



Social adjustment of adolescents with hearing impairment in Nigeria: Will televised aggression and pornographic addiction mediate?

Samuel O. Adeniyi^a, Olaotan O. Kuku^b

^a *University of Lagos, Department of Educational Foundations, Lagos, Nigeria*

^b *Federal College of Education (Technical), Department of Educational Psychology, Lagos, Nigeria*

Introduction. Living adaptively in any environment depends on several factors ranging from personal to environmental. In the event of development, there is the complexity that globalisation through digitalisation has added to adaptive living among youngsters, especially those living with hearing impairment. *Objectives.* This study investigated the effects of televised aggression and pornographic addiction on social adjustment of adolescents with hearing impairment in two states in South-west Nigeria. *Methods.* The study employed a descriptive survey study of expo facto type. Samples of 118 adolescent students with hearing impairment participated in the study through simple random and purposive sampling techniques. A Social Adaptation Inventory with a reliability of .79 was used to collect data from the respondents. Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient and Multiple Regressions were used to test the hypotheses at .05 level of significance. *Results.* A significant relationship was found between televised aggression and social adjustment problems of adolescents with hearing impairment. Pornographic addiction has a significant relationship with social adjustment of adolescents with hearing impairment. Also, there were joint contributions of televised aggression and pornographic addiction to social adjustment of adolescents with hearing impairment in South-west Nigeria. *Conclusion.* Parents are admonished to monitor their adolescents with hearing impairment in a bid to censor the kinds of television programmes and print media materials they engage in because they also undergo the same developmental process as adolescents without hearing impairment.

Keywords: televised aggression, pornographic addiction, social adjustments, adolescents with hearing impairment

* Correspondence: Olaotan Kuku, kuku.oladele@fcet-akoka.edu.ng, olaotan.kuku@yahoo.com

Introduction

Living well, getting along with members of one's environment as well as behaving adaptively in line with the norms and culture of a particular environment are signs that indicate the ability to adjust and adapt to one's immediate environment. Every member of a particular community is expected to behave according to set rules and regulations and exhibit behaviour that is not injurious to others either socially or psychologically. Any behaviour that adversely affects the wellbeing of any member or a group of people in the environment, and are confirmed by authoritative adults to be inimical to social and psychological stability of others in frequency, timing, age and context of exhibiting, can be linked to adjustment problem from the one that exhibits such behaviour. Hence, the ability to exhibit behaviour that is in line with rules and regulations of a defined society can be seen as social adaptability or adjustment.

This is dependent on modifying factors (such as home, community and peers) interacting with genetic composition of an individual. However, the ecological model premised that the development of children can be understood only in relation to the nature of their interactions with the various environments that impact them and with which they are consistently interacting (Bronfenbrenner, 1979, as cited in Polat, 2003). Thus, social adjustment anchors on consistent interaction with the environment. Good social adjustment is a function of development of expected social skills, which can be described as the ability to understand, accomplish and express the social and emotional aspects of one's life in a way that enables the successful management of life tasks such as learning, forming relationships, solving everyday problems, and adapting to the complex demands of growth and development (Caldarella & Merrell, 1997).

In the view of Idris and Badzis (2017), hearing impairment plays major role in socio-cognitive development and this creates barriers to the general behavioural development of the hearing impaired, bringing about adjustment and personality problems. Hearing impairment is a degree of loss in the audibility range of an individual leading to the inability to comprehend spoken words adequately due to some pathologies in the auditory pathway. Literature has established that children with hearing impairment exhibit different sorts of antisocial behaviours, such as the inability to maintain friendships and failure to establish positive relationship with their peers (Idris & Badzis, 2017), low self-esteem (Adeniyi & Kuku, 2020; Theunissen et al., 2014), aggression (Rostami et al., 2014; Van Gent et al., 2011) and unnecessary anxiety, and sexual risk behaviours among others (Adeniyi & Kuku, 2018; Carr, 1999, as cited in Adeniyi et al., 2021). When an individual exhibits some or all of the behavioural traits above, they may not socially adjust.

Demonstration of social maladjustment behaviours by individuals with hearing impairment has been linked to factors such as hearing impairment, whether in degrees and time of onset of hearing loss (Munoz-Baell & Ruizi,

2000; Sheridan, 2001), communication breakdown due to hearing impairment (Adeniyi & Kuku, 2016; Adeniyi et al., 2021), and possibly parental upbringing and communication (Adeniyi et al., 2018). Evidently, as long as these factors may predict the social adjustment of students with hearing impairment, it is expedient to also investigate some other environmental factors that may possibly distort social adjustment of students with hearing impairment in view of how society is assuming globalisation due to industrial and technological advancement.

Traditionally, individuals with hearing impairment have been viewed from either the medical/audiological or functional perspective (Hoffmeister, 1985, as cited in Polat, 2003). In view of this, the direct effects of deafness have focused on cognitive and communication functioning. The major emphasis by researchers and educators has been the academic achievement, excluding social and psychological development (Greenberg et al., 1985; Luckner, 1991). However, in light of the potential adjustment problems exhibited by many students with hearing impairment, there is a need for researchers to begin to explore the potential impact of the current globalisation through digitisation, looking at the influence on socialisation and adjustment of young adults with hearing impairment. The ecological model premised that the development of children can be understood from the perspective of their interactions with various environments that impinge on them and with which they are consistently interacting (Bronfenbrenner, 1979, as cited in Polat, 2003). It can then be summed up that various socialisation aspects can positively or negatively influence the adjustment of students with hearing impairment.

Globally, one of the agents of socialisation is television. Through various programmes aired every day, television has become the number one past time for children and young adults since its first introduction in 1939 (Kenyon, 2002). According to the study carried out in homes with teenagers under eighteen in the United States by Nielsen Media Research (1998), the average viewing time is 55 hours weekly or about 4/5 hours a day. The implication of this is that television and other audio-visual apparatus have become part of human life with a greater influence on the psychosocial disposition of both young and adults, disabled and non-disabled. Unfortunately, several studies have shown that violence on television has notably increased over the last 25 years (Kenyon, 2002). The implication is that society is increasingly becoming acculturated in to an incredibly violent village. Eremie and Achi (2020) investigated the influence of televised aggression and social adjustment of adolescents in Senior Secondary School in River East Senatorial District of Rivers State, Nigeria. They reported that televised aggression led to behavioural disorders, learning disorders and neurological problems among their participants. Also, a longitudinal study on the relationship between exposure to violent video games on aggressive cognitions and behaviour among 295 German adolescents found

a direct relationship between exposure to violent video games and aggressive cognitions and behaviour (Möller & Krahe, 2009, as cited in Lan et al., 2010). A similar study was carried out by Zulfiqar (2020) on how exposure to violent TV shows, movies, and video games turned people aggressive and desensitized to violence. Using contents analysis, the study reported that excessive exposure to media violence could make the youth less emotional and have a distorted view of real-life violence. This ultimately may change their orientation about aggressive behaviour and have negative and permanent effects on young adults' neurophysiological perspective. From the foregoing, it is evident that televised aggression may change the social adjustment configuration of growing adults be they disabled or non-disabled.

Furthermore, apart from some violent movies, films and programmes via television and other digital apparatus, there are some programmes that may also challenge the adjustment of an individual in a particular environment. Pornography addiction is one of them. Pornography refers to all sexually explicit materials that are capable of distorting the cognition and social behaviour of anybody that engages in the consumption of such information either for pleasure or other reasons best known to the concerned. Löfgren-Mårtenson and Månsson (2010) noted that proliferation and mainstreaming of pornography in the recent years through the internet, television and other digital aid devices have influenced youth culture and their development at an alarming rate. These have indiscriminately aided people of all ages to interact, consume, and distribute some socially and culturally corrupt information such as sexually explicit content. A body of research has shown that these phenomena are increasing among younger generation including students with hearing impairment (Häggström-Nordin et al., 2006; Wolak et al., 2007). Pornographic information through print content, television programmes, and other digital media has been reported to have the capability of increasing some socially unacceptable behaviours linked to adjustment problems such as sexual experimentation, unprotected sexual engagement, rape, withdrawal, unrealistic attitudes towards sex, sleep disorder among others (Setyawati et al., 2020; Siyoto et al., 2018; Tsitsika et al., 2009).

Studies have revealed that pornographic addiction may lead to some socially unexpected behaviours. Lo and Wei (2005) examined the relationship between exposure to sexually explicit materials and sexual behaviours of 2001 Taiwanese adolescents. The finding of the study revealed that exposure to pornographic content increased the potential of permissive sexual behaviour among the participants. Also, Brown and L'Engle's (2009) report indicated that exposure to sexually explicit material increases the likelihood that adolescents will be involved in oral sex and sexual intercourse earlier than their peers that are denied the opportunity (as cited in Owens et al., 2012). In a related study by Mesch (2009) on the implication of pornography on social interaction using a sample of 2004 Israelis aged 13–18, it was reported that adolescents with higher

degrees of social interaction and bonding were not exposed to sexually explicit material as were their peers. Likewise, Setyawati et al. (2020) examined the psychological impact of internet pornography addiction on adolescents and reported that there was a change in cognition among participants, which was clearly reflected in their obsessive-compulsive sexual thought, desire to practice sexual activities, experiencing pleasure after watching pornographic contents, difficulty in maintaining interpersonal relationships and withdrawal tendencies.

Various research findings and literature have then revealed that exposure to explicit sexual content and televised aggression can lead to strain in social relationships and some unacceptable and injurious behaviours among those that have been exposed to it, mostly in non-disabled participants. This study becomes important in view of the paucity of research in this area in Nigeria. This is because adjustment problems among students with hearing impairment have been commonly linked with the degree of hearing impairment, the onset of the hearing loss, negative perception, and poor relationships with parents, peers, and community members. Hence, this study examined the impact of televised aggression and pornographic addiction on social adjustment of adolescents with hearing impairment in two states in the Southwestern part of Nigeria.

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were tested:

1. There is a significant relationship between televised aggression and social adjustment of adolescents with hearing impairment.
2. Pornographic addiction significantly relates to social adjustment of adolescents with hearing impairment.
3. Televised aggression and pornographic addiction jointly determine social adjustment of adolescents with hearing impairment.

Methods

Design

This study adopted a descriptive survey research design of ex post facto type in order to examine the impact of televised aggression and pornographic addiction on social adjustment of adolescents with hearing impairment in two Southwestern states in Nigeria. The design was adopted because it permits generalizing findings from a representative of the population of the study.

Sample

The study population comprised all students with hearing impairment in the government-owned six Inclusive Senior Secondary Schools in Lagos and two Integrated Secondary Schools in Ogun States. A sample of 118 participants was involved in the study. Simple random and purposive sampling was used to select the participants. Simple

random sampling was used to select four out of the six Inclusive Senior Secondary Schools in Lagos State and one out of the two Integrated Secondary Schools in Ogun State. Purposive sampling was used to select participants who indicated that they loved watching horror films on television, android phones, and in cinemas, and also enjoyed watching pornographic materials. The selection was through a rating scale indicating the frequency of engaging in watching horror films and their love for pornography. The distribution of participants across schools is presented in Table 1.

Table 1

Distribution of participants across states and schools

State	No. of Schools	No. of Selected Schools	Schools	Total	Participants
Lagos	6	4	A	40	18
			B	100	32
			C	22	13
			D	81	27
Ogun	2	1	E	53	28
Total	8	5		296	118

Instruments

An instrument titled Social Adaptation Inventory (SAI), adapted from the Severe Physical Aggression Scale by Huesmann (1977) was used to collect relevant data from the respondents. The SAI has two major sections (A and B). Section A was on demographic information of the respondents, such as gender, age, and the onset of hearing loss. Section B was sub-divided into three sections to collect information on aggression, pornographic addiction, and social adjustment. Each sub-scale contained 15 statements, i.e., a televised aggression scale constructed in a four-point rating scale with levels A lot, Few times, Once, and Never (e.g. “How often have you threatened someone with dangerous materials?”). The pornographic addictions scale constructed in a four-point Likert type rating scale with levels Completely agree, Somewhat agree, Somewhat disagree, and Completely disagree (e.g. “The thought of watching porn makes me sexually aroused.”) was adapted from the Pornography Craving Questionnaire by Kraus & Rosenberg, (2014), and social adjustment scale constructed in a four-point rating scale of Always, Sometimes, Rarely and Never (e.g. “Have you felt shy or uncomfortable with people in the last 2 weeks?”), with higher scores denoting greater impairment, was adapted from a social adjustment scale-self-report by Rzepa & Weissman (2014).

The content of items was validated by three researchers in the field of psychometrics. The observations of the resource persons were incorporated, and the SAI was further subjected to test-retest reliability to determine the stability and suitability of the instrument. The trial test of the SAI was conducted in a special school that was not used for the main study. A reliability coefficient of .79 was observed between scores obtained after administering it twice with a two-week interval. The

SAI was administered individually to the subjects by the researchers. This provided the opportunity to clarify terms and ensure a complete response from the respondents. The completed SAIs were collated for data analysis.

Data Analyses

The data collected were analysed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (PPMC) and Multiple Regressions. The hypotheses were tested at .05 level of significance.

Results

Data collected during data administration and analysed were provided in this section. Hypotheses one and two were analysed using PPMC, while hypothesis three was analysed using multiple regression.

Hypothesis 1: There is a significant relationship between televised aggression and social adjustment of adolescents with hearing impairment.

Table 2

Relationship between televised aggression and social adjustment

Variables	<i>N</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>p</i>
Televised Aggression	118	37.19	6.48	116	.29	.001
Social Adjustment	118	41.79	4.87			

Observation from Table 2 shows that a correlation coefficient (*r*) of .29 was derived as the relationship between televised aggression and social adjustment of adolescents with hearing impairment. It shows that a positive relationship exists between televised aggression and problems of social adjustment of adolescents with hearing impairment. This means that both scores on the televised aggression and social adjustment scales rise or fall together. Consequently, the first hypothesis was confirmed, and it was concluded that there was a significant and positive relationship between televised aggression and social adjustment problems of adolescents with hearing impairment.

Hypothesis 2: Pornographic addiction significantly relates to social adjustment of adolescents with hearing impairment.

Table 3

Relationship between pornographic addiction and social adjustment

Variables	<i>N</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>r</i>	<i>p</i>
Pornographic Addiction	118	39.74	9.41	116	.49	<.001
Social Adjustment	118	41.79	4.87			

A correlation coefficient (*r*) of .49 ($p < 0.05$) was derived as the relationship between pornographic addiction and social adjustment. This shows a positive relationship between pornographic addiction and social adjustment problems of

adolescents with hearing impairment. By implication, a change in pornographic addiction, which may be a rise or fall, will lead to a significant similar change in social adjustment problems of adolescents with hearing impairment.

Hypothesis 3: Televised aggression and pornographic addiction jointly determine social adjustment of adolescents with hearing impairment.

A multiple regression analysis computed shows that a multiple correlation coefficient (R) of .49 was derived. This shows that almost a quarter of the variance of social adjustment problems of adolescents with hearing impairment could be explained by two predictors ($R^2 = .24$). Such a result was highly significant ($F = 18.20$, $df1 = 2$, $df2 = 115$, $p < .01$).

Table 4

Relative Effect on Social Adjustment

Variables	B	SE	β	t	p
Televised Aggression	-0.05	0.08	-0.07	-0.59	.556
Pornographic Addiction	0.28	0.06	0.53	4.84	< .001

However, as indicated by the results presented in Table 4, only pornographic addiction had a significant partial contribution to the explanation of the criterion variable ($\beta = .53$, $p < .001$), while this was not the case with televised aggression ($\beta = -.07$, $p = .556$).

Discussion

The findings from the study revealed that there was a significant and positive relationship between televised aggression and social adjustment problems of adolescents with hearing impairment. From the result, it can be inferred that adjustment problems of individuals with hearing impairment result not only from hearing loss problems, lack of adequate communication because of poor language development, degree and onset of hearing, poor self-esteem, but can also be influenced by watching some programmes and films that depict aggression from television and some digitalised media. From the social learning theory of Albert Bandura, human beings learn mostly from what they observe and interact with (Bandura, 1986). The outcome of this study is in line with Möller and Krahe's (2009) findings that revealed a direct relationship between exposure to violent video games and aggressive behaviour of their participants (as cited in Lan et al., 2010). Also, Zulfiqar (2020) reported that excessive exposure to media violence could make the youth less emotional and cause the distortion of real-life violence, which ultimately may change their orientation about aggressive behaviour and have negative and permanent effects on young adults' neurophysiological perspective. This indicates that aggression may be a learnt behaviour which may not be a result of pathology or deficiency resulting from disabilities.

Furthermore, the study found that pornographic addiction has a significant and positive relationship with social adjustment problems of adolescents with hearing impairment. This finding lends credence to the fact that adolescents with hearing impairment, like any other adolescents, have feelings and are sexual. Watching pornography and being addicted to it may distort their developmental process, thereby causing adjustment problems for them. The outcome of this study corroborated Setyawati et al. (2020), who reported that there was a change in cognition among participants, which was clearly reflected in their obsessive-compulsive sexual thought, desire to practice sexual activities, experiencing pleasure after watching pornographic content, difficulty in maintaining interpersonal relationships and withdrawal tendencies. It is worth noting that engagement and being addicted to pornography can affect one's social orientation, thereby leading to poor social adjustment.

In addition, the study further revealed the joint contributions of televised aggression and pornographic addiction to social adjustment problems of adolescents with hearing impairment in Nigeria. The joint influence of the two variables buttresses the fact that poor social adjustment in the form of demonstration of aggression, unnecessary anxiety, withdrawal, poor self-concept, lack of interpersonal relation, sexual experimentation and escapades and host of others can also be linked with pornography and televised aggression, as the results of this study have revealed. This finding corroborated previous studies on the impacts of pornographic addiction and televised aggression as revealed by various studies (Möller & Krahé, 2009, as cited in Lan et al., 2010; Setyawati et al., 2020; Zulfiqar, 2020). We can therefore affirm that both pornographic addiction and televised aggression are powerful tools that can aid poor social adjustment of adolescents with hearing impairment in Nigeria.

Conclusion

This study is on the impact of televised aggression and pornographic addiction on social adjustment of adolescents with hearing impairment in Nigeria. The findings revealed that there is a significant correlation between televised aggression and pornographic addiction on the participants' social adjustment, and that there were joint contributions of the two variables to their social adjustment problems. This leads to a change of focus from some psychological and pathological conditions to a developmental and digital revolution within the sociological context of the participants.

Recommendations

The contents to be consumed by adolescents on television and print media should be adequately monitored to avoid the perversions that have influenced the social life of the youth across the globe. Parents also need to monitor their

adolescent children with hearing impairment in a bid to censor the kind of television programmes and print materials they are exposed to because these youth also undergo the same developmental process as adolescents without hearing impairment. Government should empower the censor board to sanction any media outfit that goes contrary to the ethos of morality and public regulation.

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Socijalna prilagođenost adolescenata sa oštećenjem sluha u Nigeriji: Da li će posredovati agresivni sadržaji na televiziji i zavisnost od pornografije?

Samuel O. Adeniyi^a, Olaotan O. Kuku^b

^a Univerzitet u Lagosu, Departman za osnovne obrazovanja, Lagos, Nigerija

^b Federalni koledž za obrazovanje (Tehničko), Departman za psihologiju obrazovanja, Lagos, Nigerija

Uvod: Prilagođeno življenje u bilo kojoj sredini zavisi od nekoliko faktora, u rasponu od ličnih do sredinskih. Kada se radi o razvoju, postoji složenost koju je globalizacija kroz digitalizaciju dodala adaptivnom življenju mladih, posebno onih sa oštećenjem sluha. *Ciljevi:* Ova studija je istraživala efekte izloženosti agresivnim sadržajima na televiziji i zavisnosti od pornografije na socijalnu prilagođenost adolescenata sa oštećenjem sluha u dve države u Jugozapadnoj Nigeriji. *Metode:* U studiji je korišćena deskriptivna anketa expo facto tipa. Uzorak od 118 učenika adolescentnog uzrasta sa oštećenjem sluha učestvovao je u istraživanju putem tehnika jednostavnog nasumičnog i prigodnog uzorkovanja. Za prikupljanje podataka od ispitanika korišćen je Inventar socijalne prilagođenosti sa relijabilnošću od .79. *Pirsonov* produkt-moment koeficijent korelacije i višestruka regresiona analiza korišćeni su za testiranje hipoteza na nivou značajnosti .05. *Rezultati:* Utvrđeno je da postoji značajna povezanost između izloženosti agresivnim sadržajima na televiziji i problema socijalnog prilagođavanja adolescenata sa oštećenjem sluha. Postoji značajna povezanost između zavisnosti od pornografije i socijalnog prilagođavanja adolescenata sa oštećenjem sluha. Takođe, postoji zajednički doprinos izloženosti agresivnim sadržajima na televiziji i zavisnosti od pornografije socijalnom prilagođavanju adolescenata sa oštećenjem sluha u Jugozapadnoj Nigeriji. *Zaključak:* Roditeljima se savetuje da nadziru adolescente sa oštećenjem sluha kako bi cenzurirali sadržaje televizijskih programa i štampanih medijskih materijala kojima se bave, jer i oni prolaze kroz isti razvojni proces kao adolescenti bez oštećenja sluha.

Cljučne reči: agresivni sadržaji na televiziji, zavisnost od pornografije, socijalna prilagođenost, adolescenti sa oštećenjem sluha

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