



INFLUENCE OF GENDER, PARENTING STYLE AND PEER PRESSURE ON ADOLESCENT CONFLICT WITH PARENTS IN EBONYI STATE

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ABSTRACT

This study was designed to investigate the influence of gender, parenting style and peer pressure on the adolescents conflicts with parents in Ebonyi State. It is a descriptive survey guided by four research questions and four hypotheses all derived from the purpose of the study. The population of the study consists of all the Senior Secondary School SS2 adolescent students from all the 221 Secondary Schools in Ebonyi State. Using stratified sampling technique, nine (9) schools were drawn from the entire population, three from each of the Education Zone. From this a sample of 200 students were purposively selected for the study; out of which 109 (54.5%) adolescent males and 91 (45.5%) adolescent female. Researcher developed instrument titled adolescent conflicts with parents Questionnaire was used for data collection after its validation. Reliability coefficient of 0.62 was determined using Pearson product correlation formulae. Data was analyzed using mean and t-test for testing hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The findings include among others; there is a significant difference between male and female adolescents influence on prevalence of adolescents conflict with parents. There is significant difference between authoritative and permissive parents influence on prevalence of adolescents conflicts with parents. Based on the findings, the researcher's recommended among other thing that; students should be provided with proper counselling especially on peer and group relationship to avoid conflict with parents.

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INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is a difficult time in the lives of young people both for themselves, their teachers, and parents. This period according to Agulanna and Anukogu, (1999) is mostly associated with conflict, turmoil and tension. It is common for parents to be demythologized in this period. The so called drive for freedom without responsibility plays a significant role during this period of adolescence (Craig, 2006). Empirical evidence indicates that many of today's adolescents have serious problems with drugs, alcohol, sex, etc., and that these problems are at least partly the result of stressful parent-adolescent relations (Dekovic 1999, Nordum 2002, Ikediashi, 2010). In most studies, it has been shown that the majority of

arguments between parents and their adolescents are about normal, everyday, mundane family matters such as school work, social life and peers, home chores, disobedience, disagreements with siblings, and personal hygiene. These types of arguments may be indicative of adolescents' growing desire for autonomy and independence from parents. Parents often hear children especially the adolescents; say words like "I can handle it; Daddy you won't understand; I want more freedom". Sometimes parents discover that their children no longer accept rules and begin questioning and rebelling against parental authority. As children grow older, they are faced with the often awkward and challenging growth of their own autonomy. When adolescents begin to behave differently, adults think that this is a child's desire to form their own sense

of independence or teenage rebellion. However, autonomy and independence may not be synonymous. While autonomy is larger in scope and include an adolescent's capacity to think, feel, and act on his or her own; independence involves personal behaviour on issues (Ikediashi, 2010). Adolescents mostly are likely to argue, press for advantage, and test of the limits that parents set for them. This is because though adolescents are not fully grown adults, but they want to be treated as one. It is this transition between childhood and adulthood alongside physical and social changes bringing about changes in cognition including information processing which in effect increases the conflict between parents and their adolescent children. Conflict in the context of this study refers to the existence of competing incompatible or opposing desires, needs, goals, demands as well as opportunities between parents and their adolescent children which sometimes generate antagonistic interaction in which one party attempts to thwart the limitations of the other. According to AjaKpuru- Aja, Ndifon and Nwaodu (2013) conflict refers to physical confrontation, clash, controversy, hostility, tension, disagreement, competition, struggle among individuals and groups in a society. Fadipe (2000) sees conflict as a form of disagreement in an establishment between two individuals or groups which according to Miller and King (2005) arise from compatible goals and behaviour that may make another action less likely to be effective because people are working against each other. A major factor that can throw parties into a state of incompatibility is their perception of issues of interest. Early theorists, such as Sigmund Freud (1905/1962) and Stanley Hall (1904), regarded turbulent relations with parents as an unfortunate, but inevitable, by-product of adolescent maturation.

The functional meaning of the different conflict produced during the adolescence period depends on the quality of the relationship between parents and their teenagers. Hence, the researcher will analyze this relationship taking into accounts the level of familiarity, fondness as well as communication. According to Cusinnto (1992), the conflicts between parents and adolescents are typical of the evolutionary process of transformation of relation produced in adolescence. In this process, adolescents negotiate with their parents new levels of autonomy as well as keeping the bonds of friendship with them. Studies have shown that in most cases, parents and adolescents' sometimes have disagreement on different family issues like what time to come in and go out, mode of dressing, companies to keep and not to associate with (Nnachi, 2009). Supporting him, Spain and Tierno (1993) also found out that the most common cause of argument between parents and their Spanish adolescents was the time to arrive home at night, followed by housework, education, time to get up from bed and handling of money. Between 15 and 17 years old, the arguments round the time to arrive home affect 60% of Spanish families, falling to 40% in the arguments referring to education. Here in Nigeria, Akinboye (2000) discovered that the most challenges of parenting are at the teenage and adolescent years when human behaviour is considered in its entirety. Adolescent and teenage behaviour generate more concern and pose more challenges for the parents than any other age group. In terms of variety, force, magnitude, frequency, reactivity and social values, the adolescent and teenage behaviours are the most robust. This he says is probably why some parents complain so much, almost questioning the wisdom of God for creating the adolescent phenomenon. Parents of all ages and all cultures complained and condemned the deviant and cantankerous behaviours of their adolescent children. It is during this period that adolescents'

conflict with parents become intense and frequent. It is during this period that adolescents' conflict with parents become intense and frequent. This period of human development according to Akinboye (2000) 'generally coincides with the secondary school level of education. It is a critical transition period between childhood and adulthood. On the frequency of conflict, Smetana and Asquitli (1994) revealed that adolescents rarely argue with their parents. However, research shows that the frequency and kind of conflict, differs depending on the sex of the parents and the teenagers. Therefore, authors like (Tierno, 1993; Noller1994) affirm that sons and daughters have more conflicts with mothers rather than with fathers. Moreover, the girls, especially with the arrival of puberty, have more conflicts with mothers than sons do. The research on conflicts between parents and adolescents varies. Some research affirms that conflicts between parents and adolescents start at the beginning of adolescence and they decline as the adolescents get older. (Dekovic, 1999; Smetana and Asquith, 1994) while other scholars (Cusinato 1992 and Montemayor, 1990) show that the conflicts raise till the first half of adolescence and from here they decline till the point of disappearing. Various investigations have found that these transformations can give rise to conflicts between parents and adolescents. Actual studies reveal that adolescence is not such a troubled period as it was once though. In fact, a lot of boys and girls reach at adolescence without having a bad atmosphere with their families: they stay at home till an adult age. They also think in a similar way as their parents do and, in most cases, they feel satisfied, with the relations with their parent (Grotevant, 1989; Palacios, Hidalgo and Moreno, 1998). In this way, although adolescents start new relationships, they keep their family ties, which continue to be the main origin of support. In summary, it is safe to say that adolescents' and their parents are in conflict in all families some of the time and some families most of the time (Montemayor, 1983). This is because the psychological work of the adolescence period is to redefine the childish self into an adult self, which in effect makes the adolescent's conflict with parents inevitable. It is in this effect that the researcher is interested in analyzing the adolescent's conflicts with parents.

Statement of the Problem

The problem of this study is routed at the background of the study, therefore the main trust of this study is to determine the Influence of the following variables, gender and parenting style and peer pressure on the adolescents' conflicts with parents in Ebonyi State. It is in this regard that these questions readily come to the researcher's mind:

- Do conflicts occur more between parents and their adolescent male or female children?
- Do conflicts occur more between the adolescent and their mother or father?
- Are these conflicts related to the adolescent's choice of peer- group?
- Are these conflicts related to the parenting style adopted by the adolescent's parents?

Scope of the Study

The scope of the study was to assess the extent of influence of Gender, Parenting style and Peer Pressure on adolescents' conflict with parent in Ebonyi State. This study is limited to Public-selected adolescents (in secondary schools) in Ebonyi State.

Purpose or Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to examine the influence of Gender, Parenting Style and Peer Pressure on Adolescents Conflicts with Parents. Specifically the objectives of the study will include:

- To investigate the effects of both the gender of the adolescents and parents on the adolescents conflicts with parents
- To determine if the adolescents conflicts with parents is influenced by the adolescents' peers.
- To determine if there is a link between the adolescents' conflicts with parents and the stage of adolescence
- To determine if these conflicts between adolescents and are in any way influenced by the parenting style

Significance/Justification for the Study:

The findings of this study will be of immense significant to the following stake holders in education:

- To the Parents: The results of this research if published will act as an aid to the guidance of effective parenting skills that will enable parents to adequately deal with conflicts with adolescents when the need arises.
- The results of this research will be useful in planning and organizing necessary psychological support services for parents and adolescents in the country.
- The results of this study will also be useful to a number of people namely: Psychologists, Student counsellors, Social Workers, Health Professionals, Sociologists, Psychiatrists, Teachers, and other researchers in this field to help in the mediating process of adolescent conflict with parents.
- Fellow researchers: The findings could aid other researchers to further evaluate the influence of Gender, Age, Parenting Style and Peer Pressure on Adolescents conflict with Parents in other states other than Ebonyi State.
- The findings will serve as an information bases for Curriculum planners to actually enable them incorporate this aspect of societal issues in teaching and learning in our schools.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study

- What is the difference in means of male and female scores of adolescents on their influence on prevalence of adolescent conflicts with parents?
- What is the difference in means between authoritative and permissive parents score on their influence on prevalence of adolescents' conflicts with parents?
- What is the difference in means between peer and non-peer scores on their influence on prevalence of adolescent conflicts with parents?
- What is the difference in means between authoritative and authoritarian parents' scores on their influence on prevalence of adolescent conflicts with parents?

Hypotheses

The under listed null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance

- Ho1:** There is no significant difference between male and female adolescents influence on prevalence of adolescent conflict with parents,
- Ho2:** There is no significant difference between authoritative and permissive parents influence on prevalence of adolescent conflicts with parents.
- Ho3:** There is no significant difference between peer and non-peer influence on prevalence of adolescent conflicts with parents.
- Ho4:** There is no significant difference between authoritative and authoritarian parents influence on prevalence of adolescent conflicts with parents.

Review of Related Literature

Conceptual frame work: Concept of Conflict

Conflict is a recurring decimal in all human relationships. The family, like any other modern institution or organization is not without potential negative features and incompatible behaviours which might be counterproductive and give rise to inefficiency or dysfunctional consequences in the achievement of goals and objectives. The family as an institution with division of labour, line of authority in terms of adolescents-parents subordinate-super ordinate relationships, rules and regulations and communication flow is bound to have conflicts which may result in deficiency in the performance of the family both in terms of discipline and academic proficiency (Uchendu, 2013). According to AjaKpuru- Aja, Ndifon and Nwaodu (2013) conflict refers to physical confrontation, clash, controversy, hostility, tension, disagreement, competition, struggle among individuals and groups in a society. Gardiner and Simmons (1992), Mgbekwem and Uchendu, (2013) defined conflict as the divergence of interests and objectives or nonconformity to requirements of a task activity or process. Conflict differs from competition, although competition may result in conflict. This means that conflicts may occur without any reference to competition as it could occur as a result of breakdown in the mechanism of decision making. Conflict occurs because individuals have different perceptions (Sagimo 2002, Rue & Byarr 1992) it appears in variety of forms and grows from simple to complex, from non-violent to violent depending on the gravity, (Agenga & Simawa 2011). Afful-Broni (2012) described conflict as a disagreement or incompatibility in wants, values and aspirations of two or more persons or group. It may also entail difference in people's opinions, beliefs and priorities. Owens (1987) believes that a conflict is a contest of opposing force or power; a struggle to resist or overcome. It is present whenever incompatible activities occur. Hellregle, Slocurn and Woodman (1992) are in agreement with Owens when they state that conflict refers to the situation in which there were incompatible goals, thoughts or emotions within or between individuals or groups which lead to bitterness and opposition. Conflict connotes a stressful, unhappy, distressing, depressing, annoying and frustrating state of affairs (Sagimo2002). Therefore, conflict is an inevitable friction in any organization and it exists at all levels of our families. Without doubt, no meaningful development can take place in a crisis-ridden family system torn apart by crisis as witnessed in the family institutions in the country today, (Adeyemi, Ekundayo and Alonge 2010).

Concept of Adolescence: The term adolescence is derived from the Latin verb 'adolescere' which means to grow up or to grow into maturity. Hockenbury and Hockenbury (1997) defined adolescence as the transitional stage between late childhood and the beginning of adulthood. Erikson in Agulanna and Onukogu (2002) saw it as a period for the search for the self. It is the peak of human development such that if an individual is unable to form his/her ego identity or properly discover or define his/herself, the person will be swallowed up and will have defective personality development. Adolescence is a period of rapid development in the physical aspects such as height, hip, voice, strength etc.

The Nature of Conflicts between Adolescents and Parents:

The myth is that parents and teenagers do not like each other and do not get along with each other. The fact is that most adolescents feel close to and positive about their parents, have similar values on major issues/ and seek their parents' approval (Hill, 1987; Offer 1989). This does not, of course, mean that adolescents and their parents live in a calm, stress-free relationship. By and large, parents and adolescents do not clash over economic, religious, social, or political values. Most arguments are about mundane matters like schoolwork, chores, friends, dating, curfews, and personal appearance. Most disagreements are resolved with less trouble than popular mythology suggests. Quarrels may reflect some deep quest for independence (as is often speculated), or they may be just a continuation of parents' to teach children to conform to social rules. "This socializing task inescapably produces a certain amount of tension. At this point it is simply not clear whether parent-adolescent conflict has a 'deeper meaning' than this" (Montemayor, 1983). Research has shown that discord generally increases during early adolescence, stabilizes during middle adolescence, and then decreases after the young person is about 18 years of age. The increased conflict in early adolescence may be related more to puberty than to chronological age, and some intriguing new research suggests that it may even be bi-directional (Steinberg, 1988).

Concept of Parenting Styles: Several researchers including Diana Baumrind (1991), Akinboye (2000) and Awoyemi (2002) have viewed parenting styles from different perspectives. According to Akinboye (2000) parenting styles vary from parent to parent, across cultures with religious beliefs of different orientations and varying theoretical orientations. He categorized parents into three groups regarding their parenting style.

The Winners: These parents chart an extreme parenting style which makes them strongly defend and persuasively justify their right to exercise authority or power over their child. Winner parents use threats of punishment to force obedience from the child and administers punishment when the child disobeys. When there is conflict between the needs of the parents and those of the child, the parents resolve the conflict in a way that they win and the child loses.

The losers: "These parents allow their children a great deal of freedom all the time. They consciously avoid setting limits and proudly admit that they do' not accept the authoritarian style of parenting. When conflicts occur between the needs of the parents and those of the child, it is the child who consistently wins and the parent loses.

The oscillators: These parents find it impossible to follow either of the first two styles and as such oscillate between the winner and loser styles of parenting. They oscillate between being strict and lenient, tough and soft, restrictive and permissive. The oscillating parents according to Akinboye (2000.) are the most uncertain .and confused who produces the most quarrelsome children.

On the other hand Diana Baumrind (1991) believes that parents should be neither punitive nor aloof from their adolescents', but rather should develop rules and be affectionate with them. She emphasizes three types of parenting that are associated with different aspects of the adolescent's social behaviour and they are:

Authoritarian Parenting Style: these parents are restrictive, punitive, exhort the adolescents to follow their directions, respect work and effort, place limits and controls on the adolescent, and offer little verbal give and take between the adolescent and the parent. Authoritarian parenting is associated with these adolescent behaviours: anxiety about social comparison, failure to initiate activity and effective social interaction.

Authoritative Parenting Style: these parents encourage the adolescent to be independent but still places limits and controls on the adolescent's actions. Verbal give and take is extensive and parents are warm and nurturing towards the adolescent. This type of parenting is associated with the adolescent's social competence, especially self-reliance and social responsibility.

Permissive parenting Style; this is a style in which parents are uninvolved in their adolescent's life. These parents are neglecting and unresponsive. This type of parenting Baumrind says is consistently linked with a lack of self-control on the part of the adolescents. Parents of adolescents should learn the tactics of developing and sustaining trust in their relationships with their children, Trust is the basis of a beautiful relationship between the parent and the adolescent child; when trust is high, communication is easy, instant and effective. Effective communication is the key to effective parenting and resolving adolescents' conflict with parents.

Concept of Peer Pressure: Involvement with one's peers and the attraction of peer identification increase as children grow, develop and move into early adolescence. As the adolescents grow, rapid physical, emotional and social changes occur and they begin to resist parental guidance and start questioning adult standards. They find it more reassuring to fall back to their peers for advice because they feel that they understand themselves better. According to Anukam and Anukam (2006), peers are the school mates or colleagues with whom the student interacts on a day –to-day basis in his academic pursuit. They are his closest physical neighbour while on campus; they are bound to wield a tremendous influence over his or her life” p.41.

In a similar view, Burns and Darling (2002), state that a peer refers to anyone that one looks up to or who is an equal in age or ability to someone. A friend, someone in the school or community or even someone on a television programme could be a peer. Peers can be positive and supportive. They can help each other develop new skills, or stimulate interest in books, music or co-curricular activities. However, peers can also have a negative influence. One of the most striking features of adolescence is peer formation and peer pressure. It is also

regarded as an emotional or mental force from people of the same social group (such as age, grade or status, political parties, trade union) to act or behave like themselves. The adolescent behaviour is greatly influenced by peer pressure. This influence is a reflection of the adolescent's desire to belong or to be accepted by his or her peers (www.rho.org/glossarg/htm). Based on the definition, the researchers concludes by saying that, peer pressure can be regarded as an emotional feeling or force by people of the same social group in order to behave alike.

Theoretical Framework: The Psycho-Social Theories of Adolescence

The theories in this category emphasize the social influence on the development of the adolescent. In other words these groups of theories believe that the influence of others on the development of the adolescent is significance. Prominent among them is Erik Erikson. Erik Erikson theory of adolescence is popularly known as Epigenetic model of identity formation. According to Erikson, a distinguished psychoanalyst considers adolescence as a particularly critical period for identity development which encompasses biological, social and individual components and contains. He holds that our understanding of personality development is derived from an epigenetic principle which states that "anything that grows has a ground plan, and that out of this ground plan, the parts arise, each part having its time of special ascendancy, until all parts have arisen to form a functioning whole" (Erikson 1968:92). He further states that any part that fails to ascend on time is doomed as an entity and the hierarchy to which it belongs is likely to be defective. For example at any stage of development of a person there are expected developmental tasks and characteristics for that stage genetically determined. These genetically determined tasks and characteristics represent the 'ground plan' on which all other developments take root. It follows that if the characteristics to be developed at a particular period is disturbed and fails to manifest on time, it will be doomed and will not develop as it should be. Erickson in his epigenetic theory presents a picture of developmental process in eight (8) stages; four of which come before adolescences, while the other four come during adolescence. He further states that every stage of life signifies a new shift in instinctual energy, which gives impetus to new growth and awareness as encounters with the environment ensue. In other words, a present stage of development is a preparatory ground for a new stage as one uses the experiences on the present stage to leap into the subsequent stage(s) putting into consideration environmental forces.

Identity formation carries with it a mastery of the four childhood stages and a readiness to face the challenges of intimacy, generativity, and integrity in adulthood. From the presentations, the truth of the theory is that at adolescence, identity is the crucial characteristic to ascend or to establish, which invariably would influence the life of an adolescent now and in the future either negatively or positively depending on (1) His processes or style in his identity formation. (2) The social and environmental factors or forces that prevailed on him during the crucial period of identity formation, and (3) His adjustment and posture towards these social and environment forces. In fact, an attainment of a sense of identity gives impetus to prospective development of adulthood. From the foregoing, adolescents experience many changes as they make the transition from childhood to adulthood. Along -with physical and social changes come changes in cognition, or the way an individual thinks and processes

information. As a result, there is often an increase in conflicts between parents and their adolescent children. Although it can be quite painful, an increase in conflict is part of normal development for adolescents (Tubman 1994), Conflicts usually pertain to chores, finances, appearance, and substance abuse (Galambos, 1992). Also, family relations, school, curfew, dating, (ends, and sexual behaviour causes disagreements between parents and their teenagers (Barber, 1994).

Review of Empirical Studies: Holmbeck, (1995) carried out an investigation on Conflict with Parents and Gender of both the adolescent and parent. It was a descriptive survey. In one investigation of 64 high school students in the United States, interviews were conducted in their homes on three randomly selected evenings during a three-week period. The adolescents were asked about the events of the previous day, including any conflict they had with their parent. Conflict was defined as either you teased your parent or your parent teased you; you and your parent had a difference of opinion; one of you got angry at the other; you and your parent had a quarrel or an argument; or one of you hit the other. During the period of 192 days of tracking the 64 adolescents, an average of 68 arguments with parents was reported; this represented a rate of 0.35 arguments with parents per day or about one argument every three days. The¹ average length of arguments was 11 minutes. Most conflicts were also found to be with mothers and the majorities were between mothers and daughters.

Method

This study is a descriptive survey carried out in Ebonyi State. Ebonyi State is an inland south-eastern state of Nigeria. The state is situated in the south-eastern part of the country and shares boundaries with Benue to the north, Enugu to the northwest, Abia to the south-east and Cross River to the east. It has an area of 5,533kmsq. Ebonyi state lies 6deg15'N, 8deg05'E/, 6.250degN, 8.083degE.(www.ngex.com/nigeria 29\10\2015). The population of the study consists of all the Senior Secondary School SS2 adolescent students from all the 221 Secondary Schools in Ebonyi State. Using stratified sampling technique, nine (9) schools were drawn from the entire population, three from each of the Education Zone. From this a sample of 200 students were purposively selected for the study; out of which 109 (54.5%) adolescent males and 91 (45.5%) adolescent female. Researchers developed instrument titled "Adolescents Conflicts with Parents Questionnaire" was used for data collection. It is a twenty-item test of a five-point Likert scale format with two sections. The first section presents the Adolescents Personal data to which subjects were expected to fill in as appropriate. The second section presents twenty value statements to which subjects were expected to rank order their values. The instrument was used to obtain necessary information on Adolescents Conflicts with Parents.

The questionnaire instrument was sent for validation in Department of Education Psychology, Guidance and Counseling, Measurement and Evaluation and validity was ascertained by assessing the items to ensure that the instrument measured the content and face validity of the variable understudy. In order to establish the reliability of the instrument, it was pre-tested with, a pilot sample of 25 students who were later post-tested five weeks later. The reliability coefficient was determined with the use of the Pearson's Product Correlation formula of both the pre-test and post-test scores of the students. The reliability coefficient based on the test-retest of the pilot

sample was 0.62. The researcher administered the instrument using Direct Delivery Technique (DDT) with the help of three well trained research assistants, each from the three Education Zones in the State. Each research assistant covered his or her own education zone. The criterion measure or dependent variable was adolescents conflicts with parents while the predictor or independent variables were; gender, parenting style and peer pressure. The research questions and hypothesis were answered using mean and t-test statistical analysis. The level of significance used was 0.05 level for the entire hypothesis tested.

Data Presentation and Analysis of Results

Research Question 1: What is the difference in means of male and female scores of adolescents on their influence on prevalence of adolescent conflict with parents?

Table 1. Difference in mean of male and female adolescent on prevalence of conflicts with parents

Gender	X	Difference in Mean
Male	59.35	
Female	56.66	2.69

The result in table1 shows that the difference in means of male and female adolescents' scores is (2.69) and is on the side of males, meaning that male adolescent perpetuate prevalence of adolescents' conflicts with parents more than the female adolescents do.

Research Question 2: What is the difference in means between Authoritative and Permissive Parents score on their influence on prevalence of adolescent conflict with parents.

Table 2. Difference in mean between authoritative and Permissive Parents score on their influence on prevalence of adolescent conflict with parents

Parental Style	X	Difference in Mean
Authoritative	54.00	
Permissive	59.74	5.74

Table 2 above shows that the difference in means authoritative and Permissive Parents is (5.74) and is on the side of permissive parents. This indicates that permissive parents perpetuate prevalence of adolescents' conflicts with parents' more than authoritative parents.

Research Question 3

What is the difference in means between peer and non-peer score on their influence on prevalence of adolescent conflict with parents?

Table 3. Difference in mean between peer and non-peer on prevalence of adolescent conflict with parents

Peer	X	Difference in Mean
Peer	59.95	
Non-peer	56.71	3.24

Table 3 shows that the difference in means peer and non-peer adolescent scores is (3.24) and is on the side of peer group. This indicates that peer adolescents perpetuate prevalence of adolescents' conflicts with parents more than peer free adolescents.

Research Question 4

What is the difference in means of authoritarian and authoritative parents score on their influence on prevalence of adolescent conflict with parents?

Table 4. Difference in mean between authoritarian and authoritative parents on prevalence of adolescent conflict with parents

Parental style	X	Difference in Mean
Authoritarian	54.00	
Authoritative	58.47	4.47

Table 4 shows that the difference in means between authoritarian and authoritative parents' scores is (4.47) and is on the side of authoritative parents. This indicates that authoritative parents perpetuate prevalence of adolescents' conflicts with parents' more than authoritarian parents.

Hypothesis One

There is no significant difference between male and female adolescents influence prevalence of adolescent conflict with parents

Table 5 shows that t-computed (3.78) is greater than t-critical (1.96), and the level of significance (0.05) is greater than the Prob (0.00). This result rejects the null hypothesis and accepts the alternate hypothesis that there is significance difference between male and female adolescents influence on prevalence of adolescent conflicts with parents

Hypothesis Two: There is no significant difference between authoritative and Permissive parents influence on prevalence of adolescent conflict with parents.

Table 6 shows that t-computed (5.99) is greater than t-critical (1.96), and the level of significance (0,05) is greater than the Prob (0.00). This result rejects the null hypothesis and accepts the alternate hypothesis that there is significance difference between authoritative and Permissive parents influence on prevalence of adolescent conflicts with parents.

Hypothesis three: There is no significant difference between peer and non-peer influences on prevalence of adolescent conflict with parents.

Table 7 shows that t-computed (4.52) is greater than t-critical (1.96), and the level of significance (0.05) is less than the Prob (0.00). This result rejects the null hypothesis and accepts the alternate hypothesis that there is significance difference between peer and non-peer influence on prevalence of adolescent conflicts with parents.

Hypothesis Four: There is no significant difference between authoritarian and authoritative parent influence on prevalence of adolescent conflict with parents

Table 8 shows that t-Computed (5.63) is greater than t-critical (1.96), and the level of significance (0.05) is greater than the Prob (0.00). This result rejects the null hypothesis and accepts, the alternate hypothesis that there is significance difference between authoritarian and authoritative parents influence on prevalence of adolescent conflicts with parents.

Hypothesis five

There is no significant difference between authoritarian and permissive parent influence on prevalence of adolescent conflict with parents.

DISCUSSION

The first research question and first hypothesis is interested in whether adolescents' conflict with parents is independent on

Table 5. Result of t-test analysis testing the null hypothesis that there is no significant difference between male and female adolescent on prevalence of adolescent conflicts with parents

Variable	N	X	SD	df	Ls	Prob	t-computed	t-critical	Decision
Male	100	59.35	5.08	198	0.05	0.00	3.78	1.96	Reject
Female	100	56.66	5.01						

Table 6. Result of t-test analysis testing the null hypothesis that authoritative and Permissive parents influence on prevalence of adolescent conflicts with parents

Variable	N	X	SD	df	Ls	Prob	t-computed	t-critical	Decision
Authoritative	40	54.00	2.22	106	0.05	0.00	5.99	1.96	Reject
Permissive	68	59.74	5.81						

Table 7. Result of t-test analysis testing the null hypothesis that there is no significant difference between peer and non-peer influence on prevalence of adolescent conflicts with parents

Variable	N	X	SD	df	Ls	Prob	t-computed	t-critical	Decision
Peer	80	59.95	4.91	198	0.05	0.00	4.52	1.96	Reject
Non-Peer	120	56.71	5.02						

Table 8. Result of t-test analysis testing the null hypothesis that there is no significant difference between authoritarian and authoritative parent on prevalence of adolescent conflicts with parents

Variable	N	X	SD	df	Ls	Prob	t-computed	t-critical	Decision
Authoritarian	40	54.00	2.22	130	0.05	0.00	5.63	1.96	Reject
Authoritative	92	58.47	4.79						

Table 9. Result of t-test analysis testing the null hypothesis that there is no significant difference between authoritarian and permissive parent on prevalence of adolescent conflicts with parents

Variable	N	X	SD	Df	Ls	Prob	t-computed	t-critical	Decision
Authoritarian	68	59.74	5.81	158	0.05	0.13	1.61	1.96	Reject
Permissive	92	58.47	4.79						

Table 9 shows that t-computed (1.61) is greater than t-critical (1.96), and the level of significance (0.05) is greater than the Prob (0.13). This result accepts the null hypothesis that there is significance difference between authoritarian and permissive parents influence on prevalence of adolescent conflicts with parents.

Summary of Findings

From the analyses above, the following findings were made:

- There is significant different between male and female adolescent influence on prevalence of adolescent conflicts with parent. Male are more predispose to adolescent conflicts with parents.
- There is significant difference between authoritative and permissive parents influence on prevalence of adolescent conflicts with parents.
- There is significant difference between peer and non-peer influence on prevalence of adolescent conflicts with parents.
- There is significant difference between authoritative and authoritarian parents influence on prevalence of adolescent conflicts with parents.
- There is significant difference between authoritarian and permissive parents influence on prevalence of adolescent conflicts with parents.

the gender (male and female) adolescents. The answer to the first research question shows that male adolescent perpetuate conflicts with parents more than their female counterparts. Similarly, result of the first hypothesis indicate that there is significance difference between male and female adolescent influence on prevalence of adolescent conflicts with parents; Thus the gender (male of an adolescent may serve as a criterion to conflicts with his parent, because male adolescent at this stage of their development thirst for freedom without responsibility, while their parents want control and perhaps wants to set limits for the adolescent child. The male adolescents are more rebellious than their female counterparts. This generally brings about conflicts with parents. So this is to say that an adolescent male regardless of the gender is predisposed to having increased conflicts with parents. The result of these findings is in line with the works of Smetana and Asquith (1994) who postulated that the frequency and kind of conflicts differs depending on the gender of the adolescent. The second research question and their hypothesis are interested in whether the difference between authoritative and permissive parents influences the prevalence of adolescent conflicts with parents. Results presented in table 4.3 and 4.9 indicate that there is significant difference between authoritative and permissive parents influence on prevalence of adolescents conflicts with parents. Thus permissive parents perpetuate prevalence of adolescents' conflicts with parent's more than authoritative parents. These types of parents according to Baumrind (1990) are neglecting and unresponsive

and this type of parenting type is consistently linked with a lack of self-control on the adolescent. The third research question and the fourth hypothesis are interested "in where there is a significant difference between peer and non-peer influences on prevalence of adolescents' conflicts with parents. Result presented in table 4.4 and 4.10 indicate that there is significant difference on prevalence of adolescent conflicts with parents. Thus peered adolescent perpetuate prevalence of adolescent conflicts with parents more than peer free adolescents. This finding is line with the works of Steinberg and Morris (2001) who affirm that adolescents appear most influenced by peers during the adolescent period. The result of these findings was not in agreement with the work of Brown (1990) who postulated that adolescents see their relations with their parents as supportive thereby becoming more socially competent and more likely to report positive peer relationship. He went on to say that peer influence is strongest in relatively superficial matters such as preferences for music and clothing styles, and beliefs about how late to stay out at night. In conclusion, it is clear that these differences between peers and parents can contribute to increased conflict in the family. And parents who were once practically the sole influence on their children can feel their authority is threatened and that their ability to raise their adolescents as they fit is compromised by peer influences. The fourth research question and research hypothesis is interested in whether there is a significant difference between authoritative and authoritarian parents influence on prevalence of adolescent conflict with parents. Results indicate clearly that there is significant difference between authoritative and authoritarian parents influence on prevalence of adolescent conflict with parents. Thus authoritative parents perpetuate prevalence of adolescent conflicts with parents' more than authoritarian parents. Though parents who practice the authoritative style of parenting encourage the adolescent child to be independent they still place limits and control the adolescent actions (Baumrind 1990).

Conclusion

In conclusion, the study shows that the adolescents' conflict with parents has a direct relationship with peer pressure. On the other hand, the study reveals that the adolescents' conflict with parents has direct relationship with both the gender of the adolescents and parents including the parenting styles adopted by the parents.

Recommendation

- The researchers recommended that, since peer relations serves as a source of affection, sympathy and understanding for the groups, parents should seriously keep a watchful eye on the type of relationships their adolescent children keep at this stage of life.
- The researchers also recommended that students should be provided with proper counseling especially on peer and group relationship to avoid conflicts with parents.
- There is need for proper upbringing of children and wards by parents and guardians.
- Parents are advised to reduce conflicts with their children by knowing when to be permissive and when to be authoritative. Because life is about a little to the right and little to the left.

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