

## PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS AS CORRELATES OF DEVIANT BEHAVIOUR AMONG STUDENTS OF PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN OJO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF LAGOS STATE

<sup>1</sup>ELEGBEDE, C.B. (PhD), <sup>2</sup>ADEDOTUN, K.O. (PhD) & <sup>3</sup>TEMITOPE, O.H

<sup>1&2</sup>Department of Guidance and Counseling, Lagos State University of Education, Lagos State

<sup>3</sup>Department of Educational Management, University of Benin, Benin

### Abstract

Three objectives were formulated to give direction for this work as survey research design type of correlational approach was used because it is a design type that seeks to investigate existing relationship or association between variables. The population for this study comprised of 13 public senior secondary schools in Ojo Local Government Area of Lagos State as sample of five hundred and forty public (540) students were selected from ten schools through purposive sampling technique. An adapted Deviant Behaviour Variety Scale and self-structured Questionnaire titled, "Personality Characteristics Questionnaire (PCQ)" were used for data generation. Construct validity was ensured by two experts in department of Guidance and Counselling Education, Lagos State University of Education, Lagos State. Through Cronbach alpha a reliability form an index value of .892 and .797 for DBVS and PCQ. The data generated was analysed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation tested at significant level of 0.05 respectively. Result shows that display of extraversion personality does not relate to deviant behaviour while agreeableness and neuroticism personalities does relate with deviant behaviours. It concluded that adolescents with agreeable personality have a very high disposition towards deviant behaviours. The study recommended that Government should establish psychological service centres in public schools.

**Keywords:** Personality characteristics, Deviant behaviours, Traits, Agreeables, Extraversion

### Introduction

Globally the term deviant behaviour in learning institutions remains an important issue to educators and other scholars responsible for child development. Deviant behaviour in Nigeria has become a persistent source of apprehension to parents, school authorities, government and the society at large. The Participation in delinquent acts by adolescents is assuming an alarming proportion and dangerous dimension which are becoming out of control to parents, police and other organs saddled with the responsibility of handling such unwanted behavioural habits. Deviant behaviour refers to behaviour that does not conform to the norms and expectations of a given group of people or society. Due to the dynamism of the society, various sorts of deviant behaviours such as theft, rudeness, sexual-harassment, truancy, late coming to school and so on are being exhibited in our present era. According to VanDen-Bos, (2012) deviance is seen as "any behaviour that deviates significantly from what is considered appropriate or typical for a social group".

Deviant behaviour is an escalating problem in most parts of the world today including Nigeria particularly secondary school students. Many cases of deviant behaviour have been reported and witnessed across secondary schools. More common ones involving secondary school students include drug and substance abuse, breaking and stealing, burglary, arson, truancy and prostitution.

According to Ogidefa (2017), there is hardly any single Nigerian institution of higher learning that has not experienced the menace of cultism. In recent times, schools and the society at large have become reservoirs for committing various sorts of deviant behaviours which include theft, rudeness, sexual-harassment, truancy, late coming to school among others.

Accordingly, these phenomena have become a destructive approach that marred the growth and sustainability of most schools and societal settings in Nigeria. Deviant behaviour among adolescents can be attributed to a combination of several generalized factors. Ogedelia (2017) argues that leading contributing factors of youth deviant behaviours include History of tantrums and uncontrollable anger, outburst, and media, among others. However, arguments still exist among researchers as to what influence deviant behaviour among secondary students. Personality characteristics have been argued to be a dominant factor that may influence deviant behaviour among adolescents.

Personality characteristic is one germane factor that could affect adolescent deviant behaviour. It is also known as personality traits, which refer to people's traits pattern of thoughts, feelings and behaviours. It describes how a person tends to think, feel, and behave on an ongoing basis. Thus, trait psychology rests on the idea that people differ from one another in terms of where they stand on a set of basic trait dimensions that persist over time and across situations. Personality traits have been indicated as one of the most significant predictors of individual outcomes and behaviors (Aliyu, 2017). Traits refer to the ways of perceiving, thinking, and behaving toward the environment and oneself. These personality characteristics or traits could be in form of Extraversion, Agreeableness and Neuroticism.

Extraversion personality characteristic measures the interpersonal interaction of individuals toward other people in the form of being outgoing or shy, as well as the capacity for joy. Additionally, those individuals high in extraversion are sociable, outgoing, assertive, un-reserved, and companionable; those low in extraversion tend to be quiet, reserved, and timid. Low levels of extraversion, which is introversion, showed uncomfortableness, shyness, unsociability, and reserved personality. There have also been studies that showed evidence that extraversion is significantly linked to maladaptive, antisocial, and deviant behavior.

Otuadah (2016) carried out a study on Personality as a factor in deviant behaviour among secondary school students in Kaduna state. The study was a cross sectional survey of 300 students who were drawn using simple random sampling techniques from six public schools in Kaduna state. By gender, 180 (60%) were male and 120 (40%) were females and their age ranged from 13-25 years. The Big Five Factor Markers from International Personality Item Pool-IPIP, and the Self- Report Deviant Scale were used to for data collection. Data was analysed using multiple regression to test the hypotheses. The results indicated that extraversion does not significantly predicted deviant behaviour among government secondary school students in Kaduna state.

McLaren and Johnson (2018) carried out a study on personality characteristics and interactions between parents and children that are related to diverse manifestations of deviant behavior in adolescence, such as alcohol and drug abuse, vandalism, and theft. They also analyzed parenting as a moderator in the relationship between personality and antisocial behavior. The sample is made up of 652 adolescents, 282 boys and 370 girls, mean 16.93 years ( $SD = 1$ ). The results indicate that extraversion, agreeableness, and conscientiousness are associated with different measures of deviance.

Agreeableness includes traits that facilitate positive social interactions that play a pivotal role in the life of adolescents. Agreeableness refers to the level of compassion within the self to the resentment

of an individual, and to the different effects and behavior involved. Bowling and Eschleman (2012) stated that agreeable persons are viewed to be pleasant, tolerant, helpful to others, trusting, forgiving, considerate to others, and cooperative. A tendency toward high agreeableness is much more likely to be considered as more cooperative, understanding, warm, sincere, well-mannered, naturally good, compassionate, friendly, and sympathetic; a tendency toward low agreeableness is more likely to be harsh, rude, cold, unsociable, insincere, and unsympathetic. Study has called low agreeable people unconcerned with others, and therefore can be unfriendly and uncooperative, independent and have poor personal affections toward others.

According to Amaechi and Onah, (2016) carried out a study on personality factors as correlates of deviant behaviours among secondary school adolescents in Imo State. The aim of the study was to examine personality characteristics as correlates of deviant behaviours among secondary school adolescents in Imo State. This study was conducted using correlational research design with two research questions and two hypotheses. The population of the study is made up of 30,430 SS2 students in the 268 public senior secondary schools in Imo State. The sample is made up of 180 SS2 students. The study employed multi-stage stratified sampling technique. Three rating scales titled Deviant Behaviours among Secondary School Adolescent Scale (DBASSAS) was used to collect data for the study. The instruments was validated and found to be internally consistent with index of 0.71 for (DBASSAS) using Cronbach alpha statistic. The research questions were answered with Pearson "r" statistic while the hypotheses were tested using t-test significance of correlation at 0.05 level of significance. It was found among others that: there is a very high positive relationship between Agreeableness personality Characteristic and deviant behaviour. However, Aleksic and Vukovi, (2018) found that there is an inverse correlation between agreeableness and deviant behavior. Hence, an individual who possesses a low level of agreeableness is more likely to exhibit aggressive behavior and more eager to enter a conflict, thus more likely participate in deviant acts. Additionally, Bolton (2013), also supporting the study, found that highly agreeable people are possible to demonstrate lower deviant acts.

Neuroticism or negative emotionality is another personality trait that can influence adolescent behaviour. It is related to aggressive behavior, being easily upset and emotionally unstable, exhibits anxiety, stress, guilt, insecurity, or frustration. Neuroticism assesses an individual's emotional instability, such as psychological distress, unrealistic ideas, and maladaptive coping response and can lead to an individual being tense, insecure, irritable, and having grandiose characteristics; people with low neuroticism tend to be calm, self-confident, and patient. While creating their own identity, adolescents may encounter several conflicts, such as learning wrong behaviour from significant people and dealing with their problem in the wrong ways.

Meanwhile Fuller, (2012) carried out a study on. Personality and self-reported delinquency: Analysis of the Big Five Analysis dimensions. The study was a cross sectional survey of 430 students who were drawn using simple random sampling techniques from six public schools. By gender, 258 (60%) were male and 172 (40%) were females and their age ranged from 13-25 years. The Big Five Factor Markers from International Personality Item Pool-IPIP, and the Self-Report Deviant Scale were used to for data collection. Data was analysed using multiple regression to test the hypotheses. The results showed that neuroticism significantly predicted deviant behaviour among government secondary.

Otuadah (2016) carried out a study on personality as a factor in deviant behaviour among secondary school students in Kaduna State. The study was a cross sectional survey of 300 students who were drawn using simple random sampling techniques from six public schools in Kaduna state. By gender, 180 (60%) were male and 120 (40%) were females and their age ranged from 13-25 years. The Big

Five Factor Markers from International Personality Item Pool-IPIP, and the Self- Report Deviant Scale were used to for data collection. Data was analysed using multiple regression to test the hypotheses. The results indicated that neuroticism significantly predicted deviant behaviour among government secondary school students in Kaduna state. Personality characteristics are paramount in child upbringing otherwise the society will be full of deviant. However, how well these factors can influence deviant behaviour among adolescent is subject to empirical investigation. Hence, this study seeks to investigate Personality characteristics as correlate of deviant behaviour among the adolescents.

### **Statement of the Problem**

In our senior secondary schools the rate and extent to which students get involve in the display of Juvenile delinquency is at an alarming rate. It is belief that they are highly involve in drug trafficking, examination malpractice, alcoholism, prostitution, smoking of cigarettes and indian hemp which may likely influence their peer pressure negatively, develop poor attitude to academic studies among others. Involvement of students in these delinquent behaviours may have led to underperformance of students in school related activities, low self-esteem, poor interpersonal relationship and may also lead to withdrawals in schools. The Nigerian Government had devised and employed several measures aimed at curbing adolescent deviancy in school system. Efforts like the establishment and administration of juvenile justice, promulgation of juvenile laws and courts, establishment of remand homes, establishment of security and law enforcement agencies (Odebumi, 2017). Many researchers agreed that the foundation of adolescent deviancy is rooted in the kind of home the adolescent is brought up (Otuadah, 2015; Okpako, 2015 and Utti, 2016). Bearing in mind that adolescents pass through various channels of conflicts and frustrations in our schools and larger society, parents, teachers and religious leaders have various roles to play in curbing deviancy in secondary school students. In a bid to manage this menace in schools, this study seeks to investigate how personality characteristics can be used to address deviant behaviour among students in Ojo Local Government Area of Lagos State.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The main purpose of this study is to determine how personality characteristics correlate with deviant behaviors among students of public secondary schools in Ojo Local Government Area of Lagos State. Specifically, it also determined to:

Assess how extraversion relates to deviant behaviours among students in Ojo Local Government Area

Justify how agreeableness relates to deviant behaviours among students in Ojo Local Government Area

Evaluate how neuroticism relates to deviant behaviours among students in Ojo Local Government Area

### **Hypotheses of the Study**

H1: Extraversion does not significantly relate to deviant behaviours among students in Ojo Local Government Area

H2: Agreeableness does not significantly relate to deviant behaviours among adolescents in Ojo Local Government Area.

H3: Neuroticism does not significantly relate to deviant behaviours among students in Ojo Local Government Area

## Methodology

Survey research design of correlational approach was used for this work. A correlation research design investigates existing relationship or association between dependent and independent variables. This design was considered appropriate because it allows the researcher to determine the relationship between personality characteristics and deviant behavior among adolescent. The population for this study comprised of all public senior secondary school students in Ojo Local Government Area of Lagos State. There are twenty-five thousand five hundred students in sixteen (16) public secondary schools of Ojo Local government Area. A sample of five hundred and forty public (540) senior secondary school students from ten selected schools were captured using purposive sampling technique. An adapted Deviant Behaviour Variety Scale (DBVS by Sanches et..al, 2016) and a questionnaire titled “Personality Characteristics Questionnaire (PCQ)” was used for data generation. The DBVS comprised of 12 modified questions from DBVS self-report. These items were done such that they suit the study. The PSPCQ was constructed by the researcher consisting of 15 items covering scales of Extraversion, Agreeableness and Neuroticism personality. The responses of participants were designed using 4-likert’s type ranging from Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree and Strongly Disagree respectively. The instruments were scrutinized and validated as it was affirmed to meet construct validity by two experts in department of Guidance and Counselling Education, Lagos State University of Education, Lagos State. The responses of respondents were subjected to Cronbach alpha a reliability form and an index value of .892 and .797 for DBVS and PCQ meaning internal consistency met. The data generated was analysed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation tested at significant level of 0.05 respectively.

## Results

**H01:** Extraversion personality does not significantly relate to deviant behaviour among students in Ojo Local Government Area.

**Table 1: Showing Pearson Product Moment Correlation between Extraversion personality and deviant behaviour**

Variables	N	r	Sig.(2-tailed)	Decision
Extraversion Personality	540	.824	.071	Not significant
Deviant Behaviour				

$\alpha = 0.05$

Given table 1 above, it shows r-value of 0.824 and p-value of 0.071. At 0.824, it shows a positively strong relationship between extraversion personality and deviant behavior. Testing at an alpha level of 0.05, the p-value is greater than the alpha level hence the null hypothesis which states that Extraversion personality does not significantly relate to deviant behaviour among adolescent in Ojo Local Government Area is retained.

**H02:** Agreeableness does not significantly relate to deviant behaviour among adolescents in Ojo Local Government Area.

**Table 2: Showing Pearson Product Moment Correlation between agreeableness personality and deviant behaviour among students**

Variables	N	r	sig.(2-tailed)	Decision
Agreeableness Personality	540	.879	.017	Significant
Deviant Behaviour				

$\alpha = 0.05$

Table 2 above shows r value of 0.879 and p-value of 0.017. Testing at an alpha level of 0.05, the p-value is less than the alpha level. Therefore, the null hypothesis which states that Agreeableness does not significantly relate to deviant behaviour in adolescent in Ojo Local Government Area is rejected. Hence, Agreeableness personality characteristics significantly correlate deviant behaviour in adolescent in Ojo Local Government Area. However, the r of 0.879 shows the positive correlation between the dependent variable (adolescent deviant behaviour) and the independent variable (agreeableness personality characteristics).

**H03:** Neuroticism does not significantly relate to deviant behaviour among students in Ojo Local Government Area.

**Table 3: Showing Pearson Product Moment Correlation between Neuroticism personality and Deviant Behaviour**

Variables	N	r	sig.(2-tailed)	Decision
Neuroticism Personality	540	.810	.024	Significant
Deviant Behaviour				

$\alpha = 0.05$

Table 3 above shows r value of 0.810 and p-value of 0.024. Testing at an alpha level of 0.05, the p-value is less than the alpha level, the null hypothesis which states that Neuroticism personality characteristics does not significantly relate to deviant behaviour in adolescent in Ojo Local Government Area is rejected in favour of the alternative hypothesis. Hence, Neuroticism personality characteristics significantly relate to deviant behaviour among adolescent in Ojo Local Government Area. Hence at r of 0.810, it shows that the correlation between the independent variable (Neuroticism personality) and dependent variable (Deviant Behaviour in Adolescent) is positively high.

### Discussion of Findings

Result from hypothesis one shows that extraversion personality characteristics have a positive correlation with deviant behaviour among adolescent in Ojo Local Government Area. However, the p value of the analysis revealed that Extraversion personality characteristics does not significantly relate to deviant behaviour in adolescent. This implies that, deviant behaviour among adolescent is not as a result of extraversion personality characteristics of the individual. This finding supported the finding of Otudah (2016) who found that, extraversion does not significantly predicted deviant behaviour among government secondary school students. But the finding disagreed with the finding of Aliyu (2017) who found that, extraversion is associated with different measures of deviance.

Moreso, from hypothesis two it shows that agreeableness personality characteristics have a positive correlation with deviant behaviour among adolescent in Ojo Local Government Area. Again, it was also revealed from the p-value that Agreeableness personality characteristics significantly relate to deviant behaviour. In other words, students who have agreeableness personality characteristics tend

to deviate from the existing social norms of their society. This finding is in consonant with Amaechi and Onah, (2016) who found that there is a correlation between agreeableness personality Characteristic and deviant behaviour. However, the finding disagreed with the finding of Utti (2016) found that there is no correlation between agreeableness and deviant behavior.

However result from hypothesis three revealed that Neuroticism personality characteristics have a positive correlation with adolescent deviant behaviour in Ojo Local Government Area. Neuroticism personality characteristics significantly relate to deviant behaviour among adolescent. This means that students that have neuroticism personality characteristics or traits deviate from the social norm of the society. That is, an individual who possesses a neuroticism characteristics is more likely to exhibit aggressive behavior and more eager to enter a conflict, thus more likely participate in deviant acts. This finding supports the finding of Fuller (2012), who found that neuroticism significantly predicted deviant behaviour among government secondary.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the findings of this study, it concluded that Personality Characteristics correlate deviant behaviour in adolescent in Ojo L.G.A of Lagos State significantly. Also, Agreeableness and Neuroticism personality Characteristics significantly correlate deviant behaviour in adolescent in Ojo Local Government Area but Extraversion Personality characteristics does not.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made.

Government should establish psychological service centres in schools and engage the services of psychologists to counsel and modify the negative traits of deviant students. This will help in reducing the occurrences of deviant activities among secondary school students.

School administrators should take the personality traits of prospective candidates seriously during school admission to minimise deviant behaviour in schools.

School counsellors should provide frequent counselling services for adolescents as information that could help them identify their personality types.

### **References**

- Bolton, B. (2013). *Juvenile Delinquency: A Sociological Approach in Schools*.
- Aliyu, U.D. (2017). *Human Development: Child and Adolescent Psychology*. Kano: Tahir advertising Agency Kano.
- Amaechi, C.E. & Onah, F.E. (2016). Post-graduate students' perception of innovative practice of open book examination (OBE) in Imo State University, Owerri. *ASSEREN Journal of Education*, 1(1), 67-76.
- Fuller, K. M. (2012). Personality and crime: An examination of the influence of the Five Factor Model on offending and co-offending. *Journal of Social and Criminal Behaviour*, 38(2), 367-371.
- McLaren, L. M., & Johnson, M. (2018). *Understanding the ring tides of anti-immigrant sentiment*. Oxford UK: Oxford University Press.
- Odebunmi, C.O. (2017). Nexus between Personality traits and Human development. A synopsis review. Lagos state.
- Ogidefa, I. (2008). Cultism in educational institutions in Nigeria: causes, possible solutions and counselling implications. Retrieved from [www.devifinder.com](http://www.devifinder.com)
- Okpako, J. E. F. (2015). Parenting the Nigerian Adolescents Towards Smooth Transition to Adulthood: In *Contemporary Issue and Research in Adolescents* (I. A. Nwazuoke; O.

- Bamgbose & O. A. Morokola (Ed) Ibadan Omoade Printing Press, 275-288.
- Otuadah, C. E. (2015). Parental Behaviour and Peer Group Influence as Correlates of Delinquent Behaviour among Secondary School Students in Warri Metropolis. Unpublished M.Ed Thesis of Delsu, Abraka.
- Utti, A. (2016). Relationship Between Parenting Styles and Students' Academic Achievement in Secondary Schools in Ethiope East L. G. A. of Delta State. Unpublished M. Ed Thesis of Delta State University, Abraka.