

# Influence of Permissive Parenting Style on Forms of Delinquent Behaviour Among Secondary School Students in Butere Sub- County, Kenya

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## Abstract

Delinquent behaviour amongst Secondary School students continue to increase, not only in Kenya but world over thus hindering effective learning by students leading to poor academic performance in National Examinations. The study sought to determine the influence of permissive parenting style on forms of delinquent behaviour among Secondary School students in Butere Sub-County, Kenya. The study was based on the Parenting Models theory. The study adopted a correlational research design which allowed the researcher to describe different events, experiences, or behaviours and look for links between them. Study data was collected using a questionnaire and an interview schedule. Population of the study comprised of 2797 form two students, 30 deputy principals and 30 teachers in charge of guidance and counselling in secondary schools in Butere Sub-county. The study sample comprised 338 students selected using simple random sampling, 10 deputy principals and 10 teachers in charge of guidance and counselling. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used in data analysis. Study findings revealed a statistically significant and positive relationship between permissive parenting style and forms of delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Butere Sub-County. The study recommended that family systems need to be strengthened so as to provide the communal counselling services for both parents and youth and to promote family education related to child upbringing hence reduce delinquency.

**Keywords:** Permissive, Parenting Style, Delinquency, Students

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## 1.1 Background of the study

Family environment, which includes parenting style and family structure, contributes significantly towards impacting a child's development of delinquent behaviour, partly because children spend a lot of their time with parents who play an influential role in moulding and shaping their behaviour. From this perspective, Coste (2015) recognizes the work of Baumrind, a clinical as well as developmental psychologist best known for her work on parenting styles. Baumrind identified three parenting styles based on parental demandingness and responsiveness, which included authoritative parenting, authoritarian parenting, and permissive parenting.

However, (2009), points out that young people's parents are more frequently blamed for the criminal or delinquent behavior displayed by their children. Some of the courts even penalize parents for the inconsiderate or antisocial conduct of their children. (Hoeve, et.al 2009). Delinquent behaviour refers to a wide range of anti-social acts often associated with individuals who are below 18 years and often include: drug abuse, weapon carrying, vandalism, alcohol abuse, drug and substance abuse, school violence, bullying, truancy, school dropout, rape, sexual indulgencies among many others. (Withers, 2014). Mbuthia (2013), notes in her research that youth deviant behaviour is an escalating problem in American society today and that there are many different factors that can be blamed for this problem. During the last decade of the twentieth century, people began searching for answers to this dilemma which is haunting America. Many tragic school shootings have taken place within the last decades that have gained the attention of the public. As of now, no one can give the right answer to the problem or the reason why it happens because there is no right answer yet and nobody can be sure that they know the cause.

Ogidefa (2008) on the other hand argues that the leading contributing factors of youth deviant behaviors in America include the media, family life, widespread abuse of drugs and alcohol, and the ease of access to weapons among others. He further states that if this rise in aggressive acts is to be stemmed, the causes of youth violence must be determined and analyzed to determine which ones, if any can be affected by change. Mbuthia (2013) in her research further notes that research on people of Asian descent in North America, particularly those of Chinese heritage, has found that they tend to have lower rates of delinquency. She also noted that studies on deviant behaviours among the youth in Northern America revealed fewer users, as well as less heavy use, of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs among Asians when compared with Caucasians and other ethnic groups in North America

In Africa, detailed information on youth delinquent behaviour is scanty, with the absence of reliable databases in most countries, although countries. However, there is evidence of increasing law-breaking among

young people. Victimization surveys in several countries, as well as qualitative observations, suggest delinquency among young people (12-25 years) is increasing at a much higher rate than in the developed north. This includes in particular, violent behaviour, drug-related offences, and gang activity (Ogidefa, 2008). In Dakar, Senegal, increases in petty theft and use of violence, threats and intimidation by young people have occurred through the 1990s.

More generally, attacks on people in the street have included homicide, and violent or armed robberies which have increased insecurity. Cities in Africa include some of the poorest and overcrowded urban environments, and a major consequence is that urban crime in Africa has increased rapidly over the past decade, and it is largely a youth-related phenomenon (Nwokwo, 2006). There has been a significant increase in violent youth crime and Africa has been no exception to rising youth violence perhaps because of the increasing economic hardship and recession experienced in many parts of the region. Levels of youth deviant behaviour appear to continue to increase everywhere in the world (Levine, 2007).

In Kenya, the situation is worse in our educational institutions where youth deviant behaviour has resulted in destruction of property worth millions of shillings and loss of lives; for example, the Enderasha Secondary School in Nyeri County case where a strike resulted in the death of two students. This kind of situation is worrying bearing in mind that the youth are valuable assets in development of any country (Daily Nation, Saturday 17th 2010). Kariuki (2014) contends that parents are the first socializing agents for their children's behaviour. It is common practice for parents to teach their children social rules and roles by explaining, rewarding and punishing them. However, sometimes parents unconsciously socialize the conducts they may not want their children to adapt. As such, parents are often blamed when children engage in antisocial behaviour. Some parents are warm, responsive and child centred in rearing their children. Other parents are rejecting, unresponsive, and essentially uninvolved with their children. On the other hand, some parents are demanding and restrictive on their children while others are permissive and undemanding.

Like other parts of Kenya, Kakamega County, is experiencing high rates of juvenile delinquency as raised by government officials in the following article: '*Kakamega alarmed over rise in juvenile crime*', Counties, News September 18, 2014 by Dennis Lumiti. Government officers raised alarm over the rising cases of juvenile delinquency in Kakamega County. The officers said the number of children being arrested and locked up at the juvenile remand homes in the area is on the rise and challenged parents to spend more time with their children to improve their morals. The officers said parents are losing control over children, eroding discipline among them. They said most family units are under threat as "children are virtually taking over their families even with parents still alive. Research conducted by Butere Community Health and Development Association (BCHDA) and Great Lakes University of Kisumu (GLUK) indicate that teenage pregnancy among secondary school girls in Butere Sub-County, Kakamega County is rampant and alarming.

According to the Research Team leader and the Association's Health advisor, research conducted in 31 secondary schools in Butere indicated that majority of students especially girls were engaging in unprotected sexual adventures. (Kenya News Agency, May 28, 2015). This research revealed at least 72 cases of teenage pregnancies in schools with 42 other girls confessing to have procured unsafe abortions. Drug abuse was also rampant with 41 male students acknowledging to be addicted to hard drugs such as Bhang, Cocaine and Hashish. In light of the preceding discussions, it appears that there is an upsurge of antisocial behaviour among adolescent secondary school students. The researcher therefore saw the need to find out the influence of parenting styles on forms of delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Butere sub-county, Kakamega County, Kenya.

## **1.2. Statement of the problem.**

In Kenya, each county government is striving to ensure that its people have access to functional and quality education in line with Session Paper No 14 of 2012, Vision 2030, the Basic Education Act of 2013, as well as international commitments such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) and Education for All (EFA). The national secondary enrolment significantly increased in 2008 when FDSE was implemented. The GER for the county in 2012 was 43.71% compared to the national figure of 46.6% indicating that the county stood at an NER OF 26% compared to the national NER of 29.3% (Kakamega County Education Task Force Report, 2014). Based on national performance indicators, the situation of access, quality, learning environment and internal efficiency of Kakamega's Basic Education sector are relatively poor. Parents are the first socializing agents for their children's behaviour. It is common practice for parents to teach their children social rules and roles by explaining, rewarding and punishing them. Parents are often blamed when children engage in antisocial behavior, (Kariuki, 2014). Some parents are warm, responsive and child centred in rearing their children while others are rejecting, unresponsive, and essentially uninvolved with their children. Some parents are demanding and restrictive on their children while others are permissive and undemanding. (Grusec & Davidov, 2007). According to the Butere Sub-County Children's officer, who is in charge of Butere and Khwisero Sub-Counties, 1,689 cases of juvenile delinquency were prosecuted in court in 2014 and the figure is likely to rise given the

increase in the cases he is handling in his office. The Butere sub-county annual report indicates that as at 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2014, a total of 1,294 students dropped out of primary school with the figure at secondary being slightly higher. Reports from secondary schools indicate rampant absenteeism among students which eventually culminates into poor academic performance and eventual school dropout. These reports attribute up to 70% of this problem to home based factors. Truancy, bullying, dislike of teachers, deliberate avoidance of tests, boycotts, fighting, smoking, theft, cheating in exams, rudeness, drunkenness, drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, sneaking out of school are some examples of manifestations of delinquent behaviour that have been recorded in secondary schools in Butere sub-county. Records held in secondary schools also indicate that form two students display frequent involvement in cases of delinquent behaviour. From the preceding discussions, it appears there is an upsurge of delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in the recent years and this has been blamed on parenting styles. The researcher therefore sought to find out the relationship between parenting styles and forms of delinquent behaviour among secondary students in Butere sub-county, Kenya.

### 1.3: Objective of the Study

The specific objective of the study was to determine the influence of permissive parenting style on forms of delinquent behaviour among secondary school students.

### 1.4: Study Hypothesis

**H01:** Permissive parenting style does not significantly influence forms of delinquent behaviour among secondary school students.

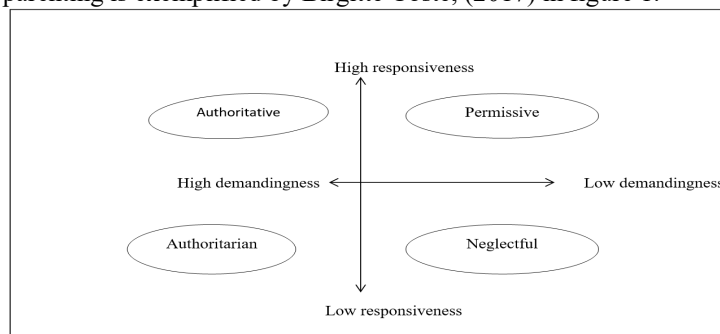
### 1.5: Significance of the study

It is hoped that the findings of the study may:

- i. Provide empirical evidence to schools, parents and other stakeholders regarding parenting styles and forms of delinquent behavior
- ii. Be useful in formulation of policies to be used in the education sector that will assist learners manifesting forms of delinquent behaviour.
- iii. Be of assistance to teachers and those in-charge of guidance and counselling who may use these findings to advise parents on the importance of adopting positive parenting styles so that they could train and moderate the behaviour of their children in order to prevent them from being involved in deviant behaviour as they grow up.
- iv. Contribute to existing body of knowledge on parenting styles and forms of delinquent behaviour.
- v. Stimulate further research into this area of study.

### 1.6: Theoretical framework

This study was based on the work of Diana Baumrind, (1991), a developmental psychologist who developed the most commonly used approach to assessing parenting styles. Her parenting typologies (authoritarian, authoritative, and permissive) (1967) have been used to assess parenting styles in several cultural communities across the world (Cheah, Leung, Tahseen, & Schultz, 2009; Su & Hynie, 2011; Yaman, Mesman, van IJzendoorn, & Bakermans-Kranenburg, (2010). Baumrind's work is important to the study because her approach guided much of the conceptualization of the link between parenting and child outcomes. Baumrind (1991) designed a model on parenting styles and related it to their children's behaviour outcome. She identified responsiveness and demandingness as the parental behaviours that are desirable for child rearing. From the parental responsiveness and demandingness, she identified 3 general parenting styles; authoritarian, authoritative and permissive styles. Baumrind's model of parenting is exemplified by Birgitte Coste, (2017) in figure 1.



**Figure 1. 1: Baumrind's model on parenting style**

source: Birgitte Coste, (2017) Positive –Parenting-Ally.com.

According to Birgitte Coste, (2017), the parenting styles model has two axes. Each axis represents one of

Baumrind's parenting themes which is 'high' in one end and 'low' in the other. Together these two axes of demandingness and responsiveness create four quadrants where each parenting styles is placed. The authoritative parenting style is high on demandingness and high on responsiveness (hence placed in the top left corner), the authoritarian parenting style is high also high on demandingness but low on responsiveness (hence placed in the bottom left corner) the permissive parenting style is high on responsiveness but low on demandingness (hence placed in the top right corner) and the neglectful parenting style is both low on responsiveness and low on demandingness.

The dimension on demandingness which is also known as control was to be applied in studying parental styles. If the parents exert excessive behaviour monitoring, then this will be considered as authoritarian style. At the middle of the continuum on demandingness, is authoritative style that involves moderate behaviour monitoring. On the other extreme of the continuum is permissive style that involves little or no monitoring of children (Parke & Guavain, 2009). According to Baumrind (1968) both authoritarian style and permissive style have negative effects on children's behaviour outcome. Authoritative style on the other hand has positive effects. Baumrind's parenting dimensions provided the theoretical foundation for examining the relationship between the parenting styles and forms of Juvenile delinquent behaviour by providing insights on how parental behaviours related with their children's conduct outcome.

### 1.7 Review of Related Literature

Delinquent behavior is one of the most distressful problems during the period when people are considered adolescents, that is, between the age of 13 and 18. According to Elliott, Huizinga and Menard (2012), the list of delinquent activities include refusal to adhere to the parental demands, alcohol use and drug addiction, stealing, property destruction, theft and rape. Moitra and Mukherjee (2012) argue that there is a noteworthy role of parents in shaping the delinquent behavior of adolescents. For example, they point out that home is the place where a normal and healthy development of any child starts and the family constitutes the backbone of an individual. From this perspective, family is considered to be a basic ecology in which the behavior of children is manifested in their childhood by way of negative or positive reinforcement.

Talib, Abdullah, and Mansor (2011) on the other hand point out that the family of a child is a socio-cultural-economic arrangement that has a significant influence on the behavior of the children, and also on the development of their characters. Therefore, ignorance in their parenting can lead them towards unwanted damaging effects that ultimately create behavioral problems in children. This study holds the same view as these researchers and sought to find out if the following forms of juvenile delinquent behaviour: running away from home, drugs, alcohol and substance abuse, bullying and teenage sexual indulgencies among students in secondary schools have any correlation with the parenting styles of their parents. Diana Baumrind is widely considered to be the pioneer of introducing parental style and control – authoritarian, authoritative, and permissive. From this perspective, Cherry (2015) points out that the psychologist Diana Baumrind during the early 1960s, conducted a study on children studying in preschool using parental interviews, naturalistic observation and other research methods. As a result, Baumrind identified four imperative dimensions of parenting including expectations of adulthood and control, communication styles, nurturance and warmth and disciplinary strategies. Based on the above mentioned dimensions, Cherry (2015) and Baumrind (1991) as cited by Membere Tadesse (2016), suggest that a majority of parents exhibit one of three mentioned parenting styles. This study adopted the parenting styles as proposed by Baumrind.

#### 1.7.1 Permissive parenting style and forms of delinquent behavior.

Permissive parenting is a type of parenting style characterized by low demands with high responsiveness. Permissive parents tend to be very loving, yet provide few guidelines and rules. They do not expect mature behavior from their children and often seems more like a friend than a parental figure. Because there are few rules, expectations, and demands, children raised by permissive parents, tend to struggle with self-regulation and self-control. Studies by (Miller, et., al, 2012) suggests that children raised by permissive parents are most likely to react with intense, negative emotions to social conflicts. And for very young children, permissive parenting has been linked with children exhibiting poorer self-control (Piotrowski, et., al, 2013).

The permissive parenting style is one where parents are generally warm, nurturing, and affectionate, however they are overly expecting of their children's behavior, good or bad. They feel their children are capable of making their own decisions with little parental guidance. A study of Palestinian Arabs, found that children with permissive parents were more likely to suffer from low self-esteem, anxiety and depression (Drairy, 2008). Permissive parents take orders and instructions from their children, are passive, endow children with power (Gonzalez-Mera, 2007), have low expectations, use minimal discipline and do not feel responsible for how their children turnout. (Garbarino and Abramowitz, 2008). Indulgent or permissive parents focus on being their children's friend than a disciplinary figure, there is an extensive amount of parent-child communication, but very low levels of maturity and demand required of the child.

Children raised by indulgent parents have higher self-esteem, better social skills and lower levels of

depression which aids in positive social development. According to Baumrind (1991), permissive parents attempt to behave in a compromising, affirmative and non-punitive manner toward their children's impulses, actions and desires. Considering the definition proposed by Baumrind that this parenting style tends to have a higher level of responsiveness, it implies that a responsive parent is more likely to define and determine rules associated with family, while encouraging the adolescents to consider it as a resource (Johnson & Kelley, 2011). Such parents crave the best for their children and aim to please them. They are willing to succumb to their demand early in life and eager to satisfy their every desire.

Such parents tend to have good intention but their efforts may produce unfavourable results. Here, the child makes up his mind and decisions. The parent relies on reasoning and explanations which leads to easy manipulation by their children. The major weakness of such parenting is that it doesn't offer to the child any form of direction which they really need in life, hence is aimless and have few goal directed activities. Hoskins (2014) contends that permissive parents can be characterized as exhibiting low level of demandingness and high level of responsiveness, whereas neglecting parents are neither responsive nor demanding. They behave in a manner that is more affirmative toward the impulses, actions and desires of adolescent while consulting with them about family decisions.

In addition, they tend to avoid engaging in behavioural control, do not set rules and set a small number of behavioural expectations for their adolescents. From this perspective, it can be stated that permissive parents actually allow the adolescents to actively participate without being concerned for their actions. Underwood, Beron, and Rosen (2009) found that permissive parenting style has positive correlations with antisocial behaviour. As in authoritarian parenting, several researchers found that permissive parenting may cause antisocial behaviour such as rebelliousness and disruption among children. (Schaffer et al., 2009). One might say that permissive parents seem to have no discipline, are too laissez-faire and allow their children to do whatever the children want. Parents seem to not care if their children may exhibit troublesome behaviour which may be rejected by society. Overall, permissive parenting contributes to depression and antisocial behaviour among children. Parents with a permissive parenting style are too lenient and tolerant of their children without setting limits. This situation may cause children to lack the ability to differentiate what is good and bad for them.

Permissive parents are relaxed and inconsistent in providing feedback to their children which may cause them to feel confused about what is good and bad. In permissive homes, children may think that they can do whatever they want and do not learn to respect anything. Most studies on parenting styles and forms of delinquent behaviour tend to strongly correlate the two. According to Elliott, Huizinga and Menard (2012), the list of delinquent activities include refusal to adhere to the parental demands, alcohol use and drug addiction, stealing, property destruction, theft and rape.

Moitra and Mukherjee (2012) argue that there is a noteworthy role of parents in shaping the delinquent behavior of adolescents. For example, they point out that home is the place where a normal and healthy development of any child starts and the family constitutes the backbone of an individual. Hoffman (2008) studied parents' behaviours and youth delinquency with a sample size of 216 female and 225 male students from South western University. The results confirmed that parental warmth, care and protection (authoritative parenting) is protective to adolescents' substance abuse. However, neglecting parenting was found to be associated with higher rates of alcohol related problems.

The data on parental practices commonly used in Brazil show the greater mothers' involvement in child rearing as compared to fathers'. Mothers who specified having more situations with their children as difficult to manage also showed a significantly higher level of physical punishment of their children and coercive actions toward them (Piccinini, Alvarenga, & Marin, 2013). "A harsh and coercive disciplinary style [has been found to] generate deficits in the child's emotional self-regulation and behavioral capacity, which would explain, at least in part, externalizing symptoms, such as impulsivity and aggression" (Piccinini, Alvarenga, & Marin, 2013). Another example of non-Western type of parenting as combining authoritative (vigilant) with certain elements of harsh parenting carried out in Taiwan also demonstrates a dependence of early development of delinquencies as facilitated by the harsh parental style (Chen & Wu).

Shahla et al, (2011), note that Baumrind, in 1991, reported that parents who are authoritative were more successful than authoritarian parents, especially in helping their adolescents to avoid problems associated with drugs. Wu (2009) demonstrated that mother's permissive parenting style is associated with anti-social behavior among their children. Odubote (2008) reported that authoritarian parenting style is highly correlated with delinquency behavior, adding that the authoritative parenting style has been associated with positive outcomes. In contrast permissive and authoritarian parenting style has been associated with delinquency.

Also Palmer (2009) found that authoritative parenting was positively correlated with children's adjustment, and authoritarian parenting was negatively correlated with children's adjustment. In addition, it was reported that parental self-control skills were positively correlated with authoritative parenting. Tanusree Moitra and Indrani Mukherjee, (2010) in an article "Does parenting behaviour impacts delinquency? A comparative study of delinquents and non-delinquents", examines the relationship between mothers' and fathers' parenting behaviour

and the development of delinquency in male adolescents located in Kolkata, India. They noted a significant difference in the parenting dimensions of the two groups of adolescents.

Further analysis revealed that parenting styles of mothers and fathers were linked to delinquency, of which authoritative style appeared to be the best style of parenting. On the other hand, neglectful and authoritarian parenting was positively related to delinquency. Furthermore, the impact of age and religion upon delinquency was also studied. Age of the delinquent was related to delinquency and it was noted that early adolescence was a richer breeding ground of delinquency. No impact was found between religion and delinquency. Okorodudu (2010) in her study on "Influence of Parenting Styles on Adolescent Delinquency in Delta Central Senatorial District", the analyses show that permissive/ *lassair-faire* parenting style effectively predicts adolescents' delinquency while authoritarian and authoritative did not. Parents who are positively oriented in their styles (demanding and responsiveness) will make their adolescents socially competent and goal – directed.

Parents who exerted control and monitored adolescent activities and promoted self-autonomy were found to have the most positive effects on adolescents' behaviour. Uninvolved parents and also non responsive to adolescents needs had negative impacts on their behaviour. She noted that on the contrary, parental demanding without responsiveness (authoritarian parenting style) may make adolescents rebellious and delinquent. For instance a home without love, warmth, care, affection but have the parents harsh and aggressive may make the adolescent run away from home, rebellious and have negative associations and other delinquent behaviours follow. She examined parental supportiveness that involved a healthy relationship, friendliness, supervision and participation in school work. The study found out that, parental support, an aspect of authoritative parenting was found not significantly related to adolescents' delinquent behaviours. The findings also revealed that parental warmth, care and support do not significantly relate to adolescents' delinquency. The findings provided a pointer to possible findings on perceptions of parental supportiveness and adolescents' delinquency.

This study also revealed that there was no significant relationship between school location and adolescent delinquency and between gender and adolescent delinquency. In Kenya, Ndeti (2008) investigated substance abuse using a sample of 1,328 students from 17 public secondary schools. The study found out that beer, wine, spirits, and cigarettes were commonly abused, and that, children as young as eleven years, mainly from educated middle-class families were abusing drugs. Parental absence (mainly for the educated parents who are too busy with careers for their children checking) led to decreased supervising of adolescents. The study reported that, most drug abusing adolescents came from homes where one or both of the parents modelled substance abuse or had lenient attitude to use of alcohol. Therefore, substance abuse was associated with poor monitoring.

Kariuki, (2014), notes that it is generally accepted that parents are the first socializing agents for their children's behaviour and that it is common practice for parents to teach their children social rules and roles by explaining, rewarding and punishing them. However, sometimes parents unconsciously socialize the conducts they may not want their children to adapt. As such, parents are often blamed when children engage in antisocial behaviour. Some parents are warm, responsive and child centred in rearing their children. Other parents are rejecting, unresponsive, and essentially uninvolved with their children. On the other hand, some parents are demanding and restrictive on their children while others are permissive and undemanding. The permissive parents tend to allow their children to do as they wish. When a parent is warm and loving the child is likely to want to maintain the parents' approval.

To secure the approval some children are likely to avoid any situations that would make them lose the parents' love (Grusec&Davidov, 2007). This study shared similar views with the other studies pointed above but noted that in these studies focus had been on younger children and not on secondary school going students. It was also noted that these research studies have only been closely explored with the dominant European-American group as with Baumrind's work (Hong, 2012). There are limited studies carried out in Kenya linking behavioural problems with parenting styles. This study therefore sought to determine the relationship between permissive parenting style and forms of delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Butere sub-County, Kenya.

## 1.8 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a correlational research design. The design allows the researcher to describe different events, experiences, or behaviors and look for links between them (Shaughnessy, Zechmeister & Jeanne, 2011). However, the design does not enable researchers to determine causes of behavior. Such a design is useful when the objective is to find out the relationships between variables but does not need to prove causation (Mugenda, 2008). The study was carried out in Butere sub-county, one of the nine sub-counties that form Kakamega County. The researcher chose this area because it has manifested an increase in the rates of juvenile delinquency among secondary school students (MOE Butere Sub-County reports, 2014; Butere / Khwisero Sub-County Childrens' officer's reports, 2014.) There were 30 registered public secondary schools in the study area. Three of these schools were for boys only, eight were for girls only and the other nineteen were mixed schools. The boys' only schools were all boarding, while only three out of the eight girls' schools were boarding.

All the mixed schools were purely day schools. The study population comprised of 2797 form two students who were selected on the premise that for most of them this time was the onset of adolescence, 30 deputy principals and 30 teachers in –charge of guidance and counselling in Butere Sub –County. According to Best and Khan (2009) there is usually a tradeoff between the desirability of a large sample and feasibility of a small one. The researcher therefore ensured that the sample was large enough to serve as adequate representation of the population about which generalization was made while at the same time being small enough for selection economically in terms of subject availability and expenses in both time and financial resources. The target population of the study (2797) was less than 10,000, the sample size used was as recommended by Mugenda & Mugenda, (2013). A study sample of 338 students, 10 deputy principals and 10 guiding and counseling teachers was used in the study. Both questionnaire and interview methods were used in data collection.

A pilot study was done in three schools in Butere sub-county that were not part of the schools that participated in the main study. Validity was ascertained using test-retest method while reliability was ascertained using Cronbach’s Alpha test.

Data analysis was undertaken using both descriptive and inferential statistics were used. Descriptive statistics included measures of central tendency, measures of dispersion and measures of relative position. Inferential statistics used included Pearson product moment correlation coefficient, regression and ANOVA.

Regression was also used to determine the relationship as it was the best method to predict the values of the variables in the study (Regoniel , 2012)

Regression Model1.

$$Y_{form} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 PM + \mu$$

Where:

$\beta_0$  is a constant

$\beta_1$  is the construct regression coefficient

$Y_{form}$  is forms of delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Butere sub-County.

PM is Permissive parenting style

$\mu$  is the error term accounting for change in Y that is not a result of PM.

Using SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences), version 20, and the values of the coefficients analysis were obtained. This data was then presented.

## 1.9 Study Findings

There are 30 secondary schools in Butere Sub-County. Out of the 338 copies of the questionnaire distributed for the study, only 299 copies of the questionnaire were returned to the researcher by the respondents giving a response rate of 67.8 %. The respondents of the study comprised of 136 (45.49%) boys and 163 (54.52%) girls, 6 (60%) male deputy principals and 4 (40%) female deputy principals, 3 (30%) male teachers in charge of guidance and counselling and 6 (60%) female teachers in charge of guidance and counselling. Respondents were drawn from 3 Boys schools, 3 Girls schools and 4 mixed schools. Of these schools, 4 were boarding schools while the other 6 were day schools.

### 1.9.1: The influence of Permissive parenting style on forms of delinquent behavior.

Below are the findings of the study after data analysis for objective three: To determine the influence of permissive parenting style on forms of delinquent behavior. To attain this data the researcher used a questionnaire for students and an interview guides for deputy Principals and Teachers in charge of guiding and counseling.

**Table 1: Descriptive analysis of responses for permissive parenting style and Forms of delinquent behavior questionnaire.**

permissive parent/guardian	SA	A	S	D	SD
1 Lack of supervision from parents: My parents/guardian allows me to decide most things for myself without a lot of direction from her.	5.7% (17)	7.4% (22)	8.7% (26)	30.1% (90)	48.2% (144)
2 Non demanding parents: My parents/guardian does not feel that I need to obey rules and regulations of behavior simply because someone in authority had established them	3.7% (11)	7.0% (21)	4.0% (12)	28.1% (84)	57.2% (171)
3 Parental negligence: My parents/guardian does not view herself as responsible for directing and guiding my behavior.	4.3% (13)	2.7% (8)	8.0% (24)	25.8% (77)	59.2% (177)
4 Parental passiveness: My parents/guardian rarely gives me expectations and guidelines for my behaviour	12.0% (36)	10.7% (32)	7.7% (23)	25.8% (77)	43.8% (131)
5 Non-provision of school requirements : My parents/guardian rarely give me the basics requirements for school	15.1% (45)	9.4% (28)	9.4% (28)	23.4% (70)	42.8% (128)

\*Total of scores was 100%

Source: Research Data (2018)

From the table 1 on the issue of whether parents/guardian allows them to decide most things on their own without a lot of direction 5.7 % strongly agreed 7.4 % agreed while 30.1 % and 48.2 % disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively. As to whether parents do not feel that they need to obey rules and regulations of behavior simply 3.7 % strongly agreed 7 % agreed while 28.1 % and 57.2 % disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively. On whether parents/guardian does not view them as responsible for directing and guiding my behavior 4.3 % strongly agreed 2.7 % agreed while 25.8 % and 59.2 % disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively

When asked whether parents/guardians rarely gives them expectations and guidelines for their behavior 12 % strongly agreed 10.7 % agreed while 25.8 % and 43.8 % disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively. But when asked on if parents rarely give basics requirements for school 15.1 % strongly agreed 9.4 % agreed while 23.4 % and 42.8 % disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively.

Study findings from interview schedules point to bullying (12.3%), lying (7.9%), general messiness (4.5%) and truancy (2.7%) as being the most prevalent forms of delinquency among children raised using permissive parenting style. Although an increase in the use of permissive parenting styles also increased the various forms of delinquency among secondary school students, there were respondents (11.8%) that were of the view that permissive parenting skills allow a sense of autonomy to grow and that this breeds self-reliance and a high sense of responsibility and accountability in future life.

**Correlation Results for responses to permissive parenting style and Forms of delinquent behavior questionnaire.**

Correlation Analysis between the permissive parenting style variable and forms of delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Butere sub-county was done and the following results in table 2 were obtained:

**Table 2: Correlations for Permissive parenting style and Forms of delinquent behavior.**

		Permissive	Forms of delinquent behaviour
Permissive	Pearson Correlation	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)		
	N	299	
Delinquent behavior	Pearson Correlation	.442**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	299	299

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Source: Research Data (2018)

A correlation coefficient statistic that describes the degree of linear association the Table 2 indicates that there was a positive relationship between permissive parenting style and forms of delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Butere sub-county. This relationship has been illustrated by correlation coefficient of 0.442 which is significant at 0.05 level. The results of the study conform to previous studies who found similar results where permissive parenting style has positive correlations with antisocial behavior. (Underwood, Beron, & Rosen, (2009), Knutson et al. (2004), Palmer (2009), Mukherjee (2010) and Okorodudu (2010)

**Results for Regression with permissive parenting style.**

The results for regression analysis with permissive parenting style are presented in table 3.

**Table 3: Model Summary for Permissive parenting style and Forms of delinquent behavior.**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.442 <sup>a</sup>	.195	.192	.81742	1.720

a. Predictors: (Constant), Permissive parenting style

b. Dependent Variable: Forms of delinquent behaviour

Source: Research Data (2018)

From table 3, the value of R squared was 0.195 this show that permissive parenting style explains 19.5 % of variance in Forms of delinquent behaviour the remaining 80.5% is explained by other factors not included in the model.

**ANOVA results for permissive parenting style and Forms of delinquent behavior.**

ANOVA for the linear model presented is presented in Table 4 .



**Table 4: ANOVA results for permissive parenting style and Forms of delinquent behavior.**

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	48.089	1	48.089	71.972	.000 <sup>a</sup>
	Residual	198.447	297	.668		
	Total	246.536	298			

- a. Predictors: (Constant), Permissive parenting style  
 b. Dependent Variable: Forms of delinquent behaviour.

**Source:** Research Data (2018)

ANOVA for the linear model presented in Table 4 of permissive parenting style and Forms of delinquent behaviour has an F - value 71.792 which is significant at 99% confidence level with P value = 0.000 meaning that the overall model is significant in the prediction of forms of delinquent behaviour among secondary school students in Butere sub-county.

#### **Coefficients for permissive parenting style results**

The Coefficients for permissive parenting style results are captured in table 5:

**Table 5: Coefficient for Permissive parenting style and Forms of delinquent behavior.**

Model		Unstandardized		Standardized		Collinearity Statistics	
		B	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig.	Tolerance VIF
1	(Constant)	.748	.124		6.019	.000	
	Permissive	.496	.058	.442	8.484	.000	1.000 1.000

- a. Dependent Variable: Forms of delinquent behaviour

**Source:** Research Data (2018)

Multicollinearity was measured by variance inflation factor (VIF). Where Variance inflation factor value > 10 it means independent variables are highly correlated hence leading to multicollinearity problem. The VIF value in the table is less than 10 so there is no multicollinearity problem. Analysis of the regression model coefficients shows there is a beta co-efficient of 0.496 for permissive with a P-value = 0.000 which is less than 0.01 thus a positive and significant relationship. Other authors also who agree with this results found permissive parenting style had positive relationship with antisocial behavior. (Underwood, Beron, & Rosen, 2009, ). Wu (2009) , Palmer (2009), Okorodudu (2010) all tend to hold the same view as this study. The regression equation is presented as follows:

$Y = 0.748 + 0.496PM$ : Where Y =Forms of delinquent behaviour b, PM is the permissive parenting style. 60% of the teachers in charge of guidance and counselling noted that neglectful or permissive/ laser fare methods of raising student was the most prevalent among parents in their schools. The Deputy Principals and the teachers in charge of guidance and counselling pointed out that some of the effects of these negative parenting styles on students were: school dropout, teenage pregnancies, poor academic performance, drug abuse, truancy, absenteeism, student indiscipline and students venting their frustration by misdirecting their anger on others.

#### **1.10 Conclusion**

Based on the empirical evidence the following conclusion can be;

With regard to study findings with respect to the study objective, Permissive style had a positive and significant relationship to forms of delinquent behaviour based on correlation results; this means that as increase in use of Permissive style then forms of delinquent behaviour increase. From regression results Permissive had a significant positive relationship with forms of delinquent behaviour this also means that as permissive parenting style increases then the rate of forms of forms of delinquent behaviour increase.

#### **1.11 Recommendations**

In light of the findings and conclusions made, the following recommendations are made;

- i. Parents to spend quality time with their children in order to monitor them for any signs of forms of delinquent behaviour .
- ii. Parents/guardian advised to always encourage open discussion and give direction and guidance in rational and objective ways to students
- iii. Family systems to be strengthened so as to provide the communal counseling services.
- iv. Schools to engage trained counselors and conduct regular individual and group counseling to students for them to release their thoughts and emotions.

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