



Criminological Analysis of the Influence of the Family Environment on Adolescent Smoking

M. BAMBA Ladji^{1*}, BINI Koffi Mouroufié Paul²

¹Lecturer of universities /CAMES, UFR CRIMINOLOGIE/laboratory for the prevention of delinquency and violence, Ivory Coast

²Doctoral student, Félix Houphouët Boigny University, UFR criminology, LaReSS (Ivory Coast)

***Corresponding Author:** M. BAMBA Ladji, UFR CRIMINOLOGIE/laboratory for the prevention of delinquency and violence, Ivory Coast

Abstract: Smoking is gaining more and more ground in Ivory Coast to the point of affecting adolescents (Kouassi et al, 2015). If adolescence is a stage marked by self-affirmation, the fact remains that it involves the reproduction of certain behaviors perceived as models. In this sense, parents considered as the child's primary model may be the basis of adolescent smoking. This study intends to shed light on this subject. Its objective is to analyze the influence of the family environment on tobacco consumption among young people under the age of 18. For data collection, we relied on documentary research, observation and semi-structured interviews. The data collected fits into the imitation theory of Gabriel Tarde (1898) and the social learning theory of Albert Bandura (1977). They were the subject of a qualitative analysis. In terms of results, we note that the decision to consume tobacco among young people finds its source in the imitation of the family environment which would be perceived as a model for them. This practice is reinforced by parenting style. Hypothetically, we affirm that practices and attitudes within the family determine the child's smoking.

Keywords: Family, Parental practices, Family imitation, Social learning

1. INTRODUCTION

In Ivory Coast, smoking prevalence is estimated at 14.5%. Furthermore, 19% of young people aged between 13 and 15 are already smokers. This situation is the cause of more than 5,000 annual deaths attributable to tobacco (Génération Sans Tabac, 2020). In fact, this is an alarming situation which risks igniting with the spread of shisha correlated with the lack of awareness of its dangers by young consumers. According to the Generation without Tobacco report, a session of hookah consumption would be the equivalent of 20 to 30 cigarettes; This is a detail that industries are careful not to highlight to attract the maximum number of consumers while highlighting the aromas. According to Meledje (2022), around 40% of residents for detoxification at the Blue Cross of Adjamé-Williamsville are young people.

Furthermore, the author points out that previous statistics reveal that one in three patients is an adolescent. In fact, most of the adolescents in this center would have started with cigarettes and shisha, which would be 20 times more dangerous than cigarettes. Furthermore, the report from the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (USA, 2014) shows that 87% of adult smokers started smoking in adolescence, that is to say before the age of 18. Thus, this daily tobacco consumption is associated with a greater risk of developing, in adulthood, not only nicotine dependence, but also smoking complications (Cabé, 2019). Tobacco use is a devastating behavior that gradually erodes the health of many adolescents (Wolfe, 2007). Tubiana (1999) adds that almost all early mortality—before age 65—particularly among men, is linked to tobacco, alcohol, drugs and dietary imbalance. Given that these phenomenon are important factors in cancers, cardiovascular diseases, etc. worldwide, this would make tobacco—the subject of our study—not only a public health problem but also a social issue.

It is in response to this scourge that various means have been deployed, including increasing the price of cigarettes. The logic would be that the higher the price of the package, the less inclined consumers will be to consume high quantities. This measure gave rise to cigarette smuggling in Côte d'Ivoire

(Bamba, 2013). In other words, plus the price of a pack of cigarettes is experiencing an increase, further behind, consumers are putting measures in place to try to circumvent the system and obtain cigarettes at a lower cost. At the same time, the Ivorian government is taking advantage of World No Tobacco Day on May 31 to accentuate and multiply mass preventive campaigns primarily targeting young people.

In fact, since the ratification by Côte d'Ivoire on January 28, 2010 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), the fight against tobacco has become an obligation because according to the said convention, each party has the obligation to ensure universal protection against the effects of tobacco by adopting effective laws against exposure to tobacco smoke. Thus, Decree No. 2012-980 of October 10, 2012, banning smoking in public places and public transport was issued; a ban accompanied by fines ranging from 15,000 FCFA to 100,000 FCFA for smokers and from 150,000 FCFA to 250,000 FCFA for those in charge of public places. Subsequently, there is also law no. 2019-676 of July 23, 2019 relating to tobacco control.

And in application of this law, the Council of Ministers on Wednesday January 26, 2022 adopted two decrees relating to the fight against smoking. Despite these measures, tobacco consumption in Côte d'Ivoire has not really seen a decrease; worse, it would be a fad among youth groups. This leads us to go back to the factors of tobacco consumption not only among adults but also among adolescents. More particularly among young adolescents, the main factors favoring smoking according to Kouéta et al. (2009) are:

Economic conditions: coming from an economically favorable environment with daily pocket money and a means of travel;

Study difficulties: having repeated at least one class;

The environment of smokers: learning and imitation of those around them.

The influence of the media: the influence of advertising.

According to the Swiss Association for Tobacco Prevention (2016), individual factors are not the only ones to influence tobacco consumption behavior among young people. He identifies three other factors. These are also three components that influence each other, namely "person", "substance" and "context".

In this study, we are interested in the smoker's environment while restricting the study around the family where certain parents may smoke despite doing so in public places following Decree No. 2012-980. Adolescent smoking has been the subject of various social science studies. Douchy et al. (2007) maintain that family smoking has a significant influence on the early onset of smoking among young people. In fact, it is easy to understand that parents matter enormously as a model for the child and for the future behavior of their offspring. Consequently, a young person is more at risk of smoking if one of their parents smokes, and this risk is multiplied by 3 if both parents smoke. Thus, the frequency of smoking among middle school students is more than a quarter and increases with school level.

The most significant share is represented by the male gender (Abdelkafi Koubaa et al., 2009). For these authors, many young smokers have had their parents' permission to smoke. Furthermore, they highlight that 74%, or around $\frac{3}{4}$ of college students who smoke, have at least one smoker in their entourage. In the same logic, the results of the study by Ouédraogo et al. (2000), on smoking among young people in Burkina Faso, more precisely in the city of Ouagadougou, indicated that 36.7% of young people surveyed in the city were consuming tobacco at the time of the survey. Going further, Courtois et al. (2007) showed that adolescents' tobacco consumption is linked to that of their parents, especially that of the father and this, more particularly for boys. In addition, if the age of starting daily consumption is linked to the young age of mothers while the dependence of daughters seems linked to the young age of their father.

More generally, adolescents' dependence on tobacco consumption is influenced by the consumption of both parents. In addition, the authors maintain that the use of other psychoactive substances such as alcoholic beverages, psychotropic medications, hashish and other illicit drugs is due to parental tobacco dependence. At the same time, the authors also showed that the influence of tobacco consumption by a brother or sister is almost equal to that of the parents. In fact, the risk of

consumption, both correlated with the degree of availability of substances such as cigarettes within the family, and with the consumption behavior of siblings, exposes the adolescent to the adoption of smoking behaviors (Courtois et al., 2007).

Douchy et al. (2007), along the same lines, quantified the risk or at least the impact of siblings' smoking on adolescents. For them, the smoking of brothers and sisters makes the risk of smoking 3 times higher. Courtois et al. (2007) also added that the authoritarian parenting style would be associated with less frequent tobacco consumption and less serious dependence of their children, while the permissive style would be associated with more frequent consumption and greater dependence. In addition, the age of smoking initiation is linked to a neglectful maternal style while an authoritarian paternal style is associated with paternal tobacco dependence in boys and maternal dependence in girls. However, Baldé and Diallo (2021) highlighted that the authoritarian family is the one that produces the most children who use tobacco. Then comes, paradoxically, democratic families.

Then the permissive families and finally the disengaged ones. The family has a big role to play in detoxification because it would be both a factor in precipitating drugs and in protecting children, especially at a young age (Meledje, 2022), because it is considered the first link in socialization of the child. This shows the extent to which parents could be involved in adolescent smoking through permissive parental norms or attitudes or even imitation of practices such as smoking by parents. This work attempts to shed light on the influence of the family environment on the tobacco consumption of young people under 18 years old. Unlike the studies mentioned above, it addresses both the variables: "parental tobacco consumption", "siblings' tobacco consumption" and "parental educational style".

However, the study by Courtois et al. (2007) which addresses almost similar variables, took place in an environment other than ours. Our environment has culturally linked parenting styles, which should also help channel "bad imitations". The study by Kouadio et al. (2023) focused on the relationship between parental behavior and tobacco consumption among Cocody students. Carried out in local high schools, it essentially took into account parental communication as a factor in student smoking. In other words, it was only interested in young people in school and did not include the imitation of actors in the family environment.

The objective of this study is to determine how family environment could predict smoking among adolescents under the influence of parental educational style. Based on the social imitation postulate of Gabriel Tarde (1898) and the social learning theory of Albert Bandura (1977), our research hypothesis underlies that the family environment determines adolescent smoking. This study has social, scientific and personal interests. First of all, it will provide new knowledge on the issue of adolescent smoking and the family environment. Then, it will provide information not only to decision-makers but also to families with a view to broadening their field of intervention in the fight against youth smoking and the protection of public health. Finally, this work seeks to help parents understand the contours of smoking in order to participate effectively in the fight.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1. Site and Participants

We conducted a survey on 21 adolescents, only boys, in and out of school and consumers with the aim of measuring the influence that the family unit had on them. This influence was the basis of their consumption of cigarettes. These were taken in the communes of Cocody and Abobo due to the diversification of the socio-professional categories they contain. The choice of boys is explained by the smoking prevalence of women at 0.9 while men are at 16.2 (ENSESI, 2016). We used the non-probability snowball sampling technique based on theoretical saturation. The selection criterion for respondents is based on the fact that the respondent is indeed an adolescent who consumes tobacco in the form of cigarettes, and has another user in his family, either a member of siblings or one of the parents.

2.2. Data Collection and Processing Techniques

To collect the data we used documentary study, direct observation and semi-structured interviews. First, we analyzed the subject to delimit the contours of this research. This allowed us to clarify our research question as well as the objective of this study. This practice was accentuated around the

questions to highlight the object of this study. Thus, we better oriented our research to collect information relevant to our subject, namely the types of documents and resources likely to provide us with the information we need. Finally, we carried out verification of the sources, which remains an important step insofar as it allows us to verify not only the veracity, but also the relevance of the information collected. To achieve this, we resorted to a certain number of questions revolving around the reliability of the author, his objectivity in his article or book, the reliability and veracity of these remarks. This is how we assessed the relevance of the information useful to our research to respond to the problem raised with a view to achieving the set objective.

Once in the field, we came face to face with the reality of young people's consumption patterns. Consequently, observing the affects expressed by young people allowed us to better understand their experiences. Finally, the semi-structured interview focused on the following aspects: parental and sibling tobacco consumption, reasons for tobacco consumption, parental educational style. Regarding the analysis of the data, we carried out a descriptive analysis of the data based on the qualitative method to highlight the significant aspects of tobacco consumption among young adolescents influenced by the family environment. The outcome of this research methodology is transcribed in the following lines.

3. RESULTS

The results of this research highlight three significant aspects of the influence of the family environment on smoking in young people under the age of 18.

3.1. From Imitating Parents to Smoking Addiction

The family constitutes an external factor in children's smoking. Among family factors, parental smoking behavior plays an important role in the initiation, consumption and persistence of smoking among teenagers. Parental smoking is one of the main factors linked to the start of tobacco consumption among young people. In fact, when family members smoke, young people have the impression that everyone around them uses tobacco, that it is the norm. As a result, children whose parents are smokers are more likely to consume tobacco more than others. This behavior relating to imitation was highlighted by this study. Many teenagers maintain that when they saw their parents smoking cigarettes, they did not immediately understand why. They spend time watching and getting used to the smell of smoke, which leads them to internalize the idea that smoking is not a bad thing in itself. Interviewee C states: "My father is the one who smokes, my mother, I have never seen him smoking a cigarette... He has the habit of smoking at home even in the presence of everyone [the family]... I have started smoking when my friends suggested I try. When I "tasted", I understood that it's not as bad".

This perception of cigarette consumption leads adolescents to legitimize the practice as tolerable even when someone outside the family suggests consumption. Furthermore, for some the influence is stronger so that they find a source of inspiration in what their father does. In this sense, we highlighted the words of our interviewee G: "My dad is a fighter; when he smokes his cigarette, you feel that he has become stronger, and he manages everything chap chap. It inspires me, that's how I decided to try. The first time it didn't really work, but then I started to like it..." of his offspring. This is why the image he conveys to the boy tends to predict the future behavior of his foal.

The most significant share being represented by the male sex, it should be noted that most of the time the father does not know that his child uses tobacco just like him. Young people are often careful not to use tobacco in sight of their parents. However, some respondents affirmed that the mother is aware of their consumption. Certainly, it encourages them to stop smoking, but they find more important reasons to continue this practice. The most mentioned reason is that it allows you to have a peaceful mind to face, according to them, the daily difficulties of life. In addition, if the age of the start of consumption among respondents whose parent inspires is between 14 and 17 years old.

All in all, there is a significant link between the father's smoking and that of his young son. As siblings are part of the family environment, don't they also have an influence on the young person?

3.2. On the Influence of Siblings

This study shows that tobacco consumption by a brother or sister leads the adolescent to a form of learning initiated by said siblings. Siblings are those with whom we share secrets and daily difficulties

which are, very often, unknown to parents. It is in daily actions with those around us that adolescents learn to define a course of action. The interview with our respondent L allowed us to note the influence of siblings on the initiation of smoking.

“During an outing with my brother and his friends, I saw them smoking shisha and suggested I try it. That’s kind of how I started smoking shisha. Later I tried with cigarettes. ». Another subscribes to this logic in these terms (interviewee J). “On several occasions when the parents were not at home, my brother would smoke. I watched him do it and asked him why he smokes. He told me it's good for the soul. Another day I decided to smoke out of curiosity. » Whether the reason for smoking is out of curiosity or not, those around them play a crucial role in arousing this curiosity in the adolescent. Respondent B states:

“My brother showed me the techniques for drawing [inhaling smoke] and exhaling cigarette smoke.” Although the parental model strongly influences the child's smoking with greater paternal proportions, siblings mark an advance in the adolescent's influence because it is not excluded that the child's brothers and sisters are perceived as a model of being around each other more frequently than with their parents. Isn't the influence exerted by siblings a corollary of the parental educational style put in place?

3.3. From Parenting Style to Youth Smoking

The study reveals to us that the parental educational style is led by the father figure who dictates to the children the behaviors to follow as well as the prohibited behaviors. In a comparative approach between respondents from Abobo and Cocody, the authoritarian style is the one at the root of smoking among respondents from the commune of Abobo. Some children feel that parents are too harsh on them, which prevents them from having a simple conversation. Failing to listen to them, they turn to peers from whom they learn to live, adapt to reality and face life's difficulties. It is the lack of parental affection that they try to make up for among their peers – siblings included – who sometimes suggest practices that are not very Catholic.

However, the careless style in Cocody is the one that leads adolescents into this practice. Some respondents noted a significant parental absence (father and/or mother) so that they were not very attentive to the needs of the child. The average frequency of this style among respondents in this category can be nuanced with the permissive style, the frequencies of which are almost equal. These parents are less in the prohibition even sometimes of the pathological. Interviewee D said:

... <<my father already does it smoking a cigarette, and he has never forbidden me (...) he knows that I smoke>>

Teenagers from authoritarian, permissive and neglectful families would have a relatively high smoking dependence, considering the number of cigarettes smoked per day. This study also highlights a small proportion of young people with smoking behavior from vigilant families. However, dependence is almost the same for adolescents regardless of the type of family the child comes from.

4. DISCUSSION

The results of this study highlighted that parental smoking, siblings' smoking and parental educational style lead to tobacco consumption in young people under 18 years of age. This study showed that adolescent smoking occurs through imitation of the family environment made up of parents (father and mother) and siblings (brother and sister). This study is in line with that of (Courtois et al., 2007) for whom the tobacco consumption of adolescents is linked to that of their parents, especially that of the father, and this, more particularly for boys. The risk of consumption, according to these authors, is a corollary of the degree of availability of cigarettes within the family. This practice is explained by the identification of children with their parents, more mainly with the father. The reasons for consumption may not change from one child to another when it comes to curiosity, the search for pleasure, the effect of fashion, the desire to overcome shyness, but parental consumption contributes to legitimizing the use of this substance.

The most cited reasons for tobacco consumption among young people are that it is soothing and provides a certain pleasure. In addition, parental smoking also increases the child's risk of subsequent consumption when access to tobacco will not only be legitimized for him (from 18 years old), but also more easily accessible. This is how the proportion of smokers and the precocity of smoking increase

with parental smoking habits. In our African societies, the father figure is mostly dominant so as to influence the child's behavior the most. Consequently, the father's smoking is the one that most leads the young adolescent to tobacco consumption. Likewise, siblings influence the young adolescent in such a way as to encourage smoking. This study follows the same logic as that of Le Guillou et al. (2018) who go further by comparing the two forms of influence within the family environment. The influence marked by siblings is quite significant compared to parental probabilities. The consumption behavior of siblings exposes the adolescent to the adoption of smoking behaviors (Courtois et al., 2007), which are sometimes identical. In fact, siblings impact the child in the sense that he or she spends many of his days within them.

He plays more frequently with his brothers, eats, sometimes shares the same room, the same dish, etc. Siblings are those who know better than parents the aspirations, attitudes and behaviors of the young person. Scelles (2004) rightly writes: "Siblings are the privileged place where the child, with adversaries his size, learns to manage his aggressive affects, his ability to choose who to love, who to hate, to bear not being loved or less loved, without collapsing in any difficult movements..." Siblings are therefore one of the child's favorite places to learn. While knowing that the child learns by imitation, the probability that he will copy the behaviors of siblings, more specifically the older ones, is high. It is also a place where the child identifies with others to develop and even form a personality. However, parental educational style has an influence on adolescent behavior. Unlike Courtois et al. (2007) which suggest that the authoritarian style reduces smoking consumption and even dependence among young adolescents, our results show that this style contributes significantly to smoking behavior among young people.

Authoritarian parenting style is most associated with adolescent smoking. This is explained by the fact that the authoritarian parent, who does not listen well, only imposes rules on the child without the latter having a say. In the authoritarian style, the best interests of the child advocated for its protection is almost not visible. This is why the child finds a way to assert himself far from "parental dictatorship", even a reason to find peace in tobacco consumption. On the other hand, the results of Jackson and Henriksen (1998) highlighted that when the father and mother are recognized as being "vigilant" or even called "democratic"—that is to say, exercising a certain requirement, but with great care for the child—the adolescent smokes significantly less than the others and is also less dependent on tobacco. This style is naturally associated with all kinds of good behavior that can emanate from parental education.

He is recognized as the one who not only listens to the child, but also the one who leads to respect for standards. Adolescents from smoking families are three times more likely to follow in their parents' footsteps and even at an early age (Québec sans tabac, 2016). In addition, the minimum age of initiation of smoking is predicted to be between 8 and 15 years among young adolescents and imitation is one of the major causes of this initiation of smoking (Baldé and Diallo, 2021). However, our study showed that the age of initiation in our study environment is between 14 and 17 years old. If the age of smoking initiation is linked to a neglectful maternal style (Courtois et al., 2007), our study shows that when the child is strongly influenced by the authoritarian father figure, the mother, although "vigilant", cannot prevent the child from finding comfort outside the family. The age of initiation in authoritarian families would not be due to a neglectful mother, but due to the paternal model conveyed and the peers frequented following the educational style initiated by the father. Thus, Gabriel Tarde's theory of imitation (1898) made it possible to account for young adolescents' smoking through imitation of the family environment made up of parents and siblings. As for the social learning theory of Albert Bandura (1997), it presented family learning about tobacco consumption among young people. The results of this study validated the theories cited. Therefore, our research hypothesis titled "family environment determines adolescent smoking" is verified.

5. CONCLUSION

At the end of the study, it is important to remember that tobacco consumption among young adolescents in Abobo and Cocody is influenced by the family environment. This influence is achieved through a positive perception of tobacco consumption promoting social learning and imitation. If the parents, naturally recognized as the child's role models, influence him, siblings also exert an almost identical influence. Furthermore, the parental educational style also participates, more particularly the authoritarian, neglectful and permissive styles. All in all, the family environment plays a role in

adolescent smoking initiation in Abidjan. To combat smoking among adolescents, two essential aspects must be taken into consideration: preventing young people from starting to smoke and encouraging them to quit. At first glance, parents must be aware of the model they represent for the child in order to avoid certain behaviors likely to be copied by young people. It is therefore useful to do violence on yourself so as not to smoke in the presence of children. Then, we must raise awareness among young people, for example during themed family talks, to make them aware of the harmful effects of tobacco and any other substance harmful to the body. Finally, when prevention has not been successful, we must support the child in detoxification instead of blaming them, helping them to reinvigorate their self-confidence. Acting early before starting to smoke before the age of 15 is the key to prevention (Le Guillou et al., 2018).

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AUTHORS' BIOGRAPHY



Mr. Bamba Ladji, has been a university lecturer/CAMES at FELIX HOUPHOUËT BOIGNY University, since September 2021, his email is ladjib@gmail.com. He is precisely at the UFR of Criminology, previously he was a specialist educator at the Ivorian school for the deaf, author of 3 works dealing with issues linked to smuggling. He is a current member of the International Association of French-speaking Sociologists (AISLF), also a member of the scientific committee of the International Association of French-speaking Crimiologists (AICLF) and a member of the Laboratory for Studies and Prevention of Delinquency and Violence (LEPDV) of the criminology department of Abidjan.



Mr. BINI Koffi Mouroufié Paul, is a doctoral student at the Doctoral School of Sciences, Communication, Arts, Letters and Languages (ED-SCALL) of Félix Houphouët Boigny University. Coming from the UFR Criminology, his research focuses on the security of people and property, particularly among private security companies. He is also the author of several scientific articles dealing with crime, insecurity, security and victimization, particularly of children.

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