

ABSTRACT

Adolescent stage is the most turbulent but exiting period of turmoil or crisis characterized by upsurge of hormones which cause physical and psychological changes that help reinforce the display of anti-social behaviors as well as violence and conflict of different nature. The objective of this paper is to identify the social and psychological factors that could be responsible for the adolescent's anti-social behaviors with a view to proffering solutions. This work is basically a review of existing literature and therefore utilized secondary data. The paper adopted a social psychological approach which emphasized on the role of family as the primary agent of socialization. Differences in the socialization of children will arise in the behavior and personalities of parents. The attitudes of the parents may not help the children to integrate into the society. Socialization patterns in some homes actually encourage deviant behavior which constitutes a great threat to peace and meaningful development of the society. The paper posits that every other factor could contribute to adolescent's anti-social behaviors but could be traced to the family directly or indirectly. The family into which a person was born largely determines the individual's personality and anti-social behaviors. The key role of the family or parents is to nurture and provide the child with a safe, loving and supportive environment, and to groom the child into a happy healthy youth and eventually a successful and self-actualized adult. But today the traditional role of the family as the child main socializing agent has degenerated due to modern civilization. Children who experience difficulties may later in life manifest adolescent anti-social behaviors. The paper recommends among others that the various agencies of socialization especially the family needs to wake up to their responsibilities of helping adolescents with sense of direction so that they will have the will power to carry out responsibilities they are expected to play in adulthood and to conform to the norms and values of the society.