

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FAMILY LEVELS OF EXPENDITURES AND SOCIO-COGNITIVE ADJUSTMENT LEVELS OF ADOLESCENTS IN ANAMBRA STATE NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

*This study examined the relationship between family levels of expenditures and socio-cognitive adjustment levels of adolescents in Anambra State, Nigeria. Three research questions and two null hypotheses guided the study. Correlation survey design was adopted for the study. The population of the study was all the senior secondary school students in Anambra state during the 2020/2021 academic year. The sample size consisted of 656 students selected through simple random sampling techniques. The research instrument was a questionnaire made of 25 items in two clusters and the data collected were analysed using aggregate scores to answer research questions 1, 2 and Pearson's product moment of correlation for research question 3. The hypotheses were tested using *t*-test for correlations. The findings revealed among others that there is high positive relationship between the Family levels of expenditures on adolescents and their socio-cognitive adjustment levels. That majority of the adolescents in Anambra state rated their socio-cognitive adjustment level to be fairly good, it also revealed that they are not satisfied with the family level of expenditures on them and siblings and that there is a rural/urban gap in both the family levels of expenditures of parents on adolescents and the levels of socio-cognitive adjustments of these adolescents. The following recommendations were made: that parents in Anambra state should step up and be more conscious of their responsibilities towards these adolescents. The stakeholders should try to reduce the urban/rural gap by extending basic amenities to the rural areas.*

Keywords: Family, Expenditure, Socio-cognitive adjustments, Adolescents, Relationship.

Introduction

Provision of temporal and other material needs of every growing child is the responsibility and necessary obligation which every parents should perform for proper adaptation of the growing adolescents (Santrock,2021). These temporal and material provisions might take care of physical, psychological, social, academic and moral need values of the child (Uba;2002). The totality of these temporal and material provisions is referred to as family level of expenditure on adolescents' well-being. Okudo (2013) defined the family level of expenditure as the amount of money invested in the socialization of the child. He further classified them as social support provision, cognitive support provision, moral support provision and psychological support provision. Supporting this line of argument Arimasaitu and Aremu (2015) stated that family level of expenditure has certain implications for socialization. It influences the social, cognitive, psychological and moral orientation of the child. This implies that there will be a direct relationship existing between child socialization and parental involvement on adolescents well being. According to them, the social aspects of family level of expenditures include, all those provisions that parents provide to support the social integration of the adolescent-child in the society. Ironkwe (2021,) Simpson and Earls (1995), mentioned social support provisions such as encouraging in excursions/social outings/recreations, participating in debates, trips on holidays, celebration of birthdays/anniversaries etc.

Durkheim (2012), Machebe (2012) outlined the cognitive support provisions to include payment of school fees, provision of pocket money, school materials, provision of text books and other reading materials at home. Concerning the psychological support provisions Santrock (2018) enumerated them as follows, they include: good feeding, giving incentives and motivation, creating conducive home atmospheres. tidy /neat family environment etc. Whereas the moral support provisions entails participating in family retreats, provision of spiritual books, provision of good dresses, payment of annual church funds/tithes and dues/levies etc. Furthermore, the income level of the family has been found to be a discursive factor which determine the capital input of the parents on the adolescents child's socialization (Ironkwe, 2021), Santruck (2021) and Berns (1995) all noted that income levels of parents predisposes them towards the capital input in child socialization be there in the home environment (Ifejiofor, 2021) or in the formal setting. The home environment according to Schaverine and Hall (2001) handles the basic needs for shelter, clothing, child's well-being, ensuring good feeding, provision of leisure and other social needs. In the formal environment (setting), the following family expenditures are met, they include; provision of relevant textbooks, payment of required school fees, purchase of personal needs, school dress, provision of pocket money etc.

These provisions of family on adolescents and siblings well-being could go a long way to impact on their adjustments patterns. Wytenin and Ilyods(2007) defined adjustments as variations and changes in behaviour that are necessary to satisfy needs and meet demands so as to establish a harmonious relationship with the environment. Socio-cognitive adjustments are complex derivatives from the terms social and cognitive adjustments. Social adjustment according to Sullivan is an adjustment oriented towards other persons and he coined the term interpersonal relationship for such adjustments. While cognitive adjustment according to Melgosa (2000) is a positive attitude towards academic achievement. Pradhan and Khirwdkar defined academic achievement as the degree of attainment students reach after being

subjected to period of learning exercise and this attainment is measured by test in different subjects. It is also seen as a pointer to learning effectiveness and determinant of the future of the youths, nation and family. According to Onwugbufor and Udebuna (2021) academic achievement of students especially at the secondary level is not only a pointer to the effectiveness or otherwise of school but a major determinant of the future of youths in particular and the nation in general. In view to the above, socio-cognitive adjustment is that which helps an individual to integrate properly in terms of personal relation and academic achievement.

Statement of the problem

Combination of personal relationship and academic achievement was called intelligent living by Briers and Paul (2021). It is important to examine the adolescents' status of intelligent living. This is because of the level of social decadence and moral depravity in the society. The today's adolescents are apparently seen to manifest defeatist attitude in their academic achievement visibly seen in gross engagement in examination malpractice (Ifeakor, 2018) and impersonification resulting in poor cognitive development as well as poor social relationships seen in their disrespect towards elders. Odoemelam (2006) also noted that some of these adolescents' exhibit behaviours that are characterised by gross indiscipline, excessive selfishness, self defeat, negative attitude to living, poor social and psychological adjustments and other behavioural problems seen in many ailing adolescents. Key to this problem appears to be the failure of all or most socialization agents especially the family with respect to their resourcefulness (capacity) on their adolescent well being. What the parents are doing and what they are not doing is queried in this work.

The motivation for this work therefore consists on how support provision of the family relates with the adolescents Socio-cognitive adjustments levels. Consequently, the problem of this study summarized and put in question format is, how do this family provisions impact/relate to adolescents' socio-cognitive adjustments. The main purpose of this study is to determine what relationship exists between the family levels of expenditures and their adolescents Socio-cognitive adjustments. Specifically, the study sought to determine the socio-cognitive adjustments levels of adolescents and identify the different ways these support provisions which the adolescents enjoy from their parents are related to the socio-cognitive adjustment levels.

The following research questions guided the study:

1. What are the socio-cognitive adjustments levels of adolescents in Anambra State as perceived by them?
2. What is the adolescent perception about their family level of expenditure on them and their siblings' well-being?
3. What relationship exists between the adolescents' socio-cognitive adjustment levels and their family levels of expenditures?

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were stated at .05 level of significance.

1. There is no significant relationship between the mean scores of urban and rural adolescents based on their Socio-cognitive adjustments levels
2. There is no significant relationship in the mean scores of urban and rural adolescents based on the family levels of expenditure on them and their siblings' well-being.

Method

The design was correlational survey and the area of study was Anambra State. The population of study consisted of 10369 SSII students in Government Own Secondary Schools in Anambra State (Anambra Education Commission, 2022). The sample size consisted of 656 adolescents selected through simple random sampling technique which were later stratified to obtain 356 urban students and 300 rural students. The reliability of the instrument was established using split have method and the result obtained was analyzed using Pearson's product moment of correlation and the reliability (α) was found to be 0.75. Three assistants were briefed and were used to distribute the 656 questionnaires which were all returned. The data collected was analyzed using aggregate scores for research questions 1 and 2 while Pearson's product moment of correction was used for research question 3. Hypotheses 2 and 3 were tested using -t- test for mean squares.

For research question 1, the maximum obtainable scores measuring the socio-cognitive adjustment levels of the adolescents in Anambra state was an aggregate score of 40 points. The aggregate scores were furthered grouped into the ranges of scores at five interval scales to obtain eight interval scales. Ranges of scores between the first and the second point on the interval scale were considered as very poor adjustment, ranges of scores between the third and fourth point on the interval scale were considered as poorly adjusted persons, ranges of scores from the fifth and sixth point were considered as fairly good adjusted persons, the scores on the seventh point was considered as good adjusted adolescents while ranges of scores on the eight interval point scale were considered as very good adjustment.

For research questions two, the maximum obtainable score measuring the perceived family (parents) expenditure on their adolescent well being was an aggregate score of 60 points. The aggregate score were grouped into ranges of scores at five interval scales to obtain 12 interval scales. Ranges of scores from the first to the fifth points on the interval scale were considered as very poorly met/given. Ranges of scores from the sixth point on the interval scale to the eighth point were considered poorly met/given, ranges of scores from the ninth to the tenth point on the interval scale were considered moderately met/given while ranges of scores above the tenth point on the interval scale were considered adequately met/given.

Results

The data collected from the study were analyzed and the summaries presented in tables to highlight the findings. The presentation was systematically arranged starting with the answers to the research questions and then the testing of hypotheses.

Tables 1, Aggregate scores on adolescents' socio-cognitive adjustment levels as was judged by them.

Aggregate scores at interval range scale	Points at interval scale	No of students	Remark
0-5	1	-	VPA
6-10	2	20	VPA
11-15	3	134	PA
16-20	4	40	PA
21-25	5	80	FGA
26-30	6	208	FGA
31-35	7	84	GA
36-40	8	90	VGA

VPA : Very poor adjustment

PA: Poor Adjustment

FGA: Fairly good adjustments

VGA: Very good adjustment

The result in Table 1 revealed that adolescents' appraisal of their socio-cognitive adjustment levels clustered between the aggregate scores of 10 and 40. No scores were recorded for values below 10 on the aggregate interval range. The result further revealed that 20 adolescents scored at the second point on the interval scale, 134 adolescents scored at the third point on the interval scale, 40 adolescents scored at the fourth point on the interval scale, 80 adolescents scored at the fifth point, 208 adolescents scored at the sixth interval point, 84 adolescents scored at the seventh point while 90 adolescents scored at the eight point of the interval scale. A total of 20 adolescent representing about 3.1% of the adolescents indicated very poor adjustments, 174 adolescents representing about 26.5% indicated poor adjustments, 288 adolescents representing 43.9% of the adolescents indicated fairly good adjustment. 84 adolescents representing 12.8% of the adolescents indicated good adjustment, while 90 adolescents representing 13.7% of the adolescents indicated very good adjustments. The data above therefore shows that 13.7% of adolescents in Anambra state rated their socio-cognitive adjustment levels as very good. 29.6% of the adolescents rated their socio-cognitive adjustment to be poor while 56.7% indicated a very fairly/ good adjustment.

Table 2: Aggregate scores on adolescents rating of family level of expenditure on adolescents well being.

Aggregate scores at interval range	Points on the interval scale	No of student	Remark
1-5	1	-	VPMA
6-10	2	-	VPMA
11-15	3	-	VPMA
16-20	4	-	VPMA
21-25	5	144	VPMA
26-30	6	72	PMA
31-35	7	64	PMA
36-40	8	68	PMA
41-45	9	124	MMA
46-50	10	136	MMA
51-55	11	20	AMA
56-60	12	28	AMA

VPMG – Very poorly met/given

PMG- Poorly met/given

AMG – Adequately met/given

The data in Table 2 revealed the adolescents' rating of their family expenditure levels on them and siblings. It was observed from the table that the adolescents' ratings of their parents' expenditure level on them concentrated between the aggregate scores of 21 and 56 with no values recorded for aggregate score below 20. From the table above, it was observed that 144 students rated their family level of expenditure on the fifth point at interval scale, 72 students rated their family level of expenditure at the sixth point on the interval scale, 64 students at the seventh point, 68 at the eighth point, 124 at the ninth point, 136 at the tenth point, 20 at the eleventh point and 28 adolescents at the twelfth point on the interval scale. Furthermore, the table revealed that 144 students representing 21.9% of the adolescents indicated their parents' expenditure level to be very poorly met/given. 204 adolescents representing 31% of the adolescents indicated the family level of expenditure on them to be poorly met/given. 260 adolescents representing 39.6% indicated their family levels of expenditure on them to be moderately met/given while 48 adolescents representing 7.3% of the adolescents indicated their family level of expenditure on them and siblings to be adequately met/given.

Consequently, the table revealed that about 7.3% of adolescents are satisfied with their parents' level of expenditure on them and their siblings, 52.9% of adolescents are not satisfied with their parents level of expenditure on them while 39.6% sees theirs as moderate.

Table 3: Pearson on students rating of their family level of expenditure and their socio-cognitive adjustment levels

Source of variation	N	Family Expenditure r	Socio-cognitive adjustment r	Remarks
Family expenditure	656	1.00	0.76	High positive relationship
Socio-cognitive adjustment	656	0.76	1.00	

The above table revealed that there is high positive relationship of 0.76 existing between the students' rating of their family levels of expenditure and socio-cognitive adjustments.

Table 4: -t- test of correlation between the urban and rural adolescents rating of their socio-cognitive adjustment levels

N	r	df	Cal-t-	Crit -t-	p.> 0.05
656	0.53	654	1.96	15.19	S

Table 4 above indicates that at .05 level of significance and 654df, the calculated -t-, 1.96 is less than the critical -t- 15.19. Therefore, the first null hypothesis holds, consequently there is no significant relationship existing between the urban and rural adolescents rating of their levels of socio-cognitive adjustments.

Table 5: -t- test of correlation between the urban and rural students rating of their family level of expenditure on them and their siblings.

N	r	df	CAL T	CRIT.T	P>.05
656	0.62	654	1.96	27.57	S

Table 5 above indicates that at .05 level of significance and 654df, the calculated -t- 1.96 is less than the critical -t-, 27.57. hence the second null hypothesis hold, there is no significant relationship existing between urban and rural adolescents rating of their family level of expenditure on them and their siblings.

Discussion of Findings

The findings of this study were discussed under the theme in line with the main purpose of study which sought to determine the relationship between family level of expenditure and the socio-cognitive adjustment levels of adolescents in Anambra state as judged by them. The discussion was presented under the following major headings

1. What are the socio-cognitive adjustments levels of adolescents in Anambra state as judged by them?
2. How do the adolescents perceive their family levels of expenditure on them and their siblings well-being?
3. What relationship exists between the adolescents socio-cognitive adjustment levels and their family levels of expenditures?

On the socio-cognitive adjustment levels of adolescents, a questionnaire instrument was developed to measure the levels of socio-cognitive adjustments of these young adolescents. It looked at the extent of their acceptance to non acceptance, Satisfaction to non satisfaction with respect to their social relationship and cognitive development. The items that appraised their social relationship includes social interaction, relationship with parents, peers, self perception, confidence in self, sexual impulse etc. the cognitive items include academic ability/self worth and achievements etc.

Interestingly, majority of the adolescents in Anambra State rated their socio-cognitive adjustment level to be fairly good. Cognizant of the aggregate scores of the ten items which measured the socio-cognitive adjustment level of the adolescents, the maximum obtainable score was forty points; however the result in the table 1 revealed that 56.7% of the adolescents indicated fairly good adjustments 29.6% indicated poor adjustments while 13.7% (very good adjustment) were satisfied with their adjustment. The assessment above is an indication that the adolescents in Anambra state possess average/fairly good level of socio-cognitive adjustments. Implying that their level of social-relationship and cognitive development is fair. However, since only 13.7% of the adolescents have very good adjustment. It is an indication that the adolescents seem not satisfied with the general level of their socio-cognitive adjustments. This was evident in the questionnaire items that appraised their social relationship and academic achievements.

With respect to their social relationship, the adolescents appraisal of their social relationship using among others the following variables which were rated below the acceptable means scores of $x=2.50$, namely: relationship with parents, presence of opposite sex, relationship with peers and confidence in self. These variables among others are the vital ingredients that enhance good social relationship and the adolescents tend to exhibit deviant behaviours in the absences or lack of these qualities.

With respect to their cognitive development, their appraisal of their academic self worth was rated below the acceptable mean score of $x=2.50$. Consequently, it has negative effects on the academic achievement of these young adolescents.

Concerning the adolescents perception of the family level of expenditure on them and their siblings' well being, the adolescents measured the same using variables such as provision of relevant text books, payment of school fees, giving incentives, purchase of personal needs, sponsoring vacation trips, excursion and social outing, good feeding, provision of school dress and other relevant school materials etc. it looked at the rate at which parents provided the above listed need variables of their adolescents well being, whether they are very poorly provided, poorly provided, moderately provided or adequately provided. Noteworthy to remark though very sad that only about 7.3% of the adolescents are satisfied with their parents level of expenditure on them, 52.9% are not satisfied while 39.6 sees theirs as moderate. Implying that more than half of the adolescent-population in Anambra state are not satisfied with the family level of expenditure on them and their siblings well being.

This could be accounted for by the misplacement of priority and role conflict prevalent in literature which has been identified as one of the banes of socialization. Shepherd and Green (2003), Okonkwo (2004) noted that the present day parents appear to accord priority to their

career and are largely unavailable to their adolescents. Many of those parents (Anambra inclusive) use neglectful style of parenting. Unachukwu and Nwankwo (2006) supported this view in stating that many parents in Anambra State use more of neglectful method of parenting due to their values of life that is characterized by excessive quest for material needs. They tend to give more time to business and seem often not available to solve the socialization needs of the adolescents' financial needs inclusive.

Concerning the relationship between the adolescents' socio-cognitive adjustment level and the family expenditure Level on them and siblings, table 3 revealed that a high positive correlation $r = 0.76$ exist between the adolescents socio-cognitive adjustment level and the family level of expenditure. This is because what parents are doing to support their adolescent child adaptation and what they are not doing is replete in literature. That is why the home is seen as the first cradle, hinge, pivot and most vital agent of socialization on which revolves the rest agents (Ugwuegede, 2006). Again, the null hypothesis which tested for significance of relationship between the urban and rural adolescents rating of their socio-cognitive adjustment levels revealed that at .05 level of significance and differential freedom of 594, the $-t - \text{calculated} = 1.96$ was less than $t - \text{critical} = 15.19$. This implies that there is no significant relationship in the ratings of urban and rural students based on their levels of socio-cognitive adjustment. Equally, the null hypothesis which tested for significance of relationship between the urban and rural adolescents' ratings of the family level of expenditure on them and siblings revealed that at .05 level of significance and degree of freedom 594, the calculated $-t - 1.96$ was less than the critical- $t - 27.57$. This also implies that no significant relationship exist between the ratings of urban and rural adolescents based on their family level of expenditures on them and siblings wellbeing.

Giving the above facts, it is not an over statement to posit that location plays a vital role in rural/urban factors as was cited above. The location of the family has an outstanding relationship with parental availability, support and provisions. This is because parents that reside in urban cities are usually engaged in pursuit of career and white collar jobs which takes them out of the family every day. This factor creates a gap which could be termed mother/father home absence. Hearts (2010) maintained that a difference in parental availability exists between urban and rural parents. While urban parents are actively engaged in their career, the rural parents tend to be more focused on domestic activities? This view was supported by Santruck (2021), Ironkwe (2021), and Bern's 1995. They all Noted that higher income earning parents tend to satisfy to a higher extent the need values of their young adolescents. Collaborating with the above view, Saitullah (2011), Mason and Cauce (1994), stated that adolescents whose parents income are higher reside in high residential areas, are exposed to basic amenities such as good school, with qualified teachers, well equipped laboratories, learning aids, libraries and journals etc. Conversely, adolescents whose parents income earning level are low may enjoy the same amenities but in a lower degree.

Conclusion

Based on findings of this study, it was concluded that there exist a very significant positive and high relationship between the adolescent's level of socio-cognitive adjustments and the family level of expenditure. This implies that the source input or financial input of the parents on their adolescent will translate to a socialization variable as was seen in their socio-cognitive adjustments. High level of family expenditure results is very good socio-cognitive

adjustments, low input of family expenditure/resources often time will result in poor socio-cognitive adjustment.

Recommendations

Based on the study, the following recommendations were proffered; namely:

1. Parents should endeavour to invest more on their adolescent well being. Parents should also be conscious of their roles as the fundamental anchor to all other socialization agents
2. Greater attention should be directed to rural adolescents in terms of amenities/good schools and facilities.
3. The government should endeavour to reduce the gap between the suburbs and cities in terms of infrastructures.

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