**DOES NARCISSISM TRAITS MEDIATE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHILDHOOD ADVERSITIES AND ADOLESCENTS’ RISKY BEHAVIOURS?**

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Adolescence is a phase of life between childhood and adulthood. According to World Health Organization; (WHO, 2022) adolescence ages ranged from 10 to 19 years, thus this is a unique stage of human development and also an important time for laying the foundations of a good health. Irrespective of the fact that this stage is unique and a healthy stage of an individual’s life, there is significant death and injury in adolescent years, while majority of these are preventable or treatable, others may not be redeemable. This is so because during this stage, adolescents engage in some risky behaviours. Such risky behaviours can be related to diet, substance use and sexual activities (WHO, 2022). These behaviours can lead to serious long term and in some cases life threatening consequences especially when an adolescent engages in more than one harmful behaviours (Terzian et al., 2011).

Adolescent risky behaviours can be defined as behaviours that can have adverse effect on the overall development and wellbeing of youths or that might prevent them from future successes and development (Rosario et al., 2014). According to WHO (2022) there are 1.2 million adolescents death each year. These deaths are caused by road traffic injuries, suicide and interpersonal violence. Meanwhile in 15-19 year olds, the leading risk for health are related to behaviours such as alcohol intake, unsafe sex; while older adolescent girls are affected by intimate partner violence pregnancy complications and unsafe abortions which may lead to their death (WHO, 2022). When it comes to Nigeria, the prevalence of drug use is estimated at 14.4 percent which is equivalent to 14.3 million people aged between 15 and 64 years (United Nations Office on Drug and Crime [UNODC], 2018). In some parts of the country like Ogun state, the prevalence of risky sexual behaviours was 19.2 % (Olaoye & Agbede, 2019). In Nigeria the quantity of methamphetamine that has been seized has skyrocketed rising from 177kg in 2012 to 1.3 tons in 2017 (Mouhamadol, 2019). Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS, 2018) posited that in Nigeria, 1 in 5 teenage women aged 15-19 are already mothers or pregnant with their first child. Rural teenage women are three times more likely to have begun childbearing than urban teenage women (27% versus 8%). By state, teenage pregnancy ranges from a low of 1% in Lagos to a high of 41% in Bauchi. Forty-four percent of teenage women with no education have begun childbearing, compared to 1% of teenage women with more than secondary education (p. 4). Adolescent risky behaviours can be caused by numerous factors, there is considerable evidence showing that family influences contributes to adolescent risky behaviours; such family influences may include living in poverty, poor parenting, dysfunctional family patterns, substance use in home (Chassin et al., 2005; Duncan et al., 1995). With these factors above, it is important to assess other variables that may predict adolescents’ risky behaviour such as childhood adversities and narcissism.

From the purview of this current study, childhood adverse experience will be assessed to know if it predicts suicide behavior among adolescents. Childhood adversity refers to a range of negative childhood experiences such as all forms of physical and emotional abuse, neglect or exploitation that result in actual or potential harm to a child (Butchart et al., 2006). Childhood adversity may also be said to mean physical abuse, sexual and emotional abuse, bullying, parental death or loss, neglect and poverty (Felitti et al., 1998). ). Childhood adversity can affect the development of a child in a number of ways, at different points in time; early exposure that persist overtime may likely lead to more lasting impact (Nelson, 2020). Narcissism can be defined as multi-faceted traits that consist of a wide range of characteristics such as feelings of superiority, a sense of grandiosity exhibitionism, exploitative behaviours in the interpersonal domain, feelings of entitlement and lack of empathy (Cain et al., 2008). Narcissim can also be seen as pervasive pattern of grandiosity, a need for admiration and lack of empathy beginning in early adulthood and is present in variety of contexts (Oloke & Gatz, 2020).

**AIM AND OBJECTIVES/PURPOSE**

The main purpose of this study is to ascertain the relationship between childhood adversity and adolescence risky behaviour, and also to examine whether such relationship will be mediated by narcissism. The study specific objectives include the following:

* To ascertain if there will be significant relationship between childhood adversity and adolescence risky behaviour.
* To determine whether childhood adversity will significantly predict adolescence risky behaviour.
* To verify if narcissism will significantly predict adolescence risky behaviour.
* To check if there will be significant interaction between childhood adversity and narcissism on adolescence risky behaviour.

**Method**

PARTICIPANTS: one thousand N = (1000) senior secondary school students will participate in the study. They will comprise boys (500, 50 %) and girls (500, 50 %). Their ages will range from 12-19.

**Instruments:** three instruments will be used in the study.

**The RT-18 Risk Taking Scales:** this scale was developed by De-Haan et al. (2011) and it will be used to measure adolescent risky behaviour. It has 18 items measuring risk taking among young adults with known different levels of risk-taking behavior (social drinkers and recreational drug users). It has a dichotomous response format such as yes (1) and No (0). The original authors found the Cronbach alpha was .88 and test retest reliability of 0.94.

**The Child Abuse and Trauma Scale (CATS):** this scale was developed bySanders and Becker -Lausen , (1995***).*** This scale will be used to measure childhood adversities.The CATS is a screening instrument for use with groups at risk for childhood trauma. The instrument measures the retrospective perception of frequency of traumatic stress. The overall alpha reliability for the measure was high, Alpha reliabilities were acceptable for home atmosphere and neglect subscale (α \_ .86) but not for physical punishment (α \_ .63) and sexual abuse subscales (α .76).

**Antisocial process screening device:** this scale was developed by Vitacco et al. (2003). This scale has three psychopathy subscales measuring impulsivity, callous-unemotional traits and narcissism. The narcissism subscales contains seven items. With the response format of 0 (Not at all true), 1 (Sometimes true), or 2 (Definitely true). The cronbach alpha for narcissism subscale is .74

**DESIGN AND STATISTICS**

It will be survey study with correlation design. Multiple regressions will be used to test the hypotheses

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

The result will help in identifying the role of adolescent risky behaviours its relationship with childhood adversities and how these factors can be mediated by narcissism. That will help in preventing behaviours that contribute to the life threatening tendencies. It will equally add to the body of knowledge in human development trajectory.

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