



NIGERIAN ONLINE JOURNAL OF EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY

nojest.unilag.edu.ng

nojest@unilag.edu.ng

AGREEABLENESS AND CONSCIENTIOUSNESS (BIG FIVE TRAITS) AS CORRELATES OF NEGLECT OF ADOLESCENTS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN TANGAZA AND NEIGHBOURING AREAS IN SOKOTO STATE, NIGERIA

UMAR HAFIZ, MUHAMMAD SAMAILA, RAHMAN U.A & MADORAWA MUHAMMAD MANDE

Department of Educational Psychology, School of Education,

Department of Chemistry, School of Science,

Federal College of Education, Gidan Madi, Sokoto State, Nigeria

&

Department of Educational Foundations, School of Education, Sokoto State University, Sokoto

uhafiz60@gmail.com

To cite this article:

Umar, H., Muhammad, S., Rahman, U.A., & Madorawa, M.M. (2024). Agreeableness and conscientiousness of big five traits as correlates of neglect of adolescents in secondary schools in Tangaza and neighbouring areas in Sokoto State, Nigeria. *Nigerian Online Journal of Educational Sciences and Technology (NOJEST)*, 5 (2), 1-17

This article may be used for research, teaching, and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproduction, redistribution, reselling, loan, sub-licensing, systematic supply, or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden.

Authors alone are responsible for the contents of their articles. The journal owns the copyright of the articles. The publisher shall not be liable for any loss, actions, claims, proceedings, demand, or costs or damages whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with or arising out of the use of the research material.



AGREEABLENESS AND CONSCIENTIOUSNESS (BIG FIVE TRAITS) AS CORRELATES OF NEGLECT OF ADOLESCENTS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN TANGAZA AND NEIGHBOURING AREAS IN SOKOTO STATE, NIGERIA

UMAR HAFIZ, MUHAMMAD SAMAILA, RAHMAN U.A & MADORAWA MUHAMMAD MANDE

Article Info

Article History

Received:
January 01, 2024

Accepted:
February 6, 2024

Keywords

Agreeableness,
Conscientiousness, Neglect,
Adolescent

Abstract

The survey studied agreeableness and conscientiousness coming from the big-five personality theory by Fiske (1949) and McCrae & Costa (1987). The traits of agreeableness and conscientiousness were studied as correlates of neglect among adolescents in schools in Tangaza and neighbouring areas. Descriptive survey of correlational type was employed. Four research questions and two hypotheses were developed; six sub-hypotheses got tested. The eleven schools sited in Tangaza, Silame, and Binji local governments formed the population of the survey. Stratified, purposive, and simple random sampling techniques were used. The sample for the study was 164 generated from three randomly selected schools; two male schools and one female school. The sample was limited to this number due to high time constraint and other factors. Nonetheless, this number was thought to be enough to represent the entire population owing to the homogeneity of the schools, of the students, and of the localities affected. Instruments adopted in the research were the Neglect Assessment Scale (NAS) by Muhammad (2019) and the Big Five Inventory (Short) (BFI- 10) by Rammstedt & John (2007). Pearson r was the statistics used to test the hypotheses. Results showed there was no significant relationship between agreeableness and conscientiousness traits and neglect experience. Although no significant relationship in all the six sub-hypotheses, it was recommended that parents, guardians and all other stakeholders responsible for child/adolescent care should be responsible so that the young human beings under their care received good care in order to develop positive personality as they transited into adulthood.

Introduction

It is a fact that adolescents the world over experience different challenges as they grow and develop into adults. More than two million children are abused or neglected every year in Nigeria (The Sun, 2020). In Nigeria, child abuse/neglect is prevalent in the everyday life of a child but it receives little or no attention by the society (Edo, 2022). Such challenges are necessary and almost uniform for every adolescent during their transition to the next phase in their lifecycle. Some of these challenges are related to the rapid dramatic changes in their personality structures. Romita (2020) opines that there is no single contributor to neglect but rather neglect stems from multiple factors such as environment, communities, parents, inadequate policies, and poverty.

The brains of adolescents must respond to the physiological changes that occur in them. At times, such challenges adolescents face maybe the effects of certain psychosocial measures employed by caregivers to control the oftentimes dangerous paths taken by such individuals in their bid to explore their world. Adolescence is a period full of intense adventure and exploration of positive or negative options available. Sometimes, however, adolescents' challenges are attributable to the failure of caregivers to behave responsibly in terms of the young people's basic needs in life.

Despite rampant cases of neglect affecting adolescents in Nigerian societies, it would not be fair to conceive that every adolescent person in the country experiences neglect. Of course, in one way or another, an adolescent may experience some level of neglect which may or may not have a serious effect on their life. It is against this backdrop, researchers often categorize adolescents' neglect experience into low, moderate and high statuses.

Neglect is the failure to provide basic needed care for the child such as shelter, food, clothing, education, supervision, medical care, and other basic necessities needed for the child's physical, intellectual, and emotional development (Olusegun & Idowu, 2016). The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (2019) defines neglect as the intentional or unintentional failure of a caregiver – individual, community, or institution (including the State) with clear responsibility by custom or law for the well-being of the child – to protect a child/adolescent from actual or potential harm to the child's safety, wellbeing, dignity, and development or to fulfill that child's rights to survival, development, and wellbeing. Avdibegoviül and Brkiü (2020) opine that neglect

can be defined as a lack of sufficient attention, responsibility and protection that matches the age and needs of the child.

Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a child's needs and is the most common form of child abuse. A child maybe left hungry, dirty, inadequately clothed, provided with poor accommodation, may miss schooling, and lack supervision. He or she may not be thriving, and receive inadequate health care. Neglect can also leave the child vulnerable to other forms of abuse (Collins, 2018). Neglect is a form of abuse. This is why many people cannot distinguish between the two. Abuse is defined as an act of commission and neglect is defined as an act of omission in the care leading to potential or actual harm (Gonzalez, Mirabal, &McCall, 2023).

It is common knowledge that Sokoto and several other states in Nigeria struggle with poor parental care leading to high number of children and adolescents starving, dropping out of school, lacking appropriate medical care, lacking appropriate counseling, becoming almost homeless, and so forth. Such a negative trend constitutes major psychosocial and economic setbacks for the Nigerian societies. Adeyemi (2020) highlights that despite the public clamour for the need to respect the rights of children, especially in northern Nigeria, heart-rending cases of child abuses continue to trend in northern states of the country, of which Sokoto is not an exception.

Common causes of neglect generally among caregivers include poverty, lack of education, domestic violence, poor parenting skills, loneliness and isolation, corruption, poor policies, legal injustice, unemployment, inadequate housing, substance misuse, and mental or physical illness. Neglected adolescents will often exhibit a wide array of characteristics and behaviours which include depression, anxiety, aggression, social withdrawal, low self-esteem, suicidal thoughts, learning and developmental problems, et cetera (Romita, 2020; Collins, 2018). Moreover, factors for which parents or guardians fail to function well as care providers may include psychological disorders, poor parenting style, substance abuse, domestic violence, unemployment, poverty, unplanned pregnancy, et cetera (Muhammad, 2019). Other stakeholders fingered for care deficits with respect to children and adolescents include schools, teachers, nannies, neighbours, relatives, and government.

In Nigeria, parents and guardians are placed in the first row whenever there is a discourse about lack or poor provision of care in relation to children adolescents. Such a situation exists because

Nigerian government does not have in place enough appropriate sustainable plans and schemes to deal with all the deficiencies in health, education, and virtually in all other areas for the overall wellbeing of the citizens. Consequently, every parent/guardian is blameworthy for their child's inability to attend a good school, have a good home, access appropriate medical care, eat well, and so forth.

The Nigerian Child's Rights Act enacted in 2003 during the Obasanjo administration is deficient in several ways as it focuses mainly on education, security and safety rights of the individual aged below 18. Other rights that should be fully emphasized are rights to expression of personal interests/goals within the family and guided exploration of options leading to realization of such goals, and right to positive emotional support from caregivers and provision of mechanisms to tackle any sort of emotional neglect or abuse suffered as a result of poor care provision. Moreover, if at all there are punitive measures to be applied on caregivers and other persons over infringement of the child's rights, then there is nothing tangible that can exonerate government of non-implementation of these measures over the years for which children and adolescents in most states of the country continue to experience blatant neglect in all aspects of life.

Many parents and other stakeholders concerned with child-upbringing do not seem to think of providing as much care and support for adolescents as normally provided for younger children due to their apparent assumption that those requiring support are just infants and children below puberty. For quite some time, we have had several surveys and researches in Nigeria on child abuse or neglect, but we have not had as much on the subject of adolescent neglect. This may have been due to our general tradition of being somewhat carefree or not adequately committed to the needs, aspirations, problems, challenges, and future of adolescent individuals in our environment.

There are various categories of neglect such as physical neglect, medical neglect, environmental neglect, emotional neglect, educational neglect, and supervision neglect (Olusegun & Adegbite, 2023). Neglecting school-age individuals is accompanied by a continuous negative perception about themselves and others, negative interpersonal expectations and difficulties in resolving interpersonal problems and difficulties in achieving academic success (Shields as cited in Avdibegoviul & Brkiu, 2020). Individuals in their pubescent years and those below both require optimum parental care and support, and need enough care in schools and everywhere. The attitude

of neglect denies adolescents the opportunity to realize their goals in life and develop into adults their society wants to have.

Furthermore, personality is often defined as the relatively consistent traits in relation to an individual's physique, habits, interests, temperament, potentialities, strengths and weaknesses making them distinct from others. Wade and Tavris (2006) defined personality as distinctive and relatively stable pattern of behaviors, thoughts, motives, and emotions that characterize an individual. The big-five personality stemmed from the work of Fiske (1949) which got expanded by a number of psychologists including McCrae & Costa (1987). The big-five theory consists of the following:

1. Openness to experience: This trait makes People *intellectually curious, highly creative and imaginative*. People who are open to experience have an eagerness to learn and experience new things and situations. Such an attribute gives a wide range of interests whenever a decision is being made.
2. Conscientiousness: This is a trait that makes an individual highly thoughtful, controlled in terms impulse, and goal-directed.
3. Extraversion: This is the trait of being socially-oriented. A typical extrovert is outgoing, gregarious, and flexible, but impulsive, carefree, and aggressive. The trait of introversion invariably opposes extraversion, which is why every scale of extroversion is bi-dimensional.
4. Agreeableness: This trait brings attributes of trust, selflessness, sympathy and empathy, and affection. Highly agreeable people are normally highly pro-social. While those with disagreeableness tend to be cruel, suspicious, uncooperative, and antisocial, posing as thugs, bandits, drug peddlers, robbers, insurgents, embezzlers of public funds, rapists, liars, double-crossers, and suchlike.
5. Neuroticism: This trait is characterized by attributes of sadness, moodiness, depression, anxiety, and emotional instability. Neurotic people tend to be emotionally unstable as opposed to being emotionally stable.

Statement of the Problem

Knowing fully that in Sokoto State, particularly in areas remote from the main city, adolescents face various forms of neglect at home, school, and other places, it is in order to express that there is a researchable problem situation begging for attention. Across Sokoto State, adolescent neglect is a rampant problem, as adolescents are typically exposed to adult experiences almost before it is due. Homes are often carefree as to the factors that affect the life of young people. When individuals below puberty are deprived enough of good food, clothing, shelter, medicine, training, supervision, etc, this is known as child neglect. However, if such deprivation happens in relation to individuals in their pubescent years, that is labelled as *adolescent neglect*.

Across Sokoto State, just as in developed countries and some other parts of Nigeria, individuals brought up by economically influential homes equally find themselves exposed to different sorts of neglect, ranging from inadequate or lack of academic and moral supervision, improper or lack of guidance, to little concern for health issues.

It is crystal clear that adolescent individuals in Sokoto State experience different forms of neglect from their parents and guardians, and from within their schools. Based on observations and reports generated particularly from students in schools of Tangaza town and adjoining areas, the researchers have found that many adolescents go without three square meals, enough supervision and guidance in relation to their school activities, adequate financial support, and enough access to effective healthcare and emotional support. Additionally, the physical conditions of the schools available in these geographical settings speak volumes about the problems education suffers in this part of the country.

Therefore, it is very common that adolescents schooling in Tangaza and neighbouring areas experience such problems as inadequate teachers, dearth or insufficiency of learning equipment and materials such as study books, laboratory reagents, lack of sports kits and facilities, poor guidance and counseling services, lack of school dispensaries, inadequate sitting desks, and so forth. It might have been because of these obstacles faced by adolescent students in this part of the state that certain negative issues come to light, ranging from rise in school drop-out rate, symptoms of malnourishment, examination failure, substance abuse, thuggery, rudeness to teachers and parents, school truancy and non-punctuality, signs of depression, uncontrolled diseases, et cetera.

Emergence of these issues highlighted above, which seem to be related to different instances of neglect attracted the researchers to the conduct of this research in order to explore just how the Big-five personality traits in relation to these adolescents are influenced generally by their neglect experience. The researchers are interested in how traits of openness to experience, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness, and neuroticism explained by Carl Jung, Hans Eysenck and other psychoanalysts correlate with adolescents' neglect experience, which is observably common around Tangaza local government and environs.

Purpose of the Study

The study was conducted primarily to find out whether there were adolescents in Tangaza and neighbouring areas experiencing neglect, and whether both sexes are affected. The research was also examined the relationship between traits of agreeableness and conscientiousness and adolescents' neglect experience within the last three months or more in their homes, schools, neighbourhoods, and in other places within their environment physically, emotionally, educationally, medically, and otherwise.

Research Questions

The following were the questions answered by the study in relation to adolescent students in Tangaza and neighbouring areas:

1. Are there adolescents experiencing neglect?
2. Does adolescent neglect experience affect both sexes?
3. Is there significant relationship between the big-five trait of agreeableness and neglect?
4. Is there significant relationship between the big-five trait of conscientiousness and neglect?

Hypotheses

Below are the null hypotheses tested in relation to the data gathered during the survey:

1. There is no significant relationship between the big-five trait of agreeableness and neglect.
2. There is no significant relationship between the big-five trait of conscientiousness and neglect.

Theoretical Framework

The study adopts the personality model developed by Fiske (1949) and McCrae & Costa (1987), which explains the five major traits of personality as openness to experience, conscientiousness,

extraversion, agreeableness, and neuroticism. Parental Investment theory by Triveres also guided the study. It explains that parents sometimes decrease or completely cease investment in their children when they think that not doing so is more beneficial than the amount of benefit to be derived from investing in their child's education, medical care or other things. Children and adolescents who have abnormal physical features or mental disabilities are at greater risk for experiencing neglect according to the Parental Investment Theory.

Methodology

The research design adopted by the study is correlational descriptive survey. This is a form of research that explores relationships and differences between research variables through the utilization of both descriptive and inferential statistical techniques. The eleven senior secondary schools located in Tangaza, Silame, and Binji local governments formed the population of the survey. A three--stage sampling technique was used, consisting of stratified, purposive, and simple random sampling techniques.

The sample for the study was 164 generated from three randomly selected schools; two male schools and one female school. The sample was limited to this number due to high time constraint and other factors. Two Instruments adopted in the research were the Neglect Assessment Scale (NAS) by Muhammad (2019) and the Big Five Inventory (BFI-10) by Rammstedt & John (2007). Both self-report inventories were based on five-point Likert scale. The big-five inventory had ten items; it is a short personality scale built to be adopted when there is limited time scope for data collection. Each of the scales on the inventory (conscientiousness, openness to experience, extraversion, agreeableness, and neuroticism) has two oppositely worded statements with scores ranging from 2 to 10; lower scores (2 to 6 indicating low status or absence of the trait); with higher scores (7 to 10) indicating the presence or high status of the trait.

The Neglect Assessment Scale (NAS) by Muhammad (2019) is a scale of thirty items with its positive and negative statements having an equal number. Its scores ranged from 30 to 150. Scores between 30 to 75 indicated low neglect. Scores between 76 to 105 indicated average neglect. While scores between 106 to 150 indicated high neglect experiences.

Results

Table 1 **PERSONALITY TRAIT AND NEGLECT**

PERSONALITY TRAIT			NEGLECT			
AGREEABLENESS	CONSCIENTIOUSNESS	TOTAL	LOW	AVERAGE	HIGH	TOTAL
55	57	112	35	35	42	112

Table 1 shows that out of the total number of questionnaires retrieved (159), 55 and 57 adolescent students scored high on agreeableness and conscientiousness traits of personality respectively. Moreover, 35, 35, and 42 were those with low, average, and high neglect experience respectively in relation to the traits of agreeableness and conscientiousness among the samples within the last three months.

Table 2 **PERSONALITY TRAIT AND NEGLECT**

PERSONALITY	NEGLECT			
	LOW	AVERAGE	HIGH	TOTAL
AGREEABLENESS	16	18	21	55
CONSCIENTIOUSNESS	19	17	21	57
TOTAL	35	35	42	112

Table 2 shows in detail that within the 55 adolescents who were agreeable, 16, 18, and 21 were classified with low, average, and high neglect statuses respectively. However, within the 57 adolescents who were conscientiousness, 19, 17, and 21 were classified with low, average, and high neglect statuses respectively.

During the survey, 164 questionnaires were distributed; 159 were successfully retrieved. Respondents placed themselves across the five personality traits measured by the BFI- 10 inventory. Traits of extraversion and neuroticism were bi-dimensional in nature; this elongates the inventory to seven (7) different scales during analysis of data. The paper, however, focused only on two out of the seven scales, which were the scales of agreeableness and conscientiousness. Each of these two traits is correlated with the levels of neglect (low, average, and high) as derived from the neglect scale used. The analyses concentrated only on respondents with higher agreeableness and higher conscientiousness.

Research Questions

Question 1: Are there adolescents experiencing neglect in secondary schools in Tangaza and neighbouring areas?

Answer: There are neglected adolescents in secondary schools in Tangaza and neighbouring areas.

Question 2: Does neglect experience affect both sexes among adolescents in secondary schools in Tangaza and neighbouring areas?

Answer: Both sexes are affected.

Question 3: Is there significant relationship between the big-five trait of agreeableness and neglect?

Answer: There is no significant relationship between agreeableness and neglect.

Question 4: Is there significant relationship between the big-five trait of conscientiousness and neglect?

Answer: There is no significant relationship between conscientiousness and neglect.

Hypotheses

Table 3

AGREEABLENESS AND LOW NEGLECT EXPERIENCE									
Variable	n	\bar{x}	s	df	r	p	t	α	Remark
Low Neglect	16	62.06	16.36	14	0.0865	0.7498	0.2325	0.05	H ₀ Retained
Agreeableness	16	8.19	1.108						

Table 3 indicates a lack of significant correlation between low neglect experience and the trait of agreeableness in relation to the samples who participated in the survey. The table reveals that there were sixteen adolescents who scored high on agreeableness on BFI - 10, who expressed themselves with low neglect status. The absence of significant relationship is made evident by the p-value (0.75) going higher than the alpha (0.05), which is the study's level of significance.

Table 4 **AGREEABLENESS AND AVERAGE NEGLECT EXPERIENCE**

Variable	n	\bar{x}	s	df	r	p	t	α	Remark
Agreeableness	18	7.89	0.936	16	-0.3764	0.1237	-1.6252	0.05	H ₀ Retained
Aver. Neglect	18	88.56	9.599						

Table 4 shows a non-significant negative relationship between average/moderate neglect experience and the trait of agreeableness of the samples that participated in the survey. The table reveals that there were eighteen adolescents who scored high on agreeableness on BFI - 10, who had average neglect status. The lack of significant correlation between the variables is made evident by the p-value (0.12) appearing higher than the alpha (0.05), which is the study's level of significance. The negative sign on the correlation result indicates how opposite the variables were.

Table 5 **AGREEABLENESS AND HIGH NEGLECT EXPERIENCE**

Variable	n	\bar{x}	s	df	r	p	t	α	Remark
Agreeableness	21	8.095	0.971	19	0.046	0.844	0.199	0.05	H ₀ Retained
High Neglect	21	118.43	9.786						

Table 5 indicates a lack of significant correlation between high neglect experience and the trait of agreeableness in relation to the samples who participated in the survey. The table reveals that there were twenty one (21) adolescents who scored high on agreeableness on BFI - 10, who expressed themselves with low neglect status on the 30-item Neglect Experience Scale (NES). The absence of significant relationship is clear as the p-value (0.84) appears greater than the alpha (0.05), which is the study's level of significance.

Table 6 **CONSCIENTIOUSNESS AND LOW NEGLECT EXPERIENCE**

Variable	n	\bar{x}	s	df	r	p	t	α	Remark
Conscientious	19	7.842	0.874	17	0.423	0.071	1.927	0.05	H ₀ Retained
Low Neglect	19	65.105	8.149						

Table 6 indicates a non-significant relationship between low neglect experience and the trait of conscientiousness in relation to the samples that participated in the survey. The table shows that

there were nineteen (19) adolescents who scored high on conscientiousness on BFI - 10, who were average in terms of neglect status. The absence of significant correlation between neglect and conscientiousness is because the p-value (0.07) is higher than the alpha (0.05), which is the study's level of significance.

Table 7 **CONSCIENTIOUSNESS AND AVERAGE NEGLECT EXPERIENCE**

Variable	n	\bar{x}	s	df	r	p	t	α	Remark
Conscientious	17	8.00	1.085	15	-0.053	0.840	-0.206	0.05	H ₀ Retained
Aver. Neglect	17	88.41	10.204						

Table 7 shows a nonsignificant negative correlation between average/moderate neglect experience and the trait of conscientiousness of the samples that participated in the survey. The table reveals that there were seventeen adolescents who scored high on conscientiousness on BFI-10, who were moderate in terms of neglect experience. The lack of significant correlation between the variables is because of the fact that the p-value (0.84) is greater than the study's level of significance (0.05). The negative sign on the *r* coefficient represents how opposite the variables went.

Table 8 **CONSCIENTIOUSNESS AND HIGH NEGLECT EXPERIENCE**

Variable	n	\bar{x}	s	df	r	p	t	α	Remark
Conscientious	21	8.00	0.816	15	-0.119	0.608	-0.522	0.05	H ₀ Retained
High Neglect	21	120.00	8.346						

Table 8 reveals a non-significant negative correlation between high neglect experience and the trait of conscientiousness of the samples that participated in the survey. The table indicates that there were twenty one (21) adolescents who scored high on conscientiousness on BFI - 10, who were high in terms of neglect experience. The lack of significant relationship between neglect and conscientiousness is because of the fact that the p-value (0.61) is greater than the study's level of significance (0.05). The negative sign on the *r* coefficient represents how opposite the variables were during the analysis.

Discussion

The revelations made by the statistical analyses have indicated that neglect had neither positively significant nor negatively relationship with personality traits of agreeableness and conscientiousness in relation to adolescents in secondary schools in Tangaza and environs. This

paper has concentrated only on high scores of the two personality traits. Among the five main traits studied on the big-five traits theory, the traits of agreeableness, conscientiousness, and openness to experience are not distinguished or separated from any opposing traits within the same scales as in extraversion and neuroticism.

On the scales of extraversion and neuroticism, there are two extremes for each; lower scores indicate the more stable attributes. In other words, for a respondent to be identified as an extrovert, he or she must score higher on the sub-scale; inclined towards traits such as aggressiveness, carefree attitude, talkativeness, and over-excitement, which are all opposite to introversion traits identified on the same sub-scale of extraversion.

Furthermore, on the sub-scales of agreeableness, conscientiousness and openness to experience, no opposing traits exist as established on this paper. Such traits are studied based on two or three levels. Higher scores on each depicts the presence or high level of that trait in the individual, while lower scores based on the established range depicts the absence or low level of that trait. This is the method adopted in this survey. It may also be based on low, average and high levels. It is not surprising at all that the survey has found no significant correlation between higher agreeableness and higher conscientiousness and different levels of neglect because the two dependent variables (higher agreeableness and higher conscientiousness) are both positive traits.

However extraversion, introversion, and neuroticism may correlate significantly with neglect. Neuroticism is a negative trait, while extraversion and introversion are embedded with both negative and positive attributes. The researchers thought that lower agreeableness and lower conscientiousness would in contrast most likely have significant positive correlation with neglect because both the independent and dependent variables were negative.

Different researches have offered different findings on the variables studied by the survey. Rogoschand Cicchetti (2004) in a longitudinal assessment in New York with a sample of 211 children found that six-year-old maltreated children exhibited lower agreeableness, conscientiousness, and openness to experience and higher neuroticism than did non-maltreated children. A study by Gorissen (2022) in Netherlands with a sample of 442 found no significant relationship between emotional abuse (form of neglect) and big five traits.

Recommendations

Although the outcome of the survey does not indicate significant positive or negative correlations in relation to the variables, the following suggestions are still offered since it was found that many of the samples scored low on agreeableness and conscientiousness coupled with their moderate to high neglect statuses.

1. Parents, teachers, and other care providers should always discharge their respective responsibilities to ensure that adolescents they are in control of do not experience particularly moderate and high care deficits.
2. Students, especially teenagers, should be consistently encouraged to be both agreeable and conscientious enough in the way they they behave. The trait of agreeableness would make them highly pro-social instead of being antisocial. With trait of conscientiousness, adolescents would be highly thoughtful and goal-oriented instead of being impulsive and unfocused.
3. Schools should ensure the existence of functional guidance and counseling centres where students are counselled personality-wise.

Conclusion

Based on the statistical findings made during the survey, it is inferred that neglect experience suffered by adolescents in secondary schools in Tangaza and neighbouring areas within the last six months or more had no significant relationship with their traits of agreeableness and conscientiousness. Agreeableness and conscientiousness are both positive traits while neglect remains a negative attribute. It is therefore normal of the survey having statistically established that the adolescents' deficiencies in care did not serve as motivating factors for their high scores on agreeableness and conscientiousness.

Acknowledgements

The study was sponsored by TETFUND through the Institution-Based Research intervention under the supervision of Federal College of Education, Gidan Madi, Sokoto. The researchers therefore thank the Managements of TETFUND and FCE Gidan Madi for all the support granted. Our profound gratitude also goes to Dr. Abdulrahman Matawalle, the College TETFUND Contact Officer.

References

- Avdibegoviü, E. & Brkiü, M. (2020). Child neglect - causes and consequences. *Psychiatria Danubina*, 32, 3, pp 337-342. Retrieved from https://www.psychiatria-danubina.com/UserDocsImages/pdf/dnb_vol32_noSuppl%203/dnb_vol32_noSuppl%203_337.pdf
- Collins, A. (2018). The 10 causes of child neglect. Retrieved from <https://www.hughjames.com/blog/the-ten-causesof-child-neglect/>
- Edo, C. (2021). Child Abuse and Neglect in the Nigerian Context. Retrieved from https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3969997
- Fiske, D. W. (1949). Consistency of the factorial structures of personality ratings from different sources. *The Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology*, 44 (3), 329.
- Gonzalez, D., Mirabal, A.B., & McCall, J.D. (2023). Child abuse and neglect. *National Library of Medicine*. Retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK459146/>
- Gorissen, K. (2023). *The relationship between childhood adversity and personality in students: A network analysis*. Master's thesis. Retrieved from [https://staff-studenttheses.universiteitleid.nl/access/item%3A3309784/viewJournal_of_Abnormal_Child_Psychology,32,\(2\),123-45](https://staff-studenttheses.universiteitleid.nl/access/item%3A3309784/viewJournal_of_Abnormal_Child_Psychology,32,(2),123-45). Retrieved from <https://www.proquest.com/docview/204989671?pq-origsite=gscholar&fromopenview=true>
- McCrae, R. R. & Costa, P. T. (1987). Validation of the five-factor model of personality across instruments and observers. *Journal of personality and social psychology*, 52(1), 81.
- Olusegun, O. & Adegbite, A. (2023). An Appraisal of Child Neglect in Nigeria: A Legal Perspective. Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/370527655_an_appraisal_of_child_neglect_in_nigeria_a_legal_perspective
- Olusegun, Olaitan O. and Idowu, Amos A. (2016). Child Abuse in Nigeria: Dimension, Reasons For Its Persistence And Probable. *Child and Family Law Journal*, 4, 1 (2). Retrieved from <https://lawpublications.barry.edu/cflj/vol4/iss1/2>
- Rammstedt, B., & John, O. P. (2007). Measuring personality in one minute or less: A 10-item short version of the Big Five Inventory in English and German. *Journal of research in Personality*, 41(1), 203-212.
- Rogosch, F.A. & Cicchetti, D. (2004). Personality organization: Perspectives from the five-factor model. *Journal of Abnormal child Psychology*, 32 (2), 23-45. Retrieved from <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/15164856/#article-details>
- Romita, P. (2020). *Child neglect – causes, effects, and prevention*. Retrieved from

<https://parenting.firstcry.com/articles/child-neglect-causes-effects-and-prevention/>

The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (2019). *Discussion Paper: Review of Existing Definitions and Explanations of Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation and Violence against Children*. Retrieved from https://bettercarenetwork.org/sites/default/files/201908/report_on_cp_definitions_low_res.pdf

The Sun (2020, 15 August). *Child abuse and neglect*. Retrieved from https://sunnewsonline.com/child-abuse-and-neglect/?expand_article=1

Wade, C. & Tavis, C. (2005). *Invitation to Psychology – Custom Edition for Arkansas Technical University*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.