

**FAMILIAL CORRELATES OF DELINQUENT
BEHAVIOUR AMONG SCHOOL GOING
ADOLESCENTS IN CHINGOLA, ZAMBIA**

DISSERTATION

By

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Declaration

I Latria Nanyangwe hereby declare that this dissertation on *Familial correlates of delinquent behaviour among school-going adolescents in Chingola, Zambia* is my own work and effort and that it has not been submitted at this University or any other University for an award. All sources that I referred to or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references in terms of the APA-method.

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Certificate of Approval

This dissertation by Latria Nanyangwe has been approved as partial fulfilment of requirements for the award of the Master of Arts in Child and Adolescent Psychology by the University of Zambia.

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Abstract

The purpose of the study was to investigate familial correlates of delinquent behaviour among school going adolescents in Chingola, Zambia. The study employed a quantitative cross sectional approach and targeted 186 pupils, 106 boys and 80 girls from Luano Basic School, Chamakubi Basic School, Chingola Basic School, Sekela and Chingola secondary schools of Chingola District. An adapted standard questionnaire used by Zenzile (2008) in the Self Report Survey of Juvenile delinquency among secondary school pupils in Mthatha District, South Africa was used in this study. Data were analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Univariate and bivariate analyses were performed to generate descriptive data. Chi Square tests of independence and phi coefficient correlation were performed.

The results show that single-parent family structure is significantly associated with delinquent behaviour as indicated by chi square and the *phi* coefficient tests. A global analysis of parental control and delinquency was also done and an examination of the chi square and phi coefficient values show that there was an association between the two variables.

The practical implication of this study's findings is that there are higher levels of delinquency in single-parent family structures than in two-parent family structures suggesting low parental control in the former and high control in the latter notwithstanding other mediating variables that were not captured. We can also make a presupposition that other than family structures and parental control, the environment and gender in Chingola could be factors of delinquency. The study has also established that low levels of parental control in Chingola are highly associated with adolescents' delinquent behaviour. The study indicates that the level of delinquency in Chingola is high as 51.1 percent respondents were insignificant deviants while 48.9 percent were absolute deviants. The study's recommendations are that future research focuses or tests individual and environmental theories to determine their roles in delinquent behaviour. In this way, patterns of social competence, pro social behaviour, antisocial behaviour and behaviour problems in early childhood may be assessed to see the link with delinquency. It is also recommended that future research consider embarking on qualitative research to bring out salient features around the topic which quantitative research may not bring forth. In this way, observations from lived experiences for instance will be handy in describing the real situation.

Key words: familial correlates, delinquent behaviour, adolescents, Chingola.

To my parents Obed Sinyangwe & Mushimwa Lwisa, a dear husband Stephen, and children: Mwansa, Kabwe and Jonathan Mukuka Mutale, my sisters and a brother.

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CHAPTER ONE - INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction.

Children often test the limits and boundaries set by their parents and other authority figures. Among adolescents, some rebelliousness and experimentation is common especially when one goes to secondary school which is a new experience for early adolescence (Cobb, 2007). A few children however, consistently participate in problematic behaviours in schools that include, fighting, bullying, stealing, absenteeism, being unruly to authority and many more. Such behaviours affect their families, academic, social and personal function (Cobb, 2007). Such children present a concern to parents and the community at large.

1.2 Background

Delinquency, a legal term for criminal behaviour carried out by a juvenile or adolescent, is often the result of escalating problematic behaviour. Its definitions vary among different scholars and Steinberg (1996) describes four perspectives on delinquency namely; a parental view, an Educational view, a Mental Health view and a legal system view. An Educational view is described as a behaviour, regarded by school staff members as interrupting or disturbing classroom teaching and learning, violates the school code of conduct and threatens the safety of faculty and students. He further describes a mental health view as a wide range of disruptive behaviours that may involve aggression toward others or animals, destruction of property, deceitfulness, theft and violations of curfew and school attendance. A parental view describes delinquent behaviour as disobedience, fighting with siblings, destroying property, stealing money from family member and among other things threatening parents with violence while a legal view considers persons under the age of 18 to be juveniles hence, when they commit serious crimes like murder, they may be prosecuted as adults (Steinberg, 1996).

Adolescent delinquency therefore, is a major concern in the global society today. Thorton et al., (1987) argue that youths nowadays, regardless of sex, social origin or country of residence subject themselves to individual risks and that they are likely to

experience poor adjustment in multiple domains which include; home, school and the community. They cite statistical data which indicate that in virtually all parts of the world, with the exception of the United States (US), the rate of youth crime rose in the 1990s. In Western Europe, (one of the few regions for which data are available) arrests of adolescent delinquents and underage offenders increased by an average of 50 percent between the mid-1980s and the late 1990s (World Youth Report, 2003). In addition, the report states that countries in transition have also witnessed a dramatic rise in delinquency rates since 1995. Adolescents' crime levels in many countries in Eastern Europe and the commonwealth of independent States have increase by more than 30 percent with many of such offences relating to drug abuse, school violence and excessive alcohol use (World Youth Report, 2003).

Many studies have shown that delinquency in adolescents has its manifestations through various structures which include bullying, fighting, running away from home or school, truancy to mention a few and that it affects a lot of progress in society. Princeton Survey Research Associates cited in World Youth Report (2003) state that adolescents, who are commonly viewed as a source of hope, can also be viewed as a threat in society as their behaviour would sometimes range from firing a gun to bullying other peers in school.

Furthermore, the World youth Report (2003), shows that while it is true that adolescents engage in delinquent acts at a higher rate than other segments of the US population, official records indicate that the rate of adolescent offending behaviour has decreased substantially since early 1990s. This decline is promising, however, according to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP 1999), much delinquent behaviour is unreported.

In the US, delinquency by school going adolescents include school shootings, fighting at school, bullying, absenteeism, and other forms of violence with school shootings receiving a great deal of media attention (National Institute of media and Family, 2001). The document further Postulates that in reality, school violence shows that few students are killed at school, though every instance of school shooting is a tragedy that affects

entire communities and even the rest of the nation and the world. However, students are more likely to be victims of other delinquent behaviours which are non fatal, but can have lasting negative effects on them and their educational experience. Olweus (1993) contends that bullying and violence against pupils are some of the behaviours that adolescents portray in schools and that cyber bullying has also become a problem as most of the students have cell phones and other mobile communication devices.

Africa is not an exception regarding the global aspect of adolescent delinquency. Wu et.al (1998), acknowledge that involvement of adolescents in delinquent activities is on the increase in Nigeria and that the last two decades have witnessed crimes ranging from minor stealing to major robbery and killing perpetrated by teenagers. The authors further argue that there has been increasing concerns of the Police and the general public on the seriousness of adolescent crime and conduct problems in Nigeria. They reported that delinquency rates rose from 367 to 538 per 100,000 between 1986 and 1996 and claimed that most offenders arrested in 1996 were arrested for petty crimes, such as theft, with 38 percent arrested for shoplifting and 18 percent for simple theft.

Eke (2004) notes that there are two main categories of delinquent behaviours adolescents in Africa are engaged in; criminal and status offences. According to Eke (2004), criminal offences include stealing, arson, rape, drug offences, murder, burglary, pick pocket, and armed robbery while status offences include running away from home or school, malingering, truancy, bullying and many others. Zingraff et.al., (1993) refer to a 'status offence' as an action that is prohibited only to a certain class of people, and most often applied to offences only committed by minors.

From a few studies that have been done on adolescents in Zambia, it is noted that delinquency from teenagers is also rampant in this country. In the study on 'Cigarette Smoking among school-going adolescents in Kafue, Zambia', Siziya et.al., (2007) found 10.4% male and 6.2% female adolescents were current smokers and that the majority of the smokers usually smoked at their own homes, a friend's place or with Peers. On the other hand, findings on the 2004 school-based Healthy survey in most districts of the

country indicated that levels of drinking among school going adolescents were as high as 38.7% and 45.1% among males and females respectively (Siziya et al 2007).

According to Scholte (1992), there are three factors that are associated with the development of delinquent behaviours in adolescents; the family, peers and school. Families are one of the strongest socializing forces in life. They teach children to control unacceptable behaviour, to delay gratification, and to respect the rights of others. Conversely, families can teach children aggressive, antisocial, and violent behaviour (Scholte 1992). In the Kafue study, boys who received pocket money from their parents were 95% times more likely to have been smokers compared with those who did not receive pocket money (Siziya, et al., 2007). Researchers also found that boys who had parents who smoked were 51% more likely to have been smokers than boys who had non-smoking parents. This indicates how the family according to Scholte (1992), has been cited as one of the factors in the development of adolescents' delinquency. Furthermore, the Kafue study also highlights on how peers contribute to the development of delinquent behaviour. It reports that boys who had closest friends who smoked were 74% more likely to smoke than boys who did not have closest friends who smoked (Siziya et al., 2007).

1.3 Statement of the Problem

World over, various delinquent conducts are common place in schools and in extreme cases, shootings of students by fellow students within the grounds of schools have taken place (National Institute of media and Family, 2001). In Zambia, research relating to delinquent behaviours among pupils is limited. Only one study by Siziya et al., (2007) and school-based Healthy survey (Siziya et.al., 2007) showed that school going adolescents abuse drugs and alcohol, bully fellow pupils, tend to be absent from school one day or another and so forth. While Siziya and colleagues demonstrated these delinquent acts, they did not bring forth the link with family circumstances. In essence, there is no empirical evidence to show that delinquency in Zambia is a correlate of family structures and weakened parental control. However, even studies done outside Zambia cannot be relied upon as most studies cited were carried out on juveniles who were

already in rehabilitation centres and depended much on secondary data. Therefore, there is need for the study that would follow children in their schools and be able to utilise primary information.

1.4 General Objective

To investigate familial correlates of delinquent behaviour among school-going adolescents.

1.5 Specific objectives

Given the general objective, the study was guided by the following specific objectives focussing on family structures and parental control:

- (i) To investigate the relationship between family structure and adolescent delinquent behaviour.
- (ii) To investigate the relationship between parental control and adolescent delinquent behaviour.

1.6 Hypotheses

- i. Family structure is not associated with adolescent delinquent behaviour.
- ii. Parental control is associated with adolescent delinquent behaviour.

1.7 Operational Definitions

Below are operational definitions of key concepts and variables of this study;

1.7.1 School going Adolescents: Male and Female pupils attending grades 8 to 12 at Chamakubi, Chingola Basic, Luano Basic, Sekela and Chingola Secondary Schools in the age range of 13 to 19 years.

1.7.2 Delinquency: this was a dependent variable operationalised as conduct by School going adolescents that are antithetical to good order for learning such as drug use and alcohol consumption, bullying, fighting, truancy (skipping school) and being unruly to authority. However, juvenile offending can be considered normative adolescent behaviour because most teens tend to offend by committing deviant acts only once or a few times,

and only during adolescence. It is when adolescents offend repeatedly or violently that their offending becomes threatening (Steinberg, 2008).

This study therefore, considered one to have delinquent behaviour if he or she had repeated behaviour more than once. This study defined a single act of delinquency as insignificant while multiple acts of delinquency were defined as absolute delinquency.

Delinquency was measured by a number of self report activities in section D of the questionnaire (Appendix E).

1.7.3 Familial correlates: this was our independent variable measured by a self report questionnaire. It referred to family structures (single and double) and parental control related to respondents;

- Single parent family structure: this referred to a house hold headed by one person and this may be a mother, a father, an aunt, an uncle or a brother. Due to its structure, this study considered it as a broken home family structure (Wilkinson 1974). It was an independent variable measured by self reports in a questionnaire.

- Two-parent family structure: this referred to a house comprising a husband and wife raising children either biological or non biological. It was an independent variable measured by self reports in a questionnaire.

- Parental control: This was another familial correlate and independent variable. It was measured by a self report questionnaire using four variables; hit with a stick or any other kind of object, warned verbally, grounded or confined for some time and denied permission to visit friends after school. This study measured parental control at three levels:
 - (i) **High control:** this meant all respondents that answered ‘always’ to the four parental measures were subjected to high control.
 - (ii) **Low control:** respondents who answered ‘sometimes and often’ to the four control measures were subjected to low control.
 - (iii) **No control:** respondents who answered ‘Never’ to parental control measures were subjected to ‘no’ control.

CHAPTER TWO - LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the relevant literature review on familial correlates of delinquent behaviour. It also focuses on the theory on single-parent family structure and other relevant literature on family structures, parental control and delinquency.

The question that comes to people's minds is why and what causes adolescents to engage themselves in delinquent acts. The first thing most people think of is the family. Indeed many factors have been suggested to have correlational and / or causal links to delinquency. Barlow (1992) has suggested that these factors can essentially be reduced to three fundamental ones; societal, individual and /or family.

This review has concentrated on the family structures and parental control in line with the aim and objectives of the study.

2.2 Studies and Relevant Literature looking at etiology of delinquency

Many family variables have been studied in an attempt to understand the etiology of delinquency. For example, Bengston (2001) in his study on 'adolescents and delinquency' found that adolescents who had a strong bond with their parents were less likely to engage themselves in delinquent behaviour. Those findings explain how attachment is a very important variable in the development of a child as it creates a bond that is facilitative to all round development.

Similarly, Berns (2007) reported that adolescents in two parent family structures are less likely to report school problems than are children from single parent families because of the behaviours, like stress, lack of control and supervision after school hours that may be found in the latter structure. This according to Clark and Shields (1997) is due to the fact that the levels of communication in most single parent families are less than in two parent family structures. Clark and Shields (1997) also reported that the level of familial communication is related to adolescent delinquent behaviour.

McLanahan & Carlson (2002) contend that children in female headed homes are often deprived of two types of resources. The authors argue that a father might contribute to the

provision of economic, social, and emotional resources. They further argue that in situations where such responsibilities were left to a woman alone, she would be more stressed than she would be if responsibilities were shared hence, she would fail to give the children the support they need. Literature has also shown that adolescents in such situations have difficulties with academic work and conforming to school rules and that they interact aggressively with their mothers, their teachers and their peers especially if the single parent structure is due to divorce, desertion or separation (McLanahan & Carlson, 2002).

However, problems for fathers raising children single handed are reported to be similar to those of mothers. In general, fathers alone find it more difficult to obtain child-care help, as a result, they have role overload like having to work, care for children, maintain their houses and many others. This overload in their daily routines result in both their children's social life and theirs suffer (Amato, 2000). This in most cases leads to children's antisocial behaviour with peers and the community which includes delinquent behaviours at school (McLanahan & Carlson, 2002).

A study carried out in Kenya on the 'influence of family structure on juvenile delinquency' found that delinquent behaviours such as truancy and fighting were related to single-family structure (Mullens, 2004). Other findings from the same study were that juveniles from single or broken homes were 2.7 times more likely to run away from home than children living in two parent home structures (Mullens, 2004). The study also showed that juveniles who were charged with more serious acts of delinquency are from broken homes than juveniles charged with lesser acts of misconduct. Proportionately, more juveniles who were referred to police agencies and the juvenile courts for delinquency charges, like assault, drug handling and other acts, in Kenya live in single-parent family structure when compared to the general population (Mullens, 2004). The Kenya study concluded that there was a link between juvenile deviance and single-parent family structure.

The cited studies however were carried out on juveniles who were already in rehabilitation centers and depended much on secondary data. Hence, there is need for future studies which would follow such children in their homes, schools and be able to utilize primary information.

Cradle's (2004) report on street children and juvenile justice, states that the disintegration of the African family kinship meant most family roles are not inculcated in children and as a result they may have an inclination towards delinquent behaviour. He further stated that family separation was a great contributor to children's delinquent behaviour like running to streets from their family homes (Cradle, 2004). On the other hand, Mugo et al, (2006) in juvenile Justice Study findings, concluded that there is a strong link between social background and topology of children offenders the majority of who come from 'poor' and disconnected family backgrounds.

In another study by Mugo et al (2006), there was an indication that in instances where the family was 'incomplete' for one reason or another, family became disrupted and failed to control their children's behaviour as a result, children became problematic.

In addition, Klein and Forehand (1997) suggested that the prediction of juvenile delinquency in early childhood depended on the type of maternal parenting skills that were imposed upon the child during early adolescence. A number of studies have been undertaken which show a very real connection between delinquency and single parent family structure. Wright and Wright (1994) research showed that the single-parent family structure, and in particular mother-only families, produced more delinquent children than two parent families.

According to Turner and Peck (2002), the absence of a father figure may result in community disintegration and youth crime which continues to grow as fathers are said to be a significant contributor to offspring development and their capability in adapting to society. The presence of a functioning father in the home is associated with positive adjustment in children. Among the cross-sectional group studies, children who are living with their natural fathers show significantly fewer incidences of fighting, delusions-

hallucinations, delinquency, late development and isolation and benefit more from living in an intact home.

An adolescent in an intact two-parent family structure enjoys the socialization roles of both mother and father (Mullens, 2004). High quality father-child ties may be particularly important for child well-being because fathers who develop close affective bonds with children can be more effective in monitoring, teaching, and communicating with their children, thereby allowing the social capital inherent in the father-child relationship to be realized (Amato, 1998).

A two-parent family structure has been found to influence a child's susceptibility to peer pressure (Steinberg, 1987). It is thus important to analyse the various acts of delinquency and to investigate the influence the various family units may have on children committing these delinquent acts.

Children from homes with two parents have lower incidences of illegal behaviour that is paralleled by their lower rate of susceptibility to peer pressure to commit deviant acts as two parents may take turns in controlling and supervising the children (Mullens, 2004). Lack of parental control and supervision is said to have a direct influence on negative peer pressure that may in turn affect a juveniles' involvement in delinquent activity at school or in the community (Steinberg, 1987).

Literature also points out other family factors which may have an influence on delinquency such as; parental control, supervision, parental discipline, parental conflict or separation, criminal parents or siblings, parental abuse or neglect, and the quality of the parent-child relationship (Graham & Bowling, 1995).

Parental control levels vary according to parenting styles. 'Over' control may constitute parents who are often strict, harsh, and aggressive like authoritarians while 'high control' with strict but responsive style, Low or No control may be linked to authoritative and permissive parenting respectively (Ang. & Groh, 2006).

It is assumed that high levels of parental control are predictive of low levels of delinquency. Conversely, Low to No control is predictive of delinquency. However,

'over' control or 'under' control may result in adolescents' delinquency. Therefore, level of control a parent exerts (according to Ang & Groh, 2006) should depend on the situation. It is for this reason that adolescents need supervision, monitoring where necessary because parental control might be lost when the family exercises either 'over-control or under-control' of the child's behaviour and any of the two would lead to delinquency (Lilly *et al.*, 1995).

Social control theory proposes that different types of control, physical or non physical can reduce the inclination to indulge in behaviour recognised as antisocial (Graham & Bowling, 1995).

Loeber and Stouthammer-Loeber (1986) see the parental control or disciplinary approach as also a cause of juvenile delinquency. Extreme strictness, leniency, and inconsistent parental control approaches are largely associated with delinquency (Loeber and Stouthammer-Loeber, 1986)

Many parents lack control and monitoring therefore, are not aware of where their children are, what they are doing, what time they would be home or who they are with (Quinsey *et al.*, 2004).

Therefore, Parental control has been envisaged to be more important as children become older because they are increasingly likely to spend uncontrolled or unsupervised time with their friends (Patterson 1982; Quinsey *et al.*, 2004).

On the other hand, Barlow and Ferdinand (1992) opine that the parental disciplinary approach and control are other factors that also influence the child's delinquency. They further state that nagging, strictness, leniency, and inconsistency have all been associated with delinquency and aggressiveness. It is therefore imperative that parents take major roles in the adjustment process of adolescents and know their children better as this would help in deciding what control or discipline to administer.

Okpako (2004) noted that a child well brought up will remain a source of joy and happiness for such family while the neglected adolescent gradually becomes a drug

addict, a bully, aggressive, restive, and other deviant acts would be manifested. He further emphasized that parental monitoring and control be applied in the raising of the children, though he observed that parents spend little or no time at home to assist in the upbringing of the children hence, the children invariably fall into evil association.

Loromeke (1997) on the other hand is of the view that parents bring up their children according to the training they also received from their own parents, for instance, majority of parents who grew up in the strict environment end up creating such for their own children. She further argued that African tradition emphasizes the use of high control, authority and punishment in bringing the best out of a child (Loromeke, 1997). This is in line with Wu et al. (1998)'s research findings on a comparative study on 'factors affecting adolescent delinquency in Singapore and Nigeria' which indicated that adolescents who were exposed to higher level of warmth, induction, control and monitoring would less likely be delinquents than those who were little or no controlled at all.

Research conducted on the relationship between levels of control in different parenting styles and students' academic achievement and school behaviour in Asia found that those who came from little or no control styles had more negative effects on academic achievements as they engaged in deviant behaviours like bullying other pupils, damaging school property and disrespectful to school authority (Ang. & Groh, 2006). Several researchers have also shown those that adolescents who receive little or no control like laissez-faire parenting are more prone to delinquent behaviours and health problems than those from the other forms of parenting (Ang et al., 2006).

Control and monitoring are important aspects in an adolescent, however, 'over' control or 'under' control may pose both positive and negative effects on the adolescent's behaviour (Okapko, 2006). According to Okapko (2006), parental harshness, aggression; lack of love, lack of affection, lack of care, inadequate monitoring and supervision, and lack or little control to mention but a few are some of host conditions that may prong the adolescents into delinquent behaviours.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

The causes of adolescent delinquency are a little harder to explain. In an endeavour to explain youth misconduct, various theories have been developed (Bezuidenhout & Jourbert 2003). However, for the purpose of this study, the broken home theory was reviewed as it closely articulates the postulates of the study.

2.3.1 The broken home theory

This is one of the theories that has been used throughout history in America by numerous sociologists to explain why juveniles or adolescents become delinquents. This theory postulates that a single-parent family structure has adverse effects on an adolescent due to lack of other parent role model, failure to control the child and insufficient paternal or maternal love as compared to two-parent family structures (Wilkinson, 1974). According to Wilkinson (1974), this idea is based solely on the structure of the family and the fact that two parents are better than one in all angles of adolescents' development.

The broken home theory refers to a single parent structure as a broken home structure (Wilkinson, 1974). Wilkinson argues that the composition of families is one aspect of family life that is consistently associated with delinquent behaviour. Children who live in homes with only one parent for various reasons such as in which marital relationships have been disrupted are more likely to display a range of behavioural problems including delinquency, than children who are from two parent family structures (Thornberry et.al., 1999). According to Ferdinand (1992), children living in broken homes due to divorce have decreased self control, increased rates of psychological disturbances and are prone to delinquent acts. A child, who observes the struggle of a single parent in raising the family therefore, is at greater risk of becoming a delinquent than the one who observes the struggle of two parents (Biller, 1993, Kelly 2000, Wallerstein & Kelly, 1996). They further state that 75percent of single parents spend little time with their children and that the less time the parent interacts with a child, the more time the child has to engage in deviant activities. It is viewed that a child in a single parent home lacks internal control and fails to identify with proper norms hence, engages in delinquent behaviour (Chaiken, 2000).

According to Bezuidenhout & Joubert (2003), single parent families have less time of control, to communicate and to interact with their children than two parents as single working mothers or fathers leave homes early in the morning and return home late evenings.

Furthermore, the theory argues that the loss of one parent either through death or in any other way has a damaging effect on children, most commonly because of the effect on attachment to the parent. Loss of an attachment figure can have a lifelong effect and would lead to delinquent behaviour as a way of releasing the trauma (Bowby, 1969). This however explains how a broken home (single parent structure) is more likely to have adolescents engaged in delinquent behaviour due to pre-existing differences in family income or child rearing methods (Bowlby, 1969), than those coming from the intact or two-parent family structure.

Early sociologists described the family as the most important institution because it was in control of the development of children. For example, John Bowlby (1946) claimed that coming from a single parent headed home caused delinquent behaviour because of financial stress and/poverty (in Sturt, 2008). Later, Nye (1958) focused on the family as the most important source of social control where if juveniles were lacking one parent, they were likely to have complete freedom that would lead them to participate in deviant activities (in Jensen, 2003).

Broken home theorists further argue that children display deviant behaviour when social control is ineffective, such as in a single parent home as studies show that a single parent headed home deprives the child from learning proper social norms as the child would experience from a two parent household (Deflem, 2007). This could be the fact that single parents are stressed up due to a lot of responsibilities as they also take up responsibility of the absent parent (Jensen, 2003). This according to the theory advocates would be prevented if the family were tied together as the foundation for sound development where parents and children's relationships were solid.

In support of the broken home theory, Steinberg (2008) indicates that Children brought up by lone parents are more likely to start offending than those who live with two parents. It is also more likely that children of single parents may live in poverty, which is strongly associated with juvenile delinquency. However once the attachment a child feels towards his or her parent(s) and the level of parental control, supervision are taken into account, children in single parent families are no more likely to offend than others (Graham & Bowling, 1995).

Contrary to the broken home theory, Crawford and Novak (2008), argue that being a single parent does not mean that a child parent bond and supervision is insufficient as a single parent can provide just as much support, love, guidance and supervision comparable to families with two parents. Crawford & Novak (2008) argue that high levels of attachment would be associated with low levels of deviant behaviour, less supervision too and less parental control will be associated with more opportunities for deviant acts and this would come from children in single or two parent family structures. What they found was that family structures had a moderate effect on delinquency. They went on to posit that parental attachment, parental control and peer relations are better explanations of juvenile delinquency than family structures.

Similarly, Wilkinson (1974) later argued that with the political and educational institutions taking over the role of the family in the development of children, the family was considered less capable of influencing the behaviour of children and also less likely to be considered responsible for their deviant acts.

CHAPTER THREE – METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the research methodology that was used to collect data and the means of analyzing it to arrive at the study's conclusions. Among other important components in this chapter are research design, methods of data collection and methods of data analysis.

3.2 Research Design.

A quantitative cross sectional research design was adopted for this study. This design was circumscribed by constraints of time and budget. It was less expensive and less time consuming.

3.3 Target population

The target population was school going adolescents with delinquent behaviour in Chingola district, Copperbelt province, Zambia.

3.4 Sample size and Sampling procedure

The study enlisted a total number of 186 adolescents, 106 boys and 80 girls, from grades 8 to 12 aged 13 to 19 years old. Participants were drawn from five schools in Chingola district on the Copperbelt province, Zambia. The schools involved were; Chamakubi Basic, Chingola Basic, Luano Basic, Chingola and Sekela secondary schools all chosen on the basis of geographical proximity. Only adolescents who reported that they had involved themselves in delinquent behaviour were included in the study.

Purposive sampling technique was used for this study. This technique was chosen for its advantages as it allows the researcher to use his/her skills and prior knowledge to select respondents. Furthermore, it was chosen because it is less expensive to execute compared to other techniques.

The sample was chosen using the following inclusion and exclusion criteria;

3.4.1 Inclusion

Adolescents aged between 13 and 19 years with reported delinquent behaviour in grades 8 to 12.

3.4.2 Exclusion

Adolescents aged 20 years and above in grades 8 to 12 with or without reported delinquent behaviour.

3.5 Data collection Instruments

The instrument for data collection was an adaptation of a standard questionnaire used by Zenzile (2008) in the Self Report Survey of Juvenile delinquency among secondary school pupils in Mthatha District, South Africa. The items in the questionnaire include demographic profile of the respondents, their family structures, parental control and discipline and also respondents' behaviour, (See appendix F).

3.6 Data collection procedure.

The researcher got access to the targeted schools with the help of an introductory letter from the University of Zambia and permission letter from Chingola District Education Board Secretary's (DEBS) Office. With approval to carry out research, in the schools mentioned, the researcher sought consent from schools and from adolescents 16 years and above. For those who were between 13 and 15 years, their school authorities gave consent on their behalf as it was not practicable to get it from their parents or guardians. The questionnaires were then administered to participants by the researcher. Confidentiality of the research participants was maintained in all cases by assigning each subject a random number and not using their names on the questionnaires.

3.7 Data Analysis.

The data collected were coded to enable quantitative analysis. Descriptive statistics like frequency tables and percentages were used to analyse frequencies of delinquent behaviour. Testing the two hypotheses of family structure and delinquent behaviour, and parental control in relation to delinquent behaviour were done using chi square test of

independence (χ^2) and phi coefficient correlation. Generally, descriptive analyses were used in the study. All types of statistical analyses and calculations were carried out using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) program. The level of significance for chi square was set at $p \leq .05$ (Hagan 2000).

3.8 Ethical Considerations

Approval to conduct this research was obtained from the Research Ethics committee of the University of Zambia. The researcher was aware and respectful of adolescents' limitations, level of cognitive development, social and emotional needs. Informed consent was sought from adolescents who were 16 years to 19 years while those aged 13 to 15 years had their consent sought from their schools' authorities. The purpose of the study was explained to the participants.

The researcher made sure that every respondent completed the questionnaire with his/her dignity intact. The participants were made aware that they were free to discontinue at any time if they felt uncomfortable (See appendix E).

3.9 Limitations of the study

Just like all other research, this study had its own limitations too. This study had notable limitations worth considering when making interpretations or when designing policy implications in schools.

- The first limitation of this study stems from the theoretical constructions of the study which are rooted in Wilkinson's (1974) broken home theory's belief that single-parent headed households are a major factor of delinquent behaviour among adolescents. The limitation of this theory is that it bases its argument on biological single parent structure and ignores the African family composition of extended families. It also ignores the other socialization agents like schools and communities that would also contribute to deviance.
- The second limitation relates to the fact that this study was based on self reporting. Both independent and dependent variables were self-reported by the

adolescents. Therefore, respondents might not have reported truthfully or might have had recall problems which would contribute to the bias of the findings.

- Self-report measures may sometimes prompt respondents to respond in a socially desirable manner rather than natural and honest ways hence might have contributed to socially desirable manner lowering the validity of certain measures (Leary, 2004). This limitation plays an important role in interpreting study findings and making suggestions for future research as it might have contributed to bias.
- The research was a cross sectional design and purely quantitative hence, could not have brought out salient features around the topic.
- The other limitation is related to the power of the study. The researcher cannot generalize the results of this study beyond Chingola.

CHAPTER FOUR – RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

From the 186 participants, 130 came from two-parent households while 56 came from single-parent headed households representing 69.9 and 30.1 percent respectively. Furthermore, 106 of the sum total were boys while 80 were girls. Since delinquency was categorized as insignificant and absolute deviance, the study recorded that 95 (51.1%) were insignificant deviants while 91 (48.9%) were absolute deviants.

The findings on the relationships between family structure and adolescent delinquent behaviour, parental control and adolescents' delinquent behaviour are hereby presented

For the 2 x 2 contingency tables, *Phi* was used to show the level of correlation and it is interpretable as a nonparametric correlation coefficient, and has the same interpretation as the Pearson correlation in terms of the strength and direction of the relationship between these two variables.

In addition, simple statistics of percentages were also performed. However, the researcher first presents a descriptive picture of delinquent acts committed by participants as shown in Table 1 before addressing the hypotheses.

4.2 Delinquent Behaviour

Since absolute delinquency was measured as multiple occurrence of a deviant act, an examination of the 15 variables of delinquency was first done to have a profile of each variable. Table 1 below shows the delinquent acts committed by participants.

TABLE 1: Delinquent acts committed by the participants

Type of delinquent act	Frequency				
	1	2	3	4	5
1) I have broken a window of a building	142	0	30	11	3
2) I have taken someone's item that was fetching K 500(Kr.05)	49	35	33	69	0
3) I have secretly watched a video or film reserved for adults	70	14	36	46	20
4) I have thrown a stone at someone's house or vehicle	113	17	14	22	20
5) I have taken someone's cell phone without permission	79	38	30	24	15
6) I have damaged or defaced another pupils' property	46	1	61	42	36
7) I have avoided paying for a taxi or bus by sneaking in	108	32	21	25	0
8) I have spread stories about another pupil	62	31	26	37	30
9) I have disobeyed my guardian or parent	12	13	39	42	80
10) I have made marks or wrote things on school desks or walls	53	32	40	61	0
11) I have disobeyed my teacher or another school official	98	34	26	28	0
12) I have smoked cigarettes or dagga at school	125	17	17	27	0
13) I have drunk wine, beer or spirits with friends	71	1	50	22	42
14) I have bullied younger boys or girls	66	31	22	34	33
15) I have stayed away from school without a valid reason	31	34	46	50	25

4.3 Hypothesis I

The hypothesis '*Family structure is not associated with adolescent delinquent behaviour*' was tested at $p \leq 0.05$ to see whether an association existed.

In the quest to find out which deviants acts were associated with family structures, frequencies of some deviant acts are presented in Table 2 below. The Table shows a summary of frequencies of insignificant (acted once) and absolute (act more than once) deviance in single and two parent family structures.

TABLE 2: Frequencies of insignificant and absolute deviance by family structures

Delinquent Behaviours	One parent (n=56)		Two parents (n=130).	
	Insg.dev.	Abs.dev.	Insg.dev.	Abs.dev.
Taken something worth Kr.05	22%	78%	28%	72%
Damaged another pupil's property.	29%	71%	32%	68%
Made marks on school property (graffiti).	21%	79%	68%	32%
Disobeyed teachers/school authority.	47%	63%	56%	44%
Smoked cigarette or dagga at school.	47%	53%	74%	26%
Bullied younger girls/boys	37%	68%	65%	35%
Truancy (skipping school without valid reason	5%	95%	25%	75%

Key: *Insg.dev.* = insignificant deviance, *Abs.dev.* = Absolute deviance

For the variable of taking something worth KR.05, 22 percent respondents from single-parent headed households were insignificant deviants while 78 percent were absolute deviants. For the same variable, 28 percent of two-parent headed households were insignificant deviants while 72 percent were absolute deviants.

Damaging another pupil's property showed 32 percent and 68 percent insignificant and absolute deviance respectively from two-parent structure while the single-parent family structure recorded 29 percent and 71 percent insignificant and absolute deviance respectively.

As may be noted (Table.2), truancy seemed to have been the most absolute delinquent behaviour with 95 percent of 56 participants from single-parent family structures and only 5 percent from the same family structure were insignificant deviants. Two-parent family structure recorded 75 percent absolute deviants on the same variable and 25 percent insignificant deviants.

Graffiti on school property was another variable that was investigated and results showed that 79 percent of respondents from single-parent headed homes were absolute deviants while 21 percent from the same family structures were insignificant deviants (Table 2) whereas, 68 percent from two-parent headed homes were insignificant deviants while 32 percent were absolute deviants.

It was also noted that 63 percent of participants from single-parent family structures had bullied younger boys or girls at school twice or several times while 37 percent of respondents had only done it once. For the same variable, 65 percent recorded insignificant deviance and only 35 percent were absolute deviants from two-parent headed homes.

'Disobeying teachers and school authority' indicated 37 percent insignificant deviance and 63 percent absolute deviance from single-parent headed homes while from two-parent family structures, 56 percent were insignificant deviants and 44 percent of respondents were absolute deviants.

The variable of smoking recorded 47 percent and 53 percent insignificant and absolute deviance respectively from single-parent family structures while respondents from two-parent family structure recorded 74 percent insignificant deviance and only 26 percent absolute deviance.

From the simple statistics above, it is shown (Table 2) that single-parent family structure is associated with absolute deviance while two-parent family structure is associated with insignificant deviance. This is seen in most variables for example the variable of graffiti, among others, which shows 79 percent absolute deviance in single-parent family structure and only 32 percent in two-parent family structure.

However, to show that the association was not by chance, and in order to sustain or reject the null hypothesis on family structures, chi square test of independence was performed on family structures and specific deviant acts as shown in Table 3 below at significant value $p \leq .05$

TABLE 3: Association of family structures and adolescents' delinquent behaviour

Delinquent Behaviours	x^2	df	Mean range	
			Single	double
Broke window	.080	1	94.75	92.96
Taken something worth Kr.05	.402	1	96.41	92.25
Secretly watched video for adults.	1.024	1	98.61	91.30
Taken cell phone without owner's consent.	.331	1	96.46	92.22
Damaged another pupil's property.	.460	1	90.23	94.85
Avoiding paying bus/taxi fare.	2.129	1	101	90.27
Spread stories about another pupil.	.187	1	91.30	94.45
Disobeyed guardian(s)/parent (s).	.018	1	92,91	93.75
Made marks on school property.	.1953	1	100.07	90.67
Disobeyed teachers/school authority.	5.419*	1	105.62	88.28
Smoked cigarette or dagga at school.	7.323**	1	106.68	87.82
Drunk wine, spirits/beer with friends.	.785	1	88.98	95.45
Bullied younger girls/boys.	4.041*	1	97.77	83.59
Truancy (skipping school without valid reason)	7.852**	1	104.52	88.75

Key: * = $p < .05$, ** = $p < .01$

The chi square (x^2) test scores (Table 3) revealed an association between Single-parent headed family structure among school going adolescents in Chingola District, Zambia and some deviant acts: disobeying school authority, cigarette or dagga smoking at school, bullying and truancy.

Chi square test scores of family structures and the dependent variable 'disobeyed teachers/school authority' yielded the values: x^2 obs. = 5.419, df(1) and $p = < .05$. Since p -value = < 0.05 , it showed an association significant enough to reject our null hypothesis as these results confirm that single-parent family structure, as indicated by the mean difference with single family structures 105.62 and double family structures 88.28 (Table 3), is associated with our dependent variable 'disobeying school authority'. The *phi* coefficient was 0.78 indicating that the association was strong. The results indicated that most delinquents in terms of 'disobeying school authority' came from single-family structure rather than two-parent family structure. The significant relationship is an indication that the null hypothesis be rejected.

In addition, the results suggested that single-parent headed family structure was associated with a lot of smokers with reported mean range 106.68 from single-parent structure as compared to 87.82 (Table 3) from double-parent headed family structures and also the difference in frequencies of absolute deviance (Table 3). Furthermore, the chi square test performed between single-parent family structures and delinquent behaviour (smoking) yielded highly significant results, $\chi^2 (186) = 7.323$ df (1), $p < .01$ and the *phi* coefficient was 0.66 suggesting a strong association. This association was another one that showed that stated hypothesis could not be sustained but rejected as family structures in terms of single is seen to have an influence on the adolescents' behaviour.

The other significant relationship that this study recorded (as shown in Table 3 above) is that of single-parent family structure and bullying showing chi square test scores $\chi^2 (186) = 4.041$, $p < .05$ while *phi* coefficient was 0.62 indicating the strength of an association.

The study also indicated that single-parent family structure is significantly associated with truancy; χ^2 obs = 7.852 df (1) p value < .01 while the strength of association according to the *Phi* coefficient was 0.72. The results, just as those among smokers, 'disobeying school authority' and bullying were an indication that Single-parent family structure, as indicated by the difference in mean 104.52 and 88.75 from single and two parent family structures respectively, is significantly associated with truancy.

As regards family structures and specific deviant acts, statistical results concerning our hypothesis that predicated that '*Family structure is not associated with adolescent delinquent behaviour*' show a rejection in the null hypothesis. This was shown in the four deviant acts, disobeying teachers/school authority, smoking, bullying and truancy that yielded strong relationships or association with single family structure and also the frequencies of relationships of variables in Table 3 above.

These results were an indication that our first hypothesis could not be sustained but rejected as the above proved that the probability of an adolescent becoming delinquent was higher if one came from single-parent family structure than two-parent family

structure. It was therefore concluded that there was an association between single-parent headed family structures and ‘disobeying school authority ‘smoking, bullying and Truancy (delinquent acts).

However, an association test was performed on family structures and category of deviance in order to make a general conclusion on the relationship of variables. Of the 56 respondents from single-parent family structure, N= 14 (25%) were insignificant deviants while N= 42 (75%) were absolute deviants whereas those from two-parent family structure, N= 81 (62.3%) and N= 49 (37.6%) were insignificant and absolute deviants respectively as shown in figure 1 below.

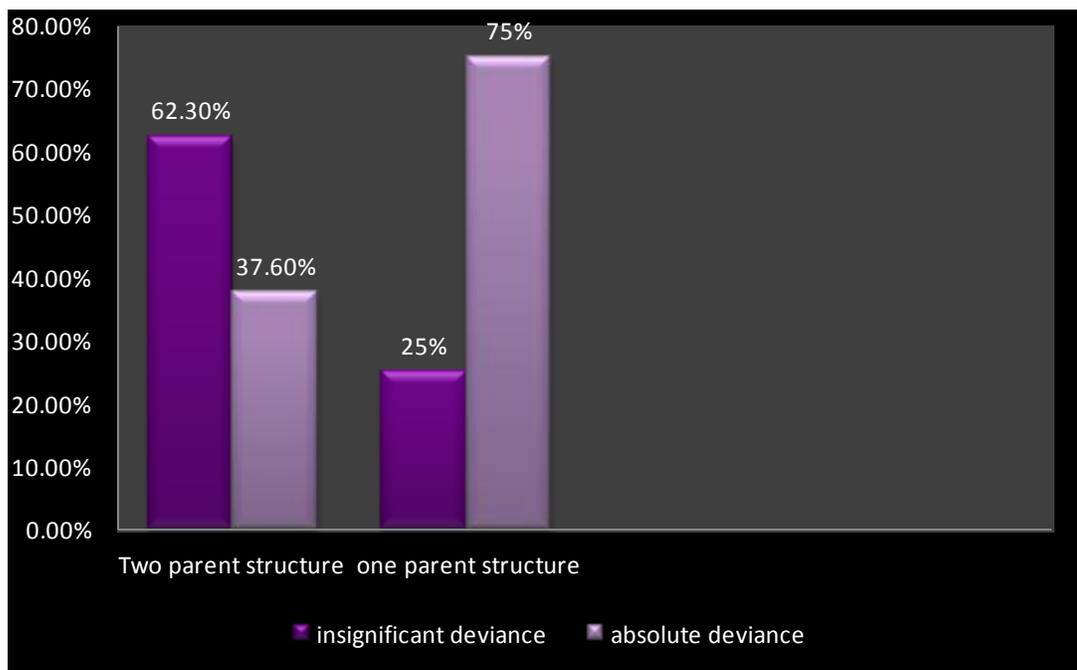


FIGURE 1: Family Structures and Category of Deviance.

From the simple statistics shown above, the results clearly indicated that family structures in terms of single-parent was associated with delinquent behaviour as 75 percent of absolute delinquents came from single-parent family structures contrary to our hypothesis. To substantiate the association and to prove it was not by chance, the hypothesis was tested using chi square test of independence at significance level $p \leq .05$. *Phi* coefficient was also performed.

The chi square (χ^2) yielded significant results $p < .01$, obs. Value 7.850 df (1) and the *phi* coefficient was 0.67 showing the strength of significance. Therefore, chi square test scores $\chi^2 (186) = 7.850$, $P < .01$ shows that the probability of a child from single-parent family structure engaging in deviance was higher than that in two-parent headed household thereby rejecting the null hypothesis.

In general, statistical results concerning our hypothesis that predicated that '*family structure is not associated with adolescent delinquent behaviour*' show a rejection in the null hypothesis. These results were an indication that our first hypothesis could not be sustained but rejected. It was therefore concluded that the Chingola study showed a significant relationship between single-parent family structure and adolescents' delinquent behaviour. The probability of an adolescent becoming deviant in a Chingola study was higher if he or she came from a single headed household than two-parent headed household.

4.4 Hypothesis II

There is a relationship between parental control and adolescents' delinquent behaviour.

Four parental control measures were used for this study namely; hitting, verbal warning, confinement and denial of permission. The four parental mechanisms were assessed using an ordinal scale with value labels 1 for always, 2 for sometimes, 3 for often and 4 for Never. The data were divided in three level categories which were 1(always) as 'high control' for all respondents who answered 'always' to the four control variables, 2 for 'Low control' for all those who answered 'sometimes & often' while those who answered 'Never' were coded 3 and categorised as 'No control'.

When the aggregate scores for the four parental control parameters were run on SPSS, it appeared that 'low control' compared to 'high' and 'no' control had been applied by most parents /guardians of our subjects. This showed a discrepancy in the distribution of results probably due to the fact that they were self report measures.

Of the 186 respondents, N= 110 (59.1%) respondents had indicated that their parents/guardians 'sometimes & often' subjected them to the four parameters while 44 (23.7%) indicated that their parents / guardians 'always' exerted the measures on them.

On the other hand, 32 (17.1%) indicated that their parents/guardians never exerted any measures on them. The results therefore meant that 59.1 percent of respondents received 'Low' control, while 23.7 percent and 17.1 percent were subjected to 'high' and 'No' control respectively.

In trying to find out whether parental control in the current study was associated or had an influence on delinquency, specific deviant acts were analyzed in relation to the parental variables as summarized in Table 4 below.

Simple statistics carried out as shown in the table indicated that of the 23.7 percent respondents who were highly controlled, 17.7 percent were insignificant deviants on the variable of taking something worth KR.05 while only 5.9 percent were absolute deviants indicating high control did not associate with the said deviant act. On the same variable, statistics showed that of the 59.1 percent who were in Low parental control category, 3.2 percent were insignificant deviants while 55.9 percent were absolute deviants suggesting that those who were in low control category were associated with the deviant act. This was the same implication with the 17.2 percent in the No control category which recorded a smaller percentage in the insignificant deviance (5.4%) compared to 11.8 percent absolute deviance (Table 4).

TABLE 4: Relationship between levels of parental control and delinquent acts

Delinquent Behaviours	Level of control						x^2	df
	High %		Low %		No %			
	Insg.dv.	Ab.dv	Insg.dv.	Ab.dv	Insg.dev	Ab.dv		
Taken something worth Kr.05	17.7	5.9	3.2	55.9%	5.4	11.8	.483	2
Damaged another pupil's property.	19.9	3.8	18.8	39.8	2.1	15.0	8.045*	2
Made marks on school property.	5.4	18.3	17.2	41.9	5.9	11.3	1.281	2
Disobeyed teachers /school authority.	12.9	10.8	34.4	24.7	5.4	11.8	7.788*	2
Smoked cigarette or dagga at school.	15.1	8.6	40.8	18.3	11.8	5.4	.446	2
Bullied younger girls/boys	15.6	8.1	22.6	36.6	4.8	12.4	4.087*	2
Truancy (skipping school without valid reason	3.2	20.5	11.3	47.8	2.2	15.1	1.494	2

Key: *Insg.dv.* = insignificant deviance, *Ab.dv.* = Absolute deviance.

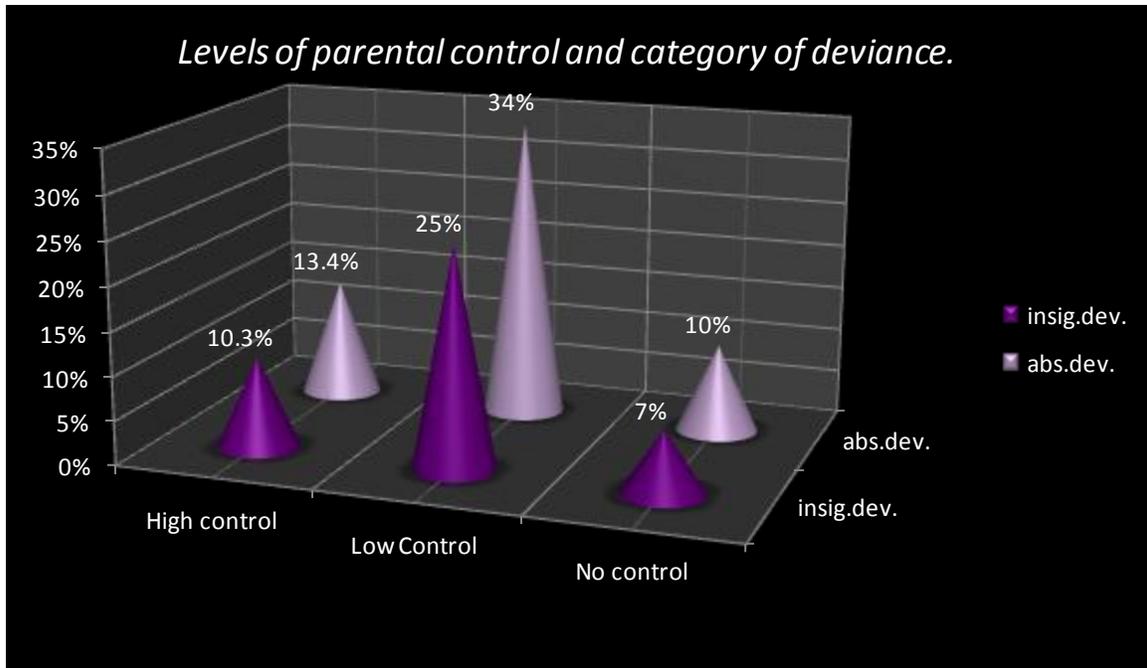
* = $p < .05$.

19.9 percent respondents from High control category were insignificant deviants on the variable of damaging another pupil's property while only 3.8 percent respondents from the same category were absolute deviants. Those in low control according to Table 4 recorded 18.8 percent and 39.8 percent insignificant and absolute deviance respectively indicating an association between independent and the dependent variable. This was the same case with those who were in No control category as the study recorded 2.1 percent and 15.0 percent insignificant and absolute deviants respectively

To show that the association was not by chance, bivariate analysis was done and chi square test scores $\chi^2 = (186) = 8.045$, df 2 and $p < .05$ indicating that the probability of someone being deviant is high if he or she came from low and no control categories compared to high control category.

As indicated in Table 4 above, specific variables indicated associations though not significant as indicated by chi square test of independence results, therefore, the associations could be by chance or due to discrepancy in the distribution of results or even due to the fact that the measures were self reported. Nevertheless, few variables which include; damaging other pupils' property, disobeying school authority and bullying showed significant relationship of coming from Low or No control category and adolescents' delinquent behaviour.

Since deviance was categorized as insignificant and absolute in this study, it was generally indicated that 10.3 percent from High control category were insignificant deviants while 13.4 percent from the same category were absolute deviants. The study also recorded 25 percent insignificant deviants and 34 percent absolute deviance from the Low controlled respondents as shown in figure 2 below. Furthermore, the results showed 7 percent insignificant deviance and 10 percent absolute deviance from those who were categorized No control (figure 2).



Key: *insg.dev.* = insignificant deviance, *abs.dev.* = absolute deviance

FIGURE 2: Showing Levels of Parental Control and Category of Deviance.

Figure 2 shows a bigger number of respondents being exposed to Low parental control and indicated a larger number of absolute deviants compared to the high and No control categories which recorded at least a 3 percent difference between their insignificant and absolute deviants. Nevertheless, it could be deduced from the figure above that participants from the three levels of parental control were more associated with absolute than insignificant deviance though this could be by chance until a statistical test is performed. This was so because in all the levels, the absolute deviance results were higher than the insignificant deviance.

However, when a global analysis of parental control and delinquency was done, Chi square values; obs. value 5.12, df 2 and p value < .05 indicating that the probability of someone being deviant was highest if he came from Low control category compared to 'high or No' control. *Phi* coefficient was 0.69 indicating that the association between low parental control and deviant behaviour was strong.

Furthermore, the results also show that a child who came from No control has the least probability of being deviant according to the Chingola study as indicated by the number of subjects exposed to No control.

In conclusion, it can be argued that in the current study, Low and No parental control are significantly associated with specific deviance; damaging another pupil's property, disobeying teachers or school authority and bullying as indicated in Table 4.

On the other hand, the general overview results of the current study on parental control and delinquency indicated the significant relationship between Low parental control and delinquent behaviour. This was indicated by $\chi^2 (180) = 5.12, p, < .05$ and the strength of the association from the *phi* coefficient. It can also be evidenced from high proportions of absolute deviance in the low category than in high and No control category.

CHAPTER FIVE– DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the results of the study in reference to the aim and objectives earlier stated in Chapter One. The discussion is in support of the current knowledge based on the literature reviewed and the data collected through field research. The study was aimed at investigating familial correlates (family structures, parental control) of delinquent behaviour among school going adolescents in Chingola district, Zambia. Within this aim, two specific objectives were pursued and these were;

- i. To investigate the relationship between family structure and adolescent delinquent behaviour.

It has been found that in this study, there is a significant relationship between family structure in terms of single-parent family structure and adolescents' delinquent behaviour. This implies the influence that family structures have on adolescents' delinquent behaviour

- ii. To investigate the relationship between parental control and adolescent delinquent behaviour.

It has been shown that in the Chingola study, the probability of one being deviant is highest if he or she came from low parental control category compared to high and 'no' control categories. Generally, the study found a significant relationship between low levels of parental control and delinquent behaviour.

The chapter also highlights the study's recommendations and that of future research.

5.2 Interpretations and theoretical implications of the Results.

5.2.1 Family structures and delinquent behaviour

According to data presented in chapter four on family structure and delinquency, the results clearly indicated that single-parent family structure is associated with delinquent behaviour as 75 percent of absolute delinquents came from single-parent family

structures contrary to our hypothesis. When the null hypothesis was tested using the chi square test of independence, the results show a significant relationship an indication that our null hypothesis which predicted that ‘family structure is not associated with delinquent behaviour’ was rejected.

The current study findings are an indication that delinquents come from single headed households rather than two-parent family structures, consistent with Wilkinson’s (1974) broken home theory, which argues that delinquents come from single-parent headed households rather than two- parent headed households. According to Wilkinson (1974), ‘broken home theory’ postulates that a single-parent family structure (also known as broken homes) has adverse effects on an adolescent. The theory further assumes that children who live in homes with only one parent due to different reasons are more likely to display a range of behavioral problems and delinquent behaviours than children from two parent family structures. This is seen in figure 1 of chapter four of our findings where more absolute deviants in this study came from single-parent headed households compared to two-parent headed households which recorded more insignificant deviants.

In relation to our findings, the broken home theory views a home as the most important source of social control where if juveniles were lacking one parent, they were likely to have complete freedom that would lead them to participate in deviant activities (Jensen, 2003).

The findings were also consistent with Steinberg’s (2008) view who indicates that Children brought up by lone parents are more likely to engage themselves in offending behaviour than those who live with two parents. It can be speculated that children of single parents may live in poverty and under stress conditions, which are strongly associated with juvenile delinquency. Furthermore, children who live in homes with only one parent for various reasons such as in which marital relationships have been disrupted are more likely to display a range of behavioral problems including delinquency, than children who are from two-parent family structures (Thornberry et.al,1999).

Apart from being consistent with the broken home theory, the current findings also replicate a number of previous studies that have been undertaken to investigate relationship between single-family structure and delinquency. Wright and Wright's (1994) research on family factors and delinquency shows that single-parent family structure produces more delinquent children than two parent families.

Literature has also shown that adolescents in single-parent family structure have difficulties with academic work and conforming to school rules and that they interact aggressively with their mothers, their teachers and their peers especially if the single parent structure is due to divorce, desertion or separation (McLanahan & Carlson, 2002). The Chingola study findings are in congruent with McLanahan & Carlson's (2002) assertions where adolescents from single-headed households in the current study could not conform to school rules (Table 3). The findings show that such children disobeyed teachers and school authority, smoked dagga or cigarette at school, bullied younger girls or boys and skipping school without valid permission. Not only are the current study findings consistent with McLanahan & Carlson (2002), but also with Berns (2007) report that adolescents in two-parent family structures are less likely to report school problems than those from single-parent family structures.

McLanahan & Carlson (2002) and Berns' (2007) report together with our current findings are substantiated by Chaiken (2000)'s assertions that children from homes with two parents have lower incidences of illegal behaviour that is paralleled by their lower rate of susceptibility to peer pressure to commit deviant acts as two parents may take turns in controlling and supervising the children.

Another study that our findings replicate is a Kenya study on '*Influence of family structure on juvenile delinquency*' which found that certain delinquent behaviours were related to single-parent family structure, such behaviours include; truancy, smoking and fighting (Mullens, 2004). Mullens' findings are replicated in our study findings as behaviours like; truancy, smoking and fighting (bullying in our case) are among the

deviant acts that are related to single-parent family structure as shown in Tables 2 and 3 of chapter 4.

The other findings from the Kenya study were that juveniles from single or broken homes were 2.7 times more likely to run away from home than children living in two-parent family structures (Mullens, 2004). The current findings where we have about two times more delinquents (75%) in single-parent family structure than in two-parent family structures (37%) as shown in figure 1 of chapter 4, in a way gives support to the Kenya study above.

The above pattern of the current study findings also supports the previously reported findings by Mullens (2004) in which he comments that juveniles charged with most serious deviant acts in Kenya were from 'broken homes' or single-headed family structure than those charged with less acts of misconducts. Proportionately, more juveniles who are referred to police agencies and the juvenile courts for delinquency charges like assault (fighting in our case), drug handling (smoking in the current study) in Kenya live in single-parent family structure when compared to the general population (Mullens, 2004).

5.2.2 Parental control and Delinquent behaviour

Our second hypothesis was that there is a relationship between parental control and delinquent behaviour.

Findings on parental control and delinquency show that there is a probability of someone engaging in deviant behaviour if he or she came from low and no control categorization in the current study. This is according to the findings evidenced in Table 4 of chapter 4 where low and No parental control showed significant relationships with damaging another pupil's property, disobeying school authority and bullying others.

Generally, the study findings indicate that probability of one being deviant is highest if he/she came from low parental control compared to 'high' and 'no' control categories.

This is evident from proportion of high deviance in the low parental control than in high and no parental control (figure 2).

The fact that the study had established that low and no levels of parental control are associated with delinquency, are consistent with research findings in Singapore and west Africa, Nigeria specifically by Wu et al (1998) who in their findings indicated that adolescents who were exposed to low levels of warmth, induction, control and monitoring were more likely to be delinquents than those who were exposed to high control. This is also supported by a Nigerian scholar, Loromeke (1997) who is of the view that African tradition emphasizes the use of high control, authority and punishment in bringing the best out of a child. She further argues that Children, who are exposed to Low or No control like in the current study, would be more likely to be delinquents than those who are high controlled.

From the indication of the current study findings where a big number of respondents reported were exposed to low control, it can be assumed that the Chingola sample was not exposed to the African tradition of high control, according to Loromeke's (1997) assertions.

The findings also supported studies conducted in Asia by Ang. & Groh (2006) on the 'relationship between levels of control in parenting styles and students' academic achievement and school behaviour'. Like our findings, Ang & Groh (2006) among other findings found that those who came from homes where parental control was least or not exerted showed problematic behaviours in school like bullying and disrespectful to school authority. Similar to the current findings which concluded that probability of one being deviant is high if he or she came from low or no control categories compared to 'high' is associated to delinquent behaviour. Ang & Groh (2006) also concluded that little or no controlled adolescents were more prone to delinquent and health problems than those from high parental control.

Crawford & Novak (2008) like this study, argue that less supervision and less parental control are associated with more opportunities for deviant acts and this would come from children in single or two parent family structures. They posit that parental control is one of the best explanations of juvenile delinquency that in situations where it is little or absent, like in the current study, juveniles or adolescents become delinquents. This is seen in the current findings where low and no parental control are significantly associated with delinquency.

Crawford & Novak (2008) and the current findings are in congruency with Loeber and Stouthammer-Loeber's (1986) assertions that the parental control or disciplinary approach may also be a cause of juvenile delinquency. They predict that extreme strictness, leniency and inconsistency (low or no) parental control approaches are largely associated with delinquency. This is in line with our study findings that indicated low and no control being associated with delinquency though inconsistent with the statement 'extreme strictness' as the Chingola study findings did not report 'extreme strictness'.

5.3 Conclusion

The study has investigated familial correlates (family structures, parental control) of delinquent behaviour and established an association of higher levels of delinquency in single-parent family structure than in double-parent family structure suggesting low parental control in the former and high parental control in the latter notwithstanding other mediating variables that were not captured. We can also make a presupposition that other than family structures and parental control, the environment and gender in Chingola could be factors of delinquency though the latter was not equally represented in the study. The study has also established that low levels of parental control are highly associated with adolescents' delinquent behaviour in this study. The study indicates that the level of delinquency in Chingola is high as 51.1 percent of respondents were insignificant deviants while 48.9% percent were absolute deviants.

5.4 Recommendations

There are research and policy implications arising from this study. From the findings, the following recommendations were made;

- There is need for policy makers to devise a way of paying particular attention to children from single-parent family structures so that they are monitored at an early age. This would lessen delinquent behaviours in schools.
- There is also need for policy makers to educate stakeholders (parents/guardians) on the importance of parental control.

In the area of research, the following recommendations were made:

- Other than Wilkinson's broken home theory of delinquent behaviour, future research should focus or test individual and environmental theories to determine their roles in delinquent behaviour. In this way, patterns of social competence, pro social behaviour, antisocial behaviour and behavioral problems in early adolescence may be assessed to see the link with delinquency.
- It is also recommended that future research should consider embarking on qualitative research to bring out salient features around the topic which quantitative research may not bring forth. In this way, observations from lived experiences for instance will be handy in describing the real situation pertaining to adolescent delinquency.
- Longitudinal study rather than cross sectional study is proposed for future research. This would reveal deeper understanding as delinquency can be analyzed over a longer period of time.
- It is also recommended than sample size and locales be increased so that results might be generalized to Zambia rather than just Chingola.

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APPENDIX A- INTRODUCTORY LETTER TO CONDUCT A STUDY



**THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY**

Telephone: +260-211-252514/292884

P.O. BOX 32379
Lusaka, Zambia

Fax: +260-211-253952

29th August 2012

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH

I hereby wish to advise that MR/MRS/MS. LATRIA NANYANGWE - MUTALE
Computer No. 53100376..... is a student at the University of Zambia
undertaking MA in Child and Adolescent Psychology.

She/He is required to undertake a research in order for him/her to be awarded the Master
degree and I hereby request for your assistance in allowing her/him to undertake the
research. Her/His topic of research is FAMILIAL CORRELATES OF
DELINQUENT BEHAVIOUR AMONG SCHOOL GOING ADOLESCENTS

For further information if required you may contact the undersigned on Cell Phone No.
0975-496346.

S.O.C Mwaba

Dr. S.O.C Mwaba

SUPERVISOR

LECTURER DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

APPENDIX B- REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT A STUDY

The University of Zambia,
School of Humanities and Social sciences,
Department of psychology,
14th June, 2012.

The Director,
Post Graduate and Research studies,
The University of Zambia,
P.O. Box 32379,
Lusaka.

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: REQUESTING AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT A RESEARCH ON THE SUBMITTED PROPOSAL

Reference is made to the subject matter above.

Following the submission and approval of my proposal titled 'Familial Correlates of delinquent behaviour among school going adolescents' by the school of humanities and social sciences in June 2012; I submit my proposal to the ethical committee for further scrutiny and approval.

I hope to start my research between August and October 2012.

Yours faithfully,

Nanyangwe L

LATRIA NANYANGWE. (Computer No.531003761)

APPENDIX C – REQUEST TO DISTRICT AUTHORITY-CHINGOLA

The University of Zambia,
School of Humanities and Social Sciences,
Department of Psychology,
P.O Box 32379,
LUSAKA.

The District Education Boards Secretary (DEBS),
P.O Box 10085,
CHINGOLA.

Dear Sir/madam,

RE: Request to carry out a Study on ‘familial correlates of delinquent behaviour among school going adolescents’ in your District.

I am a registered student at the University of Zambia for MA.Degree in Child and Adolescent psychology. I am currently conducting a study for the fulfilment of my programme. I here therefore seek your approval to pursue the proposed study among selected Basic and High school pupils under your leadership and responsibility. The following schools have been arbitrarily identified and selected as the geographical demarcated field of study; Chamakubi, Chingola and Luano Basic schools, Sekela and Chingola secondary schools. I have included the basic schools because my sample is adolescents 13 to 19 years in grades 8 to 12.

I would be grateful if you can grant permission so I may pursue the proposed study among the grades listed above at all the five schools.

A copy of the final report will be submitted to your office as soon as it is ready at the end of the study.

Your response will highly be appreciated.

Nanyangwe L
LATRIA NANYANGWE (Student).

**APPENDIX D – PERMISSION LETTER FROM DISTRICT AUTHORITY-
CHINGOLA**

All correspondence should be addressed to
The District Education Board Secretary
Tel/ Fax : 312860

In reply please quote
No :



**REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE,
VOCATIONAL TRAINING & EARLY EDUCATION**

**OFFICE OF THE DEBS
P.O BOX 10085
CHINGOLA**

September, 2012

**TO: ALL HEAD TEACHERS BASIC
AND HIGH SCHOOLS CHINGOLA
DISTRICT AND OTHER COPPERBELT
TOWNS**

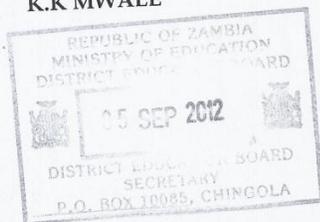
Kindly be informed that Mrs. Latria Nanyangwe Mutale is a student at the University of Zambia under Masters Programme in Child and Adolescents Psychology is required to undertake research as part of fulfilling the programme.

I wish to request your School /institution to assist her in this respect.

I thank you in anticipation of your positive response.

Thanks.

K.K MWALE



APPENDIX E – ETHICAL FORMS

UNZAREC FORM 1a



DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

Telephone: 290258/
Fax: +260-1-290258/253937
E-mail: Director@drqs.unza.zm

P O Box 32379
Lusaka, Zambia

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

TITLE OF RESEARCH: Familial Correlates of Delinquent Behaviour Among School-going Adolescents.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY: To investigate familial correlates to delinquent behaviour among school going adolescents in Zambia

DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AND YOUR INVOLVEMENT: You are being invited to take part in this study 'familial correlates of delinquent behaviour among school going adolescents'. You are requested to answer a questionnaire though you are free not to answer the questions that may make you feel uncomfortable.

CONFIDENTIALITY: Be rest assured that the information provided by you will be treated in the strictest confidence and shall NOT be disclosed to any unauthorized person or organization.

VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION AND WITHDRAWAL: Your participation in this research is entirely voluntary, i.e. you do not have to participate if you do not wish to. You are also free to withdraw at anytime and refusal to take part will involve no penalty.

RISKS AND BENEFITS:

- You may experience emotional disturbances when answering some of the questions. To reduce on this, you are free to ask for a short break whenever you require it.
- Direct benefits from this study are not guaranteed though you may have an opportunity to contribute to measures that might reduce delinquent behavior among school going adolescents in Zambia.

INFORMED CONSENT: If you wish to take part in this study, you have to understand its risks and benefits and make sure you are furnished with necessary information. Your signed consent (if you are 16-19yrs) is required before you proceed with the questionnaire.

CONTACTS FOR QUESTIONS (Names, addresses, phone numbers and E-mail of the following):

1. **Principal Investigator:** Latria Nanyangwe-Mutale, UNZA SCH.OF HSS, Cell- 0966944773, E-mail: mutalelatria@yahoo.com
2. **Chairperson, Humanities and Social Sciences, Research Ethics Committee, University of Zambia:** Box 32379, Lusaka.
3. **The Director, Directorate of Research and Graduate Studies,** Box 32379, Lusaka



**THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA
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HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

CONSENT FORM
(Translated into vernacular if necessary)

TITLE OF RESEARCH:

REFERENCE TO PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET:

1. Make sure that you read the Information Sheet carefully, or that it has been explained to you to your satisfaction.
2. Your permission is required if tape or audio recording is being used.
3. Your participation in this research is entirely voluntary, i.e. you do not have to participate if you do not wish to.
4. Refusal to take part will involve no penalty or loss of services to which you are otherwise entitled.
5. If you decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw at any time without penalty or loss of services and without giving a reason for your withdrawal.
6. You may choose not to answer particular questions that are asked in the study. If there is anything that you would prefer not to discuss, please feel free to say so.
7. The information collected in this interview will be kept strictly confidential.
8. If you choose to participate in this research study, your signed consent is required below before I proceed with the interview with you.

VOLUNTARY CONSENT

I have read (or have had explained to me) the information about this research as contained in the Participant Information Sheet. I have had the opportunity to ask questions about it and any questions I have asked have been answered to my satisfaction.

I now consent voluntarily to be a participant in this project and understand that I have the right to end the interview at any time, and to choose not to answer particular questions that are asked in the study.

My signature below says that I am willing to participate in this research:

Participant's name (Printed):

Participant's signature: Consent Date:

Researcher Conducting Informed Consent (Printed) **49**

Signature of Researcher: Date:

Signature of parent/guardian: Date:

APPENDIX F - QUESTIONNAIRE

Familial Correlates of Delinquent Behaviour among school-going adolescents.

INSTRUCTIONS TO RESPONDENTS :

- DO NOT write your NAME, ADDRESS, and other CONTACT PARTICULARS on this document.
 - ALL information provided by you, will be treated in the strictest confidence and shall NOT be disclosed to any unauthorized person or organization.
 - Your ANONIMITY (secrecy of your name) and your INTERGRITY as an individual will be respected and maintained at all costs.
 - Rest be assured: you are '*in safe hands*' when filling in this questionnaire!
 - Please note: there are NO right or wrong answers here. Only your *honest responses* to all the questions that best reflect your personal opinion or past experience are required here.
 - Thank you very much for your willingness to participate in this very important study. Your assistance has been invaluable to me.
-

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC PARTICULARS

Please fill in the following particulars as accurately as possible by means of a cross (X) in the appropriate block.

Q. 1 Your GENDER?

Male	
Female	

Q. 2. How old are you?

13 years old	
14 years old	
15 years old	
16 years old	
17 years old	
18 years old	
19 years old	

Q.3. In which Grade are you? (Tick ONE only):

Grade 12	
Grade 11	
Grade 10	
Grade 9	
Grade 8	

Q.4 which school do you go to?

Chamakubi	
Chingola basic	
Luano	
Sekela secondary	
Chingola Secondary	
Other (specify).....	

**Adapted from Zenzile (2008) Self Report Survey on Juvenile Delinquency.*

SECTION B: FAMILY PARTICULARS

Following below, are few questions that relate to *your* family situation. Please answer each one by means of drawing a (X) in the appropriate block next to each question or statement:

Q. 5. What is the marital status of your guardian(s)?

Married	
Not married	
Mother deceased	
Father deceased	
Both parents deceased	
Divorced or separated but both still alive	
Other (specify).....	

Q.6. Who of the following act as your parent/guardian at home?

Both mother and father (biological)	
Mother only.	
Father only	
Stepmother/-father.	
Uncle and aunt.	
Grandparent(s).	
Brother or sister	
Neighbors	
Nobody	
Other specify.....)	

Q.7. In which of the following family structures have you been brought up?

Two-parent family structure	
One-parent family structure	

**Adapted from Zenzile (2008) Self Report Survey on Juvenile Delinquency.*

SECTION C: PARENTAL CONTROL AND DISCIPLINE

Q. Did your father/ mother or guardian(s) punish you in any of the following ways during the PAST TWELVE MONTHS? (NB: Tick or cross what is applicable to you.

Q	Statement	Always	Sometimes,	Often	Never,
8	Hit you with a stick or any other kind of object?				
9	Warned you verbally?				
10	'Grounded' you (confined you in a home) for some time?				
11	Refused you permission to visit friends after school?				

SECTION D: ADOLESCENT ACTIVITIES

Following below is a list of common activities or "offences" some of which school going adolescents usually engage in to reflect a 'teenage culture'. Carefully read through this list and then indicate to what extent, i.e. how many times you were involved in, or have committed some or all of those acts during the past twelve (12) months.

NB: Mark *EACH ITEM/STATEMENT* with a cross (X) in the appropriate block. Use the scale indicated.

Q	Activity	Once	Two times	Three times	Four times	Five and above
1	Deliberately broken a window of a building.					
2	Taken someone's item worth less than K500.00					
3.	Secretly watched a video or film reserved for adults only.					
4	Intentionally thrown (a) stone(s) at someone's house or vehicle.					
5	Illegally taken someone's cell phone without his or her permission.					
6	Damaged or defaced another pupil's school property e.g. a book.					

Q	Activity	Once	Two times	Three times	Four times	Five and above
7	Avoided paying for a taxi or bus by S 'sneaking in'.					
8	Spread bad stories about another pupil(s) at school.					
9	Disobeyed my parents or guardian(s)					
10	Made marks or wrote mean things on school desks or walls					
11	Disobeyed my teacher or another school official.					
12	Smoked cigarette or dagga at school or elsewhere.					
13	Drank wine, beer, or spirits with friends.					
14.	Bullied younger boys or girls at school.					
15	Stayed away from school/dodged lessons without a valid reason.					

**Adapted from Zenzile (2008) Self Report Survey on Juvenile Delinquency.*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION!
AND THANKS FOR BEING HONEST. GOD BLESS YOU.**