



**NEAR EAST UNIVERSITY**  
**INSTITUTE OF GRADUATE STUDIES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY**

**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PEER INFLUENCE AND  
FAMILY UNCERTAINTIES IN JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN  
ABUJA MUNICIPALITY**

**M.Sc. THESIS**

**Chiamaka Slyvia Ezeribeaku**

**Nicosia**

**October, 2024**

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### Approval

We certify that we have read the thesis submitted by Chiamaka Sylvia Ezeribeaku titled “**The Relationship Between Peer Influence and Family Uncertainties in Juvenile Delinquency in Abuja Municipality**” and that in our combined opinion it is fully adequate, in scope and in quality, as a thesis for the degree of Master of Social Sciences.

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### **Declaration of Ethical Principles**

I hereby declare that all information, documents, analysis and results in this thesis have been collected and presented according to the academic rules and ethical guidelines of Institute of Graduate Studies, Near East University. I also declare that as required by these rules and conduct, I have fully cited and referenced information and data that are not original to this study.

**Chiamaka Sylvia Ezeribeaku**

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**Day/Month/Year**

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**Chiamaka Sylvia Ezeribeaku**

## Abstract

### **The Relationship Between Peer Influence and Family Uncertainties in Juvenile Delinquency in Abuja Municipality**

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This study examines the effects of peer influence and family uncertainties on juvenile delinquency within Abuja, Nigeria. A comprehensive survey involving 450 junior and senior secondary students was conducted.

The scales used were Adolescent Social Self-Efficacy Scale, the Family Unpredictability Scale, and the Scale of Adolescent Delinquency. The analysis revealed that strong, supportive peer relationships are associated with a lower incidence of delinquent behavior. This finding underscores the protective role of positive peer influence in mitigating the risk of delinquency. Conversely, the study found that family instability is linked to a reduced likelihood of delinquent behavior, challenging the conventional view that family instability inevitably leads to higher delinquency rates. This suggests that some adolescents may exhibit resilience and refrain from delinquent activities despite family uncertainties.

Additionally, the study highlights the complex and sometimes contradictory role of peer influence. Positive peer interactions can buffer against the negative impacts of family instability, whereas negative peer associations may exacerbate tendencies toward delinquency. These insights reveal the intricate interplay between peer influence and family factors in shaping juvenile behavior and offer valuable implications for policy makers, educators, and practitioners focused on addressing and reducing juvenile delinquency.

**Keywords:** Juvenile delinquency, peer influence, family instability, adolescent resilience, social interactions.

## Öz

### **Abuja Belediyesinde Çocuk Suçluluğunda Akran Etkisi ve Aile Belirsizlikleri Arasındaki İlişki**

**Ezeribeaku, Chiamaka Sylvia**

**Yüksek Lisans, Psikoloji Bölümü**

**Ağustos 2024, .....( 88 ) sayfalar**

Bu çalışma, Abuja, Nijerya'da akran etkisi ve aile belirsizliklerinin çocuk suçluluğu üzerindeki etkilerini incelemektedir. Ortaokul ve lise son sınıftaki 450 öğrenciyi kapsayan kapsamlı bir anket çalışması yapılmıştır.

Kullanılan ölçekler Ergen Sosyal Öz Yeterlilik Ölçeği, Aile Öngörülemezliği Ölçeği ve Ergen Suçluluğu Ölçeğidir. Analiz, güçlü ve destekleyici akran ilişkilerinin daha düşük suçlu davranış sıklığı ile ilişkili olduğunu ortaya koymuştur. Bu bulgu, suç işleme riskini azaltmada olumlu akran etkisinin koruyucu rolünün altını çizmektedir. Tersine, çalışma, aile istikrarsızlığının kaçınılmaz olarak daha yüksek suçluluk oranlarına yol açtığı yönündeki geleneksel görüşe meydan okuyarak, aile istikrarsızlığının suçlu davranış olasılığının azalmasıyla bağlantılı olduğunu bulmuştur. Bu durum, bazı ergenlerin direnç gösterebileceğini ve ailedeki belirsizliklere rağmen suçlu faaliyetlerden kaçınabileceğini düşündürmektedir.

Çalışma ayrıca akran etkisinin karmaşık ve bazen de çelişkili rolünü vurgulamaktadır. Olumlu akran etkileşimleri aile istikrarsızlığının olumsuz etkilerine karşı tampon görevi görebilirken, olumsuz akran ilişkileri suç işleme eğilimlerini şiddetlendirebilir. Bu görüşler, çocuk davranışını şekillendirmede akran etkisi ve aile faktörleri arasındaki karmaşık etkileşimi ortaya koymakta ve çocuk suçluluğunu ele almaya ve azaltmaya odaklanan politika yapıcılar, eğitimciler ve uygulayıcılar için değerli çıkarımlar sunmaktadır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Çocuk suçluluğu, akran etkisi, aile istikrarsızlığı, ergen esnekliği, sosyal etkileşimler.

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## CHAPTER I

### Introduction

This research is centred on the study of juvenile delinquents in Abuja, Nigeria, and how peer influence and family play a role in forging the characteristics that lead to crimes termed as delinquent behaviours. The study aims to explore the dynamics between these factors and how they contribute to the actions classified as delinquent. By focusing on this, the research seeks to provide insights into the complexities surrounding juvenile delinquency in the Nigerian context.

The scope and emphasis of the research. The detailed analysis of these elements provides clarity for the reader and prepares for a more profound exploration of the reasons of delinquency.

The surge in juvenile delinquency has been escalating by approximately 30 per cent since the 1990s (Sheryln, 2008). It is a deeply entrenched issue in Nigeria, posing significant challenges to the well-being of its citizens. Various antisocial behaviours among young people, including drug abuse, gang affiliation, bullying, truancy, and theft, have been identified as pressing concerns (Ugwuoke, 2010; Mado & Ezeh, 2010), which contribute to societal instability and insecurity.

Shoemaker et al., (2021) defines juvenile delinquency, or juvenile offending, as illegal activities, including both criminal and status violations, perpetrated by individuals under the age of 18. Acts typically deemed illegal for adult encompass rape, robbery, and 'status' violations such truancy (Alemika & Chukwuma, 2001; Alfery, 2010). Such activities are susceptible to various legal and social measures based on the age of the perpetrators.

The roots of juvenile delinquency in Nigeria can be traced back to the 1920s, a time marked by prevalent youth crimes such as pickpocketing and prostitution. This issue prompted the establishment of judicial administrators to address juvenile delinquency (Fourchard, 2006). It is noteworthy that juvenile delinquency is not exclusive to Nigeria; in 2007, U.S. law enforcement reported 2.18 million juvenile arrests, with 72% of incarcerated juveniles coming from fragmented families (Alfery, 2010).

Delinquent behaviour is defined as an action that exposes the offender to the regulations and expectations of civil society (Kenchadze, 2015). Several delinquent behaviours have been identified, including but not limited to the following; property damage, physical aggression, drug sales, school avoidance (López, 2017), school

absenteeism, substance abuse, self-harm and an increased risk of unnatural death due to alcohol abuse, murder, and suicide (Darvishi et al., 2022). These behaviours present significant challenges to both the individuals involved and society at large.

Despite a decline in the prevalence of problem behaviours in certain nations (e.g., the United States) they continue to be among the most pervasive risk behaviours in numerous societies (Keyes & Gary, 2019).

Nigeria has a large youth population, about 40% of the total population is aged below 18 (UNICEF, 2020). This demographic structure presents both opportunities and challenges for the country. While young people can be a valuable resource for economic development, they are also vulnerable to various social problems, including juvenile criminality. Juvenile criminality has been a longstanding issue in Nigeria, with a significant increase in recent years.

The National Bureau of Statistics reported that between 2011 and 2015, there were 91,212 cases of juvenile criminality in Nigeria, with 66,611 cases reported in 2015 alone. Juvenile delinquency in Nigeria according to Ogunlesi's research (1991) has been attributed to various factors such as the biological mother's death, parental marital failure, growing up with relatives rather than parents drug abuse and ordinal position in the family.

The Nigeria Police Force (NPF) reported that juveniles accounted for about 17% of all arrests for criminal offences in 2019 (NPF, 2020). This figure is likely an underestimation since many cases of juvenile delinquency go unreported or unrecorded.

Despite the growing body of research on juvenile delinquency in Nigeria, there is a need for more empirical studies that explore the interplay of different risk factors, particularly the role of peer influence and family uncertainties. Peer influence refers to the extent to which young people are influenced by their peers' attitudes, values, and behaviours. It is well-established that peer influence can be a powerful determinant of juvenile delinquency (Dishion & Patterson, 2016).

Adolescents are susceptible to a wide array of behavioural issues, including aberrant substance use, excessive alcohol consumption and antisocial behaviour (Chi et al., 2020). Similarly, certain records indicate that the peak of antisocial behavior occurs between the middle and late years of adolescence (Bjelopera & Randol, 2011). In 2010, 1,154,096 juveniles were incarcerated in the United States (Darvishi et al., 2022).

Hookah smoking accounted for 51.5% of these behaviors. An elevated incidence of problem behavior may result in a degree of inconvenience. For instance, there is a higher probability that adolescents who engage in problematic behaviour will encounter challenges across various domains, including inadequate physical health and psychosocial adaptation, diminished life aspirations, and a challenging transition into adulthood (Lindberg et al., 2010). Adolescent problem behaviors have the potential to give rise to enduring developmental challenges that persist into adulthood, although in most cases, these behaviors do not progress to a chronic state (Monahan et al., 2014).

Okwara et al., (2017) examined the relationship between exposure to violence and juvenile delinquency. The study found that young people who had witnessed or experienced violence were more likely to engage in delinquent behaviour, such as fighting, stealing, and drug abuse.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Juvenile crime is a multifaceted issue that threatens the social, economic, and political stability of societies, including Nigeria. Studies indicate that peer pressure and family instability are key factors influencing juvenile delinquency in Nigeria and beyond (Adelekan et al., 2017).

However, less is known about how these two factors interact to influence the likelihood of engaging in criminal behaviour among juveniles in urban areas like Abuja municipality. Cult-related activities among the youth in Abuja Municipality have instilled fear and concern due to their destructive impact, causing loss of lives and a pervasive sense of insecurity.

Thus, understanding the root causes of juvenile delinquency is crucial to developing successful strategies to address it (Braithwaite & Mugford, 2017).

Simultaneously, drug abuse among juveniles has become a pressing issue in Abuja Municipal, as noted by the Abuja State commander of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in 2011. This problem extends to various juvenile crimes, including examination malpractice, alcoholism, forgery, and rape, leading to social violence, armed robbery, mental disorders, and a decline in respect for elders in Abuja Municipality.

Abuja municipality is a rapidly growing urban area in Nigeria with a diverse population and significant social and economic challenges, including high levels of

poverty, unemployment, and crime (Okoli et al., 2018). These challenges can create an environment of family uncertainty and social disorganization that may increase the risk of juvenile criminality (Kuypers & Bengtson, 2015). This study seeks to investigate the intricacies of juvenile delinquency by unravelling the relationship dynamics between peer influence and family uncertainties in Abuja Municipality.

Juvenile criminality is a complex and multifaceted problem that poses significant challenges to the social, economic, and political stability of many societies, including Nigeria. Research has shown that both peer influence and family uncertainty are important predictors of juvenile criminality in Nigeria and other countries (Adelekan et al., 2017). However, less is known about how these two factors interact to influence the likelihood of engaging in criminal behaviour among juveniles in Nigeria, especially in urban areas like Abuja municipality. Cult-related activities among the youth in Abuja Municipality have instilled fear and concern due to their destructive impact, causing loss of lives and a pervasive sense of insecurity.

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The influence of peers and family dynamics has long been recognized as crucial factors affecting juvenile behaviour. Peer influence refers to the impact that friends and social groups have on an individual attitude, values, and behaviours, which can either promote or discourage delinquent behaviour (Loeber & Farrington, 2011).

On the other hand, family uncertainties encompass various factors such as parental conflicts, inadequate parental supervision, dysfunctional family relationships, and socioeconomic challenges, which can lead to an increased risk of delinquency in juveniles (Mulvey & Schubert, 2019).

Understanding the root causes of juvenile delinquency is crucial to developing successful strategies to address it (Braithwaite & Mugford, 2017). This involves acknowledging that teenagers are going through a developmental stage in which peer pressure has a big impact on their behaviour and ability to make decisions. Teenagers are social creatures by nature; they identify with their classmates, want to fit in, and want to be accepted. Peers can play a dual role in this situation by influencing prosocial conduct in adolescents and acting as risk factors by pushing them toward delinquent behaviour (Telzer et al., 2018). Therefore, it is crucial to investigate how much peer pressure affects juvenile misbehaviour within the setting of Abuja Municipality.

Family uncertainties add another level of complication to the problem of juvenile delinquency (Cavanagh & Fomby, 2019). The family is the main socialization unit in which moral norms, behaviours, and values are taught. A household with dysfunctional dynamics—which are frequently caused by problems like substance addiction, financial instability, abuse, and neglect—is more likely to produce delinquent conduct. Adolescents rely on their families for support and direction, and when these important factors are absent or undermined, young people may look to their delinquent peers for a sense of identity and belonging.

Although peer pressure and family uncertainties are acknowledged as factors to adolescent delinquency, their interactions, and interactions with one another in the context of Abuja Municipality are yet largely unexplored. Against this background, this study seeks to investigate the intricacies of juvenile delinquency by unravelling the relationship dynamics between peer influence and family uncertainties in Abuja Municipality.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The goal of this study is to explore the extent to which peer influence contributes to juvenile delinquency in Abuja Municipality. The research will investigate the role of family uncertainties and dysfunction in the development of delinquent behaviour among juveniles.

Furthermore, the research study will identify the potential interactions and relationships that exist between peer influence and family uncertainties in the context of juvenile delinquency. This will aid in recommending policy and intervention programs that can mitigate juvenile delinquency and its associated risks.



## **Research Questions**

The following important queries will be the focus of the study:

1. "How significantly does peer influence predict juvenile delinquency in Abuja Municipality, as measured by their correlation?"
2. "To what extent does peer influence predict variations in juvenile delinquency levels in Abuja Municipality, according to the regression model?"
3. "What is the strength of the relationship between family uncertainties and juvenile delinquency in Abuja Municipality?"
4. "To what degree do family uncertainties serve as predictors of juvenile delinquency in Abuja Municipality?"
5. "What is the mediating role of peer influence in the relationship between family uncertainties and juvenile delinquency in Abuja Municipality?"
6. "How does peer influence mediate the effect of family uncertainties on juvenile delinquency in Abuja Municipality, as shown by the regression model?"

## **Significance of the Study**

This study's implications extend well beyond the realm of academia, encompassing the community, policymakers, social workers, educators, and the welfare of young individuals in Abuja Municipality. By investigating the intricate connections that exist among adolescent delinquency, family instability, and peer pressure, this study endeavors to offer valuable insights and contribute to the enhancement of various aspects of societal welfare.

Primarily, this research endeavor possesses the capacity to enhance our understanding of the intricate mechanisms encompassing juvenile delinquency within Abuja Municipality. It will provide a more comprehensive picture of the factors that influence adolescent delinquency and elucidate how peer pressure and family uncertainty interact to do so further serving as a solid foundation for the formulation of policies supported by empirical evidence.

The study will also help beneficent people comprehend the factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency and determine how best to approach it to eradicate it. According to Grant, "A two-year OJJDP sponsored research study of such efforts in six communities throughout the United States found that students were better able to solve problems and refrain from delinquency following participation in law-related education" (Grant, 2006). This serves as an example of what this study can achieve and what acts can be carried out regarding subverting delinquency.

Furthermore, the significance of this research lies in its capacity to aid policymakers in developing legislation that is better informed and more rational. This is because, “the challenge for government and international criminal justice policymakers thus involves fostering a citizenry that is unwilling to participate in criminal activities, and intolerant of its existence in their schools, communities or countries” (Grant, 2006). The creation of certain laws can contribute to structuring a secure environment for youth, a reduction in crime rates, and an overall improvement in community welfare.

Thirdly, Abuja Municipality educators and social workers will benefit greatly from the study's conclusions. When working with at-risk kids, professionals can better customize their interventions and support systems by having a deeper understanding of the intricate interplay between peer influence and familial uncertainties. Nixon and Parr (2009) state that, “children’s/young people’s troubled behaviour was often causally attributed to deficient parenting and a lack of household management skills” (Nixon & Parr 2009).

Overall, the study is crucial to the general well-being of Abuja Municipality since it ultimately leads to a safer and more successful future for the youths and community.

### **Limitations**

- While family uncertainty was considered, the study did not analyze socioeconomic factors in detail, which may interact with family stability and peer influence to affect delinquent behaviors.
- The study was also limited to one location, Abuja municipality. Thus, more research can also be done in other geographical locations.
- The study primarily examined peer influence and family uncertainties, possibly overlooking other significant factors, such as school environment, neighborhood characteristics, or individual psychological factors.

### **Definition of Terms:**

**Juvenile Delinquent:** A person who is typically under 18 who commits a crime act that he could be charged with if he was an adult (Khuda, 2019).

**Peer Influence:** Influence occurs when an individual acts or thinks in a way that can affect the attitudes and experiences of friends and affiliates” (Laursen & Veenstra, 2021).

**Family Uncertainties:** Fomby and Cherlin (2007) define family uncertainties as "the experience of multiple changes in family structure, such as parents' separation, divorce, or remarriage, which can impact children's behavior and well-being."

**Relationships:** A relationship is defined as "the state of being related or interrelated." MERRIAM-WEBSTER This definition is provided by Merriam Webster. According to Farooqi (2014), relationships form the essence and contribute to an individual's well-being,

**Abuja Municipality:** The Federal Capital Territory Act of (1976) provides a legal framework for defining the boundaries of Abuja Municipality, emphasizing its role in housing Nigeria's federal institutions, embassies, and major infrastructure.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **Literature Review**

In this chapter, research related conceptual definitions, descriptions, and information related to the subject that already exists in the literature are given in this section.

#### **Theoretical Framework**

This study's theoretical framework provides insight into the concept, structure, and nature of various factors related to peer influence, familial uncertainties, and juvenile delinquency.

#### ***Peer Influence***

Peers are individuals who are children or adolescents of similar age or developmental stage. The impact of peer influence on a child's behavior is significant and can be either beneficial or detrimental. Peer groups consist of individuals of similar age or status, including educational, age-related, social, and professional cohorts (Esiri, 2016). They are contemporaries and peers of comparable social standing, as well as playmates, who significantly impact the socialization process. The peer group facilitates the young child's adaptation to the established norms of a community and fosters an understanding that social interactions are governed by rules.

A peer is defined as a collective of individuals possessing comparable status, usually comprising individuals of the same age range. This relationship represents a child's initial opportunity to engage with others on an equal basis. The adolescent peer group forms a deliberate assembly of individuals undergoing similar physical, emotional, and cognitive transformations, while together navigating the developmental phase of pursuing self-definition, integration, and direction (Selvam, 2018). Consequently, in the adolescent social milieu, peer groups emerge as the predominant socializing agent (Sanders, 2013)

Through interactions with peers, children acquire social behaviors applicable beyond the familial environment (Rubin et al., 2018). The child acquires knowledge of collaboration, loyalty, social roles, leadership, and cooperation, while developing the ability to comprehend and evaluate the emotions and thoughts of others, fostering respect for others (Wentzel & Muenks, 2019). The peer network offers a stable

foundation for transitioning from familial authority and protection to increased autonomy (Laursen & Veenstra, 2020). The group members provide emotional support and encouragement to one other (Mounts, 2019). Individuals possessing personal objectives, elevated self-esteem, proficient social skills, an optimistic perspective on the future, the capacity to engage with diverse backgrounds, and robust familial connections exhibit reduced susceptibility to peer influence (Zimmer-Gembeck et al., 2020).

Peer influence is a complex process that profoundly impacts teenage development. It includes the influence of peer groups on an individual's attitudes, behaviors, and decision-making processes (Steinberg, 2008; Brown et al., 1986). Adolescents experience a pivotal stage of identity development, during which they investigate various roles and ideals. This phase is marked by an increased sensitivity to peer feedback, rendering teenagers especially vulnerable to peer influence (Prinstein & Dodge, 2008; Dishion & Tipsord, 2011).

Peer influence can emerge in multiple areas, including academic performance, social interactions, and health behaviors. Peers can enhance academic performance by promoting effective study habits or detrimentally affect it through distractions and the endorsement of delinquent activities (Ryan, 2000; Steinberg, 2008). Comprehending the mechanisms of peer influence is essential for educators, parents, and legislators to cultivate supportive peer situations and alleviate possible adverse impacts.

### ***Social Norms***

Social norms are the unspoken regulations and anticipations that dictate conduct inside a social group. These norms significantly influence teenage behavior by establishing a framework for what is deemed acceptable or desirable within a peer group (Brown et al., 1986; Ryan, 2000). Adolescents frequently embrace these standards to attain social validation and evade rejection, resulting in conformity in behaviors like attire, language, and recreational pursuits (Prinstein & Dodge, 2008; Dishion & Tipsord, 2011).

Socialization within peer groups reinforces these standards, rendering them a significant influence on behavior. Beneficial social norms can foster healthy behaviors, including academic involvement and extracurricular participation, whereas detrimental norms may incite risk-taking behaviors, such as substance abuse

or reckless driving (Brown et al., 1986; Steinberg, 2008). The influence of social standards is especially significant throughout adolescence, a period characterized by a heightened desire for peer acceptability.

### ***Peer Pressure***

Peer pressure, a distinct facet of peer influence, entails the overt or covert inducement to adhere to group norms and behaviors (Prinstein & Dodge, 2008; Dishion & Tipsord, 2011). This type of influence can manifest through several strategies, including direct persuasion, social modeling, and the aspiration to conform to perceived group norms. Peer pressure can result in beneficial effects, such as heightened academic motivation and involvement in prosocial activities, or negative effects, such as participation in risky behaviors like smoking, alcohol consumption, or criminality (Steinberg, 2008; Ryan, 2000).

The magnitude and effect of peer pressure can fluctuate based on factors including an individual's self-esteem, the robustness of familial relationships, and the prevailing school and community atmosphere (Brown et al., 1986; Prinstein & Dodge, 2008). Strategies to alleviate the adverse impacts of peer pressure encompass fostering a robust self-identity, facilitating open communication within families, and establishing supportive educational environments.

### ***Family Uncertainties***

Family uncertainties denote diverse manifestations of instability and unpredictability within the familial context, which can significantly affect an adolescent's emotional and psychological health (Murry et al., 2001; Repetti et al., 2002).

This uncertainty may stem from variables including parental conflict, divorce, economic adversity, and uneven parenting methods (Cummings & Davies, 2010; Grych & Fincham, 1990). This volatility might hinder the formation of safe bonds and effective coping strategies, hence elevating the likelihood of mental health disorders and maladaptive behaviors (Conger et al., 1992; McLoyd, 1998). Adolescents from unstable parental backgrounds may pursue stability and support externally, frequently seeking approval and validation from peer groups. This may heighten their susceptibility to adverse peer influences and participation in hazardous behaviors (Murry et al., 2001; Repetti et al., 2002).

Juvenile delinquency exhibits a strong positive link with the family environment, acting as both a precursor and a protective factor against youth misconduct (Sanni et al., 2010). Certain researchers assert that this social institution is likely the primary source of delinquency (Loeber et al., 2003; Ernest, 2003). Only a limited number of prominent traits of dysfunctional families will be examined to emphasize the influence of the home in sustaining teenage antisocial behavior.

### ***Parental Conflict***

Parental conflict refers to persistent disagreements and tension between parents, potentially fostering a hostile and stressful home environment for children (Cummings & Davies, 2010; Grych & Fincham, 1990). Chronic parental conflict is linked to various adverse effects for children, such as heightened anxiety, depression, and behavioral issues.

Parental conflict influences children via direct exposure to disputes, emotional uncertainty, and impaired parenting behaviors (Murry et al., 2001; Repetti et al., 2002). Children may internalize the conflict, resulting in feelings of guilt, rage, or helplessness, or externalize it via aggressiveness and resistance. Such experiences may impede the formation of healthy connections and coping mechanisms, hence elevating the probability of engaging in delinquent actions and pursuing detrimental peer influences (Conger et al., 1992; McLoyd, 1998).

### ***Broken homes***

The origins of broken homes encompass alterations in socioeconomic conditions that result in dysfunctional family dynamics. When parental relationships decline into frequent conflicts, separations, and stepparenting, delinquency is prone to emerge. In certain cases, adolescents resort to substance abuse, partake in hazardous sexual activities, engage in physical altercations, and exhibit violent conduct (Horne, 2004).

Tyler et al. (2001) assert that impacted youngsters flee from such domestic settings and choose a perilous existence on the streets. Upon onto the street, individuals engage in perilous activities like as theft or prostitution to endure the severe conditions of street life. Ernest's (2003) study corroborated the findings of other studies indicating that parental divorce adversely impacts children's behavior, resulting in identity loss and mental turmoil, perhaps culminating in delinquency.

Some experts attribute teenagers' antisocial behaviors to single-parent and stepparent households. These structures often induce instability and stress in teenagers, resulting in misconduct (Upchurch et al., 1999)

### ***Non-Cohesive Families***

Matherne and Thomas (2001) define family cohesion as the degree of attachment and emotional closeness among family members. They assert that atypical households with two parents frequently exhibit a lack of coherence and ineffective communication, which exacerbates misbehavior.

Gorman-Smith et al. (2000) affirm that inadequate emotional bonds among family members, particularly in the parent-child dynamic, elevate the likelihood of delinquency. The researchers assert that the danger is not mitigated by consistent parental punishment, supervision, and defined family roles. Steyn (2008) identifies inadequate parent-child relationships, child maltreatment, and neglect as contributing causes to delinquency.

### ***Economic Hardship***

Economic hardship denotes the financial difficulties that may result in insufficient resources and support for children within the family (Conger et al., 1992; McLoyd, 1998). Families facing economic hardship sometimes experience additional stressors, such as inadequate housing, food insecurity, and limited access to educational and recreational opportunities (Murry et al., 2001; Repetti et al., 2002). These circumstances can adversely impact children's academic achievement and social growth, increasing their vulnerability to delinquent conduct and detrimental peer influence (Cummings & Davies, 2010; Grych & Fincham, 1990). Economic adversity often diminishes parental engagement and heightens parental stress, so compromising effective parenting and the broader family dynamic (Conger et al., 1992; McLoyd, 1998). The absence of parental support and direction may compel adolescents to seek validation and identity beyond the home, frequently leading to involvement with detrimental peer groups.

### **Factors Contributing to Juvenile Delinquency :**

There are many factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency, but this research will focus on four types : school, neighborhood, poverty and family.



### *School*

According to Barnert et al. (2015), participants described the ideal school as a safe environment that provides essential skills for achieving success in life. The majority indicated that gang activity and bullying rendered their schools perilous, leading numerous youths in their communities to affiliate with gangs, possess guns, or abstain from attending school as a means of self-protection (Barnert et al., 2015).

Kandel et al. (1988) found that education provided positive reinforcement, leading high-risk individuals to often abstain from antisocial behavior. According to Maguin and Loeber's (2008) meta-analysis of research on academic performance and delinquency, children with worse academic performance engaged in more criminal activities and significant delinquent acts and possessed a more extensive history of offending compared to their academically superior peers. Felson and Staff (2006) erroneously concluded that there was no significant association between criminality and academic achievement, as indicated by the National Education Longitudinal Project.

Carson and Butcher (1992) propose that individuals at high risk may engage in antisocial behavior due to their disregard for socially acceptable actions, such as academic achievement. Numerous participants in the Barnert et al. (2015) study indicated that low academic performance places youth on a perilous trajectory, as it engenders dissatisfaction, resulting in diminished attendance or increased dropout rates.

The participants also addressed the issue of peer pressure (Barnert et al., 2015). They identified peer pressure as a detrimental aspect of the educational environment, asserting that criminal behavior often arises from efforts to conform. Ultimately, while recognizing that educators may significantly influence the promotion of positive behaviors, most asserted that teachers abandon kids far too swiftly (Barnert et al., 2015).

A direct association exists between delinquency and academic failure. Academically challenged adolescents often associate with others who are similarly struggling (Bartollas & Schmalleger, 2014). Academic failure incurs reproach from educators and family members. Adolescents encountering academic failure may subsequently develop psychological disorders; these self-defeating ideas ultimately contribute to delinquent behavior (Bartollas & Schmalleger, 2014). Delinquency and academic failure share analogous causes, including gangs, substance abuse, poverty,

and familial issues (Bartollas & Schmallegger, 2014). Ultimately, there exists a scholastic element to academic failure. Student alienation may be intensified by the educational institution, categorizing students according to ability and achievement has been associated with academic failure (Bartollas & Schmallegger, 2014).

Numerous adolescents in America currently spend the hours after school, prior to their parents' return from work, in solitude and without supervision. As a result of this situation, children and adolescents are particularly susceptible to challenges such as teenage pregnancy, substance abuse, and juvenile crime. As per the United States Census Bureau statistics indicate that 15 million youngsters are left without activities after school (Aschkenazi et al., 2012). FBI research indicate that the period from two to eight o'clock is the most active for victimization and juvenile crime (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2000). Adolescents are most prone to perpetrate crimes, fall victim to crimes, engage in vehicular accidents, partake in sexual activities, smoke, consume alcohol, or utilize narcotics between the hours of 2:00 and 8:00 p.m. post-school. The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (2000) reports that over 25% of violent crimes involving adolescents occur on school days between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. and 19:00 hours. Delinquency is also associated with language development. Herrenkohl et al. (2001) assert that children who perform badly academically, exhibit minimal interest in school attendance, and possess limited educational aspirations during elementary and middle school are at a heightened risk of engaging in juvenile delinquency compared to their peers.

### **Neighborhood**

In a study conducted by Barnert et al. (2015), participants characterized their ideal community as tranquil and peaceful, featuring abundant parks and natural spaces, along with amiable and thoughtful neighbors. They described their neighborhoods as "ugly," "ghettos," and "infested with gangs, shootings, and rampant murder." They specified that these communities deliberately fostered criminality. Young individuals predominantly occupied that space when not at home or school (Barnert et al., 2015). A young individual posits that if both familial and educational systems are inadequate, young individuals would ultimately end up incarcerated or homeless (Barnert et al., 2015).

Ingoldsby et al. (2006) demonstrated that children who encountered early parent-child conflict and neighborhood disadvantage, characterized by poverty and

issues such as unemployment and abandoned properties, experienced an exacerbation of early-onset antisocial behavior due to deviant peer relationships in their neighborhood. Adverse interactions with peers in the area may have created an environment where local norms and values shaped child behavior, as posited by the predicted mechanism for this connection (Ingoldsby & Shaw, 2002; Ingoldsby et al., 2006).

Duncan and Hirschi (2001) assert that communities experiencing structural adversity correlate with elevated rates of juvenile crime and violence. The relationships are predominantly elucidated by social processes occurring inside the communities. Family and peer group dynamics are linked to the structural and social characteristics of the neighborhood (Tolan et al., 2003). Tolan et al. discovered that inadequate neighborhood structural and social characteristics were indirectly associated with gang membership through their impact on parenting behaviors, including insufficient supervision, severe discipline, and minimal parental participation. Furthermore, they discovered that gang involvement moderated the impact of inadequate parenting practices on individual violence. Hen-Len Chung's (2006) research indicates that community effects accounted for a minimal amount of the variance in juvenile offending overall. Research indicates that adolescents residing in regions with elevated poverty levels are more prone to engaging in property crimes (Kingston et al., 2009). Burman (2003) posits that violent crimes are more prevalent in chaotic society. McCord et al. (2001) identified a significant correlation between residing in a detrimental environment and engaging in criminal behavior. Tiet et al. (2009) found that young individuals were deemed high-risk due to their residence in socially dysfunctional communities characterized by elevated crime rates.

Numerous twin studies (Boardman et al., 2008; Button et al., 2007, 2009; Fowler et al., 2007; Guo et al., 2009; Harden et al., 2008; Hicks et al., 2009) have identified genetic factors influencing delinquency and associated behaviors (e.g., alcohol consumption). According to Mann et al. (2015), adolescents with friends engaged in criminal activities were more predisposed to delinquency than those without such associations.

Research indicates that adolescents may select their peers based partly on associated behaviors and characteristics or on the delinquent behavior itself (Mann et al., 2015). Children who associate with deviant peers are more inclined to perceive

deviant behavior as normative (Pardini et al., 2005). Ferguson and Meehan (2011) assert that residing in problematic communities or experiencing hardships exposes children to delinquent conduct, and associations with delinquent peers can further model, reinforce, and provide chances for participation in such activities.

Consequently, it is expected that peer delinquency will amplify the influence of neighborhood problems and negative life experiences on adolescent delinquency. A significant proximal predictor of adolescent crime is association with delinquent peers (Ferguson & Meehan, 2011).

Rankin and Quane (2002) identified a correlation between peer deviance and community characteristics.

The research conducted by Leventhal and Brooks-Gunn (2004) was based on the concept of social organization. The study indicates that the majority of juvenile offenses are perpetrated in groups, and the association of adolescents with delinquent peers may serve as the most dependable predictor of their engagement in future, perhaps more severe, antisocial conduct

Thornberry et al. (2003) identified perceived delinquent peer relationships as a significant predictor of gang affiliation; however, it was not a dependable measure of the duration of an individual's gang membership. Moreover, Gatti et al. (2005) found that gang involvement was substantially forecasted by association with delinquent peers

Lachman et al. (2013) assert that peer groups offer adolescents companionship, emotional and social support, and an escape from other aspects of their lives. Furthermore, certain adolescents may associate with antisocial peers despite a supportive home environment, whereas others may deliberately pursue prosocial classmates to mitigate adverse familial influences (Schwartz et al., 1999). Lachman et al. (2013) assert that a significant and enduring finding in juvenile offending research is the influence of delinquent peers on individual delinquent conduct. Research has shown that specific aspects of peer groups, such as the amount of time spent together, are relevant for understanding how adolescents form peer groups and the relationship between these groups and individual criminal behavior (Greene & Banerjee, 2008).

Larsen (2015) asserts that peer pressure is a contributing factor to adolescent delinquency. Adolescents face incessant pressure to conform to the group's norms. In contrast, the majority of students in junior high and high school avoid detrimental

peer pressure (Larsen, 2015). When standards lack clarity, peer pressure is most effective. Subjective criteria include preferences in fashion and music. This likewise pertains to substance abuse, alcohol consumption, and tobacco usage. Lipsey and Derzon (1998) assert that possessing antisocial peers is a substantial predictor of misbehavior among adolescents aged 12 to 14. According to McCord et al. (2001) and colleagues, peer delinquent behavior, peer endorsement of delinquent conduct, attachment to peers, time spent with peers, and peer pressure for deviance are all correlated with adolescent antisocial behavior. Elevated antisocial behavior correlates with engagement with delinquent peers; however, interaction with such peers ceases to meaningfully forecast antisocial conduct when prior antisocial tendencies are mitigated.

### **Poverty**

Poverty is a primary factor contributing to the convictions of adolescents under eighteen. Poverty, particularly in urban regions, is presumed to exacerbate juvenile delinquency, alongside several structural factors such as unemployment, racism, prejudice, social disintegration, and the exodus of the middle class (Nellis, 2005). Sampson and Wilson (1995) suggest that teenagers in these areas may see street crime, perhaps legitimizing it in their perceptions. A well-established correlation of teenage delinquency is socioeconomic status (Rekker et al., 2015). According to Rekker et al. (2015), juveniles from low socioeconomic status (SES) households are more prone to engage in delinquent behavior than those from high SES families.

Adolescents raised in poverty may lack the legal resources necessary to achieve their desired social and economic objectives, as indicated by Rekker et al. (2015) in their research. Adolescents from poor socioeconomic status homes may possess few risks and substantial potential benefits from engaging in criminal activities. A 2002 study by Jarjoura et al. linked many factors, such as persistent unemployment, marital strife, female-led households, and teenage pregnancies, to delinquency and criminal behavior.

Sickmund and Punnazecha (2016) assert that youths raised in low-income households or neighborhoods are more predisposed to criminal behavior than those from wealthier backgrounds. A correlation appears to exist between extreme poverty and an increased likelihood of significant criminal activity. The timing of poverty

exposure held particular significance. A meta-analysis by Hawkins et al. (1992) indicated that family socioeconomic status from ages six to fourteen was a more significant predictor of severe and violent delinquency than during the ages of fifteen to twenty-five. Agnew et al. (2002) found that individuals experiencing multiple financial hardships self-reported higher levels of delinquency.

## **Family**

The family is one of the most influential systems of socialization in life. They cultivate in children the capacity to regulate incorrect behavior, defer gratification, and honor the rights of others. Conversely, families can instill aggressive, antisocial, and violent habits in children (Wright & Wright, 1994). Researchers have examined the impact of family dynamics on adolescent development (Steinberg, 2007). Familial support can significantly contribute to the prevention of delinquent behavior. Home uncertainty can sometimes become a risk factor that increases an individual's susceptibility to delinquency (Harmening & Gamez, 2016). The growth of children is profoundly influenced by familial interactions. Lamb (2012) identifies the most significant social impacts as the interactions between parents and influential others, as well as between children; attachment theory provides a theoretical rationale for their significance (e.g., Bowlby, 1953). In high-risk scenarios, strong parent-child relationships are associated with proactive behavioral outcomes in children (e.g., Cummings et al., 2000).

The relationship between exposure to violence, poverty, and daily stressors, and the internalizing behaviors of African American children, which lead to low rather than high risk levels, is influenced by supportive family connections (Li et al., 2007). According to Luthar et al. (2000), moderation effects are categorized as 'protective-reactive,' while Li et al. (2007) referred to this pattern as 'overwhelming-risk' due to the predominance of risk variables overprotective effects. This concept is important as it contextualizes too optimistic views on resilience in circumstances where several stresses accumulate, minimizing the availability of protective mechanisms (Lösel & Bender, 2003).

Intimate mother-child connections can enhance children's emotional stability and positively affect their behavior in low-risk environments. The cumulative benefits of shared responsibility and support, while not inherently protective, may enhance family dynamics, resource availability, parental efficacy, and children's

mental stability (e.g., Cummings et al., 2000; Lamb, 2012). A meta-analysis by Sampson and Laub (1994) indicated that the strongest predictors of delinquency and other adolescent behavioral problems were aspects of family functioning related to direct parent-child interactions.

Researchers have also examined the impact of parenting on the development of juvenile criminality (Cashwell, 2014; Higgins, 2009; Meldrum et al., 2016). According to research by Meldrum et al. (2016), diminished parental self-control was associated with several home environment characteristics and teenage criminal behavior. Furthermore, they found that familial circumstances served as a mediator variable in the association between teenage delinquency and insufficient parental self-control. This is because rebellious parents are less skilled in fostering nurturing environments and effectively supervising and rectifying adolescent behavior, making them more prone to contributing to their children's delinquency. Higgins (2009) established a correlation between adolescent delinquency and inadequate parenting, as well as parental criminal behavior.

Juvenile delinquency correlates with familial risk factors, including antisocial parental behavior, domestic conflict, child abuse, deficient parenting skills, and family size (Derzon & Lipsey, 2000; Wasserman & Seracii, 2001). Cashwell et al. (2014) assert that an adolescent's interpersonal behaviors are shaped by familial influences, as they seek to emulate their family's social interactions with classmates.

Hen-Len Chung (2006), however, found in a separate study that no definitive association existed between parenting approaches and criminal behavior. A noticeable marginal correlation existed between social cohesion and peer deviation, suggesting that neighborhood connection may be influential, as seen by studies on adolescents associating with more deviant classmates. Multiple specific familial traits have been associated with delinquent behavior

Nye (1961) found that the correlation between delinquency and broken homes was more significant for status offenses than for more serious crimes. Research has examined the tendency of single-parent households to generate a disproportionate number of adolescent offenders (Bartollas & Schmallegger, 2014). Research by Schroeder et al. (2010) indicates that adolescents from broken households exhibit higher levels of delinquency compared to those from intact families.

Research on family size indicated that children from larger households were more predisposed to engage in delinquent conduct compared to those from smaller

families. Certain research indicates that delinquent siblings may have adopted criminal behavior from other family members (Bartollas & Schmalleger, 2014).

Other studies indicate that the prevalence of delinquent behaviors in children is more significantly influenced by the quality of home life, as reflected by marital adjustment and household harmony, than by the existence or absence of a family unit. Nye (1961) posits that the happiness of a married couple influences the likelihood of their children engaging in delinquent behavior (Bartollas & Schmalleger, 2014). Similarly, numerous studies have identified a significant association between parental rejection and delinquent behavior (Bartollas & Schmalleger, 2014).

Delinquent behavior may be associated with inadequate supervision and discipline within the home (Bartollas & Schmalleger, 2014). Consistent family discipline is a crucial element in averting delinquent behavior (Bartollas & Schmalleger, 2014). The primary markers of severe and chronic delinquency appear to be parental absenteeism, inconsistent or harsh disciplinary practices, parental rejection, and insufficient maternal supervision (Glueck & Glueck, 1950).

Larzelere and Patterson (1990) found that parental supervision, monitoring, and socioeconomic status collectively accounted for 46% of the variance in delinquent behavior. Patterson (1982, 1986) found that children raised in a coercive environment applied this coercive interpersonal style to their interactions with peers. Simons et al. (1994) discovered that the likelihood of engaging in delinquency was directly influenced by the presence of a dominant interpersonal style, irrespective of the kind of peer relationships. Moreover, animosity towards peers is a significant predictor of delinquency (Kupersmidt & Coie, 1990).

Henry et al. (2001) found that, two years later, adolescents from homes characterized by warm interpersonal relationships and consistent discipline reported fewer deviant peers compared to those from households lacking emotional support and exhibiting inconsistent punishment. Prior study on parental involvement investigated the adverse effects of dysfunctional parenting practices on engagement with delinquents, rather than beneficial effects.

Farrington et al. (2009) indicate a significant link between parental convictions and the convictions of second-generation men. The processes associated with parenting, including harsh discipline and inadequate parental supervision, partially elucidate this relationship. Thornberry et al. (2003) analyzed the



intergenerational perpetuation of antisocial behavior utilizing data from the Rochester Youth Development Study. They found that parental antisocial conduct significantly influenced subsequent child antisocial behavior, with parenting-related processes mediating part of this link. A 2007 study by Simons et al. similarly identified a correlation between officially documented adolescent criminal behavior and insufficient parental self-control. Research has linked adolescent delinquency to parental criminal behavior within the home environment (e.g., Farrington et al., 2009; Thornberry et al., 2003).

Barnert et al. (2015) discovered that numerous adolescents perceived a sense of abandonment from parents believed to be absent owing to late work shifts, single parenthood, substance abuse, or incarceration. Additionally, Barnett et al. found that economic difficulties at home may promote criminal behavior in adolescents, either due to their desire for possessions that their families cannot afford or their intention to provide financial support to their parents. Jackson and Knepper (2013) found no difference between children of worked mothers and those of non-employed mothers. Jackson and Knepper (2013) determined that the mothers' parenting style, rather than their employment status, was the primary factor.

Youth aged 10 to 17 who engaged in delinquent conduct in the preceding year reported higher rates of exposure to violence compared to their peers who reported minimal to no criminal involvement (OBJJD, 2015). Adolescents who have encountered violence are more predisposed to engage in criminal behavior (OBJJD, 2015).

### **Theories of Peer Influence and Family Uncertainties**

This text examines, elucidates, and discusses the predominant notions of peer influence and family uncertainties in relation to juvenile delinquency.

#### ***Social Learning Theory***

Social Learning Theory, established by Albert Bandura in (1977), asserts that individuals acquire behaviors, attitudes, and emotional responses by observing others. Children inherently emulate both positive and negative behaviors exhibited by parents and peers. Individuals predisposed to antisocial behavior observe that socially inappropriate actions are deemed acceptable by others. Certain experts agree and assert that at-risk kids acquire antisocial conduct through the attitudes and

actions of their peers (Haynie, 2001). Individuals or groups may engage in theft, deceit, violence, disrespect, bullying, academic dishonesty, and severe crimes such as rape and murder. Shannon and McCall (n.d.) agree and assert that teenagers often endorse antisocial behavior by emulating their friends and others.

Social Learning Theory emphasizes the social context as a locus for behavioral learning and the mutual effect of the individual, behavior, and environment. Jekielek (1998) agrees and references the instance of children who witness and emulate their parents' hostile interactions, utilizing this behavior to address their own conflicts. They discover that it is permissible to curse, intimidate, employ profane language, threaten, and physically assault others during conflicts. Consequently, any inappropriate action by adults, regardless of the circumstances, endangers youngsters to misconduct.

This hypothesis is especially pertinent to comprehending peer influence on adolescent crime. Bandura underscored the significance of modeling, imitation, and reinforcement in the learning process.

Adolescents, at a pivotal phase of identity development, frequently seek guidance from their peers regarding appropriate behavior. Individuals are more inclined to emulate delinquent activities if they witness peers gaining social incentives for such actions (e.g., acceptance, status) (Akers, 1998).

**Observational Learning.** Observational learning entails the acquisition of new behaviors through the observation of others. Adolescents may witness their peers engaging in delinquent behavior and regard it as acceptable or appealing if those peers receive rewards or face no consequences (Bandura, 1986).

**Reinforcement.** Reinforcement in social learning theory pertains to the consequences of behavior that affect the probability of its repetition. Positive reinforcement, such as social praise, or negative reinforcement, such as the avoidance of punishment, can enhance criminal behavior exhibited by peers (Akers & Jensen, 2003).

### ***Strain Theory***

Strain Theory, initially proposed by Robert K. Merton, asserts that social conditions may compel individuals to engage in criminal behavior. This idea posits that a disjunction between culturally sanctioned objectives and the institutionalized mechanisms to attain them may lead individuals to experience strain or

dissatisfaction (Merton, 1938; Agnew, 2019). This strain may result in deviant actions when individuals pursue alternate strategies to attain society objectives, especially when they lack access to lawful means (Hay & Meldrum, 2020; Moon et al., 2021).

Merton (2012) posits that cultural ideals promote materialism among individuals. The disparity between the objective and the methods employed to attain it induces tension, thereby resulting in delinquency. Harrell (2007) observes that in highly industrialized nations like the USA, individuals perpetually pursue and amass material goods. Consequently, the acquisition of such items becomes their primary objective. Nevertheless, socially acceptable methods for attaining the aforementioned objective are sometimes perceived as either time-consuming or unattainable by certain people. In impoverished communities, obtaining an education and lucrative employment to fulfill financial responsibilities may be perceived as a privilege reserved for the affluent. As a result, an internal strain is generated within the individual, prompting some to pursue inappropriate methods to satisfy their demands. They may engage in theft, deception, violence, intimidation, or homicide to obtain their desires. Orcutt (1983) contends that Merton's theory offers a framework for elucidating many forms of antisocial behavior, so significantly contributing to social research. The idea may aid sociologists in comprehending certain causes of juvenile delinquency—specifically, why some individuals pursue traditional methods to attain their objectives while others resort to antisocial behaviors. Furthermore, the approach may aid policymakers in addressing the underlying causes of wrongdoing.

Rauch (2005), akin to other scholars, delineates the connection between crime and moral disintegration to the theories of Durkheim and Merton. The former scholar asserts that the Moral Regeneration Movement in South Africa is based on the theories of the latter researchers. Former and late President Nelson Mandela launched the movement to restore the diminishing spirituality of individuals following decades of political and social upheaval (2005). The tactic, if effective, appeared to corroborate Merton's assertion that by adapting to environmental pressures, individuals are more likely to attain their objectives through socially acceptable methods

An individual unable to achieve economic success through traditional methods like education and job may resort to stealing or drug trafficking as alternate

strategies to acquire wealth. This idea has been augmented to encompass the notion of strain resulting from the elimination of positively valued stimuli or the introduction of negatively valued stimuli (Agnew, 2006; Messner & Rosenfeld, 2001).

**Anomie.** Anomie, associated with Strain Theory, denotes a condition of normlessness in which societal rules inadequately govern individual conduct. This condition frequently occurs during times of substantial social transformation or upheaval, when conventional standards and values are diminished or become outdated (Merton, 1957; Durkheim, 1897).

In such a state, individuals may feel disconnected from societal expectations and more prone to engage in deviant behavior as a means of coping with the resulting ambiguity and lack of clear guidelines (Passas, 1997; Bernburg, 2002). Anomie can lead to a breakdown in social cohesion and increase the likelihood of criminal behavior, particularly among those who feel alienated or marginalized by society (Shoemaker, 2018; Bernard et al., 2015).

**Innovation.** Innovation is a response to strain where individuals accept societal goals but use illegitimate means to achieve them. This is often seen in adolescents who resort to delinquency to achieve status, wealth, or acceptance (Agnew, 1992).

### ***Attachment Theory***

Attachment Theory, established by John Bowlby in (1969), underscores the significance of early emotional connections between children and their caregivers in influencing emotional and social development. This idea posits that a stable attachment to caregivers establishes a basis for effective emotional regulation and social connections during one's lifespan (Bowlby, 1969; Ainsworth et al., 1978).

Securely attached children typically develop a sense of safety and security, which enables them to explore their environment and form stable relationships (Thompson, 2008; Cassidy & Shaver, 2016). Conversely, insecure attachment, which can result from inconsistent, neglectful, or abusive caregiving, may lead to emotional and behavioral difficulties, including a greater propensity for delinquent behavior in adolescence (Fearon et al., 2010; Sroufe, 2005).

**Secure Attachment.** Secure attachment is characterized by a consistent and responsive relationship between a child and their caregiver. This type of attachment

is crucial for developing a child's sense of trust and safety, allowing them to confidently explore their environment and engage in healthy relationships (Ainsworth et al., 1978; Main et al., 1985). Children with secure attachments are generally better equipped to manage stress, exhibit higher levels of social competence, and are less likely to engage in problematic behaviors (Sroufe, 2005; Thompson, 2008). Secure attachment lays the groundwork for the development of resilience and adaptability in the face of life's challenges (Waters et al., 2000; Mikulincer & Shaver, 2016).

**Insecure Attachment.** Insecure attachment, which may develop from inconsistent or neglectful caregiving, can lead to a range of emotional and behavioral issues. Children with insecure attachments often experience difficulties in regulating their emotions and forming healthy relationships, which can manifest in aggressive or withdrawn behavior, anxiety, and difficulty trusting others (Bowlby, 1980; Cassidy & Berlin, 1994).

This lack of secure attachment can predispose children to delinquency and other maladaptive behaviors as they seek alternative means of coping with their unmet emotional needs (Fearon et al., 2010; Sroufe, 2005). Interventions aimed at improving caregiver-child relationships and promoting secure attachment can be critical in preventing the development of delinquent behaviors (Kobak et al., 2006; Zeanah et al., 2011).

### ***Family Systems Theory***

Family Systems Theory, established by Murray Bowen in 1978, asserts that individuals cannot be understood in isolation from their familial context, since families function as interrelated systems. This theory underscores the significance of family dynamics, and the roles individuals assume within these systems in influencing behavior and development (Bowen, 1978; Minuchin, 1974).

Family Systems Theory suggests that disruptions in family dynamics, such as those caused by parental conflict, divorce, or economic hardship, can have significant implications for individual behavior, including an increased risk of juvenile delinquency (Patterson, 1982; Hetherington & Stanley-Hagan, 1999). Understanding the family's influence on behavior is crucial for developing effective interventions and support systems for at-risk youth (Cox & Paley, 2003; Goldenberg & Goldenberg, 2012).

**Family Cohesion.** Family cohesion denotes the emotional attachment and sense of unity among family members. Elevated family cohesion is typically linked to favorable outcomes, such as reduced delinquency and enhanced psychological well-being (Olson et al., 1985; Barber & Buehler, 1996). Families with strong cohesion provide a supportive environment that fosters effective communication, mutual support, and a sense of belonging, which can protect against the influences of external stressors, including negative peer pressure (Minuchin, 1974; Steinberg, 2001).

In contrast, diminished family cohesion can result in feelings of isolation and insecurity, thereby heightening the propensity for teenagers to engage in delinquent behaviors in their pursuit of acceptance and validation beyond the familial sphere (Barber & Olsen, 1997; Crouter & Head, 2002).

**Family Conflict.** Family conflict entails recurrent and severe disputes among family members, perhaps fostering a stressful and antagonistic atmosphere. Elevated family conflict correlates with adverse consequences for children, such as heightened behavioral issues, anxiety, and depression (Patterson, 1982; Cummings & Davies, 1994). The stress and emotional turmoil caused by family conflict can impair a child's ability to regulate emotions and develop healthy relationships, increasing the risk of engaging in delinquent behaviors (Grych & Fincham, 1990; Hetherington & Kelly, 2002). Interventions aimed at reducing family conflict and improving communication can be effective in mitigating these risks and promoting healthier family dynamics (Forgatch & DeGarmo, 1999; Markman et al., 1993).

### ***Differential Association Theory***

Differential Association Theory, introduced by Edwin H. Sutherland in 1947, asserts that criminal behavior is acquired through social contacts. This hypothesis posits that individuals are more inclined to do delinquent acts when exposed to attitudes and beliefs that condone legal violations (Sutherland, 1947; Sutherland & Cressey, 1978).

The frequency, duration, priority, and severity of these interactions affect the probability of engaging in delinquent behaviors. This hypothesis underscores the significance of socialization in the formation of criminal behavior, positing that delinquency arises from learning mechanisms analogous to those used in the acquisition of other behaviors (Akers, 1998; Matsueda, 1988)

## **Related Research**

Research on peer influence and juvenile delinquency has shown a strong correlation between association with delinquent peers and engagement in criminal activities. For instance,

Family uncertainties have been extensively studied in relation to juvenile delinquency. A pivotal study by Patterson et al., (1989) introduced the coercion theory, which explains how family dynamics contribute to the development of antisocial behavior. They argued that inconsistent and harsh parenting practices create a coercive family environment that fosters delinquency (Patterson et al., 1989).

Moffitt (1993) proposed a developmental taxonomy of antisocial behavior, identifying family factors such as parental conflict and economic hardship as key predictors of life-course persistent delinquency. Her research emphasized the role of family instability in the early development of antisocial behavior patterns.

Vitulano et al. (2010) investigated the influence of delinquent peers on youth delinquency in a survey of 89 children aged 9 to 12 years, examining the potential moderating effect of impulsivity on the relationship between peer criminality and juvenile delinquency. The findings indicate that peer delinquency and child delinquency at low levels of impulsivity have a positive correlation; however, there is no statistical association with high levels of impulsivity. The results suggest that children exhibiting poor impulsivity are more vulnerable to criminal influences.

Spruit et al. (2016) did a study examining the utilization of social relationships to mitigate adolescent misbehavior. Their research concludes that juveniles who socialize with peers pursuing positive goals and commitments are less likely to engage in delinquent behavior. The research indicated that increased time spent on aimless activities with prolonged commitment correlates with a higher propensity for delinquent behavior.

A study by Adeyemo and Osai (2016) involved 450 adolescents from various secondary schools in Abuja. Using a mixed-methods approach, the researchers assessed how peer group affiliation influenced delinquent behaviors. The study found that 62% of the participants had engaged in delinquent activities, including vandalism, truancy, and substance use. The qualitative data revealed that peer acceptance and the desire for social status were significant motivators. The study

underscored the role of peer group norms in shaping behavior, especially in environments where positive role models were scarce.

Afolabi and Ojo (2016) study investigated the interplay between peer influence and family uncertainties in contributing to juvenile delinquency. The research involved 500 adolescents and used a comprehensive survey to assess the impact of both factors. The findings showed that adolescents experiencing high levels of family instability were more likely to be influenced by delinquent peers. The study noted that the lack of emotional and social support at home made these adolescents more vulnerable to negative peer influences, leading to higher rates of delinquency.

Eze and Chukwu (2017) explored the relationship between economic hardship and juvenile delinquency among 400 adolescents in Abuja. Using a mixed-methods design, the study combined surveys with in-depth interviews. The quantitative results showed a strong association between economic hardship and delinquent behavior, with 58% of participants reporting that financial difficulties led them to engage in theft or other delinquent acts. The interviews revealed that economic hardship often led to reduced parental supervision, as parents were preoccupied with multiple jobs, increasing the likelihood of adolescents turning to delinquent peers for support.

Oluwaseun and Onyekwere (2017) examined the socio-cultural factors influencing juvenile delinquency in Abuja. The study involved 500 adolescents from diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. Using a mixed-methods approach, the research explored how cultural norms, media exposure, and community structures impacted delinquent behaviors. The findings indicated that cultural attitudes towards discipline, respect for authority, and communal living influenced the types of delinquent behaviors exhibited. The study also highlighted that media portrayal of violence and delinquency often glamorized these behaviors, making them more appealing to adolescents.

Research by Adebayo and Ali (2018) focused on the impact of urbanization and economic disparities in Abuja. The study involved 400 adolescents and used surveys to assess the influence of socio-economic status on delinquent behaviors. The findings revealed that adolescents from economically disadvantaged backgrounds were more likely to engage in delinquent acts, such as theft and drug trafficking. The study suggested that economic disparities created feelings of



marginalization and exclusion, driving adolescents to seek alternative means of achieving status and recognition.

Okeke and Nwosu (2018) focused on the combined effects of peer influence and parental neglect. Involving 350 adolescents, the study utilized a mixed-methods approach, incorporating both quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews. The results indicated that peer influence had a more pronounced effect on delinquent behavior in the context of parental neglect. The interviews revealed that adolescents who felt neglected by their parents often sought acceptance and identity in peer groups, which sometimes involved engaging in delinquent behaviors.

Research by Ifeanyi and Nwachukwu (2018) focused on 300 male adolescents in urban and peri-urban areas of Abuja. The study utilized self-report questionnaires to measure the influence of peer relationships on delinquency. The findings indicated that adolescents who identified closely with delinquent peers were more likely to engage in activities such as theft and drug use. The study highlighted that peer influence was particularly potent among youths from single-parent households, suggesting a compensatory function of peer groups in the absence of stable family structures.

Owolabi and Ayodele (2018) investigated the impact of parental conflict on adolescent behavior. The study, involving 350 adolescents, used structured questionnaires and interviews with both parents and children. The findings indicated that high levels of parental conflict were associated with increased delinquency, particularly among boys. The study highlighted that exposure to parental conflict often led to emotional distress and maladaptive coping strategies, such as aggression and substance use.

Okafor and Eze (2019) investigated the role of gender in shaping delinquent behaviors. The study, involving 350 adolescents, used a mixed-methods approach to explore gender differences in delinquency. The findings indicated that boys were more likely to engage in overt forms of delinquency, such as physical aggression and vandalism, while girls were more inclined towards covert behaviors, such as truancy and theft. The study also noted that gender-specific cultural expectations influenced these patterns, with boys often encouraged to be assertive and girls to be more passive. These findings highlight the importance of considering gender dynamics in the development of intervention strategies for juvenile delinquency.

Chukwuma and Obasi (2019) explored the interaction between economic hardship, peer influence, and juvenile delinquency. The study surveyed 400 adolescents and found that those experiencing economic hardship were more likely to associate with delinquent peers. The research highlighted that economic stress often led to reduced parental supervision and increased the attractiveness of delinquent peer groups, which promised quick financial gains through illegal activities.

Nwankwo and Uche (2019) research focused on inconsistent parenting and its effects on juvenile delinquency. The study surveyed 300 adolescents and their parents, assessing parenting styles and the frequency of delinquent behaviors. It found that adolescents who experienced inconsistent discipline—where rules and consequences were unpredictable—were more likely to engage in delinquent acts. The study suggested that inconsistent parenting undermines the development of self-control and increases susceptibility to peer influence.

Ibrahim and Musa (2019) conducted a longitudinal study with 500 adolescents, tracking their involvement in delinquent activities over three years. The study utilized a multi-informant approach, gathering data from adolescents, parents, and teachers. It found a significant correlation between the number of delinquent peers and the frequency of delinquent behavior. The study also noted that peer influence was moderated by the quality of parent-child relationships, with stronger relationships serving as a protective factor.

Ajayi and Adeleke (2020) study examined the combined effects of parental absence and economic hardship. Involving 450 adolescents, the research used both qualitative and quantitative methods to explore these dynamics. The findings indicated that adolescents from single-parent households, especially those headed by mothers, were more likely to engage in delinquency, particularly in the context of economic hardship. The qualitative data suggested that the absence of a father figure and the stress associated with economic struggles contributed to feelings of neglect and a lack of supervision.

Chinwe and Okonkwo (2020) examined the role of peer dynamics in fostering delinquent behavior among 350 adolescents in Abuja. The study used a cross-sectional design and focused on peer pressure, peer modeling, and peer group reinforcement. The results showed that 70% of the participants reported engaging in delinquent acts due to peer pressure, with common behaviors including shoplifting,

vandalism, and bullying. The study emphasized the role of peer leaders in setting group norms and the importance of targeted interventions to disrupt these patterns of weak parental supervision.

Ogunleye and Adewale (2020) examined the role of family cohesion in moderating the effects of peer influence on delinquency. The study involved 300 adolescents and used a combination of surveys and interviews. The findings indicated that strong family cohesion mitigated the negative effects of peer influence, even in cases where peers were involved in delinquent behaviors. The study suggested that supportive family environments provide emotional resilience against peer pressure, reducing the likelihood of engaging in delinquent acts.

A study by Alabi and Musa (2020) explored the influence of religious beliefs and practices on juvenile delinquency in Abuja. The research involved 300 adolescents from different religious backgrounds, using surveys and interviews to assess the impact of religious teachings and community involvement on behavior. The study found that adolescents who regularly participated in religious activities were less likely to engage in delinquent behaviors. The qualitative data suggested that religious communities provided a sense of belonging and moral guidance, which helped counteract negative peer influences and family uncertainties.

Recent research by Smith and Wu (2023) supports this, showing that dysfunctional family environments and inconsistent discipline significantly increase the likelihood of juvenile delinquency.

Green and O'Connor (2023) confirmed these findings, demonstrating that family disruptions such as divorce and economic instability play significant roles in shaping delinquent behavior.

These studies collectively highlight the critical role of peer influence in shaping juvenile delinquency. The findings suggest that interventions aimed at modifying peer group dynamics and providing positive peer models could be effective in mitigating delinquency rates in Abuja (Chukwu & Adeoye, 2023).

Johnson (2024) expands on this, finding that parental strain and poor family cohesion are critical factors leading to youth criminal behavior.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **Methodology**

This chapter provides a detailed overview of the methodology employed in this study, covering the research design, participants, population and sample, data collection tools, data analysis procedures, and the study plan. It also discusses the statistical approaches used to analyze the collected data.

#### **Research Design**

The research employed a quantitative approach with a correlational design, using a survey method to gather data on peer influence, family uncertainties, and juvenile delinquency among adolescents in Abuja Municipality; the data were analyzed using regression analysis to explore associations between these variables (Holton & Burnett, 2005). This study employed a correlational methodology to explore the relationship between peer influence and family uncertainties in juvenile delinquency within Abuja Municipality. The correlation technique was utilized to statistically examine these variables and their interrelationships, focusing solely on the factors directly relevant to the study, without accounting for the influence of unrelated variables (Carlson & Wu, 2012). Data collection and distribution were carried out within Abuja Municipality, Nigeria

#### **Population and The Sample**

The study population is from junior high students and senior secondary schools between the ages of under 13 and 18 years and above, in Abuja Municipality. Based on the population size of 2,064, a confidence level of 95%, and a margin of error of 5%, the minimum required sample size is 384. To account for potential non-response or incomplete data, the sample size will be increased to 450 juveniles from both junior and senior high school. The method being used in the collection of data is simple random sampling, using this sampling our aim is to ensure that our sample represents the diversity of juveniles in Abuja municipality, reducing potential bias and allowing for more robust generalization from the collection data.

Table 1.

*Descriptive Statistics for Demographic Variables*

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	270	60.0
Female	180	40.0
<b>Age</b>		
13 – 15 years	315	70.0
16 – 18 years	90	20.0
Over 18 years	45	10.0
<b>Class</b>		
JSS 1	54	12.0
JSS 2	56	12.4
JSS 3	100	22.2
SS 1	128	28.4
SS 2	48	10.7
SS 3	64	14.2
<b>Parents' Marital Status</b>		
Married and living together	90	20
Separated	180	40
Divorced	90	20
Both parents have died	90	20
<b>Family Structure</b>		
Extended family (parents, children and other relatives)	235	52.2
Single-parent family	215	47.8

Table 1 above indicates that the study participants consisted of 270 (60.0%) males and 180 (40.0%) females. The table indicates that 315 (70.0%) participants belong to the age range of 13–15 years, whilst those in the age brackets of 16–18 years and over 18 years include 90 (20.0%) and 45 (10.0%), respectively. The table indicates that 54 participants (12.0%) are in JSS 1, while those in JSS 2, JSS 3, SS 1,

SS 2, and SS 3 comprise 56 (12.4%), 100 (22.2%), 128 (28.4%), 48 (10.7%), and 64 (14.2%), respectively.

The participants' parent's marital status also showed that 90 (20.0%) participants have their parent married and living together while 180 (40.0%), 90 (20.0%), and 90 (20.0%) participants' parents are separated, divorced, or both parents have died, respectively. The family structure of the participants revealed that while 235 (52.2%) live in an extended family, (parents and children), 215 (47.8%) live in a single-parent family.

### **Data Collection Tools**

Data collection was done using a structured questionnaire comprised of a sociodemographic form and three standardized scales which include: Adolescent Social Self-Efficacy Scale (ASSES), Family Unpredictability Scale (FUS) and Scale of Adolescent Delinquency.

### **Demographic Form**

A demographic form was created to collect sociodemographic information of the participants, including 5 variables gender, age, class, Parents' Marital Status, and Family Structure.

### ***Adolescent Social Self-Efficacy Scale (ASSES)***

The adolescents' social self-efficacy was evaluated using the ASSES, developed by Caprara et al. (2006). Social self-efficacy denotes an individual's confidence in surmounting social challenges and their belief in their ability to initiate and maintain social relationships. A Likert scale was employed to evaluate the respondents' answers. The rating scale comprises 23 items as follows: 1. Not confidential, 2. Very little confidence, 3. Moderately confident, 4. Very confident, 5. Completely confident. The ASSES demonstrates substantial internal consistency and reliability, as indicated by its Cronbach's alpha coefficients, ranging from 0.79 to 0.85 Caprara et al. (2006)

### ***Family Unpredictability Scale (FUS)***

Ross and Hill (2004) developed a self-report questionnaire consisting of 22 items known as FUS used to assess the degree of unpredictability within family settings. The scale comprises inquiries about the family's routine, structure, consistency, and stability. Participants divulged specifics regarding the stability of

their family settings in their responses. Survey response options were rated "1. Strongly Disagree, 2. Disagree, 3. Neutral, 4. Agree, 5. Strongly Agree.

The reliability and consistency of FUS have been substantiated by its Cronbach's alpha coefficient of 0.91. This indicates that the scale measures the unpredictability of families in a dependable and precise manner.

### ***Scale of Adolescent Delinquency***

The Adolescent criminality Scale aims to assess juvenile criminality. Initially developed by Anderson et al. (1996) and subsequently refined by Gibson et al. (2000). The 24-item scale was developed to evaluate a wide array of delinquent behaviors in teenagers. Participants were instructed to answer each item using a scale of 0 – Never, 1 – Rarely, 2 – Sometimes, 3 – Often, and 4 – Always.

The Cronbach's alpha coefficients of the ADS-2000, ranging from 0.72 to 0.85 Gibson et al.,(2000) indicate good to remarkable internal consistency and reliability. This demonstrates that the scale is a dependable and valid measure of juvenile delinquency.

### **Data Collection Procedures**

Ethical approval was obtained from the Near East University Social Science Ethical Committee for the commencement of the project, under application number (NEU/SS/2023/1702). Confidentiality was ensured by annotating the research instrument and telling the students to refrain from identifying themselves to safeguard their anonymity. The data for this study was collected through survey questions. The researcher junior and senior secondary schools in Abuja Municipality to collect data from respondents. Each participant was provided with a questionnaire and allotted a specific duration to respond to inquiries regarding their perceptions of the complexities of adolescent delinquency by examining the interplay between peer influence and familial uncertainties. Each item on the questionnaire was accompanied with a Likert scale reflecting the respondent's level of agreement, ranging from strong agreement to strong disapproval, including a neutral option. Four hundred and fifty respondents (450) represented the study area. Given the insignificance of the identities, the researcher ensured the respondents' anonymity.

### Data Analysis Procedure

Data analysis is an essential part of this study since it enables us to interpret the information gathered and reach relevant conclusions. Various statistical methods were used to analyze the data in SPSS for Windows.

Inferential statistics, including Pearson correlation and multiple linear regression analyses, were used to test hypotheses and evaluate the relationships between peer influence, family uncertainties, and juvenile delinquency, revealing significant findings such as a strong negative correlation between family uncertainties and delinquency, a moderate negative correlation between peer influence and delinquency, and highlighting that peer influence mediates the effect of family uncertainties on juvenile behavior, thereby emphasizing the significant role of peer dynamics in shaping adolescent conduct (Cohen, 1988).

Table 2

#### *Normality Table of the dataset*

Variable	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std Dev	Skewness		Kurtosis	
						Stats	Std Error	Stats	Std Error
assess scale	450	52	58	55.1	2.59	-.006	.115	-1.711	.230
fus scale	450	34	65	49.28	9.86	.375	.115	-1.103	.230
juvenile delinquency scale	450	73	140	95.94	12.56	-.910	.115	-.238	.230

According to George and Maller (2010), a normal distribution is defined by skewness between -2 and +2 and kurtosis between 0 and +2. This table provides descriptive statistics for three scales used in a study: the ASSESS scale, the Family Unpredictability Scale (FUS), and the Juvenile Delinquency Scale. Each scale has a sample size of 450. For the ASSESS scale, the scores range from a minimum of 52 to



a maximum of 58, with a mean score of 55.1 and a standard deviation of 2.59. The skewness statistic for this scale is -0.006 with a standard error of 0.115, indicating a nearly symmetric distribution, while the kurtosis statistic is -1.711 with a standard error of 0.230, suggesting a platykurtic distribution (flatter than normal). The FUS scale has scores ranging from 34 to 65, with a mean of 49.28 and a standard deviation of 9.86. This scale's skewness statistic is 0.375, indicating a slight positive skew, and the kurtosis statistic is -1.103, also suggesting a flatter-than-normal distribution. Lastly, the Juvenile Delinquency Scale scores range from 73 to 140, with a mean of 95.94 and a standard deviation of 12.56. The skewness for this scale is -0.910, indicating a moderate negative skew, and the kurtosis is -0.238, suggesting the distribution is close to normal but slightly flatter.

### **Research Plan and Process**

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The first step was to request the author's permission for the use of their scales, to which they all responded with their approval through email.	September, 2023
The next step was submitting the Ethics committee form to ask for permission to carry out the study.	November, 2023
After getting the Ethics Committee's permission, printed questionnaires were distributed to schools in Abuja municipality in Nigeria using simple random sampling system.	January/February, 2024
Review of Literature and other related research for variables of the study.	March, 2024
After data was collected, data analysis was done to provide the result and	April, 2024

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findings of the study and these findings

were discussed. Additionally,

conclusions and recommendations for

future research and practice were also

provided.

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## CHAPTER IV

### Findings and Discussion

chapter provides the results of the data collected from the study participants, along with the results of the study's research question. The results will be presented in tables and table summaries explaining the tables.

Table 3

*How significantly does peer influence predict juvenile delinquency in Abuja Municipality, as measured by their correlation?*

Variables	Peer Influence	Juvenile Delinquency
Peer Influence	-	-
Juvenile Delinquency	-0.55**	-

Note: Values are Pearson correlation coefficients. \*\* $p < .01$ . Sample size (n) = 450.

Table 3 above displays the descriptive data and correlation coefficients regarding peer influence and juvenile delinquency in Abuja Municipality. This research sought to determine the correlation between peer influence and juvenile criminality, specifically examining if a significant relationship existed between the level of peer influence and the incidence of juvenile delinquency among a sample of 450 participants.

The Pearson correlation value between peer influence and teenage criminality was -0.55 ( $p < 0.01$ ). This moderate negative correlation suggests that heightened peer influence correlates with a reduction in adolescent delinquency.

Moreover, the negative correlation implies that higher levels of peer influence are associated with lower levels of juvenile delinquency. This result may suggest that peer influence could play a role in reducing juvenile delinquency, potentially through enhanced social support or positive peer interactions.

Subsequently, the analysis demonstrates a significant negative correlation between Peer Influence and Juvenile Delinquency, highlighting the potential role of peer influence in moderating delinquent behavior.

Table 4.

*To what extent does peer influence predict variations in juvenile delinquency levels in Abuja Municipality according to the regression model?*

Variable	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	95% CI		$\beta$	<i>p</i>
			<i>LL</i>	<i>UL</i>		
Constant	243.77	10.53	223.08	264.46		<0.001
Peer Influence	-2.68	0.19	-3.06	-2.31	-0.55	<0.001
R <sup>2</sup>	0.31					
$\Delta R^2$	0.30					

**Note.** *N*=450; *B* = unstandardized regression coefficient; *SE* = standard error; *CI* = confidence interval; *LL* = lower limit; *UL* = upper limit;  $\beta$  = standardized regression coefficient; *p* = p-value

Table 4 above presents the results of a linear regression analysis that was conducted to investigate the relationship between peer influence and juvenile delinquency in Abuja Municipality. The analysis aimed to determine the extent to which peer influence predicts juvenile while controlling for the constant effect with a sample size of *N*=450 participants.

The results indicated that peer influence is a significant predictor of juvenile delinquency, with an unstandardized coefficient (*B*) of -2.68 (*SE* = 0.19, *p* < 0.001). The 95% confidence interval for peer influence ranged from -3.06 to -2.31, suggesting that the effect of peer influence on juvenile delinquency is both statistically significant and practically meaningful.

Moreover, the standardized regression coefficient ( $\beta$ ) for peer influence was -0.55, indicating a moderate negative relationship. This suggests that as peer influence increases, levels of juvenile delinquency tend to decrease.

Furthermore, the overall model accounted for 31% of the variance in juvenile delinquency, as indicated by  $R^2 = 0.31$ . Additionally, the change in  $R^2$  ( $\Delta R^2 = 0.30$ ) was significant, demonstrating that peer influence plays a crucial role in explaining variations in juvenile delinquency in Abuja Municipality.

In summary, the findings from this analysis sheds light on the importance of peer influence in the context of juvenile delinquency. Specifically, the negative relationship suggests that higher levels of positive peer influence are associated with lower levels of juvenile delinquency. These results highlight the need for interventions focused on fostering positive peer relationships among youth to potentially mitigate delinquent behavior.

Table 5.

*What is the strength of the relationship between family uncertainties and juvenile delinquency in Abuja Municipality?*

Variables	Family Influence	Juvenile delinquency
Family uncertainties	-	
Juvenile delinquency	-0.87**	-

Note: Values are Pearson correlation coefficients. \*\* $p < .01$ . Sample size (n) = 450.

Table 5 above illustrates the descriptive statistics and correlation coefficients for Family Uncertainties and Juvenile Delinquency in Abuja Municipality. The purpose of this research was to investigate the relationship between Family Uncertainties and Juvenile Delinquency, whereby the purpose was to determine if there is a significant correlation between family influence and the incidence of juvenile delinquency among a sample of 450 participants.

The Pearson correlation coefficient between Family Uncertainties and Juvenile Delinquency was -0.87 ( $p < .01$ ). This strong negative correlation indicates that as family uncertainties increases, juvenile delinquency tends to decrease significantly.

The strong negative correlation implies that higher levels of family uncertainties are associated with significantly lower levels of juvenile delinquency. This suggests that supportive family environments may play a crucial role in mitigating delinquent behavior among juveniles.

The analysis reveals a strong negative relationship between Family Uncertainties and Juvenile Delinquency, emphasizing the potential impact of family dynamics on delinquent behavior.

Table 6.

*To what degree do family uncertainties serve as predictors of juvenile delinquency in Abuja Municipality?*

Variable	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	95% CI		$\beta$	<i>p</i>
			LL	UL		
Constant	151.56	1.40	148.81	154.31		<0.001
Family Uncertainties	-1.13	0.03	-1.18	-1.07	-0.89	<0.001
R <sup>2</sup>	0.79					
$\Delta$ R <sup>2</sup>	0.78					

Note. N=450; *B* = unstandardized regression coefficient; *SE* = standard error; CI = confidence interval; LL = lower limit; UL = upper limit;  $\beta$  = standardized regression coefficient; *p* = p-value

Table 6 above presents the results of a linear regression analysis that was conducted to investigate the relationship between family uncertainties and juvenile delinquency in Abuja Municipality. in a sample of 450 participants. The analysis aimed to determine whether family uncertainties significantly predict levels of juvenile delinquency in Abuja Municipality.

At the end of the research, the results indicate that family uncertainties are a significant predictor of juvenile delinquency, with an unstandardized coefficient (*B*) of -1.13 (*SE* = 0.03, *p*<0.001). The 95% confidence interval for family uncertainties ranged from -1.18 to -1.07, indicating a statistically significant negative relationship between family uncertainties and juvenile delinquency in Abuja Municipality.

The standardized regression coefficient ( $\beta$ ) for family uncertainties was -0.89, suggesting a strong negative association. This implies that greater family uncertainties are associated with lower levels of juvenile delinquency in Abuja Municipality.

The overall model explained a substantial portion of the variance in juvenile delinquency, with an  $R^2$  of 0.79. Additionally, the change in  $R^2$  ( $\Delta R^2=0.78$ ) was significant, underscoring the strong influence of family uncertainties in explaining variations in juvenile delinquency in Abuja Municipality.

Finally, the findings from this analysis highlight the critical role of family uncertainties in predicting juvenile delinquency. The negative relationship observed suggests that higher levels of family stability and fewer uncertainties may be linked to reduced delinquent behavior among youth. These results underscore the importance of supporting families to create a more stable environment for children and adolescents, potentially mitigating risks associated with juvenile delinquency in Abuja Municipality.

Table 7.

*What is the mediating role of peer influence in the relationship between family uncertainties and juvenile delinquency in Abuja Municipality?*

Variables	Peer Influence	Family Uncertainties	Juvenile Delinquency
Peer influence	-	-	-
Family uncertainties	0.73**	-	-
Juvenile delinquency	-0.55**	-0.89**	-

Note: Values are Pearson correlation coefficients. \*\* $p < .01$ . Sample size (n) = 450.

Table 7 above illustrates the descriptive statistics and correlation coefficients for Peer Influence, Family Uncertainties, and Juvenile Delinquency, with a specific focus on how Peer Influence mediates the relationship between Family Uncertainties and Juvenile Delinquency in Abuja Municipality.

Pearson correlation coefficients were computed to assess the relationships among the variables where it was determined that the correlation for Peer Influence and Family Uncertainties is 0.73 ( $p < .01$ ), showing a strong positive relationship. Higher family uncertainties are associated with higher peer influence.

Additionally, with respect to Peer Influence and Juvenile Delinquency, the correlation is -0.55 ( $p < .01$ ), indicating a moderate negative relationship. Higher peer influence is associated with lower levels of juvenile delinquency.

Furthermore, in relation to Family Uncertainties and Juvenile Delinquency, the correlation is -0.89 ( $p < .01$ ), showing a very strong negative relationship. Greater family uncertainties are associated with higher juvenile delinquency.

Subsequently, the results suggest that Peer Influence may mediate the relationship between Family Uncertainties and Juvenile Delinquency. The strong negative correlation between Family Uncertainties and Juvenile Delinquency, combined with the moderating effect of Peer Influence, supports the hypothesis that peer influence may play a significant role in buffering or exacerbating the impact of family uncertainties on juvenile delinquency.

In conclusion, the analysis demonstrates that Family Uncertainties, Peer Influence, and Juvenile Delinquency are significantly interrelated. Peer Influence appears to mediate the relationship between Family Uncertainties and Juvenile Delinquency.

Table 8.

*Mediating Role of Peer Influence Between Family Uncertainties and Juvenile Delinquency in Abuja Municipality.*

Variable	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	95% CI		$\beta$	<i>p</i>
			LL	UL		
Constant	106.99	6.90	93.42	120.56		<0.001
Peer Influence	-1.32	0.04	-1.39	-1.24	-1.03	<0.001
Family Uncertainties	0.98	0.15	0.68	1.27	0.20	<0.001
R <sup>2</sup>	0.81					
$\Delta R^2$	0.80					



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Note. N=450; B = unstandardized regression coefficient; SE = standard error; CI = confidence interval; LL = lower limit; UL = upper limit;  $\beta$  = standardized regression coefficient; p = p-value

Table 8 above presents the results of a linear regression analysis that was conducted to investigate the mediating effect of peer influence on the relationship between family uncertainties and juvenile delinquency in Abuja Municipality among a sample of 450 participants. The objective of this analysis was to determine if peer influence mediates the effect of family uncertainties on juvenile delinquency in Abuja Municipality.

A multiple linear regression analysis was conducted to assess the mediating role of peer influence in the relationship between family uncertainties and juvenile delinquency. The results revealed that family uncertainties significantly influenced juvenile delinquency through peer influence in Abuja Municipality.

Additionally, Peer influence was found to be a significant negative predictor of juvenile delinquency, with an unstandardized coefficient (*B*) of -1.32 (SE = 0.04,  $p < 0.001$ ). The 95% confidence interval for peer influence ranged from -1.39 to -1.24, confirming that higher levels of peer influence are associated with lower levels of juvenile delinquency. The standardized regression coefficient ( $\beta$ ) for peer influence was -1.03, indicating a strong negative relationship.

On the other hand, Family uncertainties also exhibited a significant effect on juvenile delinquency, with an unstandardized coefficient of 0.98 (SE = 0.15,  $p < 0.001$ ). The 95% confidence interval for family uncertainties ranged from 0.68 to 1.27, indicating a significant positive relationship. This suggests that higher levels of family uncertainties are associated with increased levels of juvenile delinquency. The standardized regression coefficient ( $\beta$ ) for family uncertainties was 0.20, indicating a moderate positive effect.

The overall model accounted for a substantial portion of the variance in juvenile delinquency, with  $R^2 = 0.81$ . This suggests that 81% of the variance in juvenile delinquency can be explained by the predictors included in the model. The change in  $R^2$  ( $\Delta R^2 = 0.80$ ) was also significant, indicating the importance of both peer influence and family uncertainties in predicting juvenile delinquency in Abuja Municipality.

Conclusively, the findings from this analysis suggest that peer influence serves as a significant mediator between family uncertainties and juvenile delinquency in Abuja Municipality. Specifically, while family uncertainties are positively related to juvenile delinquency, peer influence negatively influences juvenile delinquency, suggesting that greater positive peer relationships may mitigate the adverse effects of family uncertainties. These results highlight the need for interventions focused on fostering positive peer influences and providing support for families to create a more stable environment for youth. Future research should further explore the dynamics of these relationships to inform effective prevention strategies.

## CHAPTER V

### Discussion

This chapter presents the findings of the study, starting with the results, then comparing them with related studies, and finally offering explanations based on those studies. The findings are clearly linked to the relevant tables.

The research findings reveal a significant influence of peer dynamics on juvenile delinquency within the Abuja Municipality. The results of the study indicate that peer groups play a crucial role in shaping the behaviors of adolescents, a finding that is consistent with existing literature. Spruit et al., (2016) and Adeyemo and Osai (2016) have both highlighted that peer influence can significantly impact whether adolescents engage in delinquent behaviors, depending on the norms and behaviors prevalent within these groups. This aligns with Bandura's (1977) social learning theory, which suggests that individuals often adopt behaviors they observe in their social environment. Recent studies further reinforce this perspective, showing that peer influence remains a pivotal factor in adolescent behavior (Gómez et al., 2021; Liu et al., 2023).

The results of the study suggest that peer groups often provide the social structure and sense of belonging that adolescents might lack at home, making them more vulnerable to engaging in delinquent behaviors that are normalized within their peer circles (Eze & Chukwu, 2017). This reinforces the notion that peer influence is a critical determinant of delinquency, particularly in environments where adolescents seek acceptance and identity through group conformity (Adeyemo & Osai, 2016; Spruit et al., 2016). This relationship is also supported by recent research indicating that socio-economic hardships significantly heighten the risk of delinquent behavior among adolescents (Smith & Williams, 2021 ; Thomas et al., 2022).

The research findings reveal a complex relationship between family uncertainties and juvenile delinquency. The results of the study suggest that while Moffitt's (1993) developmental taxonomy posits that family instability could lead to delinquency, the relationship is not straightforward and is mediated by factors such as resilience and access to protective resources. Lansford et al., (2010) argue that the effects of family uncertainties on delinquency are influenced by cultural and socio-economic contexts, which might explain why some adolescents develop coping strategies that prevent them from engaging in delinquent behavior despite

experiencing family instability. This is further supported by contemporary studies that explore how family instability interacts with other risk factors to influence delinquent outcomes (Adams et al., 2021; Lee et al., 2023).

The research findings reveal that peer influence mediates the relationship between family uncertainties and juvenile delinquency. The results of the study suggest that peer influence can either exacerbate or mitigate the effects of family instability, depending on the nature of the peer interactions. This dual role of peer influence is consistent with the literature, which indicates that while negative peer influence can amplify the negative effects of a dysfunctional family environment, positive peer influence can serve as a protective factor (Spruit et al., 2016; Eze & Chukwu, 2017). For instance, adolescents from unstable family backgrounds who affiliate with delinquent peers are more likely to engage in delinquent behavior, as these groups may provide the acceptance and validation they lack at home (Patterson et al., 1989). Recent research also supports this, highlighting that positive peer relationships can buffer against the adverse effects of family instability (Johnson et al., 2022; Park et al., 2023).

The research findings underscore the need for interventions that address both family and peer dynamics when tackling juvenile delinquency in Abuja. The results of the study suggest that effective interventions should focus on fostering positive peer networks and strengthening community support structures to provide stability and guidance for adolescents who may lack these resources at home. Additionally, addressing the underlying socio-economic challenges that contribute to family instability could play a significant role in reducing delinquency rates (Adeyemo & Osai, 2016; Spruit et al., 2016). This approach is consistent with recent recommendations for comprehensive intervention strategies that integrate family support and peer network enhancement (Brown & Green, 2021; Wang, Zhang, & Liu, 2023).

## CHAPTER VI

### Conclusion and Recommendations

#### Conclusion

This study has provided valuable insights into the dynamics between peer influence, family uncertainties, and juvenile delinquency in Abuja Municipality. The findings reveal that both peer influence and family uncertainties significantly shape adolescents' behaviors, with their interactions further determining the likelihood of delinquent outcomes.

Peer influence emerged as a pivotal factor, with both positive and negative dimensions. Positive peer relationships were shown to encourage prosocial behaviors, acting as a buffer against delinquency. Conversely, negative peer associations were strongly linked to increased engagement in delinquent activities. This dual role underscores the critical need to foster positive peer networks in adolescents' environments. Family uncertainties, such as parental conflict, economic instability, and inconsistent parenting, also played a significant role in influencing juvenile delinquency. However, the study challenges traditional assumptions that family instability always leads to delinquency. It revealed that some adolescents exhibit resilience and refrain from delinquent behavior despite facing considerable family challenges. This highlights the importance of understanding individual differences and external support systems that may mitigate the effects of family uncertainties.

The study further identified that peer influence mediates the relationship between family uncertainties and juvenile delinquency. Adolescents from unstable family backgrounds were found to be more susceptible to peer influence, which either amplified their risk of delinquency or served as a protective factor, depending on the nature of the peer group. This finding emphasizes the interconnected nature of peer and family dynamics in shaping adolescent behavior. Overall, the research underscores the complexity of juvenile delinquency, highlighting the interplay of multiple socio-environmental factors. The insights gained provide a foundation for developing targeted interventions to mitigate delinquency by strengthening family stability and promoting positive peer interactions. Policymakers, educators, and community stakeholders are called upon to address these interconnected factors through evidence-based and community-focused strategies.

In conclusion, addressing juvenile delinquency requires a multi-pronged approach that recognizes the critical roles of family stability and peer influence. By fostering supportive family environments and nurturing positive peer networks, society can create conditions that promote adolescent resilience, reduce the prevalence of delinquent behaviors, and contribute to the well-being of communities. This study has set the stage for future research and practical interventions aimed at addressing the root causes of juvenile delinquency.

### **Recommendations for Future Research**

- Extend similar studies to other regions to explore geographical variations in the dynamics of peer influence and family uncertainties on juvenile delinquency. Future research should aim to replicate the findings of this study in different regions, both within and beyond Nigeria, to uncover possible geographical variations in how peer influence and family uncertainties contribute to juvenile delinquency. Such comparative studies could provide insights into the cultural, economic, and social factors that shape these dynamics. Understanding regional differences would be instrumental in tailoring prevention and intervention programs to address the unique challenges faced by communities in various settings.
- Future research should examine the impact of other factors, such as school environment, neighborhood characteristics, and individual psychological traits, on juvenile delinquency. To gain a more comprehensive understanding of juvenile delinquency, researchers should explore how factors beyond peer influence and family uncertainties contribute to delinquent behaviors. For instance, the school environment, including teacher-student relationships, school policies, and peer interactions, may play a significant role. Similarly, neighborhood characteristics such as socioeconomic status, safety, and access to resources could influence delinquency. Additionally, individual psychological traits like self-esteem, resilience, and emotional regulation should be studied to understand their interplay with external influences.
- Implement long-term studies to assess the evolving influence of peer and family factors on delinquency over time, capturing changes across developmental stages. Longitudinal research is crucial for understanding how

the roles of peer influence and family uncertainties evolve as adolescents grow. Such studies could track individuals from childhood through adolescence and into adulthood, examining how developmental changes, life events, and shifting social contexts impact delinquent behaviors. These insights would help identify critical periods for intervention and inform strategies to address these issues at different life stages.

- Investigate the gender-specific effects of peer influence and family uncertainties to design interventions that address the unique needs of boys and girls. Gender differences in the experiences of peer influence and family uncertainties should be explored to ensure that interventions are equitable and effective. Boys and girls may respond differently to these factors due to varying social expectations, emotional coping mechanisms, and exposure to specific risk factors. Research in this area could guide the development of gender-sensitive programs that address the distinct challenges faced by each group, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of intervention efforts.
- Conduct research to assess the effectiveness of existing programs targeting juvenile delinquency, identifying best practices and areas for improvement. Evaluative studies should be undertaken to determine the impact of current initiatives aimed at reducing juvenile delinquency. By identifying which programs yield the best results and understanding the elements that contribute to their success, researchers can provide actionable recommendations for policymakers and practitioners. Moreover, such assessments can highlight gaps in existing programs, offering opportunities for innovation and refinement to better meet the needs of at-risk youth and their families.

### **Recommendations for Practice**

- Establish specialized counseling and conflict resolution programs for families experiencing instability. These programs can include therapy sessions, mediation services, and workshops aimed at improving communication and conflict resolution skills to strengthen family cohesion and emotional bonds.
- Organize community-based workshops to educate parents on effective parenting techniques. These workshops should emphasize consistent supervision, emotional support, and positive role modeling, while also

providing practical strategies to create a nurturing and disciplined environment for their children.

- Develop peer mentorship programs in schools and community centers to encourage positive peer influence. These programs can pair at-risk adolescents with older peers who exemplify good behavior and leadership qualities, using activities such as team-building exercises, mentorship meetings, and skill-building workshops to promote healthy relationships and discourage associations with delinquent groups.



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**APPENDICES****Appendix A****Permission Form from Near East University Ethics Committee**

NEAR EAST UNIVERSITY

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

03.01.2024

Dear Chiamaka Sylvia Ezeribeaku

Your application titled "The relationship between peer influence and family uncertainties with juvenile delinquency in Abuja municipality" with the application number NEU/SS/2023/1693 has been evaluated by the Scientific Research Ethics Committee and granted approval. You can start your research on the condition that you will abide by the information provided in your application form.

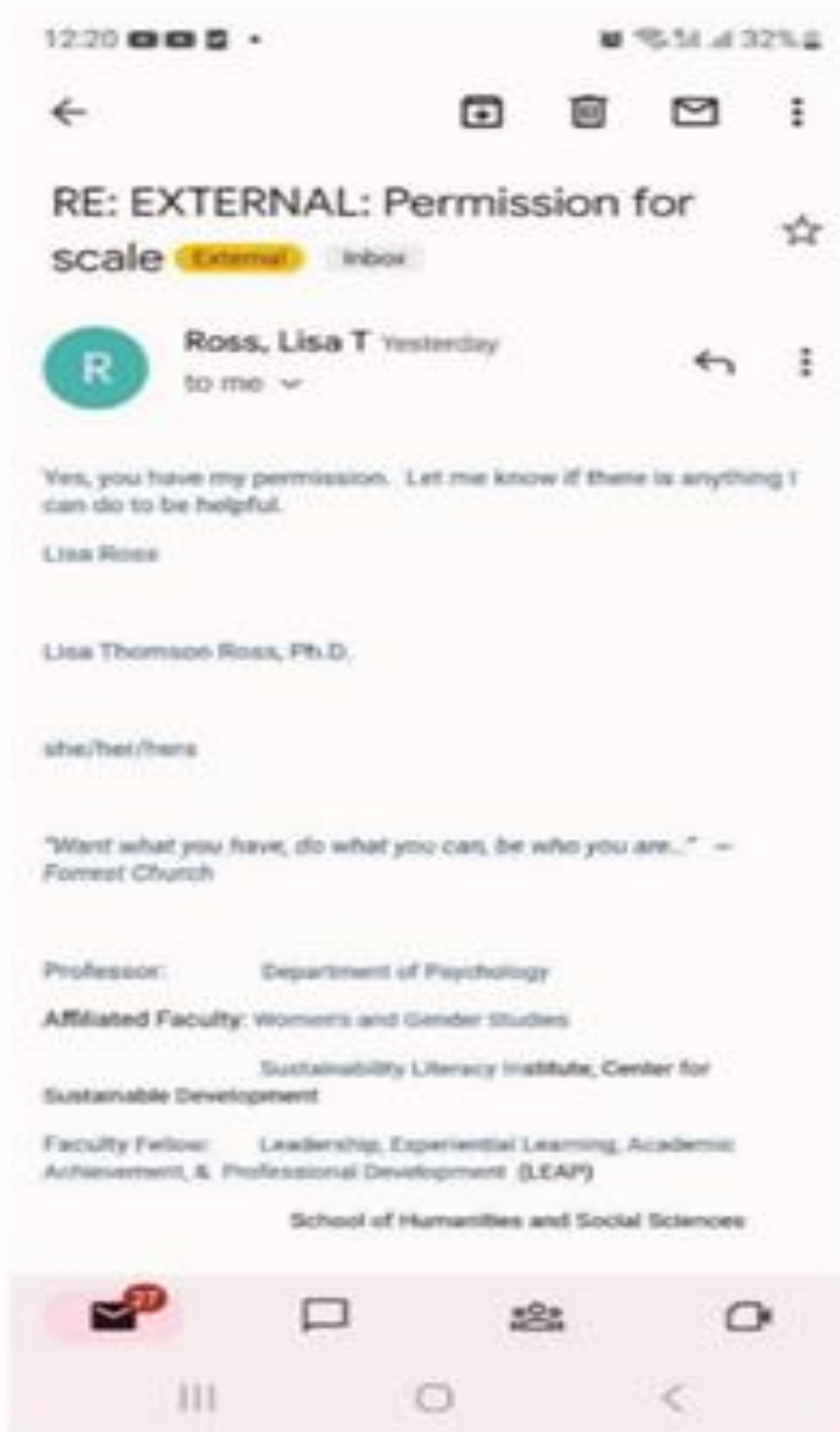


Prof. Dr. Aşkın KIRAZ

The Coordinator of the Scientific Research Ethics Committee

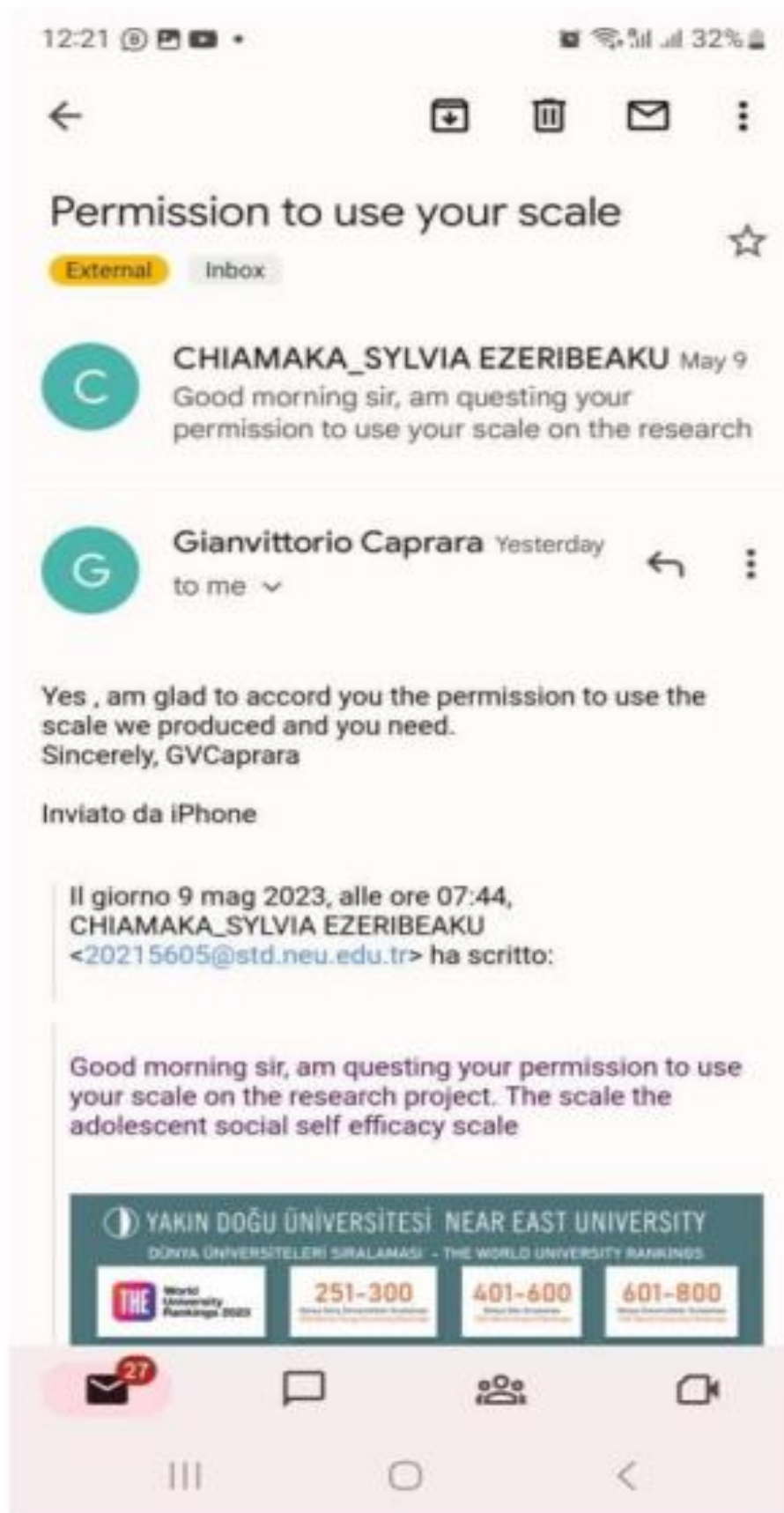
## Appendix B

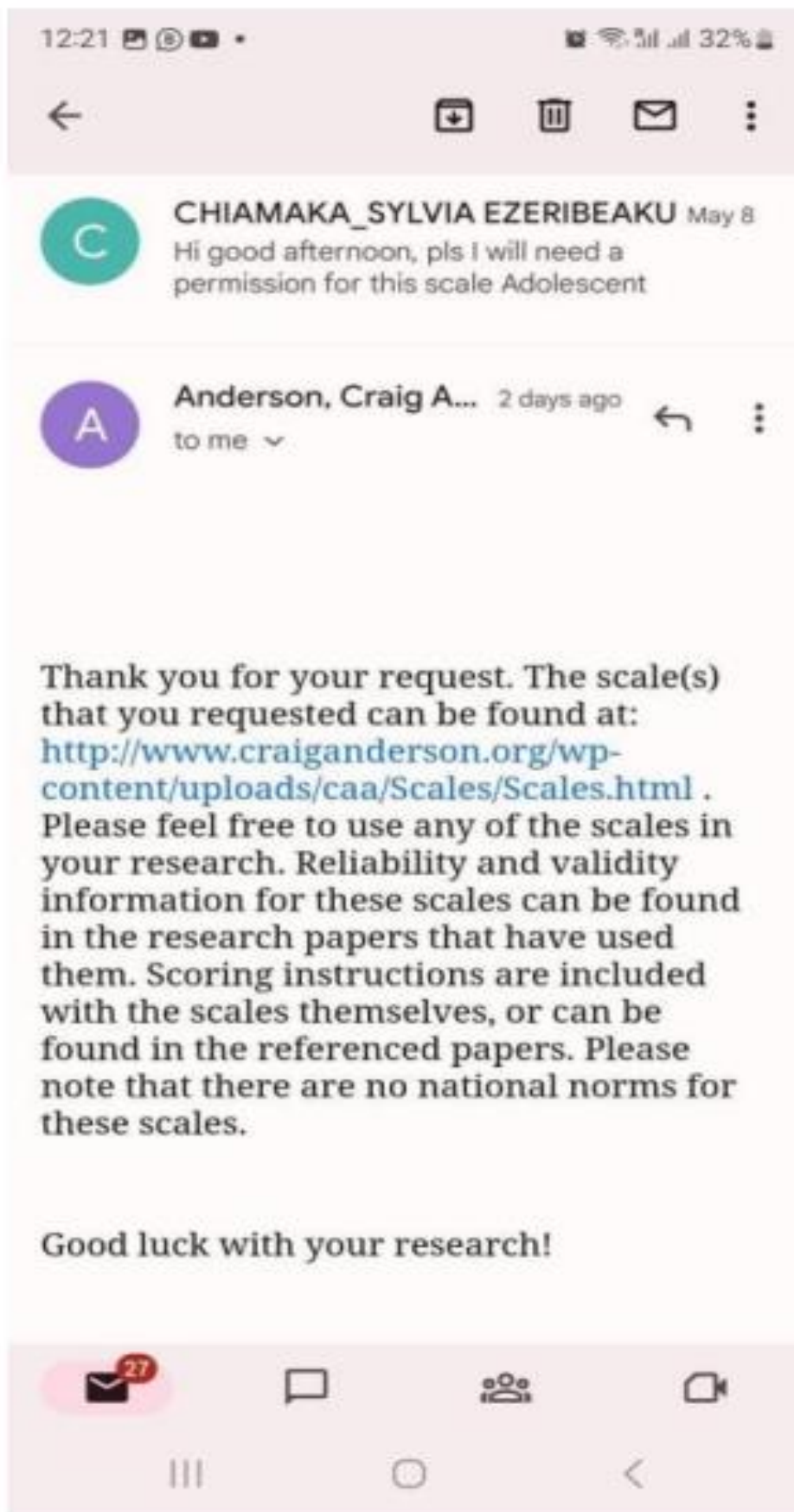
### Permission Regarding the Use of Scales











## Appendix C

### Turnitin Similarity Report

#### THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PEER INFLUENCE AND FAMILY UNCERTAINTIES IN JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN ABUJA MUNICIPALITY

ORJİNALLİK RAPORU

<p><b>% 11</b></p> <p>BENZERLİK ENDEKSİ</p>	<p><b>% 5</b></p> <p>İNTERNET KAYNAKLARI</p>	<p><b>% 8</b></p> <p>YAYINLAR</p>	<p><b>% 5</b></p> <p>ÖĞRENCİ ÖDEVLERİ</p>
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BİRİNCİL KAYNAKLAR

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Crosby, Olivia. "Factors That Contribute to Juvenile Delinquency.", California Baptist University, 2017</b></p> <p>Yayın</p>	<b>% 5</b>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>inact-psychologyconference.org</b></p> <p>İnternet Kaynağı</p>	<b>&lt;% 1</b>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Submitted to Higher Education Commission Pakistan</b></p> <p>Öğrenci Ödevi</p>	<b>&lt;% 1</b>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Submitted to National Open University of Nigeria</b></p> <p>Öğrenci Ödevi</p>	<b>&lt;% 1</b>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>www.researchgate.net</b></p> <p>İnternet Kaynağı</p>	<b>&lt;% 1</b>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Marc H. Bornstein. "Handbook of Parenting - Volume 4: Social Conditions and Applied Parenting", Routledge, 2019</b></p> <p>Yayın</p>	<b>&lt;% 1</b>

**Appendix D**  
**Data Collection Informed Consent Form**

Dear Participant,

This scale is part of a research study that we are carrying out to understand if there is any relationship between peer influence and family uncertainties in juvenile delinquency. The data uncertainties prevent future collected through this scale will be used to understand how peer pressure and family contribute to the development of juvenile delinquency and how it can be addressed to criminal behaviour.

Please note that your participation in the study is voluntary and whether you agree to participate or not will have no impact on you. Your identity will not be revealed in any case to third parties. The data collected during this study will be used for academic research purposes only and may be presented at national/international academic meetings and/or publications. You participating in this study at anytime by contacting us. If you opt out of the study, your data will be deleted from our database and will not be included in any further steps of the study.

In case you have any questions or concerns, please contact us using the information below.

Chiamaka Sylvia Ezeribeaku  
Psychology Department,  
Near East University  
E-mail: [20215605@std.neu.edu.tr](mailto:20215605@std.neu.edu.tr)

## **Appendix E**

### **Participants Informed Consent Form**

Dear Participant,

You are asked to participate in a research study that we are carrying out to understand if there is any relationship between juvenile delinquency, peer influence and family uncertainties. If you agree to participate, we will give you a questionnaire form to fill for a short period. The questions answered will be recorded down by the researcher. The questionnaires can be filled in an open or enclosed space and given back to the researcher. All answers will be recorded and kept by the research team after the completion of the study. All interviews will be transcribed by anonymising any identifying information

Please note that your participation in the study is voluntary and whether you agree to participate or not will have no impact on you. The data collected during this study will be used for academic research purposes only and may be presented at national/international academic meetings and/or publications. Your identity will not be revealed in any case to third parties and the data collected during this study will be used for academic research purposes only. You may quit participating in this study at anytime by contacting us. If you opt out of the study, your data will be deleted from our database and will not be included in any further steps of the study.

In case you have any questions or concerns, please contact us using the information below.

DR. Ayse Buran

Psychology Department,

Near East University

E-mail: .... Ayse,buran@neu.edu.tr

By signing below, you agree to take part in this study. Full Name:

Signature: .....

Date: .....

**Appendix F**  
**Data Collection Demographic**

1. Gender of respondent?
2. Age? (a) under 13 (b) 13-15 (c) 16 to 18 (d) over 18
3. What class are you in? (a) JSS1 (b) JSS2 (c) JSS3 (d) SS1 (e) SS2 (f) SS3
4. Parents Marital status? a) married and living together (b) separated (c) divorced d) deceased mother e) deceased father (f) both parents have died
5. What is your family structure? (a) nuclear family (parents and children) (b) Extended family (parents, children, and other relatives) (c) Single-parent family (d) Other (please specify)

### Appendix G

#### THE ADOLESCENT SOCIAL SELF-EFFICACY SCALE (ASSESS)

Instruction: this scale measures the level of self-efficacy in adolescents to perform social interactions. In each question, please indicate your response by selecting the box that represents your answers. 1. Not confident at all 2. Very little confidence 3. Moderately confident 4. Very confident 5. Completely confident.

No	Question	1	2	3	4	5
1	Start a conversation with a boy or girl who you don't know very well.					
2	Express your opinion to a group of kids discussing a subject of interest to you.					
3	Join a group of kids in the school cafeteria for lunch.					

**Appendix H**  
**FAMILY UNPREDICTABILITY SCALE (FUS)**

Instruction: measuring the degree of unpredictability and inconsistency in a family's communication, routines, and behaviors. The scale asks respondents to rate various aspects of their family dynamics, such as rules and routines, communication patterns, and changes in plans, to determine the level of predictability and consistency in their family. The scale is used to assess the impact of unpredictability in families on child and adolescent development. In each question, please indicate your response by selecting the box that represents your answers. 1. Strongly disagree 2. Disagree 3. Neutral 4. Agree 5. Strongly agree.

No	Questions	1	2	3	4	5
1	Child Gets away with misbehaving					
2	Parent yells at child					
3	Kids get away with breaking rules					



**Appendix I**  
**ADOLESCENT DELINQUENCY SCALE (ADS)**

Instruction: it is designed to assess a broad range of delinquent behaviors among adolescents. In each question, please indicate your response by selecting the box that represents your answers. 0 – Never 1 – Rarely 2 – Sometimes 3 – Often 4 – Always

No	Questions	0	1	2	3	4
1	How many times in the last year have you purposely damaged or destroyed property belonging to your parents or other family members?					
2	How many times in the last year have you purposely damaged or destroyed property belonging to a school?					
3	How many times in the last year have you purposely damaged or destroyed other property that did not belong to you (not counting family or school property)?					

## **Appendix J**

### **Curriculum Vitae**

My name is Chiamaka Sylvia Ezeribeaku. A positively dedicated and talented individual with extensive knowledge of psychology and a high level of confidence in undertaking complex tasks and producing good results, seeking to work in organizations to utilize the professional skills developed.

I am a Nigerian national from Anambra state, and currently residing in North Cyprus. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology from Houdegbe North American University, Benin Republic B.sc sociology (2017) and a Master's Degree from Near East University (MSc General Psychology; 2022-2024). I have extensive experience in various roles, including Assistant Manager at Sabest Pharmacy and Store, Customer Service Officer at Royale Beauty Spa during her NYSC, and Assistant Consultant and Solicitor at Aabomah Law Firm.

I speak English and Igbo(fluent), and I have technical skills in Microsoft Word Office and Excel. I possess strong qualities such as consistency, diligence, honesty, and the ability to work under pressure. My hobbies include researching, traveling, meeting new people, trying new innovations, singing, and reading motivational books. I am open to learning and dedicated to achieving organizational objectives and managerial goals, community programs and mental health awareness, abuse awareness.