

Psychometric Property and Construction of Parenting Skills Assessment Inventory for Parent of Adolescent in Kogi State

By

Dr. OMACHI, DANIEL
(omachidanie@gouni.edu)
Godfrey Okye University, Enugu.

Abstract

This study is an instrumentation study that was designed to develop and validate an instrument. Parenting skill assessment inventory (PSAI) which will be used for assessment of parental skill in dealings with the adolescents. All the parent of the students in the 258 schools of the six education zone in Kogi State was used for this study. The sample is made up of 1,920 parents, randomly selected from 20 schools in the six education zones. Two research questions were formulated to guide the study. For the purpose of validation, the instrument was initially drafted with 45 items and subjected to factor analysis procedure using principal component analysis and varimax rotation respectively, thus reducing the instrument to 30 valid items which yielded a reliability coefficient index of 0.78. A thirty item parental skills assessment inventory was developed under six constructs-relationship skills; communication/listening skill; monitoring skills; skills of effective praise and reinforcement, conflict resolution skills and information giving skills. It is therefore recommended that the parental skill assessment inventory (PSAI) be used by experts in educational measurement and evaluation, parents, guidance and counseling, therapist for assessing the extent in which the difficulties experienced by Nigerian adolescents emanate from their homes.

Introduction

Many psychologists and experts in measurement and evaluation have conducted a lot of research aiming at investigating the academic, psychological and social problems of children and adolescents to the home and in many cases, suggested roles and functions of parents toward their children. Nwafor, (2022) opined that for the survival of the individual, providence has built into the parents an imminent affection for their offspring that motivate them to do within the limit of their ability whatever they think is best for their children.

Parenting can be described as a holistic duties, responsibilities or roles which parents are bound to carry out for the success, happiness and meaningful existence of the child. Ezema (2021) described parenting as both a role and a job demanding knowledge and application of appropriate skills, resources, time, thoughts and constant review of progress made.

Adolescent can be assisted to mold a positive personality through effective parenting. Adolescent is a period in life where the individual undergoes a constant bombardment of experiences and expectations which are expected to exert high pressure on the individual. Added to this is the

physical and intellectual energy that are not easy to control and channel. (Agu, 2023). Hence the individual experiences a lot of conflicts and confusion in life, emanating from quest for career, skill acquisition, academic success, friendship, love, issues of sexuality, marriage, etc. Effective parenting and conducive home environment are necessary to assist the adolescent to overcome this difficult stage in life.

One of the major of concern in family studies is that parent have neglected the responsibility of child rearing imposed on them by nature and which has contributed to psychological problem and deviant behavior found among adolescents, especially those in school. Achile (2020) posited that parents love to engage in fierce struggle for material possession and devote little time for their children's supervision and guidance. Thus, children grow up, lacking parental values and adequate socialization. The researcher associated students deviant behavior such as stealing, drug use and drug abuse, disobedience to parent and teachers, cultism with such factors as lack of parental supervision, break down of tradition and social control technique and inability of adults to present themselves as good role models.

These pose great threat to family and societal security. The Dictionary of contemporary English, defines security as things that are done in other to keep someone or something saved. There are many identifiable societal menace ranging from killing, boko haramism, kidnapping among other in the country can be traceable to the fact that children are not properly brought up and it poses a lot of threat to the security of life and property. In the view of Baumring, (2021) asserted that parent create their children psychologically as well as physically. The implication of the opinion of these researchers is that whatever the children become in the society, the parent contributed up to 50% of the result. The researcher opined that the ability of the child to master and control his environment, his self control and his social buoyancy are set not only by genetic structure but also by the regime stimulation and kind of contact provided by the parents.

One of the highly neglected area in teaching and learning relates to the structure of the family and the impact of this structure on the student's academic achievement, social and emotional development. The dramatic change in the structure of Nigerian family dates back to 1979's in the wake of oil boom. To derive the anticipated advantage from the oil boom, young men and women who were hitherto rural dwellers migrated to urban cities. This mass exodus migrated to a lot of increase in the societal indices of crime and deviant behavior such as stealing, robbery, killing, rape maiming drug use and abuse, cultism, bullying and other source of abuses. This according to Okonkwo (2000) implies that the adolescent whose behavior we decry today as inappropriate are in fact victims of parental neglect. Neither their social nor intellectual development has been sufficiently stimulated by their parents. This situation destroys the guidance and parental more previously adhere to by those involved in child rearing.

The issue is that no one has properly defined the clear mixture to which those in charge of child rearing the future generation should adhere. In the view of Oti (2000), the major challenges facing Africans in child rearing is the syndrome of trial by error as there is no clear lay down structure of operations. The opinion of the above researcher pointed out that the parent lack

proper orientation or skill as to bringing up their children in the most desirable way to avoid bring up a child who will become a societal nuisance. Inability of inculcating this moral in children have led to many of the societal problems we are facing today especially at the point of adolescent.

There are many behavioral problems in Nigeria society today as pointed out abinitio in this work and this has actually posed the question as whether Nigerian parent posses the knowledge and skills to nurture and guide the adolescents under their care. The general believe of the people is that most of the problems faced by adolescents are traceable to lack of parental rearing skills but to the best of the knowledge of the current researcher, no study has been conducted in this area to ascertain the validity of this assertion, in some cases where similar cases were conducted, there were not domesticated hence suffers cultural biasness.

The decision of the researcher to embark on the current study is therefore based on the lapses noticed above to provide a working document domestically researched to carter for the problems of adolescent in the society. This current study shall therefore emphasize on developing and validating an indigenous parental skills assessment inventory needed for assessing the degree to which Nigerian parents and guidance provides the necessary parenting skills for effective upbringing of the adolescent under their care and for family security. In response to the above challenge, this study shall develop and validate and inventory for assessment of parenting skills of the parents of adolescents.

Research Purpose

The study aimed at developing and validating an assessment instrument for measuring parenting skills of parent of adolescents. The specific purposes formulated to guide the study are:

- Develop and validate parenting skills Assessment inventory (PSAI) for parent of schooling adolescents
- To establish the construct (factorial) validity of the instrument
- Determine the reliability index of the items of the parental skill assessment inventory

Research Questions

Two research questions were formulated:

1. How valid are the items of the parenting skills assessment inventory (PSAI)
2. What is the reliability of parenting skills Assessment Inventory (PSAI)

Research Method

The study is a survey research design. The population of the study consisted of all the parents of secondary school students in all the 258 schools in Kogi State. A total of 1920 parents

participated in this study. The population was obtained through stratified proportionate random. This was done based on the education zone and all the stratum are represented irrespective of its size.

The instrument used for data collection was parenting Skill Assessment Inventory (PSAI) developed by the researcher after a critical review and some of their relevant and related items were taken, modified and used in the draft instrument, after efforts was made to domesticate the instrument to Nigerian culture.

Validity of the instrument

The instrument was validated by experts of unquestionable temperament in educational measurement and evaluation, educational guidance and counseling and philosophy of education. These experts were requested to thoroughly examine and scrutinize the items in the PSAI in the following areas: clarity of language expression, readability of item. Appropriateness of items to content of the study (content relevance), meaningfulness of the items (item relevance) and coverage of dimension of parenting skills assessment and other areas they might deemed necessary. All their suggestions were effected therefore reducing the items to 45 against 60 items that was initially drafted. The items was further reduced to 30 after preliminary and final validation. The responses of parents were rated on a five point Likert scale-type based on the following levels: highly descriptive to me -5, quite descriptive to me-4, fairly descriptive to me-3, slightly descriptive to me-2, not at all descriptive of me. They Possess equal number of positively and negatively directed items.

Crombach Alpha was used to analyze the remaining items of the instrument for reliability. The analysis revealed an internal consistency reliability coefficient of 0.81. In other to further determine the reliability and validity of the instrument, a pilot testing was carried out the researcher administered the instrument to a sample of 100% to avoid sensitizing actual subject in Kogi State. The response of these parents were scored and subjected to factor analysis procedure. This was done because of the ability of factor analysis to establish the construct validity. Seven factors were confirmed. A factor loading of 0.35 should be accepted as the minimum factor loading for accepting any item. By the end of the test, a total of eight items were finally removed from the face validated draft of the instruments remaining only 37 items.

The research instrument (PSAI) was administered to sample subjects (parent of students of the sampled schools) through the school guidance counselor who the researcher used as the research assistant. Direct delivery technique was adopted because it afforded the researcher the opportunity to make explanations were necessary since some of the respondents illiterate and semi illiterate. The information in the inventory was summarized and scored. Research question one was answered using factor analysis procedure. (that is, principal factors and normal varimax rotation). The Crombach Alpha was used to answer research question 2.

Result

How valid are the items of the parenting skills Assessment Inventory (PSAI) in terms of Factor Loading?

The data collected in this study were subjected to factor analysis procedure using principal Component Analysis and Varimax Rotation. Summary factor loading revealed that 5 items did not meet the criteria for accepting an item as valid. Three (3) items were dropped because they did not attain the minimum loading 0.35 on any factor (poor loading), while items two were considered factorially impure or complex because there were loaded in more than one factor; two (2) items measured under the seventh factor but were dropped they were not up to four factors required for accepting as valid. The surviving 30 valid variables were distributed along six valid factors, which explain six major constructs, related to parenting, skills, namely, relationship skills, communication skills, conflict resolution skills monitoring skills, skills of effective praise and reinforcement, and communication and listening.

Table 1: Summary of item loading for the surviving 30 items on the six valid factors and their commonality.

Factors	Items	Item loading	Communality
1. Relationship Skill	8	.50021	.55210
	10	.49902	.50387
	14	.49080	.54123
	22	.36517	.44040
	23	.36103	.51004
	28	.64521	.49428
	35	.41005	.50335
2. Communication/listening skills	1	.59704	.55111
	11	.42917	.62509
	17	.56131	.58031
	25	.50316	.40728
	29	.69424	.60013
3. Monitoring Skill	13	.47128	.68203
	15	.40110	.63501
	24	.39721	.51101
	26	.42514	.48803
	31	.37469	.51885
4. Skills Effective praise and reinforcement	4	.49011	.54497
	9	.47770	.52801
	21	.64125	.52801

Factors	Items	Item loading	Communality
	34	.50347	.51402
5. Conflict Resolution Skills	2	.43011	.43739
	3	.42816	.58271
	12	.51373	.44642
	16	.64187	.82645
	19	.56142	.62121
6. Information giving skills	5	.37159	.61644
	6	.39009	.66074
	20	.51703	.51402
	33	.52101	.40316

What is the reliability of parenting skills Assessment Inventory (PSAI)?

To determine the reliability of the instrument (PSAI), the surviving 30 items were subjected to Cronbach Alpha test. The summary of data analysis is shown below:

Table 2: Cronbach Alpha Test on 30 -Items of PSAI for internal consistency

Statistics for Inventory	Mean	Variance	Std Dev	No of Variance
	61.7104	52.5250	77.7760	30
Item Mean	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Range
	2.3408	1.8505	3.1057	1.2552
Item Variance	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Range
	.86011	.50586	3.0102	1.5043
Inter-Item Correlation	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Range
	.08161	-.25872	.61112	.3524

Reliability Coefficient Alpha For 30 items = 0.7587 Standardize item alpha = 0.7515

Discussion

The initial draft instrument consisting of sixty (60) items of parenting Skills Assessment Inventory (PSAI) were subjected to construct validation through factor analysis procedure, using principal component analysis and varimax rotation. In the final analysis, seven factors were extracted. Only six (6) factors had items substantially loaded on them, thus dropping one factor-factor seven (7). Three (3) items were dropped because they did not attain the minimum loading of 0.35 on any factor (poorly loaded) while two (2) items were considered factorially impure or

complex because they were loaded in more than one factor. Two (2) items measured under the seventh factor but they were dropped because they were not up to four factors required for accepting a factor as valid. (Meredith, 1969). The survival 30 valid variables were distributed along six valid factors, which explain six major constructs related to parenting skills, namely: relationship skills, conflict resolution skills, monitoring skills, skills of effective praise and reinforcement, communication and listening skills. The thirty (30) variables loaded under the six (6) valid factors are shown in table 1.

The reliability of the parenting Skill Assessment Inventory was determined and the inventory found to possess a high internal consistency index of 0.85. summary of the Crombach Alpha test on the 30 items of PSAI for its internal consistency revealed an alpha of 75.15. this is a high reliability index, indicating that the instrument is dependable because of its high inter item consistency, and therefore considered empirically valid.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The validity of the Parenting Skill Assessment Inventory (PSAI) developed by the researcher was determined. The 30 valid items were distributed along six valid factors which explain six major constructs namely, parental monitoring, adolescent/parent relationship, conflict resolution skill, skill of effective praise and reinforcement, communication and listening skills and information-giving skills. The 30 items that emerged have been found to possess a high internal consistency 0.75, indicating that the instrument is a reliable one.

The researcher recommends that the parenting Skills Assessment Inventory (PSAI) be used by teachers, counselor, and therapist for assessing the parenting skills of parents of adolescents in secondary schools and tertiary institutions.

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