



African Parenting Style and its Relationship with Youths' Tendency to Participate in Crime: A Case Study of Kwazulu-Natal/ Indanda Township

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Abstract: Crime among youth is one of the major social encounters affecting most of the black Townships in South Africa. Inanda township has emerged as one of the areas in eThekweni with the high rates of violent crimes. The sort of crime that occurs in this area range from murder cases, attempted murder, and sexual offences. In this study, it has been noticed that most of these criminal activities are carried out by youth between the ages of 18-35. This study aimed at evaluating the relationship between African parenting style and its relationship with Youths' tendency to participate in a crime. The study took place at Inanda Township. The research used a qualitative approach to gather data from 20 participants, through in-depth interviews involving a semi-structured approach. The finding of this study demonstrated that parenting style has a strong influence on the behaviour displayed by their children within a community. It has also been discovered that some youth get involved in delinquent behaviour, not because of poor parenting, but rather because of peer pressure or friend influence leading us to look back at Sutherlands' Differential Association Theory suggesting that delinquent behaviour is genetically a function of learning delinquency through association within delinquents within intimate personal groups. Even though the entourage influences molding youths' behaviour, still parenting style should be held accountable for how they raise their children who they send to society. Hence, the findings reveal that parenting style was very influential in shaping youth behaviour.

Keywords: Parenting Style, Crime, Youth, Africa

Introduction

The year 2018 marks twenty-four years of democracy in South Africa since the end of the Apartheid system. The system was dismantled through negotiations and a new

constitution was established in 1996 (Sham, 2018). During the Apartheid days, numerous young people suffered rights violations– including attack, torture, detention without trial, and limited access to health care, education, and security (Anon., 2012). A new constitution brought about change to that through the introduction of the Bill of right, which is the foundation of democracy in South Africa. It enshrines the rights of all people in the country and attests the democratic values of human dignity, equality, and freedom.

The South African Constitution recognizes and protects the fundamental rights of young people. It enshrines, specifically, that young people have the right to family and parental care and provides that a child's best interest are of essential in each issue concerning the child. Section 28 of the Constitution give young people those personal, economic, and social rights that are typical to them, for example, the right to basic nutrition, shelter, medicinal services and social services and additionally the right to family and parental care. The section obliges the State to ensure that young people are given these fundamental requirements and to provide the family of the child with the means to support both these requirements (Anon., 1996).

The rule that “the best interest of a child” ought to prevail in all issues relating to children is found in every human right document that addresses the rights of children. It is additionally firmly entrenched in the South African Constitution. Subsection 28(2) of the South African Constitution proclaim that a young people's best interest is of paramount importance in each issue concerning the child. A child's best interest should in this manner guide every judgment or administrative action that would directly or by indirectly impact on a child (Anon., 1996).

Subsection 28(1) (b) puts an obligation on the parents and family of children to give the necessary care. By implication, this section also puts an obligation on the State to help the family as an institution. The subsection accordingly inhibits legislation or administrative action that would interfere with the delivery of parental care or would have the impact of separating children from parents (Anon., 1996).

The most extensive addition to the child rights framework is the 2005 Children's Act and Amendment, which strengthens provisions in the Bill of Rights and points out the responsibilities of parents. According to the said Act parents have to provide care to the child, to keep contact with the child, to provide guardian to the child and also provide financial support to the child (Anon., 2005).

Another key legislation which is important in protecting the rights of children, introduced during the post-apartheid era is the Child Justice Act. The Act came as a result of the obligations that South Africa needed to meet after it ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 on 16 June 1995 (Badenhorst, Overview of the Implementation of The Child Justice Act, 2008 (Act 75 of 2008), 2011). The South African Law Reform Commission (SALRC) was asked by the then Minister

of Justice and Constitutional Development, to launch a study to establish the feasibility of developing a child justice system in South Africa and to submit suggestions for the reform of this specialist area of the law (Badenhorst, Overview of the Implementation of The Child Justice Act, 2008 (Act 75 of 2008), 2011).

In 1997 an Issue Paper on Juvenile Justice was published for contribution. The said Paper suggested that an alternate Bill be drafted all together for a cohesive set method for administration and management of a child accused of committing a crime. The Issue Paper was discussed by both government and civil society (South African Law Reform Commission, 1999). In 1998 the SALRC published complete Discussion Paper, which was accompanied by a draft Child Justice Bill. This was followed by wide consultation with all the relevant stakeholders such as government departments and non-governmental organizations (NGO's) providing services in the field of child justice (Badenhorst, Overview of the Implementation of The Child Justice Act, 2008 (Act 75 of 2008), 2011).

According to Badenhorst, (2011) the draft Child Justice Bill introduced a new system to deal with children in conflict with the law and procedure to cover all actions concerning such a child from the time the offence is committed through sentencing. After the issuing of the Discussion Paper, workshops, seminars, and written responses to it followed. The said written responses gained substantial support for the fundamental objectives of the Child Justice Bill as well as for the proposed structures and procedure (Ehlers, 2002). A report with a proposed draft Child Justice Bill was submitted to the then Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development in August 2000.

The Rationale of the Study

Inanda township has emerged as one of the areas in eThekweni with the high rates of violent crimes. The sort of crime that occurs in this area range from murder cases, attempted murder, and sexual offences. The 2016/2017 South African Police Service (SAPS) crime stats revealed that murder cases at Inanda have increased from 169 cases in the year 2016 to 207 cases in 2017. The stats further revealed that Sexual offences cases have also increment from 316 cases in 2016 to 348 cases in the year 2017. As a result, Inanda police station is a top ten list of stations with high crime rates in South Africa. The researcher also noticed that most of these criminal activities are carried out by youth between the ages of 18-35. This was evident in the recent article that was published by Phoenix Sun Newspaper (28 February 2018), which uncovered that six suspects, between the ages of 20 and 35 were arrested by members of the SAPS. Members arrested a man for a carjacking in Inanda area which led to that suspect pointing out and positively identifying the six suspects which were involved in a carjacking in Phoenix. One of the factors that influence the tendency for youth to participate in

crime is the family background (Dinkemeyer, Mackay, Mackay & Dinkmayer Jr, 1998). Despite the different economic challenges and family structures, parenting plays a very important role in shaping the behaviour of youth (Roche, Ensimer, Cherlin, 2007). Even though the effect of parenting style on crime among youths has been extensively studied, but the research is yet to be conducted on the African context of parenting and its correlation on crime among youth. In this study, Inanda perceptions on African context of parenting will be examined concerning the extent to which it influences of crime among youths living at Inanda.

Empirical Presentation

The issue of youth in crime in Africa started attracting the attention of researchers in the mid-1960s (Igbinoia, 1983). In the work done, by Clifford (1966) when he compared delinquents and non-delinquents in Zambia. He revealed the genuine contrasts between these two groups appeared, to be concentrated in family relations and emotional instability. Clifford (1966) prescribed that the spread of urban culture appeared, to have more influence towards crime in Zambia than any local cultural or tribal influence. He assumed that crime and delinquent causation in developing countries can be explained by urban pressure on the family rather than by cultural differences (Clifford, 1966).

A study conducted by Weinberg (1964), where he compared factors related with delinquency in Accra, a cosmopolitan city in Ghana, demonstrated that delinquency by young people was found to change among ethnic or tribal groups in Accra as per the experience in the urban milieu. The peer-group experience was seen to be crucially related to the degree and nature of delinquency in Accra, as in the United States. Weinberg (1964) additionally suggested that parent-child conflict results in more peer-group influence in ghettos of Accra much as in the United States, yet he found no proof of either the conflict or retreats among peer groups in Accra as found in the United States. Weinberg (1976) additionally discovered a valuable distinction between those activities oriented toward subsistence or hedonic satisfaction (primary stealing) and those which are more career oriented.

Other researchers have added to the discussion of youth in crime in African states. For example, in July 1973 in a study of 48 juveniles in Abidjan Prison, Bassitche (1974) uncovered that the vast majority of young people valued obedience to parents and expressed that young people in crime did not blame their parents for their particular issues yet rather had a poor attitude toward the police. Regardless of the way that the youth's opinion about parents did not deviate from African norms (in 136 which parents practice considerable authority and youths are required to comply), Bassitche (1974) concluded by expressing that a desire for, a father figure and breaking down of parental authority greatly contributed to young people being involved in crime (Bassitche, 1974).

Other researchers have concentrated on the history, philosophy, law, and procedures of the juvenile system in African countries. For instance, Mangin (1975), who discussed delinquency-prevention strategies in French-speaking Black Africa. Midgley (1975) displayed an overview of South African juvenile justice systems and compared them with those in the United States and Scandinavian countries. Asuni (1978) assessed the juvenile justice system and attitudes toward young people and child control in Nigeria. Bassitche (1973) wrote about defects in reported crime and criminal statistics involving youth offenders in the Ivory Coast.

Parenting Style and Youth Behaviour

The psychologist has long held an interest in parenting and their effects on the socialization and the development of their youngsters. According to Ishak, Low & Lau, (2012) parenting style is one of their focus. A parenting style is a psychological construct speaking to standard procedures that parents use in youngster raising (Faraz B, Adam S. M. J and Shahanawaz M. G, 2015). Parenting style fundamentally relies on different combinations of techniques: How much time a parent goes through with their kids? How strict the parent imposed and makes certain standards to keep up their kids within disciplined surrounding? How much the parent speaks with their kids? Whatever degree the parent speaks with their youngsters, every one of these techniques in the nutshell characterizes the parenting style (Wang & Leichtman, 2000)

There is an adequate confirmation to support the relationship between parenting style and kids' behavioural problems. However, parenting style and youngsters' behavioural issues have received little attention and research interest. In the study that was done by Alizadeh S, Dr Mansor and Dr Rohani (2011) in Malaysia, on the connection between parenting style and children' behavioural problem. Parenting styles were evaluated with the Children's Behavior Checklist (CBCL). Respondents contained 681 moms of children in primary school (347girls and 334 young boys) who were identified through their kids selected by cluster sampling in the Iranian capital of Tehran. The outcome discovered demonstrated that Authoritative parenting style with high responsiveness and high demanding in parenting behaviour has shown to be directly related to fewer kids' internalizing and externalizing symptoms. This was supported by Baumrind, in 1991, when he detailed that authoritative parents were more effective than authoritarian parents, particularly in helping their teenagers to keep away from issues related to drugs. Palmer (2009) additionally found that authoritative parenting was positively associated with kids' adjustment, and authoritarian parenting was negatively connected with youngsters' adjustment. The above-mentioned study demonstrated that Authoritative parenting style continues to children's development in positive beyond youth.

Parenting styles are classified under three major forms: the authoritarian, the authoritative or democratic, and the permissive or self-indulgence or un-involving (Baumrind, 1991). The authoritarian parenting style constitutes of parents or guardian who are regularly strict, harsh (Ang and Groh, 2006). Authoritative parenting as stated by Ang and Groh (2006), are adaptable and responsive to the child's needs yet at the same time enforce reasonable standards of conduct. While permissive parents are those who force few restrictions, rules, or limits on their kids. Reports had demonstrated that authoritarian parenting styles have a negative connotation in literature because of the negative conduct as a result of teenagers and children. However, on the same note, the result of some researches uncovered those authoritarian parenting yield constructive outcomes on Asian and Indian young people (Ang & Goh, 2006). Some found that authoritative parenting style has outcomes that are more beneficial on young people's conduct.

In a study that was conducted by Alsheikh N, Pareameswaran G and Elhoweris H. (2010) in the United Arab Emirates on the effect of parenting styles on students' performance and confidence, the parenting styles were classified into autonomy granting parenting style, demandingness and responsiveness parenting style. The outcome showed that demandingness was found to significantly affect GPA scores. This implies kids whose parents had high expectation from them performed better in school over youngsters whose parents had low expectations from them.

Utti (2006) on the other hand found that permissive parenting had more negative effects on the students' academic achievement. This was further supported by the study which was conducted by Ang & Goh (2006), which found that authoritative parenting had a positive effect on the adolescents' behaviour while laissez-faire had a negative effect.

Hanson, Henggeler, Haefele & Rodick (1984) found another interesting finding in the study, which revealed that there was a positive association between negative parental relationship and juveniles' criminal activity. Farrington (1989), for instance, showed that sons of the fathers who did not engage with them in leisure activities exhibited a higher level of violent behaviour and received a greater number of convictions of a violent offence as teenagers and adults as compared to fathers who were more involved.

On another hand Bolkan C, Sabo Y, De Costa J, Acock A. C. and Day R. D. (2010) revealed that young people's perceptions of their parents, as a result of their social interaction and family setting, may influence their behaviour more than their parents' actual parenting style. The study noted, youth perceptions of their parents may likewise be particularly salient and influential during early adolescence.

Although perceiving the two parents as authoritative was related with the best self-reported behavioural results among youth, perceiving at least one parent as authoritative

appeared to offset the negative effect of a co-parent with a less effective parenting style. Another discovering which was unexpected was that in contrast to earlier research (Adalbjarnardottir and Hafsteinsson, 2001; Lamborn et al., 1991; Steinburg et al., 1994) youth who saw their parents as permissive did not report significantly worse results than the individuals who reported having authoritative parents. Saw permissive parents appeared to have clear advantages over parents who were seen as authoritarian or disengaged, which had the worst result on youth self-reported behaviours in the study.

Parental Criminal

Studies have recognized that the parent-child relationship is the most critical structure for social learning and adjustment in preschools and is a reliable predictor of youngsters' internalizing and externalizing disorders (Trentacosta et al., 2008). A study investigating the causes of youth violence uncovered that although poor parenting practices reliably anticipate violence conduct in young people, no data concerning parenting practices in South Africa was accessible at the time (Burton, 2007).

According to Farrington et al, (2006), parents who participate in criminal activities tend to have children who are involved in antisocial behaviour. In his study, he uncovered that having a convicted parent or an older sibling with delinquent behaviour was an indicator of the child's later offending and antisocial behaviour. Youth imitate antisocial behaviour/criminal tendencies through shared influences of relatives or parenting style that did not develop a strong conscience in their children. This implies that crime runs in the family, therefore increase crime among youth.

Child abuse and Neglect

Children who are physically abused and ignored tend to end up doing crime later in life (Malinosky-Rummell and Hansen, 1993). Siegael and Senna (1991) revealed that abuse encourages the victims to use aggression as a technique for tackling issues, keeps them from feeling sympathy for others, and decrease their capacity to constructively manage stress.

Various theories such as Social bond theory have been developed to demonstrate the relationship between child abuse and criminal behaviour among young people. The theory suggests that youth abuse results in low attachment to parents and henceforth low self-control (Hirschi, 1979).

Youth victimization and violence are a regular phenomenon in families in Africa (Graham, Bruce & Perold, 2010). Appropriately the critical results might be, bodily changes, for instance, desensitization to pain that encourage later violence, impulsive/dissociative coping style that prompt poor problem-solving skills and changes in self-esteem/social information processing patterns that support later violence.

Parental Conflict, Disrupted Families, and Crime among Young People

According to Wells and Rankin, (1991), young people who live in “broken” homes are at most like to be involved in delinquency behaviour than those kids who live with biological parents. The prevalence of general delinquency is seemed to be around 10–15 per cent higher in broken than intact families, which is a modest yet robust discovering. Most studies find that family disruption is associated with a wide range of antisocial behaviour, encompassing minor and serious property crime, interpersonal violence, substance abuse, status offences, school deviance, and police contact (Anderson, 2002; Juby and Farrington, 2001)

The theory that broken homes cause misconduct, as advanced by Bowlby 1951, clarifies that a young person should experience a warm, loving, and consistent relationship with a mother figure. Once the young person is denied of this, especially during the first five years of life, they would have irreversible negative effects, for instance, becoming cold “affectionless character” and a delinquent.

Broken homes are more related to young people been involved in antisocial behaviour when they are caused by parental separation/divorce instead of death (Wells and Rankin, 1991). This is because divorces are a large transition and they make young people encounter a low level of parental connection and supervision, thus leading toward deviant behaviour. Once the divorce is finalized, a young person will then move to live in a single-parent home. Single parent living conditions diminish social control and prompt an increase in misconduct.

The Challenges faced by Parents

Parenting does not occur in a vacuum and South African parent confront a scope of difficulties. Poverty constitutes a specific risk for parenting (Kaminski, Peruo, Visser, Scott, Beckwith, Howard, Smith, and Danielson, 2013). Not only does a lack of financial resources impact on the capacity of parents to provide nutrition, health services and education, but it also makes parenting itself substantially more difficult. According to Mazembo, Mphaka (2013), more than 50% of youngsters in South Africa grow up in a household where a parent raises a child without the support of the other parent.

Parents struggling with poverty will probably experience depression and will probably utilize cruel discipline to their children’s behaviour (Elder, Eccles, Ardel, Lord, 1995). Female parents in this circumstance are less likely to be friendly towards their children, and more likely to utilize corporal punishment (Bradley, Corwy, McAdoo and Coll, 2001). They are also likely to abandon them unsupervised. This kind of harsh, inconsistent parenting that features an absence of warmth and supervision, increase

the probability of young person using drugs or liquor, participating in dangerous sex and getting to be engaged in criminal activities (Jackson, Henriksen and Foshee, 1998). Parents living in poverty are additionally less likely to have the social support that helps better-off parents with their parenting (Duncan, Brooks-Gunn and Klebanov, 1994). This makes it fundamental to institute evidence-based projects that help support parents.

Social Bond Theory

The Social Bond theory was developed by the Travis Hirschi in 1969. The theory highlighted the criticality of indirect control which empowers the parents to have a psychological presence when youngsters are not under their watch (Hirschi, 1969). This theory is more significant to the study because it is sought to explore the extent to which African parenting style influence youth behaviour. The theory has four components which are attachments, commitment, involvement and belief (Hirschi, 1969)

General Theory of Crime

The theory was developed by Hirschi and Gottfredson in 1990, to move away from the social bonding theory. They proposed this theory solely on one kind of control which is self-control. The theory explains all individual differences in the propensity to refrain from or to commit a crime (Akers & Seller, 2004). Individual differences in the tendency to commit criminal acts remain reasonably stable with a change in the social location of the individuals and change in their understanding of the operation of sanction systems. The theory contended that all crime can be clarified as a combination of criminal opportunity and low self-control, which is vigorously influenced by parenting (Gottfredson & Hirschi, 1990). They recognize that propensity cannot be acted on unless the chance to do as such exists. Consequently, they consider crime to be as a result of individuals with low self-control, who have a high criminogenic tendency, coming into contact with illegal opportunities. This implies for a crime to occur; two elements must be present which is a person with low self-control and a criminal opportunity. The theory identified parenting as the most decisive factor in determining the probability that a person will commit crimes (Gottfredson & Hirschi, 1990).

Methods

The study followed a qualitative approach throughout the research process which “is a naturalistic, interpretative approach concerned about understanding the implications which individuals connect to phenomena (activities, choices, belief, values and so forth.)” (Ritchie, Lewis & Nicholls, 2013). By utilizing this approach, the researcher

could draw meaning and impression of Inanda's perceptions of African parenting and its connection into youth conduct. By conducting the review of the literature, data (secondary data) were collected from different searching engines such as Google scholar, Jstor, EBSCOhost.

During the fieldwork, the researcher collected primary data through interviews. Both individuals and focus group interviews were conducted to gather information from participants in this study. Interviews included three categories of people. Children who are in conflicts with their parents, children's who are not in conflicts with their parents, parents themselves and community leaders from Inanda Ward 57. The idea behind was to ascertain the reasons for youth involvement in criminal activities. And how parents should be held accountable for the misconducts of their children within this particular community. However, twenty participants took part in this study. The age selection was from 18 to 35 among youth, the age of parents and community leaders were not questioned. Non-probability sampling also called purposive sampling was used to identify participants.

The researcher chose the element that is typically experienced with the phenomenon with the assistance of Inanda sector seven Community Policing Forum (CPF) as they were the ones who are familiar with the community members who were appropriate for the study. Hence, the Inanda sector seven Community Policing Forum played a gatekeeper role together with the Inanda community leaders, who could help identify the right person to participate in the interview process.

As a result, the researcher selected sample five individuals who are parents or guardian, five youth and ten community leaders.

Parent's participants were as follows:

- Three individuals' parents/ guardians who had children who are law-abiding citizens.
- Two individuals' parents/ guardians who had children who conflict with the Law.

The above-mentioned factors were determined through the information that was received from the local CPF of Inanda.

Youth participants were as follows:

- Two young people who were law-abiding citizens.
- Three young people who conflicted with the Law.

The above factors were also determined through the information that was received from the CPF of Inanda

Community leader's participants were as follows:

- Two leaders from a faith-based organization
- Two traditional leaders
- Two community safety leaders
- Two youth leaders
- Two political leaders

The interviews were all semi-structured and the researcher used open-ended questions. Since the study also involved young people between the age of 18 and 35, the researcher was of the view that conducting individual interviews was the best method to get information from the participants. The focus group conducted among the ten community leaders enabled participants to give more views on their observations on the African context of parenting and its impact on youth behaviour. The information produced was extremely instrumental and factual.

Data Analysis

Qualitative data were transcribed and analyzed using themes emerging from the data collected. During data transcription, patterns of experiences were listed, e.g. paraphrasing common ideas. Then all data that relate to the already classified patterns were identified. The identified patterns were then expounded on and all of the talk that fitted under the specific pattern was identified and placed with the corresponding pattern. Then the next step was to combine and catalogue related patterns into sub-themes. This enabled the interpretation of data by providing a clear understanding of themes and the relevance of the study. The analyses were able to interpret and understand the meanings attached to each theme.

Ethical Considerations

Ethical concerns are at the heart of social research and are the key principles which inform, and shape research practice (Davies and Francis, 2018). Being aware of ethical issues in criminological research was critically important and essential as it helps to prevent participants from harm. Thus, the researcher complied with the ethical requirements on voluntary participation, confidentiality, and non-maleficence. Full ethical approval of the research was obtained from the University of KwaZulu-Natal HREC (protocols HSS/0431/018M). This allowed the study to be carried out in the field and to achieve its aims. The principles of privacy, confidentiality and anonymity were strictly respected. Anonymity has been reflected in the reporting of findings where the researcher uses pseudonyms instead of the true names of participants.

Findings

To understand Inanda's perceptions of the African context of parenting, it was an ideal through purposive sampling technic to identify different respondents in this study involving parents, children, and community leaders. Hence, participants in this study involved parents, children and community leaders. From the interviews conducted in this study, the majority of participants has confirmed that parenting is not always easy and has a lot of shortfalls when it comes to effective parenting.

The findings demonstrate that effective parenting is the result of parenting monitoring and parental discipline. Parents who do a follow up on how their children behave will be likely to raise children who abide by the norms of the community and end up becoming law-abiding citizens. Unlike parents who do not care about the monitoring of their children, they allow them to behave the way the world outside the household wants. It becomes problematic with this contemporary world full of technology and social media in which children learn much more about social life than the way it is taught outside within the household realm.

However, during the focus group discussion, participants provided several challenges faced by parents. Firstly, participants raised the issue of young parents. The study uncovered that too many young people were becoming parents. This was because young people were getting pregnant at a very young age. The group reported that the majority of these young people were immature, they did not even understand the role of being a parent. This is nothing else than the consequence of poor parenting within a household.

Peer Pressure or Friend Influence

During the interview process with parents, some parents admitted that it was hard to teach children to behave the way they wanted them to. This was due to many factors such as friends influence family break down etc. Friends' influence emerged as the variable most frequently associated with young people involved in risk behaviours. We all know the consequences of associating with bad peers. This refers to the differential association by Sutherland. Following Sutherland, Reiss Jr, Rhodes, and Delinquency (1964), many sociologists reason that delinquent behaviour is genetically a function of learning delinquency through association within delinquents within intimate personal groups. It can, therefore, be argued that most youngsters become delinquents not because of the poor parenting style in their household, but because of the significant others, they associate with at school, in the community and other social or public places they spend most of their time outside the household.

Nevertheless, none can still deny the influence of parents on the choice of the lifestyle of their children. Parents with a good moral will always seek to nurture their

kids in a way that is socially acceptable to prevent the shame of the family. For instance, Nolwazi one of the parents interviewed in this study reported:

“I was very strict on monitoring my children. I made sure that my children do not wear their peer’s clothes. “I made them take it off. When they came home with people’s clothes, I asked them whose clothes belong to and then say, take it back. I do not want to find it here when I come back from work. This helped me to prevent finding things in my house that I didn’t buy.”

From the above claim, it can be argued that parent who is strict on their children always shape the pathway for a law-abiding citizen in the future despite the peer pressure or the friend influence that the children encounter in his/her social life. To mean that parents are still to be blamed for the way they raise their children which is not a successful impact negatively not on the entire family but also the community at large.

The above claim approves the study by Cernkovich and Giordano (1987), which revealed that controlling and supervision by parents or guardian were indicators of positive youth behaviour among Black-American families when compared to European American families. The relationship between a child and a parent was indicated as a protective variable towards the involvement in risk behaviours.

Crime among youth at Inanda

Youth in South Africa are the main perpetrators of crime (REF). The present study revealed that out of five young people that were interviewed three of them admitted being previously involved in criminal activities. The types of crime that the youth were involved in, were mostly violence crime in nature, such as robbery and housebreaking. This was reflected in the following responses. For instance, during the interview, Mandla, who is a young boy born and living in Inanda stated that *“Yes, I’ve been involved in crime. I used to rob people and break into people’s homes. It got to a point where the community here didn’t want me, so I went to go stay at the farm for two years.”*

Similarly in a search to find out whether youth are involved in criminal activity in the area, Skhokho who is also a young man born and living in Inanda was quoted saying: *“Yes, I’ve been involved in crime before, but I don’t do it anymore. I used to rob people and housebreaking. I was arrested for robbery, possession of a firearm, and the third time I was arrested for housebreaking.”*

In another word, this study confirms that some young men are actively involved in criminal activities in the area, and others are not. For those who practice delinquent behaviour or criminal activities, one can refer to their poor background, lack of parenting skills and persistent poverty within the household as the pushing factors leading them delinquent behaviours.

The question then comes to mind to ask whether African parenting style contributes to the youth involvement in crime or delinquent behaviours. Youth in South Africa are the main perpetrators of crime (REF). The present study revealed that out of five young people that were interviewed three of them admitted being previously involved in criminal activities. The types of crime that the youth were involved in, were a mostly violent crime, such as robbery and housebreaking. This was reflected in the following responses:

Mandla who is a young man, living in Inanda has admitted the following *“Yes, I’ve been involved in crime. I used to rob people and break into people’s homes. It got to a point where the community here didn’t want me, so I went to go stay at the farm for two years.”*

Similarly, Thami who is also a young man living in Inanda has echoed that *“Yes, I’m involved in drugs and crime right now. I steal (laughs), I cannot say more because some mother does not know about it. So, I can just say I steal and rob people, that’s what my mom knows about.”*

The above information confirms the involvement of some youth in criminal activities. The question is to find out whether there is an absence of a parent or poor parenting skills being the causing factors of the youngsters to get involved in such delinquent misconduct.

The findings of this study reveal how some youth claim their parents being unaware of their misconduct, not blaming them for their misdeed instead peer pressure was still cited as being a serious motivation to get involved in criminal activities. Again, it becomes questionable if youth involvement in crime is the result of having careless parents or being from poor family background.

Below are comments of two participants:

Skhokho who is a young resident of Inanda has echoed that

“My mom did not influence me doing wrong things, she was very strict. I got out of hand because I moved away from my mother and went to stay Ohlange with my grandmother. Even though my grandmother was there, I was able to do what I wanted with my friends.”

In the same vein, Thami reported that *“Not entirely, I think to some extent you as a person also has to decide what you want. Your parents do play a big role but when you are out of the house and they are not there, you have to decide for yourself, there’s peer pressure especially our youth, your friends do this and if you don’t do them you are seen as not in style”.*

Hence, it is clear that in many circumstances young people get involved in delinquent behaviour not because of their family background or parenting problem but rather because of peer pressure and the influence of the environment in which they live,

leading to think about social interactions. The people they interact with outside of their household have greater influence or impact on the way they choose to behave.

These responses corroborate with a study by Bassitche (1974), which revealed that young people in crime did not blame their parents for their particular issues or criminal behaviour yet rather had a poor attitude toward the police. The participants expressed that their parents raised them well.

Single Parenting and Youth Behaviour

Although in the present study friends influence appears to be quite strong in crime among youth. The absent of father figure among youth also emerged another variable which causes crime among youth. Based on the participant's observation and experience, they expressed that most criminals were raised by single parents. Having both parents identified as an important factor in youth behaviour. Children receive gender-specific support from having both the parents who are mother and the father. The study uncovered that the role of the mother was to nurture the child and the role of the father was to instil discipline. The majority of the youth interviewed here expressed their unhappiness about not having a father figure and how it negatively impacted their life. This was evident in the following responses:

For instance, Mandla who is a young man living in the area was quoted reporting that *"..... Yes, not having a father has a huge impact. Even if the stepfather was there, there were somethings we did not talk about. Some things happen to a male child that we did not talk about. My biological father was just absent altogether. For me, it is really important to have a father as a male child. There are only two people I know who do drugs that have both parents, only 2 ever since I started doing drugs. The majority, maybe 95% of the people that do drugs have no fathers. It's either he died, or he abandoned them."*

Parenting Style and Youth tendency of delinquency

Despite the above findings claiming peer pressure to be one of the leading factors of youth to associate with criminal activities, it is with no doubt that parenting style has a strong impact on the behaviour of the children.

This section was mostly answered by parents, unlike other sections where the children or youth had to provide their views on why they get involved in delinquent behaviour. The majority of parents interviewed affirm the assumption that there was a positive relationship between the parenting style and youth behaviour.

The study revealed that most children cope with their parents as their primary instructors, they spend the majority of their youth time within the household yard and

receive their basic education within the household setting. Hence, it can be argued that there is a huge relationship between parenting style and youth behaviour.

When trying to find out the perceptions of parents on the lifestyle of their children, the study generated different point of views as follows: for instance, Marry who is a mother living in Inanda echoed *“In my opinion, there is a relationship. Because your children will also act the way you act. So, depending on what kind of parent you are will affect your children.”* Similarly, to concur with Marry, Mondli also confirmed:

“Yes, I think there is a relationship because we as parents also play a role in how our children turn out. Some parents are not able to sit down with their children and talk to them. Another parent will see a child doing wrong and even get reports that their child is doing wrong, but they would still protect the child, which is wrong. We as parents should not protect our children if they have done something wrong.”

Most of the parents interviewed claimed to be responsible of the way their children behave, some of the parents are negligence about the way their children behave, other chose to be careless not paying attention to the lifestyle of their children, just because themselves are conscience that they do not behave well.

In support of the above analysis, Bongani who is a father of three children living in Inada echoed *“I think there is a relationship because if a parent doesn’t respect themselves in front of the child, the child will also do the same thing. So, I can say it depends on the parent and how they behave.”*

It comes to someone’s mind that parents style has a huge influence on the way their children behave. If the parents display a good role model their children will also cope and behave accordingly. Despite the truth of the peer pressure, still, parents style has to be responsible for the child they raise and at some extent should be held accountable for what they offer to society.

Because the data collection technic of this study involved conducting interviews among both individuals and focus groups, when interviewing the focus group, they also shared similar sentiments from each participant. To mean that the information gathered through these processes brought out similar responses from individuals’ interviews. The group segments agreed that parenting style was an important guide to the type of individual produced. There was an assumption that children’s upbringing shapes their behaviour and attitudes. Parenting style determines the life oath an individual chooses for him, as a result, is important in understanding violent behaviour among the youth.

From the focus group, it was noticed this common argument that the way the children are raised has an impact on how they behave when they are older. For instance, one member of the group reported *“we all know children have rights these days and they should not be beaten. When we do not discipline our children for bad behaviour, they*

assume what they were doing was right. Discipline starts at home, how a child behaves outside is how she/he was taught at home.”

Again, the group discussion uncovered that criminal behaviour among youth was caused by a combination of factors. Lucky during the group discussion stated that:

The group recognized that crime among youth was a result of a combination of factors, they referred to the say that **“it takes a village to raise a child”**. The group agreed that as Africans now we have factors that are in opposition of how we raise our children, for example, a child might be taught values at home but goes to the external environment and hears foul language. As much as he/she was not taught at home that language, chances are high he will pick it up. That is why, as much as we parents can teach our children how to behave, there are also external factors which influence how our children behave in opposition to what as parents we teach them within the household.

Strick Parenting

Despite that the result acknowledges that many factors are to be taken accountable for the youth involvement in criminal activities, this study reveals that the majority of parents interviewed saw themselves being so strict.

This finding corresponds with the study conducted by Latouf (2008), Makwakwa (2011) and Moyo (2012) demonstrating that parents normally utilized an authoritative parenting style across all ethnic groups. They believed that children raised under strict parenting style turn to display good behaviour. Kritzas and Grobler (2005) found that authoritative parenting account for the variance in resilience for black and white youth. According to this study, strict parenting was associated with corporal punishment. The type of punishment to be imposed was also influenced by the age of the child. An older person was punished or disciplined differently than a young person. Adult person discipline was more about verbal warning and advice and less about corporal punishment. This was supported by the following response by Mondli:

“You can’t just hit a child the first time they make a mistake. Explain what you do not like and then also follow through with what you are saying. You will see based on how the child behaviour whether or not you need to talk to them or whether you need to hit them. Sometimes it is not necessary to hit a child, you just have to talk to them but sometimes you have to hit. It also depends on the child’s age. You will see when a child is at an age where you only have to talk to them. And sometimes you must talk first then follow with hitting. And once you’ve hit a child and they still misbehave you will also see that it’s time to revert to talking because maybe they do not understand.”

The present study also revealed, corporal punishment to be a common method used by African parents to instill discipline among youth. The reason behind was to instill

fear on children not to misbehavior, which then played as deterrence. The perception was that the fear of corporal punishment among youth increases self-control. The perception was that crime was a result of individuals with low self-control. The said perception complies with the General Theory of crime. According to this theory, crime can be clarified as a combination of criminal opportunity and low self-control, which is vigorously influenced by parenting (Gottfredson & Hirschi, 1990). When one parent was asked about his style of parenting, he had this to say:

“I was a very strict parent, I wanted whatever I was saying to be heard. You see the older children got their punishment, the young one has always been scared he avoided getting into trouble altogether. He could see that I was a tough parent, he could see that his mother is hard-core, when she wants something done, it must be done. So, my son never gave me any trouble. I used to smack the other kids but not him. He saw from the older kids that his mom was tough. I still smack my kids even today. I always say if anyone of them feels they cannot stay here anymore they must go find their place. Because I gave up everything to raise you.” (Marry a mother of 2 living in Inanda)

Some parents’ participants reported that their style of parenting was mixed. This implies that their style of parenting had both the element of strict and leniency in it. These participants expressed the need to show love and support to their children. For instance, Bongiwe echoed that

“My style neither soft nor strict, I can say it’s neutral because I am able to talk to a child. I can sit them down and talk to them. I have managed to build a friendship with my children, which has worked for me. Even when someone has made a mistake, I am able to sit down with them and tell them where they have gone wrong and also tell them not to repeat the same mistake. But when they do repeat the same mistake, I am also able to punish them but only after I have told them. I am not a violent person; I prefer to talk to them first.”

In the same vein, Zama was heard saying that *“I was a strict but soft parent. I always want things to be done right. I did not want him to make mistakes, but I understand that as a child he will make mistakes. I was strict, but I also gave him love as a parent.”*

These parents believed that as much as there may punish children for misbehaving but there also needed to show some love to them. According to these parents, punishment should not be abusive. They believe that abusive punishment leads to lack of attachment between parent and children. Children who are physically abused and ignored tend to end up doing crime later in life (Malinosky-Rummell & Hansen, 1993). This finding was supported by the Social bond theory which suggested that youth

abuse results in low attachment to parents and henceforth low self-control (Hirschi, 1979). The family condition is viewed as the source of attachment since parents act as role models and teach their kids socially adequate conduct (Wiatrowski, Griswold, Roberts, 1981).

Conclusion

Based on the findings it was discovered that parenting style was very influential in shaping youth behaviour. There is an assumption that children's upbringing shapes their behaviour and attitudes. However, it can be concluded that the African context of parenting did not necessarily contribute to youth's involvement in criminal behaviour, it was rather viewed as a preventive method. The study further discovered that there was a strong correlation between young people raised by single parents and crime among youth. The majority of young people raised by single parents were engaged in criminal activities. The perception was that single parents lack parental control over their children. This was identified as a contributing factor to crime among youth. The literature revealed that the absence of parental control or authority and lack of opportunities for youngsters were basic factors contributing to crime among youth in Africa.

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