



Narratives on the Effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences on Deviant Behavior among Inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State

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Abstract

Original Research Article

This study was carried out in order to examine narratives on the effects of adverse childhood experiences on deviant behavior among inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State. To attain the objectives of this study, two research questions and one null hypothesis were postulated to guide the conduct of the study. Ex-post factor design was used for the study. Deviance and Adverse Childhood Experiences Questionnaire (DACEQ) was used. The validated instrument was administered to forty-four (44) respondents, selected through, systematic sampling technique in the study area. The study found that: Phone snatching and Sexual Assaults are the major forms of Deviant Behavior among Inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State. There is a significant relationship between adverse childhood experiences and deviant behavior among inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that Government should conduct evaluations or screening programs to find kids and teenagers who have had adverse childhood experiences. Early discovery enables prompt assistance and intervention, which can lessen the likelihood that these events will have a negative influence on aberrant behaviour.

Keywords: Adverse childhood experiences, deviant behavior, juvenile inmates, behavioral outcomes.

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Introduction

Childhood experiences leave indelible marks in the hearts of those who have been through them. Every human being on the face of this earth has had one form of childhood experience or the other. The way and manner these are imparted is quite crucial. Some recall theirs with nostalgia and others do so with so much bitterness and regrets. This usually stems from the nature of such experiences and their mode of impartation. Childhood experiences range from love,

hatred, care, rejection, abandonment, acceptance, discomfort, deprivation to over pamper. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) refer to some of the most intensive and frequently occurring sources of stress that children may suffer early in life. Such experiences include multiple types of abuse; neglect; violence between parents or caregivers; other kinds of serious household dysfunction such as alcohol and substance abuse; and peer, community and collective violence. It poses the question of whether, and how,



childhood experiences affect adult health decades later. The findings from the ACE Study provide a remarkable insight into how we become what we are as individuals and as a nation. They are important medically, socially, and economically. ACEs are surprisingly common, happen even in “the best of families” and have long-term, damaging consequences. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are defined as traumatic experiences that may include sexual, physical or emotional abuse or emotional and physical neglect, as well as adverse family circumstances that occurred during childhood or adolescence. Studies show that adverse experiences tend to be frequent and co-occurring: two-thirds of the population suffered from at least one before the age of 18, and over 10% experienced 5 or more (Bellis et al., 2014). In overall terms, adverse experiences are more common among children under 6 years of age than among older children (Thompson et al., 2015). The results obtained by Kerker et al. (2015) indicate that almost all children between 18 and 71 months of age (98.1%) have experienced at least one adverse event, and 50.5% have experienced 4 or more. On average, the first exposure to ACEs occurs at one and a half years of age. Once an adverse event occurs in a child’s life, the likelihood of additional ACEs increases significantly, which is why a chain of early risks opens up.

Deviant behaviors can be regarded as risk strategies leading to negative outcomes, such as social problems, judicial involvement, and imprisonment. Deviant behavior might be conceptualized as behavior that violates social norms and values, including a wide range of acts such as theft, lying and assault. The definition includes antisocial behaviors that are violations of criminal law, usually referred to as offences or crimes, as well as acts that are not subject to sanctions by the criminal justice system, such as externalizing or disruptive behavior (Braga et al., 2017). In other words deviant behavior is defined as decisions, behaviors, or conduct that markedly departs from accepted norms of behavior in society, culture, or both. These actions are frequently seen as odd, out of the ordinary, or falling outside the bounds of what is considered appropriate in a certain society or community. Understanding

deviant behavior requires a sensitive and sophisticated approach that takes into account the intricate interactions between societal, cultural, and personal factors. Penalties and rehabilitative strategies that target root causes and promote reintegration into society are two possible responses to deviant behavior.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) have a profound effect on people and can be a contributing factor to deviant behavior, especially in the case of remand home or prison inmates. Creating successful interventions and rehabilitation programs in remand homes or prisons requires an understanding of the effects of ACEs. Thus, strong desire to see an improvement in deviant behaviors among young adults in Kano state motivates the researcher to conduct this study.

Statement of the Problem

The prevalence of deviant behaviors among adolescents children in Kano state have become a source of concern to parents and all security stakeholders. One of the main contributing factors to the development of deviant behaviors in remand home inmates in Kano state is the prevalence of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Abuse, neglect, dysfunctional households, violence exposure, and other traumatic experiences that occurred during a person’s formative years have been linked to a significant rise in deviant behavior tendencies in those housed in remand homes. Comprehending the particular ways in which these unfavorable events impact and add to deviant behaviors in prisoners is essential for developing successful intervention plans, rehabilitation initiatives, and successful reintegration into society after release. Thus, it’s against these problems that this study seeks to examine Narratives on the Effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences on Deviant Behavior among Inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State.

Research Objectives

The main objective of this research work is to examine Narratives on the Effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences on Deviant Behavior among

Inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State. While, the specific objectives are to:

- i. Determine the major forms of Deviant Behavior among Inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State.
- ii. Determine the prevalence rate of Adverse Childhood Experiences among Inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State.
- iii. Determine the relationship between Adverse Childhood Experiences and Deviant Behavior among Inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State.

Research Questions

The following questions were asked to guide the conduct of this research work:

- i. What are the major forms Deviant Behavior among Inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State?
- ii. What is the prevalence rate of Adverse Childhood Experiences among Inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State?

Research Hypothesis

The following null hypothesis is set and will be tested at (0.05) level of significance to guide the conduct of this research work:

- H₀:** There is no significant relationship between Adverse Childhood Experiences and Deviant Behavior among Inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State.

Research Design and Methodology

Because it sought to determine Narratives on the Effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences on Deviant Behavior among Inmates of Remand Home Kano, this study adopts the Ex-Post-Facto design. Another name for ex-post facto research design is causal comparative research design. An ex-post-facto or causal comparative study design is one in which the researcher looks for the origins or explanations of

current variations in the status or behavior of groups or people. Its goal is to pinpoint the primary causes of the current disparities in the status or behavior of various groups or individuals (Sara, 2020). The selection of this design was due to its simplicity to explain the phenomena and observed activity in a study area. Moreover, this design was opted to be more appropriate for this study as it enabled the researcher to collect extensive, comprehensive and in depth information from the respondents who are Juvenile Inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State.

Population and Sample of the Study

The target population of the study comprises of the entire Juvenile Inmates of Goron-Dutse Remand Home Kano, Kano State. A total of fifty (50) Inmates formed the population for the study. This study used a sample of forty-four (44) Inmates drawn from Goron-Dutse Remand Home Kano, Kano State. The sample size was determined using research advisors (2006) sample size table. Systematic sampling technique was used to sample the subjects for the study. The choice of this technique is to allow the researcher obtain data from subjects most suitable for the study.

Data collection instruments

For the purpose of collecting data for this study, a research instrument, Deviance and Adverse Childhood Experiences Questionnaire (DACEQ), was used. The instrument was adapted by the researcher for the purpose of eliciting the opinion of the respondents and from which the Effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences on Deviant Behavior could be described. This instrument consists of two sections (A and B). Section (A) consists of three (3) items, on the Bio data of the respondents. Section (B) of the instrument consists of ten (10) items on adverse childhood experiences. A Likert scale of 1 to 5 of Strongly Agreed, Agreed, Undecided, Disagreed, and Strongly Disagreed were used in scoring responses of the respondents in the order of 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 respectively.

Validation of the Instrument

To establish the validity of the instrument (DACEQ) face validation process was utilized, Experts examined the items in the instrument for content validity, appropriateness of items, clarity of statement in the instrument and whether or not the items are related to reasoning ability of the respondents. Suggestions and criticisms were made that were helpful in improving the quality of the items in the instrument. Observations and corrections of the experts were applied to the items in the instrument, and the final draft was taken for pilot testing. A reliability of consistency was further established for the instrument. The instrument was pilot tested on thirty inmates (30) from Nasarawa Remand Home, Kano, who are not part of the study. A Cronbach Alpha was computed using SPSS to assess the reliability of the instrument. The analysis reveals Alpha in the instrument (DACEQ) is 0.69.

Procedure for Data Collection and Analysis

Also the respondents were assured of the confidentiality in treatment of their responses. The items were clearly stated to respondents and those (Respondents) that required explanation on some statements were given necessary attention, face to face delivery method was employed by the researcher in the administration and collection of the instruments. The data collected was analyzed using Descriptive and Inferential Statistics. Simple percentages and mean distribution were used in answering the research questions and Pearson

Product Moment Correlation (PPMC), to test the research hypothesis.

Data Presentation and Analysis

In this chapter, the data collected from the respondents will be analyzed using descriptive statistics and Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC). The analysis sought to answer the research questions and test the hypothesis which underscored the significance of the study, with a view to providing a basis for drawing conclusion and highlighting basis for identifying the contribution of the study to knowledge. Discussions of the findings of study were presented, within the context of findings of related studies, thereby paving way for decision making on the outcome of the study.

Descriptive analysis/response to research questions

Descriptive statistics is used in answering research question one as follows:

Research question one: What are the major forms Deviant Behavior among Inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State?

The researcher use item 1, on the Deviance and Adverse Childhood Experiences Questionnaire (DACEQ) to answer this question. The following table 1 provided the frequency distribution of respondents according to the major forms of Deviant Behavior among Inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State.

Table 1: the frequency distribution of respondents according to the major forms of Deviant Behavior among Inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State.

S/N	Most prevalent deviant behaviour	Percentage
i.	Bullying	6.82%
ii.	Phone Snatching	56.82%
iii.	Sexual Assault	18.18%
iv	Fighting	13.64%
v	Others (Pls, Specify).....	4.54%
Total		100%

From table 1 above, 6.82% of the respondents engaged in bullying behavior, 56.82% are phone snatchers, 18.18% sexual assault, 13.64% fighting, while 4.54% of them engaged in other forms of deviance behaviors such as aggressiveness, and suicidal acts.

Research question two: what is the prevalence rate of adverse childhood experiences among inmates of remand home kano, kano state?

The researcher use items 2-10, on the deviance and adverse childhood experiences questionnaire (daceq) to answer this question. The following table 1 provided the descriptive statistics of respondents according to the prevalence rate of adverse childhood experiences among inmates of remand home Kano, Kano state.

Table 2: The descriptive statistics of respondents according to the prevalence rate of adverse childhood experiences among inmates of remand home Kano, Kano state

S/N	Items	SA	A	UD	D	SD	Mean	Remark
2	My parents are separated or divorced (parental separation)	18	22	0	3	1	4.20	Agreed
3	My parents or adults in our home frequently Slap, hit, kick, punch, or beat each other up.	13	19	6	2	4	3.80	Agreed
4	My parents or adults in our home frequently Hit, beat, kick, or physically hurt me.	20	17	2	1	1	4.02	Agreed
5	My parents Scream or Swear at me, insult me or put me down	14	16	10	3	1	3.89	Agreed
6	Someone 5 years older than me (including adults) frequently touched me sexually	16	13	7	4	4	3.75	Agreed
7	My parents/guardians don't really know what I am doing with my free time when not at school.	22	17	3	1	1	4.32	Agreed
8	Mostly my parents/guardians get too drunk or intoxicated by drugs to take care of me	9	11	6	4	14	2.93	Disagreed
9	I Lived with someone who was jailed or imprisoned for a crime	15	17	8	1	3	3.91	Agreed
10	My parents/guardians do not give me enough food even when they could easily have done so.	17	17	6	2	2	4.02	Agreed

Grand Mean = 3.87

From the above table 4.2 the respondents disagreed with item 8 with a mean value of 2.93, while agreeing with the other items on the instrument. The grand mean of the items of the instrument is 3.87.

Hypotheses Testing

A null hypothesis is raised in Chapter one to give statistical validation to findings from research questions of the study. In order to test it for acceptance or rejection, data were collated from sampled participants (Inmates); this hypothesis is tested as follows:

Hypothesis: There is no significant relationship between Adverse Childhood Experiences and Deviant Behavior among Inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State.

Table 4.3: Correlation between Adverse Childhood Experiences and Deviant Behavior among Inmates of Remand Home Kano.

Pearson correlation	<i>r</i>	P	<i>N</i>
Adverse Childhood Experiences	.692	.000	44

In order to test the null hypothesis that, there is no significant relationship between Adverse Childhood Experiences and Deviant Behaviour among Inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State. A Pearson correlation as presented in the above table shows a significant relationship exists between Adverse Childhood Experiences and Deviant Behaviour. This is based on the correlation value ($r=.692$, $p=.000$, $p<0.05$). Thus, the null hypothesis that state, there is no significant relationship between Adverse Childhood Experiences and Deviant Behaviour among Inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State, is rejected.

Discussion of findings

The study was specifically designed to examine the narratives on the effects of adverse childhood experiences on deviant behaviour among inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State. The discussions of the research findings comprised discussions on the findings from the responses of the respondents.

The responses to research question one, on the major forms deviant behaviour among inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State, the finding shows that, Phone snatching (56.82%) and sexual assaults (18.18%) are the major forms of deviant behaviour among inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State. This implies that most of the juveniles' inmates engaged in phone snatching and sexual assaults such as rape and other forms of deviant activities. This finding agrees with that of Kazeem (2020) who investigated the influence of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and socio-economic status (SES) on criminal behaviour. Findings revealed that 62 (24.5%) inmates committed armed robbery, 55 (21.7%) were charged for internet fraud, 47 (18.5%) were charged for property-related offences, while 35 (13.8%) committed murder. The study recommends that; Attention needs to be shifted to management of childhood adversity and improving socio-economic status for crime control in Nigeria.

Also, responses to research question two, on the prevalence rate of Adverse Childhood Experiences

among Inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State, the finding shows that, There is a high prevalence rate of ACEs among Inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State, (mean =3.87). This signifies that most of the juveniles' inmates in Kano remand home experience one form of adverse childhood experiences or another. The finding is similar to that of Garduno (2022) who assesses the effect of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) on antisocial behaviours. Results obtained from multivariate logistic regression models revealed that stealing things was predicted by being hit hard, being sexually molested, and having lived with a depressed or suicidal individual; and receiving threats over the internet predicted physical fights.

Lastly, the findings of the research hypothesis, on significant relationship between ACEs and deviant behaviour among inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State, reveals that There is a significant relationship between ACEs and deviant behaviour among inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State ($r = .692, P < 0.05$). This finding is similar to that of Holtzhausen and Campbell (2021), the aim of this quantitative study was to test the universality of adverse childhood experiences as risk factors for the development of antisocial behaviour among 413 young adults in the Western Cape, South Africa. Linear regression models found that adverse childhood experiences were strong, positive predictors of deviant behaviours. Moreover, specific adverse childhood experiences of physical abuse and emotional neglect had notable effects for deviant behaviour.

Conclusions

This study attempted to examine the narratives on the effects of adverse childhood experiences on deviant behavior among inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State. Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that the major forms of deviant behavior among inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State are phone snatching (56.82%) and sexual assaults (18.18%). Equally, the prevalence rate of adverse childhood experiences among inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State, is very high (mean =3.87). Finally, adverse childhood experiences

significantly correlates deviant behavior among inmates of Remand Home Kano, Kano State ($r = .692, P < 0.05$).

Recommendations

Based on the major findings of this study, the following measures were recommended:

1. Government should conduct evaluations or screening programs to find kids and teenagers who have had adverse childhood experiences. Early discovery enables prompt assistance and intervention, which can lessen the likelihood that these events will have a negative influence on aberrant behavior.
2. Government should establish surroundings that are secure and encouraging for kids who have suffered from adverse childhood experiences. Families, communities, and schools are essential in supplying resources, stability, and exemplary role models that lessen the damaging impacts of adverse childhood experiences.
3. Government should make sure adverse childhood experiences affected children and their families have easy access to mental health resources. Support groups, therapy, and counseling can help people deal with trauma and stop it from leading to deviant conduct.
4. Promote stress management, healthy family communication, and positive parenting practices through your parenting programs and educational materials. It is possible to lessen the negative effects of ACEs on children by assisting parents in creating secure, loving homes.
5. In order to help children affected by trauma feel safe and motivated to study, educators can acquire skills for designing inclusive classrooms.
6. This study was conducted in Goron-Dutse remand home, Kano. The study could be replicated in other remand

homes within the state, and also in other states of the federation.

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