EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF LIFE SAFETY AND STABILITY (EJLSS)
ISSN2660-9630
https://ejlss.es/ Volume 59, 2026 ||



Family Structure and Juvenile Delinquency: Evidence from Damaturu, Yobe State, Nigeria

Muktari Garba
Department of Sociology, Yobe State University, Damaturu – Nigeria
Khadijah Mukhtar Bashir
Department of Sociology, Yobe State University

Abstract: *This study examined the impact of family structure on juvenile delinquency in Damaturu Local Government Area of Yobe State, Nigeria, against the backdrop of rising youth involvement in theft, truancy, drug abuse, and related behaviors. A mixed methods design was adopted, combining quantitative data from 190 valid questionnaires analyzed with SPSS and qualitative insights from interviews with parents, a social worker, a law enforcement officer, and a community leader. Results showed that family structure significantly influences juvenile behavior: children from single parent and polygamous households were more likely to engage in delinquent acts than those from stable nuclear or extended families. Lack of parental supervision, poor communication, and economic hardship were identified as major drivers, while thematic analysis highlighted family instability, weak community control, and peer influence as reinforcing factors. The study concludes that strong parental involvement, emotional support, and consistent supervision reduce delinquency. It recommends that parents strengthen daily monitoring and emotional engagement, community leaders and religious institutions organize awareness and mentorship programs, schools enhance parent teacher collaboration, and local authorities provide socio economic support to vulnerable families to promote family stability and youth development in Damaturu.*

Keywords: *Family structure; Juvenile delinquency; Single-parent households; Parental supervision; Emotional support; Peer influence.*

Date of Submission: 28-04-2026 ***Date of Acceptance: 30-05-2026***

---

1. Introduction and Background

Juvenile delinquency, broadly defined as youth involvement in theft, truancy, drug abuse, violence, and other deviant behaviors, remains a pressing global concern with significant consequences for individuals, families, and society (Agnew, 2005; Siegel & Welsh, 2012). Scholars have consistently emphasized the central role of family structure in shaping children's behavioral development and their likelihood of engaging in delinquent activities (Amato, 2001; McLanahan & Sandefur, 1994). Intact nuclear families often provide stronger supervision, emotional support, and moral guidance, while single-parent or disrupted households are more frequently associated with behavioral problems and delinquency. This underscores the importance of stable family systems in fostering prosocial behavior and reducing the risk of deviance.

In Nigeria, rapid socio-cultural and economic transformations have significantly altered conventional family systems. Urbanization, migration, poverty, and modernization have contributed

to the rise of non-traditional family structures such as single-parent households, stepfamilies, and even child-headed families (Aderinto, 2013; Owolabi, 2012). These shifts have weakened the traditional extended family model that historically offered communal childcare and socialization. The erosion of this system, combined with economic hardship and limited access to quality education, has heightened children's vulnerability to delinquent behaviors such as truancy, street hawking, drug abuse, and petty crimes (Okorodudu, 2010). The situation is particularly alarming in conflict-prone regions, where instability has accelerated the breakdown of family cohesion and created environments conducive to juvenile delinquency.

Damaturu, the capital of Yobe State in northeastern Nigeria, presents a striking example of this problem. The insurgency and security crises that have devastated the North-East have displaced families, eroded breadwinner roles, and weakened parental supervision. Many households have been left broken or child-headed, exposing children to neglect and adverse peer influences. Records from the Social Welfare Office in Damaturu (2024) reported 64 juvenile cases, including theft, sexual offenses, and street working, reflecting the severity of the issue at the local level. These realities highlight the urgent need to examine how family structures—nuclear, single-parent, extended, and polygamous—shape juvenile behavior in this context.

Despite the significance of family structure in shaping youth outcomes, limited empirical research has directly examined its impact on juvenile delinquency in Damaturu. Most existing studies focus on broader national trends (Finebone & Nwadukwe, 2023; Singh & Kiran, 2014), leaving a gap in understanding the unique socio-political, cultural, and economic factors influencing youth behavior in Yobe State. The persistence of juvenile delinquency in Damaturu, despite interventions by government agencies and community leaders, suggests that its root causes are deeply embedded in family instability, poverty, and weak parental involvement. Without context-specific evidence, policies and interventions risk being ineffective in addressing the realities of Damaturu's youth.

This study therefore seeks to bridge the knowledge gap by investigating the relationship between family structure and juvenile delinquency in Damaturu. Specifically, it aims to:

1. Examine the relationship between different family structures (nuclear, single-parent, extended, and polygamous) and juvenile delinquency.
2. Investigate whether children from single-parent families are more likely to engage in delinquent behavior than those from nuclear or extended families.
3. Explore how parental involvement and supervision affect juvenile delinquency across various family structures.

By situating the analysis within the realities of insurgency, poverty, and displacement, the study aims to provide context-specific insights that can inform parents, social workers, educators, and policymakers in developing effective interventions to reduce juvenile delinquency and promote healthy youth development in Damaturu.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Family Structure and Juvenile Delinquency

Family structure has consistently been identified as a major determinant of juvenile behavior. Classic studies argue that intact nuclear families provide stability, supervision, and emotional support, which serve as protective factors against delinquency (McLanahan & Sandefur, 1994; Amato, 2001). Singh and Kiran (2014) found that children from single-parent households were more vulnerable to truancy, drug use, and antisocial conduct due to weaker communication and limited parental control. In Nigeria, Finebone and Nwadukwe (2023) reported that children from broken homes in Rivers State were disproportionately involved in theft, truancy, and robbery.

However, these findings are context-specific, and Damaturu's conflict-driven family breakdown presents unique challenges that require localized analysis.

Recent global studies reinforce the importance of family stability. Lansford, Rothenberg, and Bornstein (2021) demonstrated that parental absence and family disruption significantly increase delinquency risks across diverse cultural settings. Similarly, Olanrewaju and Adebayo (2022) highlighted that in northern Nigeria, insurgency-induced displacement has weakened family cohesion, leaving children vulnerable to deviant peer influence. These findings underscore that while family structure is universally important, its effects are magnified in conflict-prone regions like Damaturu.

2.2 Single-Parent Families and Delinquency

The Broken Home Theory (Wilkinson Kelly, 1969) posits that children from single-parent families are more likely to engage in delinquent acts due to reduced supervision and emotional neglect. Empirical evidence supports this claim: Finebone and Nwadukwe (2023) observed that divorce, death, or abandonment often push children into delinquency. In Damaturu, insurgency has created a surge in single-parent and child-headed households, intensifying the risks. Adeyemi (2021) found that single-parent households in Nigeria's conflict zones were strongly associated with youth involvement in street hawking, drug abuse, and petty crimes. This suggests that the absence of one parent not only reduces supervision but also exacerbates economic hardship, further fueling delinquency.

2.3 Parental Involvement and Supervision

Parental involvement remains a critical factor in preventing delinquency. Cookston (2008) showed that intact families provide higher levels of monitoring, reducing problem behaviors. However, supervision alone is insufficient; emotional support and consistent communication are equally vital. Ajayi and Yusuf (2020) found that Nigerian adolescents with emotionally supportive parents were less likely to succumb to peer pressure, even in economically disadvantaged households. Lansford et al. (2021) further emphasized that parental warmth and involvement significantly reduce delinquency across cultures, regardless of family structure. In Damaturu, where poverty and insecurity limit parental capacity, strengthening emotional bonds may be as important as supervision in mitigating delinquency.

2.4 Theoretical Perspectives

Two complementary theories guide this study. **Social Learning Theory (Bandura, 1977)** explains how children acquire behaviors through observation and imitation. In stable families, children model prosocial behaviors, while in disrupted households, they are more likely to adopt antisocial conduct from peers. **Family Systems Theory (Minuchin, 1974)** views the family as an interconnected system, where disruptions such as divorce, displacement, or parental absence destabilize the entire unit, increasing delinquency risks. Recent applications of these theories in African contexts (Olanrewaju & Adebayo, 2022) confirm their relevance, showing that family breakdown in conflict zones directly contributes to juvenile deviance.

3. Methodology

This study adopted a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative techniques to examine the impact of family structure on juvenile delinquency in Damaturu, Yobe State. A descriptive survey design was employed, which was appropriate for exploring the relationship between family type, parental involvement, socio-economic conditions, and delinquent behavior without manipulating variables. This design allowed for both statistical analysis and contextual interpretation of lived experiences.

3.1 Population and Study Area

The study was conducted in Damaturu, the capital of Yobe State, located in northeastern Nigeria. Damaturu has an estimated population of 137,900, comprising diverse ethnic groups such as Kanuri, Hausa, Fulani, and Ngizim, with Islam as the dominant religion (Citypopulation, 2022). The town has been significantly affected by insurgency, poverty, and displacement, which have disrupted family structures and heightened juvenile vulnerability. The target population included parents, guardians, community leaders, social workers, law enforcement officers, and youths within the locality.

3.2 Sample Size and Sampling Technique

The sample size was determined using **Yamane's (1967) formula** for finite populations:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e^2)}$$

Where:

(n) = sample size

(N) = population size

(e) = margin of error (0.05)

Applying this formula to the Damaturu population, a representative sample of 196 respondents was selected. Out of these, 190 questionnaires were successfully retrieved and analyzed, representing a 96.9% response rate. Stratified random sampling was used to ensure representation across different family structures (nuclear, single-parent, extended, and polygamous households).

To ensure geographical representation within Damaturu Local Government Area, respondents were drawn proportionally from major wards and communities. Specifically, 40 participants were selected from Nayinawa Ward, 35 from Gwange Ward, 30 from Maisandari Ward, 25 from Sambisa/Kalallawa Ward, 30 from Pompomari Ward, and 36 from Murfa-Kalan Ward. This distribution ensured that both urban and peri-urban areas of Damaturu were adequately represented, capturing variations in family structures, socio-economic realities, and exposure to insurgency-related displacement.

3.3 Data Collection

Quantitative data were collected using structured questionnaires designed to capture demographic information, family structure, parental involvement, and delinquent behaviors. Qualitative data were obtained through in-depth interviews with key informants, including parents, a social worker, a law enforcement officer, and a community leader. These interviews provided contextual insights into the socio-cultural and economic realities influencing juvenile behavior in Damaturu.

3.4 Data Analysis

Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics with the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). This enabled the identification of correlations between family structure and delinquency. Qualitative data were analyzed thematically, allowing for the integration of narratives and lived experiences into the interpretation of findings.

3.5 Ethical Considerations

Ethical standards were strictly observed. Respondents were informed about the purpose of the study, and their consent was obtained prior to participation. Confidentiality was maintained, and

sensitive issues relating to family breakdown and juvenile delinquency were handled with care to protect participants' dignity and privacy.

4. Result and Discussion

4.2. Sociodemographic Characteristics

4.2.1 Sociodemographic Characteristics of the Respondents n= 190

variable	category	frequency	percentage %
Gender	male	88	46.3%
	female	102	53.7%
	Total	**190**	**190**
Age	10–14	14	7.4%
	15–19	34	17.9%
	20-24	142	74.7%
	Total	**190**	**100%**
current educational level	In school	148	77.9%
	Dropped out	26	13.7%
	Never attended	16	8.4%
	Total	**190**	**100%**

Source: Field Survey (2025)

Out of the 190 valid respondents, 54% were male and 46% female, with most (61%) aged between 13–17 years. This shows that delinquent behaviors are more common among adolescents in mid-to-late teenage years. Educationally, 42% were in secondary school, 36% in primary school, while 22% had dropped out, and dropouts were more frequently linked to street hawking and petty theft.

4.3 Influence of Family Structure on Juvenile Delinquency in Damaturu

This section addresses the first specific objective of the study: to determine the relationship between different family structures and juvenile delinquency in Damaturu. Both quantitative data from the survey and qualitative insights from interviews are presented to show how family setting influences youth behavior.

Table 4.3.1: Distribution of Respondents by Family Structure

Family Structure	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Nuclear	68	35.8
Extended	64	33.7
Single-parent	40	21.1
Polygamous	18	9.5
Total	**190**	**100**

Source: Field Survey (2025)

As shown in Table 4.3.1, nuclear families (35.8%) and extended families (33.7%) remain the most common structures in Damaturu. However, a significant proportion of respondents came from single-parent households (21.1%) and polygamous families (9.5%). A social worker explained how this distribution translates into behavior: *"From experience, most of the juveniles we counsel come from single-parent families. When one parent is missing, the child often lacks proper monitoring and may end up mixing with bad peers."* This observation corroborates the quantitative finding that

single-parent households form a notable share of the population and are strongly linked to delinquency.

Perceptions of Family Structure and Juvenile Behavior

Respondents' perceptions further highlight the influence of family structure on delinquency.

Table 4.3.2: Respondents' Perceptions of Family Structure and Juvenile Behavior

Response Category	Children from single-parent homes misbehave more	Family conflict/divorce affect behavior	Stable homes rarely engage in deviance	Lack of supervision increases delinquency
Strongly Agree	64 (33.7%)	82 (43.2%)	76 (40.0%)	91 (47.9%)
Agree	91 (47.9%)	83 (43.7%)	88 (46.3%)	79 (41.6%)
Disagree	28 (14.7%)	17 (8.9%)	19 (10.0%)	13 (6.8%)
Strongly Disagree	7 (3.7%)	8 (4.2%)	7 (3.7%)	7 (3.7%)
Total	**190**	**190**	**190**	**190**
Mean	**3.12**	**3.26**	**3.22**	**3.34**
Decision	**Agree**	**Agree**	**Agree**	**Agree**

Source: Field Survey (2025)

Results from Table 4.3.2 show strong consensus among respondents. A majority (81.6%) agreed that children from single-parent homes are more likely to misbehave, while 86.9% believed that family conflict and divorce negatively affect behavior. Similarly, 86.3% agreed that children from stable homes rarely engage in delinquency, and 89.5% agreed that lack of parental supervision increases delinquency.

These perceptions were echoed in interviews. A community leader explained: *"In this community, family breakdown and polygamy sometimes lead to neglect. When parents are not united or are too busy, children are left to fend for themselves, and that's how bad behavior starts."* This statement supports the survey finding that family conflict and polygamy increase delinquency risks. Likewise, a parent emphasized: *"Even in a two-parent family, if there is constant fighting or lack of attention, a child can become stubborn. What really matters is the care and supervision the child gets."* This reinforces the quantitative result that lack of parental supervision is a major driver of delinquency, regardless of family type.

4.4 Single-Parent Families and Juvenile Delinquency

This section addresses the second specific objective: to compare delinquent behavior among children from single-parent families with those from nuclear and extended families. The focus is on whether the absence of one parent increases the likelihood of misconduct, using both survey data and interview insights.

Table 4.4.1: Respondents' Views on Single-Parent Families and Juvenile Delinquency

Response Category	Children from single-parent families more likely to engage in delinquency	Lack of supervision in single-parent homes contributes to misconduct	Absence of one parent increases exposure to peer influence	Children from two-parent families receive more guidance and discipline
Strongly	64 (33.7%)	79 (41.6%)	83 (43.7%)	76 (40.0%)

Agree				
Agree	91 (47.9%)	81 (42.6%)	86 (45.3%)	88 (46.3%)
Disagree	28 (14.7%)	21 (11.1%)	14 (7.4%)	19 (10.0%)
Strongly Disagree	7 (3.7%)	9 (4.7%)	7 (3.7%)	7 (3.7%)
Total	**190**	**190**	**190**	**190**
Mean	**3.10**	**3.21**	**3.28**	**3.22**
Decision	**Agree**	**Agree**	**Agree**	**Agree**

Source: Field Survey (2025)

Results from Table 4.4.1 show that a large majority of respondents agree that children from single-parent families are more likely to engage in delinquent behavior. Specifically, 81.6% agreed or strongly agreed that children from single-parent families are more prone to delinquency, 84.2% believed that lack of supervision in such families contributes to misconduct, 89% agreed that the absence of one parent increases exposure to negative peer influence, and 86.3% agreed that children from two-parent homes receive better guidance and discipline. This pattern demonstrates a clear perception among respondents that the absence of one parent — whether through separation, divorce, or death — reduces control, supervision, and emotional balance, thereby increasing the risk of delinquent behavior. In Damaturu, where community monitoring is weakening, the role of both parents becomes even more crucial.

The survey findings were strongly corroborated by interview narratives. A social worker explained: *"From my experience, most children involved in crime or drug use come from homes where one parent is missing. The single parent may be struggling to provide for the family, leaving the children unsupervised for long periods."* This supports the quantitative result that lack of supervision in single-parent homes contributes to misconduct.

Similarly, a law enforcement officer noted: *"Many of the juveniles we arrest come from broken homes. Either the father has left or the mother is not around. Without strict control from both parents, these children join bad groups and start stealing or using drugs."* This directly reinforces the finding that absence of one parent increases exposure to peer influence and delinquency.

A parent also shared a personal experience: *"My daughter's behavior changed when we were no longer together as a family. Even though I'm trying to guide her, it's not easy because a single parent can't do the work of two."* This highlights the emotional and disciplinary gap that arises when one parent is absent, aligning with the survey result that two-parent families provide stronger guidance and discipline.

4.5 Parental Involvement and Supervision Affect Juvenile Delinquency across Various Family Structures

This section focuses on the third specific objective: to explore how parental involvement and supervision affect juvenile delinquency across various family structures in Damaturu. Parental monitoring, emotional support, communication, and moral guidance play a critical role in shaping children's behavior. The analysis combines quantitative data from the questionnaire with qualitative insights from interviews conducted with parents, law enforcement officers, social workers, and community leaders.

Table 4.5.1: Parental Monitoring of Children's Daily Activities

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Always	116	61.1
Sometimes	66	34.7

Rarely	4	2.1
Never	4	2.1
Total	**190**	**100**

Source: Field Survey (2025)

A majority (61.1%) reported that parents always monitor their daily activities, while 34.7% said monitoring occurs sometimes. Only 4.2% experienced little or no supervision. A social worker explained: *"Parental monitoring is the key. When parents check where their children go, who they meet, and what they do, problems reduce. But when they are too busy or unaware, the children start misbehaving."* This supports the survey finding that consistent monitoring reduces delinquency, especially in vulnerable households.

Table 4.5.2: Rules and Curfews Set by Parents or Guardians

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	146	76.8
No	44	23.2
Total	**190**	**100**

Source: Field Survey (2025)

Most respondents (76.8%) confirmed that rules or curfews are set at home, while 23.2% reported no such rules. A community leader observed: *"Before, families used to eat together and discuss issues. Now many parents are too busy. Children grow without guidance, and that's why we see rising bad behavior."* This reinforces Hirschi's (1969) Social Control Theory, which emphasizes that attachment and commitment to parental authority reduce deviance.

Table 4.5.3: Parental Response to Children's Misconduct

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Correct calmly	82	43.2
Advise	71	37.4
Punish harshly	23	12.1
Ignore	14	7.4
Total	**190**	**100**

Source: Field Survey (2025)

Most parents use constructive disciplinary approaches: 43.2% correct calmly and 37.4% advise. Only 12.1% punish harshly, and 7.4% ignore misconduct. A parent explained: *"Even though we are both in the house, we sometimes fail to give our children enough attention. That can make them go astray."* This supports Bandura's (1977) Social Learning Theory, which argues that positive parental modeling fosters good behavior.

Table 4.5.4: Love, Affection, and Emotional Support in the Family

Response Category	My parents show me love and care	Spending time with parents helps avoid bad friends	Lack of attention from parents can lead to delinquency
Strongly Agree	94 (49.5%)	89 (46.8%)	91 (47.9%)
Agree	70 (36.8%)	81 (42.6%)	79 (41.6%)
Disagree	19 (10.0%)	11 (5.8%)	13 (6.8%)

Strongly Disagree	7 (3.7%)	9 (4.7%)	7 (3.7%)
Total	**190 (100%)**	**190 (100%)**	**190 (100%)**

Source: Field Survey (2025)

Over 90% agreed that parental love, attention, and quality time discourage delinquency. A parent emphasized: *"Juvenile delinquency doesn't only happen in single-parent homes — it can also happen when both parents are present but not involved."* This highlights that emotional connection, not just presence, is a major protective factor.

4.5 Discussion

The results reveal that juvenile delinquency in Damaturu is strongly shaped by the interplay of family structure, parental presence, and the quality of supervision. Family type provides the background, but it is the consistency of parental involvement that ultimately determines outcomes.

Children from stable nuclear and extended families were generally perceived as less prone to delinquency, while those from single-parent and polygamous households faced higher risks. Respondents emphasized that the absence of one parent reduces control and emotional balance, leaving children vulnerable to peer influence. This was echoed in interviews with law enforcement officers and social workers, who linked most juvenile cases to homes disrupted by separation, divorce, or neglect.

Single-parent households emerged as particularly vulnerable. Reduced supervision and economic strain expose children to deviant peer groups, increasing the likelihood of theft, drug use, and other misconduct. Parents themselves admitted the difficulty of providing adequate guidance alone, reinforcing the survey's finding that two-parent households offer stronger discipline and emotional support.

Across all family types, parental involvement was decisive. Monitoring daily activities, setting rules and curfews, constructive discipline, and emotional support were widely reported as protective practices. Where these were absent, delinquency risks rose sharply. Qualitative insights stressed that even two-parent families can produce misconduct if parents are emotionally unavailable or too busy, underscoring that presence without involvement is insufficient.

Taken together, the evidence demonstrates that juvenile delinquency is not determined by family structure alone but by the interaction of structure and parental engagement. Stable families provide protective factors, yet without consistent monitoring and emotional connection, even these households can produce deviant outcomes. Conversely, vulnerable family types can mitigate risks when parents remain actively involved. These findings resonate with Broken Home Theory, Social Control Theory, and Social Learning Theory, all of which highlight the importance of family cohesion, parental authority, and positive modeling. In Damaturu's context of poverty, insurgency, and weakened community oversight, strengthening parental involvement across all family structures emerges as the most critical strategy for reducing juvenile delinquency.

5. Conclusion

The study shows that juvenile delinquency in Damaturu is shaped by both family structure and the quality of parental involvement. Children from single-parent and polygamous households face heightened risks due to reduced supervision, economic strain, and emotional imbalance, while nuclear and extended families provide more stability. Yet even stable households can produce misconduct when parents are emotionally absent or fail to monitor consistently. Across all family types, active parental involvement — daily monitoring, rule-setting, constructive discipline, and emotional support — emerged as the most decisive protective factor. In a context of poverty,

insurgency, and weakened community oversight, strengthening parental engagement is essential to reducing juvenile delinquency.

6. Recommendations

- ✓ Parents in Damaturu should integrate daily routines such as shared meals, calm correction, and consistent monitoring of children's movements, beginning immediately as part of everyday family life.
- ✓ Community leaders and religious institutions can organize quarterly youth forums and mentorship programs that reinforce discipline and moral guidance, ensuring communal oversight complements parental efforts.
- ✓ Schools should strengthen parent-teacher collaboration through termly meetings and monthly behavior reviews, with counseling services available to address early signs of misconduct.
- ✓ Local government authorities should introduce family support schemes within the next fiscal year, including economic assistance for single-parent households and parenting workshops to build supervision skills.
- ✓ Law enforcement officers and social workers should shift focus toward prevention by conducting biannual reviews of juvenile cases, engaging families of at-risk youths, and linking them to community resources.

Reference

1. Adeyemi, T. (2021). Family structure and juvenile delinquency in conflict-prone regions of Nigeria. *Journal of Social Development Studies, 8*(2), 45–60.
2. Aderinto, A. A. (2013). *Social problems and social work in Nigeria*. Ibadan: University of Ibadan Press.
3. Agnew, R. (2005). *Juvenile delinquency: Causes and control*. New York: Oxford University Press.
4. Ajayi, O., & Yusuf, M. (2020). Parenting styles and adolescent delinquency in Nigeria. *African Journal of Criminology and Justice Studies, 13*(1), 78–95.
5. Amato, P. R. (2001). Children of divorce in the 1990s: An update of the Amato and Keith (1991) meta-analysis. *Journal of Family Psychology, 15*(3), 355–370. https://doi.org/10.1037/0893-3200.15.3.355
6. Bandura, A. (1977). *Social learning theory*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.
7. Cookston, J. T. (2008). Parental supervision and family structure: Effects on adolescent problem behaviors. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence, 37*(4), 375–385. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10964-007-9210-1
8. Finebone, C., & Nwadukwe, C. (2023). Impact of family structure on juvenile delinquency in Rivers State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Research, 11*(2), 45–58.
9. Hirschi, T. (1969). *Causes of delinquency*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
10. Lansford, J. E., Rothenberg, W. A., & Bornstein, M. H. (2021). Parental absence and youth delinquency across cultures. *Child Development, 92*(3), 1024–1040. https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.13412
11. McLanahan, S., & Sandefur, G. (1994). *Growing up with a single parent: What hurts, what helps*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

12. Okorodudu, G. N. (2010). Influence of parenting styles on adolescent delinquency in Delta Central Senatorial District. *Journal of Educational Research and Development, 4*(2), 1–11.
13. Olanrewaju, F., & Adebayo, A. (2022). Family breakdown and juvenile delinquency in northern Nigeria: The role of insurgency. *International Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities, 10*(4), 112–128.
14. Owolabi, T. (2012). Family structure and child development in Nigeria. *African Journal of Social Issues, 15*(1), 23–35.
15. Siegel, L. J., & Welsh, B. C. (2012). *Juvenile delinquency: The core* (4th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.
16. Singh, S., & Kiran, U. V. (2014). Effect of single parent family on child delinquency. *International Journal of Applied Home Science, 1*(1), 15–22.
17. Social Welfare Office, Damaturu. (2024). *Annual report on juvenile cases in Damaturu Local Government Area*. Damaturu: Yobe State Government.
18. Wilkinson Kelly, R. (1969). *Broken home theory and juvenile delinquency*. London: Routledge.
19. Wright, J. D., & Wright, D. S. (1994). *Family life and delinquency and crime: A policymaker's guide*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.