

ROLES OF PARENTAL CARE AND RELIGIOUS DEVOTION ON ANXIETY EXPERIENCE AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS HOMOSEXUALITY OF SEMINARIANS

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Abstract

The study examined the influence of parental care and religious devotion on the anxiety experiences and attitudes towards homosexuality of seminarians in Anambra State. Participants comprised two hundred and seven (207) seminarians in Anambra State selected using a simple random sampling technique. The ages of the participants ranged from 14 to 18 years, with a mean age of 14.86 and a standard deviation of .99. Four instruments were used in this study: The Parental Care Inventory by Parker, Tupling, and Brown (1979), the Religious Affiliation Scale (RAS) by Omoluabi (1995), the Symptom Distress Checklist 90 (SCL-90) developed by Derogatis, Lipman, and Covi (1977), and the Homosexuality Attitude Scale (HAS) developed by Kite and Deaux (1986). A correlational survey design was employed in this study, which made use of the Pearson moment correctional coefficient as the statistical tool. The result showed that parental care has a significant negative relationship with the anxiety experiences of seminarians ($r = -.18, p.010$), parental care has no significant

relationship with the attitude towards homosexuality of seminarians ($r = .11$, $p > .104$), religious devotion has no significant relationship with the anxiety experiences of seminarians ($r = .11$, $p > .101$), and religious devotion has a significant positive relationship with the attitude towards homosexuality of seminarians ($r = .31$, $p .000$). Following these results, the implications of the study were examined, the limitations of the study were highlighted, recommendations were made, and suggestions for further studies were proposed.

Key words: parental care, religious devotion, anxiety, homosexuality, seminarians

Introduction

Anxiety has been associated with parental care and attitudes towards homosexuality among adolescents. Religious practises and beliefs often play a role in understanding oneself and the world, especially when given meaning and value for the relationship between oneself, others, the surrounding environment, and existence (Canda, 1989). In essence, religious devotion might play a significant role in anxiety and attitudes towards homosexuality. This study tends to examine the role of parental care and religious devotion on anxiety and attitudes towards homosexuality, with particular reference to seminarians in Anambra State.

Seminarians face significant stress when they enter colleges because of developmental issues, societal pressures on them to perform well, and a host of psychological issues like identity formation and confusion, career and relationship issues, being alone in a new setting, adjustments to family and societal dynamics, and exposure to fresh ideas and temptations.

Time constraints, failure dread, the effort to find one's identity, the need for academic brilliance, and difficult competence are a few of the major issues that are unique to seminarians. Emotional issues include feeling unworthy of existence, being unable to think clearly, worrying excessively, and feeling inferior to others. For seminarians, adjusting to college life and beginning their first year at a seminary can be challenging. Because of the challenges faced when adapting to these life changes, seminarians are at greater risk of developing mental health issues, specifically excessive anxiety, depression, and hence suicidal ideation. The incidence of depressive symptoms has been increasing among college students.

Anxiety has been shown to interfere with people's overall wellbeing. Anxiety consists of often irrational fears or worries as well as physical symptoms (Muris, Mayer, Freher, Duncan, & van den Hout, 2020; Onyemaechi, et.al, 2022; Thompson, Robertson, Curtis, & Frick, 2023). Anxiety is one of the most prevalent mental health concerns for adults and adolescents (Essau, 2023; Moksnes & Espnes, 2022). Anxiety can be extremely impactful for adolescents, given the importance of wellbeing during times of transition (Costello, Copeland, & Angold, 2021). Sources of anxiety can vary greatly. Seminarians often experience anxiety when they have other psychological disorders (Essau, 2023) or if they are raised with anxious parents (Bogels, van Dongen, & Muris, 2023; Pereira, Barros, Mendonca, & Muris, 2024).

School consumes a major part of seminarians' lives and a significant portion of their time. The school setting is highly connected to seminarians and their experience with anxiety (Ingul, Klockner, Silverman, & Nordahl, 2022). Troublesome anxiety can be exacerbated

during the high school years as seminarians face extreme transitions and social and academic pressures (Henry, Jamner, & Whalen, 2022; Moksnes & Espnes, 2021). The school setting is not all bad. Teachers, counsellors, administrators, and peers are all in a unique position to bring awareness to anxiety and teach effective ways to cope with or manage it (Thompson & Trice-Black, 2022). Often, the school setting can be a first line of defence for students dealing with mental health concerns. Unfortunately, more seminarians are experiencing problematic anxiety than are recognised or treated within the school setting (Miller, Gold, Laye-Gindhu, Martinez, Yu, & Waechtler, 2021).

Homosexuality is romantic or sexual intercourse or behaviour between members of the same sex. As a sexual orientation, homosexuality refers to an enduring pattern of emotional, romantic, or sexual attraction primarily or exclusively to people of the same sex. It also refers to a person's sense of identity based on those attractions, related behaviours, and membership in a community of others who share those attractions (Beth 1992). Along with bisexuality and heterosexuality, homosexuality is one of the three main categories of sexual orientation. There is no consensus among scientists about why a person develops a particular sexual orientation.

Negative attitudes towards homosexuality are called homophobia. Homophobia encompasses a range of negative attitudes and feelings towards homosexuality or people who are identified or perceived as being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT). It may take the form of hostility, disdain, prejudice, dislike, or hatred, be motivated by irrational fear, and occasionally be linked to religious convictions. Homophobia is observable in critical and hostile behaviour such as discrimination and violence based on sexual orientations that are

non-heterosexual (Kite & Whitley, 1996). Recognised types of homophobia include institutionalised homophobia, religious homophobia, state-sponsored homophobia, and internalised homophobia, experienced by people who have same-sex attractions, regardless of how they identify.

The views on homosexuality are nuanced and varied. (Davies, 2024). Kite and Whitley (1996) classified attitudes towards homosexuality into three subcomponents: attitudes towards homosexual persons, attitudes towards homosexual behaviour, and attitudes towards homosexual persons' civil rights. Attitudes towards homosexual persons were conceptualised by Kite and Whitley (1996) as "homosexuality as a threat to the respondent, to people close to the respondent, and to strangers, and the management of homosexuality by means of social restrictions". They conceptualised attitudes towards homosexual behaviour as "the moral reprehensibility of homosexuality as a deviant sexual act and lifestyle". Finally, they conceptualised attitudes towards homosexual persons' civil rights as "issues such as free speech, parental rights, and other legal and constitutional issues".

Recently, in Nigeria, homosexuality is beginning to spread and be open, and even though there has been a law against the act, it is still in existence in the country and in various institutions of higher learning, including the seminary schools. Societal attitudes towards same-sex relationships have varied over time and place, from expecting all males to engage in same-sex relationships to casual integration through acceptance to seeing the practise as a minor sin, repressing it through law enforcement and judicial mechanisms, and proscribing it under the penalty of death. In the seminary, the law forbids one to engage in such acts of homosexuality, and anyone caught in the act is rusticated from the school immediately. Some

of the seminarians know those that engage in the act but failed to report such an act, while others, whom they termed 'overzealous seminarians," will not take a second to report to the authority anyone that engages in or is perceived to engage in such an act of homosexuality. The study seeks to determine if parental care and religious devotion have a role to play in the attitude towards homosexuality among seminarians.

Parental care has been seen as a source of happiness, relaxation, and confidence. Naturally, parents provide a nurturing and constructive environment, which is basically known as "care," that promotes growth and development in a child or children. Nowadays, some parents seem not to provide the necessary care, love, and protection needed by their children due to low socio-economic status, low education (ignorance), and other factors. Children (adolescents inclusive) who come from families where love and care are sufficient tend to be relaxed and happy, which in turn leads to more prosocial behaviour. Meanwhile, children who lack parental care most of the time may feel neglected and abandoned by their parents, which may lead to frustration in them.

In his research, Baumrid (1991) defined three types of parental care, including authoritative parenting, in which parents have clear expectations and penalties and are loving with their young ones. The authoritative parents allow for flexibility and collaborative problem-solving with the children when dealing with behavioural challenges. This is the most effective form of parenting: authoritarian, in which parents have clear expectations and consequences but show little or no affection towards their children. This is a less effective form of parenting and is permissive, in which parents show lots of affection towards their children but provide little or no discipline. This is a less effective form of parenting. Schunk (1985), in his study,

found that individuals who have proper parental care and who have been verbally encouraged in their homes to set their own goals are happier and less frustrated than individuals who lack parental care.

In fact, McMillan (2020) observed that parental pressure had a favourable and considerable impact on students' character performance. This becomes particularly obvious when the exactness of the parental pressure is brought to bear on the children's behaviours. Ryan (2023) reported that students' behaviours and attitudes are positively related to having parents who enforce rules at home. The obviousness of the research findings reported in this study is that family involvement improves facets of children's education and character such as daily attendance (Cotton & Wikelund, 2021; Simon, 2020), behaviour (Cotton & Wikelund, 2021; Simon, 2020), and motivation (Cotton & Wikelund, 2021; Brooks, Bruno, & Burns, 1997). These perhaps have demonstrated that, for many students, a likely obstacle to excellent academic success and morally upright behaviour could be parental involvement in their children's education. Belief in and respect for God or another god, as well as engaging in religious practises such as frequent attendance at services and worship, as well as other social interactions with one's religious group, are all examples of religious devotion. According to research (Koenig, Smiley, & Gonzalez, 1999; Santrock, 2022), seminarians who are more religious report feeling happier and are better able to handle stressful situations.

Religious practises and beliefs often play a role in understanding oneself and the world, especially when given meaning and value for the relationship between oneself, others, the surrounding environment, and existence (Canda, 1989). Religious beliefs become more abstract, more principled, and more independent during the adolescent years. Specifically,

adolescents' beliefs become rituals, practises, and strict observances of religion's customs (Steinberg, 2022). The implications of religion and spirituality for individual well-being had captured the attention of many foundational social theorists (Marx, 1844; Freud, 1928; James, 1912; Weber, 1958; & Maslow, 1954).

However, there has been renewed interest in systemically exploring the interface between religious devotion and psychological well-being. Drawing on studies from this body of research, several recent review articles have concluded that a modest, salutary association exists between various aspects of religious devotion and psychological well-being (Hackney & Sanders, 2023; Koenig & Larson, 2021; Sawatzky, Ratner, & Chiu, 2023).

Statement of the Problem

It has been observed that seminarians in various formative institutions face significant stress when they enter colleges. This could be as a result of societal pressures on them to perform well (becoming priests in the future) and a host of psychological issues like identity formation and confusion, career and relationship issues, being on one's own in a new environment, changes in family relations, and changes in social life exposure to fresh perspectives, ideas, and temptations from coworkers. Time constraints, failure dread, identity struggles, pressure to perform at the highest level academically, and difficult competence are a few of the major issues that are unique to seminarians. Emotional issues include feeling inferior to others, having trouble thinking clearly, worrying excessively, and believing that life is not worth living. Because of the difficulties people have adjusting to these changes in their lives, such as anxiety attacks, sadness, and resulting suicidal thoughts,

Moreover, the attitude of seminarians regarding homosexuality and those involved in it is an issue that needs to be investigated. While homosexuals face condemnation in some societies, they are accepted in others. In Nigeria, it is highly frowned upon because it is believed to have a negative effect on general behaviour and is strongly against the moral principles of Nigerian society. It is alleged that most people in Nigeria have a negative attitude towards homosexuality. Also, because there is little or no literature on the attitudes of seminarians towards homosexuality, it is of the utmost importance to examine how seminarians relate to homosexuals. Based on the above-stated problem, the study seeks to examine the role of parental care and religious devotion in anxiety experiences and attitudes towards homosexuality among seminarians in Anambra State.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to examine the role of parental care and religious devotion on anxiety experiences and attitude towards homosexuality among seminarians in Anambra state, so the study is guided with the following objectives.

1. To examine the relationship between parental care and anxiety experiences among seminarians in Anambra state.
2. To examine the relationship between parental care and attitude towards homosexuality among seminarians in Anambra state.
3. To examine the relationship between religious devotion and anxiety experiences among seminarians in Anambra state.
4. To examine the relationship between religious devotion and attitude towards homosexuality among seminarians in Anambra state.

Research Questions

The following the research questions guided the study.

1. What is the relationship between parental care and anxiety experiences among seminarians in Anambra state?
2. What is the relationship between parental care and attitude towards homosexuality among seminarians in Anambra state?
3. What is the relationship between religious devotion and anxiety experiences among seminarians in Anambra state?
4. What is the relationship between religious devotion and attitude towards homosexuality among seminarians in Anambra state?

Hypotheses

1. There will be a significant relationship between parental care and anxiety experiences among seminarians in Anambra state.
2. There will be a significant relationship between parental care and attitude towards homosexuality among seminarians in Anambra state.
3. There will be a significant relationship between religious devotion and anxiety experiences among seminarians in Anambra state.
4. There will be a significant relationship between religious devotion and attitude towards homosexuality among seminarians in Anambra state.

Method

Participants

Participants comprised two hundred and seven (207) seminarians in Anambra State, selected using a simple random sampling technique. The ages of the participants ranged from 14 to 18 years, with a mean age of 14.86 and a standard deviation of 99. Students from Holy Ghost Academy Amaokpala were 112 (54.1%), while students from Archbishop Patterson Seminary Igbariam were 95 (45.9%). Students in Junior Secondary 2 were 83 (40.1%), students in Senior Secondary 1 were 66 (31.9%), and students in Senior Secondary 2 were 58 (28.0%).

Instrument

Four instruments were used in this study: the Parental Care Inventory by Parker, Tupling, and Brown (1979), the Religious Affiliation Scale (RAS) by Omoluabi (1995), the Symptom Distress Checklist 90 (SCL-90) developed by Derogatis, Lipman, and Covi (1977), and the Homosexuality Attitude Scale (HAS) developed by Kite & Deaux (1986). Also included are demographic variables such as age and class.

Parental Care Inventory (PCI)

The Parental Care Inventory, developed by Parker, Tupling, and Brown (1979), is a 25-item scale that measures the attachment relationship between the parent and child. This scale measured the perceived degree of parental care and control (or overprotectiveness) by the child as an emerging adult, as reported retrospectively. The measure included 25 items: 12 items were used to measure the care dimension, and 13 items were used to measure the control dimension. Participants were asked to rate how similar or different their parents were to each item on a 5-point scale. Sample items in the scale are 'my parent spoke to me in a warm and friendly voice' and 'my parents did not praise me'. To score, 12 of the items were

first reversed. Then a sum was calculated for each care and control, so the higher values on the scale represent more care and more control. After the validation, the reliability test was done, and a Cronbach's alpha of .81 was obtained.

Religious Affiliation Scale (RAS)

The religious affiliation scale was developed by Omoluabi (1995). The 21-item scale is designed to assess the extent to which individuals engage in religious activities, hold strong religious views, and believe in prescribed religious practises. The 21-item scale is rated on a 5-point Likert format, ranging from "1 = strongly disagree" through "5 = strongly agree". Sample items on the scale are 'I usually take part in fasting' and 'I have a miracle handkerchief or tira'. A high score indicates high religious devotion. A Cronbach's alpha of .71 was obtained from the pilot study.

Symptom Distress Checklist 90 (SCL-90)

This is a 90-item scale designed by Derogatis, Lipman, and Covi (1977) to assess 10 primary categories of symptoms associated with distress among psychiatric outpatients and with the experience of anguish arising from the problems of living among people in the general population. It consisted of A-Somatization, B-Obsessive Compulsive, C-Interpersonal Sensitivity, D-Depression, E-Anxiety, F-Hostility, G-Phobic Anxiety, H-Paranoid Ideation, I-Intelligence, and the experience of anguish arising from the problems of living among people in the general population. It consisted of A-Somatization, B-Obsessive Compulsive, C-Interpersonal Sensitivity, D-Depression, E-Anxiety, F-Hostility, G-Phobic Anxiety, H-Paranoid Ideation, I-Psychoticism, and J-Neuroticism. In this scale, sections A-J are scored separately, after which the values of the numbers shaded in each item of each section are added together to obtain the score for the section. The overall values for 10

sections are further added up to obtain the overall SCL-90 score. The scoring was done on a 5-point simple response format of 0-Not at All, 1-A Little Bit, 2-Moderately, 3-Quite a Bit, and 4-Extremely.

A pilot study was conducted with 50 participants, and a Cronbach alpha reliability coefficient of .83 was obtained.

The Homosexuality Attitude Scale (HAS)

A 21-item scale called the Homosexuality Attitude Scale (HAS), created by Kite and Deaux in 1986, measures people's preconceptions, fears, and prejudices towards homosexuals. The measure includes a unidimensional component that indicates whether gays are seen favourably or unfavourably. It is assessed on a 5-point Likert scale. The scale includes examples such as "I wouldn't mind having a gay friend" and "Homosexuals should be required to receive psychological treatment." Higher ratings imply negative homophobic preconceptions, misunderstandings, and concerns. Following validation, a reliability test was conducted, and a Cronbach's alpha of .75 was obtained.

Procedure

A total of 220 questionnaires were administered to participants by the researcher, and the participants who could not fill out theirs on the spot were instructed to return them to the researcher through the class prefect. Out of this number, only 207 were properly completed and returned, showing a return rate of 94.1%.

Design/statistics

A correlational survey design was employed in this study, which made use of the Pearson moment correctional coefficient for testing the four hypotheses. According to Howell (2009), the Pearson Moment Correlation Coefficient is used when the relationship between

two or more variables of study is examined; this justified the use of the Pearson Moment Correlation Coefficient for hypotheses 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Result

The results of the statistical analysis on the data obtained in the study are presented in tables 1 and 2. Table 1 presented the descriptive statistics of parental care, religious devotion, anxiety experiences and attitude towards homosexuality of seminarian. Table 2 presented the summary of Pearson Moment Correlation Coefficient testing the relationship between parental care, religious devotion, anxiety experiences and attitude towards homosexuality of seminarian.

Table 1 Descriptive statistics of parental care, religious devotion, anxiety experiences and attitude towards homosexuality of seminarian.

Descriptive Statistics			
	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Parental care	60.63	6.00	207
Religious devotion	49.07	8.54	207
Anxiety experiences	24.16	6.14	207
Attitudes towards homosexuality	55.54	6.23	207

The mean score of the seminarians on parental care is 60.63 with the standard deviation of 6.00, while there mean on religious devotion is 49.07 with the standard deviation

of 8.54. The seminarians had a mean score of 24.16 with the standard deviation of 6.14 for anxiety experiences and mean score of 55.54 with the standard deviation of 6.23 for attitude towards homosexuality.

Table 2 present the summary of Pearson Moment Correlation Coefficient testing the relationship between parental care, religious devotion, anxiety experiences and attitude towards homosexuality of seminarian.

		Correlations			
		Parental care	Religious devotion	Anxiety experiences	Attitudes towards homosexuality
Parental care	Pearson Correlation	1	.039	-.180**	.113
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.575	.010	.104
	N	207	207	207	207
Religious devotion	Pearson Correlation	.039	1	.114	.311**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.575		.101	.000
	N	207	207	207	207
Anxiety experiences	Pearson Correlation	-.180**	.114	1	.056
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.010	.101		.424
	N	207	207	207	207
Attitudes towards homosexuality	Pearson Correlation	.113	.311**	.056	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.104	.000	.424	
	N	207	207	207	207

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Hypothesis I, there will be a significant relationship between parental care and anxiety experiences among seminarians in Anambra state. The result showed that parental

care has significant negative relationship with the anxiety experiences of seminarians, being $r = -.18, p < .010$. Therefore, the hypothesis is hereby accepted.

Hypothesis II, there will be a significant relationship between parental care and attitude towards homosexuality among seminarians in Anambra state. The result showed that parental care has no significant relationship with attitude towards homosexuality of seminarians, being $r = .11, p > .104$. Therefore, the hypothesis is hereby rejected.

Hypothesis III, there will be a significant relationship between religious devotion and anxiety experiences among seminarians in Anambra state. The result showed that religious devotion has no significant relationship with anxiety experiences of seminarians, being $r = .11, p > .101$. Therefore, the hypothesis is hereby rejected.

Hypothesis IV, there will be a significant relationship between religious devotion and attitude towards homosexuality among seminarians in Anambra state. The result showed that religious devotion has significant positive relationship with attitude towards homosexuality of seminarians, being $r = .31, p < .000$. Therefore, the hypothesis is hereby accepted.

Discussion

From the findings of the study, parental care has a significant negative relationship with the anxiety experiences of seminarians; parental care has no significant relationship with their attitude towards homosexuality; religious devotion has no significant relationship with their anxiety experiences; and religious devotion has a significant positive relationship with their attitude towards homosexuality.

Hypothesis I state that there will be a significant relationship between parental care and anxiety experiences among seminarians in Anambra State. The result showed that parental

care has a significant negative relationship with the anxiety experiences of seminarians. This outcome is in line with research by De Wit, Karioja, Rye, and Shain (2021) on the association between freshmen students' perceptions of support and their mental health, including self-worth, social anxiety, and depression, as they entered their sophomore year. They discovered that self-esteem declined in tandem with perceived support and that this decline in self-esteem was also associated with an increase in social anxiety.

Additionally, the findings of Moksnes and Espnes (2022) concur with those of this study. They showed a significant difference in self-esteem levels in the examined age groups and that pupils with low self-esteem had greater rates of anxiety. Boys' self-esteem grew with time at every age group, but girls' self-esteem declined starting at ages Self-esteem traits acquired through parental guidance have an impact on adolescents' mental health and anxiety levels (Moksnes & Espnes, 2022).

Additionally, Keller and Rowley (1962) observed that among boys, there was no significant variation in the prevalence of anxiety or parental care between the seventh and ninth grades, which contradicts the conclusion of Hypothesis 1.

According to Hypothesis II, there would be a substantial correlation between parental support and seminarians' attitudes towards homosexuality in the state of Anambra. The findings demonstrated that parental involvement had no discernible impact on seminarians' attitudes towards homosexuality. The findings of this study are not supported by Nelson and Krieger's (1997) investigation. Their findings demonstrated that parental care was not as important as gender, with a difference between male and female averages, with females rating higher than men.

Arndt and De Bruin (2020) found that heterosexual students with high parental monitoring have negative attitudes towards lesbians and gay men in a survey of 880 heterosexual students at a university in Gauteng, South Africa. This finding contrasts with the outcome of the current study. According to Hypothesis III, there would be a strong correlation between religious piety and anxiety symptoms among seminarians in Anambra State. The findings demonstrated that seminarians' sensations of anxiety have no meaningful link to their religious commitment. The findings of the study by Shaunessy, Suldo, and Friedrich (2021), which show that students' maladaptive perfectionism, a component of religious devotion, positively correlates with anxiety and that general education students experience slight increases in maladaptive perfectionism as they approach their senior year, do not support the study's findings.

According to Hypothesis IV, seminarians in Anambra State would have a substantial correlation between their religious piety and attitudes towards homosexuality. The findings supported a study from Singapore by Lim (2022) that found highly religious female students expressed similar negative attitudes towards homosexuals as did highly religious male students. This study's findings are consistent with the conclusion that religious devotion has a significant relationship with seminarians' attitudes towards homosexuality.

Haruna (2023) also revealed that the perceptions and level of tolerance of students towards homosexuality were negative. The findings of these studies are similar to those of Lim (2022) and Herek and Capitanio (1995), which revealed negative attitudes towards homosexuals. Oti-Boadi, Agbakpe, et al.'s (2024) study also revealed that gender and religiosity had influences on attitudes. Female first- and second-year students expressed higher negative attitudes than male third- and fourth-year students. This is similar to results from studies from

the US and South Africa (Herek and Glunt, 1993; Arndt and De Bruin, 2023). In contrast, Ofori's (2024) quantitative study aimed at exploring the incidence of homosexuality practises in senior high schools revealed that homosexuality is practised among the religious and non-religious senior high schools in the Cape Coast Metropolis.

Implications of the Study

The result revealed that parental care has a significant negative relationship with the anxiety experiences of seminarians; parental care has no significant relationship with their attitude towards homosexuality; religious devotion has no significant relationship with their anxiety experiences; and religious devotion has a significant positive relationship with their attitude towards homosexuality.

The result implies that as parental care increases, anxiety experiences decrease, which gives support to attachment theory, which posits that high levels of care and attachment between the infant and carer tend to reduce mental health problems. The result also implies that parental care has no significant relationship with the attitude towards homosexuality of seminarians, and religious devotion has no significant relationship with their anxiety experiences.

Finally, the result implies that religious devotion has a significant positive relationship with the attitude towards homosexuality of seminarians. This implies that as an individual becomes more religious, their negative attitude towards homosexuality increases, and vice versa.

Recommendations

From the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. There is a need to educate the parents, seminary guidance, and counsellors on the influence of parental care and religious devotion on the anxiety experiences and attitudes towards homosexuality of seminarians in Anambra State. The researcher recommends that parents monitor and provide adequate care for infants and adolescents because it enables them to cope with any form of anxiety.
2. There is a need for the school administrators to include a parental care test during the interview of prospective freshmen into the school to enable them to know those individuals who are predisposed to engage in anxiety experiences, and the test will also aid in monitoring and directing those adolescents because they will pose a negative attitude towards homosexuality.
3. It is also recommended that more research be done focusing on the influence of parental care and religious devotion on anxiety experiences and attitudes towards homosexuality.

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