Home Background, Peer Group Pressure and Truancy among Secondary School Adolescent Students in Edo State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT This study examined the influence of home background, peer group pressure and truancy among secondary school adolescent students of Delta State. Three research questions and three hypotheses were formulated to serve as a guide to the study. Correlational survey research design was used for the study. The population of the study consists of all students in all public secondary schools in the area of the study. A sample of 266 students were used for the study using the simple random sampling technique. A 4 point likert scale questionnaire designed by the researcher was used for data collection. The questionnaire was validated by professionals in the area of research. Cronbach Alpha reliability was used to establish the reliability of the instrument with an r-value of 0.78. The statistical tools for answering the research questions and for testing the hypotheses were the Pearson r, coefficient of determination and the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). The findings revealed that there is a significant relationship between home background and truancy among secondary school students. Also, there is a significant relationship between peer pressure and truancy among secondary school students. The study also revealed that there is no significant relationship between gender and truancy among secondary school students. Based on the findings, it was recommended among others that parents should learn to be close to their wards and as well take note of the friends that they associate with as this will help to reduce the level of peer influence on the development of truant behaviours among students, Teachers and parents should help in proper monitoring of student activities so as to help students to maximise their potentials to the fullest and to be well adjusted in all ramification of lives. Finally every parents and elder siblings should see themselves as role models that engender good behaviours to their children as the kind and form of mentoring given by parents contributes in the sharpening of adolescent attitudes and behaviours.

KEYWORDS: Truancy, Home background, Peer group pressure, Gender
The peer group is therefore the first social group outside the home in which the child attempt to gain acceptance. Each peer group has its code of conduct which does not always confirm with advance standard. The peer group influence on students academic performance depends greatly on the skills and potential of the students. Derville, B. (2001) observed that as a child grows up his own peer group of companion are likely to become of greater importance to him than his parents and teachers. Truancy. It is unjustified absence from school on a child’s own initiative without the permission of parents or school. a truant is any child that is irregular at school for he finds other places more attractive than school work, and all it stands for. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM The problems of indiscipline among secondary school students in Ovia North East Local Government Area of Edo State in particular and Edo State at large is alarming. The back down in interpersonal relationship or in the observation of rules leads to disorder. This unruly behaviour might be due background, peer group influence, mass media, drugs and maladministration on the part of the school authority. 4. The indiscipline among students could cause low academic performance of students in schools. RESEARCH QUESTIONS 8 www.grossarchive.com Get your complete project materials The following research questions guide the researcher’s investigation.