

FAMILY ATMOSPHERE AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE ADOLESCENTS DEVIANT BEHAVIOUR

Azizi Yahaya
Mohd. Najib Abd Ghaffar
Badrulzaman Baharom
Jabatan Asas Pendidikan
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia

Abstract: This study is aimed at identifying correlations between family atmosphere and deviant behavior among adolescents in the Pontian District, Johor. A total of 210 students from a few secondary schools in the Pontian District were chosen as respondents for this study. Descriptive statistics of frequency and mean were used for distribution analysis, whereas inference statistics which is Pearson correlation were used for analyzing relations between family atmosphere and juvenile behavior. Analysis of the results shows a significant relation between parents behavior traits and juvenile deviant behavior.

Keyword: family atmosphere, adolescents deviant

Introduction

Adolescents are the generation which will inherit our country. They are hoped to be useful individuals capable of contributing towards our country's well being in general. In reality however, various parties starts to express their worries regarding social malaise among the youth which leads to further deterioration of their morality. The social malaise increases with each passing day. Offensive behavior committed by adolescents, either small or otherwise, are exposed each day. It illustrates just how serious the phenomena is and necessary steps need to be taken to curb further deterioration. The deteriorating moral standard among the young is indeed rather puzzling. Various questions were raised. Does school, as an educational institution, fail to address the problem? How about parents and families? How does this kind of behavior come about?

Increasing crime rate, as well as social problems especially among the adolescents and school children are worrying not only the parents with schooling children, but it also affects the credibility of schools as an agent for social control which should be able to play its role in the right formation of morality among the young generation. Youth with such behavior traits are subjected to various interpretations and label. For youth who break the norm of society, it is known as deviant behavior, whereas for school going children involved in such behavior, they are known as delinquent. In general, both deviant and delinquent behaviors are not acceptable by society.

Despite the rules and regulations imposed by the school authority, the misbehavior continue to occur. According to newspaper reports, the number of cases keeps increasing from time to time, irrespective of area, either urban, rural or suburban.

According to Hall (1904), adolescent is a time of confusion, sadness and conflict. It is therefore important for parents, educators and members of society to closely monitor their developments. They should help adolescents so as to avoid their involvement in negative activities. Adolescent students are easily influenced and neglect their studies whenever attention or control is lacking. What we have in the end is unproductive adolescents such as those who wonders around, steal, play truant and get involved in various social malaise.

Adolescent developments are greatly influenced by their immediate environment. The most important immediate environment is their family. According to Hoffman (1996), families form one's personality since infancy, and continue to influence a person's behavior, attitude and thinking throughout adulthood. Previous studies in Malaysia and the west proved that functional families are related to adolescent's well being in terms of life satisfaction, self concept, sexual behavior and academic achievement. (Fatanah, 1997)

Parents' failure in disciplining their children is seen as one of the factors of deviant behavior. Anti social behavior is the result of inappropriate, lacking and inconsistent disciplining during childhood (Jacobvitz et al., 1996). Most of the anti social behaviors are also the caused by failure in family management (Jacobvitz et al., 1996, Vuchinich, 1992).

According to Hoffman (1994), family formed one's personality during childhood and continue to greatly influence behaviors, attitude and thinking throughout adulthood.

Problems faced by adolescents are normally a continuation of problems during childhood (Block, et al., 1988) caspi et al., 1995; Fergusson, et al., 1996; Fergusson, et al., 1996a; Moffit, 1993). According to Mahmood Nazar Muhammad (1993), deviant behavior among adolescents are also caused by conflicts and psychological pressure. Adolescents involved in deviant behaviors are facing conflicts and pressures from their own families. They are unable to see families as a healthy environment which provide them with happiness and fun. The lack of effective communication and love in a family also contributes to the formation of deviant behavior among adolescents. Sigurdson and friends (1996) and Sokol-Katz and friends (1997) stresses that development of negative personality and deviant behavior are the result of failure in family ties. Parents are also responsible for contributing towards their children's behavior, by failing to demonstrate good behavior as well as ignoring religious teachings.

Finding of studies done by the School Division, MOE (1993), reveals the various root causes of adolescent's deviant behavior. Family factor is the biggest contributor in the rising deviant and anti social behavior. Studies conducted in 1993, showed that 81.03% school students were involved in offences which can be traced to family factor, 4.10 % caused by peer influence and 1.24% caused by school factor (Dewan Masyarakat, April, 1995).

Studies done had showed that family atmosphere plays an important role in the adolescent's socialization process such as attitude, values and the belief system inculcated into their mind. It also provides the platform for their emotional, cognitive and social development of its members.

Therefore, efforts towards strengthening the family institution is one of the solution in solving the various problems afflicting today's youth. Most of the problems afflicting them can be traced

back to their family atmosphere and dysfunctional families causes various negative impacts to the adolescents. Studies done also revealed that problematic adolescents come from problematic families. (Dishion et al., 1991; Rutter, 1985; Vuchinich, 1992)

This research is focusing at the extent to which the elements in family institutions influence adolescents behavior, resulting in deviant behavior among them, especially school students. Besides, families also practice different nurturing and monitoring styles and thus affecting the adolescents conduct and morality. This research also looks at the extent of certain nurturing styles in influencing adolescents with deviant behavior.

Adolescents deviant behavior.

Deviant behavior can be seen in various forms regardless of age or gender. In this research, deviant behavior is stated as any behavior which does not conform to the norms, immoral and unacceptable as adolescents conduct. Various negative behavior which is seen as deviating and unacceptable to society is assumed as deviant behavior, from the simplest form as playing truant, disobeying teachers, to the more serious ones such as unrestrained socialization between the different sexes which leads to problems such as sexual promiscuity, underage prostitution, running away from home and abandoning babies. Other examples are housebreaking, drug abuse, stealing, alcoholism, physical aggression and vandalism (Regoli & Hewitt, 1991). This phenomena may be caused by repressed dissatisfaction, desire to vindicate, etcetera.

According to The Disciplinary Report 2001, Student Affairs Department, Ministry of Education, criminal offences committed by students include gambling, stealing, disobeying teachers and prefects, extortion, bullying, secret societies, drug abuse, carrying dangerous weapons, sexual harassment, threatening, trespassing, drug dealing, and open mass gambling.

Statistics provided by the Welfare Department shows that in 2003, a total of 4998 juvenile cases were reported. In 2004, this has risen to 6056 cases. This increment shows that the phenomena of deviant behavior among adolescents are worsening and certainly, this causes great worry to all parties.

Research done by Huizinga and Elliot (1985) on 950 adolescent students revealed that about 75 percent had been involved in deviant behavior at sometime, and almost a third of them are serious offences. Research also showed that anti social behaviors in adolescents are carried through adulthood (Farrington, 1989; Fergusson, et al., 1996).

Dryfoos (1990) in his research on adolescents deviant and delinquent, stated that there are four categories of high risk adolescents within 10 years to 17 years of age. Ten percent of the total are very high risk adolescent, who are involved in serious crime such as robbery, rape, house breaking, drug abuse and murder. Fifteen percent represent high risk adolescents, involved in less serious offences such as free sexual relations, watching phonographic videos, quarrelling, physical attacks, taking alcoholic drinks, illegal gambling, illegal motor vehicle race, and the like. Twenty five percent of them are medium risk adolescents, involved in light offences such as playing truant, vandalism, stealing, smoking, disobeying teachers and parents and the like.

The remaining fifty percent are low risk adolescents, who are not involved in deviant behavior and not easily influenced by negative elements.

The truancy scenario which is also part of the deviant behavior is not a new problem among school students in Malaysia. Statistics provided by the Ministry of Education showed that the number of students involved were not worrying in 1993, numbering 32 092 , in 1995 totaling 154 305 and 80937 in 1997. Secondary school students, particularly those aged between 14 and 15 years are identified as the majority involved in truancy. Among those involved in truancy, about 97 percent are males and the remaining 13 percent are female students.

Research finding showed that the real number of delinquent cases far exceeds the reported ones. Only one third of offences are reported to the police. (Krisberg et al.; 1986). According to Wilkerson (1994), in America, one in six people caught for crime such as killing, rape, robbery, stealing and attacking involves adolescents below 18 years of age.

Among the psychological factors contributing to the delinquent behavior is the unhappy emotions brought about by atmospheres such as loose family ties, family breakup and lack of attention from family and parents. Some of the adolescents are also in denial that they are having problems, often avoiding responsibilities in their actions and blaming others when faced with difficulties. (Mitchell, 1989). Besides, family problems also causing emotional instability which depict itself in deviant and delinquent behavior. Students with unstable emotion such as anger, agitation, stress and grudges resort to various deviant behavior to release their repressed feelings.

Research Objectives

The general objective of this research is to study the relations between family atmosphere and deviant behaviors among adolescent school students in a few secondary schools in the district of Pontian, Johor. Specifically, the objectives of the research is to :

1. identify the traits of parental behavior (physical, verbal and anti social) that causes adolescents to behave in deviant manner.
2. identify the dominant types of nurturing styles (authoritarian, authoritative and permissive) of parents of deviant adolescents.
3. identify the level of religious affiliation of deviant adolescents' parents .
4. identify the depth of love shown by parents of deviant adolescents
5. identify the frequency of deviant behavior among adolescents.

Methodology

This research is observation based and involving the study of how one factor is influencing the other ones. Researchers study the relationship between the family atmosphere and its effect on the adolescents deviant behavior. Research samples consists of 210 form four students from a few schools in the district of Pontian. The research instrument is a set of questionnaire containing 129 items which have been modified from previous researchs and some have been developed by the researchers based on the relevant references. Preliminary research was conducted before the real research in order to ensure reliability . Reliability for the research is 0.7066 for family atmosphere factor and 0.9275 for the deviant behavior factor.

Research findings.

1. Analysis of behavior traits of parents (Physical, Verbal and Anti Social) which causes adolescents to behave in deviant manner.

a. Descriptive analysis of behavior traits of parents which causes adolescents to behave in deviant manner in the physical aspects.

Table 2 shows distribution of parents behavior from the physical aspects which leads to deviant behavior in adolescents. Finding shows that 162 people (77.1percent) are in the low level, 47 people (22.4 percent) are in the medium level and the remaining one person (0.5 percent) is in the high level.

Table 2: Distribution of parents' behavior in the physical aspects which causes adolescents to behave in the deviant manner.

Level	Frequency	Percentage
Low	162	77.1
Medium	47	22.4
High	1	0.5
Total	210	100

b. Descriptive analysis of parents behavior traits causing deviant behavior in the verbal aspect.

Table 3 shows the distribution of level of parent behavior in the verbal aspect which causes adolescents to behave in deviant manner. Research finding shows that 152 people (72.4 percent) are in the low level, 55 people 926.2 percent) are in the medium level and the remaining 3 people (1.4 percent) are in the high level.

Table 3: Distribution of verbal behavior traits of parents causing adolescents to behave in deviant manner.

Level	Frequency	Percentage
Low	152	72.4
Medium	55	26.2
High	3	1.4
Total	210	100

c. Descriptive analysis of parent's anti social behavior traits causing adolescents to behave in deviant manner .

Table 4.13.1 shows the distribution anti social behavior traits of parents causing adolescents to behave in deviant manner. Research finding shows that 196 people (93.3 percent) are in the low level, and 14 people (6.7 percent) are in the medium level.

Table 4: Distribution of parent's anti social behavior traits causing adolescents to behave in deviant manner.

Level	Frequency	Percentage
Low	196	93.3
Medium	14	6.7
High	0	0
Total	210	100

2. Analysis of the dominant types of nurturing style adopted by parents of deviant adolescents

a. Descriptive analysis of dominant nurturing styles adopted by parents of deviant adolescents.

Table 5 shows the distribution of the dominant types of nurturing styles adopted by parents in the authoritarian aspect of nurturing style. Research finding shows that 117 people (55.7 percent) are in the low level, 91 people (43.3 percent) are in the medium level and the remaining 2 people (1.0 percent) is in the high level.

Table 5: Distribution of dominant nurturing styles adopted by parent in the aspect of authoritarian nurturing style.

Level	Frequency	Percentage
Low	117	55.7
Medium	91	43.3
High	2	1.0
Total	210	100

b. Descriptive analysis of the dominant nurturing styles adopted by parent in the aspect of authoritative nurturing style.

Table 6 shows the distribution of the dominant nurturing styles adopted by parents in the aspect of authoritative nurturing style. Research finding shows that 113 people (53.8 percent) are in the high level, 81 people (38.6 percent) are in the medium level and the remaining 16 people (7.6 percent) are in the low level.

Table 6: Distribution of the dominant nurturing styles adopted by parent in the aspect of authoritative nurturing style.

Level	Frequency	Percentage
Low	16	7.6
Medium	81	38.6
High	113	53.8
Total	210	100

c. Descriptive analysis of dominant nurturing styles adopted by parents in the aspect of permissive nurturing style.

Table 7 shows the dominant nurturing style adopted by parents in the aspect of permissive nurturing style. Research finding shows that 146 people (69.5 percent) are in the low level, 62 people (29.5 percent) are in the medium level, and the remaining 2 people (1.0 percent) are in the high level.

Table 7: Distribution of the dominant nurturing styles adopted by parents in the aspect of permissive learning style.

Level	Frequency	Percentage
Low	146	69.5
Medium	62	29.5
High	2	1.0
Total	210	100

3. Descriptive analysis of the level of religious affiliation among parents of deviant adolescents in the aspect of compliance to religious teachings.

a. Descriptive analysis of the level of religious affiliation among parents of deviant adolescents in the aspect of compliance to religious teachings.

Table 8 shows the distribution of the level of religious affiliation among parents of deviant adolescents in the aspect of compliance to religious teachings. Research finding shows that 140 people (66.7 percent) are highly compliant to religious teachings, 59 people (28.1 percent) are in the medium level, and the remaining 11 people (5.2 percent) are in the low level.

Table 8: Distribution of parent's religious affiliation in the aspect of compliance to religious teachings.

Level	Frequency	Percentage
Low	11	5.2
Medium	59	28.1
High	140	66.7
Total	210	100

b. Descriptive analysis of religious affiliation among parents of deviant adolescents in the aspect of behaviors non-compliant to religious teachings.

Table 9 shows the distribution of religious affiliation among parents in the aspect of behaviors contradictory to religious teachings. Research finding shows that 184 people (87.6 percent) have a low level of behaviors which are contradictory to religious teachings while the remaining 26 people (12.4 percent) are in the medium level

Table 9: Distribution of religious affiliation among parents in the aspect of behaviors contradictory to religious teachings.

Level	Frequency	Percentage
Low	184	87.6
Medium	26	12.4
High	0	0
Total	210	100

4. Descriptive analysis of level of loving relationship between parents and deviant adolescents.

a. Distribution of the level of loving relationship between parents and deviant adolescents in the aspect of showing parental love.

Table 10 shows the distribution of loving relationship between parents and deviant adolescents in the aspect of showing parental love. Research finding shows that 124 people (59.1 percent) are in the high level, 75 people (35.7 percent) are in the medium level and the remaining 11 people (5.2 percent) are in the low level.

Table 10: Distribution of the level of loving relationship between parents and deviant adolescents in the aspect of showing parental love.

Level	Frequency	Percentage
Low	11	5.2
Medium	75	35.7
High	124	59.1
Total	210	100

b. Descriptive analysis of the level of oloving relationship between parents and deviant adolescents in the aspect of rejection.

Table 11 shows the distribution of loving relationship between parents and deviant adolescents in the aspect of rejection. Research finding shows that 135 people (64.3 percent) are in the low level, 63 people (30.0 percent) are in the medium level and the remaining 12 people (5.7 percent) are in the high level.

Table 11: Distribution of the loving relationship between parents and deviant adolescents in the aspect of rejection.

Level	Frequency	Percentage
Low	135	64.3
Medium	63	30.0
High	12	5.7
Total	210	100

5. Descriptive analysis of the frequency of deviant behaviors among adolescents.

a. Descriptive analysis of the frequency of deviant behaviors among deviant adolescents in the aspect of physical behaviors.

Table 12 shows the distribution of the frequency of deviant behaviors among adolescents in the aspect of physical behaviors. Research finding shows that 197 people (93.8 percent) are in the low level, and the remaining 13 people (6.2 percent) are in the medium level.

Table 12: Distribution of the frequency of deviant behaviors among deviant adolescents in the aspect of physical behaviors.

level	Frequency	Percentage
Low	197	93.8
Medium	13	6.2
High	0	0
Total	210	100

b. Descriptive analysis of the frequency of deviant behaviors among deviant adolescents in the aspect of physical behaviors.

Level	Frequency	Percentage
Low	197	93.8
Medium	13	6.2
High	0	0
Total	210	100

b. Descriptive analysis of the frequency of deviant behaviors among deviant adolescents in the aspect of verbal behaviors.

Table 13 shows the level of frequency of deviant behaviors in the aspect of verbal behaviors. Research finding shows that 167 people (79.5 percent) are in the low level and the remaining 43 people (20.5 percent) are in the medium level.

Table 13: Distribution of the frequency of deviant behaviors in the aspect of verbal behaviors.

Level	Frequency	Percentage
Low	167	79.5
Medium	43	20.5
High	0	0
Total	210	100

c. Descriptive analysis of the frequency of deviant behaviors in the aspect of sexual behaviors.

Table 14 shows the distribution of the frequency of deviant behaviors in the aspect of sexual behaviors. Research finding shows that 197 people (93.8 percent) are in the low level and the remaining 13 people (6.2 percent) are in the medium level.

Table 14: Distribution of the frequency of deviant behaviors in the aspect of sexual behaviors.

Level	Frequency	Percentage
Low	197	93.8
Medium	13	6.2
High	0	0
Total	210	100

- d. Descriptive analysis of the frequency of deviant behaviors in the aspect of anti social behaviors.

Table 15 shows the distribution of the frequency of deviant behaviors in the aspect of anti social behavior. Research finding shows that 185 people (88.1 percent) are in the low level and the remaining 25 percent (11.9 percent) are in the medium level.

Table 15: Distribution of the frequency of deviant behaviors in the aspect of anti social behavior.

Level	Frequency	Percentage
Low	185	88.1
Medium	25	11.9
High	0	0
Total	210	100

ANALYSIS OF THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN FAMILY ATMOSPHERE AND DEVIANT BEHAVIORS IN ADOLESCENTS.

- a. Pearson correlation analysis for the relationship between parents' behavior and adolescents' behavior.

Table 16: Pearson correlation analysis for the relationship between parents' behavior and adolescents' behavior.

		Family's behavior	Deviant adolescents' behavior
Family's behavior	Pearson correlation	1	.421
	Sig. (2-ways)	.	.000

Deviant adolescents' behavior	N	210	210
	Pearson correlation	.421	1
	Sig. (2-ways)	.000	.
	N	210	210

Significance at confidence level of $p \leq 0.05$

From table 6 it was found that the strength of relationship between the family's behavior and the adolescents deviant behavior is 0.421. It shows medium correlation. In view that the value of $p=0.000$ is small from the 0.05, the hypothesis is rejected. This means that there is a significant correlation between the family's behavior and the adolescents' deviant behavior.

As it was shown that the result of correlation test showed that there is a significant relationship, it is therefore concluded that there is a significant relationship between the parents' behavior and the adolescents' behavior.

b. Pearson correlation analysis for the relationship between nurturing style adopted by parents and the deviant behaviors of adolescents.

Table 17: Pearson correlation analysis for the relationship between the nurturing style adopted by parents and the deviant behaviors of adolescents.

		Nurturing style	Deviant behaviors of adolescents
Nurturing style	Pearson correlation	1	.039
	Sig. (2-ways)	.	.571
	N	210	210
Adolescents deviant behaviors	Pearson correlation	.039	1
	Sig. (2-ways)	.571	.
	N	210	210

Significance at confidence level of $p \leq 0.05$

From the table 17, it was found that the strength of relationship between the family's behavior and the adolescents deviant behavior is 0.039. It shows a weak relationship. In view that the value $p=0.571$ is bigger than 0.05, the hypothesis is accepted. It means that there is no significant correlation between the parents' nurturing style and the deviant adolescents' behavior.

As the result of the correlation test showed no significant relationship, it is therefore concluded that there is no significant relationship between the nurturing style adopted by parents and the deviant behaviors of adolescents.

c. Pearson correlation analysis for the relationship between parents religious affiliation and the deviant behaviors of adolescents.

Table 18: Pearson correlation analysis for the relationship between the religious affiliation of parents and the deviant behaviors of adolescents.

		Religious affiliation	Deviant behaviors of adolescents
Family's religious affiliation	Pearson correlation	1	.120
	Sig. (2-ways)	.	.082
	N	210	210
Deviant behaviors of adolescents	Pearson correlation	.120	1
	Sig. (2-ways)	.082	.
	N	210	210

Significance at confidence level of $p \leq 0.05$

From table 18, it was found that the strength of relationship between family's behavior and the adolescents' deviant behavior is 0.120. This shows a very weak relationship. In view that the value $p=0.082$ is bigger than 0.05 therefore the hypothesis is accepted. This means that there is no significant correlation between the parents' religious affiliation and the adolescents deviant behavior.

As the result of the correlation test shows no significant relationship, it is therefore concluded that there is no significant correlation between the parents' religious affiliation and the adolescents deviant behavior.

e. Pearson correlation analysis for the relationship between the level of parental love and the deviant behavior of adolescents.

Table 19: Pearson correlation analysis for the relationship between the level of parental love and the deviant behaviors of adolescents.

		Parental love	Deviant behaviors of adolescents
Parental love	Pearson correlation	1	-.120
	Sig. (2-ways)	.	.082
	N	210	210
Deviant behaviors of adolescents	Pearson correlation	-.120	1

Sig. (2-ways)	.082	.
N	210	210

Significance at confidence level $p \leq 0.05$

From table 19, it was found that the strength of relationship between the family's behavior and the adolescents' deviant behavior is -0.120. This shows a weak and negative relationship. In view that the value $p=0.082$ is bigger than 0.05 the hypothesis is accepted. This means that there is no significant correlation between the level of parental love and the adolescents' deviant behavior.

As the result of the correlation test shows no significant correlation, it is concluded that there is no significant correlation between the level of parental love and the deviant behaviors of adolescents.

Discussion

Based on the research conducted, it was found that the family's overall behavior traits is in the low level. It shows that the effects of family behavior traits towards adolescents deviant behavior is low. However, the parents physical behavior is the most influential with the highest mean among the three aspects, which are, physical behavior, verbal and anti social. Clearly, the behavior of the family is a contributing factor in deviant behavior.

The research analysis shows that a large proportion of parents are practising authoritative nurturing style, which is at the high level. Authoritarian and permissive nurturing styles are at the low level.

The research finding shows that the parents religious affiliation is generally at the medium level. It shows that most of the parents are religiously pious.

Research analysis shows that the depth of parental love towards deviant adolescents is at the medium level. It shows that in general, adolescents receive adequate parental love.

Based on this research, it is found that the level of deviant behavior among adolescents is low. All the aspects of negative behavior, which are physical behavior, verbal, sexual and anti social is showing a low percentage and mean. However, behaviors such as breaking school rules, lying, playing truant smoking and watching phonographic films are among those with the highest mean.

It shows that in this research, only behaviors of the parents seems to influence adolescents deviant behavior.

CONCLUSION.

In general, as can be seen in this research, it may be concluded that adolescent students in the district of Pontian have the propensity for deviant behavior. However, only a small fraction have been involved in serious deviant behavior while the majority of them have been involved

in a less serious deviant behaviors such as breaking school rules, lying, often neglecting school work, often late for school and the like. This is based on the finding that deviant behavior is at a low level.

The result of hypothesis testing related to family atmosphere found that only the behavior of the family seems to have a significant influence to the deviant behaviors of adolescents students in the districts of Pontian. Other factors, namely, the nurturing styles adopted by parents, religious affiliation and the level of parental love, do not have a significant relations with deviant behaviors of adolescent students. In general, this research is hoped to be useful for those involved in addressing the problem of deviant behaviors among adolescent students, so that the future generation is free from moral deterioration.