

CHILD REARING STYLES AND STUDENTS' SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

EDUCATION FAMILIALE ET DISCIPLINE A L'ECOLE

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ABSTRACT

The Nigerian school system has been plagued by various forms of disciplinary problems which have posed serious threats to academic achievement in the country. Incidence of indiscipline is not peculiar to Nigeria alone, it is rather, a global problem. The home is the first agent of socialization in the life of children and provides a training ground for all forms of behaviour both good and bad. This study examines the influence of child rearing styles on students' school discipline using a random sample of 600 students of Akwa Ibom State in Nigeria. A research instrument captioned Child Rearing Style and Students' School Discipline Questionnaire was used for data collection. The results of the findings portrayed that students' school discipline is influenced by child rearing styles adopted by parents. Specifically the findings showed that the ability to cope with school discipline by students from democratic homes is significantly higher than that of their counterparts from permissive homes but not significantly higher than those of their counterparts from authoritarian homes. Conclusion and recommendations have been made based on this result which includes creation of awareness among parents, guardians, teachers' marriage seminars for married couples and singles, regular Parent Teachers Meetings among others.

RESUME

Au Nigéria, l'école est infestée de diverses formes de problème disciplinaire, ce qui menace sérieusement le niveau des élèves. La famille est le premier agent de la première formation de celui-ci dans ses comportements, bons ou mauvais. La présente étude examine les conséquences des divers types d'éducation familiale sur le caractère disciplinaire de l'enfant à l'école. Un échantillon de six cent élèves pris au hasard dans Uyo Local Government Area (District Administratif Local d'Uyo) en Akwa Ibom State (Etat d'Akwa Ibom) au Nigéria, ont répondu à un questionnaire construit sur "Education familiale et comportement disciplinaire à l'école". Les données ainsi obtenues ont été soumises au test ANOVA unidirectionnel et les résultats indiquent que le comportement disciplinaire des élèves est influencé par le type de l'éducation familiale de ceux-ci. Précisément, la capacité à supporter la discipline à l'école est considérablement plus élevée chez les élèves issus des familles à caractère démocratique par rapport à celle des élèves issus des familles permissives, mais cette capacité ne varie pas considérablement entre la première catégorie d'élèves et les élèves issus des familles autoritaires. Les conclusions et les proportions formulées sur la base de ces résultats incluent entre autres, la sensibilisation des parents ET des professeurs, séminaires à l'intention des parents mariés ET célibataires, rencontres assez régulières entre parents et professeurs.

INTRODUCTION

Good behaviour and positive attitudes are the key foundations for educational success; however, misbehaviour of students is common in all schools (Anwana and Akpan, 2007). It has been observed that disciplinary problems do exist in schools from the primary to the secondary and tertiary institutions. In this direction, there has been reports of examination malpractices (Deji-Folutile, 2005), truancy, drug abuse, delinquency (Ekpo, 1996), aggression and other disciplinary related problems in Nigerian schools in recent times.

However, it must be pointed out that the incidence of indiscipline among students is not peculiar to Nigeria alone. Report of research findings have indicated that from India (Moore, 1993), Zambia (Kellaghan, Martin and Sheehan, 1989), China (Lewin and Lu, 1991), Uganda (Ongom, 1990) United States of America (Davis, Grover, Beekor and Newstead, 1995), cases of examination malpractices which is a form of indiscipline in schools are greatly abound. A union of professionals – American Federation of Professionals (www.aft.org) observed that school violence and problems have reached epidemic proportions in many schools as many students were seen to be lacking in respect for the authority of teachers and other school employees as well as for the rights of other students. This problem is said to reduce the ability of schools in providing students with good quality education as employers often become frustrated and abandon every effort at maintaining a safe and orderly learning environment.

School discipline is a form of discipline found in schools; the term refers to students complying with a code of behaviour often known as