

# ASSESSMENT OF PARENTS' COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES ON BOY-CHILD UPBRINGING AND INCIDENTS OF RAPE IN PORT HARCOURT METROPOLIS, RIVERS STATE, NIGERIA

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## Abstract

The study investigates how parents' communication strategies contributed to boy-child upbringing against the incidents of rape in Port Harcourt Metropolis. The objectives of the study were to: identify the communication strategies parents in Port Harcourt adopted for the upbringing of boy-children and find out the causes of an increase in incidences of rape in Port Harcourt, despite the parents' communication strategies. The study was anchored on the Social Learning Theory. It employed a survey research design with a total of 2, 051, 430 parents who reside in Port Harcourt. A sample size of 400 was determined using the Taro Yamane formula while purposive sampling techniques were used to select the samples. A questionnaire was used as the instrument for data collection and the Weighted Mean Score of the 4-Point Likert scale was used to analyze the data. Results revealed that sexual education, open consent and boundary communication are the strategies parents in Port Harcourt adopted for the upbringing of boy-children. Finding also shows those weak laws, indecent dressing, cultural norms, societal and stereotyping are among the major causes of the increase of incidences of rape despite the communication strategies of the parents in Port Harcourt. The study recommended that Port Harcourt parents should adopt healthy masculinity, communication and role modelling since they help in building boy children against rape and our cultural values; and that, laws against rape and indecent dressing should be strengthened to arrest and prosecute the offenders.

**Keywords:** Communication, Children Upbringing, Incidences of Rape, Parents' Communication Strategy and Port Harcourt.

**Declaration of conflicting interests:** The Authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

## Introduction

Effective communication is not only the recipe for a sustainable relationship of parents but also a strategy for child upbringing. The breakdown of communication appears to be the earliest noticeable sign of poor child upbringing and crime. The type and manner of communication parents adopt for their children help to guide and guard them in their daily lives, including making certain decisions in life. Such communication in some cases helps stabilize some

irresponsible children who have experienced some forms of instability or social vices like rape, stealing and kidnapping. Parents' communication could be informative and persuasive and help family members to change their behaviour irrespective of their religion, financial status, ethnicity and level of education. Communication of parents plays a significant role in children's upbringing. Aruna, (2018) argues that children who live with two married biological parents are at low risk for abuse. The risk increases when

children live with step-parents or a single parent. Children living without either parent as foster children are 10 times more likely to be sexually abused than children who live with both biological parents. Children who live with a single parent who has a live-in partner are at the highest risk: they are 20 times more likely to be victims of child sexual abuse than children living with both biological parents, this is due to a lack of effective interactions and guides (Sedlak et al., 2010). Research has shown that parents' communication strategies are crucial in shaping their children's values, attitudes, and behaviours. In the context of a boy-child upbringing in Nigeria, effective communication strategies help to prevent incidents of rape by promoting healthy masculinity, consent and respect for women. Parents' strategies in children's upbringing include open communication: Encourage open and honest conversations with your son about relationships, gender, and sexuality. Consent and boundaries: Teach your son about consent, boundaries, and respect for others' autonomy. Healthy masculinity: Model and promote positive masculine values like empathy, respect, and non-violence. Gender equality: Discuss gender equality and the challenge of harmful gender stereotypes. Sexual education: Provide age-appropriate sexual education, emphasizing mutual respect and consent. Role modelling: Model positive relationships and behaviours yourself, as boys often learn from observation. Active listening: Listen to your son's concerns and questions, and address them with empathy and understanding. Media literacy: Critically evaluate media messages and promote positive representations of masculinity.

Parents around the globe and Nigeria particularly, Port Harcourt and Rivers State adopt various communication styles and strategies for child upbringing. These include authoritarian which is the strict, disciplinary, and directive style of child upbringing; authoritative is the balanced, nurturing, and communicative style; permissive is lenient, indulgent, and non-directive; and attachment Parenting involves emphasizing emotional connection and responsiveness. Positive Parenting focuses on positive reinforcement and encouragement; mindful parenting encourages self-awareness and emotional regulation. Helicopter Parenting constantly monitors and controls children. Free-range parenting encourages the independence and self-reliance of children. Holistic Parenting emphasises the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of children. Conscious Parenting focuses on the personal growth and self-awareness of the children. Collaborative Parenting encourages mutual respect and cooperation. Parent-Led Parenting: In this type of parenting, the parents take the lead in decision-making. Child-Led Parenting: Children have

significant autonomy and decision-making power. These communication styles and strategies may vary across cultures and individuals, and parents may adopt a combination of styles depending on their values, beliefs, and circumstances. By adopting these strategies, parents can play a vital role in shaping their sons' values and behaviour, contributing to a culture of consent and respect, and helping prevent incidents of rape in Nigeria Iringe-Oko (2024). Port Harcourt residents have experienced several vices and crimes in recent times especially, kidnapping, stealing, arm robbery, artisanal refining and above all rape. Cases of rape have been rife in Port Harcourt. Rape is a crime against humanity, in most cases, it is committed intentionally, under the influence of drugs and alcohol and may be due to indecent dressing on the part of women or girls. Oludayo, and Collins (2020) refer to as trust gap, associated stigma, against the victims, fear of re-victimization, cultural barriers, religious sentiments and the powerlessness of the victims in pursuing justice.

Over the years, females have been beaten, raped and even murdered on daily bases. Fatusi Achunike and Kitause, 2014; Folyan, Odetonyinbo, Harrison and Brown, 2014) provide a vivid account of rape in Nigeria and its impact on victims. Such impact include; physical injuries, fatigue, chronic headaches, problems like suicide attempts, stress disorder, depression, stigmatisation and sexual dysfunction. Rivers State on the 16th June 2020 remanded a 37 years old man; Sunny Onuegbu for using a knife to rape a teenager in Rivers State. On 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024, Iringe-Oko (2024) reported that a notorious gang of youths who allegedly specialised in kidnapping and raping women in Port Harcourt was busted by the Police. Those responsible for this number of rapes are boy children and they come from certain parents. They receive information from their parents as a guide to daily life. The kind of communication they give to their children serves to advise and guide them but the continued increase of crimes among boy children is a concern to researchers and society. Thus, this study investigates parents' communication strategies on boy-child upbringing and incidents of rape in Port Harcourt.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Rape is a heinous offence and a great violation of human rights. In Western countries, rape is not treated with levity and society has persistently condemned the issues of rape although the need for strategic measures to combat and curtail the raising cases of rape is paramount Idoko, et al (2020). parents need to adopt effective communication strategies for the upbringing of the boy-children. Parents are responsible to their children to be good ambassadors

of the society. Good parenting brings about a good society. Over the years, crimes such as killing, stealing, arm robbery raping among others existed and are majorly committed by boys. The parents adopt communication strategies to draw the attention of their children or individual family members to the danger and consequences of crimes and social vices. The strategies could be authoritarian, authoritative, permissive, attachment, mindful parenting, helicopter parenting, free-range parenting among others. The incidents of rape in Nigeria are reported in the media daily and offenders are arrested and prosecuted.

Despite this, the incidence of rape has continued to increase in astronomic order in Port Harcourt. For example, a Magistrate court sitting in Isiokpo, Rivers State on the 16th of June 2020 remanded a 37 years old man; Sunny Onuegbu for using a knife to rape a teenager in Rivers State. Also, a notorious gang of youths who allegedly specialised in kidnapping and raping women in Port Harcourt was busted by the Police. Many studies have been conducted on incidences of rape in selected media but the communication strategies parents adopted for the upbringing of boy-children have not been interrogated. Therefore, the study investigates parents' communication strategy on boy-child upbringing and incidents of rape in Port Harcourt.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The following objectives guided the study.

1. Identify the communication strategies parents in Port Harcourt adopted for the upbringing of boy-children;
2. Ascertain the extent communication strategies lead to the effective upbringing of boy-children in Port Harcourt;
3. Find out the causes of increased incidences of rape despite the parents' communication strategies in Port Harcourt.

### **Research Questions**

1. What are the communication strategies parents in Port Harcourt adopted for the upbringing of boy-children?
2. To what extent do the communication strategies of Port Harcourt parents lead to the effective upbringing of boy-children?
3. What are the causes of the increase in incidences of rape despite the parents' communication strategies in Port Harcourt?

### **Review of Related Literature**

#### **Parents Communication Strategy**

Communication is the process of sharing intentional and unintentional messages, in this case, about family affairs. These messages help parents and society to produce better effects on their children devoid of engaging in social vices and crimes like stealing, lying, killing, robbery, raping etc. Udoakah (2004, p. 1) noted communication as the process through which needs, emotions, desires, goals, and sentiments are expressed among human beings, using codes, symbols and languages understood by the parties involved in the process. Otamiri (2020) maintains that the end of every communication is the beginning of another communication. According to Arogbo (2022), some of the communication parents adopt for boy-children include authoritarian which is the strict, disciplinary, and directive style of child upbringing; authoritative is the balanced, nurturing, and communicative style; permissive is lenient, indulgent, and non-directive; and attachment Parenting involves emphasizing emotional connection and responsiveness. Positive Parenting focuses on positive reinforcement and encouragement; mindful Parenting encourages self-awareness and emotional regulation. Helicopter Parenting constantly monitors and controls children.

#### **Parental Responsibility**

Parental responsibility in Nigeria is a moral obligation that parents have to provide for the well-being, development, and protection of their children until they become adults (Fatoku, 2019). It involves a wide range of duties that parents are expected to fulfil to ensure that their children grow up in a safe and nurturing environment. Indeed, parental responsibility in Nigeria is an essential aspect of the country's social fabric. It primarily involves the duties and obligations that parents have towards their children, including providing for their basic needs, such as food, shelter, healthcare, and education. In Nigeria, the Child Rights Act of 2003 provides clear guidelines on parental responsibilities (Abdulkadir, 2016). According to this Act, parents are expected to provide their children with a safe and healthy environment conducive to their growth and development. They are also responsible for ensuring that their children receive proper nutrition, clothing, interactions and medical care. Parents in Nigeria are mandated to enroll their children in school from the age of six to sixteen, ensuring that they receive a quality education. Additionally, parents must ensure that their children are protected from abuse, exploitation, and neglect. While parental responsibility falls primarily on both parents, the law recognises that sometimes, situations arise where one parent may be absent, uninvolved, or unable to fulfil

their obligations. In such cases, the burden of responsibility falls on the other parent (Oyetunde, 2017). Section 3(1) of the Children Act 1989 provides that In this Act “parental responsibility” means all the rights, duties, powers, responsibilities, and authority which by law a parent of a child has about the child and his property. This law appears to be the first instrument to determine what parental responsibility is. Lawmakers in the United Kingdom parliament explicitly gave meaning to what is seen as a legal duty imposed on parents and any recognised and designated individual that must exercise the duty stated in section 3 of the law (Ballalle, 2019).

### Empirical Review

Benson (2020) investigated the behavioural patterns of paedophiles and their effects on delinquent juveniles from a theoretical perspective. The paper examined how the behavioural pattern of paedophiles affects delinquents in juveniles. The study adopted a survey research design and found that the pattern of paedophile behaviour pattern is not far from the truth. The extent to which it influences delinquency behaviour is based on individual reactions to war Pedophile history and can be generalized. Also, Ifayomi, (2024), assessed the upsurge of sexual abuse in Nigeria during the Covid-19 pandemic. The paper focused on sexual abuse that was common during the Covid-19 pandemic in Nigeria. It paid attention to rape from the perspective of man forcing ladies and children for sex. The study found that the causes of rape were identified as early childhood environmental factors, antisocial personality traits, mental illness, sexual gratification, wickedness, anger and the effect of drugs among others.

Similarly, Aruna (2018) examined trends in child sexual molestation, rape and incest: a view from South West Nigeria. The paper focused on sexual molestation, especially rape and increase incest in Nigeria. It explains how pastors, imams, teachers, fathers, uncles and neighbours have betrayed trust through the act of rape. The paper considered documentary data, newspapers and in-depth interviews with some victims of rape and police. The results of the study revealed that sometimes, the victims are cajoled and deceitfully taken advantage of; it is forceful, violent rape that leaves the victim physically and psychologically bruised and scarred. The study also found that the victims especially those who resist, lose their lives or are maimed for life. Again, Akpoghome (2016) investigated the analysis of the domestic legal framework on sexual violence in Nigeria. The paper recognizes that sexual violence has been on the increase in Nigeria and seeks to know the legislative and judicial framework for curbing it. The study also

examined different laws especially federal laws which have uniform application all over the country. It was discovered that the Child Rights Act is an important legislation even though some states are yet to enact their child's rights law which would enable them to prosecute pedophiles in their state. It also found that the judiciary has not been of much help in this regard as the punishment for offences is so watered down against the provisions of the statutes.

Ndubueze (2016) did a study on paedophiles and child sexual abuse in digital Nigeria: fault lines in parenting practices. The sexual solicitation and exploitation of children online is an emerging problem in Nigeria, the changing dynamics of paedophiles in the digital age, have not received any attention from scholars in Nigeria. this paper explains the concept of paedophilia, its variants, prevalence and victimization risk factors. The study adopted a content analysis research method and found that the gap in parenting and the exposure of children to the internet are critical factors in child social abuse on the internet. In another study, Oduah (2014) investigated exploring media framing and representation of rape cases in Nigeria”. The findings revealed that the *Daily Sun* newspaper report rape cases more than other newspapers in Nigeria. The study also discovered that even when rape cases are reported, they were buried in inside pages of the newspapers thereby giving them little or no prominence. Finally, the study found that dominant frames of rape cases include innocence, neutrality, intimidation and avoidance. Diriwari (2023) studied contextualising the parental responsibilities of child protection in legal pluralism. The study found that Parental responsibility in Nigeria is highly valued and considered a fundamental aspect of parenting. It is believed that parents have a moral obligation to provide for, protect and guide their children toward becoming responsible adults. It includes that children are well-nourished, educated, and have access to healthcare. In Nigerian culture, parents are also responsible for instilling values such as honesty, respect, and hard work in their children. Adetunji, Abdulrahman and Joel (2020) examined the role of mass media in promoting value re-orientation and transformation in Nigeria. The study employed the review of the literature and making logical inferences from them. The finding of the study revealed that mass media play a major role in promoting national image, respect for human life and dignity and corporate value.

Livingstone and Bryan (2018) studied parenting in the digital age. As children in high, middle and even low-income countries gain access to the internet via a range of digital devices and services - most often via a mobile phone - parents are feeling challenged in their competence, role and authority. In middle and low-

income countries, the evidence suggests that restrictive mediation is generally favoured by parents, although this brings costs in terms of children's opportunities online, especially for girls. In all countries, the rapid pace of technological innovation undermines parental competence, which is in turn undermining children's willingness to turn to parents for support.

## Theoretical Framework

### Social Learning Theory

Social learning theory was propounded by Albert Bandura between 1961 to 1963. The theory was developed to experiment with social behaviours. The researcher experimented with children observing a model punch. The experiments were collectively known as the Bobo doll experiments. Bandura developed the social learning theory in 1977 which later evolved into social cognitive theory in 1986. The theory was developed as an alternative to advance the early work of B. F. Skinner. The Social Learning Theory encourages boys to suggest that social behaviour is learned by observing and imitating the behaviour of others. People or learners can acquire new behaviour and knowledge by observing a model. The model can apply to the person who portrays an action or to the depicted action itself. An audience member may imitate or reproduce behaviour they find modelled on social media (WSW, 2010). Bandura (1963) is of the view that people take on new forms of behaviour when they watch, and reach them performed by others either through direct observation. According to Albert Bandura, the term modelling is used to indicate the application of more general social learning to the case where people acquire behaviour forms that they find modelling in the media. This explains why minor changes take place among individuals to accumulate in major changes in the society.

The theory encourages Port Harcourt boys to learn positive behaviours and attitudes by observing and imitating the various communication strategies of their parents for a better life and society. Social Learning Theory (SLT) is highly relevant to parents' communication strategy on boy-child upbringing and prevention of incidents of rape. Boys observe and imitate their parents' behaviours, attitudes, and language. Parents should model positive behaviours and communication styles. Also, parents' praise and reinforcement can encourage positive behaviours and attitudes in boys. Parents serve as role models, teaching boys about relationships, gender, and sexuality. It also emphasizes socialization processes, helping boys develop skills, values, and attitudes that promote healthy relationships. The theory helps boys understand and challenge traditional gender roles and stereotypes, promoting positive masculinity. It

encourages boys to develop problem-solving skills, helping them navigate complex situations and relationships. Parents' communication can enhance boys' self-efficacy, empowering them to make positive choices and develop healthy relationships. This helps prevent incidents of rape by raising boys who respect others, understand consent, and develop healthy relationships.

The study adopted a survey research design. A survey research design is used in the collection of information concerning the current opinion, behaviour, attitude or status of respondents and also describes what exists concerning the characteristics of a phenomenon. The population comprised all parents in Port Harcourt, Rivers State. The researchers could not ascertain the real population of parents in Port Harcourt. Therefore, the study adopted the 2006 National Population Census. Port Harcourt has two local government areas; Port Harcourt City and Obio/Akpor Local Government Areas. According to the 2006 National Population Census, Obio/Akpor is 665,000, Port Harcourt City 774,600 (<http://www.macrotrends.net>), this gives a total of 1,439,600. This population was projected in 2023 at the annual growth rate of 2.5% to arrive at 2,051,430. Therefore, the population of the study is 2,051,430. The choice of Port Harcourt was necessitated because of the high incidence of rape among young people. Therefore, a sample size of 400 respondents was drawn from the population using Taro Yamane sample size determination.

where;

$n$  = Population,

$N$  = total population,

$e$  = Expected error margin  $(0.05)^2$  = constant.

$N$  = 2,051,430,

$e$  =  $(0.05)^2$

$n$  = 399.8752079

=400 respondents (approximately).

The purposive sampling technique was used to get respondents for the study. Given this, therefore, the stages of sampling for this study were thus. A total of 400 parents living in the 37 wards of Obio/Akpor and Port Harcourt City Local Government Areas were purposively selected. A questionnaire was adopted as the instrument for data collected and the Weighted Mean Score on a 4 Likert scale was used to analyze and interpret the data. The implication of this is that Agree (SA)= 4, Agree (A)=3, Disagree (D)=2 and Strongly Disagree (SD)=1. To arrive at the decision of respondents on each of this questionnaire item, the decision rule adopted is taken as:  $4 + 3 + 2 + 1 = 10 / 4 = 2.5$ . This means that responses on any questionnaire item ranging from 2.5 above would be accepted while

anyone less than 2.5 is rejected.

**Data Presentation**

**Objective one:** Identify the communication strategies parents in Port Harcourt adopted for the upbringing of boy-children

**Table 1:** Communication strategies parents in Port Harcourt adopted for the upbringing of boy-children

Parents' communication strategy	\	\	D	SD	Total	WMS	Decision
Open communication is the strategy parents adopted for boychild in Port Harcourt.	113	96	89	80	998	2.6	Accepted
Consent and boundaries communication is the strategy parents adopted for boy-child in Port Harcourt.	109	131	99	39	1066	2.8	Accepted
Healthy masculinity communication is the strategy parents adopted for boy-child in Port Harcourt.	39	71	58	210	697	1.8	Rejected
Sexual education communication is the strategy parents adopted for boy-child in Port Harcourt.	111	141	79	40	1065	2.8	Accepted
Role modelling is the strategy parents adopted for boy-child in Port Harcourt.	46	91	68	710	736	2.0	Rejected

The data in the table indicated that sexual education, sexual, open, consent and boundaries communication are the strategies parents in Port Harcourt adopted for the upbringing of boy-children.

**Objective two:** Ascertain the extent communication strategies lead to the effective upbringing of boy-children in Port Harcourt

**Table 2:** Extent communication strategies lead to the effective upbringing of boy-children in Port Harcourt

Extent communication strategies lead to the effective upbringing of boy-children in Port Harcourt	\	\	D	SD	Total	WMS	Decision
The communication extent strategies lead to the effective upbringing of boy-children in Port Harcourt is very high.	121	109	101	47	1060	2.8	Accepted
The extent of communication strategies leading to the effective upbringing of boy-children in Port Harcourt is high.	99	131	98	50	1036	2.7	Accepted
The communication extent strategies lead to the effective upbringing of boy-children in Port Harcourt is low.	51	79	101	147	790	2.1	Rejected
The communication extent strategies lead to the effective upbringing of boy-children in Port Harcourt is very low.	63	73	41	210	763	2.0	Rejected

The data in the table shows that the extent of parents' communication strategies leading to the effective upbringing of boy-children in Port Harcourt is very high.

**Objective three:** Find out the causes increase in incidences of rape despite the parents' communication strategies in Port Harcourt.

**Table 3:** The causes increased incidences of rape despite the parents' communication strategies in Port Harcourt

The causes increase in incidences of rape despite the parents' communication strategies in Port Harcourt	\	\	D	SD	Total	WMS	Decision
Cultural, societal norms and gender stereotyping cause an increase in incidences of rape	99	101	119	59	996	2.6	Accepted
Weak laws in the country cause an increase in incidences of rape	123	107	96	52	1057	2.8	Accepted
Indecent dressing causes an increase in incidences of rape	104	113	79	82	995	2.6	Accepted
Lack of proper awareness causes an increase in incidences of rape	58	71	51	198	745	2.0	Rejected
Poverty and economic inequality cause an increase in incidences of rape	49	81	49	199	736	1.9	Rejected

The data in the table indicated that weak laws, indecent dressing, cultural norms, societal and stereotyping are among the major causes of the increase of incidences of rape despite the communication strategies of the parents in Port Harcourt.

**Discussion of Findings**

**Research Question 1: What are the communication strategies parents in Port Harcourt adopted for the upbringing of boy-children?**

The study investigates parents' communication strategy on boy-child upbringing and incidents of rape in Port Harcourt and found that sexual education, sexual, open, consent and boundaries communication are the strategies parents in Port Harcourt adopted for the upbringing of boy-children. The finding agrees with the findings of other scholars. For instance, Arogbo (2022), identified authoritarian; authoritative is the balanced, nurturing, and communicative style; permissive as lenient, and indulgent; non-directive, and attachment parenting as some of the communication parents adopt for boy-children upbringing. Parental responsibility is a moral obligation that parents have to provide for the well-being, development, and protection of their children

until they become adults (Fatoku, 2019). Benson (2020) found that the pattern of paedophile behaviour pattern is not far from the truth. The extent to which it influences delinquency behaviour is based on individual reactions to war Pedophile history and can be generalized. Child Rights Act is an important legislation even though some states are yet to enact their child's rights law which would enable them to prosecute paedophiles in their state (Akpoghome, 2016).

### **Research question 2: To what extent do the communication strategies of Port Harcourt parents lead to the effective upbringing of boy-children?**

The study also revealed that the extent the of parents' communication strategies lead to the effective upbringing of boy-children in Port Harcourt is very high. The finding is similar to the finding of Diriwari (2023) and others. Diriwari (2023) found that parental responsibility in Nigeria is highly valued and considered a fundamental aspect of parenting. It is believed that parents have a moral obligation to provide for, protect and guide their children toward becoming responsible adults. It includes that children are well-nourished, educated, and have access to healthcare (Diriwari, 2023). The media play a major role in promoting national image, respect for human life and dignity and corporate values (Adetunji, et al. 2020). Nwabueze (2016) found that the gap in parenting and the exposure of children to the internet are critical factors in child social abuse on the internet. The *Daily Sun* newspaper report rape cases more than other newspapers in Nigeria but the rape cases are reported buried in inside pages of the newspapers thereby giving them little or no prominence (Oduah, 2014). The finding is in agreement with The Social Learning Theory used in the study. The theory encourages boys to suggest that social behaviour is learned by observing and imitating the behaviour of others. People or learners can acquire new behaviour and knowledge by merely observing a model. The model can apply either to the person who portrays an action or to the depicted action itself. Member of an audience may imitate or reproduce behaviour they find modelled on social media (WSW, 2010).

### **Research question 3: What are the causes of the increase in incidences of rape despite the parents' communication strategies in Port Harcourt?**

It was equally revealed that weak laws, indecent dressing, cultural norms, societal and stereotyping are among the major causes of the increase of incidences of rape despite the communication strategies of the parents in Port Harcourt. The causes of rape were identified as early childhood environmental factors,

antisocial personality traits, mental illness, sexual gratification, wickedness, anger and the effect of drugs among others (Omojola, 2020). Victims of rape are cajoled and deceitfully taken advantage of; it is forceful, violent rape that leaves the victim physically and psychologically bruised and scarred (Aruna, 2018). Akpoghome (2016) noted that the judiciary has not been of much help in this regard as the punishment for offences is so watered down against the provisions of the statutes. The study of Livingstone and Bryan (2018) revealed that children in high, middle and even low-income countries gain access to the internet via a range of digital devices and services - most often via a mobile phone - parents are feeling challenged in their competence, role and authority. In middle and low-income countries, the evidence suggests that restrictive mediation is generally favoured by parents, although this brings costs in terms of children's opportunities online, especially for girls. In all countries, the rapid pace of technological innovation undermines parental competence, which is in turn undermining children's willingness to turn to parents for support (Livingstone & Bryan, 2018).

### **Conclusion**

The study investigated parents' communication strategies on boy-child upbringing and incidents of rape in Port Harcourt and confirmed that the major communication strategies Port Harcourt parents adopted for guiding and preventing their boy-children from engaging in social vices like raping are sexual education sexual, open, consent and boundaries communication. Other than these communication strategies of Port Harcourt parents, weak laws, indecent dressing, cultural norms, societal and stereotyping have continued to increase incidences of rape cases in Port Harcourt.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings, the study recommended thus:

1. Port Harcourt's parents should adopt healthy masculinity communication and role modelling since they help in building boy children against rape.
2. The Port Harcourt parents should continue to increase the communication strategies for effective child upbringing.
3. Our cultural values, laws against rape and indecent dressing should be strengthened to arrest and prosecute the offenders.

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