

**AN EVALUATION OF PARENTAL INFLUENCE ON YOUTH INVOLVEMENT
IN RITUALISM IN EGOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF EDO STATE**

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BY

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CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, certify that this research work was carried out by Frank Chukwuemeka OKOLIE in the Department of Educational Evaluation and Counselling Psychology, Faculty of Education, University of Benin, Benin City, as part of the requirements for the Award of a Bachelor of Science in Education (B.Sc. Ed) degree in Guidance and Counselling.

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DEDICATION

This study is dedicated to Almighty God for His Grace that sustained the researcher in the course of the programme.

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated parental influence on youth involvement in ritualism within Egor Local Government Area, Edo State. A descriptive survey design was employed to examine the relationships between parental factors and youth behavior without manipulation. The research focused on how parental guidance, education, religious beliefs, and socio-economic status impact youths' engagement in ritualism. A structured questionnaire was used to collect data from 100 respondents, including community members, leaders, law enforcement agents, and policymakers. The study ensured the validity and reliability of the instrument through expert review and the Cronbach Alpha method, which produced a coefficient of 0.821, confirming its consistency. The data collected were analyzed using mean and standard deviation to interpret the extent of parental influence on youth involvement in ritualism.

The findings revealed that parental influence plays a crucial role in shaping youth behavior, as guidance, discipline, and awareness of children's activities were seen as effective in reducing involvement in ritualism. The level of parental education affected how parents addressed peer pressure, provided moral guidance, and managed risks, while religious beliefs influenced youth behavior through moral teachings and spiritual activities. Socio-economic status was also found to be a determining factor, as financial stability, access to healthcare, and community participation contributed to reducing youth engagement in ritualism. The study further identified that parenting styles and

involvement in education were key elements in guiding youth away from ritualistic practices.

Based on the findings, it was recommended that parents provide structured guidance and discipline while being actively involved in their children's education and social interactions. Educational programs should be designed to equip parents with strategies for addressing peer pressure and instilling moral values. Religious institutions should encourage parental participation in religious activities to reinforce ethical teachings. Additionally, policies that improve socio-economic conditions, such as financial literacy and job stability initiatives, should be implemented to create a supportive environment for youth. Community-based programs should promote parental involvement in social activities, as exposure to positive societal values can further discourage youth from engaging in ritualism. Based on these findings, the study recommends that parents adopt structured guidance and discipline strategies to mitigate their children's exposure to ritual practices. Educational programs should emphasize the importance of moral guidance, risk management, and parental involvement in social networks. Religious institutions should encourage parents to actively engage in faith-based activities and communicate moral values consistently. Policies aimed at improving socio-economic conditions, such as access to healthcare, financial literacy programs, and job stability initiatives, should be implemented to create a more supportive environment for youth. Community-based programs should also promote parental involvement in social activities, fostering exposure to positive societal influences that deter youth from engaging in ritual practices.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background to the Study

The heightened belief in the existence of supernatural powers and the practice in ritual sacrifices are major phenomena that have been an integral part of Nigeria society for ages. According to Campbell and Page, (2018), Nigeria and other African countries have their beliefs rooted in the fact that an individual's success and achievements could be realized through the introduction of supernatural powers. A reasonable population of Nigerians still beliefs in the fact that charms and amulets can protect them against any form of misfortune, such as an accident, sicknesses and diseases, stillbirth, and death (Onongha, 2022). The family is regarded as a major component and key drivers of individual's values, beliefs, and behaviors. As the core social unit, the family plays a unique role in repositioning a child's worldview, moral compass, and decision-making process.

Parents are the primary caregivers and role models responsible for the upbringing and development of their children. Diriwari, (2022), defines parenting as the building up of a child from infancy to adulthood, fostering their emotional, social, cognitive, educational, and physical development. Their actions, interactions, communication, and discipline, they influence children's life, decisions, and character development through the utilization of their role as a fundamental part of the child's growth and achievements. Effective parenting goes beyond providing things such as food, shelter, and education, to

creating a good, supportive, and comfortable environment where children can feel secured and valued. Several factors determine the direction of parenting such as parental education, socio-economic status, and religion (Okafor, 2020; Owolabi, 2023). A parent's level of education often affects their approach to parenting, as more educated parents may have better access to information on child development and may use more informed strategies (Adigwe, 2021). Socio-economic status also plays a crucial role; families with limited financial resources may face more challenges in providing opportunities for their children, which can impact parenting practices (Okpala, Manning, & Baines, 2023). Parent's religion on the other hand can shape the values they instill in their children and the rules they enforce at home. Parenting plays a huge role in shaping the development of youth, especially during their formative years when they begin to make more independent decisions. The guidance, support, and values that parents provide help youth develop a sense of right and wrong, as well as the ability to make thoughtful decisions. According to Hutchison, Leigh, and Wagner, (2016), an individual is considered a youth, when he or she is saddled with the responsibility of exploring their identity, social relationships, and the making of independent decisions.

Several studies have found that the involvement of youths in ritualism is as a result of several factors such as cultural and societal norms, peer pressure, personal beliefs and identity, and most especially the family (Salihu, Isiaka, & Abdulaziz, 2019; Eze & Ituma, 2020). This alarming trend is fueled by economic hardship, unemployment, and parental influence, leading to heightened tensions and frequent outbursts of violence.

Ritualism refers to the practice of performing rituals or ceremonies, often with a symbolic or spiritual meaning (Odo & Edith, 2018). In some cultures, rituals are used to mark significant life events, seek blessings, or communicate with higher powers. However, ritualism can also take on negative forms when individuals engage in harmful or illegal practices, believing it will bring them wealth, power, or protection. In Nigeria, many youths engage in ritualism with the hopes of getting immediate wealth, power, and most times, protection. The popular trend is conversant with the heightened influence of parents as key players in youth involvement with ritualism through their socio-economic status, religion or belief, and their educational background among other factors.

Parents with lower socio-economic status often face numerous challenges, including financial instability, limited access to education, and lack of resources (Stahl, Schober, & Spiess, 2018). In such environments, youths may feel desperate to escape their circumstances and may be more susceptible to the allure of ritualistic practices that promise wealth or success. On the other hand, parents from higher socio-economic backgrounds may have more resources to educate their children about the risks of ritualism and provide alternative paths to success (Na-Allah & Obafemi, 2023). However, even in these families, the pressure to succeed can be overwhelming, leading some youths to seek out rituals as a shortcut to achieve their goals. In some communities, rituals are considered essential for spiritual growth, protection, or gaining favor from higher powers. For instance, in certain African traditional religions, young individuals might participate in rituals to seek blessings or guidance from ancestors. This connection

to their cultural and religious identity can create a strong pull towards engaging in these practices, as they may feel it is a way to honor their heritage and connect with their spirituality. Parents with higher levels of education often emphasize critical thinking and the importance of making informed choices (Ellison & Aloe, 2019). They may provide their children with a broader understanding of cultural practices, encouraging them to question the motivations behind ritualistic behaviors. For example, a parent who values education may teach their child about the risks associated with ritualism and promote alternative ways to achieve their goals, such as pursuing academic success or developing skills. Without a strong educational foundation, these parents might rely on cultural beliefs or community norms that accept or promote ritualistic practices. For example, a youth whose parents do not understand the implications of ritualism may be more likely to participate in it, thinking it is a normal or expected part of their culture.

Despite the overwhelming terror in the participation of ritualism by youths, there is a scarcity of studies to back this act up. The family as the primary unit has been considered as most influential in the direct and indirect persuasion of youths in the involvement of ritualism.

Statement of the Problem

The family, as the primary unit of socialization, plays a crucial role in shaping a child's beliefs and behaviors. Understanding the current state of research on youth involvement in ritualism is essential to identifying the factors that contribute to this phenomenon. Studies indicate that various influences, particularly those stemming from

parental guidance, education, and socio-economic status, significantly impact youth decisions regarding ritualistic practices. However, there is still a need for more comprehensive research to explore how these factors specifically intersect and contribute to the increasing trend of youth engaging in ritualism.

One of the main problems is parental influence on youth involvement in ritualism. Parents often serve as role models and their beliefs and practices can heavily sway their children's decisions. When parents are involved in ritualistic practices, their children may feel pressured to conform, viewing it as a way to gain acceptance and approval. This influence can lead to a cycle where youth become entrenched in these practices without fully understanding their implications. Additionally, the lack of open communication about the dangers and consequences of ritualism can further perpetuate this involvement among young people.

Another significant issue is the level of education among parents and its effect on youth engagement in ritualism. Parents with limited educational backgrounds may not have the knowledge or resources to guide their children away from these practices. Their religious beliefs can also play a critical role; for instance, some may see ritualism as an extension of their spiritual practices, reinforcing their children's involvement. Parents' socio-economic status can also limit access to educational opportunities and alternative paths for success, making ritualism seem like a viable option for their children.

Research Questions

Four research questions were raised to guide this study.

1. To what extent is the parental influence on youth involvement in ritualism?
2. What is the influence parents' level of education on youth involvement in ritualism?
3. What is the influence of parents' religious beliefs on youth involvement in ritualism?
4. What is the influence of parents' socio-economic status on youth involvement in ritualism?

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of the study is to evaluate parental influence on youth's involvement in ritualism. Specifically, the study aims to:

1. Examine the extent of parental influence on youth involvement in ritualism;
2. Examine the influence of parents' level of education on youth involvement in ritualism;
3. Examine the influence of parents' religious beliefs on youth involvement in ritualism, and;
4. Examine the influence of parents' socio-economic status on youth involvement in ritualism.

Significance of the Study

The study will be of immense benefit to parents, students, institutions, schools, curriculum planners, and researchers. By understanding how parental guidance, education, and socio-economic status affect youth involvement in ritualism, parents can become more aware of their influence. This knowledge will empower them to engage in open discussions with their children about the implications of ritualistic practices, fostering a more supportive environment that encourages critical thinking and informed decision-making.

Students will also benefit from this study as it will highlight the importance of making informed choices regarding ritualism. By examining the factors that lead to youth involvement in such practices, students can better understand the pressures they may face from peers and family. This understanding will equip them with the tools to resist negative influences and seek alternative pathways for success. The study can also inspire students to engage in discussions about their values and beliefs, promoting a culture of critical reflection among their peers.

Institutions and schools will find the results of this study valuable for developing programs aimed at educating students about the risks associated with ritualism. By implementing preventive measures and awareness campaigns, schools can create a safe and supportive environment where students feel empowered to make positive choices. Additionally, the study can inform training for teachers and counselors, enabling them to

better support students facing peer pressure or familial expectations related to ritualistic practices.

Curriculum planners will benefit from the study's findings by incorporating relevant content into educational programs. By understanding the links between parental influence and youth involvement in ritualism, planners can design curricula that address these issues head-on. This could include modules on critical thinking, cultural awareness, and the importance of making informed decisions. Integrating these topics into the curriculum will help equip students with the necessary skills to navigate complex social dynamics and resist negative influences.

Researchers will gain valuable ideas from this study, as it adds to the body of knowledge surrounding youth behavior and parental influence. The findings can serve as a foundation for further studies exploring the relationships between family dynamics, socio-economic factors, and youth involvement in ritualism. Additionally, the research may inspire other scholars to investigate similar themes, creating a more comprehensive understanding of the societal factors that influence youth behavior.

Scope and Delimitation of the Study

The study focuses on the evaluation of parental influence on youth involvement in ritualism. It was delimited to youths in Egor Local Government Area, Benin City.

Definition of Terms

The following terms are operationally defined.

Evaluation: Refers to the systematic assessment of the effectiveness and impact of parental roles and behaviors on the involvement of youth in ritualistic practices.

Influence: Refers to the capacity of parents to affect their children's beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors regarding ritualism, either positively or negatively.

Parents: Refers to the primary caregivers or guardians of children, who provide guidance, support, and education that shape their children's understanding of cultural and social practices.

Ritualism: Refers to the adherence to or participation in specific rituals or practices, often associated with spiritual or cultural beliefs, that may involve ceremonial acts or behaviors.

Youths: Refers to individuals, typically aged between 10 and 24, who are in a transitional phase of development characterized by exploration of identity, values, and social roles

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter presents review of literature relevant to this work on evaluation of parental influence on youth involvement in ritualism in Nigeria under the following sub-headings:

- Theoretical Framework
- Concept of Parental Influence
- Concept of Ritualism
- Parental Influence and Youth Involvement in Ritualism
- Parents' Level of Education and Youth Involvement in Ritualism
- Parents' Religious Beliefs and Youth Involvement in Ritualism
- Parents' Socio-Economic Status and Youth Involvement in Ritualism
- Summary of Reviewed Literature

Theoretical Framework

The study is hinged on the social learning theory. Social learning theory propounded by Albert Bandura in 1977, emphasizes that behavior is learned through observation, imitation, and modeling, particularly within a social context where children and youths closely observe and replicate behaviors of those they consider role models.

The theory emphasizes the role of parents as primary models in shaping their children's actions and values (Nwachukwu, Azuka, & Ikechukwu, 2024). Youths observe their parents' behaviors, attitudes, and reactions, internalizing these as norms. If parents engage in or support practices linked to ritualism, either directly or indirectly, their children may perceive such behaviors as acceptable or necessary, reinforcing their involvement in similar activities. This underscores the critical role of parental actions and communication in either discouraging or perpetuating harmful behaviors. The theory also suggests that reinforcement plays a vital role in influencing behavior. When youths see that ritualistic practices result in material gains or social approval within the family or community, they may be more likely to engage in such activities. On the other hand, parental efforts to model ethical behavior and establish boundaries can reduce the likelihood of youth involvement in ritualism. This perspective highlights the need for parents to provide a positive, value-driven environment, promoting constructive behaviors while addressing harmful influences.

The strengths of social learning theory lies in its ability to explain how individuals acquire new behaviors without direct experience (Akers, 2017). By observing others, people can learn social norms, language, and problem-solving skills, making the theory applicable across various contexts, including education and child development. The incorporation of cognitive processes such as attention, retention, and motivation makes the theory dynamic, addressing the complexities of human learning and behavior. It also bridges behavioral and cognitive psychology, providing a more comprehensive

understanding of how external influences and internal processes interact. Another strength is its real-world applicability. Social Learning Theory has been widely utilized in developing interventions for behavior modification, such as programs addressing aggression, substance abuse, and social skills development. Its focus on modeling positive behaviors makes it a useful framework for designing educational curricula and parenting strategies. The concept of self-efficacy, introduced by Bandura, has further expanded the theory's scope, emphasizing individuals' belief in their ability to succeed as a critical factor in shaping behavior and achieving goals.

Despite these strengths, critics argue that Social Learning Theory may oversimplify the complexities of learning by focusing heavily on environmental factors while underestimating biological influences (Toby & Bode, 2024). Critics also point out that the theory relies on experimental studies, such as the Bobo doll experiment, which may not fully capture the intricacies of real-world behaviors. Additionally, while the theory explains how behavior is learned, it does not address why individuals may choose to adopt or reject specific behaviors despite similar environmental exposure.

The social learning theory relates to the study on parental influence on youth involvement in ritualism in Nigeria by explaining how young individuals adopt behaviors through observation, imitation, and reinforcement from their surroundings. Parents play a major role in shaping the values and actions of their children, as they serve as primary role models in the home. When youths are exposed to parental behaviors that normalize or glorify ritual practices, whether directly or indirectly, they may begin to see such actions

as acceptable or rewarding. Continuous exposure to discussions, attitudes, or even material gains associated with ritualism can reinforce the belief that these acts lead to success or social status. Additionally, if parents fail to discourage or condemn such practices, children may lack the moral guidance needed to differentiate between right and wrong. The absence of positive role models and the presence of negative influences within the home environment contribute to the likelihood of young individuals engaging in ritualistic activities as they learn behaviors based on what they see and experience daily.

Concept of Parental Influence

Parental influence refers to the ways in which parents shape the attitudes, behaviors, values, and development of their children. This influence begins early in a child's life, as parents serve as their first role models and primary caregivers. The interactions between parents and their children significantly affect the child's personality, decision-making, and overall development. Through communication, guidance, and involvement, parents help mold the foundational aspects of a child's growth.

The way parents raise their children directly influences their emotional and mental growth, shaping how they interact with the world (Ogunola, 2018). An authoritative parenting approach, which blends nurturing with structured guidance, often creates an environment where children develop self-confidence and resilience (Alabede, 2021). These children are more likely to understand boundaries while feeling valued, which helps them make sound decisions and form healthy relationships. On the other

hand, permissive or neglectful parenting styles may create gaps in a child's emotional foundation. Without clear boundaries or consistent guidance, children might struggle with self-control or lack the skills needed to handle challenges. Neglectful environments, where emotional support is absent, often leave children feeling insecure, which can lead to behavioral issues or difficulties in forming trustful connections. The absence of reliable parenting may hinder a child's ability to develop essential emotional coping mechanisms (John & Shimfe, 2020). Consistency in parenting is a vital factor in a child's overall well-being. Setting clear expectations while offering unwavering emotional support helps children feel safe and understood. This sense of security allows them to navigate the complexities of life with a sense of stability. Parents who maintain consistent rules and demonstrate empathy create a nurturing atmosphere that fosters both emotional intelligence and a strong sense of self. These qualities equip children with the tools needed to thrive emotionally and mentally as they grow.

Parental involvement plays a crucial role in shaping children's attitudes toward education and their future ambitions. When parents engage actively in their children's academic journey, such as attending parent-teacher meetings, tracking progress, or providing resources, they foster a sense of responsibility and commitment to learning (Oyinloye, 2021). This engagement shows children that education is valuable and worth prioritizing, reinforcing positive behaviors like discipline, curiosity, and persistence in achieving educational milestones. Beyond academics, parents have a direct impact on how children envision their career paths. By exposing them to diverse opportunities and

encouraging exploration in areas of interest, parents provide a foundation for informed decision-making. Conversations about personal strengths, aspirations, and challenges can build confidence in children, helping them set realistic yet ambitious goals. These interactions often serve as a guiding light for children, as they navigate their academic and career choices. The expectations and encouragement parents provide also contribute significantly to a child's motivation to succeed (Ojewola & Faremi, 2018). A supportive home environment where achievements are celebrated and efforts are appreciated can inspire children to aim higher. This positive reinforcement helps them develop resilience and self-belief, equipping them to face challenges and pursue their goals with determination.

Parents play a critical role in shaping how children develop social skills and form relationships (Uzochukwu, Ndubueze, Agu, Ifeoma, & Uchechukwu, 2022). Through their daily interactions, children observe and internalize behaviors such as kindness, patience, and effective communication. When parents show understanding and fairness in their dealings with others, children learn the importance of treating people with respect and empathy. This modeling becomes a foundation for how children approach friendships, handle disagreements, and build trust in their interactions with peers and adults. The way parents handle challenges and resolve conflicts also greatly influences their children's understanding of relationships. When parents approach disagreements calmly and seek solutions through dialogue, they provide a valuable example of healthy conflict resolution (Olulowo, Alogun, & Ogunjobi, 2024). Children who witness this are more likely to

adopt similar approaches, using patience and problem-solving when faced with interpersonal difficulties. This process not only strengthens their social competence but also fosters their ability to maintain strong and respectful connections with others. Providing consistent reinforcement of positive behaviors is another essential aspect of parental influence. When children are praised for acts of kindness or honesty, they develop a sense of pride and are encouraged to repeat those actions. At the same time, setting clear boundaries and consequences for inappropriate behavior helps children understand the impact of their actions on others.

. Parents play a foundational role in shaping the cultural and moral framework of their children. By engaging in everyday interactions, they teach essential values such as honesty, respect, and responsibility. These lessons are often reinforced through consistent behavior, as children observe and mimic their parents' actions. For example, when parents demonstrate fairness or kindness, it encourages children to adopt similar attitudes, creating a strong moral foundation (Ade-Ali, 2023). Cultural heritage is often preserved and transferred through family traditions and religious practices. Families that celebrate festivals, share traditional meals, or practice cultural rituals provide children with a sense of identity and belonging. These shared experiences deepen the child's connection to their roots and foster an understanding of their community's values and beliefs. Over time, this cultural awareness helps children navigate the world with confidence and pride in their heritage. Discussions within the family also play a vital role in moral and cultural development. When parents engage in open communication about ethical dilemmas or

societal expectations, children learn to critically evaluate situations and make informed decisions.

Concept of Ritualism

Ritualism refers to the practice of strictly adhering to established rituals, customs, or traditions, often with little regard for their original purpose or meaning (Odo & Edith, 2018). This concept is commonly observed in various aspects of society, such as religion, culture, and organizational settings. People who engage in ritualism may focus on the formalities and routines rather than the underlying values or goals the rituals were designed to achieve. This behavior can create a sense of order and predictability, making it appealing in environments where consistency is valued.

Ritualism, as described by Robert K. Merton in his Strain Theory, reflects a unique form of adaptation where individuals maintain societal norms and routines without aligning with its larger goals (Abdullahi, 2021). This adaptation often arises when societal goals feel unattainable or irrelevant, leading individuals to focus solely on following established rules and procedures. For instance, an employee who strictly adheres to workplace policies without aiming for promotions or personal development exemplifies this behavior. The emphasis is on conformity to avoid disruption or conflict, even if the individual feels disconnected from the aspirations that those rules are designed to achieve. This mode of adaptation reveals the complex relationship between societal expectations and personal motivation. Individuals engaged in ritualism often prioritize stability and predictability over ambition or change. By strictly adhering to societal

norms, they maintain their social roles and avoid the pressures of non-conformity. However, this can lead to a sense of stagnation or lack of fulfillment, as their adherence to prescribed methods is not driven by a belief in the underlying goals. Ritualism highlights the emotional and psychological compromises some individuals make to navigate societal expectations while distancing themselves from its broader aims. Ritualism is not only a reflection of personal disengagement but also sheds light on structural issues within a society. It suggests that when societal goals are perceived as unattainable for some individuals, they may choose to comply superficially rather than challenge or redefine those goals. This behavior can maintain social order but may also mask deeper dissatisfaction or inequality within the system.

Ritualism in religious settings often creates a structured environment where participants feel a sense of order and tradition (Ossai, 2024). The repetitive nature of rituals can foster a shared identity among members, strengthening communal bonds. These actions often serve as symbols of cultural heritage and continuity, providing individuals with a connection to their history and collective faith practices. Despite this, the focus on maintaining traditions can sometimes overshadow the deeper spiritual purpose that these rituals are meant to fulfill. This emphasis on routine can lead to a disconnection between participants and the core teachings of their faith. While the outward expressions of devotion may persist, the absence of heartfelt engagement can reduce the transformative impact of religion on personal and collective lives. When rituals become an obligation rather than a meaningful experience, they may limit

opportunities for spiritual reflection and growth, leaving individuals with a shallow connection to their beliefs. Nnabuike and Nwolu (2023) conducted a study on the influence of African voodoo merchants on youth engagement in ritualism. The research examined how social media platforms such as Facebook Live, Reels, and TikTok Stories have provided voodoo practitioners with a space to promote their trade and interact with a broad audience. Anchored on Cultivation Theory, the study employed a qualitative research design to collect data. Findings revealed that many youths are exposed to these merchants, who have gained substantial followership online. Some respondents admitted to patronizing the merchants and reported positive outcomes from their experiences. Based on these findings, the study emphasized the need for security agencies to take legal action against voodoo merchants who encourage youths to participate in ritual practices.

Cultural traditions often serve as a means of connecting people to their heritage and fostering a sense of belonging within a community (Butu, Hashim, Ahmad, & Hassan, 2023). Rituals, such as ceremonies, festivals, and customary practices, are frequently performed as acts of collective expression, rooted in shared history. Many individuals partake in these traditions due to societal expectations, preserving the continuity of culture across generations. These practices play an essential role in maintaining cultural identity and offering a sense of stability amidst the dynamic nature of modern life. Despite this, their repetitive nature can sometimes overshadow the intent behind them, transforming meaningful expressions into obligations performed without deeper understanding. Adherence to traditional rituals can also present challenges in adapting to

evolving societal norms and values. Strict observance of customs may discourage questioning or reinterpreting practices, limiting opportunities for progress and inclusivity. Individuals who seek to innovate or align these practices with contemporary values may face resistance or judgment. While traditions are valuable for fostering unity and preserving history, it is equally important to balance them with openness to change, ensuring they remain relevant and reflective of the diverse perspectives within society.

In modern organizations, the tendency for ritualism often arises from a strong focus on maintaining structure and order (Dacin, Dacin, & Kent, 2019). Employees may follow established routines and procedures to the letter, even when these methods fail to adapt to evolving challenges or new opportunities. This behavior often stems from a fear of deviating from the norm, as strict compliance is sometimes equated with professionalism or job security. While this approach can create a sense of stability within the organization, it often discourages individuals from questioning outdated practices or seeking better solutions. This rigid adherence to established processes can limit the organization's ability to innovate or respond effectively to change. Employees who prioritize routine over creativity may miss opportunities to improve efficiency or develop new ideas. Over time, this can create an environment where critical thinking is undervalued, and organizational growth is hindered.

Parental Influence and Youth Involvement in Ritualism

Parental influence plays a crucial role in shaping the behavior and values of young people. When parents fail to provide a stable and morally grounded upbringing,

children may become vulnerable to external pressures, including negative influences like ritualism (Olukoya, 2016; Onwuka, 2018). A lack of parental guidance, neglect, or exposure to harmful practices at home can lead young individuals to seek validation or solutions in destructive ways. Such an environment often distorts their perception of right and wrong, creating a pathway for involvement in ritualistic activities as a means of coping or achieving societal acceptance.

Parents play a crucial role in shaping the values and decisions of their children, especially in times of economic hardship (Ogunola, 2018). When families face financial struggles, the focus often shifts toward meeting immediate needs, sometimes at the expense of teaching ethical principles. In homes where material success is glorified, children may begin to equate wealth with self-worth, overlooking the importance of hard work and integrity. This can create an environment where unethical practices, such as ritualism, are perceived as viable paths to achieving success, especially when there is a lack of guidance or positive role models to instill alternative values. The absence of honest and open discussions about overcoming financial challenges ethically leaves a gap in the moral development of young people. Without proper mentorship or opportunities to learn about perseverance and legitimate strategies for achieving success, many youths may feel pressured to take desperate measures. This issue is compounded when societal narratives and peer influences also glamorize quick wealth, further pulling young individuals toward harmful practices.

Peer pressure plays a powerful role in shaping the behavior and decisions of youths, especially when there is a lack of parental guidance (Josephine, Andrew, & Stephen, 2019; Chigbu, Nwobi, Nwanna, & Etele, 2021). In homes where moral values are not emphasized, young individuals are more vulnerable to adopting behaviors modeled by their peers, including harmful practices like sexual behavior, ritualism etc. This is often driven by a need to fit in or gain validation, which becomes more pronounced when family bonds are strained or absent. The absence of firm parental figures leaves young people without a solid foundation, making them more susceptible to adopting the beliefs and actions of their peers as a substitute for parental direction. The influence of peers is often strongest during adolescence, a period marked by a heightened desire for acceptance and identity exploration. Youths who experience neglect or indifference at home may turn to their peers for support and belonging. This can lead to the normalization of harmful behaviors within their social circles, as peers become the primary source of influence. When family structures fail to provide emotional security and guidance, the likelihood of youths engaging in risky behaviors, including ritualism, increases significantly. Parental absence, whether due to physical unavailability or emotional detachment, leaves a void that peers are quick to fill. This creates an environment where harmful ideologies can thrive, as young people lack the critical support needed to question or reject such practices. Strengthening family relationships and ensuring active parental involvement are crucial steps in mitigating the negative impacts of peer pressure. Oyegbami and Alabi (2022) conducted a study on the influence of peer pressure, parental guidance, and gender as factors linked to youth involvement in

ritual killing in Ogun State. A descriptive survey research design was used, and a multi-stage sampling technique was adopted to select 300 participants. Two research questions guided the study, and data were collected using a structured questionnaire titled, Peer Pressure Ritual Killing Questionnaire (PPRQ). The data were analyzed using stepwise multiple regression analysis at a 0.05 level of significance. Findings showed that peer pressure, parental guidance, and gender collectively accounted for 56% of the variation in youth involvement in ritual killing, with each variable making a measurable contribution. The study recommended that counselors should initiate widespread awareness campaigns and organize orientation programs in schools and institutions to educate individuals on the consequences of ritual killings on families and society.

Children raised in environments where cultural rituals are practiced without critical examination may be more susceptible to adopting these behaviors without understanding their broader implications. In some cases, rituals may be normalized, and children may grow up believing that certain harmful actions are acceptable because they are deeply rooted in tradition (Schief, Lin, & Haenni, 2018). These practices can influence children's values and decision-making processes, making it difficult for them to distinguish between healthy and unhealthy behaviors. As they mature, they may carry these distorted perceptions into adulthood, perpetuating harmful traditions without realizing the negative consequences. As children internalize these rituals, they may also face challenges in differentiating cultural practices from behavior that is harmful or abusive. The influence of family, peers, and community often strengthens the belief that

such rituals are part of their identity and heritage. Without the ability to critically assess these practices, children may struggle to seek help when faced with situations where the rituals are abusive or exploitative. Over time, this can lead to a cycle of intergenerational transmission of harmful practices, where the younger generation continues to uphold and pass down rituals that should be reexamined or abandoned for the well-being of the community.

Parents' Level of Education and Youth Involvement in Ritualism

The level of education attained by parents plays a crucial role in shaping the behavior and choices of their children, including their susceptibility to engaging in harmful practices such as ritualism. Parents with a higher level of education are more likely to understand the importance of moral guidance, open communication, and the provision of opportunities for personal development. These factors contribute to nurturing values and critical thinking skills in youths, making them less vulnerable to societal pressures that promote negative behaviors.

Educated parents tend to have a deeper understanding of the various factors that can impact their children's behavior and choices (Erola, Jalonen, & Lehti, 2016). Their awareness of societal trends, peer pressure, and media content allows them to provide more informed guidance. These parents are often proactive in teaching their children about the potential dangers surrounding them, including harmful practices such as ritualism. By fostering open communication, they create a space where children feel comfortable discussing their experiences and concerns, which helps in addressing these

issues before they become significant problems. A supportive home environment, created by educated parents, plays a crucial role in shaping their children's ability to withstand negative external pressures. Such parents emphasize the importance of moral values and personal integrity, which equips their children with the tools to make sound decisions. This kind of upbringing encourages resilience, as children learn to critically evaluate influences from peers, media, and society at large.

Parents with lower levels of education may struggle to provide the necessary guidance and support to their children, especially when navigating complex societal issues (Mohammed & Edu, 2021). Limited access to information can hinder their ability to recognize warning signs of harmful behaviors or to educate their children about the dangers of certain social influences. This gap can create an environment where children feel unsupported or misunderstood, making them more susceptible to external pressures and negative influences such as ritualistic behaviors or the allure of instant financial success. The lack of awareness about the psychological and emotional needs of children can further widen the disconnect between parents and their children. Without proper engagement, children may seek validation or guidance from peers who might lead them astray. This vulnerability is often exacerbated in communities where the pursuit of material wealth is celebrated without consideration for ethical values.

Parents' education often influences the financial and emotional environment they provide for their children. Educated parents tend to prioritize creating stable homes where resources are available to meet essential needs and offer opportunities for personal

growth (Sennuga, Bamidele, Chinwuba, & Orire, 2023). This stability can deter young people from seeking harmful shortcuts, such as ritualistic practices, by instilling values that emphasize hard work and legitimate means of success. Educational attainment among parents also promotes awareness of societal norms, making it easier for them to guide their children toward positive paths and opportunities that align with ethical standards. On the other hand, limited education can lead to economic struggles, creating an environment where youths feel trapped and unsupported. Financial hardship within such families may create a sense of urgency, leading some to explore extreme measures like ritualism as a perceived escape from poverty. The absence of proper guidance or exposure to lawful avenues for progress often compounds this issue, leaving many vulnerable to societal pressures or harmful influences.

Parents' Religious Beliefs and Youth Involvement in Ritualism

Parents' religious beliefs play a vital role in shaping the values and behaviors of their children. These beliefs often act as moral compasses, influencing how young individuals perceive right and wrong. When parents uphold strong religious convictions and actively practice their faith, they tend to instill ethical principles, empathy, and respect for life in their children. Such values can discourage engagement in harmful practices like ritualism, as youths are guided by a deep sense of morality and the fear of divine consequences.

Religious beliefs play a crucial role in shaping the values and behaviors of children and young individuals (Adedini, Babalola, Ibeawuchi, Omotoso, Akiode, &

Odeku, 2018). Parents who focus on spiritual teachings, such as love, compassion, and humility, instill a sense of moral responsibility and empathy in their children. These teachings often encourage children to value relationships, community, and ethical living over superficial achievements. Growing up in such environments fosters resilience and helps them navigate challenges with a strong sense of integrity, making them less susceptible to external pressures. When families prioritize spiritual growth over materialistic pursuits, they create a stable foundation that encourages critical thinking and self-awareness. This mindset helps youths resist the temptations of societal influences that glorify wealth or power, which are often linked to harmful practices like rituals or exploitative behaviors. By internalizing these values, children and young adults are better equipped to make decisions that align with ethical principles, promoting a more harmonious and responsible outlook toward life and society.

When parents lack consistency in their religious beliefs or fail to practice them effectively, it can create confusion for their children in understanding moral principles (Oyinloye, 2021). This inconsistency often leaves children uncertain about what constitutes right or wrong behavior. Without clear guidance, they may become susceptible to adopting behaviors influenced by their peers or societal pressures, especially in environments where questionable practices are normalized or even celebrated. The absence of a stable moral foundation can cause children to seek alternatives that may not align with ethical or societal standards. In some cases, children exposed to conflicting values or unclear moral teachings may turn to unconventional

means of finding direction or success. This can include exploring harmful practices such as ritualism, particularly in areas where such acts are portrayed as pathways to quick wealth or social status. These influences can have long-term consequences on their emotional and social development, making it crucial for families and communities to provide strong, consistent guidance rooted in sound ethical values to steer children toward positive life choices.

The socio-economic environment plays a critical role in influencing youth behavior, particularly when combined with the impact of parental religious beliefs (Josephine, Andrew, & Stephen, 2019). Families experiencing poverty or limited educational access often find it challenging to instill values that withstand the pressures of societal hardships. In such contexts, even well-grounded religious teachings may fail to dissuade youths from seeking alternative and sometimes harmful means of coping, such as ritualism. This reality underscores the importance of addressing socio-economic challenges that weaken the foundation of moral teachings within the family structure. Parents have a responsibility that extends beyond imparting religious values. They need to create an environment where emotional support, open communication, and opportunities for growth are prioritized. By fostering trust and offering guidance tailored to the unique challenges their children face, parents can help them resist negative societal influences. Access to education and skills training further equips children with alternatives to destructive behaviors, promoting resilience and informed decision-making. Aniuoku and Ojelibeckwu, (2023), conducted a study on ritual representation and the

quick money syndrome in Nollywood films, applying Stuart Hall's Media Reception theory to analyze how media audiences interpret messages. A quantitative research approach was used with a survey design to gather numerical data. The findings indicate that exposure to Nollywood movies portraying ritual killings and financial crimes has influenced behavioral changes among many youths in Awka metropolis. Many respondents acknowledged that such films contribute to the growing mindset of seeking wealth at any cost. Based on these findings, the researchers recommend that the Anambra State government organize conferences, workshops, and symposia for filmmakers to promote ethical storytelling that moves away from glorifying ritual killings and distorting cultural practices. Scriptwriters should receive support and sponsorship to create narratives that reshape perspectives on wealth acquisition and discourage harmful ideologies within Nollywood productions.

Addressing youth involvement in ritualism calls for parents to play an active and engaged role in their children's upbringing (Rotimi, 2023). By reinforcing religious and moral values within the home, parents can create a foundation of ethical principles that guides their children's decisions. Open communication is key to this process, as it allows parents to understand their children's experiences, concerns, and influences. Regular discussions about societal pressures and the consequences of unethical practices can help youths navigate challenges with confidence and clarity. Building resilience among youths requires instilling the importance of hard work, honesty, and perseverance. Parents, alongside schools and community leaders, can organize mentorship programs and

workshops to inspire young people to pursue success through legitimate means. Promoting stories of individuals who have achieved greatness through integrity and dedication can motivate youths to reject harmful practices.

Parents' Socio-Economic Status and Youth Involvement in Ritualism

Parents' socio-economic status plays a crucial role in shaping the behavior, values, and life choices of their children. Socio-economic status refers to the social and economic position of a family, often determined by income level, education, and occupation. Families with a stable socio-economic background are more likely to provide the resources, opportunities, and guidance needed for positive youth development. Conversely, families facing economic hardship may struggle to meet these needs, potentially exposing young people to harmful influences, including ritualistic practices as a means of seeking quick wealth or status.

Economic hardship often creates a sense of hopelessness and frustration, particularly among young people who may feel that their future is uncertain (Okolie & Igbini, 2020). When families struggle to meet basic needs, children and adolescents can feel the weight of financial instability, which may push them to look for quicker ways to escape their situation (Abiodun, Onafowora, & Ayo-Adeyekun, 2019). The lack of opportunities to secure proper education or stable employment leaves many youth searching for alternative routes, some of which may lead them down harmful paths. This desperation can make them more susceptible to people or groups offering solutions that promise wealth and success without considering the consequences. As a result, these

vulnerable young individuals may be drawn into practices that promise quick fixes but come with serious risks, including ritualistic practices. The desire to break free from poverty and improve their lives may cloud their judgment, leading them to take part in dangerous activities without fully understanding the long-term effects. Without proper support systems, such as accessible education, career guidance, and community resources, many young people are left to navigate these challenges on their own, often resorting to the wrong means to find security.

When parents are overwhelmed by economic pressures, they may find it challenging to provide the necessary emotional and psychological support for their children (Okpokiri, 2021). As a result, children may feel neglected or unloved, seeking comfort and validation in unhealthy environments or from negative influences. Without a foundation of strong family values, young people may struggle to develop a sense of right and wrong, making them more vulnerable to engaging in harmful practices like ritualism (Ebhomienlen, 2017). The absence of parental guidance creates a void that can be filled by peers or other social forces that may encourage destructive behavior. Additionally, the lack of parental supervision often leaves children with more unsupervised time, which can be filled with risky activities. In the absence of adult role models or authority figures, these young individuals may turn to rituals or join groups that offer a sense of belonging and identity. The pressure to fit in or gain acceptance within these groups can drive them to take part in dangerous practices, with little understanding of the consequences. This absence of positive parental involvement further fuels the cycle of youth engagement in

harmful behaviors such as ritualism, making it harder for them to break free from these negative influences.

In communities where wealth is viewed as a measure of success, young people are often influenced by the desire to attain material gain quickly (Agbo & Ome, 2017; Mensah, 2020). This drive can be intensified by limited job prospects or the lack of accessible educational opportunities, which leaves few paths to financial stability. As a result, some youth may turn to rituals and other illicit activities as a shortcut to achieving the wealth they perceive as necessary to gain social status or approval. This pressure is further exacerbated by the visible disparities between those who succeed through conventional means and those who seem to prosper through faster, less ethical routes. Parents, even with the best intentions, can unknowingly contribute to this dynamic. In communities where financial stability is a constant struggle, parents may stress the importance of improving their socio-economic situation, unintentionally pushing their children toward solutions that seem to promise quick financial gain. Without guidance on ethical choices or an understanding of the dangers involved, youth may not recognize the risks associated with engaging in illegal or harmful practices. This creates a cycle where the desire for wealth overrides the moral considerations, and ritualistic practices are seen as an acceptable means to an end.

Summary of Reviewed Literature

The reviewed literature explores the interplay between parental influence, socio-economic factors, and youth engagement in harmful practices like ritualism. Social

learning theory provides the foundation for understanding how behaviors are shaped by observation and imitation, particularly in social contexts. Parental influence emerges as a vital factor in shaping youth behavior, with educated parents better equipped to provide moral guidance, open communication, and resources that deter negative choices. Ritualism is presented as a societal practice often driven by an overemphasis on materialism and tradition. Parents' religious beliefs and socio-economic status also play a key role, as they influence the values instilled in children and their susceptibility to external pressures. This comprehensive review emphasizes how neglect, economic hardship, and weak moral foundations create an environment conducive to harmful practices among youth.

Despite these insights, there are gaps in understanding how specific aspects of parental influence interact with societal pressures to lead youths into ritualistic behaviors. Most existing studies focus broadly on the consequences of parental neglect and socio-economic challenges but offer limited exploration of intervention strategies tailored to different family dynamics and cultural contexts. Additionally, the role of peer influence in amplifying or mitigating the effects of parental guidance is underexplored. While religious beliefs are acknowledged as protective factors, there is insufficient evidence on how inconsistencies in these beliefs might directly contribute to youth vulnerability. These gaps highlight the need for deeper investigation into the mechanisms that connect parental roles and societal factors to ritualism.

This study aims to bridge these gaps by evaluating parental influence on youth involvement in ritualism, particularly in communities where materialism and cultural traditions dominate societal values. By examining how education, communication, and socio-economic conditions intersect with youth behaviors, the research seeks to identify actionable solutions to mitigate these challenges.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

In this chapter, the procedures that will be used for this study are presented under the following subheadings:

- Design of the Study
- Population of the Study
- Sample and Sampling Techniques
- Research Instrument
- Validity of the Instrument
- Reliability of the Instrument
- Method of Data collection
- Method of Data Analysis

Design of the Study

A descriptive survey design was adopted for this study because it sought to examine the statistical relationships between variables without manipulating them. This design was suitable for the study as it enabled the researcher to involve a group of students from whom data was obtained, selecting only a few students considered representative of the entire group needed.

Population of the Study

The population for this study comprised approximately 500,000 people across the communities in Egor Local Government Area, Edo State. This population was determined based on the population estimate conducted by the government in 2016. It consisted of community members, community leaders, law enforcement agents, and policymakers in Egor Local Government Area, Edo State.

Sample and Sampling Techniques

The sample for the study comprised 100 people, and the sampling technique used was a combination of cluster sampling and stratified sampling. The process began by randomly selecting 10 communities from the many communities in Egor Local Government Area, Edo State, which has a population of about 500,000 people, including community members, community leaders, law enforcement agents, and policymakers. Then, within each of the 10 chosen communities, a group of 10 individuals was selected using stratified sampling to ensure representation from different roles: 7 community members, 1 community leader, 1 law enforcement agent, and 1 policymaker. This method made sure the sample reflected the variety of people and locations across the area while keeping the selection practical. By doing this for all 10 communities, the total sample reached 100, with 70 community members, 10 community leaders, 10 law enforcement agents, and 10 policymakers.

Research Instrument

The research instrument adopted for this study was a questionnaire constructed by the researcher. The questionnaire was titled “Evaluation of Parental Influence on Youth Involvement in Ritualism Questionnaire (EPIYIRQ)” in Egor LGA. It consisted of two sections: Section A related to the demographic data of the respondents, while Section B contained variables drawn from the research questions. The instrument was a modified Likert-type scale with a 4-point rating system, with response options: Strongly Agree (SA) = 4 points, Agree (A) = 3 points, Disagree (D) = 2 points, and Strongly Disagree (SD) = 1 point. A benchmark of 2.5 was set as the decision rule. When the mean was greater than 2.5, the statement was recorded as agreed, while those with a mean less than 2.5 were recorded as disagreed.

Validation of the Instrument

In order to ascertain the validity of the instrument, the questionnaire was given to the supervisor and two other lecturers in the Department of Educational Evaluation and Counselling Psychology, Faculty of Education, for review and necessary corrections to ensure content and validity. The corrections made on the draft were incorporated into the final version.

Reliability of the Instrument

To establish the reliability of the instrument, the Cronbach Alpha method was used to measure the level of the items. The instrument was administered to 20 people

from Egor Local Government Area, Benin City, who were not part of the sampled population. A coefficient value of 0.821 obtained showed how reliable the instrument was.

Method of Data Collection

The questionnaire was administered personally by the researcher to the respondents. The respondents were assured of confidentiality and were to answer the questions honestly to the best of their knowledge. Instructions were given to the respondents on how to fill out the questionnaire. The questionnaire was collected on the spot for easy retrieval.

Method of Data Analysis

The data collected was subjected to descriptive statistics. Data for the research questions was analyzed using descriptive statistics, specifically mean and standard deviation.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This chapter contains the findings of the Study. The responses to the various items were also organized and presented. The research questions were tested using mean and standard deviation.

Presentation of the Result

Research Question One: To what extent is the parental influence on youth involvement in ritualism?

Table 1: Mean and Standard Deviation on the extent of parental influence on youth involvement in ritualism

S/N	ITEMS	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Decision
1.	Parents' influence on their children's behavior affects youth involvement with ritualism through guidance and discipline.	100	3.58	.589	Agree
2.	Parents' awareness of their children's activities plays a role in preventing youth involvement with ritualism through communication.	100	2.87	.872	Agree
3.	Parents' involvement in their children's education reduces the likelihood of youth involvement with ritualism through providing structure.	100	2.83	.829	Agree
4.	Parents' emotional support reduces the chances of youth involvement with ritualism through building trust.	100	2.04	.634	Disagree
5.	Parenting style affects youth involvement with ritualism through their approach to discipline.	100	3.23	.548	Agree

Research question one sought to examine the extent of parental influence on youth involvement in ritualism, revealing that parents' influence on their children's behavior through guidance and discipline was strongly agreed upon (M=3.58, S.D=.589), while parenting style, particularly through discipline approaches, also showed significant agreement (M=3.23, S.D=.548). Parents' awareness of their children's activities and their involvement in education were both agreed upon as factors that reduce youth involvement in ritualism, with means of 2.87 (S.D=.872) and 2.83 (S.D=.829), respectively. However, parents' emotional support was disagreed upon as a significant factor in reducing youth involvement in ritualism (M=2.04, S.D=.634), indicating that emotional support may play a less critical role compared to other forms of parental influence. These findings demonstrate that while certain parental behaviors, such as guidance, discipline, and awareness, are perceived as influential in mitigating youth involvement in ritualism, emotional support may not be as impactful in this context.

Research Question Two: What is the influence parents' level of education on youth involvement in ritualism?

Table 2: Mean and Standard Deviation on the influence parents' level of education on youth involvement in ritualism

S/N	ITEMS	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Decision
1.	Parents' education impacts youth involvement with ritualism through the way they address peer pressure and societal influences.	100	3.09	.605	Agree
2.	Parents' level of education shapes youth in involvement with ritualism through the guidance they provide on moral decision-making.	100	2.56	.701	Agree
3.	Parents' level of education affects youth involvement with ritualism through their understanding of the importance of education and career goals.	100	2.06	.600	Disagree
4.	Parents' level of education influences youth involvement with ritualism through the way they manage and communicate about risks and consequences.	100	3.30	.577	Agree
5.	Parents' level of education affects youth in involvement with ritualism through their involvement in their children's social networks and activities.	100	3.30	.461	Agree

Research question two sought to examine the influence of parents' level of education on youth involvement in ritualism, and the data from Table 2 provides insight into this relationship through various aspects of parental impact. Participants agreed that parents' education affects youth involvement with ritualism through how they address

peer pressure and societal influences (M=3.09, S.D=.605), the guidance they offer on moral decision-making (M=2.56, S.D=.701), the way they manage and communicate about risks and consequences (M=3.30, S.D=.577), and their involvement in their children's social networks and activities (M=3.30, S.D=.461), as all these items received mean scores above 2.50, indicating agreement. However, the participants disagreed that parents' level of education impacts youth involvement with ritualism through their understanding of the importance of education and career goals (M=2.06, S.D=.600), with a mean score below 2.50. The standard deviations, ranging from .461 to .701, show moderate consistency in responses across the items. This analysis indicates that while parents' education plays a role in shaping youth behavior toward ritualism through social and moral guidance, it does not appear to influence it through an emphasis on education and career aspirations.

Research Question Three: What is the influence of parents' religious beliefs on youth involvement in ritualism?

Table 3: Mean and Standard Deviation on the influence of parents’ religious beliefs on youth involvement in ritualism

S/N	ITEMS	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Decision
1.	Parents’ religious beliefs contribute to youth involvement with ritualism through their moral guidance and values.	100	3.42	.496	Agree
2.	Parents’ religious beliefs shape youth involvement with ritualism through the control of cultural and spiritual activities.	100	3.35	.557	Agree
3.	Parents’ religious beliefs affect youth involvement with ritualism through the enforcement of rules and boundaries.	100	3.61	.530	Agree
4.	Parents’ religious beliefs prevent youth involvement with ritualism through consistent communication about religious norms.	100	3.43	.498	Agree
5.	Parents’ religious beliefs discourage youth involvement with ritualism through involvement in religious communities and activities.	100	3.52	.502	Agree

Research question three sought to examine the influence of parents’ religious beliefs on youth involvement in ritualism, with results showing a strong and consistent impact across various dimensions. Parents’ religious beliefs were found to significantly contribute to youth involvement in ritualism through their moral guidance and values

(M=3.42, S.D=.496), control of cultural and spiritual activities (M=3.35, S.D=.557), and enforcement of rules and boundaries (M=3.61, S.D=.530). Additionally, parents' religious beliefs played a role in preventing youth involvement in ritualism through consistent communication about religious norms (M=3.43, S.D=.498) and active participation in religious communities and activities (M=3.52, S.D=.502). These findings indicate that parents' religious beliefs serve as a strong influence in shaping youth behavior, particularly in discouraging involvement in ritualism through structured guidance and engagement in religious practices.

Research Question Four: What is the influence of parents' socio-economic status on youth involvement in ritualism?

Table 4: Mean and Standard Deviation on the influence of parents' socio-economic status on youth involvement in ritualism

S/N	ITEMS	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Decision
1.	Parents' access to healthcare services affects youth involvement in ritualism through ensuring proper medical attention for family members.	100	2.86	.739	Agree
2.	Parents' involvement in community activities affects youth involvement in ritualism through exposure to positive societal values.	100	3.28	.587	Agree
3.	Parents' financial literacy skills affect youth involvement in ritualism through their ability to plan and allocate family resources effectively.	100	3.26	.505	Agree
4.	Parents' job security or stability affects youth involvement in ritualism through reduced financial stress and providing a stable home environment.	100	3.38	.528	Agree
5.	Parents' living standard affects youth involvement in ritualism through their ability to meet basic family needs.	100	3.29	.608	Agree

Research question four sought to examine the influence of parents' socio-economic status on youth involvement in ritualism, with results showing consistent agreement across various factors. Parents' access to healthcare services was found to impact youth involvement in ritualism by ensuring proper medical attention for family members (M=2.86, S.D=.739). Additionally, parents' involvement in community activities influenced youth through exposure to positive societal values (M=3.28, S.D=.587), while their financial literacy skills played a role by enabling effective

planning and allocation of family resources ($M=3.26$, $S.D=.505$). Job security or stability contributed by reducing financial stress and providing a stable home environment ($M=3.38$, $S.D=.528$), and parents' living standard affected youth involvement through their ability to meet basic family needs ($M=3.29$, $S.D=.608$). These findings indicate that parents' socio-economic status significantly shapes youth involvement in ritualism across multiple dimensions, with stability and resource management being particularly influential.

Discussions of Findings

The finding of this study examines parental influence on youth's involvement in ritualism. On research question one, the findings reveal that parental influence plays a significant role in shaping youth involvement in ritualism. Parents' guidance and discipline were strongly agreed upon as key factors in reducing such involvement, while parenting styles, particularly through discipline approaches, were also seen as impactful. Parents' awareness of their children's activities and their involvement in education were further identified as important factors in mitigating youth engagement in ritualism. However, emotional support from parents was disagreed upon as a significant factor, suggesting that while practical and structured forms of influence are effective, emotional support may not hold the same level of importance in this context. Aligning with study by Ojo, Adegoke, Akan, Egbo, and Ojiziele, (2024), on the exploration of youth involvement in ritual killings, revealing that unemployment, poor parental upbringing, peer influence, and poor economy as the contributing factors to youth ritualism. It also

corroborates with study by Emeh, Atabo, and Ogar, (2023), on quest for wealth and the upsurge in ritual killings among Nigeria youths, revealing government and parents culpable for the upsurge in ritual killing among youths. While the government is blamed of running political system that is iron-gated manned by mean and supercilious politicians whose purpose is to perpetuate personal and clannish interests, at the detriment of the masses who have been treated as expendables; parents are blamed for watching their children become extravagantly rich through illegitimate means without reprimand for implications. The finding indicates that economic instability and governance issues contribute to the problem, as a failing political system fosters desperation among young people.

Research question two reveals that parents' level of education influences youth involvement in ritualism through their ability to address peer pressure, provide moral guidance, manage risks, and participate in their children's social networks. These factors were identified as key elements that shape youth behavior and help in preventing engagement in ritual activities. However, the findings indicate that parents' emphasis on education and career goals does not have a strong influence on reducing youth involvement in ritualism. This means that while formal education is important, its impact on youth behavior depends more on active parental engagement and moral upbringing rather than just promoting academic and career achievements. The implications of these findings show that interventions aimed at reducing youth involvement in ritualism should

focus more on strengthening parental involvement in social and moral guidance rather than relying solely on educational achievements.

Research question three reveals that parents' religious beliefs play a crucial role in shaping youth behavior and preventing their involvement in ritualistic activities. The findings indicate that moral guidance, regulation of cultural and spiritual practices, and the enforcement of household rules contribute to discouraging such behaviors. Additionally, open discussions on religious values and active participation in faith-based communities serve as preventive measures. These findings emphasize the need for parents to be actively involved in their children's spiritual upbringing, as consistent religious engagement fosters a sense of discipline and moral responsibility. The study's implications point to the importance of strengthening family-based religious teachings and promoting structured spiritual activities as a means of reducing youth participation in ritualism.

Research question four reveals that parents' socio-economic status affects youth involvement in ritualism through various interconnected factors. Access to healthcare services, participation in community activities, financial literacy, job stability, and living conditions were identified as key influences that shape the choices and behaviors of young individuals. A stable socio-economic background provides better opportunities and reduces the vulnerability of youths to engage in ritual practices. The research findings indicate that improving these factors through effective policies and community support

can create a safer and more structured environment, discouraging youths from resorting to harmful or unlawful activities as a means of survival or success.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

The purpose of this research was designed to investigate parental influence on youth's involvement in ritualism. One Hundred (100) respondents in Egor Local Government Area of Edo State were explored. The researcher made effort in investigating the extent of parental influence on youth involvement in ritualism; influence of parents' level of education on youth involvement in ritualism; influence of parents' religious beliefs on youth involvement in ritualism, and; the influence of parents' socio-economic status on youth involvement in ritualism, all of which have been discussed in details under the review of literature.

The collection of data was carried out through the administration of questionnaire to One Hundred (100) respondents in Egor Local Government Area of Edo State. The data were interpreted and discussed using mean and standard deviation table. The sampling technique used for the research was the stratified random sampling technique.

The findings based on the research questions revealed the following:

- Parental influence plays a significant role in shaping youth involvement in ritualism, with parents' guidance, discipline, and awareness of their children's activities being strongly agreed upon as key factors in reducing such involvement.

- Parents' level of education influences youth involvement in ritualism through their approach to addressing peer pressure, providing moral guidance, managing risks, and participating in their children's social networks.
- Parents' religious beliefs have a strong and consistent influence on youth involvement in ritualism, with moral guidance, control of cultural and spiritual activities, enforcement of rules, and active participation in religious communities being identified as effective strategies in discouraging such behavior.
- Parents' socio-economic status significantly impacts youth involvement in ritualism, with access to healthcare services, involvement in community activities, financial literacy, job stability, and living standards being agreed upon as influential factors in creating a stable and supportive environment that reduces the likelihood of youth engagement in ritualism.
- Parenting styles, particularly through discipline approaches, were seen as impactful in reducing youth involvement in ritualism, while parents' involvement in their children's education was also identified as an important factor in mitigating such engagement.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the study reveals that parental influence significantly shapes youth involvement in ritualism across various dimensions. Parents' guidance, discipline, and awareness of their children's activities were identified as key factors in reducing such

involvement, while emotional support was found to be less impactful. Parents' level of education was shown to influence youth behavior through their approach to peer pressure, moral guidance, risk management, and participation in social networks, though their emphasis on education and career goals was less influential. Additionally, parents' religious beliefs played a strong role, with moral guidance, control of cultural and spiritual activities, and communication about religious norms effectively discouraging youth from ritualism. Furthermore, parents' socio-economic status was found to be significant, with access to healthcare, community involvement, financial literacy, job stability, and living standards contributing to a stable environment that reduces youth engagement in ritualism.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions of this study, the following recommendations are made:

- Parents should focus on providing structured guidance and discipline to their children, as these were identified as effective strategies in reducing youth involvement in ritualism.
- Educational programs for parents should emphasize the importance of addressing peer pressure, offering moral guidance, and managing risks, as these aspects of parental education were found to significantly influence youth behavior and reduce involvement in ritualism.

- Religious institutions and community leaders should encourage parents to actively engage in religious practices and communicate consistently about religious norms with their children. This can help reinforce moral values and discourage youth from participating in ritualistic activities.
- Policies aimed at improving socio-economic conditions, such as access to healthcare, financial literacy programs, and job stability initiatives, should be prioritized.
- Community-based programs should promote parental involvement in community activities and social networks, as these were shown to positively influence youth behavior and reduce engagement in ritualism by fostering exposure to constructive societal values.

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APPENDICES

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY

EVALUATION OF PARENTAL INFLUENCE ON YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN

RITUALISM QUESTIONNAIRE

(EPIYIRQ)

Dear Respondent,

This questionnaire is designed for academic purposes. It is structured to find out your perception on the evaluation of parental influence on youth involvement in ritualism.

Please respond sincerely to the questions by ticking [] where applicable. Your responses will be treated with a high level of confidentiality. Thank you

Section A: Demographic Data

Marital Status: Married (); Divorce (); Single ()

Instructions: Please tick () where applicable.

Section B: Data on Questionnaire

Indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Key: Strongly Agree (SA); Agree (A); Disagree (D); Strongly Disagree (SD).

S/N	PARENTAL INFLUENCE AND YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN RITUALISM	SA	A	D	SD
1.	Parents' influence on their children's behavior affects youth involvement with ritualism through guidance and discipline.				
2.	Parents' awareness of their children's activities plays a role in preventing youth involvement with ritualism through communication.				
3.	Parents' involvement in their children's education reduces the likelihood of youth involvement with ritualism through providing structure.				
4.	Parents' emotional support reduces the chances of youth involvement with ritualism through building trust.				
5.	Parenting style affects youth involvement with ritualism through their approach to discipline.				
	PARENTS' LEVEL OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN RITUALISM	SA	A	D	SD
6.	Parents' education impacts youth involvement with ritualism through the way they address peer pressure and societal influences.				
7.	Parents' level of education shapes youth in involvement with ritualism through the guidance they provide on moral decision-making.				
8.	Parents' level of education affects youth involvement with ritualism through their understanding of the importance of education and career goals.				
9.	Parents' level of education influences youth involvement with ritualism through the way they manage and communicate about risks and consequences.				
10.	Parents' level of education affects youth in involvement with ritualism through their involvement in their children's social networks and activities.				

	PARENTS' RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN RITUALISM	SA	A	D	SD
11.	Parents' religious beliefs contribute to youth involvement with ritualism through their moral guidance and values.				
12.	Parents' religious beliefs shape youth involvement with ritualism through the control of cultural and spiritual activities.				
13.	Parents' religious beliefs affect youth involvement with ritualism through the enforcement of rules and boundaries.				
14.	Parents' religious beliefs prevent youth involvement with ritualism through consistent communication about religious norms.				
15.	Parents' religious beliefs discourage youth involvement with ritualism through involvement in religious communities and activities.				
	PARENTS' SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS AND YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN RITUALISM				
16.	Parents' access to healthcare services affects youth involvement in ritualism through ensuring proper medical attention for family members.				
17.	Parents' involvement in community activities affects youth involvement in ritualism through exposure to positive societal values.				
18.	Parents' financial literacy skills affect youth involvement in ritualism through their ability to plan and allocate family resources effectively.				
19.	Parents' job security or stability affects youth involvement in ritualism through reduced financial stress and providing a stable home environment.				
20.	Parents' living standard affects youth involvement in ritualism through their ability to meet basic family needs.				

Reliability Output:

SAVE OUTFILE='C:\User\Documents\Okolie Frank Chukwuemeka\Evaluation of Parental influence on youth involvement in Ritualism//Reliability.Sav'/COMPRESSED.

DATASET ACTIVATE DataSet0

Reliability Test

Notes

Resources	Processor Time	00:00:00.02
	Elapsed Time	00:00:00.03

Scale: ALL VARIABLES

Case Processing Summary

		N	%
Cases	Valid	20	100.0
	Excluded ^a	0	.0
	Total	20	100.0

a. Listwise deletion based on all variables in the procedure.

Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.821	20

MARITALSTATUS					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Single	27	27.0	27.0	27.0
	Divorced	24	24.0	24.0	51.0
	Married	49	49.0	49.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Descriptive Statistics			
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Parents' influence on their children's behavior affects youth involvement with ritualism through guidance and discipline.	100	3.58	.589
Parents' awareness of their children's activities plays a role in preventing youth involvement with ritualism through communication.	100	2.87	.872
Parents' involvement in their children's education reduces the likelihood of youth involvement with ritualism through providing structure.	100	2.83	.829
Parents' emotional support reduces the chances of youth involvement with ritualism through building trust.	100	2.04	.634
Parenting style affects youth involvement with ritualism through their approach to discipline.	100	3.23	.548
Parents' education impacts youth involvement with ritualism through the way they address peer pressure and societal influences.	100	3.09	.605
Parents' level of education shapes youth involvement with ritualism through the guidance they provide on moral decision-making.	100	2.56	.701
Parents' level of education affects youth involvement with ritualism through their understanding of the importance of education and career goals.	100	2.06	.600
Parents' level of education influences youth involvement	100	3.30	.577

with ritualism through the way they manage and communicate about risks and consequences.			
Parents' level of education affects youth in involvement with ritualism through their involvement in their children's social networks and activities.	100	3.30	.461
Parents' religious beliefs contribute to youth involvement with ritualism through their moral guidance and values.	100	3.42	.496
Parents' religious beliefs shape youth involvement with ritualism through the control of cultural and spiritual activities.	100	3.35	.557
Parents' religious beliefs affect youth involvement with ritualism through the enforcement of rules and boundaries.	100	3.61	.530
Parents' religious beliefs prevent youth involvement with ritualism through consistent communication about religious norms.	100	3.43	.498
Parents' religious beliefs discourage youth involvement with ritualism through involvement in religious communities and activities.	100	3.52	.502
Parents' access to healthcare services affects youth involvement in ritualism through ensuring proper medical attention for family members.	100	2.86	.739
Parents' involvement in community activities affects youth involvement in ritualism through exposure to positive societal values.	100	3.28	.587
Parents' financial literacy skills affect youth involvement in ritualism through their ability to plan and allocate family resources effectively.	100	3.26	.505
Parents' job security or stability affects youth involvement in ritualism through reduced financial stress and providing a stable home environment.	100	3.38	.528
Parents' living standard affects youth involvement in ritualism through their ability to meet basic family needs.	100	3.29	.608
Valid N (listwise)	100		