

FAMILY CONFLICT AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN OGUN STATE

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the relationship between family conflict and academic performance among undergraduate students in Ogun State. The family is the closest social group which every individual belongs and where long-lasting relationships are visible. The impact of family relationship on its members is as the impact of water to crops. Conflict is inevitable, as it is part of human dealings but can be managed so it does not escalate to a point of causing damage to individual or group's emotions, physical state and psychological state. Utilizing a quantitative approach, data were collected through structured questionnaire administered to diverse sample of students across various institutions in Ogun State. The analysis revealed that higher level of family conflict correlate with lower academic performance, highlighting the emotional and psychological toll of family discord on students' educational outcomes. Factors such as parental support, communication styles and conflict resolution strategies were also examined, demonstrating their significant impact on academic success. The findings underscored the importance of addressing family dynamics to enhance students' academic experiences and outcomes suggesting that interventions aimed at improving family relationships could be beneficial for academic achievement. The study concluded that family conflict has strong negative relationship on academic performance of undergraduate students in Ogun State. The study recommends that parents should consider the effect of highly level family conflict on their children. Victims of family conflict should be encouraged to meet good counselors. A beautiful and cheery atmosphere was recommended too as it helps to relief stress. Again, to overcome anxiety for test and examination, students were encouraged to get enough sleep and study hard.

Keywords: Family, Conflict, Family Conflict, Academic Performance, Academic Challenges.

Introduction

Every human being belongs to a family. There are different types of family globally; it includes traditional and modern families. The traditional families include two-parent family (the father and the mother) and joint or extended while the modern family includes single-parent family and stepfamily or blended family. Humans are seen as social beings, through common interests, we form friendships, join communities, and meet new people. The idea of family is the most fundamental one in the social world. Our families are typically the source of our most enduring relationships as well as our earliest ones (Muraco, 2022, Chandra, 2024). The family is the first group of people a newborn infant interacts with on social, religious and educational relationships. Family is the collective body of persons who live in one house and under one head

or manager, a household, including parents, children, servants, and as the case may be lodgers and boarders (King James Version Dictionary).

Just as constant as change is to life, conflict is inevitable in our human endeavours (Larson & Barton, 2024). Human relationship is one plagued with a lot of understanding and misunderstandings. According to Ray (2019), it is impossible to interact and communicate with other members of the family without conflict. Conflict is a belief or awareness that one's needs, interests, wants, or values are not in line with those of another person. Conflict also includes an emotional response to a circumstance or exchange that denotes a dispute of some description. Conflict also consists of the steps we take to communicate our perceptions, express our emotions, and meet our wants in a way that may interfere with another person's ability to do the same (Mayer, 2012). Conflict can always be managed but how many people will like to succumb to the interest of the other party?

Family conflict is a disagreement between husband and wife, or between the parents and their child (children) or other members of the family which can lead to physical, mental and emotional very harmful for your kids and the family (Alberta Health Service, 2022, Larsen and Barton, 2024). Conflict in homes usually occurs as a result of lack of understanding or different opinions and perspectives held by members of the family. Most conflict in families arises as a result of lack of proper communication. Conflict in a family can happen because of opposition behavior or disagreement among family members (Suhendi and Dina, 2019). Family conflict comes in different forms, it can be interpersonal, intrapersonal or a small group against another. These can lead to physical violence, emotional damages and destroys the mental health of its members.

According to Yao, Gause, Hall and Duo (2024) students who constantly witness their parents arguing, fighting and abused tend to become hostile with any environment they find themselves. In our society, it is believed that children should not interfere in adult matters so all they have to do is obey their instructions. In some families as a child is born, it is already decided what the child should become and whether the child will bring them benefit or not. As a result, the child cannot even choose his or her future and dreams to pursue.

Apart from the personal interest of the parents, conflict in the home also arises from anger leading to physical violence like slaps, hitting the other person and when not managed can result to huge injury leaving scar as a reminder. It all depends on the kind of parenting style the family adopts which can be authoritative, authoritarian, permissive and neglectful. One thing is sure and that is whether one is involved in conflict or not as far as one witnessed it, the brain registers it and can result to so many other issues like depression, anxiety, unhappiness, frustration, lack of focus at work place or in school, hatred towards other people, oversensitivity and so on.

Guy-Evans (2022) cited a popular scholar Sigmund Freud who made a very important point in his work many years back often called "trauma re-enactment". Children who receive violent treatment from childhood tend to become violent parents to their own children repeating the story over and over again. Freud claimed that people had a propensity to find solace in the familiar. He called it "repetition compulsion which means the desire to return to an earlier state of things". This is a serious issue and most times counseling is the best option to come out of the past. Notably in today's world, most parents are not aware of this reality. There are lots of students who come from such homes and environment. It is not a stretch to conclude that these conflicts have a significant impact on how well they succeed academically.

Globally, it is believed that the family makes the most important impact in a child's behavior because that is the first school and environment of the child thus the popular saying "charity begins at home". This shows the role family plays in their children's lives. If there is a place children find solace most, it is their family. The role families play in the upbringing of their children is as important as the rain to farmers. The family basically is responsible for the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being of a child.

Studies have shown that most homes with high levels of parental conflict often have a tensed and unfriendly environment that can have detrimental effects on the children. Children from conflict families are prone to exhibiting antisocial behaviour with peers in extension their performance in school. Resolving family conflict is one of the urgent goals of society today. This is because whatever happens in our family affects our society for example, the reaction of the seller in the market down to the buyer or the man that fought with a woman in the street and many more hurting sights. On the other hand, the manner in which people

talk and respect the other person shows a kind of good culture and upbringing in both children and adults (Khoshimjanovna, 2021).

The main objective of this study is to investigate the relationship between family conflict and academic performance of undergraduate students of Olabisi Onabanjo University (OOU), Ogun State. The study also specifically determined the extent to which family conflicts affected the academic performance of students; investigated the relationship between family conflicts and absent mindedness in students; evaluated the academic challenges faced by students with family conflicts; and understood the behaviour of students with family conflict towards their colleagues.

Literature Review

Family

The family originated from the Latin word “Familia”. The family through marriage is an institution created by God according to the Bible (Genesis 2:20-25 and 4:1). The family is known as the foundation of every society. It is made up of two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years old of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto) adoption, step or fostering, and who are usually resident in the same household (The Australian Bureau of Statistics).

According to these scholars such as Burgess (1945) that well cited in contemporary writings, family is a group of persons united by ties of marriage, blood or adoption constituting a single household interacting and inter-communicating with each other in their respective social roles of husband and wife, father and mother, son and daughter, brother and sister, creating a common culture.

A popular scholar Frederick Engels in his book “the family, private property and the state” pointed out four stages of the family. The first stage is called the consanguine family: here, family was separated by generations. All men and women were husbands and wives. The second stage is called the punaluan family where marriage took place between siblings. The third stage is called the Pairing family: here, marriage between brothers and sisters and other family members which was the main bone of the second stage was abolished. Instead, marriage of more than one wife was encouraged that is polygamy. The final stage of Engels stages of the family is called the monogamous family which is made up of one man and one woman and their children with the man being the head of the family.

Frederick gave a succinct explanation on the different phases of family evolution to the current stage which is the monogamous one. The King James Version Dictionary also made important definition of the family. It says, family is the collective body of persons who live in one house and under one head or manager, a household, including parents, children and servants, and as the case may be, lodgers or boarders. Based on the aforementioned, it is apt to note that family consist of groups of persons either related by blood or adoption or cohabiting together under one roof either having common language or not but communicating with each other in the same house. As long as they living, eating, sleeping, communicating and assisting each other, it is termed as family.

Conflict

Humans are beings that are innately drawn to conflict. Conflicts can occur if the situation is not taken into account. Conflicts can be minor or major in scope. Society has experienced conflict in a variety of ways, and it has responded accordingly. It implies that it responds differently from circumstance to situation, from time to time and from place to place. But disputes arise naturally (Madushi, 2022). Okechukwu and Samuel (2022), conflict is the action of individuals or groups to realize their interest over those of others. Conflict has up till now always been used to refer to a conflict of interests. Even though the origin of each dispute may vary, it has always involved individuals with diverse goals. Conflict can have private, cultural, level, background, political, and even international sources (Joel, 2021). There are different types of conflict that confronts humans. The study will discuss some of the types which include, intrapersonal conflict, interpersonal conflict, family conflict to mention a few.

Intrapersonal conflict: intrapersonal conflict always involves the personality involved. It manifests personally if the person’s motivation or drive is hindered or if the personality is faced with multiple decision-making options and is unable to make the best choice while contending with conflicting objective and role

(Conrad, 1991). Conflicts in a person's personality are frequently related to their values (Conrad, 1991). For example, a child may occasionally make up an absence of their parents in order to avoid unwanted and unwelcomed visitor. The child will be conflicted especially if he or she has not been telling lies before. Hussein & Ali-Mamary (2019), asserts intrapersonal conflict is when a person's role and his values do not align, there is frequently internal conflict relating to value.

One form of conflict is interpersonal conflict: It is the most and frequent and widely recognized sort of conflict worldwide; interpersonal disputes involve two or more people. The majority of major issues start with two or more people (Madushi, 2022).

Family Conflict

For years, the ability of family members to resolve interpersonal conflict has defined what it means to be a family (Mkwizu and Matama, 2020). Jabbari and Rouster (2021), support this view by stating that through emotional, behavioral and physiological channels, interactions between family members have a long-lasting effect on an individual's growth and welfare. Living with people from different backgrounds and upbringings makes it conceivable to state that there won't always be peace since conflict is inevitable.

Conflict is a dominant factor in every human relationship. One does not need to be in the same space with the other to be at loggerheads with the other party, much worse when they have to share the same space. According to Estevez (2019), family conflict is distinct from other types of conflict. First, there is already a strong emotional bond amongst family members. Therefore, conflict can be swiftly escalated by these feelings.

If a person can experience intrapersonal conflict, imagine how much worse it must be when they share a home with other human beings. Arguments are a natural part of having a family and coexisting (Estevez, 2019). We anticipate happy times filled with love and bonding when families gather together, yet we frequently discover that family disputes can arise at these times (Scott, 2022). No matter how lovely a family is, disputes inevitably arise (Estevez, 2019). The contemporary family is under pressure. Intimacy, warmth, and self-fulfillment are what we most want from our families, but we frequently struggle to obtain it (Bittman, 2020). It may be naïve to expect constant harmony in relationships, sometimes disconnections and arguments are a reality of life that can aid in a family growth and ability to adapt to change (Divecha, 2020). Conflict can arise within families either between spouses or between parents and children (Ndayambaje et al., 2020). Family conflict has to do with argument, fighting, criticizing one another, showing favoritism with children or among parents and blame within the family system- it is a dimensional construct (Morelli et al., 2022). According to Bennett (2019), family problems can have an adverse effect on the immediate participants, such as financial instability, divorce, and sibling bullying. However, children are frequently left traumatized by a family issue. Parenting and keeping the family unit together depend on mending the rifts caused by misunderstandings, mismatches and failure to tune into one another (Sutton, 2021). Families can learn how to handle the friction and distance that come with getting out of sync with one another (Divecha, 2020).

Causes of Family Conflicts

Ningsih and Purnama (2021), identified that social problems are the causes of family of dysfunctional family problems. Financial issues, notably not having enough money to pay bills, pay rent, purchase adequate food and other essentials, and yet have any money left over for fun, are a major source of family strife. A job or career may be a source of family conflict. When a parent works long hours away from home, the spouse who stays at home care for the kids often feels abandoned or overburdened. In contrast, if a parent loses their job, it results in stress and conflicts of its own since the family's finances suffer and there is uncertainty about the future (Banks, 2018). Etevev (2019), asserted different personalities, misunderstandings and difficult family situations can lead to family strife.

Medical dictionary defines dysfunctional family as a family with numerous internal (such as sibling rivalries, parent-child disputes, domestic violence, mental illness, or single parenthood) or external (such as alcohol or drug abuse, extramarital affairs, gambling, or unemployment) influences that have an impact on the

family's fundamental needs. According to Susan (2019), different personalities of people can cause family conflict. It includes:

Feeling Sibling and Thinking Sibling: the thinking sibling is perceived by the feeling sibling as being extremely, disconnected, chilly, argumentative, and indifferent. The thinking sibling considers the emotionally attached sibling to be too sensitive, irrational, and attached to their values. When one sibling is arguing from a position of morals, ethics while the other is arguing from the one of logic or causation, an argument will break out.

Extroverted Sibling and Introverted Sibling: the extroverted sibling believes that the introverted sibling dislikes him or her since the latter prefers to spend time alone. Siblings who are more outgoing force their introverted counterparts into social situations, which makes the introvert furious and aggressive. The outgoing sibling bothers the withdrawn sibling or ends the relationship. The requirements of the introverted sibling may not be honored at home. The requirements of the extroverted sibling may not be honored at home. Lack of alone time drains an introvert, and a lack of external stimulation drains an extrovert. Both of them view the other as being uncooperative.

Sensing Sibling and Intuitive Sibling: the sensible sibling thinks the intuitive sibling is unrealistic or too far removed from reality. Intuitive siblings are encouraged to be more precise and literal thinks the sensing sibling is overly literal or unimaginative. The intuitive sibling wants the sensing sibling to be more conceptual and big-picture focused. Both struggles to communicate with one another and underestimate the other's intelligence.

Judging Sibling and Perceiving Sibling: the judging sibling thinks the perceiving sibling is unreliable, inconsistent, procrastinating, and sluggish. Judging a sibling involves labeling them as being overbearing, strict, following rules too religiously, or being too easily rattled by change. Each feels misunderstood and either judges the other or is judged by them.

When siblings have differing preferences, are sibling conflicts inevitable? Without a doubt, sometimes, kids with dissimilar tastes form strong bonds and contribute to one other's maturation and self-awareness. These conflicts can, nevertheless, arise, especially in households with poor or nonexistent communication, conditional affection, or inadequate parental support and supervision. A "type culture" can accidentally be developed that undervalues the gifts of the child alternative preferences if the most involved parent in the household has more type preferences with one child than another. The other sibling feels pressured, unappreciated, furious, misunderstood, and particularly resentful of the sibling who shares the parent's type preferences.

Parent-Child Conflicts: when parents and children have different types preferences, parent-child disputes are more likely to develop. This is especially true if a parent lacks a personality type understanding. An extroverted child may come out as showy, noisy, annoying, attention-seeking to an introverted parent. An outgoing parent could think their inherent wiring is the only "correct" way to be, parents may attempt to mold their kids into their own image. For a while, the child may endeavour to please the parents, but over time, this can cause anger and dissatisfaction for all parties.

Another cause of family conflict is poor communication according to Susan, 2019; Ketema et al., 2022; Ray, 2018). Poor communication is the cause of a great deal of family conflicts. This is especially true when relatives undervalue one another due to divergent type preferences. According to the Marxist, distinct non-material and material resources which are available to different social groupings and people are the causes of conflict in the family.

Problems and Issues Confronting Students that Experience Family Conflicts

The various problems confronting students who are exposed to conflicts in the homes are as follows:

Absence Mindedness: Lack of focus is typically linked to this problem. It might be challenging to concentrate on crucial issues while the mind is busy. Students who are involved in family disputes frequently become distracted and consider various difficulties at home. They are probably unable to answer phone calls because they may already know the caller's purpose. Similar events serve as a reminder for them, and watching videos or listening to discussions about problems that concern them only bring back unpleasant memories.

Students are absent-minded and uninterested in class activities during exams and tests and discussions. They use school as a means of escaping the pressures they experience at home.

Relationship Problems: Children are more likely to treat others badly if they witness their parents' quarrel. Kids frequently use the strategies parents used to resolve disputes between siblings. If they have grown accustomed to family strife or if they find it difficult to recognize who they can truly trust in life, they may also find it difficult to sustain good relationships as they get older (Morin, 2019).

Depression: According to Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica (2022), depression, in psychology is an emotional or mental state that is characterized by feelings of shame or low self-worth and a diminished capacity to enjoy life. Although widespread, depression in children and teenagers is typically ignored. The disease's clinical spectrum can range from a mild case of sorrow to a serious depressive episode. Family history of depression and poor academic performance are the risk factors (Nkporbu and Alex-Hart, 2022). Olaoluwa (2021), stated that uncertainty and hopelessness, which are the byproducts of melancholy and a condition of being nervous, are among the many psychological obstacles that are frequently experienced by students from broken homes, single parents, orphans, and those who lack parental attention, care and affection. It is a well-known fact that learning gets more difficult when students are anxious about something. Realizing that having bad days is a natural part of life is crucial. Everybody experiences sad and upsetting events. However, if a person consistently feels depressed or hopeless, depression may be present (Olaoluwa, 2021).

Drug Abuse: According to research, the issue of drug abuse is caused by a variety of factors, including the family (including mother-father connections), the community (including illegal meeting places, incorrect or negative morals and maltreatment), and the way parents raise their children (Manish et al., 2020). The short-term effects of drug abuse according to Manish et al., (2020) are;

Sleep disorder: drunkenness prevents REM (Rapid Eye Movement) sleep, a stage of sleep linked to learning and memory. Learning impairment has been connected to REM deprivation.

Memory loss: alcohol hinders the transfer and consolidation of information into long-term memory, which affects memory.

Lack of concentration: perhaps most importantly, you have a shortened attention span for up to three days after drinking, which makes it difficult to take good notes, read quickly and clearly, study effectively, and think abstractly.

Sadness: David et al., (2022), opined that people who are appreciative are happier because they feel more connected to and interested in the world around them, which enhances their performance in a variety of spheres of life. When one is sad, it is hard to focus and appreciate the environment around. Research has it that sadness is one easy way for depression to set in. students from conflict homes (chronic or mild) are likely to feel unhappy most times and become inactive with their studies.

Academic Performance

One of the many elements of academic achievement is academic performance (Sarwat et al., 2019). At a young age, academic performance of students is thought to be one of the most important factors. Depending on how well they perform in their university classes, students may enroll in remedial, regular or advanced courses. Even though they are decided by higher education officials, grade point average (GPA) and class standing are important at the university level (Isik et al., 2018). Irshad et al., (2022), academic success refers to a student's success in school, college, or university, specifically his or her exam grades, which serve as a measure of the student's performance.

Academic performance typically measured as grade point average-GPA certifies learning and is an easy-to-compare outcome, but it only construct a partial view of what learning entails, which presents another significant challenge for studies on the relationship between self-regulatory learning strategies and academic performance. Academic performance provides information on immediate learning and test performance, but learning involves long-term understanding and transfer to other contexts, which are rarely evaluated in the classroom (Garcia-Perez et al., 2020). As a result, students with more developed critical thinking abilities and techniques may find it difficult to perform well in memory-based and confined assessment situations, which could negatively affect their GPAs (Rovers et al., 2018).

Education is essential for providing skilled labor that drives economic growth and addresses a community's pressing issues. Additionally, students must dedicate a significant amount of their time to their studies in order to graduate with high academic standing. A growing number of students commit readmission, indicating that they did not perform well in their academics, and the trend of graduating students is not equal to the growth of enrolled students (Tadese et al., 2022). Ketema et al., (2022) education is also essential for better functioning and improvement of socio-economic growth of any nation.

Brew et al (2021) asserted education is a potent force for change that boost livelihood and health while promoting social stability. Given that persons with higher education levels frequently have more options in both the social and economic spheres, it is linked, on a micro level, to higher living standards for people through increased productivity. On a larger scale, education creates knowledgeable and talented human capital, which has been regarded as an engine of economic growth and favorably impacts economic development. Mante et al., (2021), supported since knowledge and abilities are gained via education, which helps people fit in well with any culture, education is essential to the growth of the human race. Changing a student's behaviour for the better is the primary objective of all education. Government and its agencies, families, and communities are stakeholders in education.

Factors Influencing Academic Performance

The factors influencing academic performance can come in two ways. It can be positive or negative. Either or both have an impact on the academic performance of students. Meleen, (2019) stated family can be nuclear, large, blended, step, single-parent, adoptive, or foster, and the contribution to a child's education largely depends on the type of family structure to which the child belongs.

According to Murad (2020), anxiety during studying is a powerful indicator of academic performance. Safer and Shah (2019) described that even while anxiety is linked to the brain, it can affect emotions in a way that is reflective. Some students exhibit sharp mood swings and are prone to overreacting to situations. Mofatteh, (2021) it is a known fact that college students are more likely than average to experience stress, anxiety and depression. Parental involvement and interact with their kids as well as how they manage their habits and cognitive development has impact in education. Their children's behavior and performance toward them are consequently influenced by this (Kafle, 2021).

Students' motivation improves the academic results which they go through in educational settings (Shehzad et al., 2022). This means that if the students aren't motivated to read and do other academic activities their outcome will be poor. David et al., (2022), opined that people who are appreciative are happier because they feel more connected to and interested in the world around them, which enhances their performance in a variety of spheres of life.

According to a study, university students' financial situation has a direct impact on their capacity to do well on exams. Thus, Deng et al., (2022) noted that there is an association between emotional stability and academic achievement. Yousuf et al (2022), attendance, parental education, family position, place of residence, prior grades, financial situation, instructional techniques, seminar performance, test scores, and overall competency, interest in a particular course, behaviour research, time commitment, and family life support, parent's job and parent's education have effect on academic performance.

Furthermore, Yu et al., (2022), stated that one non-cognitive characteristic that is attracting attention is self-esteem, which is one of the major factors influencing academic success, which is a sign of cognitive development. Significant research has also showed that kids and teenagers with low self-esteem are typically less motivated to learn, which increases their likelihood of performing poorly in school. Frederick (2022), added being thankful enables one to appreciate the happiness they are currently feeling and as a result, lessens the tedium of all that is currently taking place. A person feels more self-worth and self-esteem the more they show their thanks. This happiness will radiate light to the academics as well.

The issue of good eye sight is also a factor influencing academic performance (Nkashama et al., 2022). Some students cannot read because of poor eye sight which affects their performance in test, exams which make up the performance of students. Elena (2022) is of the opinion that academic procrastination is one of the factors responsible for academic performance. According to Elena, academic procrastination is a term that is often used to describe a lack of organization, disarray, forgetfulness and general rigidity in behaviour. Task

type and procrastination are related. For instance, studies indicate that uninteresting and challenging jobs are more likely to be put off. It is difficult for students to control the intermediate and final learning outcomes at the university, which significantly worsens the quality of education and impedes personal and professional self-realization. This difficulty in organizing one's own learning process is caused by students' irrational allocation of time and resources.

According to Oghenetega and Mercy (2022), the internet has a huge impact on students and scholars around the world as a strong and effective instrument for accessing, retrieving, and spreading knowledge. Students' conduct in terms of their academic achievement is being influenced by the media, a collective communication channel or tool used to store and convey information or data (Rabia et al., 2019). In as much as these mediums help improve academic performance, Alyami et al., (2021) asserted time management as a great impact on student's academic performance.

Some scholars are of the opinion that friendship helps in academic performance. Additionally, in order for students to become study-related helpers, friendships are necessary, suggesting that friendships are the source of study-related peer support (Brouwer and Engels, 2021; Stadfeld et al 2018). Jasperina et al., (2022), academic performance is a result of a student choosing peers as friends based on similarities in academic success, or it results from peer impact on a student's academic performance. Environmental and personal factors can influence students (Gurbuz et al., 2019). Environmental factor can be the surroundings, that is the cultural environment, is it welcoming or not. Personal factor is the ability of students to get involve in academic activities which would result in academic success. Hussain and Shen (2019), assert that cultural differences create a kind of uneasiness among international students. Aside international students, different ethnic groups in Nigeria are also a problem in our education system. Some students see themselves differently and prefer one group to another causing a kind of uneasiness when it comes to group work.

Effects of Family Conflict on Undergraduate Student's Academic Performance

Children who are supported by their parents are more likely to express their feelings or learn how to recognize and deal with situations that make them feel certain emotions. Negative behaviours that teach a child that expressing negative emotions is wrong and unacceptable include downplaying the child's emotional experience, reprimanding the child, and showing concern over the child's behaviour. Supportive parental responses to children's negative feelings have been connected to elements of emotional and social competence, like friendship quality and friendship comprehension. On the other hand, unsupportive or repressive parental responses have been linked to a child's negative effect storage and disordered conduct during emotionally charged situations (Deng et al., 2022). Parents involvement in activities surrounding their wards gives energy to the students. Students from these households typically feel loved and cared for by their parents, which helps them concentrate on their schoolwork and results in better academic success Mante et al., (2021). However, chronic family conflict such as bickering, fighting, and criticism among family members, is linked to the development of maladaptive behaviours in children (Coe et al., 2018).

The effects of parent-child conflict extend beyond young children. How parents handle their differences has an effect on kids of all ages. According to researchers, children of high-conflict couples suffer mentally (Morin, 2019). Willard (2022), the interactions between each parent and child can lead to developmental trauma and mental health issues. Parents need to be aware that researcher shows that top-down, punitive techniques, which they have acquired as children, are frequently harmful and unproductive. Mental health issues mentioned here cannot be over emphasized. It includes issues like depression, anxiety and others which can affect the performance of students. This is also in line with Ndayambaje et al., (2020) 's research, they discovered that because children daily lives have been impacted by their parent's conflicts, children from conflicted homes worry about their health and feel gloomy. Parental disagreement has a harmful impact on children's development.

Empirical Framework

The empirical evaluation establishes support for this study which intends to investigate the impacts of conflicts on kid's academic progress, from earlier research by the researcher. A correlation between family conflict issues and academic success has been found in numerous studies. In several, these problems have been referred to as family impact.

Morelli et al., (2022), in USA carried out a research on bidirectional association between family conflict and child behaviour problems in families at risk for maltreatment. They used descriptive research to carry out their work. A longitudinal method was used to gather data from (1993-2007) on bidirectional family child processes which may not be susceptible to short or period effects. They were able to establish the fact that family child effects may function directionally.

Longitudinal research was also carried out by Coe et al., (2018) on "family cohesion and enmeshment moderate association between marital relationship instability and children's externalizing problems". It was found that family cohesion at enmeshment moderated association between maternal relationship instability and increases in children externalizing problems. Cohesion accurately predicted reduction in externalizing issues at higher levels of instability. In contrast, higher degrees of enmeshment predicted that under more stable familial circumstances, externalizing symptoms would decrease while children's problems with externalizing would increase. Wolfed et al., (2019) carried out similar research using longitudinal studies "maternal depression, maltreatment history, and child outcomes- the role of harsh parenting". It was found out that women who were maltreated at young age became aggressive and transfer psychological and physical aggression with their children. Harsh parenting resulted to child negative internalizing and externalizing symptoms.

Estevez (2019), conducted a mixed descriptive (qualitative and quantitative) research on a "family conflicts and their developmental implications". Using a sample size of 139 students of AMU- College of Accountancy in university of Santo Tomas. The study showed that families are emotionally attached so the effects on its members when conflict sets in.

Matama & Mkwuizu (2020), in their study "antecedents of family conflict in Uganda" did special qualitative research on adults which majority were within the age range of 40-49 years and discovered that finances and priority of resources were the core causes of conflicts in the family. They recommended for a qualitative study to explore how relationship of spouses contributes to family conflict.

Qualitative research by Ndayambaje et al., (2020), "the impact of family conflict on children's education" revealed that parental conflicts influence parent-child relationship which affects children because of their attachment to their parents. The study also discovered that because children's daily lives have been impacted by their parent's conflicts, children from conflicted homes worry about their health and feel gloomy. Parental disagreements have a harmful impact on children's development.

Moreover Mante et al., (2021), in their study "family structure, academic achievement" adopted convenience sampling, purposive sampling and simple random sampling using a structured questionnaire to collect primary data from 363 students of senior high school (ss2&3). The study found that;

1. Parents face several problems that stop them from performing their roles in their children education effectively.
2. Parents performed less than expected in their ward's education to improve academic success.
3. Parents role in academic have a significant positive relationship.

Mante et al., recommended that parents become active about vital things concerning their children and their academic performance. Khoshimjanovna (2021), revealed in his short article that family conflicts have impact on children's personal characteristics. He also stated that parents do not devote enough time for their children because they have work hard.

Recently, Ketema et al., (2022), used mixed research methods combing qualitative and quantitative methods to identify the factors affecting the academic performance of female students in Kabridahar district. Purposive and simple random sampling techniques were employed. Accordingly, 273 female students and 10 teachers were selected as respondents. The study employed different data gatherings instruments like survey, questionnaire, document analysis and key informant interviews. The aim of the study was to assess the factors that effect the academic performance of female students in Dr. Mohammed Sirad Dolal Preparatory School. The study found out that lack of family encouragement in education, low level of

education of parents, parents’ occupation, poor parent-child interaction, non-conducive environment just to mention a few were family related factors while peer pressure, absence in class and procrastination basically were the personal factors affecting academic performance.

Methodology

This study adopted the survey method in data collected. The population of the study is the 39, 466 of OOU, Ogun State (OOU ICT, November 15, 2022). A self-structured questionnaire was designed on 5-point Likert style and used for data collection. A sample size of 396 students was drawn from the population using Taro Yamane formula. Google form was used in administering the questionnaire. Random sampling technique was used as the students voluntarily completed the questionnaire. A total of 193 males and 203 females participated in the study representing 48.7% (male) and 51.3% (females). The data was analyzed with the use of SPSS version 12 and hypotheses were tested.

Result of Finding

Relationship between family conflict and academic performance

| Correlations | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | Total of Family Conflict | Total of Academic Performance |
| Family Conflict | Pearson Correlation | 1 | .344** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | | .000 |
| | N | 396 | 396 |
| Academic Performance | Pearson Correlation | .344** | 1 |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | |
| | N | 396 | 396 |

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: Field Survey, February (2023)

H01: There is no significant relationship between family conflict and academic performance

The table above presents result on Relationship with family conflict and academic performance. Results shows that there is a significant association between family conflict and academic performance (p-value= .000). The implication is that the null hypothesis which states that, there is no significant association between family conflict and academic performance is rejected while the alternative is to be upheld. Therefore, there is a significant association between family conflict and academic performance.

Relationship between family conflict and behaviour of students with colleagues

| Correlations | | | |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------|---|
| | | Total of Family Conflict | Behaviour of students with their colleagues |
| Family Conflict | Pearson Correlation | 1 | .386** |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | | .000 |
| | N | 396 | 396 |
| Behaviour of students with their colleagues | Pearson Correlation | .386** | 1 |
| | Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 | |
| | N | 396 | 396 |

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: Field Survey, February (2023)

H01: There is no significant relationship between family conflict and behaviour of students with colleagues
 The table above presents result on relationship with family conflict and behaviour of students with colleagues. Results shows that there is a significant association between family conflict and behaviour of students with colleagues (p-value= .000). This implication is that the null hypothesis which states that, there

is no significant association between family conflict and behaviour of students with colleagues is rejected while the alternative is to be upheld. Therefore, there is a significant association between family conflict and behaviour of students with colleagues

Summary of Findings

This research work has made it clear that the family is a vital social group that has a great impact on its members. Considering the relationship that exist among its members right from childhood to adulthood, the family is where longest lasting memories are formed. The work brought to light the activities of the family be it nuclear or polygamous home or in the case of single parenting, regardless of where it is located, once the home is polluted with lots of misunderstandings, fight, verbal abuse just to mention a few, it will surely affect whoever is involved especially the children. The issue of “repetition compulsion” by a scholar named Sigmund Freud is real. Many of these children grow up and behave just like their parents. If the parents did not leave a good example to follow, the children will only find solace in the familiar that is those things that will make them remember what they went through at a younger age. This circle will continue unless, a strong counseling to come out of the past. For example, drug addicts’ parents can influence their children to either become worse drug addicts or the children will choose to hate drugs, most of the time, it’s the former that manifest.

The two theories used in the study showed that the family is connected together, that is emotionally attached and whatever goes wrong with one affects the other like a contagious disease (the family system theory). The other theory talks about conflicts in the home, because it is inevitable, everyone will like to compete for income and status as the family grows. If one person fails to perform his/her role in the home and the responsibility rest on another, conflict creeps it (modern social conflict theory). There is now need to build strong relationships and be more understanding of the root causes of every conflict that may confront the family.

The quantitative methodology helped to carry out deeper research through administration of a structured questionnaire. This primary source of data helped to show in figures, detailed information about the respondents which was well analyzed and organized. The analysis showed that there is a relationship between family conflict and academic performance of students.

Furthermore, the data analysis showed that there is a relationship between family conflict and academic performance of undergraduate students which correlates with some other studies carried out in this area. Conclusion was drawn, recommendations given and suggestions for further studies stated concerning this study.

Recommendations

1. There should be a functional counseling facility that is open to students. This will help students experiencing conflicts in their families to pour out their minds and be relieved of burdens that have been causing stress and they will be able to do well with their academics. It is also important to promote a beautiful and cheery learning atmosphere aside counseling center because it reduces stress. People smile when they see how lovely God is in nature.
2. Students should establish a productive study routine that works into their schedules and take part in activities that will help them achieve academic success. This will help deal with being absence mindedness in students going through tough times.
3. To get rid of anxiety for test and examination, students should do the needful by studying hard, getting enough sleep, engaging in exercise among others. By doing so, they will be able to overcome some academic challenges that they face as a result of family conflicts.
4. Instead of isolating themselves from their peers, students should interact with excellent peers in the classroom setting. This will help students experiencing family conflicts to have a good relationship with their peers.

Conclusion

Regardless of whether a student comes from a wealthy or low-income family, family conflict does have a significant effect on their academic success. Therefore, its impact cannot be overstated. Schools must have a working counseling department with competent staff to manage any problems that may arise for students. Parents should be a little gentler with their children so they can concentrate in class. To avoid making their parents angry and causing tension in the house, children should obey their parents.

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