

Research Paper

Influence of Self-Control and Parenting Style on Undergraduates' Involvement in Cybercrime in Lagos State, Nigeria

Taiye Emmanuel Ojo^{1*}, Ajala M.A.¹

ABSTRACT

The study aims to examine the influence of self-control and parenting style on involvement in cybercrime among undergraduates in Lagos State, Nigeria. The study adopted a cross-sectional design and was conducted within academic settings, precisely Lagos State University, Ojo and the University of Lagos, Akoka. A total of five hundred (500) undergraduates were selected by the researcher for the study using a convenience sampling technique. 54.4% male and 65.1% female within the age of 18-30. Four hypotheses were stated and tested using simple linear regression, one-way ANOVA, independent t-test and multiple regression. The result revealed that there was a significant negative influence of self-control on involvement in cybercrime, and parenting style significantly influenced involvement in cybercrime. Post-hoc analysis revealed that undergraduates under permissive parenting significantly reported likelihood of being more involved in cybercrime behaviour than those under authoritative and authoritarian parenting. Sex has a significant influence on involvement in cybercrime, such that male undergraduates scored significantly higher on involvement in cybercrime behaviour than their female counterparts. Lastly, self-control and parenting styles jointly predicted involvement in cybercrime. The predictor variable accounted for 47% of involvement in cybercrime behaviour. In addition, self-control and parenting styles had a significant independent influence on involvement in cybercrime behaviour. The study concluded by recommending that programs should be organised to boost adolescents' low self-control and that parents should take their time and engage their adolescents as well as provide necessary parental support for them.

Keywords: *Self-control, Parenting style, Cybercrime, Undergraduates, Lagos State*

The internet has become an environment where the most lucrative and safest crime thrives. The use of the internet and mobile communications have become an undeniable part of the daily live for many people, particularly undergraduates. The concept of cybercrime is historic and dates back with the advent of information and communication technology (Legislative and Government Relations Unit, 2015). Massive digitalization and unprecedented interconnectivity provided by the internet has been a windfall to people from all sphere of life including students, lecturers, doctors, lawyers and criminals. In recent times, cybercrime is a new form of crime with its own forms which according to Ribadu (2007) and Okeshola and Adeta (2013) includes; cloning of websites,

¹Department of Psychology, Lagos State University, Nigeria

*Corresponding Author

Received: November 15, 2025; Revision Received: April 14, 2026; Accepted: April 17, 2026

Influence of Self-Control and Parenting Style on Undergraduates' Involvement in Cybercrime in Lagos State, Nigeria

false representations, internet purchase and other kinds of e-commerce fraud (Ribadu, 2007). Financial fraud, identity theft, credit card theft, cyber theft, cyber harassment, cyber laundering and viruses respectively now abound in Nigeria. (Okeshola & Adeta, 2013), which is denting and drilling holes in the economy of the nation. It is also leading to the erosion of confidence in genuine Nigerian commercial credibility and today, many Western countries, with France taking the lead, have moved to deny Nigerian businessmen and women who are legitimate the rewards of e-commerce. For instance, France today requires webcam verification for most online business transactions from Nigeria.

Cybercrime is a frequently used word by individuals in our contemporary society. To understand the true meaning of cybercrime, there is a need to understand the slit meaning of Cyber and Crime. The term “cyber” is a prefix used to describe an idea as part of the computer and information age, and “crime” can be described as any activity that contravenes legal procedure, mostly performed by individuals with a criminal motive. Cybercrimes are defined as “offences that are committed against individuals or groups of individuals with a criminal motive to intentionally harm the reputation of the victim or cause physical or mental harm to the victim directly or indirectly using modern telecommunication networks such as internet (chat rooms, emails) and mobile phones” (Halder & Jaishankar, 2011).

Cybercrime, as most people are already aware, refers to those criminal acts such as identity theft and bank fraud facilitated through the use of the internet. But as most Nigerians also know, to our collective shame, our country is often cited as a breeding ground for many of these nefarious practices because of the activities of some of our citizens. In the last few years, many criminal elements in Nigeria have been using these modern telecommunication networks, such as the internet and mobile phones, to commit all manner of crimes that portray a bad image for the nation globally. Such crimes may threaten a nation's security and financial health. Cybercrime can simply be said to be a crime carried out with the aid of information and communication technology (ICT) tools.

Cybercrime has become a serious problem in Nigeria, culminating in the listing of Nigeria as third on the role of the top ten cybercrime hotspots in the world by a 2009 internet crime report (National White Collar Centre and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2010). The seriousness of this problem can better be appreciated when we consider the fact that in spite of the several interventions made by Nigerian government and non-governmental organizations in tackling cybercrime, such as the cooperation between Microsoft cooperation and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) of Nigeria to fight cybercrime, the enactment of cybercrime laws by Nigeria government aimed at ensuring the security of computer systems and networks in Nigeria etc. (Balogun & Obe, 2010). Nigeria has for four consecutive years (2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009) ranked third on the list of world cybercrime perpetrator countries (National White Collar Centre and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2010).

There are many examples of cybercrime in Nigeria, some of which include: in July 2001. Four Nigerians suspected to be operating a “419” scams on the internet to dupe unsuspecting foreign investors in Ghana were arrested by security agencies. Their activities are believed to have led to the loss of several millions of foreign currencies by prospective investors (Balogun & Obe, 2010). Two men were arrested after making an online purchase of two laptops advertised by a woman on her website under false claims. They were arrested at the point of delivery by government officials (Mudasiru, 2015). Ojo and Adeyemi (2012) also

Influence of Self-Control and Parenting Style on Undergraduates' Involvement in Cybercrime in Lagos State, Nigeria

reported that Mike Amadi was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for setting up a website that offered juicy but phony procurement contracts, the man impersonated the EFCC chairman, but he was caught by an undercover agent posing as an Italian businessman. The biggest international scam of all was committed by Amaka Anajemba who was sentenced to two and half years in prison. She was equally ordered to return 25.5 million dollars of the 242 million dollars she helped to steal from a Brazilian bank. (Ibikunle & Eweniyi, 2013). These examples are just few out of many others.

Indeed, there is an upsurge of cybercrime in Nigeria. The country is ranked third in global internet crime after the United States of America and United Kingdom while 7.5 percent of the world's hackers are said to be Nigerians (Thisday, 2016). Committed mostly by the young often called "yahoo boys" a precursor of the infamous '419' email scammers, the fraudsters are increasingly taking advantage of the rise in online transactions, electronic shopping, e commerce and the electronic messaging systems to engage in heinous crime.

Cybercrime has come as a surprise and a strange phenomenon that for now lives with us in Nigeria. With each passing day, we witness more and more alarming cases of cybercrimes in Nigeria, with each new case more shocking than the previous. It is a social problem involving mostly youths as the perpetrators, the supposed leaders of tomorrow. This aligns with the position of Oluwafemi, Adesuyi and Abdul Hamid (2013) who noted that cyber terrorism has become one of the biggest threats to the survival of mankind on the planet. However, all cybercrimes involve both the computer and the person behind it as victims; it just depends on which of the two is the main target (John, 2015). Cybercrime is however defined as crimes committed on the internet using the computer as either a tool or a targeted victim. Hassan, Lass and Makinde (2012), expressed that there are several types of cybercrimes prevalent in Nigerian; some of which include: Cyber-terrorism, identity theft fraud, drug trafficking deals, malware, cyber-Stalking, spam, wiretapping/Illegal interception of telecommunication, logic bombs, and password sniffing. Asokhia (2010) also noted that the global village currently records an increasing criminal behaviour. According to Longe (2009), crime threatens social order and cybercrime is a subset of crime which is committed by use of computer technology, either alone or in conjunction with real world acts and actors. Okeshola and Adeta (2013) continued by observing that the contribution of internet to the development of the nation has been marred by the evolution of new waves of crime.

Self-control shapes how individual's respond to criminal opportunities either through deviance or refrainment from criminal behaviour. An individual's level of self-control is influenced by family or other caregiver behaviour in early life. Self-control is an aspect of inhibitory control is the ability to regulate one's emotions thoughts and behaviour in the face of temptations and impulses. An individual who has self-control would be able to resist himself from engaging in criminal activities particularly cybercrime even in the face of peer pressure. The general theory explains both conforming and deviant behaviour in that the presence of a developed sense of self-control prevents involvement in deviance in a similar manner as an underdeveloped sense of self-control, or low self-control, allows an individual to view criminal behaviour as pleasurable. Grasmick, Tittle, Bursik, and Arneklev (1993) operationalized these characteristics into impulsivity, simple tasks, risk seeking, physical activities, self-centred, and temper. Gillerbaart and De Ridder, (2017) defined self-control as the mechanism that allows for inhibiting or overriding impulses coming from the hot system, allowing prevalence of cold. Atwai (2011) observed that peer influence and low

Influence of Self-Control and Parenting Style on Undergraduates' Involvement in Cybercrime in Lagos State, Nigeria

self-control appear to be the major factors fuelling juvenile cybercrime such as computer hacking and online bullying. He noted that having friends who engage in cybercrime is one of the greatest determinants in whether juveniles will commit cybercrimes. In another related study, Holt (2011) administered a scientific survey to 435 students in a Kentucky school district. Study showed that the biggest predictor that juveniles might engage in cybercrime is peer influence. He also observed that low self-control has both a direct and indirect effect, through other peers offending, on youth cybercrime. The study notes that both low self-control and deviant peer associations have been linked, not only to cybercrime violations, but also to committing other crimes. They also found that peer offending had a stronger effect on others offending than low self-control and also consistently predicted each type of cyber deviance. In the study, it was noted that cybercrimes may be more attractive to youths than real world offenses because of the relative anonymity that the Internet and computers provide their users before (Okeshola&Adeta, 2013). Ljubojev et al. (2017) posited that parents are the most important factor in education of children, and as such parents need to be aware of the children's behaviour on the Internet, so they could ensure that its usage is no other than beneficial to their children. Parenting styles have been correlated with many other factors such as violent behaviour, bullying and internet usage, there is however paucity of information with regards to how parenting styles contribute to involvement in cybercrime (Nonum and Nwankwo, 2020). Darling and Steinberg (1993), defined parenting style as a constellation of parents' attitudes and behaviours towards children and an emotional climate in which the parent's behaviours are expressed.

According to Diana Baumrind (1971) she explained parenting in three ways where she based her explanation from Earl Schafers (1959) on idea of demanding parents and those parents who are receptive to their children. Demanding parents are those who put rules and regulations on how to punish children in case they fail to abide by the rules. Parental receptiveness refers to parents being emotionally involved in raising their children. However, there is no specific study that has particularly undertaken an appraisal of the influence of self-control and parenting style on undergraduate's involvement in cybercrime. This is the gap that this present study hopes to fill.

Statement of the problem

The prevalence of cybercrime particularly among Nigerians undergraduates is quite alarming. This behaviour is associated with some obvious societal problems such as poverty. Students are now taking pleasure in defrauding public and private organizations as well as their fellow students at the expense of their academic pursuit. If this anomaly is left to continue, schools in Nigeria will become a place where criminals are groomed in order to defraud the school management and the society at large (Amini-Philips, 2018). Youths are been arrested on a daily basis on the count of been involved in cybercrime and this doesn't reduce the rate of involvement. In a country where cybercrime is minimal or does not exist, individuals, organizations would be free and able to engage in online transactions without fear of being scammed or duped or losing their money to fraudsters. But today, every Nigerian who engages in online transactions and business is scared of losing their money. People no longer engage in businesses freely due to the challenge of cybercrime. Young Nigerians no longer have interest in schooling or learning trade work as they see cybercrime as a quicker means of getting money and been wealthy. It is necessary therefore to examine the causes of cybercrime among Nigerian youths in order to proffer solutions. This study is therefore set out to evaluate the influence of self-control and parenting undergraduate

Influence of Self-Control and Parenting Style on Undergraduates' Involvement in Cybercrime in Lagos State, Nigeria

student's involvement in cybercrime. The aforementioned issue brings into focus the following research questions;

1. Will self-control influence undergraduate's involvement in cybercrime?
2. To what extent does parenting style influence undergraduate's involvement in cybercrime?
3. Does sex difference exist in undergraduates' involvement in cybercrimes?
4. Will self-control and parenting style jointly and independently influence undergraduates' involvement in cybercrime?

Objective of the Study

The general objective of the study is to investigate the influence of self-control and parenting style on undergraduate's involvement in cybercrime.

The specific objectives include,

1. To investigate the extent to which self-control influence undergraduates' involvement in cybercrime.
2. To examine the extent to which parenting styles influence undergraduates' involvement in cybercrime.
3. To find out if sex difference exists in undergraduates' involvement in cybercrime.
4. To examine whether self-control and parenting style will jointly and independently influence undergraduates' involvement in cybercrime.

Empirical Literature

Self-control and Cybercrime

Donner et al. (2014) utilized a sample of 488 U.S. undergraduate students to examine the theory's generality hypothesis and found that low self-control is related to online deviance in general as well as cyber offenses beyond digital piracy including posting hurtful information online, email harassment, excluding someone online, hacking, and misusing someone else's personal information.

The extension of self-control theory to non-traditional crime types was discussed by Gottfredson and Hirschi in theory explanation of white collar crime. Specifically they argue that individuals who engage in criminal behaviour particularly cybercrime share common characteristics such as low self-control and suggest that their theory be extended to other types of offenders including white collar criminals. Following this same logic, the theory may be extended to explain participation in cybercrime offending as well. For example, digital pirates demonstrate the characteristics of low self-control in their inability to delay the gratification of waiting for the official release of digital media (Nodland & Morris, 2020).

The relationship between self-control and cyber offending has been well tested with findings suggesting general consistent support for the link between low self-control and cyber offending (Holt & Bossler, 2014).

For example, Foster (2004) established a link between self-control and cyber offending in his examination of undergraduate students finding moderate direct and positive support for the relationship between low self control and opportunity on cyber offending.

Moon et al. (2010) further found support for the link between self-control and digital piracy in their examination of a sample of 2,751 Korean youths. Their findings indicate the

Influence of Self-Control and Parenting Style on Undergraduates' Involvement in Cybercrime in Lagos State, Nigeria

applicability of low self-control in explaining illegal downloading of software and the illegal use of others personal identification online.

Deviant peer associations have been found to be a significant predictor of participation in cyber offending that further explains the relationship between self-control and cyber offending. Specifically, associating with deviant peers can be applied to cyber offending as commission of these offenses require a unique skill set individuals generally acquire through personal interactions or experiences that they do not naturally possess (Skinner & Fream, 2009)

Parenting style and cybercrime

Nonum and Nwankwo (2020) investigated the effect of parenting style on youth's involvement in cybercrime. The result from the study showed that most parents frown at their children's involvement in cybercrimes. The finding of Popadic et al. (2016) also agreed and they found out that 65% parents frown at the use of mobile communication and internet facilities by children due to the fact that these parents are aware of the danger and how unsafe the internet is for children as it may lead them to become involved in cybercrime.

Nadedza et al. (2017) report showed that cybercrime is not accepted by parents not only in Nigeria but also in different parts of the world. They also added that although most children are more advanced than their parents when it comes to using the internet, most parents still have the life experiences that can help protect their ward safe rom cybercrime.

The study also showed that authoritarian parents will not tolerate cybercrime. As for the parents that are authoritative, they have less children who are involved in cybercrime. However, the majority of the young ones involved in cybercrime may likely come from permissive parents, where they are either allowed to do whatever they want. The permissive parents have their children more in such cybercrimes.

Ihmeideh and Shawareb (2014) found that only the authoritarian parenting style was a significant predictor of children's internet use, there was a significant relationship between the authoritative parenting style and the children's involvement in cybercrime.

Based on the findings of the study, most authoritarian parents will not tolerate cybercrime. Authoritative parents have less children who are involved in cybercrime. The majority of the children involved in cybercrime may likely come from permissive parents.

Hypotheses

1. Self-control will positively influence undergraduate's involvement in cybercrime.
2. Undergraduate students from Permissive parenting will significantly be more involved in cybercrime than their counterparts from Authoritative parenting and Authoritarian parenting
3. Male undergraduate's involvement in cybercrime will be significantly higher than their female counterparts.
4. Self-control and parenting style will jointly and independently influence undergraduates' involvement in cybercrime.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study adopted cross sectional design. The design was chosen because the study aims at examining the influence of some variables on a particular variable and the participants were sampled at the same time. The independent variables in this study are Self-control and Parenting Style, which the dependent variable is Cybercrime.

Research Settings

The study was conducted within academic settings precisely Lagos State University, Ojo and University of Lagos, Akoka.

Participants

A total number of five hundred (500) undergraduates were selected by the researcher for the study using convenient sampling technique. Out of this, two hundred and thirty-four (54.4%) were male and one hundred and ninety-six (45.6%) were female. One hundred and sixty-six (38.6%) were from Monogamous families and two hundred and sixty-four (61.4%) were from Monogamous families. Eighty-three (19.3%) were in 100 level, one hundred and nineteen (27.7) were in 200 level, One hundred and seventy-two (40.0%) were in 300 level, forty-five (10.5%) were in 400 level and Eleven (2.5%) were in other levels. Two hundred and eighty (65.1%) were between ages 18-25, One hundred and fifty (34.9%) were between ages 26-30. Two hundred and thirty-three (54.2%) were Christians, one hundred and eighty-two (42.3%) were Muslims and Fifteen (3.5%) were others.

Instruments and Psychometric Properties

The researcher developed questionnaire for the study. The instrument was divided into four sections;

Section A comprised of items relating demographic information of research participants such as sex, family background, level of study, age and religion.

Section B comprised of 13 items Self-control Scale developed by Tangey, Baumeister, and Boone's (2004). The scale measures higher levels of self-control on a 1-5 scale, where 1=not at all and 5=very much. The items include (1) I am good at resisting temptation, (2) I refuse things that are bad for me, (3) people would say that I have iron self-discipline, and (4) I am able to work effectively toward long-term goals. Additional self-control indicators were included in the scale were reported on a 1-5 scale where 1=not at all and 5=very much but were reverse coded prior to inclusion in the self-control for analysis. These items include (1) I have a hard time breaking bad habits, (2) I am lazy, (3) I say inappropriate things, (4) I do certain things that are bad for me if they are fun, (5) I wish I had more self-discipline, (6) pleasure and fun sometimes keep me from getting work done, (7) I have trouble concentrating, (8) sometimes I can't stop myself from doing something even if I know it is wrong, and (9) I often act without thinking through all the alternatives. The Cronbach coefficient for the items is $\alpha=.85$.

Section C comprised of 17 items Parenting Style Inventory – Pilot II developed by Darling and Tokoyawa (1997). The items are measured on a 5 point Likert response option: strongly disagree, disagree, I'm in between, agree, and strongly agree. The reliability and validity coefficient are 0.78 and 0.88 respectively.

Influence of Self-Control and Parenting Style on Undergraduates' Involvement in Cybercrime in Lagos State, Nigeria

Section D comprised of 10-item cybercrime involvement survey developed by Odo, Chinasa. The items in the scale describes online experiences measured on a Likert type scale, which ranges from most times, sometimes, seldom, and never. The Cronbach's Alpha coefficient of the entire items is .87

Procedure

The researcher contacted the research participants that were available in their various faculties and departments in the institutions (LASU and UNILAG) and administered the questionnaire to those who were willing to participate and they were assured of the confidentiality of their response. The researcher administered the research instrument to five hundred undergraduate students within the premises of the institutions. It took the researcher three weeks to administer the questionnaire. Out of the five hundred questionnaires administered, only four hundred and thirty were filled appropriately and returned. The filled questionnaire were collected by the researcher and safely delivered to the data entry point whereby the assistance of a statistician was sought to do the data processing.

Data analysis

The researcher made use of Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) to data analysis. Hypothesis one was tested using linear regression. Hypothesis two was tested using one-way Anova. Hypothesis three was tested using independent t-test. Hypothesis four was tested using multiple regression.

RESULTS

Hypothesis 1

Table No. 1: Summary table of Simple Linear Regression showing influence of Self-control on Involvement in Cybercrime

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig
	Beta	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	49.857	2.660		18.742	.000
Self-control	-.041	.115	.269	5.564	.040

R²=.589; R=.347

From the table it can be observed that there is significant negative influence of self-control on involvement in cybercrime among undergraduate students ($\beta = -.041$; $p < .05$). This implies that the higher level of self-control of an undergraduate student, the lower the level of involvement in cybercrime. The stated hypothesis is thereby rejected.

Hypothesis 2

Table No. 2: Summary table of One-way ANOVA showing the influence of Parenting styles on Involvement in Cybercrime among Undergraduate Students

Source	SS	df	MS	F	Sig.
Between Groups	1882.309	3	941.155	15.539	.000
Within Groups	28829.181	427	60.566		
Total	30711.491	430			

The result in the table above shows that there is significant influence of parenting style on involvement in cybercrime among undergraduate students ($F(3,427) = 15.54$, $p < .01$).

Influence of Self-Control and Parenting Style on Undergraduates' Involvement in Cybercrime in Lagos State, Nigeria

Table No. 3: Descriptive statistics showing mean difference on involvement in cybercrime based on Parenting style

	N	Mean	S.D	1	2	3
Authoritative	102	19.3633	2.10042	-	0.44	0.55*
Authoritarian	110	21.8860	3.03166			0.48
Permissive	218	27.7740	3.20066			-
Total	430	24.4091	2.72801			

*. The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level.

Descriptive analysis and post-hoc analysis revealed that undergraduates under permissive parenting (LSD= 27.77) significantly reported likelihood to be more involved in cybercrime behaviour than those under authoritative and authoritarian parenting. The stated hypothesis is therefore accepted.

Hypothesis 3

Table No. 4: Summary table of independent t-test showing influence of Sex on involvement in Cybercrime

	Sex	N	Mean	Std	Df	t-value	Sig.
Involvement in Cybercrime	Male	234	24.93	4.50			
	Female	196	19.03	3.47	429	6.37	<.05

The result on the table above shows that there is significant influence of sex on involvement in cybercrime among undergraduate students ($t = 6.37$, $df (429)$, $p < .05$). It further revealed that male undergraduates scored significantly higher on involvement in cybercrime behaviour than their female counterparts. This implies that male undergraduates are more likely to engage in cybercrime behaviour than their female counterparts. This stated hypothesis is thereby accepted.

Hypothesis 4

Table No. 4: Summary Table of Multiple Regression showing Independent and Joint influence of Self-control and Parenting style on Involvement in Cybercrime Behaviour.

Model	R	R ²	F	P	β	T	Sig.
Constant	.687 ^a	.472	19.97	<.01			
Self-control					.269	5.564	.040
Parenting style					-.140	-2.933	.004

From the table it can be seen that self-control and parenting styles jointly predicted involvement in cybercrime ($R^2 = .472$; $F = 19.97$; $p < .01$). The predictor variable accounted for 47% on involvement in cybercrime behaviour. In addition, self-control ($\beta = .269$, $t = 5.564$, $p < .05$) and parenting styles ($\beta = -.140$, $t = -2.933$, $p < .01$) had significant independence influence on involvement in cybercrime behaviour among undergraduate students. The stated hypothesis is thereby confirmed.

DISCUSSION

The first hypothesis which states that self-control will positively influence involvement in cybercrime among undergraduate students was rejected. The findings revealed that there is significant negative influence of self-control on involvement in cybercrime among undergraduate students. This implies that the higher the level of self-control of an

Influence of Self-Control and Parenting Style on Undergraduates' Involvement in Cybercrime in Lagos State, Nigeria

undergraduate student, the lower the level of involvement in cybercrime. And also, the lower the level of self-control of an undergraduate student, the higher the level of involvement in cybercrime. This is in line with Donner et al. (2014) studies that found that low self-control is related to online deviance in general as well as cybercrime beyond digital piracy including posting hurtful information online, email harassment and hacking.

The findings has been able to show that individuals with low self-control will not consider the long term costs associated with deviant or criminal behaviors. It has also revealed that individuals with low self-control are self-centered, show a low tolerance for frustration, prefer physical rather than mental activities, are risk takers, anger easily, lack empathy and lack diligence. These factors are said to be conducive to criminal and deviant behavior. The study also supports the studies of Shekharkat and Gibson (2011) who opined that there is a significant relationship between low self-control and theft, low self-control and other internet deviance.

The second hypothesis which states that undergraduate students under permissive parenting will be significantly more involved in cybercrime than their counterparts from authoritative and authoritarian parenting was accepted. The findings revealed that there is significant influence of parenting style on involvement in cybercrime among undergraduate students. This implies that undergraduate students under permissive parenting will be significantly more involved in cybercrime than their counterparts from authoritative and authoritarian parenting. This is in line with the research of Nonum and Nwankwo (2020) which showed that most parents frown at their children's involvement in cybercrime. The findings of the study also showed that authoritarian parents will not tolerate cybercrime. Authoritarian parents are strict disciplinarians, use a restrictive, punitive style and insist that their adolescent follow parental decisions. As for the parents that are authoritative, they have less children who are involved in cybercrime because they are warm and firm. They encourage their adolescents to be independent while maintaining limits and controls on their actions. However, the majority of the young ones involved in cybercrime are mostly from permissive parents where they are allowed to do whatever they want. Permissive parents are very warm and undemanding. They are indulgent and passive in their parenting. This study supports the findings of Igbo and Ihejiene (2014) who opined that Permissive Parents do not really pay attention in setting rules and limits for their children and this will lead to the feeling of lack of love and rebellious attitude until they start to resort to a place of friend to express their thoughts and behaviours.

The third hypothesis which states that Male Undergraduates involvement in cybercrime will be significantly higher than their Female counterparts was accepted. This study further revealed that sex has an influence on undergraduates' involvement in cybercrime. This implies that male undergraduates are more likely to engage in cybercrime behaviour than their female counterparts. The study supports previous findings by Chapple and Johnson (2007) which revealed that parents are more likely to close monitor and correct the behaviours of their daughters compared with their sons, resulting in female having higher self-control than males. Thus, females are less likely to involve in criminal behaviour such as cybercrime.

The fourth hypothesis which states that self-control and parenting style will jointly and independently influence involvement in cybercrime behaviour among undergraduate students was accepted. Both self-control and parenting style were good predictors of

Influence of Self-Control and Parenting Style on Undergraduates' Involvement in Cybercrime in Lagos State, Nigeria

undergraduates' involvement in cybercrime. This implies that both self-control and parenting style influence involvement in cybercrime. This is in line with the findings of Donner et al. (2014) which opines that undergraduates from permissive parenting tend to have low level of self-control and low self-control is a good predictor of involvement in cybercrime among undergraduate students.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the findings made, the researcher was able to draw the following conclusions; the study showed that demographic and psychosocial variables influence involvement in cybercrime among undergraduate students. Sex had effect on cybercrime involvement; because, there was a significant influence of sex on cybercrime involvement. Sex is a good predictor of cybercrime involvement as the finding showed that male undergraduate students were more involved in cybercrime than their female counterparts.

Self-control is also a good predictor of cybercrime involvement as the finding showed that undergraduate students with low self-control were more favourably predisposed to cybercrime. This implies that self-control had significant influence on involvement in cybercrime among undergraduates.

There was significant influence of parenting style on undergraduates' involvement in cybercrime as the study proved that undergraduate students from permissive parenting will significantly be more involved in cybercrime than their counterparts from authoritative and authoritarian parenting. Findings further revealed that there was joint and independent influence of self-control and parenting style on cybercrime involvement among undergraduate student as there was a joint prediction of cybercrime involvement by self-control and parenting style.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made;

1. Research should be carried out to find out more about cybercrime involvement among undergraduate students.
2. Programs should be organized to identify students with low self-control and necessary intervention should be provided to boost their self-control.
3. Parents should take their time and engage their adolescents as well as provide necessary parental support for both male and female so as to know what activities the adolescents are into.
4. Education programs should be organized for parents and their undergraduates so as to enlighten the parents as regards their attitude towards their children in form of the style in which they choose train their children (Permissive, Authoritative and Authoritarian).

Limitation of Study

This study, like any other study, is limited in terms of the scope and variables of study. There was limited literature on cybercrime involvement among undergraduate students, thus the researcher had little data for comparison. Another limitation of the study is the unwillingness of the participants to give accurate responses due to the nature of the dependent variable of study. The lack of funding necessary to carry out the survey in a wider range was also a limitation to the study. Peer influence, self-esteem, parent's financial status and emotional intelligence could be significant factors influencing involvement in

Influence of Self-Control and Parenting Style on Undergraduates' Involvement in Cybercrime in Lagos State, Nigeria

cybercrime among undergraduate students. Further research should take these variables into account.

REFERENCES

- Amini-Philips, C. (2018). Awareness and Involvement in Cybercrime among Undergraduate Students in Universities in Rivers State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention*, 7(03):39-43
- Asokhia, M.O. (2010). Enhancing National Development and Growth through Combatting Cybercrime/Internet Fraud: A Comparative Approach, *Journal of Social Sciences*, 23(1), 13-19.
- Atwai. (2011). Youth Cybercrime Influenced by Peers Youth Today. University of Liverpool. <http://www.youthtoday.org/viewarticle.cfm?article id=4859>
- Baumrind, D. (1971). Current Patterns of Parental Authority. *Development Psychology Monographs*, 4(1)
- Baumrind, D. (1991). Effective Parenting during the Early Adolescent Transition. In P.A. Cowan & Hetherington (Eds), *Advances in family research* (vol 2). Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum.
- Baumrind, D (1996). Effects of Authoritative Parental Control on Child Behavior, *Child Development*, 37, 887-907.
- Bossler, A.M. & Holt, T.J. (2009). On-line Activities, Guardianship, and Malware Infection: An Examination of Routine Activities Theory. *International Journal of Cyber Criminology*, 3(1) 400-420.
- Bossler, A.M. & Holt, T.J. (2010). The Effect of Self-control on Victimization in the Cyber world. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 38(3), 227-236.
- Bossler, A.M., Holt, T.J. & May, D.C. (2012). Predicting On-line Harassment Victimization among a Juvenile Population. *Youth and society*, 44(4), 500-523.
- Boutwell, B., & Beaver, K. (2010). The intergenerational transmission of low self-control. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 47, 174-209.
- Donner, Christopher M. (2016). The Gender Gap and Cybercrime: An Examination of College Students' On-line Offending. *Victims & Offenders*, 11(4), 556-577.
- Donner, C.M., Marcum, C.D., Jennings, W.G., Higgins, G.E., & Banfield, J. (2014). Low Self-control and Cybercrime: Exploring the Utility of the General Theory of Crime beyond Digital Piracy. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 34, 165-172.
- Farrington, D (1986). Longitudinal Research on Crime and Delinquency. In N. Morris & M. Tonry (Eds), *Crime and Justice; An Annual Review of Research*, 1, 189-250.
- Hay, Carter & Ryan Meldrum. (2016). *Self-Control and Crime over the Life Course*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.
- Higgins, G.E., & Makin, D.A. (2004). Self-control, Deviant Peers, and Software Piracy. *Psychological reports*, 95(3), 921-931.
- Higgins, G.E., Wolfe, S.E., & Marcum, C.D. (2008). Digital Piracy: An Examination of Three Measurements of Self-control. *Deviant Behavior*, 29(5), 440-460.
- Holt T.J. (2011) Low self-control, Deviant Peer Associations and Juvenile Cybercrime. *American Journal of Criminal Justice*
- Holt T.J, & Bossler, A.M. (2013). Examining the Relationship between Routine Activities and Malware Infection Indicators. *Journal of contemporary Criminal Justice*, 29(4), 420-436.
- Holt T.J, & Bossler, A.M. (2014). An assessment of the Current state of Cybercrime scholarship. *Deviant behavior*, 35(1), 20-40.

Influence of Self-Control and Parenting Style on Undergraduates' Involvement in Cybercrime in Lagos State, Nigeria

- Holt T.J, Bossler, A.M. & May, D.C. (2016). Identifying Predictors of Unwanted On-line Sexual Conversations among Youth using a Low Self-control and routine activity framework. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, 32(2) 108-128.
- Holt T.J, Bossler, A.M. & May, D.C. (2012). Low Self-control, Deviant peer associations, and Juvenile Cyber deviance. *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, 37 (3) 3378-395.
- Holt T.J, Burruss, G.W. & Bossler, A.M. (2010). Social learning and cyber deviance: Examining the Importance of a Full Social Learning Model in the Virtual World. *Journal of Crime and Justice*, 33(2), 31-61.
- Holt T.J, & Copes, H. (2010). Transferring Subcultural Knowledge On-line: Practices and Beliefs of Persistent Digital Pirates. *Deviant behavior*, 31(7)625-654.
- Holt T.J, & Turner, M.G (2012). Examining Risks and Protective factors of on-line identity theft. *Deviant behavior* 39 (4) 308-323.
- Ihmeideh, F. M & Shawareb, A.S. (2014) The Association between Internet Parenting Styles and Children's Use of the Internet at Home, *Journal of Research in Childhood Education*, 28(4), 411-425, DOI: 10.1080/02568543.2014.944723
- Igbo, J.N. & Ihejiene, M.A (2014). Influence of Parenting Styles on Deviant Behavior and Academic Achievement of Secondary School Students in Garoua, Northern Cameroon. *International Journal of Educational Science and Research*, 4(5), 19-34.
- Jennings, W.G., Piquero, A.R. & Reingle, J.M. (2012). On the Overlap between Victimization and Offending: A Review of the Literature. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 17(1), 16-26.
- Ljubojev, N., Glusac, D. and Radosav, D. (2017). *Children in the Internet: Protection and Parents' Perception*, Chapter 09 in DAAAM International Scientific Book, pp.105-120.
- Longe, O.B. (2004) *Proprietary Software Protection and Copyright issues in contemporary Information Technology*. Federal university of technology. Akure, Nigeria.
- MacCoby, E.E and Martin J, A. (1983) *Socialization in the context of the family; Parent – Child Interaction. Handbook of Child Psychology: Social Development* Vol. 14eds. E.M (New York, NY: Wiley)
- Hayward, K.J. (2010). Opening the lens; Cultural Criminology and the Image. Framing Crime, Cultural criminology and the image. (1-16)
- Nonum E., Oyemndu & Nwankwo, O., Gilbert (2020). The Effect of Parenting Style on Children's Involvement in Cybercrime. *Journal of Humanities and Social sciences*. Dept. of intelligence and security studies, Novena University Ogume, Delta State, Nigeria.
- Okeshola, F. B. & Adeta A.K. (2013). The Nature, Causes and Consequences of Cybercrime in Tertiary Institutions in Zaria, Kaduna state, Nigeria. *American international Journal of Contemporary Research*, 3(9), 98-114.
- Piquero, Alex R. (2008). *Measuring Self Control. In Out of Control: Assessing the General Theory of Crime*, edited by Erich Goode. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Piquero, A.R. & Macdonald (2005). Self-control, Violent Offending and Homicide Victimization: Assessing the General Theory of Crime. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*.
- Piquero, A.R., Jennings, W.G., & Farrington, D.P. (2010). On the malleability of self-control: Theoretical and Policy Implications Regarding a General Theory of Crime. *Justice Quarterly*, 27, 803-834.

Influence of Self-Control and Parenting Style on Undergraduates' Involvement in Cybercrime in Lagos State, Nigeria

- Popadic, D., Pavlovic, Z., Petrovic, D. & Kuzmanovic, D. (2016) Global Kids Online Serbia: Balancing between Opportunities and Risks. Results from the Pilot study, Belgrade: University of Belgrade.
- Pratt, Travis C., & Francis T. Cullen. (2000). The Empirical Status of Gottfredson and Hirschi's General Theory of Crime: A Meta-Analysis. *Criminology* 38(3): 931-964.
- Pratt, T.C., Holtfreter, K., & Holtfreter, K. & Reisig, M.D. (2010). Routine On-line Activity and Internet Fraud targeting: Extending the generality of routine activity theory. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 47(3), 267-296.
- Pratt, T.C., Turner, M.G., & Piquero, A.R. (2004). Parental Socialization and Community Context: A Longitudinal Analysis of the Structural Sources of Low Self-control.
- Shekarkhar, Z. & Gibson, C. (2011). Gender, Self-control and Offending Behaviors among Latino Youth. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*.
- Tangey, J.P. Baumeister, R.F and Boone, A.L. (2004). High Self-control predicts Good Adjustment, Less Pathology, Better Grades and interpersonal Success. *Journal of Personality*. 72(2), 271-295.
- Tittle, C.R., Ward, D.A., & Grasmick, H.G. (2003). Self-control and Crime Deviance: Cognitive Vs Behavioral Measures. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 44, 66-76.
- Vazsonyi, Alexander T., Jakub Mikuska & Erin Kelley. (2017). Its Time: A Meta-Analysis on the Self-Control Deviance Link. *Journal of Criminal Justice* 48(1): 48-63.

Acknowledgment

The author appreciates all those who participated in the study and helped to facilitate the research process.

Conflict of Interest

The author declared no conflict of interest.

How to cite this article: Ojo, T.E., & Ajala, M.A. (2026). Influence of Self-Control and Parenting Style on Undergraduates' Involvement in Cybercrime in Lagos State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Indian Psychology*, 14(2), 011-024. DIP:18.01.002.20261402, DOI:10.25215/1402.002