Home Movies and Juvenile Delinquency among Teenagers in Selected Secondary Schools in Ezza North Local Government Area Ebonyi State Nigeria

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Abstract

The increasing rate of delinquency among teenagers in recent times is disturbing, especially as home movies are seen as a major causal factor. Delinquencies associated with juvenile include: rape, stealing, burglary, indecent dressing, drug use, sexual perversions, and insubordinations, among others. This study examined the relationship between home movies and juvenile delinquency among teenagers in selected secondary schools in Ezza North Local Government Area of Ebonyi State, Nigeria. This study reviewed cultivation theory, social learning theory, differential association theory, and Hirschi's social bond theory. The cultivation and social bond theories were used to underpin the study. Multistage sampling technique was adopted in this study. Data were generated from structured questionnaire administered to 289 respondents from 9 secondary schools in Ezza North Local Government Area of Ebonyi State. Five hypotheses were tested in the study using Chi-square test tool. Hypothesis one was a cross-tabulation of the relationship between how long teenagers watch movies and armed-robbery/stealing among the teenagers in selected secondary schools in Ezza North LGA. The result showed no significant relationship because the p-value (0.000) is found to be less than the level of significance (0.05), the null hypothesis (H0) is accepted and alternate (H1) hypothesis rejected. The same results were gotten in hypothesis two which was the relationship between how long teenagers watch movies and indecent dressing. The same result also applied in Hypothesis three, (the relationship between how long teenagers watch movies and drug use) and Hypothesis four which tested the relationship between how long teenagers watch movies and sexuality among the teenagers in selected secondary schools in Ezza North LGA. Unlike the four hypotheses above, hypothesis five which tested the relationship between parental control and negative influences of home movies among the teenagers in the selected schools in Ezza North LGA has significant relationship with p-value (.125) which is more than the level of significance (0.05). As a result, the study therefore recommends that parents and guardians should observe movies watched by their children. In addition, local, state, and federal governments should enact more stringent policies that give more regulations to the type of movies teenagers watch in addition to what National Film and Video Censorship Board (NFVCB) has done.

Keywords: Home Movies; Juvenile; Delinquency; Teenagers

Problem and Significance

The significant role of home movies as a medium of communication and character molding is no longer in doubt. These home movies portray significant messages that have influence on the juveniles, which consequently make some of them delinquent. Indeed, movies hold a very special place in the social learning of the teenagers. Broughton M [1] believes that movies have an enchanting quality, a unique ability to transport us to different worlds, evoke deep emotions, and inspire our imaginations. As one immerses himself in the world of movies, he would often find that they are more than entertainment. They are powerful art form that has the capacity to influence our lives in profound ways. As a result, movies contribute to transmission of culture and socialization of young ones in our society.

In examining the relationship between home movies and juvenile delinquency among teenagers in selected Secondary schools in Ezza North Local Government Area Ebonyi State Nigeria, it is imperative to discuss the influence of media on the teenagers because social media is a tool for home movies. This is because home movies are a mode of media transmission; if the media have no influence on the society, its continued existence would not be justified.

Home movies are veritable tools of character molding, which cut across nations and cultural boundaries with wide and fast distributing networks internationally. Home movies are seen as source of communication, entertainment, and education, as well as medium of culture promotion in Nigeria. In the face of media imperialism by foreign media and the over shadowing of Nigeria's cultural values and manifests, it becomes important to examine the home movies to ascertain if it is influencing the delinquents of the juveniles among the teenagers of Ezza North Local Government in Ebonyi State. An examination of some of the home movies revealed that they portray nudity while some of the movies portray costumes that reflect the rich Nigerian culture and manifest in the characters of the teenagers of Ezza North Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

Based on the assumption that home movies have negative influence in the life of teenagers in the area, it becomes necessary to examine how home movies influence the attitude of teenagers in the selected secondary schools in Ezza North Local Government in Ebonyi State Nigeria. Moreover, this study sought to know the role of the parents in remedying the negative effects of home movies in the lives of the teenagers of the area. This study is also imperative since it guides the policy makers where necessary especially when it is found that the influence is negative and detrimental-becoming the cause of juvenile delinquency in Ezza North Local Government Area.

This study is practically and theoretically significant. Practically, the study will guide policy makers and regulatory agencies in providing protection against the production and exposure of movies that negate the child's good attitude and behavior. Again, this study will provide a framework for the fight against media and cultural imperialism in places where the home movie industry is serving as stooge.

Theoretically, this study will help in consultancy as it concerns effects of home movies related topics. As a copy of this research work will be kept in the school library, it will serve as a reliable reference to theoretically strengthen the further related research topics. Again, this study will be beneficial to students of Sociology and Criminology because it will expose them to theories of home videos and juvenile delinquency via the media.

The areas reviewed in this study include an overview of home movies; concepts of juvenile delinquency among the teenagers; types of juvenile delinquency; causes of juvenile delinquency; consequences of juvenile delinquency and means of curtailing negative influence of home movies in the lives of the teenagers. Related Theories reviewed in this study include: Cultivation Theory, Social learning theory, Differential Association Theory, Travis Hirsch's Social, and Bond Theory. The selected theories that underpin this study are cultivation and social learning theories.

Review of Related Theories

Cultivation Theory

In the 1960s, George Garbner introduced the Cultivation Theory as part of his Cultural Indicators project to study the effects of television on audiences. This theory states that long-term media exposure influences how media consumers perceive the world and behave. The Cultivation theory states that the more people watch TV, the more likely they are to develop a view of reality that is closer to the reality depicted on TV. For many people, the distorted partial reality portrayed on television represents what the world "really" likes. Garbner also coined the term "mean world syndrome" to describe the cognitive bias that television viewers exposed to violent content are more likely to think the world is more dangerous than it really is.

Cultivation theory is a communication and sociological framework that postulates that long-term media exposure influences how media consumers perceive the world and behave in life Nabi RL, et al. [2]. Cultivation theory (or cultivation analysis) was introduced in his 1960s by Hungarian-born American professor George Gerbner to study the effects of television on the viewers.

This theory suggests that people exposed to home videos interpret social reality according to how it is portrayed in the media. One example of nurturing theory is television's ability to stabilize and regulate views within society. According to this theory, children who watch commercial television have significantly stronger gender stereotypes about women and men than those who do not. Of particular interest in the early stages of research was the potential impact of exposure to violence on TV viewers.

Social Learning Theory

Albert Bandura is one of the most influential thinkers in the field of cognitive theory and is best known for his work on cognitive theory Bandura A [3]. Learning theorists believe that environment is a major factor in development. In classifying, experts consider behaviorism to be the most important learning theory, followed by social learning theory, and social cognitive learning theory. Albert Bandura is a prominent practicing psychologist and well-respected among scientists. His theory of social cognition has had a major impact on various research fields. These include pedagogy, health sciences, social policy, and psychotherapy.

Social learning theory is increasingly cited as an integral part of sustainably managing natural resources and promoting desired behavioral change Muro M, et al. [4]. This theory is based on the idea that we learn from our interactions with others in social contexts. When we watch home videos, we interact and learn from each other. There is no way to separate social interactions from the influence we receive through social media, especially home videos. Anyway, by observing the behavior of others, a person will behave in the same way. Home movies have a strong impact on the viewer. If the "viewer" is constantly observing the activity in her home video, especially if that person is in her teens, such behavior clearly reflects in the life of the person watching the film. Thus, when people observe the behavior of others, they assimilate and imitate that behavior, especially if the observed experience is positive or if the observed behavior involves associated rewards. According to Bandura, imitation involves actually reproducing the observed motor activity Bandura A [3].

Travis Hirschi's Social Bond Theory

There are various control theories, but the most popular and persistent is Travis Hirsch's Social Attachment Theory (1969) [5]. The term "social control" first appeared in the writings of EA Clark (1969). The theories we have examined so far assume that crime is something that good people learn from bad circumstances and ask, "What causes crime?" believes that this question reveals a false understanding of human nature and that the real problem is not why some people act. It sucks, but why do most of us behave well most of the time? Finally, children who are not properly socialized will hit, kick, bite, steal, and yell whenever they feel like it. We have to teach them not to do things that "naturally" come without training [6].

In today's society, society is "good" and uneducated people are "bad". Gwynne (1984) makes this point clear. When we don't sow it and it grows 'tall', it grows like a weed (p.313). As one of the most important applications of cultural control to crime and violence, Hirsch (1969) states that, the most important question is "Why do they do it?" (i.e., why do criminals commit crimes? Have you sinned?) Instead, ask, "Why don't others do this?" [7-11].

Sample Size

The total population of all the approved secondary schools in the area was 2,299, from which 1101 was gotten, representing 9 selected secondary schools. A sample of 293 secondary school students were drawn from 1,101 of the nine selected secondary schools in Ezza North Local Government Area, Ebonyi State, using the Taro Yamane's formula, according to Ezugwu (2014), is represented and applied thus [12-15]:

$n = N/1 + N(e)^2$

Where n = Sample size sought
N = Population study
1 = Constant, and
e = Acceptable margin of error at 5% (0.05). With an acceptable margin of error of 5% (0.05), the confidence level is 95%.

Following from the above, the sample size was arrived as thus:

$n = 1101 /1+1101 (0.05)2$
$= 1101 /1 + 1101 (0.0025)$
$= 1101 /1 + 2.7525$
$= 1101 /3.7525$
$= 293.40$
$= 293$

Hypothesis 1:

H0: There is no significant relationship between how long teenagers watch movies and armed-robbery/stealing among the teenagers in selected secondary schools in Ezza North LGA.
H1: There is significant relationship between how long teenagers watch movies and armed-robbery/stealing among the teenagers in selected secondary schools in Ezza North LGA (Table 1).

	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	34.439a	4	0
Likelihood Ratio	36.127	4	0
Linear-by-Linear Association	0.113	1	0.737
N of Valid Cases	289		
a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 10.85.			

Table 1: Chi-Square tests of the relationship between how long teenagers watch movies and armed-robbery/stealing among the teenagers in selected secondary schools in Ezza North LGA.

Hypothesis 2:
H0: There is no significant relationship between home movies and indecent dressing among the teenagers in selected secondary schools in Ezza North LGA.

H1: There is significant relationship between home movies and indecent dressing among the teenagers in selected secondary schools in Ezza North LGA (Table 2).

	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance(2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	145.594a	4	0
Likelihood Ratio	156.99	4	0
Linear-by-LinearAssociation	121.702	1	0
N of Valid Cases	289		
a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 11.44.			

Table 2: Chi-Square tests of the relationship between how long teenagers watch movies and indecent dressing among the teenagers in selected secondary schools in Ezza North LGA.

Hypothesis 3:
H0: There is no significant relationship between home movies and drug use among the teenagers in selected secondary schools in Ezza North LGA.

H1: There is significant relationship between home movies and drug use among the teenagers in selected secondary schools in Ezza North LGA (Table 3).

	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	85.139a	4	0
Likelihood Ratio	87.658	44	0
Linear-by-Linear Association	966	1	0.326
N of Valid Cases	289		
a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 11.52.			

Table 3: Chi-Square tests of the relationship between how long teenagers watch movies and drug use among the teenagers in selected secondary schools in Ezza North LGA.

Hypothesis 4:
H0: There is no significant relationship between home movies and Sexuality among the teenagers in selected secondary schools in Ezza North LGA.

H1: There is significant relationship between home movies and Sexuality among the teenagers in selected secondary schools in Ezza North LGA (Table 4).

	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	132.152a	4	0
Likelihood Ratio	115.634	4	0
Linear-by-Linear Association	106.274	1	0
N of Valid Cases	289		
a. 2 cells (22.2%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 3.64.			

Table 4: Chi-Square tests of the relationship between how long teenagers watch movies and sexuality among the teenagers in selected secondary schools in Ezza North LGA.

Hypothesis 5:
H0: There is no significant relationship between parental control and negative influences of movies among the teenagers in the selected schools in Ezza North LGA.

H1: There is significant relationship between parental control and negative influences of movies among the teenagers in the selected schools in Ezza North LGA (Table 5).

	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	7.209a	4	0.125
Likelihood Ratio	6.639	4	0.156
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.496	1	0.221
N of Valid Cases	289		
a. 6 cells (66.7%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .07.			

Table 5: Chi-Square tests of the relationship between parental control and negative influences of movies among the teenagers in the selected schools in Ezza North LGA.

Conclusion

From Chi Square Cross-tabulation in the five (5) hypotheses above, it was apparent that hypothesis one to four (1-4) were accepted as null (H0) and rejected as alternate because they were less than (0.05) significant (p-value) level. On the contrary, hypothesis five (5) was seen, based on the analysis to be above significant level (.125) and therefore was rejected as null (H0) but accepted as alternate hypothesis (H1) [16-21].

Summary of Major Findings

This study has established that there are juvenile delinquencies among teenagers in the selected secondary schools in Ezza North. Some of those delinquent behaviors were identified to include theft, violence, and use of alcohol, indecent dressing, inordinate sexual behaviors, and others [22,23]. In addition, the relationship between juvenile delinquency and home movies among the teenagers in Ezza North was not significant based on hypothesis testing [24-28]. Finally, remedial measures were prescribed to include the need for the parents to first vet the movies the teens view, putting codes on some satellite channels that are not good for the teens [29,30]. Other ones are parents keeping their android phones away from their under age children, and

not allowing the underage to be viewing movies in isolation [31]. There is also need to be effectively teaching the teenage morality and social values. Moreover, there should be enactment of policies that will help checkmate types of movies the underage should be viewing by the governments of the day. If the negative impacts of home movies are not checkmated it will mar its usefulness as a loadable means of communication and inculcation of societal values [32-37].

Recommendations

Since the first four hypotheses shown no relationship between delinquent behaviors of the teenagers of the area, the recommendation of this research is derived majorly from the fifth objective of this work, which is "suggestion of possible ways of curtailing the negative influence of home videos among teenagers in secondary schools in Ezza North Local Government Area, Ebonyi State Nigeria". Based on the above, the following recommendations were made [38-45]:
1. Home videos should first be vetted by parents/guidance before viewed by teenagers. The implication is that some video contents should have the adult presence for proper guidance [46-50].
2. Movies rated 18+ should not be viewed by teenagers. If such is allowed, there is every tendency of modeling their live style alongside the actors [51-57].

3. Parents and guardians should keep their android phones away from teenagers due to possibly of accessing some websites with nude contents thereby exposing them to inordinate behaviors [58-59].

4. Movies should not be viewed by children in isolated places like their rooms; especially with phones with access to internet to avoid them practicing some obnoxious attitudes like masturbation [60-64].

5. Effective teaching of moral education should be encouraged both in schools and at home to ensure children learn and understand the need for compliance to societal value [65-69].

6. Federal, state, and Local Governments should enact stringent policies to regulate some video contents watched by teenagers. Such policies will go a long way in restraining the teenagers from some videos exposing them to immoral life style [70-74].

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