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# Perceived Parental Behaviour and Religiosity as Predictors of In-school Adolescent Sexual Risk Behaviour in Ibadan Metropolis, Nigeria

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## ABSTRACT

Sexual risk behavior is an important contemporary concern, especially for the self-destruction and societal ills it causes. Research has been ongoing on adolescent sexual risk behavior in the country and recent studies still report high rates of pre-marital sexual activities among Nigerian adolescents. Sexual risk behavior among youth, defined as early sexual initiation, unprotected intercourse, or sex with multiple partners, is a major area of concern to parents or caregivers and health professionals given the many associated negative consequences. There is a dearth of literature on the interaction influence of perceived parental behavior and religiosity on adolescent sexual risk behavior in the country of Nigeria. This study, therefore, investigated the prediction of sexually risky behavior of the youth by their perception of their parental behaviors, and their religious belief. The roles of a few sociodemographic factors were also examined. A cross-sectional research design was employed. Using a multistage sampling technique, 1,589 participants, male (n=753), and female (n=836) aged 13 to 19 years were drawn from 10 private and 19 public secondary schools in three of the five Local Government Areas (LGA) in Ibadan Metropolis as participants for the study. Regression analyses revealed significant prediction by parental psychological control ( $\beta=.10$ ,  $t=3.99$ ,  $p<.01$ ) while the other parental behavioral dimensions were not significant. Religiosity also significantly predicted sexual risk behavior among adolescents ( $F(1, 1584) = 50.25$ ,  $p<.001$ ) ( $\beta=-0.18$ ,  $t=-7.08$ ,  $p<.001$ ) indicating an increase in sexually risky behavior with a decline in religiosity. Age, Gender and family structure were also independent and significant predictors ( $\beta = 0.12$ ,  $t=-4.89$ ,  $p< .01$ ;  $\beta= 0.30$ ,  $t=-12.62$ ,  $p<.01$ ,  $\beta = 0.05$ ,

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$t=2.12$ ,  $p<.05$ ) respectively, implying the younger, male adolescents from polygamous setting are higher on sexual risk behavior. Implication is an overuse of psychological control. Efforts should be geared towards eliciting healthy parental behavior through teaching parenting skills and also giving adolescents cognitive therapy. Religiosity should also be encouraged.

*Keywords: Parental behavior; predictor; adolescent; sexual risk; behavior.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Sexual risk behavior is an important contemporary concern, especially for the self-destruction and societal ills it causes. Research has been ongoing on adolescent sexual risk behavior in the country and recent studies still report high rates of pre-marital sexual activities among Nigerian adolescents. Omisore et al, (2024) in their study of adolescents' risk perception and prevalence of risky behaviors, submitted that over a fifth of the respondents perceived they were at moderate to great risk regarding partaking in risky sexual behavior. Also, in a narrative review of literature by Olawade et al., (2024) they found that numerous Nigerian teenagers, particularly those between the ages of 15 and 18, are at risk of sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies as a result of multiple sexual partners, a lack of or ineffective use of condoms, and an early sexual debut. Hitherto, concerted efforts of researchers in the country have been on the contribution of peer pressure to adolescent risky sexual behavior, however not much has been done on how the perception of parental behavior influences this risky sexual behavior of the youth.

Understanding ecological factors that influence the risky sexual behavior of adolescents is vital in designing and implementing sexual risk reduction interventions in specific contexts. Interventions undertaken without understanding the critical factors may not produce the desired results (Gibson et al., 2020). Previous studies have identified that adolescent risky sexual behavior was significantly and strongly associated with the perception of peers' involvement in sexual intercourse (Akintola, 2017). In most cases, studies have identified that parenting factors may indeed reduce or mitigate the adolescent decision to engage in risky sexual behavior. Considering the inconsistency in the causative factors and adolescents' outcomes in the extant literature, this study takes a look at the perceptions of the adolescents' parental behavior such as psychological control, behavioral control, support and parental risk-taking, and how these influence their risky sexual behavior. Also examined were the effects of religiosity and, sociodemographic factors like age, gender, family structure and socio-economic on the adolescents' sexual risk behavior.

## **2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

Diana Baumrind's Theory of Parenting Style is employed as the framework for this study. The different styles encompass the various parental behaviors under investigation (Akintola, 2017). The construct of parenting style is used to capture normal variations in parents' attempts to control and socialize their children (Baumrind 1991, Esplin 1993). Two points are critical in understanding this

definition. First, parenting style is meant to describe normal variations in parenting. In other words, the parenting style typology Baumrind developed should not be understood to include deviant parenting, such as might be observed in abusive or neglectful homes. Second, Baumrind assumes that normal parenting revolves around issues of control (Akintola, 2017). Although, parents may differ in how they try to control or socialize their children and the extent to which they do so, it is assumed that the primary role of all parents is to influence, teach and control their children.

Parenting style captures two important elements of parenting, parental responsiveness and parental demand (Maccoby & Martin 1983). Parental responsiveness (also referred to as parental warmth or supportiveness) refers to "the extent to which parents intentionally foster individuality, self-regulation and self-assertion by being attuned, supportive and acquiescent to children's special needs and demands". Parental demand (also referred to as behavioral control) refers to "the claims parents make on children to become integrated into the family whole, by their maturity demands, supervision, disciplinary efforts and willingness to confront the child who disobeys" (Akintola, 2017). Categorizing parents according to whether they are high or low on parental demandingness and responsiveness creates a typology of four parenting styles: indulgent, authoritarian, authoritative, and uninvolved. Each of these parenting styles reflects different naturally occurring patterns of parental values, practices, and behavior.

Indulgent parents (also referred to as "permissive" or "nondirective") are more responsive than they are demanding. Authoritarian parents are highly demanding and directive, but not responsive. Authoritative parents are both demanding and responsive while uninvolved parents are low in both responsiveness and demand. In addition to differing in responsiveness and demand, the parenting styles also differ in the extent to which they are characterized by a third dimension - psychological control (Akintola, 2017). Psychological control refers to control attempts that intrude into the psychological and emotional development of the child (Barber 1996, Tang et al., 2024) through the use of parenting practices such as guilt induction, withdrawal of love or shaming with consequential effects on the child.

### **3. LITERATURE REVIEW**

A number of empirical research show that certain parenting behaviors are associated with specific adolescent internalizing such as social withdrawal or depression and externalizing - violence, and aggression outcomes. Research has indicated that parenting behaviors influence the development and maintenance of problem behaviors among adolescents (Akintola, 2017). Parental behavioral control involves managing adolescent activities in an attempt to regulate their conduct and provides them with guidance for appropriate social behavior (Espino 2013, Baumrind 1996). Research suggests that behavioral control can protect against problem behaviors. For example, higher levels of fathers' behavioral control and mother-adolescent relationship were stable

concurrent predictors, the mother–adolescent relationship was a robust longitudinal predictor of adolescent substance use (Shek et al., 2020) less adolescent truancy, less marijuana use, an increase in the age of an adolescent's first sexual intercourse, as well as decreased sexual risk behavior (Sharma 2020, Dodge et al., 2006, Shawon et al., 2023) and less frequent engagement in early sexual intercourse (Dittus et al., 2023). In addition, parental control appeared to prevent escalation in externalizing problems among adolescents who reported affiliating with deviant peers (Akintola, 2017). For example, among adolescents who reported deviant peer associations, only those whose parents used low behavioral control increased their externalizing problems (Bai et al., 2020). Parental psychological control such as threatening, guilt induction, withdrawal of love or shaming, yelling, or screaming in response to misbehavior, is thought to contribute to more frequent externalizing behaviors that trivialize violence or aggression (Chou 2024). Studies demonstrate psychological control is linked to behavior problems ranging from conduct disorder to depression, low self-esteem and sexual risk behavior (Akintola, 2017). For instance, researchers found that the use of psychological control by either parent in a two-parent household was related to greater adolescent depression and externalizing behavior (Zahra & Dawood 2024). These studies show that psychological control predicted higher levels of both internalizing and externalizing problems over time for adolescents reporting high antisocial peer affiliations, but not for those with few antisocial peers (Havewala et al., 2021). In other words, adolescents' interactions with deviant peers tend to exacerbate rather than attenuate problems associated with negative family relations.

Parental warmth and support (inductive reasoning, and parent-child communication) can facilitate positive adolescent adjustment. Researchers have consistently found them to be associated with enhanced behavioral outcomes. Moreover, parental support during adolescence appears to protect adolescents from the negative consequences of adversities in their lives (Shek et al., 2021). Support behaviors include parental warmth, the use of inductive reasoning, and communication (Akintola, 2017). Parental support and warmth is the extent to which the adolescent is loved and accepted, usually measured by items such as how often the mother or father listened carefully to their child's point of view and helped them with something important (Maccoby & Martin 1983). Higher levels of parental support are associated with significantly reduced sexual risk behavior, alcohol use and substance use (Dou et al., 2020, Keyzers et al., 2019, Hindelang et al., 2001). Further, researchers found parental support was associated with decreases in externalizing behaviors and increases in self-esteem over time (Zhu et al., 2024). Overall, findings suggest that higher levels of parental support are positively associated with adolescent outcomes (Akintola, 2017). Research has consistently shown that higher levels of perceived parental support are associated with lower levels of adolescent delinquency, sexual risk behavior, aggression, or other adjustment problems (Dou et al., 2020, Keyzers et al., 2019, Akintola, 2017). Researchers have also found that parental support during adolescence predicted lower levels of depressive symptoms and irritability among young adults (Boele et al., 2023).

Researchers have examined how supportive parental behavior influences adolescent outcomes in high-risk community contexts. For example, one research study suggests that supportive parental behaviors buffer adolescents from the negative effects of high-risk community contexts (Quiroga et al., 2015). Potter and Font (2022) reported the protective influence that parent connectedness has in preventing the adolescent from engaging in risky behavior including sexual risk-taking. Overall, these studies underscore the importance of parental support on the well-being of adolescents, since it functions as a protective factor when examining various adolescent behavioral outcomes (Akintola, 2017).

The fourth dimension of parental behavior developed by the researcher in line with cultural factors and prevalence is parental risk-taking. Parental risk-taking among Nigerians includes behaviors such as neglectful parenting (low control and low acceptance) and daring acts like asking under-aged children to peddle food items, making them beg on the streets for money, sending them on long-distance errands, making them travel long distances alone (could put them under the care of unknown drivers) all acts which encourage risky sexual behavior or expose the children to rape (Akintola, 2017). Researchers have found an association between such parenting style and delinquent acts ranging from vandalism and petty theft to assault and rape (Wallace, 2023). Positive perceptions towards the relationship with the parents, especially the mother, influence the delay of the onset of sexual relations among adolescents (Maina et al., 2020).

### **3.1 Hypotheses**

- Perceived Parental behavior and religiosity will significantly predict adolescent sexual risk behavior among In-school adolescents in Ibadan Metropolis.
- Sociodemographic factors like age, gender, family structure and socio-economic will significantly predict sexual risk behavior among these adolescents.

## **4. METHODS**

### **4.1 Design and Participants**

The design adopted for the study is Cross-Sectional Survey Research Design. The sample was selected adolescents from ages 13 – 19 years ( $15.4 \pm 1.71$ ), drawn from 10 private and 19 public secondary schools from three of the five local governments within the Ibadan metropolis (Akintola, 2017). About 1,700 students of Junior Secondary School 3 to Senior Secondary School 3 participated in the study. Simple Random, Stratified and Systematic Sampling Techniques were used (Krejcie & Morgan 1970). Sampling Table was used as a guide to determine the exact size needed to represent the population. Schools already exist as two strata (public and private) in each local government. Selection from each stratum by Simple Random Technique reflected the ratio at which both strata (public and private schools) exist in each local government.

About 1,590 questionnaires were eventually analyzed for the study-male (n=753), and female (n=836).

## 4.2 Measures

- **Perceived Parental Behavior:** This was measured with the Perceived Parental Behavior Scale (Henry & Peterson 1995, Peterson & Rollins 1987, Zhang et al., 2016). It is a 13-item scale based on parent behavior measures. It is rated on a 4-point response pattern ranging from Strongly Disagree (1), Disagree (2), Agree (3) and Strongly Agree (4). The scale originally measured parental support, parental behavioral control/monitoring and psychological control as factor components of parental behavior (Akintola, 2017). The items in the scale are averaged into subscale scores that represent each dimension of parental behavior in reference to each parent. However, five culturally (local) relevant items generated from the Focal Group Discussion with the adolescents were added to make the items 20.

An item analysis was conducted to determine the psychometric properties of the scale and also confirm construct validity. The whole perceived parental behavior scale yielded a reliability coefficient of .73, equal length Spearman-Brown of .65 and Guttman Split-half of .65. Factor Analysis, using principal component analysis followed by Varimax Rotation procedure yielded 5 factors with Eigen values greater >1. Items that had a loading of at least .40 and above were retained. All the five items added had loadings over .40. Item number 12 loaded on both factors 1 and 3 but appropriate for factor 3. The total Variance explained by the five factors (Parental Support, Parental Monitoring, Parental Risk Taking, Guilt Induction and Punitiveness) was 69.5% (Akintola, 2017). A theme that recurs among the items constituting a factor was used to name each factor and also phrase the new factor or dimension (Parental risk-taking) that emerged with the introduction of the new items. Factors 4 and 5 which are Parental Guilt Induction and Punitiveness respectively were grouped together as Psychological Control (Henry & Peterson 1995) while Factor 1 was Support, 2-Behavioral control/Monitoring and 3- Parental Risk-Taking which is the new factor that emerged; hence the scale now has four dimensions as against the original three dimensions. A composite score on each dimension of the perceived parental behavior was obtained for both parents of an adolescent to determine their dominant dimension (highest score) which they were labeled with.

- Religiosity Fundamentalism Scale "REL" (Wiggins 1996) was used to elicit information on the adolescents' religious inclinations. The scale is one of 13 scales identified by content analysis of the item pool of the MMPI, the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory. The REL scale consists of 12 declarative statements that respondents are asked to endorse as true or false. The 12 items are distributed as ordered in the fall MMPI within 163 MMPI items included in the baseline questionnaire. The internal

consistency of the REL scale as assessed by Cronbach's alpha is satisfactory; 0.82 for girls and 0.81 for boys, and test-retest reliability of 0.95 for males and 0.93 for females has been reported.

The scale was adapted to suit this study with now a response format of Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree, Strongly Agree to allow for adequate variance in responses and thus increase its validity. Also, two items not relevant to this culture were removed and the score of the 10th item was reversed. Revalidation of the scale yielded a Coefficient alpha of .69, Split half reliability of .68 and equal length Spearman-Brown of .68.

- **Adolescent Sexual Risk Behavior:** A similar procedure was used by the researcher to develop the instrument that was used to measure Adolescent Sexual Risk Behavior. This consists of 12 items to assess adolescents' involvement in sexual risk-taking, that is, if they have ever engaged in sexual risk behaviors and how often they do so (Akintola, 2017). The 12-item scale is in Likert format with a five-point response option ranging from never (0) once (1), 2-4 times (2), 5-7 times (3) to very often (4). Scores above the mean value of 4 at the standard deviation of 4.5 were regarded as being high on sexual risk behavior while lower scores than the mean were regarded as being low.

### 4.3 Procedure

The researcher obtained a letter from the office of the Commissioner for Education which was addressed to the local inspectors of education in the five local governments in Oyo state from whom the lists of all secondary schools in Ibadan metropolis were collected (Akintola, 2017). A simple random sampling technique by balloting was used to select three of the five local government, schools selected by systematic random sampling from the existing two strata (public and private) and the participants (students) were also systematically randomly selected. Permission was obtained from school authorities; consent forms were given to parents and assent forms to the adolescents before data were collected with the use of self-reported questionnaires.

### 4.4 Data Analysis

Hierarchical and Multiple Regression analyses were used for the two hypotheses generated.

## 5. RESULTS

Table 1 shows that age ( $r = 0.16, p < .01$ ), parental psychological control ( $r = 0.09, p < .01$ ) and peer pressure ( $r = 0.16, p < .01$ ) were positive correlates of sexual risk behavior among adolescents. Sexual risk behavior increased with psychological control and peer pressure. Gender ( $r = -0.31, p < .01$ ), self-efficacy ( $r = -0.16, p < .01$ ), self-esteem ( $r = -0.16, p < .01$ ), religiosity ( $r = -0.18, p < .01$ ) have inverse correlation with adolescent sexual risk behavior.

Table 2 reveals religiosity as the first model introduced that significantly predicted sexual risk behavior among adolescents ( $F(1, 1584) = 50.25, p < .001$ ) ( $\beta = -0.18, t = -7.08, p < .001$ ), adolescents sexual risk increased with declining religiosity. The inclusion of the parental behavior variables to the religiosity model yielded an increase in  $R^2$  value (coefficient of determination) from 0.03 to 0.04, a significant 1% increase was observed in the variance predicted in the model ( $\Delta R^2 = 0.01, R^2 = 0.04, F(5, 1584) = 33.33, p < .001$ ). Religiosity ( $\beta = -0.18, t = -7.34, p < .01$ ) and parental psychological control ( $\beta = 0.1, t = 3.99, p < .01$ ) were found to be significant predictors of adolescent sexual risk behavior while the influence of parental behavioral control ( $\beta = 0.01, t = .23, p > .05$ ), parental risk-taking ( $\beta = -0.03, t = -.92, p > .05$ ) and parental support ( $\beta = -0.05, t = -1.85, p > .05$ ) were not significant. This suggests that adolescents' sexual risk behavior increases when religiosity is low and parental psychological control is high but (sexual risk behavior) decreases or declines as religiosity increases and parental psychological control decreases. Based on the findings, the hypothesis is partially accepted.

The hypothesis is partially accepted because of the insignificance of the independent prediction of socioeconomic status. Table 3. shows that there was a significant joint influence of gender, family structure, age and socio-economic status on sexual risk behavior among adolescents within the Ibadan metropolis ( $F(4, 1584) = 51.27, p < .001$ ). The  $R$  value of 0.34 shows a strong relationship between the independent variables and sexual risk behavior among adolescents. The  $R^2$  value of 0.12 shows that the independent variables contributed about 12% to sexual risk behavior among adolescents within the Ibadan metropolis. Also, the independent influence of the predictor variables shows that gender, family structure and age independently and significantly influence sexual risk behavior among adolescents within the Ibadan metropolis ( $\beta = 0.30, t = -12.62, p < .01, \beta = 0.05, t = 2.12, p < .05, \beta = 0.12, t = -4.89, p < .01$ ) respectively. While socioeconomic status ( $\beta = 0.04, t = 1.52, p > .05$ ) did not independently and significantly predict sexual risk behavior among adolescents. Based on these results, the hypothesis was therefore partially confirmed.

## 6. DISCUSSION

The main purpose of this study was to investigate the prediction of sexually risky behavior by the adolescents' perception of their parental behavior and also examine the effect of their religiosity on their sexual behavior. Contrary to expectations and trends of research findings on the variable – parental behavior, it was found not to predict sexual risk behavior except for parental psychological control (Akintola, 2017). The significance of psychological control is in line with literature. Some studies that have examined the link between psychological control and sexual risk behavior (Ahmed et al., 2023, Steiner 2021, Zhang et al., 2024, Chigbu et al., 2022) relative to the major literature that have examined behavioral control as a predictor of sexual risk behavior; in all these studies, results suggested that psychological control is a predictor of increased sexual risk behavior, especially for girls (Akintola, 2017). Indeed, adolescents whose parents use psychologically controlling techniques are at increased risk of making decisions that are developmentally immature and ill-founded (Norman 2017, Mulya et al., 2021). In contrast, healthy adolescent parent relationship

qualities are likely to facilitate the development of healthy autonomy and communication, protecting against maladaptive peer influences (Kapungu et al., 2006). Religiosity on the other hand offer protection against sexual risk-taking in adolescence and emerging adulthood (Koletić et al., 2021). Religiosity was found to be a protective factor for youth sexual behavior and this positive association was still evident even after controlling for other covariates. Youth who were highly religious had significantly higher odds of abstaining compared to their counterparts who were not religious (Somefun 2019). She concluded that religiosity is a protective factor for sexual abstinence among youth in Nigeria and that policymakers can work around using religious institutions for behavioral change among youth in the country. All the foregoing on the effect of religiosity is supported by the findings of the current study which revealed adolescents sexual risk decreased with increased religiosity. Rostosky et al. (2004) lent credence to the findings of these findings where they substantiated that religiosity delays the sexual debut of adolescent females even though findings are mixed for adolescent males. Nigerians generally and their adolescents are highly religious and this could have had a slight cushion effect on the psychological control of the parents. Otherwise, a much higher significance of the control would have been observed on the adolescents' sexual risk behavior. It can be inferred then that religiosity is helping to douse the effects of psychological control where such doctrine as "honouring your parents", and "children, obey your parents in the Lord" is promoted.

Findings in this study revealed that male in-school adolescents and those older exhibited higher sexual risk behavior. This is corroborated by Eyam et al. (2021) who submitted from their study findings that as the age increases among their adolescent participants, they were 2.69 times more likely to be sexually exposed. Millanzi, et al., (2023) observed the role of age; a higher proportion of sexually active adolescents were seen after fifteen years of age confirming previous reports that sexual practice increases with age. However, younger adolescents had a tendency to practice unsafe sex more than older adolescents in their study and this was in keeping with previous studies. They opined that early-aged adolescents are less likely to make informed decisions and are more likely to be involved in coercive sex and other associated risks. Early initiators have been shown to lack the ability to negotiate condom use during sexual intercourse and have the likelihood of multiple sexual partners from serial relationships before marriage, they further submitted. Moreover, (Kapungu et al., 2006, Ma et al. 2021, and Olorunsola et al. 2021) from their findings suggested that boys reared in low control/high warmth (i.e., permissive) homes and girls reared in high control/low warmth (i.e., authoritarian) homes were particularly at risk for early sexual behaviors. Eyam et al. (2021) submitted further that family type showed students from polygamous homes were 3 times more likely to have been sexually exposed than their counterparts from monogamous families. This finding on family structure buttressed the finding in this study where in-school adolescents from polygamous homes were found to exhibit higher sexual risk behavior than those from monogamous homes. Slap et al. (2003) revealed from their study that sexual activity was more common among students from polygamous families than monogamous families, attributed to a lower sense of connectedness with parents in polygamous settings.

**Table 1. Pearson product-moment correlation (ppmc)of psychological factors, socio-demographic factors and sexual risk behavior among adolescents in Ibadan metropolis**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	
1. Sexual behavior	1	.17**	.04	.00	-	.04	.16**	-.16**	-.16**	-.18**	.04	.09**	-.01	
2. Peer pressure		1	.02	.06*	-.11**	-.06*	.02	-.12**	-.16**	-.14**	.12**	-.05	.09**	
3. Parental risk taking			1	-	.05	.07**	.20**	-.03	-.23**	-.04	.13**	.56**	.22**	
4. Socio-economic status				1	.16**	.03	-.03	-.18**	.00	.05*	.01	-.03	-.04	.01
5. Gender					1	.08**	-.11**	.01	.02	.04	.01	-.01	.07**	
6. Family structure						1	.16**	-.01	-.09**	-.07**	-.05*	.01	-.01	
7. Age							1	-.03	-.12**	-.04	-.06*	.07**	-.02	
8. Self-efficacy								1	.30**	.34**	-	.04	-	
9. Self-esteem									1	.31**	.13**	-.06*	-.09**	-.19**
10. Religiosity										1	.07**	-.06*	-.09**	-.13**
11. Parental behavioral control											1	.06*	-.07**	-.07**
12. Parental psychological control												1	.12**	.38**
13. Parental support													1	.24**
Mean	15.79	43.10	13.44	1.89	-	-	15.16	31.51	28.04	26.42	6.83	18.41	9.09	
SD	5.15	18.75	5.89	0.58	-	-	1.70	4.31	4.01	3.33	3.15	5.83	3.62	

\*\* significant at 0.01 level

**Table 2. Summary of hierarchical multiple regression analysis showing the influence of parental behaviors and religiosity on sexual risk behavior among adolescents within the Ibadan metropolis**

Predictors	Step 1			Step 2		
	Beta	t-value	Sig	Beta	t-value	Sig
Religiosity	-.18	-7.08	< .001	-.18	-7.34	< .001
Parental Psychological Control				.10	3.99	< .01
Parental Behavioral Control				.01	.23	> .05
Parental Risk-taking				-.03	-.92	> .05
Parental Support				-.05	-1.85	> .05
R		.18			.20	
R <sup>2</sup>		.03			.04	
ΔR <sup>2</sup>		.03			.01	
F		50.25			33.33	

**Table 3. Multiple Regression Analysis Showing the Influence of Gender, Family Structure, Age and Socio-economic Status on Sexual Risk Behavior among Adolescents within Ibadan Metropolis**

Variables	Beta	t-value	Sig	R	R <sup>2</sup>	F	p
Gender	-.30	-12.62	< .001				
Family Structure	.05	2.12	< .05	.34	.12	51.27	< .001
Age	.12	4.89	< .01				
Socio-economic Status	.04	1.52	> .05				

## **7. CONCLUSION**

The implication of the findings is an indication of high employment of psychological control by Nigerian parents in Ibadan and this should be discouraged as this parental behavior undermines adolescent's healthy emotional and psychological autonomy from parents or caregivers, a task which is critical to adolescents' development and their resistance to external pressures, especially from peers (Akintola, 2017). Parents should give disciplinary methods that are supportive and not punitive and should develop a style of negotiating autonomy that does not undermine individual autonomy within the parent-adolescent relationship. Religiosity should also be encouraged.

## **DISCLAIMER (ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE)**

Author hereby declares that NO generative AI technologies such as Large Language Models (ChatGPT, COPILOT, etc.) and text-to-image generators have been used during the writing or editing of this manuscript.

## **CONSENT**

As per international standard or university standard, participants' written consent has been collected and preserved by the author.

## **ETHICAL APPROVAL**

The author hereby declares that the study has been examined and approved by the University of Ibadan/University College Hospital, Ibadan Nigeria Ethics Committee and has therefore been performed in accordance with the ethical standards laid down in the 1964 Declaration of Helsinki.

## **COMPETING INTERESTS**

Author has declared that no competing interests exist.

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