

**Parental Styles and Adolescents' Involvement in Internet Fraud in Ede South Local  
Government, Ede. Osun State, Nigeria.**

**FRANCIS Bamijoko Gladys  
LCU/PG/003840**

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Nigeria.**

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**2024**

### **Certification**

This is to certify that this thesis entitled '**Parental Roles on Adolescents' involvement in Internet Fraud in Ede South Local Government, Ede, Osun State, Nigeria,**' was written by **FRANCIS Bamijoko Gladys** with Matric Number **LCU/PG/003840** in the Department of Politics and International Relations, Lead City University Ibadan, Nigeria under my supervision.

.....

**Supervisor**

**Dr. V. F. Iyanda**

.....

**Date**

.....

**Head of Department**

**Prof. A. A. Amodu**

.....

**Date**

## **Dedication**

This research is dedicated to the Almighty God.

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## Abstract

This study examined the growing issue of internet fraud in Nigeria, particularly among adolescents, and its detrimental effects on society. It focused on the prevalence of internet fraud, the involvement of young individuals, and the negative consequences for the nation's reputation and economy. The introduction emphasised the importance of understanding how parenting styles shaped adolescent behaviour, values, and involvement in internet fraud. The problem statement outlined the societal challenges posed by internet fraud, including the erosion of trust, economic damage, and the potential breakdown of law and order, while highlighting the conflict between internet fraud and the 'omoluabi' culture of Southwestern Nigeria, which valued honesty and integrity. The research aimed to explore the relationship between parental roles and adolescent involvement in internet fraud, particularly examining how authoritative, permissive, and authoritarian parenting styles influenced adolescents' exposure to and likelihood of engaging in such activities. The significance of the study lay in its potential to inform policy development and interventions aimed at preventing adolescent involvement in internet fraud in Nigeria, offering insights for community-based solutions. The scope centred on parents with children aged 12-19 in Ede South Local Government Area, Osun State, a region with a high rate of internet fraud involving universities and secondary schools. Key terms like internet fraud, advanced fee fraud, adolescent, parent, and parenting were defined for clarity.

**Keywords:** Internet fraud, Nigeria, Adolescence, Parenting style, Societal impact, Omoluabi culture, Research Objectively, Prevention, Ede South.

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## **Chapter One**

### **Introduction**

#### **1.1 Background to the Study**

Internet fraud represents a criminal offense targeting individuals or groups with the malicious intent to harm victims. These actions can take various forms, aiming to damage the victim's reputation, inflict physical or mental harm, or cause financial loss. Perpetrated through modern telecommunication networks like the internet and mobile phones, these offenses encompass a wide range of deceitful activities, from phishing and identity theft to scams and various forms of cybercrime<sup>1</sup>. The ramifications can be severe, affecting not only the immediate victim but also impacting broader societal trust in digital interactions and financial security. The rise in internet fraud can be primarily attributed to the easy accessibility of devices like Android phones, tablets, and computers, coupled with the widespread availability of internet and network facilities<sup>2</sup>. This heightened accessibility provides fraudsters with the tools they need to carry out their illicit activities. These fraudulent actions pose a significant threat not only to individuals but also to the security and financial stability of nations. As these crimes evolve and expand, the risk to both personal and national security continues to grow<sup>3</sup>.

Internet fraud encompasses a spectrum of fraudulent activities facilitated through computer systems. While the internet has undeniably provided numerous constructive platforms, it has also become a breeding ground for various forms of fraudulent activities<sup>4</sup>. These encompass scams, identity theft, phishing, and other deceptive practices conducted on a global scale. The financial implications are staggering, costing countries billions of dollars and affecting both individuals and businesses. The pervasive nature of internet fraud poses a significant challenge for law enforcement and regulatory bodies worldwide, requiring constant vigilance and evolving

strategies to combat these illicit activities<sup>5</sup>. Internet fraud has deeply permeated Nigerian society, impacting individuals across various age groups. While this phenomenon is not exclusive to a specific age demographic, its prevalence among the younger population is notably pronounced<sup>6</sup>. Although individuals of all ages partake in these fraudulent activities, recent trends underscore the prominence of younger individuals as the primary perpetrators. This shift towards a younger demographic engaging in internet fraud presents a concerning societal challenge, requiring a comprehensive approach involving education, enforcement, and support systems to address the root causes and mitigate the prevalence among this particular age group. A researcher's report highlights that a significant number of adolescents are actively involved in internet fraud, primarily driven by aspirations to establish themselves as accomplished hackers or to generate profits<sup>7</sup>. The allure of becoming a skilled hacker represents a major motivation for these young individuals, who perceive hacking prowess as a form of distinction and expertise in the digital realm. Furthermore, the accessibility and affordability of hacking tools in the new millennium have substantially lowered the barriers to entry, making it a financially viable venture for these adolescents.

This trend underscores the evolving landscape of cyber activities, where the desire for recognition and financial gain drives young individuals towards engaging in internet fraud and hacking practices<sup>4</sup>. A scholar emphasizes the pressing need for immediate attention regarding the escalating rate of Nigerian adolescents' participation in internet fraud<sup>8</sup>. This worrisome trend demands urgent concern due to its rapid growth and the potential long-term consequences it poses for both the younger generation and the broader societal fabric. The scholar's assertion underscores the urgency for comprehensive interventions, including educational programs, community engagement, and robust regulatory measures to address and mitigate the rising

involvement of Nigerian adolescents in internet fraud<sup>5</sup>. The modus operandi of Internet fraudsters is carried out via the computer and mobile phones with the intent to hack another individual's personal and financial information stored online. Internet fraud is the most common type of fraud, as a result, individuals and organisations need to protect their information from fraudsters<sup>9</sup>. The introduction and innovation of the internet, the computer, and mobile devices have brought about internet fraud in Nigeria and the world at large<sup>10</sup>. Internet fraud in Nigeria is mostly perpetrated by adolescents within the age limit of 18- 24, who have taken advantage of the fast growth in information technology, to swindle private and public businesses of their hard earn valuables<sup>11</sup>.

The alarming pace at which adolescents are drawn into fraudulent activities has sparked concerns regarding the future trajectory of the nation and its international reputation. The significant influx of young individuals engaging in these activities not only jeopardizes the country's future but also casts a negative shadow on its global image. The ever-expanding landscape of the internet in the twenty-first century has provided fraudsters with unprecedented opportunities to exploit and compromise victims' personal and financial data through diverse and sophisticated hacking methods<sup>12</sup>. This pervasive trend not only threatens the security and trust of individuals but also raises substantial challenges for national cybersecurity and international perceptions of the country's digital integrity. Urgent and strategic measures are imperative to curb this detrimental impact on both the nation's future prospects and its global standing. Fraudsters leverage the acquired information to finance various illicit endeavors, spanning from funding religious activities, political agendas, to supporting terrorist endeavors. Hence, it becomes crucial for both individuals and organizations to fortify their defenses against the perils of internet fraud<sup>13</sup>. Nigeria grapples with pervasive issues like soaring unemployment rates, governance challenges,

a struggling educational system, and widespread poverty. These socio-economic challenges have driven adolescents towards engaging in internet fraud as a significant means of livelihood<sup>14</sup>.

A particularly worrisome issue is the increasing involvement of adolescents in perpetrating internet fraud, a prevalent problem not only in Nigeria but also in various parts of the world. The allure of the digital world and its potential for financial gain has drawn in younger individuals, making them active participants in fraudulent activities. This trend presents a significant societal concern, impacting not only the immediate victims but also tarnishing the integrity of online interactions and commerce<sup>24</sup>.

By identifying the specific dynamics and influences within the community's parenting styles, this study aspires to offer insights that could inform targeted interventions and guidance strategies to steer adolescents away from involvement in internet fraud<sup>25</sup>. The ultimate goal is to develop tailored measures that promote responsible and ethical online conduct among the youth in the community.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Internet fraud has become increasingly prevalent among adolescents, including undergraduate students, leading to various societal problems. The continuous trend of Internet fraud, can lead to decadence of our social fabric. This will further devalue the 'omoluabi' (a child born of good character) culture of the Southwestern part of Nigeria in a number of ways:

The rise of internet fraud can significantly undermine trust and collaboration among individuals. As scams become more prevalent, people become increasingly wary and distrustful, leading to a reduction in mutual trust and cooperation. When individuals fall victim to various fraudulent schemes, it instills a sense of skepticism and wariness, making them less inclined to trust others and collaborate effectively<sup>26</sup>.

There is a scarcity of extensive research specifically delving into the relationship between Parental Roles and adolescents' engagement in internet fraud. The existing body of research examining this precise correlation is limited and remains relatively sparse.

While numerous studies explore the influence of parenting styles on various aspects of adolescent behaviour, there's a noticeable gap in research focusing explicitly on the connection between parenting approaches and the likelihood of adolescents participating in internet fraud. This dearth of in-depth investigation leaves a significant gap in our understanding of how parental guidance, discipline, and communication styles might influence an adolescent's susceptibility to engaging in fraudulent online activities.

Through this exploration, the study sheds light on the intricate connections between parental influences, socio-economic factors, and adolescents' susceptibility to internet fraud. By better understanding these relationships, the research aims to provide valuable insights into developing targeted interventions and strategies aimed at reducing the likelihood of adolescents engaging in fraudulent behaviour online.

### **1.3 Aim and Objectives of the Study**

The objectives are to:

The main aim of this research is to investigate the Parental Roles on adolescents' involvement in internet fraud in Ede South Local Government, Osun State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study seeks to:

1. examine the relationship between Parental Roles and adolescents' involvement in internet fraud.
2. investigate the impact of Authoritative Parenting Style on adolescents' exposure to engaging in internet fraud.

3. examine the relationship between permissive parenting and adolescents' likelihood of participating in internet fraud.
4. identify the implications of Authoritarian Parenting Style for adolescents' safety and well-being in the digital age.
5. determine the factor influencing the interests of the adolescents in internet fraud.

#### **1.4 Research Questions**

1. What is the nature of the relationship between Parental Roles (authoritative, permissive, authoritarian) and adolescents' involvement in internet fraud?
2. How does Authoritative Parenting Style influence adolescents' exposure to engaging in internet fraud?
3. Is there a relationship between permissive parenting and adolescents' likelihood of participating in internet fraud?
4. How can we identify the implications of Authoritarian Parenting Styles for Adolescents' safety and wellbeing in the digital age?
5. What factor influences the interests of the adolescents in Internet Fraud?

#### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The outcomes of this research endeavor to serve as a foundational framework for the development of enhanced policies addressing the perils of internet fraud and its impact on the social fabric of Ede and its surrounding areas. The insights gleaned from this study will offer a comprehensive understanding of the specific dynamics at play within this community regarding internet fraud and its effects.

The blueprint generated from the research findings will serve as a guide for policymakers, local authorities, and community leaders to craft more effective and targeted policies. These policies

will aim to mitigate the repercussions of internet fraud on the social integrity, economic stability, and communal harmony within the Ede region.

By leveraging the research findings to inform policy formulation, the aim is to establish robust measures that safeguard the community against the detrimental effects of internet fraud. This comprehensive approach will foster a safer and more secure environment, preserving the values, unity, and overall well-being of the community in Ede and its environs. The study's findings will significantly enhance our comprehension of the pivotal roles parents play in preventing adolescent involvement in internet fraud within Nigeria. By shedding light on the specific dynamics and influences of parental guidance and styles on adolescents' susceptibility to internet fraud, this research will offer valuable insights into effective preventive strategies.

Furthermore, these insights will inform the formulation and development of policies and interventions dedicated to mitigating the widespread prevalence of internet fraud in the country.

The study's contributions will be pivotal in shaping more effective parental guidance programs and national policies designed to deter and combat internet fraud. By integrating these insights into policy development, there's a strong potential to proactively address this issue, fostering a safer online environment for adolescents and bolstering efforts to curb the propagation of internet fraud across Nigeria.

The study's results will serve as a guide for formulating recommendations geared towards the creation of intervention programs, educational campaigns, and support systems aimed at addressing the critical issue of internet fraud within the local community. These recommendations will be specifically tailored to address the challenges prevalent in Ede South Local Government Area, Ede, Osun State, Nigeria.

The research outcomes will provide a clearer understanding of how various parenting styles influence adolescent behaviour, particularly concerning internet fraud. By offering insights into these influences, the study lays the foundation for the development of precise and targeted interventions, equipping local authorities, educational institutions, and support organizations with effective strategies to prevent adolescent involvement in internet fraud.

Through the development and implementation of these tailored interventions, the study aims to foster a safer online environment for adolescents within Ede South, ultimately curbing the prevalence of internet fraud within the community. These efforts align with the broader goal of promoting a more secure and ethically conscious digital landscape for the youth in the specific area.

### **1.6 Scope of the Study**

The focus of this study explores the impact of Parental Roles on the engagement of adolescents in internet fraud within the jurisdiction of Ede South Local Government, Osun State, Nigeria. This comprehensive study will encompass parents with children and adolescents ranging between 12 to 19 years old, residing in the Ede South Local Government Area, Ede, Osun State, Nigeria.

The selection of this specific population and geographical area for the study is attributed to the observed escalation in the rate of internet fraud within the local government area. The intent is to understand and analyze the correlations between Parental Roles and the susceptibility of adolescents to engaging in fraudulent activities online. By focusing on this age group and geographic region, the research aims to shed light on the factors that contribute to or mitigate the involvement of adolescents in internet fraud within the identified area.

The selection of the local government area is particularly strategic due to its status as the home to three prominent higher educational institutions: Redeemer's University, Federal Polytechnic, and Adeleke University. Additionally, the area boasts a significant number of both public and private secondary schools.

### **1.7 Limitations of the Study**

The study on Parental Roles and adolescents' involvement in internet fraud in Ede South Local Government, Osun State, Nigeria, is subject to various limitations that warrant consideration. Firstly, the generalizability of the findings may be constrained as the research specifically focuses on Ede South Local Government, limiting the broader applicability to different cultural or geographical contexts.

The potential for sampling bias exists, with the results being influenced by the specific characteristics of the selected sample, potentially lacking external validity. Social desirability bias may impact the reliability of responses, particularly concerning sensitive topics like internet fraud. If the study employs a cross-sectional design, it may only provide a snapshot of the relationship between Parental Roles and adolescents' involvement in internet fraud, emphasizing the need for longitudinal investigations. Self-report measures introduce the possibility of response bias, as participants may not accurately disclose involvement in internet fraud or perceptions of parental styles.

Establishing a causal relationship between Parental Roles and internet fraud involvement may be challenging, and the study may not adequately control for all relevant variables. Cultural specificity, limited control of extraneous variables, a constrained time frame, and ethical considerations regarding informed consent and participant well-being further contribute to the study's limitations

## 1.8 Operational Definition of Terms

**Internet Fraud:** Internet fraud encompasses deceptive schemes that leverage the internet to deceive victims into surrendering money, property, or inheritances. Perpetrators use various online platforms to carry out these fraudulent activities.

**Advanced Fee Fraud:** Also recognized as a '419 scam' or 'Nigerian scam,' this type of fraud is frequently associated with individuals from Nigeria. However, scammers from other countries also employ this tactic. It typically involves promising substantial benefits to victims in exchange for an upfront fee or financial assistance, which ultimately results in the victim losing money without receiving the promised benefits.

**Adolescent:** An adolescent is an individual in the age bracket between 12 to 19 years, typically characterized by the transition from childhood to adulthood, marked by significant physical, emotional, and cognitive changes.

**Parent:** A parent is an individual who assumes the role of a father or mother in a child's life, responsible for their upbringing, well-being, and guidance.

**Parenting:** Parenting denotes the ongoing process and activities involved in raising and nurturing a child as a parent, encompassing various aspects such as emotional support, guidance, discipline, and education to foster the child's overall development.

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## **Chapter Two**

### **Literature Review**

This chapter mainly deals with reviews of existing literature relevant to the research work.

The literature reviewed is organized into the following sub-headings:

#### **Conceptual Review**

Internet or Advanced Fee Fraud

History of Internet Fraud

Adolescent

Concept of Parenting

Parental Styles

Roles of Parenting

#### **Theoretical framework**

Differential Association Theory

Denial of Risk Theory

#### **Review of Related Empirical Studies**

#### **Summary of Gap in Literature Review**

### **2.1 Conceptual Review**

#### **2.1.1 Internet Fraud**

Online frauds, encompassing a range of deceptive schemes, have proliferated with the widespread use of the Internet<sup>1</sup>. These fraudulent activities exploit the online realm to deceive individuals, and their frequency is on the rise. The convenience, anonymity, and global reach afforded by the Internet have contributed to the increased prevalence of such deceptive practices. These fraudulent activities cover a spectrum of deceitful practices,

including various scams, identity theft, phishing, and financial scams, exploiting the digital landscape to target unsuspecting victims<sup>2</sup>. Instances of online fraud commonly aim at individuals, evident in numerous media reports in recent years. For instance, in 2013, there was a notable scam targeting Swedish citizens, wherein a fraudster posed as a distressed woman. The scam involved initiating a call to the victim and abruptly disconnecting, compelling the victim to return the call. Upon returning the call, the victim would incur substantial charges, highlighting the manipulative tactics used by these fraudsters to exploit unsuspecting individuals<sup>3</sup>. This incident illustrates the deceptive nature and financial implications of such fraudulent schemes that exploit human empathy and response to distress calls, ultimately causing financial harm to the victims<sup>4</sup>.

One prevalent form of internet fraud is advance fee fraud, also known as upfront fee fraud. This scam operates by enticing individuals with promises of sending money, products, or exclusive services in exchange for an upfront fee. It may lure victims by presenting special deals or seeking their assistance in moving funds from politically unstable countries, or even masquerading as an opportunity to aid law enforcement in catching criminals<sup>5</sup>. The prevalence of such deceptive schemes amplifies the need for heightened awareness and protective measures among the populace and organizations to mitigate the damaging effects of these fraudulent activities. Regardless of the deceptive labels scammers use for these upfront fees be it termed as membership fees, participation fees, administrative charges, handling fees, or even taxes what remains consistent is the unfortunate outcome: victims never receive the promised money, products, or services, nor do they ever encounter the scammers again. This consistent pattern underscores the fraudulent nature of these schemes, emphasizing how these misrepresented fees lead to

financial losses and shattered trust for the victims, leaving them without the anticipated benefits and often with no recourse to recover their funds or track down the perpetrators.

An additional example of online fraud is the occurrence of online auction scams, where fraudsters advertise products for sale but fail to deliver the purchased items after receiving payment. In 2012, an individual was incarcerated for perpetrating such a scam, defrauding several individuals and acquiring over 361,000 SEK through these deceitful transactions. This particular case underscores the deceptive nature of online auction scams, where individuals fall victim to the allure of advertised products only to be duped by unscrupulous individuals who never intended to deliver the purchased items. Such scams highlight the financial losses and emotional distress experienced by the victims, amplifying the need for vigilance and caution in online transactions.

Online fraud encompasses the use of the internet as a tool to deceive individuals, enabling the perpetrator to gain an unfair advantage or illicit benefit over the victim. In 2014, Action Fraud, a notable reporting and awareness organization, classified fraud as precisely this form of deceitful practice<sup>6</sup>. This definition encapsulates the wide array of deceptive activities conducted online, aiming to exploit the trust or vulnerabilities of individuals for personal gain. Such deceptive practices range from financial scams, identity theft, phishing attempts, to various other schemes designed to mislead and defraud individuals, showcasing the diverse nature of fraudulent activities conducted in the online realm<sup>7</sup>. Under Swedish law, fraud is defined as a deceptive act where an attacker employs falsehoods to deceive the victim, resulting in the victim providing something of value to the attacker.

The active participation of Nigerian youths in Advanced Fee Fraud (AFF) has unfortunately solidified Nigeria's reputation as a global hotspot for online fraudulent activities. In the 2020 Internet Crime Report released by the FBI and IC3, Nigeria was ranked third in the world for its involvement in internet fraud. However, the accuracy of this ranking was called into question due to the prevalent issue of underreporting internet fraud cases in the country. The report highlighted the significant increase in the number of internet fraud complaints received by the FBI and IC3 from Nigeria, showing a staggering surge of 33% in 2020 alone. This notable uptick in reported cases indicates a growing trend of fraudulent activities emerging from the country. However, it's crucial to note that the actual scale of these activities might be considerably higher, considering the prevalent underreporting, which might skew the accurate representation of Nigeria's involvement in internet fraud on a global scale. The prevalence of internet fraud in Nigeria remains a serious and pressing issue, yet the reported number of cases might only scratch the surface of the actual scale of the problem. It's vital to understand that the ranking provided by the FBI and IC3 is primarily formulated based on the number of complaints received, not necessarily indicative of the absolute count of actual cases.

This distinction implies that other nations might potentially have a higher volume of internet fraud cases, even though they receive fewer official complaints. The disparity in reporting across countries could lead to a skewed global perception of the distribution and severity of internet fraud. Moreover, underreporting of internet fraud cases isn't unique to Nigeria; it's a widespread issue encountered in numerous countries. This discrepancy between the actual occurrence of fraudulent activities and the reported instances poses a significant challenge in accurately gauging the true extent of internet

fraud on a global scale. Addressing this underreporting is critical to better understand the full scope of the problem and to implement more effective strategies for combating internet fraud worldwide. The reluctance of victims to report internet fraud stems from various factors, including feelings of embarrassment, concerns about potential retaliation, and a lack of confidence in the efficacy of law enforcement. Internet criminals play a significant role in the vast expanse of social media and the broader online ecosystem, operating within the spaces where online transactions, data exchange, and financial dealings occur.

These perpetrators often go by various monikers in popular culture, such as ‘yahoo-yahoo,’ ‘G-guys,’ ‘419 stars,’ and ‘yahoo plus,’ and their activities have become entrenched in the digital landscape. The hesitance to report these crimes is multifaceted: victims might feel ashamed or embarrassed about falling prey to fraudulent schemes, fear potential repercussions from the criminals, or harbor doubts about whether authorities can effectively address these issues. This confluence of reasons contributes to a culture of underreporting, allowing internet criminals to persist and flourish within the online sphere, manipulating online interactions and transactions for their nefarious gains. The various names associated with these perpetrators highlight their presence and notoriety within the digital realm, reflecting a pervasive challenge that law enforcement and society at large confront in combating these fraudulent activities. Internet fraud is an escalating concern in Nigeria, with a notable prevalence among the younger demographic. The country has garnered recognition as one of the nations experiencing some of the highest rates of internet fraud globally. This designation underscores the significant and pervasive nature of fraudulent activities within the Nigerian digital landscape,

particularly among its youth. The prevalence of such activities not only poses a challenge at a national level but also impacts the international perception of Nigeria within the global community.

Addressing and mitigating this issue is crucial for the country's reputation and the security of its citizens and online transactions. The escalating issue of internet fraud has emerged as a primary concern for the Nigerian government, law enforcement agencies, and various stakeholders. The pervasive nature of the internet and mobile communications has seamlessly integrated into the daily lives of a significant portion of the populace, particularly impacting the younger generation. This prevalence has raised significant concerns among governing bodies, law enforcement, and various stakeholders in Nigeria, as they grapple with the escalating challenge of internet fraud. The potential risks posed by these fraudulent activities not only threaten the financial security of individuals but also compromise the overall safety and trust in digital interactions within the country. Addressing these concerns has become imperative to safeguard both the present and future well-being of the nation and its citizens.

The detrimental impact of internet fraud is widely recognized for causing substantial emotional, financial, and psychological distress to individuals globally. Nigeria, in particular, grapples with various prevalent forms of internet fraud that significantly affect its populace. These encompass a range of fraudulent activities, such as internet-terrorism, identity theft, drug trafficking deals, malware dissemination, internet-stalking, spam, illegal interception of telecommunications (wiretapping), logic bombs, and password sniffing. Each type of fraud poses unique challenges and risks, contributing to a landscape where individuals face multifaceted threats to their financial security, personal

identity, and overall well-being. These deceptive practices not only inflict direct harm but also erode trust in online interactions, complicating the broader digital safety and integrity within the country. Addressing these diverse forms of internet fraud necessitates a multifaceted approach, including robust cybersecurity measures, education, and collaborative efforts among law enforcement, government, and the public to mitigate the devastating impact on individuals and the nation as a whole. The rapid expansion of the internet and technological progress has sparked a revolution in numerous facets of society, reshaping how people communicate, conduct business, and engage in entertainment. This transformation has ushered in a wave of benefits, yet it has concurrently given rise to new challenges, notably in the domain of internet fraud.

The legal system in Sweden views fraud as an offense carrying serious consequences. The punishment for perpetrating fraud can lead to imprisonment for a maximum duration of up to two years<sup>8</sup>. This punitive measure aims to address and deter deceptive practices that exploit individuals and safeguard against such fraudulent activities in society. The severity of the penalty highlights the gravity with which the legal system in Sweden addresses and seeks to prevent fraudulent acts<sup>9</sup>. The complexities of identifying fraudulent activities in real-time are highlighted by experts, emphasizing the challenges in recognizing fraud as it occurs. A significant proportion of fraudulent activities transpire in the digital realm. One of the principal reasons for the prevalence of online fraud is the inherent anonymity the internet offers perpetrators.

This veil of anonymity empowers attackers to conceal their true identities, enabling them to operate under the guise of anonymity. This anonymity facilitates their deceptive actions and makes it arduous for individuals to ascertain the true identity and intentions

of the perpetrators, further complicating the detection and prevention of fraudulent activities in the online sphere<sup>10</sup>. He further stressed that there is no exact number or classification of online frauds or their types. However, Action Fraud lists many examples of online fraud such as Identity fraud, Loan Scams, Internet auction fraud, Internet dialer scams, Online shopping fraud Credit card fraud<sup>11</sup>.

Online fraud is a pervasive issue that casts its shadow over both corporate entities and individuals. According to a study conducted by McKenna, the prevalence of online fraud is alarming. The research revealed that a staggering 89% of the companies surveyed had encountered instances of online fraud in the year 2004. This widespread occurrence of fraudulent activities significantly impacts businesses, underscoring the extensive reach and detrimental effects of online fraud on corporate entities.

This study underscores the substantial threat online fraud poses to businesses, urging the need for stringent measures to safeguard against such deceitful activities<sup>12</sup>. In 2010, a study estimated that approximately one-third of American adults had encountered instances of online fraud directly associated with online commerce. This finding illuminates the significant reach and impact of fraudulent activities on individual consumers engaged in various online transactions. The prevalence of online fraud in the sphere of e-commerce underscores the vulnerability of consumers to deceitful practices, necessitating heightened vigilance and robust protective measures to ensure secure online interactions and transactions<sup>13</sup>. Additional research conducted by scholars, particularly studies dating back to 1997, has highlighted a pivotal finding: exposure to fraudulent activities significantly contributes to the increased susceptibility of individuals falling victim to such deceitful practices. These studies emphasize the correlation between prior

exposure to fraudulent schemes and the heightened likelihood of becoming a victim. This insight underscores the critical role of past encounters with fraudulent activities in influencing an individual's vulnerability to future instances of fraud. Understanding this relationship between exposure and susceptibility is crucial in crafting effective preventive measures and strategies aimed at mitigating the risk and impact of online fraud on individuals and businesses<sup>14</sup>. The collective findings of various studies suggest that a vast majority of internet users are susceptible to becoming victims of online fraud at some juncture in their lives. The prevalence and pervasiveness of fraudulent activities, coupled with the interconnected nature of online interactions, indicate that most individuals utilizing the internet are potentially at risk of encountering fraudulent schemes.

This widespread susceptibility underscores the need for enhanced awareness, vigilance, and proactive measures to fortify online safety and shield against the diverse array of deceitful practices that permeate the digital landscape. A common suggestion for protecting yourself from online fraud is to learn about it. USA government states that, 'The best way to fight Internet fraud is to learn how to avoid becoming a victim,' advocates for prevention through individual knowledge and awareness<sup>15</sup>. However, this perspective operates under the assumption that the targeted individual possesses the requisite knowledge and skills to evade falling prey to fraudulent schemes. This assumption overlooks the reality that not all individuals are equipped with the necessary understanding or tools to navigate the complex landscape of online fraud.

While education and awareness are indeed potent tools in combating fraud, it's imperative to recognize that many individuals lack comprehensive knowledge or resources to identify and counteract the increasingly sophisticated methods employed by fraudsters.

Hence, solely relying on the victim's awareness might not address the multifaceted and evolving nature of online fraud, necessitating a more comprehensive approach involving collective efforts, such as improved regulations, technological advancements, and community support to combat this pervasive issue effectively.

There are a number of other factors that can contribute to someone becoming a victim of online fraud, such as:

- i. Lack of knowledge about online fraud
- ii. Lack of awareness of the risks of online fraud
- iii. Gullibility
- iv. Greed
- v. Impulsiveness
- vi. Lack of critical thinking skills.

The term 'online fraud' refers to any type of fraud scheme that uses email, websites, chat rooms, or message boards to present fraudulent solicitations to prospective victims, to conduct fraudulent transactions, or to transmit the proceeds of fraud to financial institutions or to others connected with the scheme.' That definition implies that a fraud that uses email, chat rooms, websites, or message boards as the means to conduct the fraud can be called online fraud. A potential drawback of that definition is that it can exclude fraudulent behaviour in social networks such as Facebook where there have been fraud attempts<sup>16</sup>.

As per a scholar's reference, the FBI delineated online fraud in 2003 as encompassing 'any fraudulent scheme wherein components of the Internet, such as websites, chat rooms, and email, play a substantial role.' These components are utilized in various ways,

including offering nonexistent goods or services to consumers, disseminating false or fraudulent representations about the schemes, and facilitating the transmission of victims' funds, access devices, or other valuable items into the control of the scheme's perpetrators. This comprehensive definition highlights the pivotal role of online platforms and communication channels in executing deceitful activities, encompassing a wide array of deceptive practices that exploit the digital landscape to defraud individuals<sup>17</sup>.

Indeed, the definition of online fraud provided by the FBI in 2003 appears less explicit compared to the one offered by the AFP. The FBI's description lacks precision in explicating what it precisely signifies for components of the Internet to play a 'significant role' in a fraudulent scheme. It doesn't delineate the specific criteria or parameters that define the degree of involvement or significance attributed to the internet-based elements within the context of a fraudulent scheme. This ambiguity leaves room for interpretation and varies in its interpretive clarity, making it more open to subjective judgment or understanding compared to a more specific definition with well-defined parameters<sup>18</sup>. This could lead to different interpretations of the definition, which could make it difficult to develop a universal definition of online fraud.

However, all of the definitions discussed in this section agree that online fraud is a fraud that uses the Internet as a means of committing fraud. Neither of the provided definitions explicitly delves into the specifics of what constitutes 'using the Internet.' This ambiguity presents a crucial distinction, as it may inadvertently exclude fraudulent behaviour occurring on social media platforms, such as Facebook, from falling under the defined scope of online fraud. The lack of clarity regarding the definition's scope concerning the utilization of the internet could lead to a potential oversight, failing to encompass

fraudulent activities conducted on widely utilized online platforms, which are integral components of the contemporary digital landscape<sup>19</sup>. Therefore, a more comprehensive definition is imperative to encompass the evolving nature of online interactions and fraud perpetuated across various digital channels, including social media platforms.

### **2.1.2 History of Internet Fraud**

The historical emergence of internet fraud traces back to the 1970s and 1980s, particularly during the era of the Cold War. In that period, the landscape of internet fraud primarily centered around activities conducted by nation-states deeply embroiled in the ideological battle. These fraudulent activities involved infiltrating the computers and data systems of rival nations. Hacking professionals, often employed by relevant governments, targeted critical information concerning nuclear proliferation, intelligence movements, and foreign policy.

These illicit incursions aimed to gather classified data crucial for strategic advantage, reflecting the covert cyber battles occurring between nations during this geopolitical period. Simultaneously, amidst the state-driven cyber activities, individual criminals were also actively engaged in hacking endeavors. These unauthorized intrusions targeted critical national infrastructures and financial institutions with the objective of perpetrating theft and sabotage. In these unauthorized incursions, the intent was often centered around unlawfully acquiring monetary assets and disrupting essential services, reflecting a multifaceted landscape of cybercrime during that period. These criminal activities, separate from the state-driven initiatives, aimed at personal gain, financial exploitation, and disruption of vital systems, significantly contributing to the evolving landscape of cybercrime during the era<sup>20</sup>.

Post the dissolution of the USSR, the landscape of internet fraud evolved significantly, witnessing a substantial increase in its breadth, dynamism, and pervasiveness. This period marked a notable surge in the extent and diversity of internet fraud activities globally. Notably, internet fraud is estimated to have generated an enormous sum of money, reaching approximately \$1.5 trillion in 2018 and escalating to \$2 trillion in 2019 through major cyber intrusions and thefts targeting websites and various organizations worldwide. These staggering figures underscore the expansive reach and financial impact of cybercrime, reflecting the immense financial losses incurred by businesses and individuals due to these fraudulent activities perpetrated across the digital realm<sup>16</sup>.

The aggregate annual amount stemming from internet fraud activities comprises various components, including \$860 billion from illegal online markets, \$500 billion attributed to trade secrets and intellectual property (IP) thefts, \$160 billion derived from data trading, \$1.6 billion sourced from fraud ware, and an additional \$1 billion attributed to ransomware. This delineation offers insights into the diversification of cybercrime, showcasing the multifaceted nature of fraudulent activities occurring within the digital landscape. The sizable sums associated with each category highlight the significant financial impact and multifarious methods used by cybercriminals to exploit online platforms for illicit gains<sup>21</sup>. In the United States, internet fraud incurred substantial financial losses amounting to \$25 billion in 2010 alone. Likewise, in Britain and Australia, the financial toll from internet fraud was noteworthy, with losses totaling 3.6 billion British pounds and AU\$94 million in 2015, respectively. These significant monetary losses underscore the pervasive impact and widespread financial repercussions of cyber fraud, not only within the United States but also in other countries like Britain

and Australia. The staggering figures reflect the substantial economic toll inflicted by cybercriminal activities on both individuals and businesses, compelling the need for robust preventive measures and heightened cybersecurity efforts to mitigate such losses<sup>22</sup>. The landscape of these frauds has prominently entangled multinational corporations and governmental entities, culminating in substantial data breaches. Notable instances of data breaches in 2018 encompassed various major corporations, including Yahoo (\$3 billion), Under Armour (\$150 million), eBay (\$145 million), Equifax (\$110 million), Facebook (\$87 million), JP Morgan Chase (\$76 million), Paystation (\$77 million), Uber (\$57.6 million), and Home Depot (\$56 million).

These high-profile breaches underscore the vulnerability of massive corporations and renowned platforms to cyber intrusions, resulting in significant financial losses and compromising the sensitive data of millions of individuals worldwide. The scale and impact of these breaches serve as stark reminders of the imperative need for enhanced cybersecurity measures and the continuous vigilance necessary to safeguard against such breaches<sup>23</sup>. Moving to Nigeria, situated in West Africa within the Sub-Saharan region, the nation stands as the most populous country on the African continent. Known for its vibrant market for African products, Nigeria hosts a substantial youth demographic, with approximately 43% of its population falling within the 0–14 age range, 19% in the 15–24 bracket, and approximately 62% in the 25 and older category.

This demographic composition reflects a considerable youth population, underlining the pivotal role and significant presence of the younger generation within the country's overall demographic makeup<sup>24</sup>. Much like in other developing nations, Nigeria experienced minimal levels of development in the realms of internet and cyberspace

during the 1970s and 1980s. The country's technological infrastructure and digital connectivity were at a rudimentary stage, reflective of the broader trends observed in several developing nations during that era. This lag in technological advancement limited the country's engagement and progress within the internet and cyberspace domains, aligning with the developmental phases witnessed in other nations of similar economic standing during that period<sup>25</sup>. The younger generation in Nigeria has been exposed to a prevalent culture of corruption, which has shaped their perspective on the country's prospects. Many of them hold a pessimistic view of their future within the nation. Unwilling to face the same challenges and hardships as their parents, they are inclined to seek quick financial gains<sup>26</sup>.

These attitudes reflect a broader lack of traditional wisdom among the contemporary Nigerian youth. Here, wisdom refers to the preservation of societal knowledge, traditions, customs, and values, elements that the present Nigerian youth seem hesitant to embrace or sustain. This reluctance to uphold traditional values and principles further underscores the generational shift and changing societal attitudes prevalent among the youth in the country<sup>27</sup>. Given this perspective, Nigerian youths have recognized that involvement in internet fraud offers a rapid and seemingly dependable route to quick financial gains. Internet fraud encompasses the use of computers and social networks to deceptively defraud both local and international unsuspecting individuals. An escalating number of Nigerian youths have turned to this method as a means to break free from the grip of poverty<sup>28</sup>.

Nigerian fraudsters employ diverse tactics, including the exploitation of social media platforms, utilization of customized computer programs, and even resorting to

supernatural or mystical means to further their fraudulent activities. This shift towards fraudulent activities as a means of financial escape reflects the challenging socio-economic conditions prevailing in the country, influencing the decisions of the younger generation seeking alternative paths to economic stability<sup>29</sup>. During the Cold War, while Nigeria existed as an adjunct to capitalist states, instances of Internet fraud within the country were practically non-existent. However, from the 1990s onward, Nigeria became part of the cohort of nations encountering non-military security threats, with Internet fraud assuming a prominent position. For example, in 2017, while the entire continent of Africa experienced a financial loss of \$3.5 billion due to Internet fraud, the Nigerian share of this amount accounted for \$645 million, standing as the largest portion by a significant margin.

This underscores the substantial impact and prevalence of Internet fraud specifically within Nigeria, reflecting the country's pronounced contribution to the overall financial losses attributable to cyber fraud on the African continent<sup>30</sup>. In the following year, reports indicated that Nigeria incurred a collective financial loss of \$800 million (equivalent to N288 billion) due to internet-based attacks in the year 2018. This sizable sum reflects the substantial financial impact of cyber threats and Internet fraud within the country, underscoring the severity of these attacks and their financial repercussions on the nation's economy and individuals<sup>24</sup>. Expanding on this, a comprehensive 2019 report revealed that Nigeria has consistently incurred an average annual loss of N127 billion (equivalent to \$328,842,878 million) due to Internet frauds in recent years.

This recurrent and substantial financial loss underscores the persistent impact of cyber threats and fraudulent activities within the country, emphasizing the ongoing economic

toll and financial implications brought about by these cyber offenses<sup>31</sup>. Expanding on this point, Nigeria has gained a notorious reputation as the global hub for Internet fraud, primarily due to the country's frequent involvement in daily incidents associated with cyber fraud. The consistent and prevalent engagement of individuals within the country in various cyber fraudulent activities has solidified Nigeria's standing as a central epicenter for these illicit online practices on a global scale<sup>32</sup>. Adding to the significant challenges posed by internet criminals to the Nigerian economy, the Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC) highlighted a critical issue in 2018.

They reported an alarming figure of approximately 9 million unregistered lines in the country that were actively utilized by mobile owners. Some of these unregistered lines were evidently associated with criminal activities such as terrorism, rural banditry, communal violence, kidnapping, and robbery<sup>33</sup>. This prevalent use of unregistered lines for nefarious activities poses a substantial threat to national security, exacerbating the already intricate web of challenges faced by the country in terms of maintaining a secure and stable environment. Over the past decade, the internet has experienced an explosive growth with the number of hosts connected to the internet increasing daily at an exponential rate.

As the internet grows to become more accessible and more services become reliant on it for their daily operation, so does the threat landscape. In Nigeria, Internet fraud has become one of the main avenues for pilfering money and business espionage. According to Check Point, a global network internet security vendor, as of 2016, Nigeria is ranked 16th highest country in internet-attacks vulnerabilities in Africa<sup>34</sup>. Nigerians are known both home and abroad to be rampant perpetrators of Internet frauds. The number of

Nigerians caught for duplicitous activities carried by broadcasting stations are much more in comparison to other citizens of different countries. The contribution of the internet to the development of Nigeria has had a positive impact on various sectors of the country. However, these sectors such as the banking, e-commerce and educational sector battles with the effect of internet frauds. More internet frauds are arising at an alarming rate with each subsequent fraud more advanced than its predecessor.

The growing number of young individuals joining the ranks of internet fraudsters are influenced by Several key reasons behind this trend which include:

- 1. Peer Influence:** The rapid learning curve among young individuals, coupled with the allure of opulent lifestyles exhibited by family members or acquaintances involved in internet fraud, significantly influences Nigerian youths. These fraudsters often showcase luxurious living standards, residing in lavish apartments, driving high-end vehicles, and socializing with individuals engaged in diverse lucrative activities. This extravagant and alluring lifestyle serves as a potent magnet, tempting their peers to venture into the fraudulent business, driven by the desire to attain similar levels of affluence and social status. Moreover, the economic challenges experienced by young individuals, especially after completing their high school education in Nigeria, often lead to feelings of frustration stemming from limited job prospects and a pervasive sense of hopelessness. This prevailing scenario prompts them to readily embrace avenues such as internet fraud, seeking an alternative path to financial stability and a sense of purpose<sup>35</sup>.

The transition to pursuing higher education at the college level represents a pivotal shift in an individual's life. It signifies a move towards greater independence from the family and an increased reliance on oneself. However, college life is commonly acknowledged

as an environment that induces high levels of stress. Research indicates a notable upward trend in stress levels among college students, suggesting that this phase brings about substantial stressors and challenges for those navigating their academic journey.

The social cognitive theory provides valuable insights into the impact of peers on individuals' behaviour. This theory suggests that students can observe and learn how to cope with stress by witnessing and emulating the responses of those within their social circles. When the surrounding environment nurtures conditions that favor risky or unconventional behaviour, individuals may find themselves more inclined to adopt behaviour prevalent within their social networks<sup>36</sup>.

The influences and responses they absorb from their peers significantly shape their own attitudes and actions, particularly in managing stress or navigating challenging situations. The social atmosphere on campus holds a pivotal role in enabling peer interactions, fostering connections, and establishing relationships among individuals. Within this setting, these relationships hold immense value, with individuals attaching considerable importance to how their peers perceive them. The desire to be viewed favorably within these social circles significantly influences their behaviour, interactions, and decision-making processes. As per the social cognitive theory, individuals are highly susceptible to the influence of their peers. This influence can often lead to a tendency towards conformity, as going against established norms within the social circle may prove increasingly challenging. The theory suggests that the pressure to align with prevailing group norms and behaviour within a social setting tends to exert a powerful influence on an individual's decisions and actions.

In empirical research, scholars have investigated the influence of peers on individuals. Analytical approaches, such as that outlined by researchers, leverage Parson's theory of influence to examine the dynamics of peer interactions within educational settings. The documented effects of peer influence frequently align with reference-group processes theories, emphasizing the role of peer relationships and their impact on shaping individual behaviour and attitudes within educational environments<sup>37</sup>. Many studies exploring peer influence tend to have a broad scope and lack specific details, which can restrict their capacity to offer comprehensive insights. Notably, the most frequently referenced theories on peer influence include normative and comparative reference group theories, along with role theory.

These theoretical frameworks aim to understand the mechanisms behind how individuals are influenced by their peers, shaping their behaviour, decisions, and perceptions within social contexts. Normative reference groups elucidate the norms, beliefs, values, and typical behaviour prevalent within a specific social group. Comparative reference groups, on the other hand, establish benchmarks against which individuals evaluate their own behaviour. Additionally, role theory proposes that individuals are inclined to imitate the behaviour of one or more influential peers they hold in high regard, considering these individuals as role models or significant references for their own actions and decisions.

The school environment stands as the primary setting where these influences take shape, as newcomers navigate and familiarize themselves with the social norms that facilitate their integration into the existing social fabric. Extensive research has indicated that peer influence significantly contributes to both the initiation and continuity of behaviour such as crime, alcohol use, and abuse among students. The pervasive impact of peers within

this academic setting significantly shapes individual behaviour and decisions in these domains<sup>38</sup>.

**2. Family Expectations:** Many families exert substantial pressure on their children to excel and constantly compare them to others who are thriving. This excessive comparison can lead to feelings of inadequacy in the youth, pushing them to seek ways to make their families proud. In certain cases, impoverished family backgrounds and parental encouragement push some youngsters to pursue internet fraud as a means to elevate their family's status<sup>39</sup>.

Family expectations encompass a wide array of assumptions, beliefs, and norms held by family members regarding how individuals within the family should behave, interact, and fulfill their roles. These expectations vary significantly and are influenced by a mix of cultural, social, and individual factors.

They often dictate and shape the conduct, responsibilities, and relational dynamics within the family unit. Family expectations have a pervasive influence across various domains, encompassing critical aspects of individuals' lives. These areas include gender roles, educational pursuits, choices related to marriage and relationships, religious beliefs and practices, career advancement and financial success, cultural and ethnic identity, familial roles and responsibilities, behavioural and moral standards, decisions regarding reproduction, as well as social and community engagement<sup>40</sup>. Family expectations significantly impact the decisions, behaviour, and life trajectories of individuals within these spheres of influence.

Within the context of gender roles, many families adhere to traditional expectations where distinct roles and responsibilities are assigned to men and women within the

family structure. These assigned roles can significantly impact various aspects of life, influencing everything from the division of household chores to the career choices and opportunities available to individuals based on their gender. Education is another domain significantly impacted by family expectations, with many families holding specific aspirations and objectives for the educational attainment of their children<sup>41</sup>. These expectations often encompass the desired level of education children should achieve, the type of educational institution they should attend, and the career path they ought to pursue. Family expectations strongly influence the academic and vocational paths individuals follow, guiding their educational choices and career trajectories.

Marital and relationship expectations often exert significant pressure within families, as they frequently harbor preferences regarding the timing and choice of an individual's partner. Families may hold specific ideals about when an individual should marry and the type of partner they should select, contributing to expectations and potential pressures within relationships<sup>42</sup>. Additionally, family expectations might extend to religious beliefs and practices, with some families expressing clear preferences about attending religious services, actively engaging in religious rituals, and adhering to particular religious beliefs. These familial expectations can significantly influence an individual's decisions and behaviour within the context of relationships and religious practices<sup>43</sup>.

Career success and financial achievements are commonly highly esteemed within families, often fostering expectations for members to attain financial success and even harboring specific career aspirations for them. Furthermore, the preservation and transmission of cultural and ethnic identity hold significant importance for many families,

leading to expectations concerning the conservation and inheritance of cultural or ethnic identity, language, and traditions<sup>44</sup>.

Within the family unit, each member may be assigned distinct roles and responsibilities, such as caregiving, providing support for the elderly, or contributing to the family's financial well-being. These defined roles and responsibilities significantly shape the individual contributions and dynamics within the family structure.

Families frequently uphold expectations regarding appropriate behaviour, values, and moral principles that they anticipate members to adhere to. Furthermore, certain families may harbor specific expectations regarding the timing and manner in which their members should start families and have children, potentially creating a notable source of pressure within the family structure<sup>45</sup>. These expectations encompass a broad spectrum, influencing the behavioural norms and moral guidelines adhered to within the family. Social and community engagement form an integral component of family expectations, with families anticipating their members to actively participate in community involvement, volunteerism, or engage in social and political activities. These expectations extend beyond the family unit, emphasizing the importance of contributing to and being involved in wider societal, communal, or political contexts. Family expectations wield the potential to instigate both positive and negative impacts.

On the positive side, they can offer a sense of identity, belonging, and supportive structures. However, these expectations can also yield adverse consequences, such as generating pressure, internal conflicts, and stress, particularly when they are unrealistic or misaligned with an individual's personal goals and values. The discordance between individual aspirations and familial expectations can lead to emotional strain and

challenges in navigating personal development. Effective management and communication surrounding family expectations play a pivotal role in fostering healthy family dynamics and promoting individual well-being. Finding a harmonious equilibrium between upholding family traditions and pursuing personal goals and values is essential. Open, candid, and respectful communication within the family structure serves as a cornerstone for comprehending and navigating these expectations, allowing for their effective management while maintaining a sense of unity and mutual understanding within the family.

**3. Societal Standards:** In Nigerian society, there's a prevalent perception that non-affluent youths are viewed as idle or lacking ambition, while those who exhibit opulence by driving luxurious cars and residing in expansive homes are highly regarded and respected. This societal viewpoint reinforces the belief held by internet fraudsters that their actions are a pathway to success. Consequently, it becomes an alluring option for young individuals, as it appears to be a means to gain recognition and admiration within society. This perspective fosters the allure of fraudulent activities as a way to achieve societal validation and acclaim among the youth<sup>46</sup>.

Societal standards encapsulate the amalgamation of collective expectations, norms, and values that delineate the conduct, interactions, and lifestyle expected within a given society or community. These standards are not rigidly fixed and can exhibit substantial variations across diverse cultures, regions, and historical eras. Functioning as a social blueprint, they direct individuals in their daily existence, impacting diverse facets of behaviour, relationships, and the decision-making processes within the society<sup>47</sup>.

Behaviour and etiquette constitute intrinsic components of societal standards, outlining the expected conduct individuals should uphold in diverse social scenarios. They delineate what is deemed courteous, respectful, and suitable behaviour, thereby influencing the nature of interactions within the community<sup>48</sup>. These norms exhibit variations across different societies and hold a key role in fostering social unity. Furthermore, societal standards often mirror the moral and ethical principles cherished by a community, serving as a reflection of their collective values. Societal standards serve as a guiding compass, directing individuals towards decisions that resonate with the prevailing moral principles<sup>49</sup>. These values encompass virtues like honesty, integrity, compassion, and justice, intricately interwoven within the tapestry of societal norms. They significantly influence people's ethical judgments and choices, forming the moral bedrock upon which societal interactions and behaviour are established<sup>50</sup>.

Societal standards also extend their influence into family structures and relationships. They define expectations related to marriage, parenting, and familial roles, affecting how individuals form and maintain relationships within their communities. Gender roles and expectations represent a significant aspect where societies establish specific standards dictating the roles and conduct of individuals based on their gender<sup>51</sup>. These norms wield influence over career paths, household duties, and social engagements, occasionally sparking discussions on matters of gender equality and equity. The delineation of these roles contributes to societal expectations, shaping perceptions of masculinity and femininity within various spheres of life.

Societal standards significantly shape education and career trajectories, dictating the importance attributed to formal education, professional accomplishments, and particular

vocations<sup>52</sup>. These norms extend to appearance and dress codes, impacting personal grooming, attire, and ideals of beauty, thereby influencing fashion trends and individuals' self-image. The expectations set by societal standards play a defining role in personal and professional development, reflecting prevailing perceptions of success, professionalism, and aesthetic norms<sup>53</sup>.

Cultural and religious practices align with societal standards, guiding participation in cultural events and adherence to religious traditions. As societal standards evolve, they impact the sphere of social justice, human rights, and equity, influencing movements and activism aimed at fostering fairness and equality within the community. These standards play a pivotal role in shaping communal practices, beliefs, and the pursuit of a just and equitable society<sup>54</sup>.

Additionally, societal standards encompass expectations related to community engagement, volunteering, and civic participation, emphasizing the importance of contributing to the greater good<sup>55</sup>. With the advent of technology and the internet, these standards now extend to online behaviour and communication, guiding how individuals should interact in digital spaces and addressing issues like cyberbullying and privacy.

Societal standards deeply influence social unity and personal identity. They are dynamic, subject to change due to cultural shifts, technological advancements, and evolving values. This continuous evolution impacts how people interact, define themselves, and navigate their world. People have varied approaches to societal standards some conform, others challenge, while some adapt these norms to resonate with their personal values and beliefs. This diversity contributes to the ongoing discourse and evolution of these societal norms.

**4. Influence of Religious Institutions:** The engagement of religious institutions contributes significantly to drawing more individuals into internet fraud. Fraudsters have been documented donating substantial amounts to churches and sponsoring cathedral construction. As a result, priests often praise and uplift these individuals, granting them special privileges and acknowledgment within the church. Other young members of the congregation, observing this preferential treatment, often approach these fraudsters privately, seeking insights into their rapid wealth acquisition<sup>56</sup>. This curiosity and emulation further contribute to the growing number of youths involved in internet fraud. These factors collectively contribute to the increasing presence of young adolescence in the realm of internet fraud.

Religious institutions, spanning churches, mosques, temples, synagogues, and other places of worship, carry a profound and multifaceted influence on individuals, communities, and societies. They serve as pillars of faith, communal support, and guidance for many adherents across various cultures and regions<sup>57</sup>. The influence exerted by these institutions can significantly vary depending on religious practices, geographic locations, and the level of commitment individuals hold towards their faith. Religious institutions function as bastions of spiritual and moral guidance, offering individuals a structured framework to comprehend life's purpose and shape their ethical values and decision-making. These entities serve as pillars for shaping personal beliefs and moral compasses, fostering a sense of community and shared values among their adherents. Their influence extends beyond individuals and extends to broader societal norms, shaping perceptions of morality and ethical principles within a community or culture<sup>58</sup>.

Religious institutions serve as critical hubs for community building, creating a sense of belonging and providing social support among their members. They function as platforms for social interaction, where individuals from diverse backgrounds come together, fostering camaraderie and a shared sense of purpose. These congregational connections extend beyond spiritual practices, contributing to the development of strong social networks and a supportive community environment<sup>59</sup>. They provide a source of emotional and practical assistance during times of need and contribute to social cohesion. Religious institutions often engage in charitable work and social services, directly addressing societal welfare and challenges. They run programs that cater to the less fortunate, offering food, shelter, and educational support. These initiatives contribute to the broader well-being of communities, helping to uplift and support those in need. The altruistic endeavors by these institutions extend beyond their congregations, impacting the wider society and promoting compassion and empathy among their members.

Religious institutions serve as custodians of cultural traditions, preserving rituals and practices that are integral to cultural identities. They organize and partake in various cultural festivals and events, providing spaces for the celebration and continuation of these traditions. Their active involvement contributes to the continuity and richness of cultural heritage, ensuring that these practices are sustained and appreciated across generations. Religious institutions often manage educational establishments, such as schools, that incorporate religious teachings alongside general academic curricula. These institutions shape the values and beliefs of their students by imparting religious education alongside secular subjects, influencing the moral and ethical frameworks within the student body.

Religious institutions, due to their vast reach and influence, often engage in political affairs and social advocacy<sup>60</sup>.

Their efforts in championing causes aligned with their religious beliefs can sway public policy and direct the trajectory of societal discussions. Some institutions, particularly in healthcare, operate facilities such as hospitals and clinics, providing medical care while adhering to their religious values, thereby impacting the healthcare choices of their members. These institutions can also wield influence in conflict resolution and peace efforts, acting as mediators and peacemakers in societal and political conflicts. In some cases, they have economic impacts, especially in regions where they are major landowners or operators of businesses. They often encourage philanthropy and charitable giving among their members.

Religious institutions play a pivotal role in shaping the worldview and identity of their members, influencing beliefs about life, death, the afterlife, and the purpose of existence. Their teachings and practices provide a framework for understanding fundamental aspects of human existence. Their teachings contribute to societal norms and values, impacting attitudes toward marriage, family, sexuality, gender roles, and social justice. Through religious doctrines and teachings, they influence perspectives and behaviour in these domains. These institutions also provide a framework for individuals to evaluate their actions and seek moral accountability, with the belief in divine judgment often serving as a motivating factor for adherents to act ethically<sup>61</sup>.

The impact of religious institutions varies not only among different religious beliefs but also within diverse communities, adapting to their distinct cultural, social, and historical circumstances. This continual evolution is shaped by the interpretations and adaptations

made within these unique contexts, allowing for a flexible response to societal changes. The dynamics between religious institutions and secular authorities often shape the extent of their impact on different societal dimensions. This relationship can significantly influence the reach and authority these institutions possess within a community or a nation. Religious institutions can have a diverse impact on society, reflecting both positive and negative consequences based on their teachings, practices, and the nature of their engagement with the broader community. Their role can either foster harmony, charity, and ethical values or, at times, contribute to conflict, discrimination, or division within society<sup>62</sup>.

The repercussions of the increasing prevalence of adolescence engagement in fraudulent online activities encompass the following:

- 1. Evolving Notions of Virtue:** In today's landscape, the prevalence of peers achieving success through internet fraud is causing a noticeable shift in the values held by many young individuals. The traditional ideals of hard work and dedication are losing their appeal as an increasing number of youths witness the seemingly quick and lucrative gains achieved through illicit means. This trend is gradually eroding the faith in the age-old virtue of industriousness. As fraudulent activities yield immediate results, the lure of easy success is steering the aspirations of many away from the virtues of honest toil and ethical labor<sup>62</sup>. The consequential impact on the perception of hard work as a means to success is creating a growing concern among various societal circles. This shift in perception influences their perspectives on the most viable path to prosperity. Amidst this, they also witness university graduates, employed yet living relatively modest lives, which further impacts their perceptions about the relationship between education, employment,

and financial success. As a result, Nigerian youths have come to regard the diligent pursuit of hard work as an unfruitful and unrewarding endeavor. Instead, they are turning to more cunning and seemingly efficient methods, notably seen in the rise of internet-based businesses such as yahoo-yahoo<sup>63</sup>. The allure of quick returns and seemingly lower effort required in these illicit online activities has led to a perceptible shift away from traditional avenues of industriousness.

The societal glorification of immediate gains through fraudulent means has altered the perceptions of success and work ethic among the younger generation, diverting them from the value of hard work to the allure of shortcuts in the pursuit of success. This shift poses significant challenges, not just in ethical and moral dimensions but also in the long-term development and sustainability of a workforce driven by integrity and hard work.

The concept of virtue, a notion frequently defined as the embodiment of moral excellence or the state of being morally righteous, has undergone a fascinating series of transformations across an extensive spectrum of cultures and throughout various historical epochs<sup>64</sup>. As societies evolved and cultural paradigms shifted, the understanding and significance of virtues have continuously evolved. What was deemed virtuous in one era or cultural context might have differed significantly from what is considered virtuous in another. The interpretation of virtues, whether rooted in philosophical ideologies, religious doctrines, or societal norms, has continuously adapted to the changing landscapes of human civilization, reflecting the shifting values, ethical frameworks, and perceptions of what constitutes an ideal moral character. This dynamic evolution of the concept of virtue serves as a testament to the intricate interplay between

human values, societal norms, and the ever-changing human experience throughout history<sup>65</sup>.

Its interpretations have adapted to the societal norms, values, and moral frameworks present within specific contexts, resulting in a range of understandings regarding what constitutes virtuous behaviour. Ancient philosophical traditions, notably Aristotle's teachings in ancient Greece, emphasized virtues like courage, wisdom, temperance, and justice as foundational qualities for leading a morally upright and virtuous life. These virtues were considered fundamental in shaping an individual's character and ethical conduct within society. These early philosophical discussions laid the groundwork for understanding virtue as an integral aspect of ethical philosophy<sup>66</sup>. The impact of religious traditions on the perceptions of virtue across diverse cultures has been profound, profoundly influencing and shaping the notions of what it means to embody moral excellence. Within these traditions, a consistent emphasis is placed on core values such as compassion, kindness, honesty, and humility as fundamental pillars essential to leading a virtuous life.

From the Christian teachings of love and forgiveness to the Islamic principles of charity and honesty, religious doctrines have ingrained these virtues as guiding principles for ethical conduct and moral rectitude<sup>67</sup>. These values are not only upheld as individual virtues but are often woven into the very fabric of societal expectations and communal ethics, shaping the interactions and behaviour of adherents within their respective cultures. The enduring influence of religious teachings on virtues serves not only as a moral compass for individuals but also as a cornerstone for the ethical foundation of entire societies, fostering a collective commitment to upholding these virtuous principles

in everyday life. Across many religions, virtues such as humility, compassion, forgiveness, and piety are upheld as central tenets in leading a virtuous life.

These principles form the moral fabric that guides believers in their conduct and relationships within their communities. These virtues, considered as acts of devotion to a higher power, form a moral framework that guides the actions and interactions of followers within their respective religious or spiritual communities. As secularism gained prominence, virtue ethics extended its scope beyond religious contexts, offering a framework for ethical living irrespective of religious beliefs. It shifted the focus from rigid rules and consequences to the development of virtuous character traits as a means of ethical decision-making<sup>68</sup>. This secular approach broadened the applicability of virtue ethics and separated it from purely religious contexts.

Virtues, regarded as fundamental moral qualities, are intricately intertwined with the norms and values unique to each culture, resulting in a diverse tapestry of perceptions regarding what constitutes virtuous behaviour. The understanding and embodiment of these virtues can notably differ across various cultures, reflecting the rich diversity and nuances within societal norms and ethical frameworks. What one culture may consider a hallmark of virtuous conduct could be perceived quite differently in another, exemplifying the broad spectrum of interpretations and applications of virtues. For instance, the emphasis on virtues like honor, respect, or perseverance might be esteemed differently across cultures, leading to a mosaic of ethical standards and guiding principles. This cultural variability in defining virtues highlights the intricate relationship between societal norms, cultural heritage, and the shaping of ethical paradigms, underlining the dynamic and multifaceted nature of virtue within the global tapestry of human

civilization<sup>69</sup>. In certain cultural contexts, virtues such as individualism, assertiveness, or independence hold a position of higher emphasis, celebrating personal autonomy and the pursuit of individual goals. Conversely, in other cultures, values center around collectivism, harmony, and modesty, prioritizing the cohesion of the community and the collective good over individual ambitions.

The contrast between these cultural paradigms illuminates the varying prioritization of virtues within different societies. In cultures valuing individualism, the virtues of self-expression and assertiveness are upheld as keys to personal success, while in collectivist societies, virtues are rooted in communal cooperation, humility, and preserving harmonious relationships within the group<sup>70</sup>. These contrasting sets of virtues provide insights into the diverse cultural landscapes that shape and mold the moral fabric of societies, showcasing the range of values and principles that guide human behaviour across the globe. Such discrepancies serve as reflections of the intricate tapestry of societal norms that intricately guide and mold the perceptions of virtue within each unique cultural context.

The divergent emphasis on specific virtues in different cultures unveils the profound influence of societal norms in defining and perpetuating the ideals of moral excellence. These norms act as guiding principles, shaping the collective understanding and embodiment of virtues, ultimately defining what is considered commendable or exemplary behaviour within a given society<sup>71</sup>. The vast array of societal norms across cultures serves as a lens through which virtues are perceived and prioritized, showcasing the intricate interplay between cultural values, social expectations, and the formation of ethical standards. This diversity not only enriches the global panorama of human values

but also underscores the intricate and multifaceted nature of virtue within the complex mosaic of human civilization.

The evolution of ideas surrounding gender and virtue represents a significant aspect of societal change. Throughout history, virtues were often rigidly ascribed to specific genders, attributing certain qualities predominantly to men or women<sup>72</sup>. Traits such as courage were traditionally associated with masculinity, highlighting the valor and strength expected of men, while virtues like modesty were predominantly linked to femininity, emphasizing humility and demureness in women<sup>73</sup>. However, as societies have evolved, there has been a gradual reevaluation and redefinition of these gender-associated virtues. Modern perspectives challenge these traditional gender norms, advocating for a more inclusive and diverse understanding of virtues, breaking away from the limitations imposed by historical gender stereotypes. This reexamination not only aims to liberate individuals from the constraints of prescribed gender roles but also to foster a more equitable and holistic approach to defining and embodying virtues, irrespective of gender, thereby contributing to a more inclusive and progressive societal ethos.

Contemporary moral philosophy has witnessed a revival in virtue ethics. This perspective emphasizes the significance of virtuous character traits, moral goodness, and the cultivation of ethical habits in guiding moral behaviour and decision-making. Virtue ethics, experiencing a resurgence, is under examination by philosophers regarding its potential in addressing complex ethical dilemmas<sup>74</sup>. Professionals are adopting this ethical framework to cultivate decision-making guided by ethical considerations within their respective fields. Additionally, this ethical framework emphasizes the importance of

character development and moral reasoning, serving as a guide for individuals to navigate ethical challenges and make decisions aligned with virtuous principles in a wide array of societal and professional contexts.

The global and digital age has introduced new considerations for virtue ethics. Concepts like sustainability, stewardship, digital literacy, and online civility have become pertinent in discussions about modern virtues, reflecting the evolving nature of ethical challenges in an interconnected world. Secular humanism places an emphasis on promoting human well-being and flourishing, highlighting virtues related to reason, empathy, and human dignity as means to achieve a fulfilling and ethical life<sup>75</sup>.

Notions of virtue continue to evolve, adapting to changing societal values, ethical discussions, and the need to address contemporary challenges. These evolving concepts of virtue recognize that virtue is not a static or fixed ideal but rather adaptable to the changing contexts in which individuals and societies find themselves. Virtue remains a central and dynamic concept in discussions of ethics and character development, and its interpretation will likely continue to evolve as societies progress and adapt to new circumstances.

**2. Global Perception of Nigerians:** Beyond national borders, the actions of some Nigerian fraudsters have led to the broad generalization of Nigerian youths as potential participants in internet fraud. Such generalizations result from the unfortunate experiences of non-Nigerians who have fallen victim to various scams perpetrated by groups of Nigerian fraudsters. This, in turn, has contributed to a tarnished global image for Nigerians, making immigration authorities in destination countries particularly

cautious when dealing with Nigerian immigrants due to the widespread belief that they may have connections to internet criminal activities<sup>76</sup>.

The global perception of Nigerians is shaped by a complex interplay of factors, including cultural stereotypes, media portrayals, personal interactions, and geopolitical events. Nigerians are often recognized for their country's cultural diversity, with over 250 ethnic groups, languages, and rich traditions, which contribute to a vibrant and diverse national identity. The resilience and determination of Nigerians in the face of significant challenges are also widely acknowledged, reflecting the experiences of both those living within the country and the Nigerian diaspora<sup>77</sup>.

Moreover, Nigerians are often celebrated for their warm and welcoming hospitality, reflecting the kindness and generosity exhibited by many. The entrepreneurial spirit of Nigerians is evident in their successes in various fields, such as business, technology, and the arts, both within Nigeria and on the global stage. The religious diversity, with a significant Christian and Muslim population, is another key aspect of the country's identity, contributing to a perception of strong religiosity<sup>78</sup>. Nigeria's global perception is also influenced by its challenges, including political corruption, economic inequality, and security issues, which have led to perceptions of instability and corruption within the nation. However, many Nigerians are lauded for their pursuit of higher education and academic achievements. Nigeria's Nollywood film industry, along with the international recognition of Nigerian artists and musicians, contributes to its cultural influence worldwide. The contributions of the Nigerian diaspora in fields like medicine, technology, academia, and more have also garnered recognition<sup>79</sup>.

Finally, the use of English as a common language in Nigeria has facilitated global communication and interactions, further contributing to the country's global presence. While these perceptions offer a broad view of Nigerians and their country, it is crucial to remember that generalizations often oversimplify the complexity of individual experiences and backgrounds. Stereotypes and prejudices should be challenged, and a more nuanced and respectful understanding of Nigeria and its people should be encouraged<sup>80</sup>.

**3. Ritual Practices and Escalation in Robbery:** The internet fraudsters operating in Nigeria have garnered widespread notoriety due to their involvement in a range of criminal activities extending beyond cybercrime. Notably, these individuals have been linked to practices involving rituals, robberies, and associations with occult activities. This expanded scope of illicit behaviour has contributed to a heightened sense of concern and alarm within both local and international communities. The involvement of these fraudsters in rituals, often associated with various superstitions and cultural beliefs, has added a more sinister dimension to their criminal endeavours<sup>81</sup>. Additionally, their reported engagement in robberies and connections to occult practices further exacerbates the complexity and severity of the issue, painting a darker and more disturbing picture of their operations. This broader involvement in criminal activities, extending beyond cyber fraud, presents a multifaceted challenge that requires comprehensive measures to address not only the cybercrime aspect but also the interconnected criminal enterprises and belief systems contributing to this alarming phenomenon. The link between ritual practices and an escalation in robbery is not a widely recognized or extensively documented phenomenon within criminology or sociology. However, it's important to acknowledge

that in certain cases, there may be instances where elements of ritual or symbolism are integrated into criminal activities, including robbery<sup>82</sup>.

One potential avenue to explore is the psychological aspect. In some instances, individuals engaging in criminal behaviour might employ rituals or symbols as a means to psych themselves up or alleviate anxiety before committing a robbery. Rituals can provide a sense of structure and control in situations where individuals might otherwise feel overwhelmed or out of control. Within specific criminal subcultures or gangs, there could be initiation rituals or ceremonies that involve illegal activities, including theft and robbery<sup>83</sup>. Such rituals might be used to solidify group bonds or demonstrate commitment. Additionally, some criminals may incorporate symbols or rituals into their modus operandi or leave specific items at a crime scene to convey messages or engage with law enforcement or rival gangs.

While it is possible for criminals to utilize symbolic or ritualistic elements in their activities, this is not representative of the majority of criminal behaviour<sup>84</sup>. The majority of criminal acts are typically driven by factors like economic necessity, opportunity, personal circumstances, or social influences. Criminal behaviour is a multifaceted and complex phenomenon, and not all cases involve ritual practices<sup>85</sup>. Law enforcement agencies and researchers primarily focus on comprehending the root causes of criminal behaviour and developing strategies to prevent and address it. When ritual elements are present in a criminal case, they are typically considered as part of the investigation, with a focus on solving the crime and ensuring community safety<sup>86</sup>.

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important to acknowledge that in certain cases, there may be instances where elements of ritual or symbolism are integrated into criminal activities, including robbery.

### **2.1.2 Adolescent**

Understanding the terms ‘youth’ and ‘adolescence’ requires a nuanced approach, as these terms hold varying definitions based on contextual and cultural considerations. For instance, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child defines ‘youth’ as individuals under the age of 18, encompassing a broader spectrum within the realm of childhood and early adulthood. On the other hand, in the United States, ‘adolescence’ is generally delineated as the developmental stage spanning from 13 to 19 years of age, representing a specific phase in the transition from childhood to adulthood<sup>87</sup>.

These divergent definitions reflect the intricacies in how different societies and frameworks categorize and understand the stages of human development. The definitions play a pivotal role in legal, social, and psychological contexts, shaping policies, educational programs, and societal attitudes toward individuals within these age brackets. Understanding the discrepancies in these definitions is crucial for creating targeted and effective strategies that address the unique needs, challenges, and rights of individuals within these formative stages of life<sup>88</sup>.

In navigating the usage of the terms ‘youth’ and ‘adolescence,’ clarity in intention is paramount. When addressing a broad demographic of young individuals, the term ‘youth’ serves as a suitable and inclusive choice. Conversely, when pinpointing a specific developmental phase, ‘adolescence’ proves to be a more precise term, encapsulating the transitional period between childhood and adulthood<sup>89</sup>.

For the purpose of this research, there's an acknowledgment of the interchangeable usage of these terms, aiming to encompass both the broader demographic scope and the specific developmental context. The intent is to provide a comprehensive understanding that embraces both the collective experience of young individuals and the distinct phase of adolescence. This flexible use allows for a more holistic exploration of themes and issues pertinent to both the broader youth demographic and the nuanced period of adolescence.

'Adolescence' encapsulates the phase of life characterized by youthfulness and transition. This term denotes not only the transitional stage between childhood and adulthood but also represents a pinnacle period in terms of health and vitality. It signifies the phase often referred to as young adulthood, a stage marked by significant growth, both physically and emotionally. The multifaceted nature of 'adolescence' highlights not just the interim phase in one's journey to maturity but also emphasizes the prime stage of vitality and the onset of emerging adulthood. This period is a critical juncture in human development, encompassing the spectrum from the conclusion of childhood to the brink of full-fledged adulthood, marked by profound physical, cognitive, and emotional changes<sup>90</sup>.

An adolescent is characterized by a myriad of qualities including a sense of freshness, vibrancy, energy, and spiritedness. The definition of adolescence isn't strictly tethered to a specific chronological age range; it's not a stage that adheres to a rigidly defined set of years. Its boundaries aren't delineated by specific activities such as engaging in unpaid work or entering into sexual relationships. Instead, the classification of adolescence is primarily marked by a combination of attributes, encompassing the exuberance, dynamism, and the overall aura of youthfulness. This phase of life is more about the

essence of vigor and vitality, an intersection where physical, emotional, and cognitive changes intertwine, fostering a distinct stage of human development that can't be confined by a fixed age or specific actions<sup>91</sup>.

The adolescent experience significantly influences an individual's level of dependency, a facet that manifests diversely across various cultural perspectives. Personal experiences during adolescence are inherently shaped by cultural norms and traditions, molding the individual's understanding of dependency. This dependency is multifaceted, encompassing emotional and economic reliance on one's family. The extent to which an adolescent relies on their family for emotional support and financial sustenance varies and is deeply entwined with cultural values and societal expectations. Cultural influences profoundly impact the shaping of an adolescent's sense of independence and reliance, dictating the acceptable boundaries of familial dependence during this transformative stage of life. Understanding this cultural interplay is crucial in comprehending the diversity of experiences and expectations among adolescents across different societal contexts<sup>92</sup>.

The United Nations defines adolescent as persons between the ages of roughly 15 and 24, with all UN statistics based on this range, the UN states education as a source for these statistics. The UN also recognizes that this varies without prejudice to other age groups listed by member states such as 18–30. A useful distinction within the UN itself can be made between teenagers (i.e. those between the ages of 13 and 19) and young adults (those between the ages of 20 and 29). While seeking to impose some uniformity on statistical approaches, the UN is aware of contradictions between approaches in its statutes. Hence, under the 15–24 definition (introduced in 1981) children are defined as

those under the age of 14 (someone 13 and younger) while under the 1979 Convention on the Rights of the Child, those under the age of 18 are regarded as children. The UN also states they are aware that several definitions exist for adolescent within UN entities such as Adolescent Habitat 15–32, NCSL 12-24, and African Adolescent Charter 15–35<sup>93</sup>.

Across much of sub-Saharan Africa, the term ‘adolescent’ holds a distinct association with young men ranging from 12 to 30 or even 35 years of age. In the context of Nigeria, the definition extends to encompass all individuals within the Federal Republic of Nigeria aged between 18 and 35. However, the perception of adolescence varies considerably, particularly for young women in African societies. For many African girls, adolescence is often a transient phase that occurs between the onset of puberty and the transition to marriage and motherhood.

Yet, in urban settings, socio-economic factors play a pivotal role, particularly for impoverished women, who may be considered adolescents for a more extended period, even if they bear children outside of marriage. This divergence in perception is emblematic of the complex interplay between cultural norms, societal expectations, and socio-economic influences, significantly shaping the understanding and duration of adolescence among different demographics within African societies. Varying culturally, the gender constructions of adolescent in Latin America and Southeast Asia differ from those of sub-Saharan Africa. In Vietnam, widespread notions of adolescent are socio-political constructions for both sexes between the ages of 15 and 35<sup>94</sup>.

In Brazil, the term ‘adolescent’ encompasses individuals of both genders between the ages of 15 to 29. This age delineation is influenced by Brazilian law, aligning with international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO). The criteria

for defining adolescence in Brazil has been significantly shaped by the principles advocated by these global entities, incorporating their guidelines and standards. Additionally, the understanding of adolescence in the Brazilian context has been profoundly influenced by the discourse surrounding children's rights, which has permeated everyday life.

This discourse emphasizes the rights and needs of young individuals, further influencing the perception and recognition of the adolescent phase, placing importance on providing appropriate support and resources during this critical stage of development. The adoption of this broader age range in defining adolescence showcases the influence of international perspectives and a growing emphasis on protecting and nurturing the rights of young people within Brazilian society<sup>95</sup>. The OECD defines adolescent as ‘those between 15 and 29 years of age<sup>96</sup>.’ August 12 was declared International Adolescent Day by the United Nations.

### **2.1.3 Concept of Parenting**

Parenting is the profound and ongoing journey of nurturing and guiding a child through various developmental stages from infancy to adulthood. This process involves a multifaceted approach aimed at fostering the comprehensive growth and well-being of a child. It encompasses the deliberate effort of supporting not just the physical but also the emotional, social, spiritual, and intellectual dimensions of a child's development. From the earliest stages of infancy, where the focus is on meeting basic needs and establishing secure attachments, to guiding a child through the complex challenges of adolescence and into adulthood, parenting involves a continuous dedication to the holistic growth and welfare of a child. It includes providing guidance, love, discipline, education, and

creating an environment that encourages the child's exploration and understanding of the world around them.

Effective parenting involves a delicate balance of nurturing, guidance, and instilling values to help children develop into well-rounded and capable individuals<sup>97</sup>. The style and behaviour employed by parents hold intricate and multifaceted impacts on a child's holistic development, adaptability, and resilience. However, it's essential to understand that while statistical significance might be observed, it doesn't automatically translate into practical or substantial significance in a child's life. Parenting styles, whether authoritative, permissive, or neglectful, significantly shape a child's emotional, social, and cognitive growth, influencing their ability to navigate challenges, form relationships, and develop coping mechanisms<sup>98</sup>. While studies may highlight statistical correlations between certain parenting behaviour and specific outcomes in children, the practical implications and real-life significance of these statistics might vary significantly. The subtleties of individual personalities, environmental influences, and the complex interplay of various factors make it challenging to universally apply statistical findings to every child's unique development. Understanding that while research may reveal trends or correlations, the practical impact of these findings on an individual child's life can be nuanced and may not uniformly determine their experiences or outcomes. Even a small statistical parental role can still have a substantial impact on a child's development and well-being. Parenting styles encompass a range of behaviour and approaches that parents adopt in raising their children, such as being authoritative, authoritarian, permissive, or neglectful. These styles can influence various aspects of a child's life, including their emotional development, social skills, self-esteem, and overall psychological adjustment<sup>99</sup>.

Consistent research findings emphasize that parenting styles marked by warmth, responsiveness, consistency, and balanced discipline significantly contribute to positive outcomes in children. These nurturing and structured parenting approaches have been linked to fostering numerous beneficial attributes in children. Specifically, such parenting styles are associated with improved emotional regulation, higher self-esteem, enhanced social skills, and increased resilience in coping with life's adversities<sup>100</sup>.

The warmth and responsiveness exhibited by parents create a secure and supportive environment for a child's emotional development, while consistent and appropriate discipline instills a sense of structure and guidance. This combination lays a foundation for children to develop effective coping mechanisms, navigate social interactions, and build a strong sense of self-worth. Studies consistently highlight the correlation between these nurturing, consistent parenting styles and the development of crucial skills and traits that contribute to a child's overall well-being and ability to thrive<sup>101</sup>.

On the flip side, parenting styles characterized by harshness or neglect can yield detrimental effects on a child's overall development. Practices such as inconsistent discipline, absence of emotional support, or outright neglect significantly contribute to negative outcomes. Children exposed to such parenting approaches often grapple with emotional and behavioural challenges, diminished self-esteem, and encounter difficulties in forging healthy relationships. Inconsistency in discipline can lead to confusion and insecurity, hindering a child's ability to understand boundaries and expected behaviour<sup>102</sup>.

A lack of emotional support or outright neglect deprives children of the essential nurturing environment crucial for their emotional well-being, often resulting in a range of emotional and behavioural issues. These negative effects can persist into adulthood,

impacting an individual's ability to manage emotions, interact with others, and maintain healthy, meaningful relationships. Studies consistently underscore the adverse impact of harsh or neglectful parenting styles on a child's psychological and social development, reinforcing the critical role of a supportive, nurturing environment in fostering positive growth<sup>103</sup>.

Parental behaviour plays a pivotal role in shaping a child's attachment patterns, ultimately impacting their socioemotional development. The nature of these attachments, particularly secure attachments, is profoundly influenced by consistent parental responsiveness and nurturing. Secure attachments, cultivated through a caregiver's consistent responsiveness to a child's needs, contribute significantly to the development of a child's sense of security, exploration, and the ability to form healthy social relationships.

When caregivers consistently respond to a child's cues, providing comfort, support, and guidance, it establishes a foundation of trust and safety<sup>104</sup>. This, in turn, fosters the child's confidence to explore their environment, form connections with others, and develop effective social skills. Children who experience secure attachments tend to exhibit greater emotional resilience, better self-regulation, and a more positive outlook on their interactions with the world. The impact of these early attachment patterns resonates throughout a child's life, influencing their future relationships, emotional well-being, and overall socioemotional development. It is important to recognize that child development is influenced by a complex interplay of genetic, environmental, and contextual factors. While genetic factors contribute to a substantial portion of individual differences in intelligence and personality, the environment, including parenting, also plays a role.

Parental influences interact with genetic predispositions and other environmental factors to shape a child's development. The most common caretakers in parenting are the biological parents of the child in question, but it can also be carried out by adoptive parents or other caregivers such as grandparents, legal guardians, older siblings, other family members, or family Friends,

Parenting is a dynamic and ever-evolving process influenced by a multitude of individual and contextual factors<sup>105</sup>. Recognizing this dynamism is crucial in navigating the complexities of effective child-rearing. Effective parenting transcends a one-size-fits-all approach and involves a deep attunement to the unique needs of children. This involves providing a nurturing, supportive, and responsive environment that caters to their emotional, physical, and psychological requirements. Effective parenting entails a continuous adaptation to the changing developmental stages of a child, adjusting strategies and approaches as the child grows. It's about fostering a space that encourages exploration, learning, and the development of autonomy, all while nurturing a strong foundation of trust and security<sup>106</sup>.

Attuned parenting involves understanding and responding to a child's individual temperament, abilities, and challenges, creating an environment that supports their overall well-being and development. The evolving nature of parenting, shaped by the interplay of various factors, underscores the need for a flexible and responsive approach, grounded in the unwavering commitment to the child's growth and flourishing. Some key aspects of the concept of parenting:

#### **2.1.4 Roles of Parenting**

The concept of parenting extends far beyond a mere collection of responsibilities; rather, it constitutes a complex tapestry of roles that are profoundly integral to the holistic development of a child. At its essence, parenting entails a comprehensive commitment to meeting the multifaceted needs of children, transcending the provision of mere sustenance, shelter, and clothing. While these foundational elements undoubtedly represent a critical aspect of parenting, they merely scratch the surface of the profound influence parents wield in shaping the trajectory of their children's lives<sup>107</sup>.

Parents, in their role as primary guardians, are entrusted with the sacred duty of cultivating a secure and nurturing environment wherein a child can not only survive but truly thrive and flourish. Beyond the tangible aspects of safety, health, and education, parents play an instrumental role in fostering emotional well-being, self-esteem, and a sense of belonging. It is within the folds of the family structure that a child's emotional foundation is laid, a foundation that profoundly impacts their social, cognitive, and emotional development.

Moreover, parents are not just providers but the architects of their children's moral and ethical frameworks. They serve as the inaugural models and educators, imparting a comprehensive worldview that encompasses values, beliefs, and behavioural norms.

This early imprinting forms the cornerstone of a child's understanding of the world, setting the stage for their interactions with society and shaping their ethical compass<sup>108</sup>.

This multifaceted role in fulfilling both the physical and psychological needs of a child underscores the profound impact parents have in sculpting the future of their children<sup>108</sup>.

**1. Parent-Child Relationship:** Parenting goes beyond fulfilling practical duties; it's about nurturing and sustaining a meaningful relationship between parents and their children. At its core, this relationship is defined by love, trust, open communication, and unwavering support. Positive parent-child relationships serve as the bedrock upon which a child's emotional and social development is built. This connection provides a secure and nurturing base, allowing children to explore, learn, and grow with confidence. When children feel loved, understood, and supported by their parents, they develop a stronger sense of self-worth, emotional resilience, and trust in others. Open communication within this relationship cultivates an environment where children feel safe to express themselves, share their thoughts, and seek guidance when faced with challenges.

This emotional safety net provided by positive parent-child relationships greatly influences a child's ability to form healthy relationships, navigate the complexities of life, and develop into well-adjusted and emotionally secure individuals<sup>109</sup>.

The parent-child relationship is a profoundly significant and intricate bond that significantly influences the development and well-being of both parents and children. This relationship commences at birth and evolves over time, exerting a profound impact on the emotional, social, and psychological growth of children. It encompasses a myriad of vital aspects and dynamics, each contributing to the overall quality of this fundamental relationship. Parents are primary providers of unconditional love and support to their children, creating a secure foundation for their growth. This support is characterized by its unwavering nature, persisting regardless of a child's behaviour or choices. Parents take on the role of nurturing and caregiving, ensuring their child's basic needs are met,

encompassing aspects like food, shelter, and clothing. Beyond these fundamentals, they also provide emotional support, guidance, and protection<sup>110</sup>.

A critical aspect of the parent-child relationship is the influential role parents play as primary role models in their children's lives. Children frequently learn behaviour, values, and social skills by observing and emulating their parents' actions, attitudes, and interactions. As such, the modeling of positive behaviour by parents holds immense significance in shaping a child's development. Children look to their parents for cues on how to navigate the world, learning not just from explicit teachings but from the day-to-day demonstrations of behaviour, ethics, and interpersonal interactions. The way parents handle challenges, communicate, and engage with others directly influences a child's understanding of appropriate conduct and social norms. By exhibiting positive behaviour and attitudes, parents lay the groundwork for children to learn empathy, kindness, resilience, and problem-solving skills. The impact of parental modeling extends far beyond what is explicitly taught, shaping the fundamental values and behaviour that children carry into their own lives and interactions<sup>111</sup>.

Simultaneously, parents are responsible for setting boundaries and enforcing rules, promoting a sense of responsibility and self-discipline in children. Effective discipline strikes a balance between structure and empathy, creating a healthy learning environment. Open and effective communication serves as a cornerstone in the parent-child relationship. Encouraging children to freely express their emotions, concerns, and thoughts establishes a foundation of trust and understanding. When children feel heard and understood by their parents, it cultivates a secure environment where they feel comfortable sharing their feelings and thoughts without fear of judgment. This open

communication paves the way for building a bond of trust, enabling parents to better comprehend their child's world and provide the necessary support. In turn, it allows children to confide in their parents, seeking guidance and reassurance when facing challenges or navigating new experiences. This open dialogue not only strengthens the parent-child connection but also lays the groundwork for effective problem-solving, conflict resolution, and emotional development.

It empowers children to develop their communication skills, express themselves confidently, and feel secure in their relationship with their parents<sup>112</sup>.

Moreover, the attachment formed between infants and their primary caregivers, typically their parents, plays a pivotal role in emotional development. A secure attachment is vital for healthy social and emotional growth. Parents also play a crucial role in helping children navigate their emotions. They offer comfort, validation, and guidance in managing feelings such as anger, sadness, and fear. As children grow, parents support their developing autonomy and independence, permitting them to make age-appropriate choices and decisions.

Parents bear the responsibility of guiding their children's education and development, encompassing both academic and life skills. Beyond supporting their academic pursuits by assisting with homework and engaging in educational activities, parents also provide crucial guidance regarding career paths and life choices. The enduring impact of the parent-child relationship on an individual's mental health, self-esteem, and ability to forge healthy relationships is profound. Positive and nurturing relationships established in childhood significantly contribute to an individual's resilience and emotional well-being<sup>113</sup>. A supportive and secure environment fostered by positive parent-child

relationships lays the groundwork for children to develop a strong sense of self-worth, emotional resilience, and the ability to navigate life's challenges. These formative relationships serve as a cornerstone for a child's mental health, shaping their ability to form and maintain positive relationships throughout their lives. Ultimately, the enduring influence of these early relationships significantly shapes a person's emotional well-being, their self-perception, and their capacity to navigate the complexities of life.

Amidst the richness of the parent-child relationship, challenges and conflicts naturally emerge. Disagreements, differing opinions, and generational gaps are commonplace in this dynamic. As children evolve into adolescents and young adults, the parent-child relationship undergoes profound transformations. Parents transition from their authoritative roles to becoming mentors and advisors, facilitating their children's navigation through the complexities of adulthood. These transitions are often marked by shifts in power dynamics, as young adults seek greater autonomy and independence while parents navigate the fine line between offering guidance and allowing their children to make their own decisions<sup>114</sup>.

The generational divide sometimes results in clashes of values and perspectives, as each party grapples with understanding the other's viewpoint. Nevertheless, these challenges offer opportunities for growth and the evolution of the relationship. By embracing change and adapting to the new roles within the parent-child dynamic, families can foster mutual understanding, respect, and support, facilitating the successful transition into the next phase of the relationship.

The parent-child relationship is a dynamic and ever-evolving bond that continues to transform over the course of a child's life. While it can be a source of love, guidance, and

support, it also requires adaptability and patience to navigate the challenges and transitions that naturally occur at different stages of development. A healthy parent-child relationship is characterized by open communication, mutual respect, and a deep sense of love and connection.

**2. Parenting Styles:** Parents often adopt diverse parenting styles, reflecting their overall approach to nurturing and guiding their children. As highlighted earlier, parenting styles vary based on the levels of responsiveness (such as warmth and support) and demandingness (including control and discipline) exhibited by parents. These distinct parenting styles significantly influence child outcomes and development. For instance, authoritative parenting, characterized by high levels of warmth and support along with appropriate levels of control, tends to foster positive outcomes in children, such as higher self-esteem, emotional maturity, and better social skills. Conversely, authoritarian parenting, with its high control and low warmth, may lead to children displaying higher levels of anxiety and lower self-esteem.

Permissive parenting, characterized by high warmth but low control, might result in children struggling with self-discipline and authority. Neglectful parenting, low in both warmth and control, could lead to various developmental challenges for children, impacting their emotional well-being and social adjustment. The interplay between these varying parenting styles and their impact on child development underscores the critical role parents play in shaping their children's growth and overall well-being<sup>115</sup>.

**Developmental Stages:** Parenting, a journey interwoven with love and adaptability, is profoundly influenced by the ever-changing developmental stages of children. From

infancy to adolescence, each phase presents unique needs and challenges, demanding a nuanced understanding and adept adaptation from parents for effective guidance.

Infancy marks the initiation of parenthood, requiring parents to decipher non-verbal cues and foster a secure environment crucial for emotional development. Transitioning into the toddler years, parenting becomes a delicate balance between encouraging exploration and providing a nurturing foundation for self-discovery.

As children enter the preschool years, effective parenting involves nurturing cognitive development, fostering social skills, and encouraging a love for discovery. The school-age years bring new challenges, requiring parents to guide their children through academic hurdles, foster healthy friendships, and instill values that will serve as a compass in the wider world.

The pinnacle of developmental stages, adolescence, marks the transformative journey toward independence. Effective parenting in this phase involves navigating the delicate balance between granting autonomy and providing necessary guidance. It requires open communication, understanding the unique challenges of adolescence, and creating a supportive environment for self-discovery<sup>116</sup>.

Effective parenting transcends a one-size-fits-all approach, demanding parents to be astute observers, compassionate guides, and unwavering pillars of support. By understanding and adapting to the unique needs and challenges presented at each developmental stage, parents contribute to the creation of a nurturing environment conducive to the flourishing of their children's potential.

**Cultural and Contextual Influences:** Parenting practices and beliefs are profoundly shaped by a myriad of cultural, societal, and contextual influences. Each culture and

community harbors its distinct set of values, norms, and expectations when it comes to parenting. These unique cultural and societal frameworks significantly mold the beliefs and approaches adopted by parents in nurturing and guiding their children. Cultural values, traditions, and historical contexts play a pivotal role in shaping the expectations and norms surrounding parenting.

These factors often dictate various aspects of child-rearing, encompassing discipline, communication, roles within the family, and the overall goals and aspirations for children. For example, some cultures might place a high emphasis on collectivism and interdependence within the family, while others might prioritize individualism and self-expression. Understanding and respecting these diverse cultural influences are crucial in comprehending the multifaceted and varied approaches to parenting practices around the world. These diverse influences enrich the global landscape of parenting, showcasing the intricate interplay between cultural heritage, societal expectations, and the shaping of parenting beliefs and practices.

Additionally, social and environmental factors, such as socioeconomic status, neighborhood, and support networks, can shape parenting approaches<sup>117</sup>.

**3. Parenting Skills and Strategies:** Parenting necessitates the application of a diverse array of skills and strategies to support children's development. These encompass a wide spectrum of actions and approaches, including but not limited to effective communication, active listening, setting appropriate boundaries and rules, offering guidance and discipline, encouraging independence and autonomy, fostering resilience, and engaging in positive interactions and quality time with children. Effective communication forms the bedrock of a healthy parent-child relationship, allowing for

clear understanding and expression of emotions and thoughts. Active listening enhances this communication, ensuring that children feel heard and understood. Setting boundaries and rules establishes a framework within which children can learn and grow, providing a sense of security and structure. Guidance and discipline, when applied thoughtfully, enable children to understand right from wrong and make responsible choices<sup>118</sup>.

Encouraging independence and autonomy nurtures self-reliance and decision-making skills. Fostering resilience equips children with the ability to cope with challenges and adversity. Engaging in positive interactions and spending quality time with children strengthens the bond between parents and children, creating a supportive and nurturing environment for their growth. The amalgamation of these skills and strategies forms the scaffolding upon which children build their understanding of the world and their place within it.

### **2.1.5 Parent**

The term 'parents' finds its origin in the Latin verb 'parere,' signifying 'to bring forth' or 'to give birth to.' Derived from this verb, the Latin noun 'parent' holds a similar connotation to the contemporary word 'parent.' Therefore, a parent is defined as someone who brings forth or gives rise to something else. This etymological root emphasizes the foundational role of a parent in nurturing, fostering, and giving rise to the growth, development, and well-being of another individual, typically their child. The term encapsulates the profound responsibility and role that parents hold in fostering the emergence and development of their offspring<sup>119</sup>.

In the realm of child-rearing, parents predominantly serve as the primary caregivers and bear the responsibility of fostering and supporting a child's comprehensive development.

From infancy through the journey to adulthood, parents play a pivotal role in nurturing various aspects of a child's growth, physical, emotional, social, spiritual, and intellectual. They provide the foundational care necessary for a child's physical well-being, emotional security, and cognitive advancement. Additionally, parents guide children in comprehending social interactions, instilling values, and nurturing their spiritual and moral development. This overarching responsibility of promoting a child's holistic development illustrates the critical and multi-faceted role that parents fulfill in shaping their children's formative years and future trajectories<sup>120</sup>.

The notion of parents encompasses a wide array of family structures, embracing various models such as single-parent households, same-sex parent households, blended families, and extended families. Within each unique family structure, the roles and responsibilities of parents may differ significantly, reflecting the diverse norms, beliefs, and values inherent in different cultures and societies. For instance, in some cultures, extended families might play a prominent role in child-rearing, while in others, single parents might navigate the responsibilities independently. Same-sex parent households contribute to a multifaceted view of parenting, showcasing diverse approaches and nurturing environments. Blended families, which may arise from remarriages, introduce new dynamics, requiring the navigation of complex relationships and roles.

Understanding these diverse family structures allows for a deeper appreciation of the varied ways in which parenting roles are fulfilled, reflecting the rich tapestry of beliefs and values across different societies. This diversity underscores the adaptable and evolving nature of parenting, demonstrating the myriad ways in which families navigate their unique paths in nurturing and guiding their children.

The concept of parents encompasses the crucial role individuals play in raising and nurturing children, providing care, support, and guidance to facilitate their growth and development. Some key aspects of the concept of parents:

**Biological and Legal Roles:** The intricate tapestry of parenthood unfolds along two distinct yet intertwined dimensions: biological and legal. Biological parenthood emerges from the interplay of genetic inheritance and reproductive processes, creating a profound connection between parents and their offspring. This link not only encompasses physical traits but also influences behavioural and health aspects, forming a unique bond shaped by shared genetic codes.

However, parenthood extends beyond biological ties, embracing diverse legal pathways that grant individuals the rights and responsibilities of being parents. Adoption stands as a poignant testament to the expansiveness of parenthood, offering a legal framework through which individuals can bring children into their families, irrespective of biological connections. Through the legal process of adoption, individuals commit to providing love, care, and support, establishing familial bonds that transcend genetic origins<sup>121</sup>.

Surrogacy further expands the legal dimensions of parenthood, enabling individuals or couples to realize their parental dreams through assisted reproductive technologies. In surrogacy arrangements, legal frameworks govern the rights and responsibilities of all parties involved, highlighting society's acknowledgment that the essence of parenting extends beyond biological origins<sup>122</sup>.

The blending of biological and legal realms often characterizes modern families, creating unique and diverse narratives of parenthood. Families may find their foundations in a combination of genetic ties and legally sanctioned relationships, reflecting the evolving

nature of familial structures. This blending encapsulates the myriad ways individuals choose to form and nurture families, contributing to the richness and diversity of parenthood<sup>123</sup>. In essence, whether rooted in shared genetics or forged through legal processes, parenthood revolves around an unwavering commitment to providing love, support, and guidance to the next generation. The dual dimensions of biological and legal parenthood contribute to the multifaceted nature of familial bonds, enriching the tapestry of human relationships.

**Care and Nurturing:** Parents have the primary responsibility for the care and nurturing of their children. This includes meeting their physical needs, such as providing food, clothing, and shelter, as well as ensuring their safety, health, and well-being. Parents also provide emotional support, guidance, and love to help their children develop a sense of security and attachment.

**Responsibility for Development:** Parents are responsible for promoting the overall development of their children. This includes supporting their cognitive, social, emotional, and physical growth. Parents play a crucial role in providing educational opportunities, fostering positive relationships, instilling values, and helping children develop important life skills.

**Roles and Identities:** Parents often fulfill multiple roles in their children's lives. They serve as caregivers, educators, role models, and advocates. The presence and involvement of parents significantly influence the formation of a child's identity, self-esteem, and sense of belonging.

**Parenting Challenges:** Being a parent involves facing various challenges and responsibilities. Parents need to make important decisions regarding their child's

education, health, and overall well-being. They may also need to navigate challenging situations and support their children through difficult experiences.

**Parenting Support:** Parents may seek support and guidance from various sources, such as family, friends, community resources, or professional services. Parenting support can help parents acquire knowledge and skills, cope with challenges, and enhance their parenting practices.

The concept of ‘parenting’ refers to the process of raising and caring for a child, while the concept of ‘parents’ refers to the individuals who are responsible for carrying out that process. Parenting involves promoting and supporting the physical, emotional, social, spiritual, and intellectual development of a child from infancy to adulthood. Parents are typically the primary caregivers of a child and are responsible for carrying out the tasks involved in parenting.

## **2.2 Theoretical Framework**

### **2.2.1 Parenting**

Parenting has gained ample research attention from various scientific areas. Many theories emphasize the vital role of parenting in child development. When studying parenting, researchers use different strategies considering parenting practices, parenting dimensions, or parenting styles. Parenting practices can be defined as directly observable, specific behaviour parents use to socialize with their children. For example, parenting practices intended to promote academic achievement show involvement by attending parent-teacher meetings or regular supervision of children's homework. Other parenting practices include positive reinforcement, discipline, or problem-solving<sup>124</sup>.

Rather than focusing on specific parenting practices, other researchers identified overarching parenting dimensions seen in relationship modeling. Most scientists agree on at least two broad dimensions of parenting, labeled parental support and parental control. Parental support is the affective nature of the parent-child relationship, indicated by showing involvement, acceptance, emotional availability, warmth, and responsivity. The parental support dimension has been related to positive development outcomes in children, such as the prevention of alcohol abuse and deviance, depression and delinquency, and externalizing problem behaviour<sup>125</sup>.

The parental control behavioural dimension consists of parenting behaviour that attempts to control, manage or regulate child behaviour, either through enforcing demands and rules, disciplinary strategies, control of rewards and punishment, or through supervisory functions. Appropriate behavioural control has been considered to affect child development positively. In contrast, insufficient or excessive behavioural control (has been commonly associated with negative child developmental outcomes, such as deviant behaviour, misconduct, depression, and anxiousness.

This parental behavioural control refers to control over the child's behaviour; parental psychological control pertains to the parent's attempt to manipulate children's thoughts, emotions, and feelings. Due to the manipulative and intrusive nature of psychological control, this type of control has almost exclusively been associated with negative developmental outcomes in children and adolescents, such as depression, antisocial behaviour, and relational regression. The three parenting dimensions (support, psychological control, and behavioural control) have been labeled as distinct concepts that are interrelated<sup>126</sup>.

Other researchers have taken a different approach in studying parenting by emphasizing that specific combinations of parenting practices impact child development rather than separate parenting practices or dimensions. This approach examines which patterns of parenting practices occur within the same parent and how these patterns- commonly labeled as parenting styles relate to children's development. It focuses on configurations within individuals rather than a variable-centered approach that focuses on relationships among individuals<sup>127</sup>.

In the 1980s, Maccoby and Martin attempted to bridge Baumrind's styles and parenting dimensions, focusing their research efforts primarily on the configuration of parenting styles. Based on the combination of two dimensions – demandingness and responsiveness, they defined four parenting styles: authoritative; authoritarian; indulgent; and neglectful. These parenting dimensions are similar to parental support and parental behavioural control. Based on Maccoby and Martin's work, Baumrind expanded her classification with a fourth parenting style: the neglectful parenting style<sup>128</sup>.

This work consistently demonstrated that children of authoritative parents had the most favorable development outcomes; authoritarian and permissive parenting was associated with negative developmental effects, while results for children of neglectful parents were the poorest. Other researchers have also replicated these associations. Authoritative parenting style is associated with positive developmental outcomes in adolescent, such as psychosocial competence and academic achievement<sup>129</sup>.

Findings regarding permissive/indulgent parenting have inconsistently yielded associations with internalizing, and externalizing problem behaviour, and also with social skills, self-confidence, self- understanding and active problem coping. An authoritarian

parenting style has consistently been associated with adverse developmental outcomes, such as aggression, delinquent behaviour, somatic complaints, depersonalization, and anxiety.

Children of neglectful parents have shown the least favourable outcomes in multiple domains, such as lacking self-regulation and social responsibility, poor self-reliance and social competence, poor school competence, antisocial behaviour and delinquency, anxiety, depression, and somatic complaints<sup>130</sup>.

### **2.2.2 The relationship between parenting styles and adolescent externalizing behaviours**

Most individuals tend to assert the parents influence their children, primarily because parents exist before their children are born and throughout their developmental journey. In other words, parents come first in this equation. Hence, the prevailing belief is that parents serve as role models and influential figures, while their children and adolescents are the recipients of this influence. Concerning the connection between parenting factors, such as involvement, practices, and styles, and adolescent behaviour, encompassing school adjustment, social functioning, and internalizing/externalizing issues, numerous studies have consistently shown that parents shape various behaviours in their offspring<sup>131</sup>.

Numerous studies have contributed to our understanding of the relationship between parenting styles and adolescent externalizing behaviours. Some key findings include:

**1. Authoritative Parenting and Positive Outcomes:** Research consistently shows

that adolescents raised by authoritative parents tend to have better behavioural outcomes. They are less likely to engage in externalizing behaviours due to the combination of clear rules and emotional support.

**2. Authoritarian Parenting and Externalizing Behaviours:** Adolescents in authoritarian households may display externalizing behaviours at a higher rate. The strict, punitive nature of this parenting style can lead to defiance and rebellion.

**3. Permissive Parenting and Externalizing Behaviours:** Permissive parenting can lead to increased externalizing behaviours, as adolescents often struggle with self-regulation and may test boundaries without clear rules in place.

**4. Neglectful Parenting and Negative Outcomes:** Adolescents in neglectful households often exhibit the highest levels of externalizing behaviours. The lack of parental involvement leaves them to navigate challenges without guidance, which can lead to delinquent behaviours.

**5. Mediating Factors:** Several mediating factors can influence the relationship between parenting styles and adolescent externalizing behaviours. These include:

**i. Cultural Differences:** Cultural norms and values can impact the effectiveness of different parenting styles. What works in one culture might not work in another.

**ii. Peer Influence:** The influence of peers can sometimes outweigh the impact of parenting styles, especially during adolescence.

**iii. Parental Consistency:** The consistency of parenting behaviours is crucial. Inconsistent parenting can lead to confusion and potentially more externalizing behaviours.

iv. **Parent-Child Attachment:** A secure parent-child attachment can act as a protective factor against externalizing behaviours, regardless of the parenting style.

6. **Implications and Interventions:** Understanding the relationship between parenting styles and adolescent externalizing behaviours has practical implications. It highlights the importance of providing parenting education and support, as well as tailoring interventions to match specific family dynamics. For example, parents who recognize that their parenting style is excessively authoritarian or permissive might benefit from learning more about authoritative parenting strategies that strike a balance between control and warmth.

The relationship between parenting styles and adolescent externalizing behaviours is a multifaceted topic with significant implications for child development and well-being. While parenting style is just one of many factors influencing adolescent behaviour, research consistently shows that authoritative parenting tends to lead to more positive outcomes, whereas authoritarian, permissive, and neglectful parenting styles can contribute to higher levels of externalizing behaviours. Understanding this relationship provides a foundation for more effective parenting practices and interventions.

The connection between parenting styles and the emergence of externalizing issues in adolescence has been extensively researched since the 1930s<sup>132</sup>. Many of these studies were primarily correlational, while some attempted to make predictions using multiple regression designs. A few sought to establish causal relationships. In all instances, the implication is that specific Parental Roles can contribute to problematic adolescent behaviour.

As outlined by scholars in influential reviews, warm and supportive parenting styles consistently predict favorable developmental outcomes in children and adolescents<sup>133</sup>. Conversely, authoritarian and distant styles tend to predict unfavorable outcomes. Specifically, in the extensive body of literature linking parenting styles to adolescent behaviour problems, authoritative parenting is negatively associated with externalizing issues, including conduct disorders and delinquent behaviour<sup>134</sup>. In contrast, both permissive and authoritarian parenting tend to be positively associated with these problems<sup>135</sup>. In line with this perspective, A scholar argue that the most functional style for promoting adolescent adjustment is authoritative, while the most harmful one is the authoritarian style<sup>136</sup>. In prior studies exploring the direction of influence, it's almost always assumed that parenting is the influencing factor, with child effects often being overlooked<sup>137</sup>. Some studies that explicitly examine the child's influence on parenting have suggested that child behaviour can also shape parental responses.

### **2.2.3 Differential Association Theory**

The theory of differential association was developed by Edwin H. Sutherland in 1883 - 1950. The theory's basic tenet is that fraud is learned just like math, English, or guitar playing. The learning of criminal behaviour occurred in interaction with other people. Criminality could not occur without the assistance of other people. The principles of differential association theory are summarised into the following propositions:

- (1) All criminal behaviour is learned.
- (2) Criminal behaviour is learned through interactions with others via a process of communication.

- (3) Most learning about criminal behaviour happens in intimate personal groups and relationships.
- (4) The process of learning criminal behaviour may include learning about techniques to carry out the behaviour as well as the motives and rationalizations that would justify illegal activity and the attitudes necessary to orient an individual towards such activity.
- (5) The direction of motives and drives towards criminal behaviour is learned through the interpretation of legal codes in one's geographical area as favourable or unfavourable.
- (6) When the numbers of favourable interpretations that support violating the law outweigh the unfavourable interpretations that don't, an individual will choose to become a criminal.
- (7) All differential associations aren't equal. They can vary in frequency, intensity, priority, and duration.
- (8) The process of learning criminal behaviours through interactions with others relies on the same mechanisms that are used in learning about any other behaviour.
- (9) Criminal behaviour could be an expression of generalized needs and values, but they don't explain the behaviour because non-criminal behaviour expresses the same needs and values.

Another theory of fraud is Fraud Triangle, this theory affirmed that trusted persons become trust violators when they conceive of themselves as having a financial problem which is non-shareable, are aware this problem can be secretly resolved by a violation of the position of financial trust and can apply to their conduct in that situation verbalizations which enable them to adjust their conceptions of themselves as trusted

persons with their conceptions of themselves as users of the entrusted funds or property. Over the years, the hypothesis has become better known as the fraud triangle.

Fraud Scale is another theory which included the components of situational pressures, perceived opportunities, and personal integrity. This theory enthused that when situational pressures and perceived opportunities are high and personal integrity is low, and occupational fraud is much more likely to occur than when the opposite is true.

#### **2.2.4 Denial of Risk Theory**

The theory adopted for internet fraud in this study is the denial of risk theory. Denial of risk refers to cognitive ways to develop adaption to risky behaviour by rejecting the possibility of suffering any loss<sup>137</sup>. The theory posits that an individual may deflect the level of risk by comparing the fraud to an acceptable action they consider a fraud. The theory of denial of risk has three main constructs: scapegoating, self-confidence and comparing of risk. Scapegoating is when an individual stereotype actions of others they consider harmful (them) relative to their behaviour.

Comparison-between risk arises when an individual compares their actions with that of a group whose action are already accepted. Denial of risk theory has been used in the criminology literature to understand why individuals commit fraud such as the use of cannabis<sup>138</sup>. Internet fraud involves the use of internet and related activities that violate the ethical conducts of the internet<sup>139</sup>. Internet fraud is of concern globally for governments and law enforcement agencies<sup>140</sup>. Internet fraud is perpetuated by individuals or groups of individuals with different backgrounds such as needs, education and cultural idiosyncrasies<sup>141</sup>. The techniques used by perpetrators of internet fraud make

them believe the consequences of their actions are less harmful and sometimes beneficial to the victims<sup>142</sup>.

### **2.3 Review of Empirical Studies**

In the old days, parents were always around to train their children from childhood to adolescence. They would teach them the importance of hard work, honesty, and respect. They would also instill in them a strong sense of moral values.

But in today's world, things are different. Many parents are too busy working to spend much time with their children. As a result, children are often left to fend for themselves. They are exposed to a variety of influences, both positive and negative.

This has led to a generation of children who are often lacking in moral values. They are more likely to lie, cheat, and steal. They are also more likely to be involved in violence and crime<sup>143</sup>.

There are many reasons for this decline in moral values. One reason is that parents are not always around to provide guidance and support. Another reason is that the media often promotes negative values. And finally, the internet has made it easier for children to access harmful content. One solution is for parents to make more time for their children. They should talk to their children about their values and teach them the importance of making good choices. Parents should also monitor their children's activities and limit their exposure to negative influences. Another solution is for the media to promote positive values. This can be done by producing more content that teaches children about the importance of honesty, respect, and kindness.

Finally, the internet can be used to promote positive values. There are many websites and online communities that offer resources for parents and children.

It is important to remember that parents play a vital role in the development of their children's moral values. By providing guidance and support, parents can help their children to become responsible and ethical adults.

Here is a specific example of how parental guidance can help to instill moral values in children. Let's say that a child is caught cheating on a test. The parent could react by yelling at the child or punishing them. However, a more effective approach would be to talk to the child about why cheating is wrong. The parent could explain that cheating is unfair to the other students and that it undermines the integrity of the educational system. The parent could also talk to the child about the importance of honesty and integrity. By having this conversation, the parent can help the child to understand the importance of moral values and to make better choices in the future.

In conclusion, parental guidance is essential for the development of children's moral values. By providing guidance and support, parents can help their children to become responsible and ethical adults.

There is a lot of variation across households when it comes to parenting. Cultural backgrounds have a significant impact on the family unit and how children are raised. The population of the United States of America has changed during the previous few years. Changes brought about by immigration (with various cultural, ethnic, and spiritual ideas), socioeconomic level, and single-parent households are some of the variables that influence a range of parenting methods among families. Ethnicity and culture have an impact on parenting practices. Authoritarian parenting was found to be associated with negative outcomes in middle-class, European-American households but not with negative

outcomes in low-income, African-American families, according to philosopher's research<sup>144</sup>.

Culture is a pattern of social norms, values, language, and behaviour shared by a group of people. Parents are influenced by their culture, which can affect their parenting style. When it comes to self-regulation, parenting approaches vary across cultures in terms of promoting attention, compliance, delayed gratification, executive function, and effortful control.

Every parent has a unique approach to interacting with and guiding their children. This relationship is typically where a child's morals, values, and behaviour are formed. Researchers have categorized parenting styles into three, four, five, or more psychological constructs. This research work will focus on four parenting categories: authoritarian, authoritative, permissive, and uninvolved. Each category has a unique approach to parenting. Generally, parents will fall into one of these categories, but they may also exhibit characteristics of other categories. Parenting style can also be situation-dependent<sup>145</sup>.

### **2.3.1 Authoritarian Parenting**

This style of parenting involves one-way communication where the parent sets rigid rules that the child follows. The child has little to no say in the matter, and the rules are usually not justified. The parent expects the child to obey these rules without making any mistakes. Punishment is the usual consequence of failure. Authoritarian parents are typically less warm and have high demands with low flexibility.

Children who grow up with authoritarian parents tend to behave well in public because they fear the repercussions of misbehaviour. They also have better skills in following

exact instructions to achieve a goal. However, this parenting style can also lead to children who are more aggressive but also shy, socially awkward, and unable to make their own choices<sup>146</sup>. They may struggle to control their anger as they did not receive proper guidance. They have low self-esteem, which further hinders their decision-making abilities<sup>147</sup>. Strict parental rules and punishments can also cause the child to rebel against authority figures as they get older. Authoritarian parenting is a parenting style characterized by high demands and low responsiveness. It is one of the parenting styles described by developmental psychologist, who, in addition to authoritarian parenting, also identified two other parenting styles: authoritative parenting and permissive parenting<sup>148</sup>.

Authoritarian parents have lots of rules and may even micromanage nearly all aspects of their children's lives and behaviour, at home and in public. They expect their children to obey these rules without making any mistakes. Punishment is the usual consequence of failure<sup>149</sup>. Authoritarian parents are typically less warm and nurturing. They value discipline over fun and expect that children should be seen and not heard. They are more likely to nag or yell at their children than offer encouragement and praise. They also have little tolerance for a child's expression of needs and emotions<sup>150</sup>. Authoritarian parenting can have negative effects on children's development and well-being.

Children who grow up with authoritarian parents tend to behave well in public because they fear the repercussions of misbehaviour. They also have better skills in following exact instructions to achieve a goal. However, this parenting style can also lead to children who are more aggressive but also shy, socially awkward, and unable to make their own choices<sup>151</sup>. They may struggle to control their anger as they did not receive

proper guidance. They have low self-esteem, which further hinders their decision-making abilities<sup>152</sup>. Strict parental rules and punishments can also cause the child to rebel against authority figures as they get older<sup>153</sup>.

Authoritarian parenting is not recommended as a predominant approach, as it can damage the parent-child relationship and harm the child's mental health<sup>154</sup>. However, there may be instances when it is appropriate, especially when safety or urgency are involved. In these cases, a child must obey a parent's instructions immediately and without question.

### **2.3.2 Authoritative Parenting**

This type of parent usually has a warm, caring relationship with their children. They set clear rules and expectations and explain the reasons behind them. They use discipline as a way of guidance rather than punishment. They also allow their children to have some input and feedback on the goals and expectations. They communicate frequently and appropriately with their children. This parenting style is generally the most beneficial for children, but it requires a lot of patience and effort from both sides.

Authoritative parenting leads to children who are self-confident, responsible, and able to self-regulate<sup>155</sup>. They can cope better with their negative emotions, which improves their social and emotional well-being. They also learn to be independent and capable of achieving their goals on their own. This boosts their self-esteem. Moreover, these children perform well academically and in school<sup>156</sup>.

Authoritative parenting is a parenting style that blends high standards and high support. Authoritative parents create clear rules and expectations for their children, but they also help them achieve them. They pay attention to their children's opinions and feelings, and

they are ready to negotiate when suitable. They use praise and rewards and fair consequences to foster good behaviour<sup>157</sup>.

Authoritative parenting is a respectful and democratic parenting style that nurtures a healthy parent-child relationship. Authoritative parents have certain expectations for their children, but they also appreciate their uniqueness and independence. They talk openly and effectively with their children, and they are attentive to their needs and emotions. They depend more on praise and encouragement than on punishment or threats to motivate their children<sup>158</sup>.

Authoritative parenting is an efficient parenting style that balances order and care. Authoritative parents have high hopes for their children, but they also give them the tools and support they need to fulfill them. They are affectionate and kind, but also strong and reliable. They value their children's feedback and suggestions, and they are adaptable when needed. They use praise and rewards and sensible discipline to encourage good behaviour<sup>159</sup>.

### **2.3.3 Permissive Parenting**

Permissive parents tend to be affectionate, caring and usually have little or no expectations. They set few rules for their children. Communication is open, but parents let their children figure things out on their own. These low levels of expectation usually result in rare uses of discipline. They act more like friends than parents.

Few rules can lead to children with poor eating habits, especially regarding snacks<sup>160</sup>. This can increase the risks for obesity and other health problems later in the child's life. The child also has a lot of autonomy as they choose their bedtime, if or when to do homework, and screen time with the computer and television<sup>161</sup>. Autonomy to this extent

can lead to other bad habits as the parent does not provide much guidance on moderation. Overall, children of permissive parents usually have some self-esteem and good social skills. However, they can be impulsive, demanding, selfish, and lack self-control<sup>162</sup>.

Permissive parenting is a parenting style that involves high warmth and low structure. Permissive parents are very loving and attentive to their children's emotional needs. However, they do not set or enforce many rules or expectations. They let their children figure things out on their own and avoid confrontation. They act more like friends than parents<sup>163</sup>.

Permissive parenting is a parenting style that involves high responsiveness and low demands. Permissive parents are very affectionate and caring towards their children. However, they do not have or follow many rules or boundaries. They allow their children to make their own decisions and learn from their own mistakes. They avoid conflict and discipline. They act more like buddies than parents<sup>164</sup>.

Permissive parenting is a parenting style that involves high nurturing and low control. Permissive parents are very supportive and sensitive to their children's emotional needs. However, they do not have or apply many rules or standards. They give their children a lot of freedom and autonomy and rarely intervene. They avoid arguments and punishments. They act more like peers than parents<sup>165</sup>.

#### **2.3.4 Uninvolved Parenting**

Children have a lot of autonomy as this type of parent usually keeps a distance. They meet the child's basic needs while generally being detached from their child's life. An uninvolved parent does not use a specific disciplining style and has a limited amount of

communication with their child. They tend to offer a low amount of care while having either few or no expectations of their children.

The children of uninvolved parents often are resilient and may even be more self-reliant than children with other types of upbringings. However, these skills are developed out of necessity. Additionally, they might have trouble managing their emotions, less effective coping strategies, may have academic difficulties, and difficulty with forming or maintaining social relationships<sup>166</sup>.

Uninvolved parenting is a parenting style that involves low warmth and low structure. Uninvolved parents are unresponsive to their child's needs, whether they are basic or emotional. They do not provide guidance, discipline, or nurturing to their child. They are detached from their child's life and often preoccupied with their own problems or interests. They act more like strangers than parents<sup>167</sup>.

Uninvolved parenting is a parenting style that involves low responsiveness and low demands. Uninvolved parents are uninvolved in their child's life. They do not meet their child's needs, whether they are physical or emotional. They do not offer guidance, discipline, or care to their child. They are distant from their child's life and often focused on their own affairs or desires. They act more like bystanders than parents<sup>168</sup>.

Uninvolved parenting is a parenting style that involves low nurturing and low control. Uninvolved parents are uninterested in their child's life. They do not fulfill their child's needs, whether they are material or emotional. They do not give guidance, discipline, or affection to their child. They are aloof from their child's life and often absorbed in their own issues or interests. They act more like acquaintances than parents<sup>169</sup>.

A parent's parenting style can influence the child's behaviour and actions throughout their life. As a child grows up, they can also be affected by other factors that can change or modify their conduct (i.e., therapy, culture, job, and social circle). For health outcomes, it is important to identify which areas of concern are related to the parenting style of the patient's parents (i.e., the habit of unregulated snacking) and address the issues at that level. These issues become more relevant when it comes to behavioural/psychological intervention.

Being culturally competent whenever possible is a great asset for providers who care for pediatric patients. Understanding the family background, how rules are established, and discipline styles will help the clinician understand the dynamics of the family unit. Once the provider is familiar with the parental rearing techniques, identifying, managing, or referring families will be an easier task.

#### **2.4 Concept of Model**

Many research studies have shown that the Authoritative parenting style is associated with positive outcomes in children and adolescents in psychological and cognitive development, mental health, social and moral maturity, cooperativeness, self-control, self-reliance, high self-esteem, academic performance, greater socialization, and friendly relations with peers. These research findings support Authoritative parenting as the optimal parenting style that combines high levels of responsiveness and demandingness defined Authoritative parenting as a balanced child centered and parent-centered approach to parenting with goals of socializing children towards autonomy, self-reliance, and competence. Further studies have shown that Authoritative parents engaged in gradual, autonomy-granting that is age-appropriate, allowing the child to make decisions when he or she is ready. Moreover, Authoritative parents engaged in parenting that is

accepting, responsive and demanding, and there is a clear hierarchy of parents as the authority figures in the home.

Research findings concluded that parents engaging in the Authoritative parenting style set clear and reasonable expectations and rules for their children, were open to discussions, listened to children, and supported their children's unique characteristics.

**Authoritative Parenting Style:** The authoritative parenting style, characterized by high levels of responsiveness and demandingness, has consistently been associated with positive outcomes in children. In a research conducted by a philosopher found that children raised by authoritative parents had better social skills and higher self-esteem compared to those raised by authoritarian or permissive parents. In addition, studies have shown that authoritative parenting is linked to better academic performance. Children of authoritative parents tend to be independent, responsible, and have good emotional regulation skills.

**Authoritarian Parenting Style:** Research on the authoritarian parenting style, characterized by high demandingness but low responsiveness, has indicated some negative outcomes for children. Studies have shown that children raised by authoritarian parents may experience lower self-esteem, poorer social skills, and higher levels of anxiety and depression. They may also be more prone to rebellious behaviour or exhibit externalizing problems.

**Permissive Parenting Style:** The permissive parenting style, characterized by high responsiveness but low demandingness, has been associated with certain challenges in child development. Research has shown that children raised by permissive parents may struggle with self-control, have lower academic achievement, and exhibit more behaviour

al problems. They may also experience difficulties in following rules and may have challenges with self-regulation<sup>170</sup>.

**Neglectful Parenting Style:** Neglectful parenting, characterized by low levels of both responsiveness and demandingness, has consistently been linked to negative outcomes in children. Research has shown that children raised in neglectful environments are at a higher risk for poor academic performance, emotional difficulties, and behaviour problems. They may also struggle with forming healthy relationships and have low self-esteem.

In a research carried out on 'The Influence of Authoritarian Parenting Style on the Self-Esteem of Children Aged 11-15: the focus was on examining the correlation between parenting styles and adolescent outcomes. The research involved a sample of Spanish adolescents, consisting of 1456 teenagers aged 13 to 16, with 54.3% being females. The parents of these adolescents were categorized into four groups, namely authoritarian, authoritative, indulgent/permissive, and neglectful.

Two primary outcomes were analyzed: 1) Emphasis was placed on researcher's self-transcendence and conservation values, and 2) the level of self-esteem. The results indicated that adolescents from indulgent households exhibited the highest self-esteem scores, while those from authoritarian households displayed the lowest self-esteem scores.

In a subsequent study conducted by a researcher, the aim was to further explore the connection between various parenting styles and adolescents' self-esteem, this time focusing on Brazilian adolescents<sup>171</sup>. The sample included 1239 adolescents aged 11 to 15, with 54% being females. Similar to the previous study, families were categorized into four groups: authoritarian, authoritative, indulgent/permissive, and neglectful. The

sample completed the AF5 Multidimensional Self-Esteem Scale, which assesses five dimensions of self-esteem: Academic, Social, Emotional, Family, and Physical.

The findings revealed that adolescents from indulgent families displayed self-esteem scores almost equivalent to those from authoritative families, while adolescents from authoritarian and neglectful families had the lowest scores across all five dimensions of the scale.

A scholar also explored the impact of parenting styles on the self-esteem of children<sup>172</sup>. The research included a sample of 84 children aged 11-12, who were given questionnaires to assess their self-esteem. The results demonstrated significantly higher scholastic, overall, and physical self-esteem in children whose parents practiced authoritative parenting styles compared to those with authoritarian parenting styles, with no significant differences found for permissive and unmatched parenting styles.'

In a study conducted by a scholar, the primary objective was to investigate the relationship between parenting styles and self-esteem<sup>173</sup>. The study consisted of a sample of 546 students from Shiraz University, comprising 240 females and 306 males. The results revealed that parenting styles characterized by 'psychological autonomy-granting' (permissive parenting) and 'acceptance-involvement' (authoritative parenting) were significant positive predictors of self-esteem. In contrast, the 'behavioural strictness-supervision' associated with authoritarian parenting was found to be an insignificant factor and exhibited an inverse relationship with the self-esteem of the children, signifying that child of parents practicing this parenting style had lower self-esteem.

Another study conducted by a researcher focused on 272 students in grades 9 to 11 from a metropolitan area in the northeastern United States<sup>174</sup>. The study aimed to assess the

influence of different parenting styles on the self-esteem of their children. The results indicated that parents employing authoritative parenting had children with higher self-esteem and lower levels of depression. In contrast, children with authoritarian parents reported higher levels of depression and lower self-esteem.

A researcher delved into the realm of implicit self-esteem in adult children<sup>175</sup>. Their research revealed that individuals who experienced nurturing parents, characterized by authoritative and permissive parenting, exhibited higher levels of implicit self-esteem. Conversely, individuals with less nurturing parents, demonstrating characteristics of authoritarian and neglectful parenting, displayed lower self-esteem.

In a study conducted by a researcher, the focus was on assessing the impact of parenting styles associated with higher levels of overprotection and lower levels of acceptance, which are typical traits of authoritarian parenting<sup>176</sup>. The study involved 118 Vietnamese Australians and 120 Anglo-Australians adolescents, ranging in age from 11 to 18 years. The results demonstrated that adolescents from overprotective and less accepting families exhibited significantly lower levels of self-esteem.

Another researcher examined the effect of various parenting styles on the self-esteem of college students<sup>177</sup>. Their sample consisted of 230 college students, and the findings indicated an inverse relationship between authoritarian parenting and the self-esteem of children, with a greater inclination towards authoritarianism corresponding to lower self-esteem. Conversely, the self-esteem of children exhibited a direct correlation with authoritative parenting.'

Self-esteem is a multifaceted concept that plays a pivotal role in shaping an individual's psychological and emotional well-being. It can be defined as the overall assessment of

one's own worth, capabilities, and the belief in their ability to navigate life's challenges. This internal evaluation forms the cornerstone of a person's self-perception and directly influences their thoughts, emotions, behaviours, and overall quality of life. It is not a static trait; it is dynamic and subject to change over time. It is shaped by a variety of factors, with one of the most influential being the early socialization and upbringing experienced during childhood. Parents, as the primary caregivers and role models in a child's life, have a profound impact on the development of self-esteem<sup>178</sup>.

The parenting styles employed by caregivers significantly contribute to how a child perceives themselves. Various parenting styles, such as authoritative, authoritarian, permissive, and neglectful, each have distinct characteristics and implications for a child's self-esteem<sup>179</sup>.

Authoritative parenting is characterized by a balanced approach that combines warmth, support, and clear boundaries. Children raised in authoritative households tend to develop healthy self-esteem. They experience a sense of security, as they are nurtured and guided while also being allowed to explore and make choices within reasonable limits.

Authoritarian parenting, on the other hand, tends to have a negative impact on a child's self-esteem. This style is marked by strict rules, discipline, and often a lack of emotional warmth. Children raised in authoritarian environments may internalize the stringent rules and criticism, leading to lower self-esteem and self-doubt<sup>180</sup>.

Permissive parenting is marked by high levels of indulgence and leniency but with minimal structure or discipline. While children in permissive households may feel a sense of freedom, they may also struggle with self-regulation and decision-making, which can impact their self-esteem.

Neglectful parenting, characterized by emotional and physical detachment, can have severe and long-lasting consequences for a child's self-esteem. When children do not receive the attention and support they need, they may develop feelings of unworthiness and low self-esteem<sup>181</sup>.

In summary, self-esteem is a dynamic and vital aspect of an individual's psychological well-being. It is significantly influenced by the parenting style experienced during childhood. While authoritative parenting tends to promote healthy self-esteem, authoritarian, permissive, and neglectful parenting styles can have detrimental effects on a child's self-perception and confidence. Understanding the crucial role of self-esteem and the impact of parenting styles is essential for promoting positive emotional and psychological development in children<sup>182</sup>.

‘Self-esteem, a dynamic concept reflecting an individual's self-worth and belief in their capabilities, is profoundly influenced by the parenting styles experienced during childhood, with authoritative parenting generally promoting healthier self-esteem, while authoritarian, permissive, and neglectful styles may have detrimental effects on a child's self-perception and confidence.’ After an extensive review of the existing literature focusing on the interplay between parenting styles and a child's self-esteem, particular attention was given to scrutinizing the impact of the authoritarian parenting style across distinct age groups. This investigation encompassed children in their formative years (6-12 years), adolescents within the age range of 11-18 years, and college-going students aged 15-19 years. The findings consistently indicate a significant association between self-esteem and the parenting style adopted by parents<sup>183</sup>.

Authoritative and permissive parenting styles emerged as the most conducive to fostering higher levels of self-esteem among children. These parenting approaches create an environment characterized by warmth, support, and the establishment of reasonable boundaries. In contrast, children whose parents practiced authoritarian parenting, marked by excessive control, rigidity, and strictness, experienced notable reductions in their self-esteem. The overbearing nature of authoritarian parenting hindered these children's ability to effectively navigate life's challenges, dampening their self-confidence and self-esteem. This often left them feeling inferior, insecure, and devalued<sup>184</sup>.

In summation, a clear inverse relationship exists between authoritarian parenting and a child's self-esteem, while authoritative parenting styles are consistently associated with positive and direct effects on a child's self-esteem. These findings underscore the critical role of parenting styles in shaping a child's self-perception and emotional well-being across different developmental stages<sup>185</sup>.

#### **2.4.1 Measures to Prevent Children from Becoming Involved in Internet Fraud**

Children today encounter a lot of technology and the internet, which exposes them to various types of internet fraud. Internet fraud involves online activities that can hurt children's mental and emotional well-being, such as bullying, harassment, identity theft, fraud, and more. Parents have a crucial role in preventing internet fraud from affecting their children. According to the U. S. Department of Justice (2020), parents should discuss internet safety and develop an online safety plan with children before they engage in online activity. It is important to take note some of the measures to prevent children from becoming involved in internet fraud, here are some additional details:

1) Discussing internet safety and developing an online safety plan with children before they engage in online activity. This means that parents should explain to their children the potential risks and benefits of using the internet and set some rules and boundaries for their online behaviour. For example, parents can decide which websites and apps are appropriate for their children, how much time they can spend online, and who they can communicate with. Parents should also encourage their children to talk to them about any problems or concerns they have online, and to report any suspicious or inappropriate messages or requests they receive<sup>186</sup>.

2) Supervising young children's use of the internet, including periodically checking their profiles and posts. This means that parents should monitor their children's online activities and make sure they are using the internet safely and responsibly. Parents can use parental control tools to block or limit access to certain websites, apps, or content that may be harmful or inappropriate for their children. Parents can also check their children's profiles, posts on social media and other platforms, and make sure they are not sharing any personal or sensitive information that could expose them to internet criminals<sup>187</sup>.

3) Reviewing games, apps, and social media sites before they are downloaded or used by children. This means that parents should research the games, apps, and social media sites that their children want to use, and check their ratings, reviews, privacy policies, and terms of use. Parents should pay particular attention to apps and sites that feature end-to-end encryption, direct messaging, video chats, file uploads, and user anonymity, which are frequently relied upon by online child predators. These features can make it harder for parents to monitor their children's online interactions, and easier for internet criminals to contact and exploit them<sup>188</sup>.

4) Adjusting privacy settings and using parental controls for online games, apps, social media sites, and electronic devices. This means that parents should customize the privacy settings of the games, apps, and social media sites that their children use, and make sure they are not sharing any information that could identify them or their location. Parents should also use parental controls on the electronic devices that their children use, such as computers, smartphones, tablets, gaming consoles, and smart TVs. Parental controls can help parents restrict access to certain features or functions of the devices, such as cameras, microphones, GPS, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, or in-app purchases<sup>189</sup>.

5) Teaching children about body safety and boundaries, including the importance of saying 'no' to inappropriate requests both in the physical world and the virtual world. This means that parents should educate their children about their rights and responsibilities regarding their own bodies and those of others. Parents should teach their children to respect themselves and others, to say 'no' when they feel uncomfortable or pressured by someone else's actions or words, and to seek help from a trusted adult if they feel threatened or violated. Parents should also teach their children to recognize the signs of grooming by online child predators, such as asking for personal information or photos, sending gifts or money, expressing excessive interest or affection, or requesting a meeting in person<sup>190</sup>.

6) Being alert to potential signs of abuse, including changes in children's use of electronic devices, attempts to conceal online activity, withdrawn behaviour, angry outbursts, anxiety, and depression. This means that parents should be attentive to any changes in their children's mood or behaviour that may indicate that they are being victimized by internet fraud. Parents should look for signs such as spending more time

online than usual; hiding or deleting messages or files; avoiding social contact with family or friends; showing signs of fear, anger, sadness, or guilt; having trouble sleeping or eating; engaging in self-harm or substance abuse; or having suicidal thoughts.

7) Encouraging children to tell a parent, guardian, or other trusted adult if anyone asks them to engage in sexual activity or other inappropriate behaviour. This means that parents should create a safe and supportive environment for their children to share their online experiences with them. Parents should listen to their children without judging or blaming them; praise them for being brave and honest; reassure them that they are not alone; help them report the incident to the appropriate authorities; and seek professional help if needed.

#### **2.4.2 Internet security Awareness for Parents**

Internet security refers to the processes and actions taken to eliminate risks and prevent damage to an organization's information security in all forms. This includes preventing fraud, attacks, sabotage, espionage, and various mistakes by considering the basic elements of information security or CIA (Confidentiality, Integrity, Availability).

Awareness means stimulating and encouraging individuals to take care of information security and continually reminding them of important security practices. Internet security awareness is about conveying information and best practices to specific target groups. Internet security awareness programs address how materials and tools can be used to convey messages effectively. The multidimensional structure of an awareness program can lead to different interpretations at various levels.

In today's digital age, the internet is widely accessible across the globe. With the increasing availability of smartphones, nearly two-thirds of Americans now own one<sup>191</sup>.

While constant online presence has its developmental benefits, it also presents new risks<sup>192</sup>. As events in the internet world can unfold rapidly and have far-reaching consequences, it is important for parents to stay informed and vigilant in order to protect their children from internet security threats. Their role includes teaching and preventing their children from falling victim to such threats. Parents become aware of internet fraud when they perceive its threat and genre of it. The internet can be a dangerous place for children. There are many risks, including internet bullying, internet predators, revealing private information, phishing, scams, accidentally downloading malware, and posting content that could haunt them later in life.

Internet bullying is when someone uses electronic devices to bully another person. This can include sending mean text messages, posting embarrassing photos or videos online, or spreading rumors on social media. Internet bullying can have a devastating impact on victims, leading to depression, anxiety, and even suicide.

Internet predators are adults who use the internet to prey on children. They may pose as someone else, such as a teenager, in order to gain a child's trust. Once they have the child's trust, they may try to meet the child in person or ask for personal information.

Revealing private information is another risk that children face online. Children may not realize that the information they share online can be seen by anyone. This information could be used to bully them, track them down, or even steal their identity.

Phishing is a type of scam where someone tries to trick you into giving them your personal information. They may send you an email that looks like it's from a legitimate company, such as your bank or credit card company. The email will usually ask you to click on a link or provide your personal information, such as your password or credit card

number. If you click on the link or provide your information, the scammer can use it to steal your identity or make unauthorized purchases.

Scams are another type of online risk. Scammers may offer you something that seems too good to be true, such as a free vacation or a job that pays a lot of money. If you fall for the scam, you may end up losing money or your personal information.

Accidentally downloading malware is another risk that children face online. Malware is software that can damage your computer or steal your personal information. It can be downloaded from websites that are infected with malware, or it can be attached to emails. If your child downloads malware, it could damage their computer or steal their personal information.

Posting content that could haunt them later in life is another risk that children face online. Children may post pictures or videos of themselves online that they later regret. This content could be seen by potential employers or college admissions officers. It could also be used to bully them or track them down.

It is important for parents to talk to their children about the risks of the internet and how to stay safe. You can also use parental controls to restrict their access to certain websites and apps. Parents who took these precautions would help to protect their children from the dangers of the internet.

Parents play an important role in teaching their children about technology. According to research, 69% of parents supervise their child's computer time, while 31% do not supervise their child at all<sup>193</sup>. As a result of this, parents should:

- Become familiar with the internet and technology. It is important to know about popular tools and websites among children and to understand their potential risks.

For example, games may involve bullying between players, and social media may involve enticement.

- Teach children about security from the beginning. Many parents are unsure when to allow their children to start using technology such as smartphones and computers. However, if children are supervised and parents know what they are doing, it is enough. Just don't forget to teach them about security.
- Talk to their children about social media privacy. This means limiting the scope of people who can see their pictures, videos, and activities. Criminals often collect information from social media to learn about our activities and whereabouts or to lure children to a specific location. Therefore, it is important to limit the scope of people who can see our activities appropriately.
- Make sure all devices are secure and protected. After becoming familiar with the internet and technology, parents can guide children in understanding security and privacy. Devices should also be secured with parental control apps that allow parents to safeguard children on smartphones and tablets in this complex digital era while also preventing them from making expensive in-app purchases.

Based on research conducted on parental supervision of children's internet use. For example, a national survey of 1511 children and 906 parents found that 12-17 year-olds encounter a range of online risks. Parents implement a range of strategies, favouring active co-use and interaction rules over technical restrictions using filters or monitoring software. However, these strategies were not necessarily effective in reducing risk<sup>192</sup>. There are also experts who offer advice on how parents can manage their children's technology use<sup>194</sup>.

Parental supervision of teenagers' internet use according to digital experts 'The Connected Parent: An Expert Guide to Parenting in a Digital World,' suggest that parents should keep an open conversation about digital issues, embrace the positive aspects of new technology while building skills to mitigate risks, and seek a balance between offering support and independence<sup>195</sup>.

Internet security awareness is important for everyone, not just parents. Malware was the number one threat from the internet world in 2017 and 2018, and it is likely to remain the top threat in 2019. Parents should teach their children about the threats from the internet world, and they should also be aware of the connection between internet security and internet bullying<sup>196</sup>.

### **2.4.3 Attitude and Perception of Parents Towards Internet Fraud**

The internet is a powerful tool for exchanging large amounts of information quickly and easily with the world. It has become an essential part of our lives, enriching them through improved access to information, entertainment, communication, and commerce. Over the past decade, internet use has grown dramatically and has become an integral part of everyday life, especially for adolescents and emerging adults who need technological literacy for both work and play. However, the negative aspects of the internet have also been attracting attention. In addition to issues such as fraud, fraud, bullying, and time-wasting, the problem of internet dependence has been highlighted as a growing concern<sup>197</sup>.

Parenting styles are known to have a powerful influence on child development, and as such they can expressively influence children's Internet use.

The internet has become a popular medium in the 21st century, leading to significant changes in social and cultural practices. In recent years, it has become common for young

children to use the Internet<sup>197</sup>. According to Hofferth, children as young as 5 years old are being exposed to the internet at home and in school<sup>198</sup>.

Research has made known that the internet provides children with many opportunities for communication, access to information, and interactive play<sup>199</sup>. It can help children develop their cognitive and social abilities, enhance their visual intelligence, and improve their learning<sup>200</sup>. Children who frequently use the internet tend to score higher on standardized tests of reading achievement than those who use it rarely<sup>201</sup>. Additionally, many child-based websites help develop children's metacognitive functions such as planning, searching strategies, and evaluating information<sup>202</sup>. Additionally, access to a computer and the Internet at home contributes to improved Internet skills later in life, which are crucial in the modern world<sup>203</sup>.

As argued by scholars, that, although the Internet can be an amazing experience for children, it can also be a dangerous environment for them<sup>204</sup>. A number of researchers have taken a more critical perspective on children's use of the Internet<sup>205</sup>. The manner in which young children engage with the Internet can be influenced by various factors, including the parenting style adopted by their parents<sup>206</sup>. Parenting styles encompass the ways in which parents interact with their children and respond to their behaviours. According to a researcher, parenting style refers to the range of approaches employed by parents in their efforts to regulate and socialize their children<sup>207</sup>.

In the 1960s, a developmental psychologist conducted a study focused on the interactions between parents and preschool children, which led to the identification of three distinct parenting styles: authoritarian, authoritative, and permissive<sup>208</sup>. Building upon the researchers' work, subsequent research in the 1980s introduced a fourth parenting style:

neglectful parenting<sup>209</sup>. These four parenting styles differ in two key aspects of parental behaviour: (1) the level of warmth or responsiveness exhibited by parents and (2) the degree of control or demands placed on children<sup>210</sup>.

#### **2.4.4 History of Ede**

Ede is a town in Osun State, southwestern Nigeria. It lies along the Osun River at a point on the railroad from Lagos, 112 miles (180 km) southwest, and at the intersection of roads from Oshogbo, Ogbomosho, and Ife. Ede is one of the older towns of the Yoruba people. It is traditionally said to have been founded about 1500 by Timi Agbale, a hunter and warlord sent by Alaafin (King) Kori of Old Oyo (Katunga), capital of the Oyo empire, to establish a settlement to protect the Oyo caravan route to Benin (127 miles/204 km to the southeast), a purpose similar to that of other Nigerian towns. Nearby towns include Awo, Iragberi and Oshogbo. Its traditional ruler is known as the Timi Agbale, popularly referred to as Tiimi Agbale Olofa-Ina. According to myth, he is the man whose arrows bring out fire<sup>211</sup>. Ede has two local governments namely Ede North and South Local Governments. The population is put at 159,866 according to the 2006 Population Census. The people of Ede town engage in farming, trading and commercial activities are found on a large scale because of the central nature of the town and closeness to major cities like Osogbo, Iwo, Ife and Ejigbo<sup>212</sup>.

Ede is important in the history of the State due to the presence of the Federal Polytechnic, Redeemer's University, railway tracks connecting Lagos and Northern Nigeria, River Osun which passes through the town and Ede Water Works that supplies water to about twenty (20) local governments in the State. The Timi of Ede is the traditional title of the paramount ruler and the present Timi is Oba Muniru Adesola Lawal Laminisa I<sup>213</sup>.

The present Ede was established by Timi Kubolaje Agbonran around 1817 along with his siblings: Oyefi, Ajenju, Arohanran and Aduniyi all being the descendants of Lalemo. The former Ede is known as Ede-Ile. The founder and historical head of Ede, Timi Agbale Olofa Ina was one of the great lords leading the Yoruba army at that time both internal and external aggression around Yoruba land. He was in the upper cadre of the military chiefs. The first Ede settlement, established as a military outpost in the sixteenth century by the Oyo authorities had to be shifted to the other side of the Osun River round 1818-1819. One account of the movement had it that when the Afonja, the Aare Onakakanfo, based in Ilorin who betrayed the Alaafin as he joined hands with the Fulani Jihadists to declare Ilorin independent of Oyo control and went further to organize invasion of Yoruba towns like Osogbo, Ede, Ejigbo, Ilobu etc, all in the province. The old Ede settlement had to be shifted for strategic reasons.

It was this account of incessant invasion that made the security of the town precarious that forced the people to relocate to the present site of Ede. There is no doubt that if Ede was to be safe from Fulani attack it needed a neutral barrier to shield her<sup>214</sup>. The man who had this political foresight was Timi Kubolaje Agbaran. However, another account said Timi Agbale had two sons, Lanodi. After the death of Timi Agbale, the monopoly of the throne by Lamadu and his descendants forced Lalemo's descendants to move away from Ede Ile to their own town which is the present Ede. After leaving Ede Ile for the Omo Lamodis, they consulted Ifa oracle, who told them to continue their exodus until they crossed a big river-the Osun river. On crossing the Osun River, the Ifa oracle asked them to proceed until they finally settled at a point a little across the Osun River<sup>215</sup>.

By the time they settled in the new Ede, the eldest brother (Oyefi) was said to be too old and died. So, the next most senior son, Agbonran became the first Timi of the present Ede. The other brothers: Ajeniju and Arohanran, took their turns to ascend the Timi stool. By the time it got to the turn of Oduniyi, the old man had died and his younger son, Abibu langunju, ascended the throne. It is on record that despite his many travail, he remained the longest serving Timi, having reigned for 60 years before he died at a ripe age of 90 years. But there was no controversy that during his reign, Timi Agbale Olofa Ina rose to the Head of Yoruba Army in Ibolu Province of the Oyo Empire, saddling him with the responsibility of warding off any from external invasion, especially the Fulani Jihadists<sup>216</sup>. History recorded Timi Agbale Olofa Ina as a very powerful warlord who was described in Samuel Johnson's History of the Yoruba from the Earliest time of the Beginning of the British Protectorate, as 'an archer, noted for his deadly arrow who more than justified his appointment as Aare Onakanfo by the Alaafin'. At the peak of his reign, it was almost a sacrilege to address Timi Agbale without the appellation 'Olofa Ina'.

Between 1824 and 1840, Ede was involved in the various wars of resistance fought to repel the Fulani's invasion into the Yoruba territory. Among the notable wars fought were: Ogele and Mugba Mugba wars; the Ede-Ogbomoso war' among others. And not until 1835 when Alaafin Oluewu appealed to all Yoruba leaders/Chiefs to sink their differences and come together as a people from the same origin that peace began to reign in the land. He essentially warned them to be curious of the danger in any disunity in their ranks because of the rampaging Fulani Jihadists who had established a strong foothold in Ilorin and were ready to expand more into the cost region of the west. At the time, the reigning Timi was Bamgbaiye Ajeniju who was reputed as the richest Timi that

ever reigned in Ede. Timi Bamgbaiye Ajeniji was said to have such a large number of goats and sheep in his garden that he lost count of their figure.

The animals were said to be so many that they ate up all the green grass in the large garden. He was in the saddle during those turbulent periods in Yorubaland<sup>217</sup>. In essence, what one is trying to draw out is the strategic position of Ede and Its rulers in the scheme of things in Yoruba land. When loyalty was failing, in this face of personal and individual ambition, the loyalty of the founding fathers of Ede never failed the Yoruba Nation. This was amplified by the resolve of Timi Bamgbaiye Ajeniju who promptly responded to a seized-fire in the intra-Yoruba<sup>218</sup>.

## **2.5 Summary of Gap in Literature Reviewed**

A critical gap exists in research exploring the relationship between Parental Roles and adolescents' involvement in internet fraud, particularly within the specific context of Ede South Local Government, Osun State, Nigeria. While extensive research exists on the broader influence of parenting styles on adolescent behaviour, its nuanced application within the unique sociocultural tapestry of Ede South remains largely unexplored. This lack of context-specific inquiry presents a limitation in comprehending the complex factors influencing adolescents' vulnerability to internet fraud in the region.

Existing studies support this need for a localized approach. A scholar emphasize the importance of region-specific research to capture how the internet's impact on adolescents manifests differently across geographical contexts<sup>219</sup>. Their work in Auckland, Australia, highlights the potential for distinct vulnerabilities and risk factors in Ede South due to its specific cultural and technological landscape. Further underscoring this gap, a researcher on Parenting Styles and Dimensions Questionnaire (PSDQ) might

require cultural validation before its direct application in Ede, due to the potential differences in family dynamics and socialization processes compared to the original development context<sup>220</sup>. Recent years have seen a growing recognition of the influence of culture and religion on adolescent behavior online. A philosopher also highlight the complex interplay between family, peers, and faith among Muslim-American teenagers, suggesting the need to consider similar aspects in the Nigerian context<sup>221</sup>. In Ede South, factors like religious beliefs, community norms, and traditional family structures potentially interact with parenting styles to shape adolescents' perceptions and susceptibility to online fraud. Therefore, this research delves into the previously unexplored territory of how different parenting styles (authoritative, authoritarian, permissive, uninvolved) relate to adolescents' susceptibility to involvement in internet fraud within Ede South Local Government, Osun State, Nigeria. By addressing this gap, the study aims to: Identify the prevalence of different parenting styles in Ede South. The research also, examine the association between specific parenting styles and adolescents' reported involvement in internet fraud. Mores so, it explore the mediating or moderating role of cultural and religious factors in this relationship.

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## **Chapter Three**

### **Methodology**

This chapter explains the methodology and procedures that was used in the study. The main focus of the chapter included, the research design, the population of the study, sample and sampling techniques, instrumentation, validation of the instrument, reliability of the instrument, method of data collection and method of data analysis

#### **3.1 Research Design**

The research used qualitative research which typically involves collecting data through interviews, focus groups, or participant observation. These methods allow researchers to collect rich and detailed data about the participants' experiences and perspectives which will allow for a comprehensive understanding of the Influence of Parental Roles on Adolescent involvement in Internet Fraud in Ede South Local Government of Osun State, Nigeria. A multistage sampling technique was be employed to select participants from different schools within the local government area.

#### **3.2 Population of the Study**

This study covers one hundred (100) parents with children between the age of 12 to 19 years living in Ede South Local Government Area, Ede, Osun State, Nigeria. More so, the study also covers the students who are in secondary schools and higher institution of learning Ede South Local Government Area.

#### **3.3 Sample and Sampling Techniques**

A snowball sampling qualitative research was used. This is a sampling method that involves asking participants to refer the researcher to other potential participants. This process is repeated until the researcher has a sufficient sample size. The sample will

consist of parents and adolescents residing in Ede South Local Government area. Efforts were made to ensure diversity in terms of age, educational background, occupation, and socioeconomic status to capture a wide range of perspectives. Recruitment was done through community organizations, schools, and local authorities. Informed consent was obtained from all respondents.

### **3.4 Description of Research Instrument(s)**

The instrument for this study was a self-generated and adopted on Parental Roles titled Parenting Roles and Dimensions Questionnaire (PRDQ). The instrument was divided into two sections which sub-sections. Section A contained the demographic variables of the respondents while Section B of the instrument contain 25 items on 5-point likert scale.

### **3.5 Validity of the Research Instrument**

The validity of the research instrument is a crucial aspect of ensuring the accuracy and reliability of the measurements obtained. In this section, the validity of the Parenting Roles and Dimensions Questionnaire (PRDQ) was examined, focusing on its content validity, construct validity, criterion validity, and concurrent and predictive validity. The validity assessment of the PRDQ demonstrates its robustness as a research instrument for measuring parental styles. The rigorous evaluation of content, construct, criterion, and concurrent/predictive validity provides confidence in the accuracy and reliability of the instrument. The research instrument was valid in content because it covered all the aspects it should cover in the areas of research questions and purpose of the study. It was valid on the face value because the researcher designed it under the strict examination of his supervisor who took her time to make structural corrections. Also, the various constructs are bias and error-free.

### **3.6 Reliability of the Research Instrument**

The reliability of the Parenting Roles and Dimensions Questionnaire (PRDQ) was assessed, focusing on its internal consistency and test-retest reliability. Internal consistency measures the degree of consistency among the items within the instrument, while test-retest reliability examines the stability of the instrument over time. To assess internal consistency, the PRDQ underwent a statistical analysis using measures such as Cronbach's alpha coefficient. This analysis will determine the extent to which the items in the questionnaire consistently measure the same construct. A high value of Cronbach's alpha (typically above 0.70) indicates good internal consistency. For test-retest reliability, a subset of participants will be selected to complete the PRDQ on two separate occasions with a time interval in between. The scores obtained from both administrations were compared using correlation coefficients, such as the Pearson correlation, to assess the stability of the instrument over time. A high correlation coefficient (typically above 0.70) suggests good test-retest reliability.

By evaluating the reliability of the PRDQ through internal consistency and test-retest reliability analyses, we can ensure that the instrument consistently measures Parental Roles and provides reliable results for the research study.

### **3.7 Administration of Instrument and Method of Data Collection**

A structured survey questionnaire was administered to parents and adolescents in the local government area. A total of 250 copies of the questionnaire was analyzed and used for this study. The survey includes both closed-ended and Likert-scale questions to gather quantitative data on parental behaviours, attitudes, and awareness regarding the influence of Parental Roles on adolescent involvement in internet fraud.

### **3.8 Method of Data Analysis**

The survey data was entered into a statistical software program for analysis. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations will be used to summarize the quantitative data. Inferential statistics such as chi-square tests or correlations conducted to explore relationships between variables. The findings will be presented using tables, charts, and graphs to enhance clarity and understanding.

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## Chapter Four

### Results and Discussion of Findings

#### 4.1 Demographic Data Analysis

##### 4.1.1 Presentation of Research Questions

This presentation synthesizes the findings of the semi-structured questionnaire analysis with the research questions in Chapter One to provide insights into the topic.

##### 4.2. Analysis of Data and Discussion of the Findings

The results and findings presented in this presentation are based on the responses of the participants in the structured questionnaire study.

**Table 4.2.1: Demographic variables of Respondents**

Description	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	58	38.7%
Female	92	61.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Field survey 2023.

According to the table above, in examining the demographic characteristics of the survey respondents, it is evident that a diverse group of individuals participated in this study. The gender distribution of respondents is a crucial demographic aspect that provides valuable insights into the composition of the sample population. In this field survey conducted by the researcher, the study aimed to examine various aspects related to a specific group of respondents. The gender distribution, with 58 (38.7%) male respondents and 92 (61.3%) female respondents, reveals interesting patterns and implications.

The female dominance shows most striking observation is the clear dominance of female respondents, constituting 61.3% of the total sample. This gender imbalance can be attributed to various factors, including the methodology of data collection, the nature of the study, or the characteristics of the specific population

under investigation. It is important to recognize that such gender disparities in research samples can influence the generalizability of findings.

**Table 4.2.2: Age Distribution of the Respondents**

Description	Frequency	Percentage (%)
30-40	56	37.3%
41-50	61	40.7%
51- above	33	22%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Field Survey 2023.

The table above shows that the age distribution of the respondents in this study is characterized by a relatively even distribution across three defined age groups. Specifically, 37.3% of participants fell into the 30-40 age range, 40.7% were within the 41-50 age group, and 22% were aged 51 and above. This balanced representation across age groups has several noteworthy implications. First and foremost, it signifies a diversity of perspectives among the participants, as different age groups typically bring distinct life experiences and viewpoints to the research. Researchers can leverage this diversity to explore how age-related factors might influence the variables under investigation, thereby enriching the depth and breadth of the findings.

Furthermore, the well-balanced age distribution has important implications for the generalizability of the study's findings. It suggests that the conclusions drawn from the research may have broader applicability, extending to various age cohorts within the target population. This minimizes the risk of bias and increases the potential for the findings to be relevant to a wider range of individuals.

**Table 4.2.3: Marital Status of the Respondents**

Description	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Single	17	11.3%

Single with children	19	12.7%
Married	78	52%
Widow(er)	12	8%
Divorced	12	8%
None	12	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Field Survey 2023.

In the table above, the distribution of marital status among the respondents in the study demonstrates a rich diversity of relationship statuses. Specifically, 52% of participants identified as ‘Married,’ indicating a significant presence of individuals in marital unions. The ‘Single’ and ‘Single with children’ categories each represented approximately 11-13% of the sample, reflecting the inclusion of individuals with distinct family structures. Moreover, the 8% representation of ‘Widow(er)’ and ‘Divorced’ categories highlights the participation of individuals who have undergone significant life changes related to their marital status, potentially contributing valuable insights to research on post-divorce or bereavement experiences. Additionally, an 8% portion marked ‘None,’ possibly indicating those who chose not to disclose their marital status or do not align with the provided categories. The diverse marital status distribution offers a comprehensive platform for examining the potential impact of these statuses on the variables under investigation, but researchers should carefully consider how the prevalence of married individuals may influence the generalizability of findings, particularly in studies that relate closely to marital dynamics.

**Table 4.2.4: Academic Qualifications of the Respondents**

Description	Frequency	Percentage (%)
JSSCE	-	-

SSCE	14	9.3%
OND	18	12%
NCE	20	13.3%
HND	33	22%
BS.C	52	34.7%
Others	13	8.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Field survey 2023.

The table shows the academic qualifications of the respondents. None of the respondents are JSSCE holder, 14(9.3%) of the respondents are SSCE holder, 18(12%) of the respondents are OND holder, 20(13.3%) of the respondents are NCE holder, 33(22%) of the respondents are HND holder, 52(34.7%) of the respondents are BS.C holder, while 13(8.7%) of the respondents falls under the category of others (other certificate). This shows that majority of the respondents are BS.C holder.

**Research Question One: What is the relationship between Parental Roles(authoritative, permissive, authoritarian) and adolescents' involvement in internet fraud?**

**Table 4.2.5: Relationship Between Parental Styles**

Questions	Very Often	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Total
How often do you talk to adolescent about the risks of internet fraud?	30%	34%	14%	10.7%	11.3%	100%
How much freedom does	15.3%	25.3%	26%	20.7%	12.7%	100%

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your adolescent have to use

the internet?

Do you monitor your	27.3%	23.3%	20.7%	14.7%	14%	100%
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Adolescent's online activity?

Do you have any rules about	22.7%	28.7%	20.7%	14.7%	13.3%	100%
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your adolescent use of the

social media?

100%

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Source: Field survey 2023.

Research question One shows the responses of the respondents on the relationship between Parental Roles(authoritative, permissive, authoritarian) and adolescents' involvement in internet fraud. 45 (30%) of the respondents affirmed to the facts that they talk to their adolescents about the risk of internet fraud very often, 51(34%) attest to the facts that they often talk to their adolescents, 21(14%) of the respondents sometimes talk their adolescents, 16(10.7%) of the respondents rarely speak to their adolescents about the risk of internet fraud, while 17(11.3) of the respondents said that they have never talk to their adolescents about the risk of internet fraud.

23(15.3%) of the respondents attest to the facts that they give their adolescents enough freedom on the use of internet, 38(25.3%) of the respondents often give their adolescents freedom on the use internet, 39(26%) of the respondents sometimes give their young ones freedom on internet use, 31(20.7%) of the respondents rarely give their young ones freedom on internet use, while 19(12.7%) of the respondents has never given their children freedom on the use of internet.

According to question three (3) which says Do you monitor your adolescents online activity? 41(27.3%) of the respondents responded that they monitor their young ones online activity very often, 35(23.3%) of the respondents often times monitor their adolescents online activity, 31(20.7%) of the respondents responded that

they sometimes monitor their young ones online activities, 22(14.7%) of the respondents rarely monitor their young ones online activities, while 21(14%) of the respondents said that they have never monitor their children online activity.

Research question one, question four (4) says Do you have any rules about your adolescent use of social media? 34(22.7%) of the respondents responded that the rules on how their young ones must use the social media is very strict, 43(28.7) of the respondents attest to the facts that often times give their adolescents rules on the use of the social media, 31(20.7) of the respondents said that they sometimes give their children rules on the way they use the social media, 22(14.7%) of the respondents rarely give their adolescents rules on how they must use the social media, while 20(13.3%) of the respondents in their responses said that they have never given their young ones rules on the way they must use the social media.

The above findings revealed that majority of the respondents have strong notion on the facts that there is a relationship between Parental Roles(authoritative, permissive, authoritarian) and adolescents' involvement in internet fraud.

**Research Question Two: Does any factors influences the Parenting Styles of adolescent's exposure to engaging in internet fraud?**

**Table 4.2.6: How Parenting Styles factors Influences Adolescent's Exposure to Engaging In Internet Fraud**

Questions	Very Much	Much	Little	Very Little	Undecided	Total
How much freedom does your adolescent have to use the internet?	16.7%	24%	25.3%	22.7%	11.3%	100%
Do you talk to your adolescent about the risks of internet fraud?	34%	27.3%	17.3%	10.7%	10.7%	100%

Do you monitor your adolescent's online activity?	28%	27.3%	17.3%	14.7%	12.7%	100%
Do you have any rules about your adolescent use of the internet?	24.7%	28%	21.3%	14%	12%	100%
						100%

Source: Field survey 2023.

Research question two, question one, which says how does parenting styles influence adolescents exposure to engaging in internet fraud? 16.7% of the respondents responded that they give very much freedom to their adolescents on the use of internet, 24% of the respondents said that they give their adolescent much freedom on the use of internet, 25.3% of the respondents give little freedom to their adolescents on the use of internet, 22.7% of the respondents responded that they give very little freedom to their young ones, while 11.3% of the respondents are undecided about the matter.

Question two which says Do you talk to your adolescent about the risks of internet fraud? 34% of the respondents responded that they give very much talk to their adolescent on the use of internet, 27.3% of the respondents said they give much talk to their young ones on the use of internet, 17.3% of the respondents give little talk to their adolescents on internet use, 10.7% of the respondents very little talk to their children on the use of internet, while 10.7% of the respondents are undecided.

Question three says Do you monitor your adolescent's online activity? 28% of the respondents attest to the facts that they give very much monitoring on their young ones online activity, 27.3% of the respondents give much monitoring on their adolescents online activity, 17.3% of the respondents give little monitoring on their children online activity, 14.7% of the respondent gives very little monitoring on their young ones activity online, while 12.7% of the respondents are undecided.

Question which says, do you have any rules about your adolescent use of the internet? 24.7% of the respondents attests to the facts they have very much rules on the way their adolescents use the internet, 28% of the respondents in their responses was discovered that they have much rules on their adolescent use of the

internet, 21.3% of the respondents gives little rules on the use of the internet to their young ones, 14% of the respondents in their responses have very little rules on the use of the internet on their adolescents, while 12% of the respondents are undecided.

The above findings shows that parenting styles influence adolescents exposure to engaging in internet fraud as majority of the respondents attest to the facts.

Research question three: what is the relationship between permissive parenting and adolescent's livelihood of participating in internet fraud?

**Table 4.2.7: Relationship Between Permissive Parenting And Adolescent's Livelihood of Participating in Internet Fraud**

Questions	Very Often	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Total
How often do you set rules For your adolescent internet use?	28%	26.7%	20.7%	11.3%	13.3%	100%
How often do you enforce those rules?	29.3%	28%	12.7%	15.3%	14.7%	100%
How often do you talk to your adolescent's about the consequences of breaking the rules?	26%	29.3%	20%	12%	12.7%	100%
How often do you set rules For your adolescent internet Use?	25.3%	28.7%	19.3%	13.3%	13.3%	100%

Source: Field survey 2023.

**Research question three, which says what is the relationship between permissive parenting and adolescents livelihood of participating in internet fraud?**

Question one which says How often do you set rules for your adolescent internet use?

28% of the respondents attest to the facts that rules on adolescents use of internet are set very often, 26.7% of the respondents said that they often set rules for their adolescents use of the internet, 20.7% of the respondents sometimes set rules for their children use of the internet, 11.3% of the respondents responded that they rarely give their young ones rules on how they must use the internet, while 13.3% of the respondents have never given rules to their adolescent on the use of the internet.

Question two which says How often do you enforce those rules? 29.3% of the respondents responded that they enforce those rules very often, 28% of the respondents said they often times enforce the rules, 12.7% of the respondents sometimes enforces the rules on their adolescents, 15.3% of the respondents rarely enforces those rules, while 14.7% of the respondents have never enforce the rules of internet use on their young ones.

Question three says How often do you talk to your adolescent's about the consequences of breaking the rules? 26% of the respondents attest to the facts that they talk about the consequences of breaking the rules very often, 29.3% of the respondents often times talk about the consequences of breaking the rules, 20% of the respondents sometimes talk about the consequences of breaking rules to their adolescents, 12% of the respondent rarely talk about the consequences of breaking the rules, while 12.7% of the respondents have never talk about the consequences of breaking the rules to their young ones.

Question four which says, How often do you set rules for your adolescent internet Use? 25.3% of the respondents responded that the rules are set very often, 28.7% of the respondents in their responses was discovered that they often times set rules on the use of the internet, 19.3% of the respondents sometimes set rules on the use of the internet to their young ones, 13.3% of the respondents in their responses rarely set rules on the use of the internet on their adolescents, while 13.3% of the respondents have never set rules for their adolescent on the use of the internet.

The above findings shows that there is a relationship between permissive parenting and adolescents livelihood of participating in internet fraud.

**Research Question four:** How does parenting affect adolescents’ exposure to online risks such as cyber bullying, online predators, and harmful content?

**Table 4.2.8: How Does Parenting Affect Adolescents’ Exposure to Online Risks**

Questions	Very Often	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Total
How often do you talk to adolescent about online risks?	34.7%	30%	13.3%	11.3%	10.6%	100%
Do you monitor your adolescent’s activity?	23.3%	30%	22%	12.7%	12%	100%
Do you have rules about your adolescent’s use of social media?	22.7%	29.3%	22%	14%	12%	100%
How often do you talk to your adolescent about online risks?	31.3%	25.3%	19.3%	12%	12%	100%
						100%

Source: Field survey 2023.

According to research question 4 which says how does parenting affect adolescents’ exposure to online risks such as cyber bullying, online predators, and harmful content?

Question one says How often do you talk to adolescent about online risks?

34.7% of the respondents attest to the facts that they talk to their adolescent about online risks very often, 30% of the respondents said that they often talk to their adolescent about online risks, 13.3% of the respondents sometimes talk to their adolescent about online risks, 11.3% of the respondents responded that they rarely talk to their adolescent about online risks, while 10.6% of the respondents have never talk to their adolescent about online risks.

Question two which says Do you monitor your adolescent's activity? 23.3% of the respondents responded that they monitor their adolescent's activity very often, 30% of the respondents said they often times monitor their adolescent's activity, 22% of the respondents sometimes monitor their adolescent's activity, 12.7% of the respondents rarely monitor their adolescent's activity, while 12% of the respondents have never monitor their adolescent's activity.

Question three says Do you have rules about your adolescent's use of social media? 22.7% of the respondents attest to the facts that they have rules about their adolescent's use of social media very often, 29.3% of the respondents often times have rules about their adolescent's use of social media, 22% of the respondents sometimes have rules about their adolescent's use of social media, 14% of the respondent rarely talk about have rules about their adolescent's use of social media, while 12% of the respondents have never set rules for their adolescent's use of social media.

Question four which says, how often do you talk to your adolescent about online risks? 31.3% of the respondents responded that they talk to their adolescent about online risks very often, 25.3% of the respondents in their responses was discovered that they often times talk to their adolescent about online risks, 19.3% of the respondents sometimes talk to their adolescent about online risks, 12% of the respondents in their responses rarely talk to their adolescent about online risks, while 12% of the respondents have never talk to their adolescent about online risks.

The above findings show that parenting affect adolescents' exposure to online risks such as cyber bullying, online predators, and harmful content as affirmed by majority of the respondents.

**Research Question five:** What factors influences the interests of the adolescent in internet fraud?

**Table 4.2.9: Factors Influences the Interests of the Adolescent in Internet Fraud**

Questions	Online	Church/School/Home	Friends/Peer group	None	Total (%)
Where do your	35	30	28	57	150

adolescent learn about internet fraud?	23.3%	20%	18.7%	38%	100%
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Source: Field survey 2023.

The above table shows where different adolescents learn about internet fraud. 23.3% of the respondents said their adolescent learn online, 20% of the respondents said they learn it in Church/School/Home, 18.7% of the respondents said they learn it from Friends/Peer groups, while 38% of the respondents said None.

The findings reveal that majority of the respondents said None.

**Table 10: Findings Reveal that Majority of the Respondents said none.**

Questions	No	Yes	None	Others	Total (%)
Do your adolescents have any friends or family ?	85	21	23	21	150
	56.7%	14%	15.3%	14%	100%

Source: Field survey 2023.

The above table shows whether the adolescents have any friends or family. According to the respondents responses, it shows that majority of their adolescents don't any friends or family, 56.7% of the respondents said No, 14% of the respondents said yes, 15.3% of the respondents said None, while 14% of the respondents said others.

**Table 4.2.11: Thoughts and Feelings about Internet Fraud**

Questions	Evil/Bad/Risky	Good/Encouraged	Not Interested	Nil/None	Total
					(%)
What are your adolescents thoughts and feelings about internet fraud?	61 40.7%	32 21.3%	23 15.3%	34 22.7%	150 100%

**Source: Field survey 2023.**

The above table says What are your adolescents' thoughts and feelings about internet fraud? 40.7% of the respondents said that their respondents thought and feelings is evil and risky, 21.3% of the respondents said it is good and should be encouraged, 15.3% of the respondents said their adolescents is not interested, while 22.7% of the respondents said none. The findings reveal that majority of the respondent's thoughts and feelings about internet is evil, bad, and risky.

### **4.3 Discussion of Findings**

The survey findings offer valuable insights into various aspects related to parenting styles and adolescents' involvement in internet-related activities. The gender distribution of respondents shows that 58 (38.7%) were male, while 92 (61.3%) were female, indicating a gender imbalance in the sample, which may impact generalizability.

The age distribution reveals a diverse representation across different age groups, with 37.3% between 30-40 years, 40.7% between 41-50 years, and 22% aged 51 and above. This diversity enables the exploration of age-related factors and enhances generalizability.

The marital status data reflects a varied set of statuses, with 52% of respondents being married, 8% widowed or divorced, and 8% marking 'None.' These diverse statuses provide a rich sample for studying the impact of marital status on the research variables. The survey results echo findings from developmental psychologist Larry Steinberg regarding parenting styles and adolescent internet use. While our sample skewed female (61.3%), it aligns with a psychologist exploration of how authoritative parenting, characterized by clear expectations alongside open communication, can influence positive online behaviours in teenagers<sup>1</sup>.

Regarding academic qualifications, 34.7% of respondents hold a B.Sc., with other qualifications also well-represented. This diversity allows for the examination of the relationship between education level and the research variables.

For Research Question one, the findings indicate a substantial relationship between Parental Roles and adolescents' involvement in internet fraud. Respondents vary in the frequency with which they talk to their adolescents about the risks of internet fraud, monitor online activities, and set rules. This is in-line with a scholar's theory that suggests adolescents learn deviant behaviors, like internet fraud, through observation and interaction with their social environment. Parents who don't discuss online risks, monitor activity, or set boundaries might be seen as implicitly endorsing such behaviours<sup>2</sup>

Research Question two reveals that parenting styles significantly affect adolescents' exposure to internet fraud. The level of freedom, communication, and enforcement of rules have varying impacts on adolescent behaviour in this context.

Question three highlights the relationship between permissive parenting and adolescents' likelihood of engaging in internet fraud. The data shows how the frequency of setting rules, enforcing rules, and talking to adolescents about rule consequences correlates with this issue.

For Research Question four, the findings suggest that parenting styles influence adolescents' exposure to online risks like cyberbullying and harmful content. The frequency of communication, monitoring, and rule-setting plays a role in mitigating these risks. This is in accordance with a philosopher that emphasizes the importance

of both monitoring adolescents' online activity and maintaining open communication about online safety. This research aligns with this scholar by demonstrating that the frequency of communication, monitoring, and rule-setting plays a role in mitigating online risks. It suggests that parents who actively engage with their children about online safety and set clear boundaries can help reduce their exposure to cyberbullying and harmful content<sup>4</sup>.

Research Question five indicates that most adolescents in the study claim they learn about internet fraud from none of the specified sources. The majority of respondents do not have friends or family who engage in such activities, and many adolescents view internet fraud as evil, bad, or risky. These factors may influence their interest or involvement in internet fraud.

In summary, the survey results provide valuable data for examining the relationships between parenting styles, adolescent behaviours, and the broader context of internet-related activities. The findings suggest a substantial relationship between parental practices and adolescents' online experiences, which could have important implications for interventions and policies related to internet fraud and online safety.

#### Endnotes

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## Chapter Five

### Conclusion

#### 5.1 Summary of Findings

The survey results highlight the significant impact of Parental Roles on adolescents' internet activities. Demographically, the sample was predominantly female, with a well-balanced distribution of age groups and diverse marital and educational backgrounds. This diverse representation in the sample provides a robust foundation for investigating the research questions. The findings indicate that Parental Roles play a crucial role in shaping adolescents' involvement in internet fraud and their exposure to online risks. The frequency of communication, rule-setting, and monitoring within the family dynamic emerged as key factors influencing adolescent behaviour in the online realm. Additionally, most adolescents in the study expressed negative perceptions of internet fraud, with only a small portion reporting friends or family involved in such activities. In essence, the survey underscores the vital role of parental guidance and education in promoting responsible online behaviour among adolescents. It also highlights the importance of addressing the risks associated with internet fraud within the family context.

#### 5.2 Conclusion

In conclusion, the survey findings shed light on the intricate relationship between Parental Roles and adolescents' engagement in internet-related activities, particularly internet fraud and exposure to online risks. The demographic composition of the sample, with a majority of female respondents and a diverse spread of age, marital status, and educational backgrounds, provides a solid platform for the study's exploration. The data underscores the pivotal role of parenting in influencing adolescents' online behaviour. Parental communication, rule-setting, and monitoring emerge as critical determinants of how adolescents navigate the digital landscape. These findings emphasize the need for parental guidance and education to foster responsible online conduct among adolescents while also addressing the risks linked to internet fraud. Furthermore, the majority of adolescents in the study demonstrated a negative outlook on internet fraud, with a limited number reporting acquaintances involved in such activities. This suggests that family dynamics and parental practices can significantly impact the ethical considerations and behaviour of adolescents in the online world.

In essence, this study reinforces the idea that effective parenting plays a fundamental role in shaping adolescents' experiences and behaviours in the digital age. As online activities and risks continue to evolve, the influence of Parental Roles remains a critical factor in safeguarding adolescents and promoting a responsible, safe, and ethical online environment.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. To promote parental education and awareness programs to help parents understand responsible internet usage and the potential risks for adolescents in the online world.
2. To encourage open and ongoing communication between parents and adolescents, facilitating discussions about online risks and responsible internet behaviour.
3. Emphasize the importance of setting and consistently enforcing rules regarding internet usage to ensure that online activities align with family values.
4. To advocate for regular monitoring and supervision of adolescents' online activities, using appropriate technological tools and open dialogue to create a safe online environment.
5. To highlight the significance of parental role modeling by encouraging parents to exhibit responsible online behaviour as an example for their children.
6. Encourage collaborative efforts between educational institutions, researchers, and government bodies to conduct ongoing research on internet fraud's impact on adolescents, informing policy changes and preventive measures.
7. Advocate for policies and regulations that protect adolescents in the online environment, involving governments and online platforms to create a safer digital space for young users.
8. Incorporate online literacy and digital citizenship programs into school curricula to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the online world responsibly.
9. Government should offer support services for parents who may be struggling with addressing internet-related concerns within their families, including counseling, online safety resources, and community support groups.

Implementing these recommendations will facilitate a safer and more responsible online environment for adolescents, foster better communication and guidance within families, and promote ethical online behaviour.

#### **5.4 Contribution to Knowledge**

The research work according to the researcher contributes to knowledge in the following ways:

1. This research enhances our understanding of the influential role parents have in shaping adolescents' online behaviour, emphasizing the impact of parental styles, communication, and monitoring on how young individuals navigate the digital landscape.
2. The study raises awareness about the online risks' adolescents face, including internet fraud, cyberbullying, and exposure to harmful content, underlining the importance of informed and proactive parenting to safeguard adolescents in the digital realm.
3. By investigating adolescents' perceptions of internet fraud, the research provides valuable insights into their ethical considerations and attitudes toward online activities, offering a foundation for the development of interventions and educational programs.
4. The findings yield practical recommendations for parents, educators, policymakers, and support organizations, guiding the formulation of strategies and interventions aimed at promoting responsible internet behaviour among adolescents and protecting them from online risks.
5. The study holds policy implications related to internet safety and regulations, emphasizing the necessity for collaborative efforts between governments and online platforms to establish a safer online environment for young users.
6. It underscores the significance of incorporating online literacy and digital citizenship programs into school curricula, empowering students with the knowledge and skills required for responsible online behaviour.
7. The findings highlight the need for support systems for both parents and adolescents, including counseling services and community support groups, to assist families in addressing internet-related concerns effectively.

In summary, this research enriches our knowledge by delving into the influence of Parental Roles on adolescents' online behaviours and offers practical recommendations and policy considerations to foster a safer and more responsible online environment for adolescents in our increasingly digital world.

## **5.5 Suggested Areas for Further Research**

These research topics encompass a wide range of areas for further investigation and can contribute to our understanding of parental influence, online risks, and strategies to ensure a safer online environment for adolescents. Researchers can choose from the following topics aligned with their specific interests and expertise:

1. An assessment into the Longitudinal Impact of Parental Roles on Adolescents' Internet Behaviour: A Multi-Year Study.
2. A Cross-Cultural Analysis of Parental Roles and Adolescents' Online Behaviour: Comparing Western and Eastern Perspectives
3. Evaluating the Effectiveness of Online Literacy Programs in Promoting Responsible Internet Behaviour Among Adolescents
4. The Role of social media in Shaping Adolescents' Perceptions and Engagement in Internet Fraud: A Comparative Study
5. Protecting Adolescents Online: Mitigating the Risks of Online Predators and Cyberbullying through Parental Guidance.
6. Assessing the Impact of Parental Education Programs on Parental Awareness and Skills in Managing Adolescents' Online Behaviour.
7. Evaluating Online Safety Policies and Regulations: Enhancing Protection for Adolescents in the Digital Age.
8. Adolescent Experiences and Perceptions of Online Risks: A Qualitative Exploration of Narratives and Coping Strategies.
9. Peer Influence and Parental Guidance: Understanding the Dynamics of Adolescents' Online Behaviour.
10. The Psychological and Emotional Impact of Cyberbullying on Adolescents: Strategies for Support and Intervention.

11. Support Networks for Parents Dealing with Internet-Related Concerns: Community Resources and Online Forums.
12. Leveraging Technology for Online Safety: Exploring the Efficacy of Technological Interventions and Parental Control Tools.’

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### *Theses and other Unpublished works*

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## Appendix

Parental Roles on Adolescents' Involvement in Internet Fraud in Ede South Local Government, Ede, Osun State, Nigeria

### Parenting Styles and Dimensions Questionnaire (PSDQ)

**Dear Participants,**

Thank you for participating in this study on **Parental Roles on Adolescents' Involvement in Internet Fraud in Ede South Local Government, Ede, Osun State, Nigeria.**

Please take a few moments to complete the following questionnaire. Your responses will remain confidential and will be used for research purposes only.

Please tick (✓) the appropriate responses.

Section A: Section A: Demographic Variables of the participants.

Gender: Male ( ) Female ( ) Other/Prefer not to say ( )

Age: 30- 40 ( ) 41- 50 ( ) 51 and above ( )

Marital status: Single ( ) Single with a child(ren) ( ) Married ( ) Widow (er) ( ) Divorced ( )

Academic Qualification: JSSCE ( ) SSCE ( ) OND ( ) NCE ( ) HND ( ) B.Sc. ( ) Others: Specify.....

**Section B: What is the relationship between Parental Roles(authoritative, permissive, authoritarian) and adolescents' involvement in internet fraud? 5: Very Often 4: Often 3: Sometimes 2: Rarely 1: Never**

S/N.	Questions	5	4	3	2	1
1.	How often do you talk to your adolescent about the risks of internet fraud					
2.	How much freedom does your adolescent have to use the internet?					
3.	Do you monitor your adolescent's online activity?					
4.	Do you have any rules about your adolescent's use of social media?					

**Research Question 2: How does parenting styles influence adolescents' exposure to engaging in internet fraud? 5: Very Much 4: Much 3: Little 2: Very Little 1: Undecide**

S/N.	Questions	5	4	3	2	1
1.	How much freedom does your adolescent have to use the internet?					
2.	Do you talk to your adolescent about the risks of internet fraud?					
3.	Do you monitor your adolescent's online activity?					
4.	Do you have any rules about your adolescent's use of the internet?					

**Research Question 3: What is the relationship between permissive parenting and adolescents' likelihood of participating in internet fraud? 5: Very Often 4: Often 3: Sometimes 2: Rarely 1: Never**

S/N.	Questions	5	4	3	2	1
1.	How often do you set rules for your adolescent's internet use					
2.	How often do you enforce those rules?					
3.	How often do you talk to your adolescent about the consequences of breaking the rules?					
4.	How often do you set rules for your adolescent's internet use					

**Research Question 4: How does parenting affect adolescents' exposure to online risks, such as cyberbullying, online predators, and harmful content? 5: Very Often 4: Often 3: Sometimes 2: Rarely 1: Never**

S/N.	Questions	5	4	3	2	1
1.	How often do you talk to your adolescent about online risks?					
2.	Do you monitor your adolescent's online activity?					
3.	Do you have any rules about your adolescent's use of social media?					
4.	How often do you talk to your adolescent about online risks?					

**Research Question 5: What factor influences the interests of the adolescents in Internet Fraud?**

S/N.	Questions
1.	What are your adolescent's interests? _____
2.	Where do your adolescent learn about internet fraud? _____
3.	Do your adolescent have any friends or family members who have engaged in internet fraud? ? _____ —

## Bio-Data

### A. Personal Data

- 1. Full Name:** Francis Gladys BAMIJOKO
- Address:** No 5, Anuoluwapo Street, off Balogun Ilawe Alapere Road, Ketu, Alapere, Lagos State, Nigeria.
- E-mail Addresses:** [gladysbamijokofranci@gmail.com](mailto:gladysbamijokofranci@gmail.com)
- Phone Numbers:** 08162896649, 08023115442
- 2. Date of Birth:** June 25, 1965
- Place of Origin:** Orhionmwon
- Place of Birth:** Ottah Igbanke
- 3. Nationality:** Nigeria
- Languages Spoken:** Yoruba, English
- 4. Name and Address of Next of Kin:**

### B. Educational Background (with Dates and Qualifications)

#### 1. Primary Education

- (a) Ibadan Municipal Government School, Mokola Ibadan – Primary School Leaving Certificate - (1973 - 1978)

#### 2. Secondary Education

- (a) Mount Olivet Grammar School, Bodija Ibadan – (1981 - 1984)
- (b) Ife Girls Grammar School ( 1979 - 1980)

#### 3. Higher Educational Institution

- (a) Osun State College of Education Ila- Orungu - NCE (2012 - 2016)
- (b) Oduduwa University - PGD Business Administration (2020 - 2021)
- (c) Lead City University, Ibadan. Oyo State, Nigeria (2024) – Master of Intercultural Leadership And Administration in View

Lead City University, Ibadan. Oyo State, Nigeria - B.ED Guidance and Counseling

(2016 - 2019)

- (d) The Redeemed Christian School of Missions, Ede, Osun State, Nigeria ( 2008 - 2009)
- (e). Bodmas Computer and Management College Lagos (1998 - 1999)
- (f). The Redeemed Christian Bible College (2000)

### **C. Working Experience with Dates**

1. Manzonnia Industry: 1988-1990
2. Specialty Business Gift Ltd: 1990-1993
3. Hag Nig Ltd: 1993-1996
4. God Will Do It Ministries: 1997-2002
5. Kingdom Library Ltd: 2005-2008
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