Influence of Self-Concept, Emotional Support and Parenting Efficacy as Predictors of Social Competence of Adolescents in Lagos State, Nigeria

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Being a PhD Thesis Submitted to the Department of Arts & Social Science Education, Faculty of Education, Lead City University, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria

In Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Award of Doctor of Philosophy Degree (PhD) in Guidance and Counselling

2025

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Certification

This is to certify that **Blessing Elohor ONWUAMAH** with the matriculation number **LCU/PG/002876** carried out this research work titled **"Self-Concept, Emotional Support and Parenting Efficacy as Predictors of Social Competence among Adolescents from Father-absent Homes In Lagos State, Nigeria**" in the department of Arts and Social Sciences Education, Faculty of Education, Lead City University, Ibadan, Nigeria for the award of Doctor of Philosophy Degree (PhD) in Guidance and Counselling and that this has not been previously submitted.

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……. ……

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(Supervisor)

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(Head of Department)

Dedication

This work is dedicated to the Almighty God for putting this dream in my heart and to my dear husband, Dr. Chika K. Onwuamah who supported and motivated me into fulfilling this dream.

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Acknowledgement

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Even though the above-mentioned institutions and people have assisted in the process of this research work, I alone stand responsible for the errors, if any, found in the work.

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Abstract

Low social competence in adolescents, mainly associated with the physical or emotional absence of their fathers, can result in feelings of rejection, depression, and, ultimately, poor academic achievement. Thus, using a ex-post-facto descriptive research design, this study investigated the influence of self-concept, emotional support, parenting efficacy, and social competence on adolescents in public senior secondary schools in Lagos, Nigeria with special interest in those from father-absent homes. The respondents were selected using the multistage sampling procedure. Data were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics, with a 0.05 alpha level of significance. 1101 students participated in the study. The level of the variables were determined using the frequency table and the following were the results: social competence of adolescents from father-absent homes was high (weighted mean =3.063) which was comparable but slightly higher in those in general category (weighted mean= 3.037), level of self-concept of the adolescents from father-absent homes was moderate (weighted mean =2.863) comparable to those from general category (weighted mean = 2.805), the level of emotional support of the adolescents from father-absent homes was high (weighted mean = 3.011) comparable to those from the general group (weighted mean = 3.117), the level of parenting efficacy of all the adolescents from father-absent homes was moderate (weighted mean = 2.833) and comparable to those from the general category (weighted mean=2.891). There was significant joint influence of self-concept, emotional support and parenting efficacy on the social competence of adolescents from father-absent homes. ($F_{(3, 421)} = 9.099$, $R^2 = 0.061$, $p < 0.05$) with those from general category ($F_{(3,1101)} = 34.164$, $R^2 = 0.085$, $p = < 0.05$) There was a significant relative influence of parenting efficacy ($\beta = 0.162$, $t = 3.037$, $p = < 0.05$) and self-concept ($\beta = 0.118$, t- 2.406, $p = < 0.05$) on the social competence of adolescents from father-absent homes while the general category had same level of influence with values as parenting efficacy ($\beta = 0.166$, $t = 5.035$, $p = < 0.05$) and self-concept ($\beta = 0.182$, t- 5.987, $p = < 0.05$) being significant. There was no significant gender difference in the social competence of adolescents from father-absent homes ($p = 0.729$) and those from general category (0.666). There was no significant gender difference in the self-concept of adolescents ($p = 0.460$) from father-absent homes and those from general category ($p = 0.585$).The results point to the fact that there could be other factors affecting the adolescents from father-absent apart from the independent variables highlighted in this study, thereby giving room for further research on the father-absent adolescent population. School counselling interventions that can encourage more peer engagement and training for single mothers on emotional connection and discipline strategies are recommended to help adolescents in general regardless of their father-status.

Keywords: Self-concept, Emotional Support, Parenting Efficacy, Social Competence, Adolescents.

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