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Parenting styles, family type and peer pressure as determinants of bullying behavior among secondary school students in Southwest, Nigeria

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 \mathbf{P} revious studies on bullying behaviour among students suggest that the family types and parenting styles are likely to influence different forms of students bullying behaviour. Different types of families with their competing styles of parenting are well illustrated in a multicultural and multi-religious society such as Nigeria whose religious and cultural practices either encourage or tolerate polygamous marriages which create the environment for different types of family structure and competing styles of parenting and hence for all patterns and forms of behaviour by children or students. Such patterns and forms of behaviour may be influenced and compounded by pressure from peer groups. Members of such groups are invariably products of complex polygamous families (marriages) with different parenting styles also. The purpose of the study is to determine the influence of different types of families, parenting styles and peer pressure on bullying behaviour of selected school students. The study adopted survey design. The population of the study comprised all secondary school students in Southwest, Nigeria. The sample size comprised 500 students. Multistage sampling technique was used. Six Local Government Areas (LGAs) were randomly selected. From each LGA, 4 secondary schools were randomly selected and 30 students were selected form each school by stratified sampling technique using age and class as strata. Three research instruments titled "Bullying Behaviour Questionnaire" Parenting Style Questionnaire" and Family type and Peer Pressure Questionnaire were used to collect data for the study. Data collected were analyzed using percentage and inferential statistics. Result showed that parenting styles significantly influenced bullying behaviour, 65.4% of the respondents exhibiting bullying behaviour through peer influence. It was 'also found that 55.5% and 21.6% respondents from broken home and intact family were exhibiting bullying behaviour. Therefore, it was concluded that parenting styles, family type and peer pressure influenced bullying behaviour among secondary school students. The implication of the results for students' guidance and counseling are analyzed and discussed.

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