

27th International Conference on

PSYCHIATRY & PSYCHOLOGY HEALTH

June 18-19, 2018 Paris, France

Peer victimization in Nigerian secondary schools: Associations with trajectories of psychosocial wellbeing, mental distress and social maladjustments

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Statement of Problem: Peer victimization (PV) has increasingly been recognized as an important problem in schools across the globe. High prevalence rates of PV among school adolescents are reported in literature. Risk factors of PV include increased psychological distress, social maladjustment and other internalizing problems. There is a dearth of literature on influence of PV on psychosocial wellbeing, psychological distress and adjustment patterns of school children in Nigeria. The purpose of this study is to explore the prevalence of PV and describe its influence on psychosocial wellbeing, psychological distress and social maladjustment among Nigerian secondary school students.

Method & Theoretical Orientation: Cross sectional survey design, involving a purposive sampling technique was utilized to select 400 participants (Mean age =14.95) from four secondary schools. Multidimensional peer victimization scale (MPVS), social maladjustment scale (SMS), mental health continuum-short form (MHS-SF) and general health questionnaire (GHQ-12) were used for data collection. The associative learning theory was focused to observe the impact of PV on internalized behaviour of school children.

Findings: Reported prevalence of peer victimization is 64.81%. Significant positive correlation exists between verbal victimization (VV), social manipulation (SM), multidimensional peer victimization (MPVS) and social maladjustment. Significant positive correlation also exists between VV and psychological distress. Gender significantly influenced physical victimization (PV), psychosocial wellbeing and SMS. There is no significant difference in the sub-scales of psychosocial wellbeing (PSWB) based on the MPVS. MPVS subscales jointly predicted psychological wellbeing (PWB), emotional wellbeing (EWB), social wellbeing (SWB), psychological distress and SMS.

Conclusion & Significance: There is a high prevalence of peer victimization in Nigerian secondary schools which portend high level of psychological distress and social maladjustment. School based psychotherapies and relevant clinical interventions are recommended.

Predicting the scores (personality type) of Myers-Briggs type indicator based on the scores of Holland inventory using MLP neural network: A new approach to personality assessment

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Each individual has a combination of personality traits which may include extraversion/introversion, etc. and if we measure these traits with numeric values, we'll be able to perform mathematical computations on them. Among the most widespread computations are descriptive statistics, correlation and also regression analysis. In this research, we suggested a new method for predicting a set of traits, based on another set. We used a dataset of 300 samples in which each sample includes the scores of Holland inventory and the scores of MBTI Type Indicator. After statistical analysis, results showed that the correlations are not statistically significant. Then, we examined another tool called "MLP (Multilayer Perceptron) neural network". The dataset has been used to train and test the MLP NN and Root-mean-square error (RMSE) and precision score of the trained network were calculated. Regarding the correlation coefficients obtained in the previous step and also the scatter plots, there is no linear relationship between the scores of these two scales. However, the MLP NN which has been trained using hyperbolic tan function as activation function, had higher predictive power and can be used to predict output measures (of MBTI Type Indicator) based on input measures (of Holland inventory). Based on the results, in order to explain relationships between mental attributes and to predict one attribute based on the others, NNs (in particular, MLP) are more powerful than traditional methods, when (1) the relationships are non-linear and (2) we need numeric outputs and not subjective interpretations based on correlations.