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**THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH IN CURBING JUVENILE DELINQUENCIES  
IN ODO-OBA TOWNSHIP**

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**By**

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## ABSTRACT

This work titled: "The role of the church in curbing juvenile delinquency" was born out of the researcher's interest in looking into what preventive role the church can play in keeping promising juveniles from missing their track in life as a result of delinquent acts. The research was carried out in order to help identify some prevalent causes of delinquencies among Juveniles in Odo-Oba and how the church can help tackle the causes so as to reduce or even eliminate delinquent attitudes and habits among juveniles in the area.

This work was done as a field research using a questionnaire as the instrument of research. The questionnaire was administered among 7 private and 2 public secondary schools in Odo-Oba community. The findings revealed that factors such as individual risk factors (which comprises of self esteem, self worth, and personal character traits), family-socio-economic factors (comprising of, family interactions, and family financial situation), and the environmental factors (comprising of the school, the neighbourhood, and religious institutions) all contribute to the high rate of delinquencies among juveniles in Odo-Oba community.

The researcher therefore recommends that the church should wake up to her responsibility of educating both parents and juveniles through church programmes and church owned schools. Also the church should engage the juveniles meaningfully after school by providing vocational training and after school coaching. Finally, church leaders and adults around should be good role models for the younger generation by good exemplary living.

## Conclusions

The writer through this work concludes that the delinquent juvenile cases in Odo-Oba are based on factors such as: low self-esteem of the delinquents, reliance of juveniles on siblings, peers and others as role models and a disappointing realization that many of these are delinquent themselves. It also goes further to prove that the habits juveniles have formed over time which have gone unchecked and have become their character also

contribute their delinquent acts. The lack of experience of care and love in their various homes is also a strong contributing factor.

Other factors include: the influx of the negativity paraded around them in the community, the strong influence of peers upon their lives, and the negative influence of the influx of media gadgets into the community.

The study also proved that the greater percentage of respondents claimed to be Christians. This shows the church has been sleeping with regards to her responsibility. Ironically, a greater number of the respondents (61.25 %) enjoy attending church.

The writer believes therefore that if the church rises up to her task of education of children, adolescents, adults, parents and families as well as the society at large. She can help curb delinquent acts and possibly permanently stop the act of delinquency by juveniles.

### Recommendations

Based on the writer's findings, the following recommendations are made:

1. The church should through her youth organizations teach acceptable morals to teenagers and young adults.
2. Worship leaders, older children and adults in the church should be examples to the youths.
3. The church should take seriously her educational responsibilities. It is expected of the church to model a proper educational system through the help of the Holy Spirit, built on the fear of God as foundation, and nurtured with the blessings of God.
4. The church should sensitize parents on the need to be closer to their wards, show them love and encouragement. The church should take advantage of days like Father's day,

mother's day e.t.c to inform and educate parents on their role in the development of their children. However, education of church members should be a regular feature and not an occasional one.

5. The church should engage the juveniles meaningfully after school by providing vocational training and extra-moral lessons.
6. Provisions should be available in the community the church is located for the individual who feels the need for advice about his family relationships. Such facilities should be competent of course.