
Counselling Strategies for Curbing Deviant Behaviour in Our Educational System

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ABSTRACT

This study examines different counselling strategies which could be used in curbing different deviant behaviours in our educational system. Deviant behaviour is considered to be strange and morally unacceptable. Deviant behaviour includes examination malpractice, rape, bullying, stealing, truancy, lateness and sexual immorality various counselling strategies were presented. And finally the paper recommended maximum utilization of these strategies to curb this socially undesirable behaviour in our educational system.

Keywords: *Counselling strategies, deviant behaviour, curbing, educational system.*

Introduction

Deviant behaviour varies from one society to another. It is obvious that what might be seen normal behaviour in another community might be seen abnormal in another. For example, in the Northern parts of the state covering of body is a very big culture and it is highly respected as their tradition demand but, in the Southern region it is not allowed while because it is against the ethics of our cultures. But in the north it is their style of dressing and cannot be violated, if one does it has become a deviant behaviour and that person will be sanctioned or killed as their culture permits in the north. However, deviant behaviour should be stamped out to allow development and growth. Opong (2008) states that deviant behaviour is a disease that is against transparency, justice and fair play.

Education is the hallmark of progress for effecting change and growth. Pertinently, it is on the basis of this, that government at all levels shows concern in making education a top most priority to ensure every person's achieve it and also come up with effective policies that will enhance educational growth of the citizenship (Angel, 2016). The functions of education in metamorphosing the citizens cannot be overemphasized, Agi (2015) posited that education is the art of loading a person from the dark are of ignoramus into the limelight of knowledge and understanding. This means or implies that an educated person can help in transforming the society for positive growth and development. Eremus (2015) posited that rules and regulations are not obeyed in our schools as there are much cases of examination malpractice, truancy, bullying, extortion, sexual offences, dishonesty, drug offences, dressing offences and porous behaviours etc. He said this ill attitude signifies deviation from standard functionality of student's behaviour. It is on this basis that Angel posited that school has become a place of committing different types of atrocities and also beg the government, parents and school administrators to wake up and ensure proper elimination of deviant behaviour in our educational system.

Asute (2014) asserts that the importance of education in transforming the individual cannot be overemphasized; Akinade (2014) sees education as a sharp light leading people to knowledge. This implies that an educated person will help in transforming the country for positive growth and development.

Solomon (2010) explained that the dos and dons are not obeyed in our schools as there are much atrocities such as cases of extortion, sexual offences, bullying assault, dishonesty, uncordial behaviour, drug offences and dressing offences has been the cankerworm or virus that speaks volume in our society. It is also on this regard that Barr. S. (2010) asserts that deviant behaviour is a notable hindrance towards the achievement of quality education in our educational system.

Concept of Deviant Behaviour

The word “Deviant” means different thing from what most people see to be acceptable and normal. This implies a deviation from clearly defined norms.

Angel (2015) defined deviant behaviour as any behaviour that lacks conformity and acceptability of people in the society. Deviant behaviour describes an action or behaviour that significantly contravene from the accepted or prescribed norms of a given society. It is a deviation that attracts punishment or sanctions in the society or school.

Diche (2016) posited that deviant behaviour is a behaviour that violates the laid down rules and regulations of a given organization or group. He also emphasize that deviant behaviour is a common phenomenon in the life of every human being but, stress that it is rampant among students in schools which has led them in joining secrets cults, and other heinous crimes in the school. Deviant behaviour as a case study among students have the institutions as a home of thinking among parents and students because of manifestation of crimes being committed by them.

Types of Deviant Behaviour in our School System

Ibuchim (2016) identified the following as types of deviant behaviour in our educational system.

- **Examination Malpractice:** It is an unholy or barbaric act perpetrated by the students, examines and other agents during and after examination with intention to have undue advantage and earn unmerited grade. Most students in our school at various levels indulge or delve into malpractice which is against the examination act of 1999 which prescribed rules and sanctions but, yet students also continue to live by it. The poor performance of students nationwide was as a result of examination malpractice in our schools.
- **Bullying:** It is an aggressive behaviour and is a behaviour intended to hurt (Paschal, 2015). Bigger, stronger students always lord it over the smaller or tender ones. Okechukwu (2016) enumerated various forms of bullying such as physical assault, extortion and verbal humiliation etc. Most students involves in bullying each other in our school with the intention of subduing them physically.
- **Truancy:** This means being away from home and school during school hours. This habit makes students to spend their time in inappropriate places which could lead to drug abuse in male and unwanted pregnancy in female. Dike (2015) explain that, this involves leaving the school premises and coming back any time without permission and also running away from school after resumption. If adolescents are not gainfully occupied in the school or at home, they develop lazy tendencies and may become

truants. Truancy in the students shows up in many ways the students nominal role is very low (Amaka & Joy, 2015).

- **Stealing:** This involves stealing fellow student's or school properties. Kingsley (2015) explained that most students indulge in the habit of taking what does not belong to them in school. This behaviour if not checked could give rise to other abnormal behaviours in a student and affects their academic performance.
- **Lateness to school:** Pere (2014) explained that there is prescribed time for resumption of school but some students often come to school late when morning assembly is over and in some cases, when the teacher is already in the class teaching. This leads to distraction.
- **Cultism:** This occurs when group of students come together under one name with bad intention of intimidating fellow students to join them or disturbing the activities of the school for their evil objective (Chima, 2015). According to him most students involves in cultism to compensate their academic inadequacy. It is a major misbehavior and the after effects of their activities do know one any good.
- **Drug Abuse:** This means indiscriminate use of drugs without doctor's prescription or use of drugs other than their purpose. Chamberlin (2015) posited that students in school and adults outside the school sitting have been found smoking, Indian hemp, heroine, cigarette and other drugs not prescribed by doctors to feel "high" "shine their eyes, to commit various dangerous crimes or to feel bold to talk with their teachers or the opposite sex.
- **Sex offences:** This involves various degree of sexual misconduct exhibited by students which include masturbation, lesbianism, homosexual, premarital sex, abortion. This affects their academic performance or lead to school dropout.
- **Absenteeism:** Staying away from school for no reason or without permission. Most students absent themselves from school without the permission of the school authority and this affect their performance in school.

Characteristics of Individual with Deviant Behaviour

The following are the behavioural disorder of deviant youths or students:

- Inappropriate types of behaviour or feeling under normal conducts.
- A general pervasive mood or unhappiness or depression.
- A tendency to develop physical symptoms pains or fears associate with personal or school problems.
- An inability to learn which cannot be explained by intellectual sensory or health factors.
- An inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relations with peers and teachers.
- Ability to live a scheduled life is their watchword.
- They are always temperamental and cannot reason normal.
- They do not interact freely with people.
- They always aim high and cannot concentrate in life.
- They see the world as a place of do or die place.
- They always join opposition.
- They are catalyst and cannot be loyal to the lawful authority
- Their existence is a threat to people who are reasonable
- They are people who are at loggerhead with their people.

Causes of Deviant Behaviour among School Students

- **Family background:** The home a child is born and brought up can cause a child to exhibit deviant behaviours in school. The home or family background encompasses family socio-economic status, child rearing practices etc. For instance an over permissive home exposes the child to all kinds of behaviours including deviant behaviour. Chuks (2016) posited that other factors within the home like broken family, and poor parental relationship are capable of breeding children that misbehave in school.
- **Biological factors:** These includes genetic factors such as psychopath (inherited anti-social behaviour), brain damage. Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a neuron behavioural developmental disorder primarily characterized by the “co-existence of attentional problems and hyperactivity with each behaviour occurring infrequently alone”. This behaviour problem is common with children especially during their school stage and it means them to exhibit high deviant behaviour in school.
- **Influence of mass media:** Exposure to bad television programmes, immoral magazine as well as pornographic films and materials, makes students to be involved in immoral behaviour.

Kento (2015) observed that the effects of unwholesome mass media seem to have negative impact on the character development of children than their positive impression. The students find it difficult to adjust to good personal, vocational, educational and social demands.

- **Societal factors:** Societal factors are one of the problems subjecting students into deviant behaviours. As society experience growth and become complex, so do societal factors causing student deviant behaviour. The increase in deviant behaviour in our society today cannot be overemphasized.
Onyejiaku (2010) brought forward psychological factors such as cognitive level and personality traits as factors that contributed to deviant behaviour in our school.
- **Peer group:** It is another dynamite which has assisted in destroying our children. Peer pressure refers to the group an individual identifies his or her self with. Peer pressure refers to the influence exerted by a peer group in encouraging a person to change his or her attitudes, values or behavioural in order to conform to group norms, most students indulge in deviant behaviour in school because of influence of their peers.

Theoretical Explanation of Deviant Behaviour

- **Psychoanalytic Theory:** This theory was developed by Sigmund Freud, and it explained that all humans have natural drives and urges that are repressed in the unconscious. Additionally, all humans have criminal tendencies. These tendencies are curbed, however, through the process of socialization. A child that is improperly socialized then could develop a personality disorder that causes him or her to direct antisocial impulses with inward or outward. Those who direct them inward become neurotic while those that direct them outward become deviant or criminal.
- **Cognitive Development Theory:** According to the cognitive development theory, criminal and deviant behaviour results from the way in which individuals organize their thoughts around morality and the law. During the first stage, called the pre-conventional stage which is reached during middle childhood, moral reasoning is based on obedience and avoiding punishment. The second level is called conventional level and is reached at the end of middle childhood. During this stage, moral reasoning is based on the expectations that the child’s family and significant others have for him or her. The third level of moral reasoning, the post-conventional level, is reached during early adulthood at which point individuals are able to go beyond social conventions. That is, they value the

laws of the social system. People who do not progress through these stages may become struck in their moral development and as a result become deviants or criminals.

- **Learning Theory:** Learning theory is based on the principles of behavioural psychology, which hypothesises that a person's behaviour is learned and maintained by its consequences or rewards. Individual, thus learn deviant and criminal behaviour by observing other people and witnessing the rewards or consequences that their behaviour receives. For example, an individual who observes a friend shoplifting an item and not getting caught sees that the friend is not being punished for his/her actions and instead is rewarded by getting to keep the item he or she stole. That individual might be more likely to shoplift.

Effects of Deviant Behaviour

The following are the effects of deviant behaviour:

- It affects teaching and learning as teachers spend more time trying to control students rather than teaching them.
- Most involved students don't benefit from schooling It affects their academic performance because they are often into one deviant act or the other losing most vital class lessons.
- It leads to poor parent: Child relationship as most reasonable parent's withdraw their love and care on deviant children and also most deviant children don't like coming closer to their parents because of fear of being hint.
- Deviant students often threaten their teachers, school authorities and even parents at home.
- It leads to demonstrations and destruction of school properties and in some cases deviant students observe frequent demonstrations in the face of little issues.

Educational Implications

- Deviant behaviour among student has a lot of educational implications.
- Teachers in the process of teaching and learning should recognize the fact that most learners who are exhibiting deviant behaviour or other social menace are out of their senses. They should make learning very much interesting through using computer and other instructional materials.
- Teaching and learning should be tailored towards exposing and discouraging deviant acts or conduct.
- It is important for school administrators to ensure proper monitoring in school

The roles of government in ameliorating deviant behaviour in our educational system are as follows:

- Government should ensure the availability of guidance counsellors in all the educational levels. This will help in directing students' attention positively and handling issues of personal social problems of students. Counsellors should also help in organizing orientation programmes and other activities geared towards helping students to live a position life in and outside the school setting.
- Government should provide enough recreational facilities in schools across the nation such as table tennis, volley ball. This will help students to channel their energy into meaningful events.
- Government should ensure that monitoring teams discharge their duties effectively. As this will help in cross examination of activities of teachers and students for optional result in the system.

The roles of the school in ameliorating deviant behaviour are as follows:

- There should always be disciplining options and severe sanction on observed deviant students so as to serve as deterrent to others.
- There should be proper implementation of school rules and regulations in our various schools without fear or favour. Schools are “seeing things and respond to the dynamics of society change.”
- The school authorities should introduce some kind of reward to well behaved students and keep re-enforcing them. This will help to encourage good behaviour among students.
- School administrators should ensure that teachers are teaching well and instructional materials are applied. This will help in encouraging the learner to learn well.

The roles of parents in ameliorating deviant behaviour in our educational systems are as follows:

- Parents and guardians should always monitor the type of friends their children keep and act as role model. This they could do by encouraging their children to keep and associate themselves with good friends in and outside the home.
- Parents and guardians should always monitor the type of film, and reading materials their children are expected to and discourage bad materials.
- Parents and guardians should always provide children with their academic needs adequately and monitor their usage properly; proper provision of children’s academic needs such as study materials, food, transportation, clothing etc.

This will help them to concentrate properly in their study and achieve optimal. Parents who have relaxed control of their children behaviour give them the freedom to be morally decadent in the society.

The Way Forward

A meticulous measure should be used by government and parents on the issue of deviant behaviour in our society.

Deviant behaviour in our institution or society has become a controversial issue that needs urgent attention as regards taking a stringent measure on organizing seminars or orientation programmes toward behavioural rehabilitation and effective contributions in the society. Also, government and parents should also put it compulsory that every student or teacher should endeavour to undergo behavioural test before absorbing the person as a student or teacher in any of the institution to avoid recruiting people of deviant behaviour that will bring disgrace to government and parents.

Government and parent should not relent in their responsibilities concerning providing necessary means or avenue of curbing or mitigating deviant behaviour in our contemporary society. Agi (2014) opined that it is our children that form habits and if that habit is not properly checked issues of deviant behaviour will continue to take a stronghold that will subject the society into imbroglio or comatose.

Finally, Danjuma (2004) opined that government and parents should wake up from slumber, if they want to succeed in stamping out deviant behaviour which is against the equity of law of natural justice. Therefore, the issue of deviant behaviour has become an epidemiology which has ravaged peoples in educational sector and at the same time has caused a severe setback on the expectation of government and parents in our society.

Conclusion

Deviant behaviour is a behaviour or action of individual or groups that are not in accordance. In schools deviant behaviour of students are understood relation to body of existing schools rules and regulations. Peer pressure and school related factors have great consequences on the academic wellbeing of students. It is imperative for government, parents and schools to put adequate measures in place to curb the trends of deviant acts in our schools because of its increasing rate in the educational system.

Recommendations/Implications for Counselling

The following recommendations are made based on the nature of deviant behaviour.

- The issue of civic and moral education should be taken more seriously in all levels of our education and moral re-orientation should be mostly emphasized.
- Since most of the causes of deviant acts are traceable to schools, home, peer influence etc there is need for parents, and school administrators to work jointly to keep students behaviour under effective control.
- Parents and guardians should always monitor the activities of their children at all time with the aim of curbing the negative behaviour.
- Government should live up to expectation of people by ensuring absolute supervision and creating social amenities.
- Professional counsellors should take their responsibilities serious.
- Government should establish their professionalism in ameliorating this wavering disease.

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