bersama-sama menyumbang 8.1% daripada varians dalam tingkah laku delinkuen, diberi  $R^2 0.081$ . Ini menunjukkan bahawa gaya keibubapaan yang berkesan memainkan peranan yang penting untuk memperbaiki tingkah laku remaja

Kajian ini telah mendapati bahawa tidak ada hubungan antara gaya keibubapaan yang tidak mengambil peduli dan mengongkong dan tingkah laku delinkuens. Penemuan ini menunjukkan bahawa amalan tradisional oleh ibu bapa Nigeria dalam proses keibubapaan telah diterima sehingga tahap tertentu dari perspektif remaja. Antara sebabnya ialah amalan tersebut telah dianggap sebagai norma masyarakat. Remaja telah menyesuaikan diri dan terbiasa dengan amalan ini kerana mereka telah didedahkan kepada norma tersebut dari sejak kecil. Penemuan ini menunjukkan bahawa urbanisasi tidak memberi kesan yang signifikan terhadap bagaimana remaja mentafsir cara yang digunakan oleh ibu bapa mereka untuk membesarkan dan mendidik mereka. Walau bagaimanapun, amalan ibu bapa yang kasar mencetuskan tingkah laku antisosial dalam kalangan remaja. Hal ini telah mendorong remaja untuk meninggalkan ibu bapa mereka bagi mendapatkan sokongan emosi dari rakan sebaya. Kesimpulannya, gaya keibubapaan yang menyinggung dan berunsurkan keganasan tidak dapat dikompromi, dan telah membawa kepada akibat yang merosakkan remaja. Implikasinya, ibu bapa harus didorong untuk menerapkan amalan gaya keibubapaan yang terbaik, sesuai dengan perkembangan psikologi dan tingkah laku remaja serta budaya, nilai, dan amalan setempat. Dari segi pengembangan ilmu, kajian ini menyumbang dalam memenuhi jurang literatur mengenai peranan keibubapaan dan pengaruh rakan sebaya terhadap tingkah laku delinkuen dalam kalangan remaja di Lagos, Nigeria.



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This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

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## Declaration by Members of Supervisory Committee

This is to confirm that:

- the research conducted and the writing of this thesis was under our supervision;
- supervision responsibilities as stated in the Universiti Putra Malaysia (Graduate Studies) Rules 2003 (Revision 2012-2013) are adhered to.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Df	Degree of freedom
M	Mean
N	Number
MOPS	Measurement of Parenting Style
RPI	Resistance to Peer Influence
Std	Standardized
VIF	Variance Inflation Factor
CYPL	Children and Young Person's Law
UNCEF	United Nation Children Education Fund



# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the study

Juvenile delinquency has been a global phenomenon. This phenomenon has widely been discussed and often it is linked to the deviancy from the societal norms and criminal behaviour (Antwi, 2016). Deviance and crime have been considered as a threat to the tranquility enjoyed by members of a community or a country (Bernburg, 2019). Delinquency has become a major concern of government, parents, schools, and society. To put it into perspectives, social scientists agreed that behaviours against the laws and societal norms are delinquent or classified as problematic or delinquent behaviour (Adams et al., 2019). This perspective implies that defining delinquent behaviour should reflect the local laws, culture, and practices. In general, criminal behaviour entails consistent burglary, lying, assault, thuggery, rape, substance abuse, absenteeism, verbal assault, and cultism (Olukoya, 2016).

There is a serious problem with adolescent delinquency in most countries around the world. "Knife carrying culture" among juvenile offenders in the United Kingdom has contributed to more fatalities and injuries than gunfire (Morgan et al., 2011). Soaring rates of cigarette smoking and substance abuse, as well as harassment and cybercrime, are generating concerns for South Korea's staunchly conservative administration (Kim et al., 2012). America, which is among the world's most industrialised nations, is also reported to be concerned and disturbed about how young offenders commit antisocial acts with ferocity (Ntshangase, 2015). These individuals have contributed to the current state of dread and unrest in society by allegedly abusing their teachers, shooting people, raping women, and engaging in gang-related violence, and when captured, they show no remorse. There has been an upsurge in the number of young people entering violent and destructive gangs over the years (Furdella & Puzanchera, 2015).

As a result of this delinquent behaviour perpetrated by adolescents, it has attracted the attention of many people, especially those who are working closely with adolescents. In recent years, the juvenile justice system in most countries has adopted a societal approach as an attempt to comprehend factors that cause delinquency and to work on preventive measures (Ttofi & Farrington, 2012). Thus, identifying risk and protective factors as well as determining the course of its development have been emphasized. For instance, according to Bartollas and Schmallegger, (2011), a report in the "Japanese Times" (2006), states that the Japanese public reportedly supports capital punishment for the growing number of juvenile criminals there.

Delinquency has adversely affected many sectors, which includes the economic and social living of the people. It leads to moral degeneration that befalls the perpetrators when they engage in deviance and crime, there also arises a huge economic cost to be borne by the nation confronted with such issues of crime (Shaqiri, 2020). That is why

youth crime has now become one of the major societal challenges every country attempt to regulate and if the right care is not given to the young offenders, they may graduate to become hardened criminals.

An array of studies has been conducted by scholars to determine the factors of juvenile delinquency. One of the important factors is the family processes, whereby parents are perceived as a fundamental analysis unit in relating to the occurrence of juvenile's delinquency. For example, lacking the quality of the relationship that includes love, affection, stability, and security in the parent-child relationship, potentially risking the child to delinquent behaviour. Also, issues with observation and supervision, which is linked to engagement in criminal behaviours (Haghbin et al., 2012).

The relationship between parent and changes in adolescent's behaviour might be indirect as the child usually seek supports from their peers. Oftentimes, adolescents seek love, affection, stability, and security from their peers. In addition, there were delinquents who have not become chronic offenders, and a few mischievous, as well as petty delinquencies, do not usually lead to an acceleration of serious criminal offending (Cihan et al., 2017). Offence patterns of chronic delinquents are often characterized by excessive violence, destruction, and lack of remorse.

However, with the advent of criminology in the 19th century, the issue of broken homes was a fundamental part of the philosophy of crime. In the current effort to understand juvenile crime, the 'defective' or dysfunctional family is in fact one of the most popular and lasting themes (Theobald et al., 2013). In conjunction with the primacy and persistence of the broken family as a theme of the criminal investigation. Anti-social conduct is a heterogeneous term which encompasses physically violent behaviours such as fighting and bullying; rules breaking like deception, theft, vandals, resistance, and extreme behaviour related to lack of empathy and remorse. Antisocial behaviour, the construction encompasses many fields, including sociology, criminology, and psychology (Piotrowska et al., 2015).

Juvenile delinquency is being viewed as a catastrophic occurrence in Nigeria (Ojo, 2012). Thus, it is because of social changes arising as a conflict between African culture and that of the Western, so as urbanization, which arises after the incident of colonialization. In this vein, culture refers to the customary way people do things; it encompasses a wide range of human beliefs and manner or moral of doing things. At the heart of every culture lies what we call "value," or the desirable and disagreeable aspects of that culture's artefacts. There are variations worldwide in norms and value upon which antisocial behaviour are based on, for instance, homosexuality is regarded as an acceptable way of life in countries like England, USA, and some other western countries, but in Nigeria is not an accepted way of life and it is regarded as taboo by 90% of Nigerians. As a result of cultural encounter, the value of the culture shifts (Harkness et al., 2013). An example of this can be seen in a different part of Africa such as Nigeria. Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, this study concentrates on Lagos state Nigeria adolescents, which is an illustration of this phenomenon in action.

The epidemic of juvenile delinquency is a severe one in Nigeria. According to Children and Young Persons Law (CYPL, 1958), a juvenile delinquent is one who commits an act that is illegal under the law and is adjudicated "delinquent" by an appropriate court. Offense is defined as any act that is perceived to be harmful or dangerous to an individual or a group of individuals. Offenses are generally known to be harmful to the state, the individual, ethics, and mores. In Nigeria, a juvenile must be tried in a juvenile court and found guilty of certain offences before he or she can be labelled "delinquent" (Chinwokwu & Michael, 2019). Theft, prostitution, drug addiction, truancy, cultism, and armed robbery are some examples of such offences. Arson, drug abuse, rape, school crime, intimidation, cults, truancy, school dropouts, and prostitution are all part of Nigerian anti-social behaviour (Sanni et al., 2010; Ugwuoke, 2010). In Nigeria, there will be no improvement in the criminal culture unless we take measures to slow the tide of adolescent criminality (Kudirat et al, 2010).

To modify this adolescent behaviour, a remand home was established. Facilities for vocational and formal educational teaching were put in place to achieve these aims of youth reformation, rehabilitation, and reintegration. For this reason, juvenile detention facilities were built to keep youth away from hardened adults who could teach them about criminal behaviour and how they can avoid recidivism. This was done to prevent a breeding ground for more criminal behaviour among the young people who were already in the system for minor offences. The separation eliminates the possibility of adult inmates abusing young inmates in any way. It is the goal of remand homes to help young people who are on the verge of moral collapse to return to society as productive members once they have been reintegrated back into the community. Young offenders are given vocational and educational training in remand facilities as part of the rehabilitation process. An additional one year of aftercare monitoring can be added to a maximum of three years of institutionalization under the Remand Centre Act.

The theory of social control by Hirschi, (1969) has discussed the role of peers in youth crime. The parent acts as the driver to socialize the child, the lack of parental attachment bridges the connection between the child and the parent, when there is a lack of parental attachment, the adolescents would approach their peers, which eventually influence their involvement in criminal behaviours. Furthermore, Edwin H. Sutherland's theory of differential associations (1939), suggest that criminal behaviour is a product of learned behaviour acquired through interaction with other individuals. The theory posits that a criminal mind-set is more likely to develop when a child is exposed, through intimate social interaction, to attitudes favourable to crime. In this case, when there are issues in the interaction between parents and adolescents, adolescents build a connection and interaction with their peers. It was unfortunate that their peers involve in crimes.

One of the nearest and most important figures in a young person's life is not to be denied are the parents. Parents have been said to be the most critical factor in the social development of children (Kumpfer & Magalhães, 2018). As a socializer and monitoring agent over the children's behaviour, parents have a vital role to play. The monitoring technique is a core aspect of parental regulation (Kerr et al., 2012). Parents who want their children to live up to social norms and values must do more, they must model the behaviour they want of their children. Parenting styles are the strategies that parents use in their child's training, nurturing, and upbringing their children. It can be defined as the

way in which parents communicate with their children and affect their personal, mental, social, or intellectual developments (Ishak et al., 2012). Usually, these parenting styles are commensurability of the values and norms of the local society. Some contend that parents are the most significant individuals in a child's life, while others believe that a child's behaviour, disposition, and self-conception are innate (Jackson, 2012). As a result, most children rely on their parents for everything from food, housing, and money to companionship. When handled correctly, both parental love and punishment may have a profound impact on children (Baumrind, 2012). Adolescence is a storm and stress era, during this time of intense emotional tension and stress, adolescents are naturally curious about the world around them, which drives their need to experience new things (Mohammed, 2012). In our community, however, it appears that not all adolescents are capable of coping with the storm and strain.

The motive force behind research into parenting was children's welfare. There was a drive to recognize and modify negative and optimistic attitudes and behaviours of the parent to get a successful result for the children. Parenting is critical as many studies show how children do in areas such as emotional competence, psycho-social progress, academic achievement, and problem behaviour (Hao et al., 2019). A large amount of evidence shows children who are subject to inadequate parental behaviour, such as inadequate guidance, neglect or difficult parenting are at the risk of antisocial behaviour. Evidence suggests, specifically, that antisocial behaviour, such as unsupportive parents, physical and emotional violence, have both influenced delinquency (Gottfredson & Hirschi, 2016; Rueger et al., 2010; Li et al., 2017). Research has stressed the importance of the negative dimensions of the parent-child relationship in the development of behavioural disorders children (Huesmann & Eron, 2013; Neumann et al., 2010; Niu et al., 2018). In the extreme, children whose parents are physically abusive are substantially more likely to show antisocial behaviour (Dodge et al., 2013; Faircloth, 2012; Robertson & Burton, 2010). Harsh discipline can interfere with the child's ability to control emotion (Huesmann & Eron, 2013). Negative parenting can disrupt the parent's image as a trustworthy source of support. This split may lead to lower perceptions that healthy relationships are possible (Fossati et al., 2010).

Parenthood was seen in this respect as a critical element in the transition from teenager to adult (Lowe & Dotterer, 2018). Young people's lives are shaped by their peers during their formative years, such as when parents work long hours and have little time to spend with their children, they turn to their peers for emotional support and their parents are known to take the blame for the role of certain children in a delinquent activity. Baumrind (1993) claims that poverty and domestic abuse are the major contributors to delinquency in Africa. However, this may be called into doubt since some poor parents have succeeded in raising functional families.

A small group of people of a similar age are said to form a peer association. In contrast, children join peer groups for the purpose of feeling safe and having a shared identity (Singh, 2017). The development of the human brain in adolescence differs significantly from that of the adult brain. This means that young people have a better chance of controlling their peers than adults do. Adolescents spend more time with their friends and classmates both inside and outside of school. It's also a key factor in why they're so willing to join in on the violence. Juvenile delinquency has been connected to the



presence of deviant peers (Menard & Grotper, 2011). In addition to families, peer groups play an important part in children's socialization and development because children spend more time with peers than with parents, their behaviour is influenced by friends and has a significant impact on parental decision-making (Beardslee et al., 2018). There has been an increase in the number of children forming friendships with people outside of their families. Antisocial behaviour is closely linked to peer association without parental supervision (Meldrum & Clark, 2015). According to Ruiz-Hernández et al. (2019), the likelihood of peer delinquency is lower when children have a high level of interaction with their parents and are subjected to strong parental control and restriction.

Numerous research has brought attention to the issue of juvenile delinquency, as well the foregoing studies. The study investigated the negative behaviour of parenting, which includes behaviours such as abuse, neglect and over control. What can be done to prevent juvenile violence from developing into more serious forms of crime and misconduct in the first place? Similarly, to other researchers, Alboukordi et al. (2012) believe that delinquency in early infancy is likely to remain into adolescent and adulthood. There are multiple psychological and social bases to the development of adolescent problem behaviour, and it is important to recognize these to devise effective interventions. It is his belief that understanding the roots of the various types of behaviour that impact adolescents, are the best way to fight against antisocial activity.

Juvenile delinquency is on the rise in Nigeria and Lagos state because parents and guardians are failing to exert enough effort to keep an eye on their children due to their numerous economic and social commitments. Lagos is Nigeria's most populous city, with more than 20 million residents, and the most urbanized state, however, there have been numerous crimes among young people, including rape, theft, drug usage, investigating misconduct, and many more (Nwankwo et al., 2010). Adolescents whose behaviour is deemed criminal are removed from their homes and schools and placed in residential treatment centers for behavioural health therapy.

## **1.2 Statement of Problem**

In recent years, adolescent crime has increased significantly, particularly in urban areas (Newbury et al., 2018). Juvenile crime in Africa grew due to migration, according to the "United Nations Habitat" (UNIHABITAT, 2014). Juvenile crime increased from 3.2% to 5.7% from 2007 to 2009. Urbanization or the social changes and difficulties that follow these processes are typically to blame for such rises (UN, 2014). Cities in Africa are seeing a higher incidence of urbanization-related crime, with an average annual growth rate of 40.8 percent in 2011 and 2014, and 43.1 percent in 2019. Hundreds of thousands of individuals are daily deprived because of the growing urban poor issue, some of the daily obstacles faced by the urban poor include limited access to jobs and earnings, insufficient and unsafe housing, and services, violent or unsanitary environments, low to no frameworks for social security, and limited access to health and educational opportunities (World Bank, 2011).

Urbanization is more than a set of features; it is a state of vulnerability and risk exposure (The World Bank, 2011). One such cumulative impact of urbanization is the involvement of juvenile in crime, which has been shown to have a negative influence on the quality of life of communities due to increased societal costs (Aluko, 2010). Nigeria's juvenile delinquency rate may be connected to the preponderance of low-income families in metropolitan regions with significant poverty and crime rates.

In Nigeria, juvenile participation in crime according to Adegoke, (2015), is one of the main areas of concern to the Nigerian Police Force. It has been revealed that one of the major topics of concern for Nigeria's police was youth engagement in violence. In Nigeria, burglary, robbery, rioting, and theft are among the most common forms of adolescent crime. More than 185,000 crimes were perpetrated by teenagers in Nigeria in 2001, and 19,000 of them were sentenced to prison. In 2005, 31 percent of Nigerian youngsters were detained for shoplifting, 17 percent were arrested for robbery, and 11 percent were arrested for disturbances. In 2015, this percentage was 38 percent, 21 percent, and 13 percent. Furthermore, Nwachukwu (2018) and Adegoke (2015) show that juvenile delinquency or anti-social behaviour in Owerri, Osun, Lagos, and Asaba can be linked to the family environment. According to the Lagos State Remand Home's inmate records for 2019, 45 people were detained at the facility. In 2020, the remand home welcomed 51 new members. In 2018, 35 inmates were brought in within six months, but in 2016 and 2017, 13 and 40 inmates were remanded respectively within three months. The home environment is a major contributor to the rise in population. Because of this, these long-standing facilities for juvenile correction are now being overburdened to the point where they are no longer serving their original purpose of rehabilitating troubled youth but rather spawning new offenders. This means that children who could be the future leaders of their generation or resources for rapid development will be lost. The government, religious leaders, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) should use this information to develop initiatives emphasizing the importance of parents creating strong families' bonds, avoiding divorce and polygamy, and strengthening the nuclear family unit. Unfortunately, despite these measures, the rate of juvenile crime is rising. As an example, according to records from both institutions, most inmates who were interviewed upon their admission stated that their home environment had a significant impact on their current situation. This suggests that the situation is getting worse as more efforts are made to tackle it.

Many studies, including one by Muhammed et al., (2009), have found that young people from Nigeria seem to be more inclined to engage in criminal activity than their older counterparts. National Drug and Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) Lagos chief believes that most illicit drug users and dealers are young people (Nkwopara, 2011). That's why criminal activity like armed robbery, mental illness, and disrespect for authority figures are all on the rise in Nigerian youth. Many reasons, including dysfunctional families, low school connection and negative effects on peers and juvenile gangs, poverty, and impoverished environment, have been cited as contributing to this problem, particularly in Nigeria (Alfrey, 2010; Chinyoka, 2013; Nwankwo et al., 2010; Olashore et al., 2017; Ikediashi & Akande, 2015).

According to Wachikwu and Ibegbunam, (2012), acceptable societal norms and value in Nigeria regarded as antisocial behaviours are lying, stealing, callousness, love for fighting and violence, deceit, cruelty, aggression, bullying, lack of respect for elders, greed, thuggery, forgery, frequent running away from home, alcoholism. The juvenile crimes also witness in Nigeria includes drug use, rape, cultism, examination malpractice, truancy, theft, and prostitution (Ugwuoke, 2010; Sanni et al., 2010). Looking at Lagos Nigeria today, it is the most populous city in Nigeria with over 20 million people and the most urbanized state in Nigeria, Fadare and Oduwaye, (2009) and yet, crime has been common among the youth, who have been caught or engaged in one criminal act or the other such as rape, robbery, drug use, examination malpractice and many more (Nwankwo et al., 2010). After seeing all these delinquent behaviour by adolescents, it can be said that the child's home plays a significant role in his or her life, which serve has one of the reasons for studying these variables (parental abuse, indifference and over control). To put it another way, a child's journey through life begins at home. As a result, the home is a child's first point of contact with the outside world, and whatever he or she sees or experiences there has the power to impact and rebrand his or her life in a favourable or negative way.

Delinquency has a complex relationship with parents. Numerous studies in criminal psychology have focused on how parents exercise control over their children or how family dynamics affect crime (Tofi & Farrington, 2012). Researchers have discovered that the home environment influences juvenile delinquency, such as inconsistent parenting, family issues, and child neglect and the children's attachment to the parent (Khushhal et al., 2017; Rathinabalan & Naaraayan, 2017). Major longitudinal studies of criminal and criminal conduct constantly track the connections between family circumstances and future anti-social conduct (Phillips, 2010). In recent studies, it has been found that parental qualities such as a lack of control, instability, and poor child-practice factors are linked to nervous child-parent attachment (Ainsworth et al., 2015). Research has demonstrated that the family context has a key role in the development of crime. Many researchers feel that the type of home in which children grow up is the root cause of juvenile criminality (Hammed et al., 2013). Okorodudu (2010) stated that the parents should be blamed and be made to take responsibility for the misfortunes that befall the adolescents. It is important to note that there is considerable research explaining parenting issues in Nigeria. While there is an agreement on the nature of the parent-child relationship in previous literature and theories, but yet, it is not clear whether those theory and findings are applicable in Nigeria scientifically and specifically. In this regard, a gap exists.

Research have indicated that family factors particularly parental monitoring and disciplining seem to influence association with delinquent peers throughout the juvenile period (Al-Matalaka & Hussainat, 2012). Because of the changes that have taken place because of urbanization, things have intensified by shifting the nature of society, juveniles are now socializing with different peers from different social classes, making parenting more difficult because adolescents are now more addicted to their peers by limiting themselves to parents' orders (Sanni et al., 2010).

Culture has been shown to influence parental practises in Nigeria (Akinsola, 2013; Moscardino & Nwobu, 2006). The fact that culture itself is the totality of a people's way of life, therefore habits, traditions, and values appear to revolve inside the cultural ambit. Children are expected to obey the elders and child upbringing seen as a communal affair. As a collectivist culture, Nigeria fosters values like helpfulness, conformity and interdependence (Akinsola, 2013).

In this vein, Akinsola (2013, p. 80) stated that "the promotion of different values in various cultures would influence the outcome of children in such cultures, as each culture would be conditioned under different circumstances to have different objectives and aspirations for its people and children in such cultures". She continued with the study of effective parenting practices in various cultures, which showed that effective parenting practices in one culture might not actually work in another. She argued that the culture that they live in would direct them, into choosing a certain parenting style.

The cultural context in Nigeria has led parents to adopt parenting techniques that emphasize parental authority and obedience with instructions, responsiveness, love, care, sensitivity, reciprocal communication, and explanations for parental disciplinary actions. (Akinsola, 2013). These approaches lead to hybrid childrearing, which at some periods makes Nigeria's children view their parents as authoritative, permissive, and often authoritarian; and research has shown that Nigerian parents exercise mostly authoritarian parenting style (Akinsola, 2013). It is unclear whether these parenting styles can be linked to juvenile delinquency issues, therefore a gap exists in this aspect.

Adolescence is vulnerable to the influence of their peers because of their age group's vulnerability. They appear to put more faith in their friends than in their parents. Because they spend a lot of time with their peers. As a result, they are predominantly delinquents who are left in the hands of their peers, who are ultimately responsible for determining their course of action. Peer group has a socializing influence on adolescent delinquency. According to Olowo, (2020), adolescent behaviour is heavily influenced by peer influence. Depending on which way the pendulum is swinging, the behaviour could be beneficial or negative. According to research, friendships have an increasingly crucial role during puberty, potentially even surpassing the function parents play (Brown & Bakken, 2011). Based on these findings, Evelyn and Ngozi (2015), they concluded that beginning in early adolescence, the complexity and size of individual peer pressures began to rise. Teenagers are inclining toward companionship at this point, and if their friends are bad, it can lead to criminality.

Researchers have found that juvenile delinquency is linked to a multitude of factors, including family issues, inconsistent parenting, and child neglect, as well as the children's attachment to their parents (Sanni et al., 2010, Zakari, 2012). Ekpo & Ajaku (2013), as mentioned in Animashun and Aremu, 2015, demonstrate that the population of adolescent delinquents is anchored in the type of family where an adolescent is brought up. This is further supported by findings of Animasahun and Aremu, 2015, that delinquency detachment was more significant when both the guardian or parent and profound love were present, than when only one of these factors was present. As a result, there are numerous differences between the child's immediate and extended



environments. Different parenting styles and skills, affection displays, family communication patterns, and so on can all be evidence of these variances in parenting styles. There has been a lot of studies showing that juvenile delinquency can be traced directly back to a child's upbringing in a certain type of home environment, and this will help us to better understand the type of home environment that is most likely to produce a delinquent juvenile Ugwuoke and Duruji (2015); Adegoke (2015), Akinlotan et al., (2017).

Delinquency and anti-social behaviour are most often caused by a family's inability to provide for its members' basic needs, according to scholars like Nwachukwu (2018), Animasahun and Aremu (2015), Adegoka (2015), Ugwoke and Duruji (2015), and others. Many experts, such as Adegoke (2015) and Edet (2010), as mentioned by Ajah and Ugwuoke (2018), have found evidence suggesting the prevalence of juvenile delinquency is increasing rather than declining. The increase in juvenile delinquency can be linked to several factors in the home environment, including inadequate parental supervision, divorce, lack or poor parental skills, rejection of children, broken home, poverty, unstable homes, parental age, over control of children, single parent homes, and peer influence.

Juvenile delinquency in Nigeria has been the subject of much empirical study. Academic Researchers have discovered a growing and concentrated interest in adolescents (Alnasir & Al-Falaj, 2016; Igbo & Ihejiene, 2014; Okorodudu, 2010; Ojo, 2012; Sanni et al., 2010; Yusuf, Agbonna & Yusuf, 2013). Studies on remand facilities, particularly in the Nigerian city of Lagos, have been rare. Considering the prior issue, there is a gap in this regard. As a result of this, Nigeria's adolescent population is continually misbehaving owing to several challenges and situations that are out of their control. In view of these, this study sought to examine the perception of the role of parenting style and peer influence on juvenile delinquency among adolescents in the government remand homes, Lagos state Nigeria.

### **1.3 Research questions**

During this study, the researcher aims at finding answers to the following questions:

1. What is the background of (gender, age, ethnic group, religion, and educational class) of adolescents in the remand homes Lagos State, Nigeria?
2. Is there any relationship between parenting style (abuse, indifference and over control) and juvenile delinquency among adolescents in the remand homes Lagos State, Nigeria?
3. Is there any relationship between peer influence and juvenile delinquency among adolescents in the remand homes Lagos State, Nigeria?

4. What is the strongest predictor variable among parenting style and peer influence on juvenile delinquency among adolescent in the remand homes Lagos state Nigeria?

#### **1.4 Research objectives**

The general objective of the study is to examine the perception on the role of parenting style and peer influence on juvenile delinquency among adolescents in the government remand homes, Lagos state Nigeria. The specific objectives are as follows:

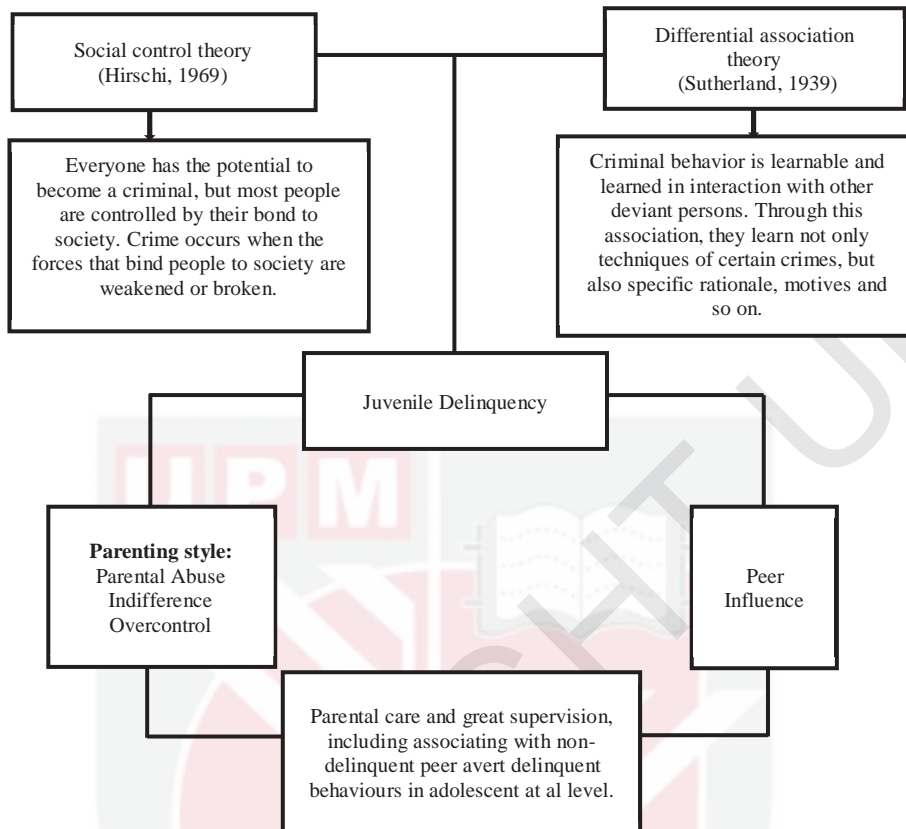
1. To describe demographic variables (Gender, Age, Ethnic group, Religion and Class) among the adolescents in the remand homes Lagos State, Nigeria.
2. To examine the relationship between parenting style (abuse, indifference and overcontrol) and juvenile delinquency among adolescents in the remand homes Lagos State, Nigeria.
3. To examine the relationship between peer influence and juvenile delinquency among adolescent in the remand homes Lagos State, Nigeria.
4. To determine the strongest predictor variable among parenting style and peer influence on juvenile delinquency among adolescent in the remand homes Lagos state Nigeria.

#### **1.5 Research hypothesis**

**H0<sub>1</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between parenting style (abuse, indifference and overcontrol) and juvenile delinquency among adolescents in the remand homes Lagos State Nigeria.

**H0<sub>2</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between peer influence and juvenile delinquency among adolescents in the remand homes Lagos State Nigeria.

**H0<sub>3</sub>:** There is no predictive variable between parenting style and peer influence on juvenile delinquency among adolescent in the remand homes Lagos state Nigeria.



**Figure 1.1: Theoretical Framework**

The theoretical framework above describes the variables. To study the concept of juvenile delinquency, there is a belief that families are the most influential element that affects and insulating the child from delinquent behaviour or increasing the tendencies of such behaviour. Thus, numerous studies have been conducted on the facets of criminology to fathom who has the most influence on child behaviour (the parent or peer). However, it is believed that family is the first agent with which the child comes in contact and has the child's growth, subsequently, the child begins to interact with individuals outside the home, and by so doing, the number of people that influences the child's life increases. As an adolescent grows and becomes mature the relationship between his or her parent changes with time (Cummings et al., 2013). As social control theory frames the system in which these decisions are made in the same way that differential association theory frames the evolution of individual choices. Together, these theories can be used to create conceptual linkages between parenting, peer influence and juvenile delinquent behavior. By exploring these linkages, it is possible to learn more about the connections between many aspects of a person's life, such as their sense of self-worth, their relationship with authority figures outside the family, and their involvement in criminal activity, by examining these connections.

As Sutherland argues, criminal behaviour may be acquired in the same way that law-abiding beliefs can, and that this learning activity is carried out by interacting with people and exchanging information among close friends or family members. He argues that, just as one can be socialized into good behaviour, so also can one be socialized into bad behaviour. Another argument is based on the idea that people who have strong social connections are less likely than others to engage in deviant behaviour. When these relationships are weakened or are not well established, crime happens, according to social control theory. Criminality, according to control theorists, is unavoidable in the absence of such ties (Lilly et al., 2011). Instead of focusing on why people engage in deviant behaviour, control theories ask why they stop from doing so (Gurbuz et al., 2020). As a result, criminality is considered as an option for everyone in society, except for those who want to maintain family and social ties. Sociological theories that emphasize the importance of social and familial relationships as restraints on criminality are all part of the social control theory family. Parents' behaviours and attitudes toward their children are seen as a major source of social control for young people. A great number of research have demonstrated a negative correlation between parental attachment and delinquency in the context of social control. As a result, it has been established that the closer a child is to their parents, the less likely they are to engage in criminal activity.

It is based on this notion the researcher is compelled to embark on the current study to add more insight and to investigate why juveniles indulge in deviance act. Conversely, to establish the objectives of this current study, Differential association and social control theories were adopted to have an appropriate explanation on the relationship amongst the construct, parenting style, peer influence and juvenile delinquency.

## **1.6 Theory of the Study**

### **Social Control and Differential Association Theory**

Social control theory by Hirschi, (1969) has been critical in risk behaviour research, particularly among studies of deviance and delinquency. The theory believes and views every individual has a potential crime committer but due to the bond they have with their family and friends, they tend to deviate from antisocial behaviour in order not to lose their relationship with them, it also looks at delinquency as a result arising from an individual weak social bond with the society. Social control theory believes that it is the bonding with congenial people such as families, friends, institutions, activities, and beliefs that make people conform or adhere to society's norms. It is the weakness and absence of such bonds that make people indulge in a criminal act (Hirschi, 1969; Osgood & Anderson, 2004).

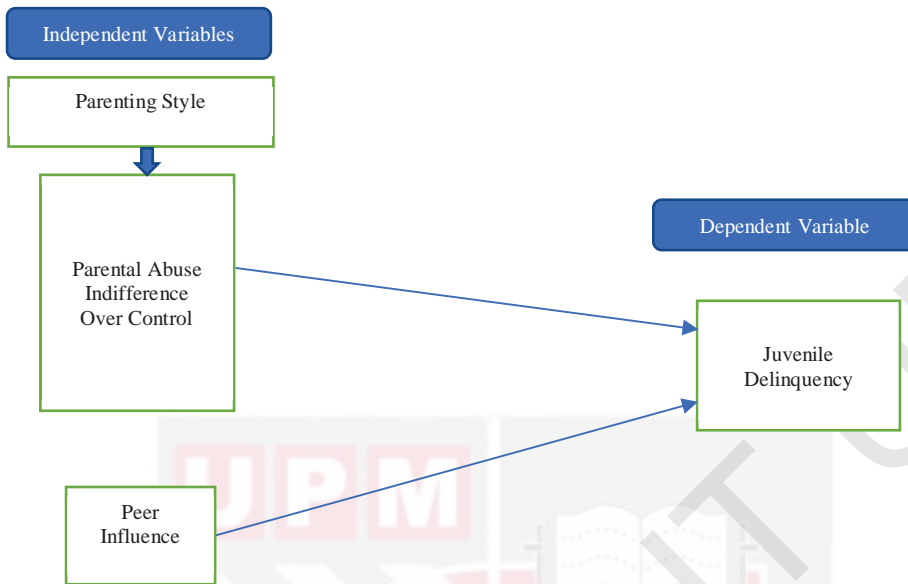
While on the other hand, the Differential Association theory by Edwin H. Sutherland (1939). According to this view, a person's criminal behaviour is a product of learned behaviour acquired through their interactions with other people. Two key principles are at the root of the Theory of Differential Association: social differences happen as people perceive a position as a suitable moment for breaches of the rule and the concept used to decide this condition is dependent on personal perceptions of an individual (Sutherland

et al., 2015). A juvenile can use the media, poverty, or the environment to breach societal norms as definable or reasonable circumstances. Social norms derive from the instruction of principles and morality and often delegated responsibility of parents or guardians at birth. The learning process starts at an early stage and the more constructive impact a child has will lead to a more responsible, active, and moral person. A cost/benefit analysis is used for the Differential Association. If the young person considers that it is better to violate the rule than to obey the law less advantageously, then the outcome will be delinquent behaviour.

### **Theoretical Linkages of Social Control and Differential Association on parenting style, peer influence and juvenile delinquency**

Differential association theory suggests that deviant behaviour is acquired by interaction with others. Motives, drives, rationalizations and attitude or perceptions are created by social and cultural transmission. When a child ages, these causes have become more established, and law-breaking conduct has become less socially taxing. According to this theory, a person can establish, over time, greater associations with law-breaking conduct than with law-abiding behaviour. Delinquents are free to do delinquent behaviours because their links to "conventional order" in society have been severed, according to Hirschi (2002) social control theory. The theory hypothesis assumes that delinquency happens when community expectations or group norms have been violated or breached (Henry & Bracy, 2012; Hagan, 2015). Deviant behaviour is influenced by both non-family relationships and peer influence, according to both differential association theory and social control theory. Hirschi (2002), from a cultural deviance viewpoint, notes that adolescents who are unattached to their parents or who have no significant relationship with other adults have a greater rate of sensitivity to "criminogenic influences" (p. 85), such as delinquent peers or potential for delinquent behaviour. The concept of parent cohesion is closely connected to the concept of social support and to theories relating to the effects of parental support on adolescent outcomes (Church et al., 2012; Cox et al., 2018; Magee, 2016). Adolescent children's behaviour improves when their families are more cohesive, which increases the possibility of better communication, individual functioning within the family, and the ability to retain a positive self-image (Mitchell et al., 2016). On the other hand, dysfunctional households, or families with a high degree of family tension exemplify a low level of stability or display "cross-generational coalitions" (Moreira & Telzer 2015), where families demonstrating pro-social parenting and disciplinary strategies will have a stronger sense of family harmony and overall family functioning within the household (Church et al., 2012). Such families appear to provide additional strain on individual functioning and the ability to maintain a positive self-image. Lee et al., (2013) revealed that early childhood family pressure trains juveniles to join deviant peer groups, and these peer groups are the "major training ground" for antisocial activity and drug use. Their research suggests that good family bonding may shield children from the influence of deviant peers.

As the differential association theory frames the evolution of human decisions, the social control theory frames the framework in which those choices are made (Khajehnoori et al, 2013). In parallel, these ideas may be used to establish a psychological connection between risk factors and juvenile delinquent behaviour. Through investigating these connections, the connection between parental style, association with delinquent peers and delinquent conduct was examined.



**Figure 1.2: Conceptual Framework**

The conceptual framework above shows parenting style and peer influence as independent variables and juvenile delinquency as the dependent variable. It has been established that parenting style leads young people to delinquent behaviour, depending on how the adolescent perceives their parents, while peer influence will also negatively or positively affect their behaviour depending on the type of group they have joined.

### 1.7 Significance of the Study

The research study is important, both practically and theoretically. The study of this nature is of importance to parents who find it helpful to identify different styles of parents' behavior and their influence on adolescent's behaviour, then may select the proper style for their children's upbringing.

The outcome of this study provides a better understanding of the increase in the knowledge of perception on parenting style and the role of peer influence on juvenile delinquency among adolescents in Lagos state Nigeria, from the Juveniles' perceptions and the education authorities that formulate policies.

This study will also help Principals and Teachers, who can improve their knowledge of how familial styles and social pressure influence delinquent behaviour so that they will learn how students cope with delinquency and in turn understand how to handle delinquent behaviour among students.



According to the findings of this study, school psychologists and counsellors dealing with juvenile or student delinquency issues, as well as teenage behaviour, can detect a variety of adolescent behaviour patterns and advise kids on the best peer groups to join. This study will be important for decision-makers and the government, for instance the education ministry and junior offender detention centre; booster home, an arm of the Nigerian Prison Service that is concerned with the policy which guides the management system daily. This will help them to formulate a policy that would help in the smooth running of the system. Researchers concluded that this study has made a substantial contribution to the theoretical gap by giving appreciated evidence about parenting styles, peer pressure, and delinquent behaviour.

This would be beneficial for non-governmental organizations such as the Educational, Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which works with young people to strengthen their attitude against criminal activity in our society.

The research will also contribute to other literature on parenting, social pressure, and criminal behaviour. It would encourage other researchers who would like to perform studies on parenting, social pressure, and juvenile crime.

This study also fills the gap by examining perception on the role of parenting style and peer influence on juvenile delinquency among adolescents in the government remand homes, Lagos state Nigeria.

## **1.8 Definition of terms**

### **Adolescent**

- **Conceptual definition:** Adolescents are identified as individuals between the ages of 10-19 years of age group, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).
- **Operational definition:** A young Nigeria person between 10 to 18 years of age, who are remanded in the remand homes in Nigeria 2020 - 2021.

### **Deviant / Delinquency**

- **Conceptual definition:** Delinquency is the unwelcomed conduct, omission or moral action of a juvenile that is not socially accepted in any culture, it includes “act and conduct which violates the law. In general, this suggests that the child is deemed to be delinquent if the child fails to fulfil such social responsibilities that the parent anticipates.

- **Operational definition:** Delinquency refers to the anti-social behaviour of adolescents that violates social norms and values that deviate from societal expectations, in consistent with Nigerian laws, culture, value and practices.

### Juvenile Delinquency

- **Conceptual definition:** Juvenile delinquency refers to the violation of the criminal codes regulating the behaviour of young persons in society. Juvenile offenders are usually defined as minors between the ages of 10 and 18 years of age who have committed an act that violates the law of conduct (Agbowuro et al., 2016). The Nigerian constitution of 1979 defines juvenile delinquency is defined as "any crime committed by an individual under the age of 18 years in order to comply with the wishes of his classmates or to alleviate the pressure of parental or emotional stimulation."
- **Operational definition:** Juvenile delinquency was assessed by adopting and adaptation of Elliot's self-report scale (2008). It has a 5-point response scale to demonstrate how much the teen has been involved in delinquent conduct. 18 questions have been answered by the juvenile.

### Remand homes

- **Conceptual definition:** Remand home refers to a temporary detention centre.
- **Operational definition:** This is a detention centre under the authority of childcare, to which children are committed by the court pending the adjudication and final disposition of their cases, specifically utilizing the government remand homes in Lagos State, Nigeria.

### Urbanization

- **Conceptual definition:** Urbanization is a process that happens because of infrastructure and because of people migrating into urban areas.
- **Operational definition:** Refers to a situation whereby towns grow naturally or through migration and their societies become urban.

### Parenting styles

- **Conceptual definition:** Parenting styles encompasses the strategies parents use when their children are educated, raised, and brought up. These parenting styles are usually commensurate with local society's values and norms. Parenting style can also be defined as a child's emotional environment (Darling & Steinberg, 1993).
- **Operational definition:** Parker et al., (1997) Parental Style Measurement (MOPS) was used to assess parenting style, measuring 3 subscales: parental



violence, indifference, and power. There are 15 questions answered by the juveniles concerning their parents. Questions 5, 8, 10, 11, 12 & 13 is used from the questionnaires to measure indifference, 2, 7, 9, 14 & 15 is used to measure abuse, while 1, 3, 4 & 6 were used to measure over control.

### **Peer influence**

- **Conceptual definition:** Is characterized as the degree to which an adolescent conforms to the legal or illegal values, criminal actions and activities of the group of peers with whom the adolescent primarily interacts and participates in activities with. It can also be defined as the influence exerted by a peer group in encouraging an adolescent to change his/her attitudes, values, or behaviour to conform to the group's standard to fit in with others.
- **Operational definition:** Steinberg and Monahan, (2007); Peer Influence Scale Resistance (RPI) was used to measure the influence of peers. There are 10 questions which the juvenile must answer. Questions 2, 6 & 10 are reversed in the questionnaire.

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