

## Review Article

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## Parent-Child Connectedness as Predictor of Risky Sexual Behaviour among Adolescents in The Assin South District, Ghana

Anthony Edward Boakye

Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana

### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Lack of connectedness between adolescents and their parents has been found to affect adolescent development and decision-making negatively. This study investigates the parent-child connectedness (PCC) and risky sexual behaviour using Assin South District as a case study.

**Methods:** A cross-sectional descriptive design was employed with 354 respondents which comprised parents aged 30-59 years and older adolescents aged 15-19 years. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, Pearson's chi-squared test of independence and binary logistic regression.

**Results:** The study revealed that offering encouragement to adolescents on their own ideas and respecting their individuality was statistically significant at  $P < 0.022$ , (OR=7.486, 95%CI[1.331-42.090]). Again, building child's charisma was statistically significant at  $p > 0.030$ , (OR=0.319, 95%CI ([0.114-0.894])), while clarifying messages about risky sexual behaviour was also observed as statistically significant at  $p > 0.014$ , (OR=5.684, 95%CI[1.420-22.755]).

**Conclusion:** The study recommends that parents provide adolescents with the requisite information aimed at reducing any harmful consequences of behaviour when occurs to the adolescents. Also, parents in the Assin South district should endeavour to encourage their children to talk openly with them (parents) about their ideas, needs, and worries for redress.

### \*Corresponding author

Anthony Edward Boakye, Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, University of Cape Coast, Cape Coast, Ghana.

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### Introduction

Lack of connectedness between adolescents and their parents has been found to affect adolescent development and decision-making negatively [1]. In PCC, parents help to convey information, sexual values, beliefs and expectations to adolescents in order to influence their attitudes towards risky sexual behaviour [2, 3]. In families, where PCC is high among parents and children, the climate that is created seems to be more friendly with less conflict [2]. This climate helps parents and adolescents to get along well in the family [4, 5]. On the other hand, in families that PCC is low, the climate that is created is unpleasant coupled with misunderstanding and violence. An unsettled dispute is high in such a family [6, 7]. Sharing of thoughts, feelings, sympathy, and regard are devoid of the family. Instead of attachment there is detachment in that family [1]. Many negative effects might happen in the forms of attachment to bad friends, risky sexual behaviours and difficulties forming one's own intimate connection later in life [6-8].

PCC emphasises a climate of trust which includes physical support, openness, protection, warmth, attachment and encouragement; communication which allows for the exchange of feelings and

ideas among parents and children; an appropriate structure of home which attempts to syndicate discipline, monitoring, and guidance which leads to independence; and lastly, time shared together which also curtails meaningful interaction, guidance, support with laughter, play and fun as key elements which, when observed, the outcome is an everlasting bond between parents and their children [1, 9]. In Ghana, to date, studies focusing on PCC are skewed towards communication. For instance, Adu-Mirekqu only examined family communication about HIV and AIDS, Kumi-Kyereme, Awusabo-Asare, Biddlecom and Tanle studied sexual communication by characterising persons who have talked about sex-related matters with the adolescent while Manu, Mba, Asare, Odoi-Agyarko and Asante explored sexual communication by targeting both parents and children so, it becomes difficult to predict specific elements of PCC that are considered to be important, influence closeness in a relationship and aid the effective role that PCC plays in delaying and reducing risky sexual behaviour among adolescents [10]. It is based on this that, the study purport to investigate parent-child connectedness and risky sexual behaviour among adolescents in the Assin South District, Ghana by specifically assessing: if the kind of climate of trust parents build and maintain with children predicts risky sexual behaviour among adolescents in the Assin South District; how parents' intention to engage children in communication influences risky sexual behaviour among adolescents in the Assin South

District; whether the kind of structure parents build with children influences adolescents' risky sexual behaviour in the Assin South District; whether the time parents and children share together predicts risky sexual behaviour among adolescents in the Assin South District; and lastly to document the specific elements of PCC that are considered to influence closeness in a relationship. The study further hypothesised that PCC does not predict risky sexual behaviour among adolescents.

### Theoretical Perspective

To understand the main research objective, the study drew on Fishbein and Ajzen's theory of reasoned action (TRA). The theory explains how human beings unremarkably act sensibly, take account of accessible information and consider the implications of their actions [11]. According to Fishbein and Ajzen, the theory expounds that a person's intention to carry out or not to carry out a behaviour is the proximate determinant of that action; without unanticipated events, people are predicted to act in conformity with their intentions. The emphasis of the study was much on the conceptual framework of PCC but not on TRA because the researcher used the TRA just to serve as a justification for the study. The focus of the study was on how PCC can buffer risky sexual behaviour among adolescents. The theory examined the influence of PCC on adolescents' risky sexual behaviour. This includes the intention to postpone and cut down risky sexual behaviour and this was observed to reckon on the adolescents' voluntary behaviour. The primary aim of the TRA is to assist individuals to understand the link between beliefs, attitudes, intentions and behaviour. The theory focus more on individual behavioural intention and, therefore, contends that for each individual to perform a behaviour, he or she might take account of the available message about the behaviour and thinks about the outcomes of the behaviour. It further explains that the stronger the intention to resist the unhealthy behaviour, the more the individual is supposed to try to resist the behaviour, and therefore, the greater the expectation that the behaviour will, in reality, be acted upon.

The three key foci of the theory are behavioural intentions, attitudes, and subjective norms. The theory submits that a person's behavioural intentions will be depending on his attitudes and subjective norms. Attitudes focus on beliefs that are attributed to some facts which varies as per the attributions and beliefs; subjective norms are mostly situational and expounds on our opinion about the subject behaviour. For instance, someone's opinion can be influenced by a number of elements which include society, economy, politics, demographic factors etc. Per the views of the founder of the theory, subjective norm looks at a person's perception that most people who are important to him or her think he should or should not perform the behaviour in question while behavioural intention focuses on a person's ability to intend to perform a behaviour hence, the function of both attitudes and behavioural norms[11].

In this study, Fishbein and Ajzen's TRA, which expounds on how human beings are rational and explore behaviours under volitional control, is used as a guide to provide insight into the influences of PCC on risky sexual behaviour among adolescents in the Assin South District of Ghana. Studies that applied the TRA focused on the intention due to its dominant role in the theory [12-14]. Therefore, the present study is also drawing on the intention of the TRA to measure the influence parent-child connectedness exert on adolescents' risky sexual behaviour with much interest on how the various elements of PCC (climate of trust, communication, structure, and time shared together) can

buffer adolescents' risky sexual behaviour. Figure 1 is the original conceptual framework propounded by Lezin, et al., to measure parent-child connectedness [1].

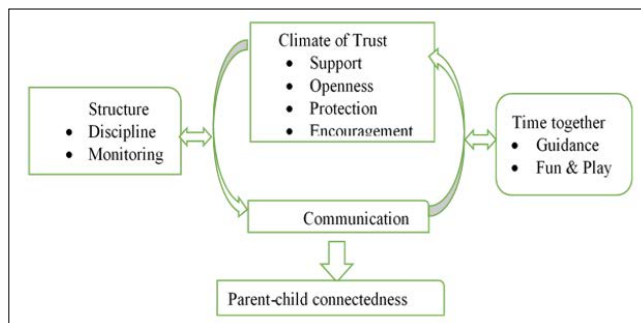


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework for Parent-Child Connectedness Source: Lezin, Rolleri, Bean and Taylor [1].

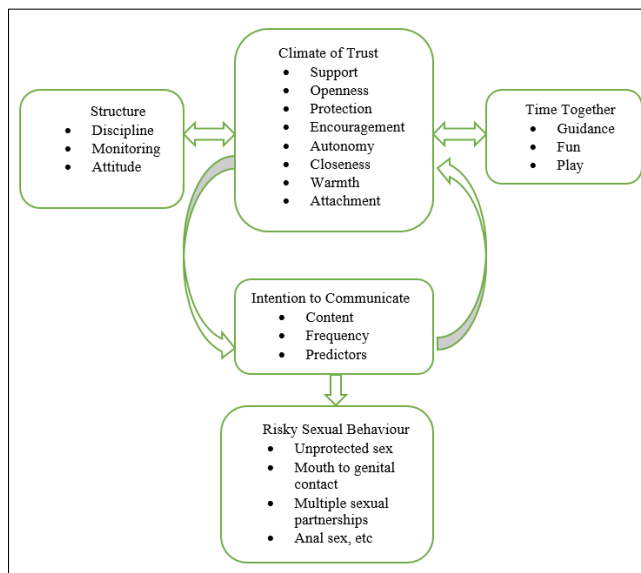


Figure 2: An Adapted Conceptual Framework that links the various concepts that emerged from the Literature Review Source: Adapted from Lezin, Rolleri, Bean, & Taylor [1].

### The Kind of Relationship PCC attempts to Capture

Human bond is influenced by personality, family history, culture, and other features [1]. The assumption is that a parent-child dyad that embraces the components, as early as possible in a child's life, and continuous from that moment on, is extremely likely to capture the type of relationship that PCC attempts to establish than if these components were lacking, inconsistent, and/or introduced later in a child's life [1].

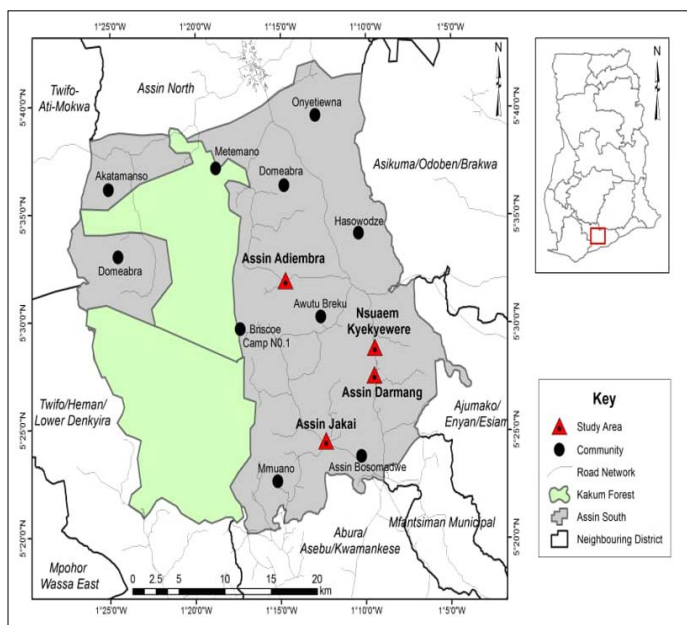
Also, for a child to recognize and take notice of this climate of trust in the family, the support, openness, protection, encouragement, autonomy, closeness, warmth, and attachment are all communicated orally or otherwise by parents in the family. However, it is not only love, warmth, and affection alone that are expressed in the family, but also feelings and ideas are also exchanged and acknowledged. This has an iterative consequences which conveys the impression that, the more and more these components are communicated, it is the more and more they add to a climate of trust that, in return, makes future communication more productive and even more resilient to unhealthy behaviours [1]. In view of this, both communication and an underlying climate of trust become mainly significant as parents offer structure, discipline, monitoring, and

guidance (attitude). Communication and climate of trust also stimulate the mutual influence of spending time together which in return becomes another prospect for communication, for fun as well as serious interaction, and for even more incremental building of trust [1]. Therefore, the result is an everlasting intimacy between parents and children that is mutual, continuous over time, and resilient to risky sexual behaviour.

**Methods**

**Study Context and Respondents**

The study was carried out at Assin South District (in the Central Region) of Ghana. Assin South was selected because the district had the highest rate of risky sexual behaviour (19.6% & 17.5%) of births attributed to teenagers between the ages of 15 and 19 years in 2015 and 2016 respectively while Awutu Senya East recorded the lowest rate of 7 per cent pregnancies in the same region (GHS, 2016) [15, 16]. Moreover, the Assin South district has not been spared from the global HIV and AIDS pandemic (GSS, 2012). The total number of cumulative AIDS cases at the end of December 2006 was 100 (Assin-South District Mutual Health Insurance Scheme, 2006). The district recorded 22 maternal deaths among adolescents aged 15-19 years from 2004 to 2006 and family planning coverage by the district from 2003 to 2006 was 20 per cent (Assin-South District Mutual Health Insurance Scheme, 2006). These statistics made the Assin South District very suitable for this study. In the district, the study enrolled parents aged 30-59 years and adolescents aged 15-19 years in the study. In all, 354 respondents were recruited for the study. Figure 3 shows the map of the study area.



**Figure 3:** Map of Assin South District showing Study Locations  
**Source:** Remote Sensing and Cartography Laboratory, University of Cape Coast

**Study Design and Data Source**

The study employs cross-sectional descriptive study plan. The design was carefully chosen because it focuses on a representative sample from the population to generalise the results for the study population which, in return, allows for systematic collection of data using structured questionnaires [17]. Separate questionnaires were used to solicit similar data from parents and adolescents. The research instrument formulated was based on literature and the conceptual framework of the study. Already compiled and

tried survey instruments were also reviewed and those deemed appropriate to the study were integrated into the design of the research instrument.

**Sampling Procedures**

The study employed a multistage sampling procedure. The first stage was the random selection of Assin South District out of the 22 metropolitan, municipals and districts assemblies within the Central Region. The second stage was the simple random selection of settlements out of the twelve (12) settlements in the district to form a study site for the study. Finally, a systematic random sampling approach was employed to select the respondents for the study.

**Sample Size Estimation**

The sample size was estimated at 354 with the help of Cochran’s formula as follows [18].

$$n = \frac{z^2 p (1-p)}{d^2}$$

n = sample size

Confidence level set at 95% (1.96)

The p-value was set at 0.05.

z = standard normal deviation set at 1.96

d = degree of accuracy desired at 0.05

p = proportion of parents aged 30-59 years and adolescents aged 15-19 years was 36%.

$$n = \frac{1.96^2 * 0.36 (1-0.36)}{0.05^2}$$

0.05<sup>2</sup>=354.041, approximately 400

Sample size was, therefore, estimated at 400 respondents for the study. The extra 46 respondents were added to cater for refusal, and non-responses.

**Ethical Issues**

On ethical issues, participation was made voluntary and respondents were given the option to decline at any time. In the field, informed consent was taken from both parents and adolescents aged 18-19 years while adolescents below 18 years old also assented after their parents have consented on their behalf. The reason why adolescents less than 18 years assented was that in Ghana according to the 1992 constitution, one becomes an adult and takes decisions for him/herself after he/she has celebrated the 18th birthday so without that all decisions concerning adolescents are done by their parents hence they are considered as minors and that have not reached the legal age to decide for themselves. Anonymity and confidentiality were assured. During the fieldwork, all forms of identification including respondents’ names, addresses and telephone numbers were avoided. In addition, ethical clearance (with ID number UCCIRB/CHLS/2020/09) to conduct this study was obtained from the Ethical Review Board of University of Cape Coast, Ghana.

**Variables and Measurements**

Measurement of PCC dwells on attachment/bonding, warmth/caring, cohesion (closeness and conflict), support/involvement, communication, monitoring/control and autonomy [1]. For example, the variables endorsed by Lezin and colleagues (2004) to measure attachment/bonding construct are; parent and child share thoughts and feelings, parent and child feel close, child wants to be like mother/father (identification), parent and child seem “in tune”, mutual warmth, happy emotional tone, smiling, and laughing.

### Data Collection Procedure

With the help of four research assistants, the collection of data commenced on 23rd of June, 2020 and ended on 5th of July, 2020 at the Assin South District in the Central Region of Ghana. In the field, two sets of interviews were conducted in each house for the parent-child dyad to avoid spying and to ensure openness and truthful responses. Generally, parents were first interviewed before the child.

### Data Quality Concerns

To ensure data quality, Cronbach's alpha reliability test was run on the PCC and RSB data collected from the field, it emerged that Cronbach's alpha rated the data as acceptable with a reliability of  $\alpha = 0.63$ . According to Griethuijsen, et al. a general accepted rule is that alpha of 0.6-0.7 indicates an acceptable level of reliability and that data is useful [19]. As part of ensuring validity of data collected from the field, effort was made to pretest the questionnaire before the actual data collection. Also, standardized research instruments which were used in previous PCC, and PCSC survey as well as parental attitude survey were adopted [1, 10, 20].

### Data Analysis

Data collected from the field were first cross-checked to ensure that they were correct and had no errors in them. Questions that requested respondents to choose more than one option were re-coded as well as the open-ended questions to enable easy entry and analysis. The data were then transferred to the computer and processed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20 and Stata.

Frequency distribution was used to summarize demographic data, responses on climate of trust, communication, structure of home, time shared and PCC elements that support closeness in a relationship by parent-child dyad. The Pearson's chi-squared test of independence was used to test the four statistical hypotheses postulated in the study to either accept or reject the null hypotheses. However, the binary logistic regression analysis was also run on the various results to identify possible risk factors and protective factors to adolescents' risky sexual behaviour.

## Results

### Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Table 1 presents the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents. The respondents comprised 54.8 per cent females and 45.2 per cent males. Nearly half (48.6%) of the parents in the sample were between the ages of 40 and 49 years while about a quarter (24.9%) were in the 30-39 age group. Regarding educational level, only 2.3 per cent of the parents had tertiary education compared to 44 percent who completed primary school. Whereas self-employment was a dominant category of employment status constituting over half (50.3%) of the total respondents, the employed category was the least (11.3%). In terms of religious affiliation, Christianity dominated (81.9%) and those not identified with any religion were 1.7 per cent.

**Table 1: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Parents and Adolescents**

Characteristics	Parents (n=177) %	Adolescents (n=177) %
Sex		
Male	45.2	45.2
Female	54.8	54.8
Age group in years		
30-39	24.9	
40-49	48.6	
50-59	26.6	
Age in years		
15		16.4
16		26.0
17		9.6
18		16.4
19		31.6
Educational level		
None	15.8	
Primary	44.1	1.1
JHS	15.3	29.4
Secondary	22.6	12.4
Tertiary	2.3	0.6
Still in school		56.5
Employment status		
Employed	11.3	
Unemployed	38.4	
Self-employed	50.3	
Religious affiliation		
No religion	1.7	1.7
Christianity	81.9	81.9
Muslim	7.9	7.9
Traditionalist	8.5	8.5
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2020

Nearly a third (31.6%) of the adolescents were 19 years old while about 10 percent were 17 years old (Table 1). More than half (56.5%) of the adolescents indicated that they were still in school. Out of the 20 parents who were identified as employed, about 5 percent earned more than GH¢1500.00.

### Parent-Child Connectedness

PCC has the potential to empower adolescents to pull off the numerous problems connected to youthfulness [1]. There is an indication that when PCC is established, maintained and increased in a family, the outcome is an everlasting strong intimacy among family members devoid of conflicts [1].

This section of the chapter analyses climate of trust as one element of the parent-child connectedness. Specifically, the focus is on eight variables of a climate of trust, namely, support, openness, protection, encouragement, autonomy, warmth/care as well as closeness and attachment. The reason for this aspect of the chapter is a need to understand if parents build and maintain a climate of trust with children in the family which can be used to conclude if it positively or negatively influences adolescents' risky sexual behaviour. These variables have been used to assess if parents build and maintain a climate of trust with children in the family.

**Climate of Trust Parents Build and Maintain with Children**

To obtain data on the climate of trust parents build and maintain with children, research objective one was formulated. The respondents were, therefore, asked series of questions to examine if parents built and maintained a climate of trust with children. The results are presented in Table 2.

**Table 2: Climate of Trust Parents Build and Maintain with Children**

Climate of trust	Parents (n=177) (%)	Adolescents (n=177) (%)
Share thoughts and feelings with a child	100.0	100.0
<b>Frequency for sharing thoughts and feelings</b>		
Often	100.0	80.2
Occasionally		19.8
<b>Emotional tones present when parents and adolescent come close</b>		
Happiness, smiling and laughter	100.0	97.2
Sorrow, regretful and misunderstanding		2.8
<b>Warmth expression towards adolescents</b>		
Empathy, affection and reciprocity	99.4	96.6
Rejection, coldness and indifference	0.6	3.4
Child feel loved and wanted	100.0	100.0
<b>Indicator showing child feel loved and wanted</b>		
Spend time together, have joint activities and supportive	94.4	87.6
Joint decision making and problem solving	5.6	12.4
<b>Parent support child</b>		
Yes	95.5	100.0
No	4.5	
<b>Grant child autonomy</b>		
Yes	95.5	80.2
No	4.5	19.8
Offer encouragement to a child	100.0	100
<b>Ways of offering child an encouragement</b>		
Praise child	27.7	27.1

Celebrate child's success	72.3	72.9
<b>Why child encouragement</b>		
To achieve a target, establishment of trust and strengthen brokenhearted	71.2	83.6
Feel wanted, belonged, motivated, disciplined and to offer guidance	28.8	16.4
Opened to a child	100.0	100.0
<b>Ways parents are opened to a child</b>		
Chat together	85.9	85.9
Play together	14.1	14.1
<b>Why opened to a child</b>		
Due to intimate relationship	65.5	64.4
Building child's charisma	19.2	22.0
Better guidance and appropriate nurturing	15.3	13.6
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2020

On sharing thoughts and feelings with adolescents, the results show that all respondents (both parents and adolescents) reported that parents share thoughts and feelings with adolescents. On whether thoughts and feelings are shared often (regular) or occasionally (once a while), 87.6 per cent of parents and 80.2 per cent of adolescents said parents often (regularly) shared thoughts and feelings with adolescents. Concerning the emotional tones that are present when parents and adolescents come close to each other, the results discovered that all parents and 97.2 per cent of adolescents reported happiness, smiling and laughter as the emotional tones (Table 2).

Parents were asked to indicate how they expressed warmth towards adolescents and the results revealed that almost all the respondents (parents 99.4 per cent and adolescents 96.6 per cent) stated empathy, affection and reciprocity as the procedures through which parents expressed warmth towards adolescents. The analysis regarding if parents are supportive towards adolescents or not showed that a little above ninety-five per cent (95.5%) of parents and all the adolescents said parents are supportive. When asked whether adolescents were autonomous or not, the outcome revealed that 95.5 per cent of parents and 80.2 per cent of adolescents reported that adolescents are autonomous (Table 2).

Parents were asked to indicate whether they offer encouragement to adolescents. The results revealed that all the respondents (parents and adolescents) indicated that parents offer encouragement to adolescents. Concerning the reasons why parents offer encouragement to adolescents, parents were asked to indicate why they encourage adolescents and the outcome was that 71.2 per cent of parents and 83.6 per cent of adolescents stated that parents want adolescents to achieve a target, establish trust in parents and also to strengthen adolescents who are broken-hearted (Table 2).

On openness, parents were asked whether they were open to adolescents or not and the result showed that all the respondents (parents and adolescents) reported that parents were open to adolescents. When asked ways parents are open to adolescents, the results revealed that 85.9 per cent of parents and 85.9 per cent of adolescents said parents are opened to adolescents by chatting together (Table 2).

When asked why parents are open to adolescents, the results revealed that 65.5 per cent of parents and 64.4 per cent of adolescents reported that it is due to intimate relationship while 15.3 per cent of parents and 13.6 per cent of adolescents indicated better guidance and appropriate nurturing. In order to be able to identify whether PCC has made an impact on adolescents' sexual life, they were asked some specific questions regarding dating and risky sexual behaviour. The results are presented in Table 3.

**Table 3: Adolescents' Risky Sexual Behaviour**

Factor	Adolescents (%) (n=177)
<b>Ever dated</b>	
Yes	40.1
No	59.9
<b>Ever practised risky sexual behaviour</b>	
Yes	36.2
No	63.8
Total	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2020

Concerning dating, adolescents were asked to stipulate whether they had ever dated or not and the results indicated that 59.9 per cent adolescents had never dated while 40.1 per cent adolescents reported that they had ever dated (Table 3). Among the 71 adolescents who were identified to have ever dated, about 65 per cent had ever dated 1-5 partners, about 34 per cent had at least dated 6-10 sexual partners while 1.4 per cent had dated 11-15 sexual partners. Out of the 71 adolescents who were identified to have ever dated, about 92 per cent had been in dating for about 1-5 years whilst 8.5 per cent started dating 6-10 months ago.

Regarding risky sexual behaviour, adolescents were asked to indicate whether they had ever practised any risky sexual behaviour or not and the results obtained showed that 63.8 per cent adolescents reported that they had never practised any risky sexual behaviour while 36.2 per cent adolescents reported that they had ever engaged in risky sexual behaviour (Table 3). Among the 64 adolescents who were identified to have ever practised risky sexual behaviour, about 63 per cent (62.5%) had ever engaged in mouth to genital contact and started sexual activity at a younger age, 28.1 per cent indulged in multiple sexual partners and sex without a condom while 9.4 per cent practised unprotected sex.

Further analysis was run using the binary logistic regression to determine how the respective categories of the explanatory factors under climate of trust drive adolescents' risky sexual behaviour. The results are presented in Table 4.

**Table 4: Binary Logistic Regression Result on Climate of Trust and Adolescents' Risky Sexual Behaviour**

Factor	Odds Ratio	P-value	95% CI	
<b>Frequency for sharing thoughts and feelings (Often=1.0)</b>				
Occasionally	0.995	0.991	0.423	2.339
<b>Emotional tones present when parents and adolescent come close (Happiness, smiling and laughter=1.0)</b>				
Sorrow, regretful and misunderstanding	3.701	0.192	0.518	26.442
<b>Warmth expression towards adolescents (Empathy, affection and reciprocity=1.0)</b>				
Rejection, coldness and indifference	2.517	0.291	0.454	13.947
<b>Indicator showing child feel loved and wanted (Spend time together, have joint activities and parents are supportive=1.0)</b>				
Joint decision making and problem solving	2.298	0.099	0.856	6.171
<b>Parents supportive strategy (Attend sport events with child and meet with child teacher=1.0)</b>				
Accompany a child to school and help child to choose a course of study	0.495	0.273	0.141	1.740
<b>Autonomy granting strategy (Allows me make my own decisions and voice in family decisions=1.0)</b>				
Offer me encouragement on my own ideas and respect for my individuality	7.486	0.022*	1.331	42.090
<b>Parents protection strategy (By giving simple information=1.0)</b>				
Listen to me, offer guidance and pay attention to any suspicious behaviour	1.847	0.386	0.462	7.379
<b>Why parents encourage a child (To achieve a target, establishment of trust and strengthen broken-hearted=1.0)</b>				
Feel wanted, belonged, motivated, disciplined and to offer guidance	0.847	0.734	0.326	2.203
<b>Ways parents are open to a child (Chat together=1.0)</b>				
Play together	1.575	0.345	0.614	4.043
<b>Why parents openness (Due to intimate relationship and trustworthiness=1.0)</b>				
Building child's charisma	0.403	0.053	0.161	1.010
For better guidance and appropriate nurturing	0.791	0.636	0.300	2.089
Constant	0.565	0.521	0.099	3.235

Source: Fieldwork, 2020, Chi-square significant at (0.05)\*

It emerged in Table 4 that, offering encouragement to adolescents on their own ideas and respecting their individuality was statistically significant at  $P < 0.022$ , (OR=7.486, 95%CI[1.331-42.090]). This variable revealed that adolescents that stated that parents offer encouragement to them on their own ideas and also respecting their individuality are 7 times as likely as the adolescents that reported that parents allow them to make their own decisions and add their voice in family decisions. Moreover, the rest of the variables studied under climate of trust and adolescents' risky sexual behaviour were not statistically significant which could be as a result of chance.

### Parents' Intention to engage Adolescents in Communication

Good communication among family members is critical to the sexual development and overall well-being of adolescents particularly because of the easy and heightened access of adolescents to information through various media. Without proper guidance, adolescents are exposed to inaccurate information that can lead them to risky sexual behaviour. To assess parents' intention to engage children in communication, several questions were asked to collect data from the respondents to analyse whether parents engage adolescents in communication or not. The questions covered communication intentions, frequency, content and predictors of communication and the results are shown in Table 5.

**Table 5: Parents' Intention to engage Children in Communication**

Parents' communication intention	Parents (n=177) %	Adolescents (n=177) %
Communicate with a child	100.0	100.0
<b>Intention behind the communication</b>		
Behavioural boundaries	27.1	35.6
Building child's charisma	23.2	20.3
Positive social conduct	23.7	18.1
Appropriate nurturing	26.0	26.0
<b>Intention behind talks on opposite sex relationships</b>		
For child relationship comfort	65.5	75.7
Ensure stable relations	23.2	14.1
Clarity of messages about risky sexual behaviour and values	11.3	10.2
<b>Intention behind talks on condoms</b>		
For STIs protection	75.7	89.8
Prevention of unintended pregnancy	24.3	10.2
<b>Intention behind talks on sexual health matters</b>		
Rejecting sexual risk taking	88.1	52.0
Delay sexual debut	11.9	48.0
Discuss topics related to risky sexual behaviour	100	100.0
<b>Intention behind talks on risky sexual behaviour</b>		
Increase knowledge and delay sexual debut	54.2	85.9
Self-efficacy and sexual negotiation skills	26.0	8.5
Better interpersonal communication skills	19.8	5.6
<b>Communication frequency</b>		

Often	100	59.3
Occasionally		40.7
<b>Who initiates the talk</b>		
Parent	100	80.2
adolescent		19.8
<b>Triggers of risky sexual behaviour communication</b>		
Parents' own awareness on sex education	100	80.2
Perceive self-efficacy		19.8
Total	100	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2020.

Regarding communication, parents were asked whether they communicate with adolescents or not and the results indicated that all the respondents (both parents and adolescents) reported that parents communicate with adolescents. Concerning communication intention, parents were asked to indicate their intention behind their communication with adolescents and the results revealed that 27.1 per cent of parents and 35.6 per cent of adolescents reported that, it is for behavioural boundaries while 23.2 per cent of parents and 20.3 per cent of adolescents said it is for building a child's charisma (Table 5).

With respect to the intention behind communication on opposite sex relationships, majority of the respondents (parents 65.5 per cent and adolescents 75.7 per cent) reported that it is for child's relationship comfort while 11.3 per cent parents and 10.2 per cent adolescents cited clarity of messages about risky sexual behaviour. In relation to parents' intention to discuss condom use among adolescents, majority of the respondents (parents 75.7 per cent and adolescents 89.8 per cent) said that it is for STIs protection. When parents were asked to indicate their intention behind the discussions on sexual health matters, 88.1 per cent of parents and 52.0 per cent of adolescents said that it was to help adolescents to reject sexual risk taking (Table 5).

On whether parents discuss risky sexual related matters with adolescents or not, the result showed that all the respondents (both parents and adolescents) reported that parents discuss risky sexual-related matters with adolescents. Parents were further asked to indicate their intention behind the discussion of risky sexual behaviour with adolescents and the responses revealed that 54.2 per cent of parents and 85.9 per cent of adolescents said it is to increase adolescents' knowledge of the adverse effects on risky sexual behaviour and also help adolescents to delay sexual debut whilst, 19.8 per cent of parents and 5.6 per cent of adolescents indicated that it is for the establishment of better interpersonal communication skills among parents (Table 5).

Parents were asked to indicate whether they discuss risky sexual-related matters such as opposite sex relationships, condom usage, risky sexual behaviour and sexual health matters often or occasionally with adolescents and the results indicated that all the parents and 59.3 per cent of adolescents stated that it is often (regular) (Table 5).

Regarding who initiates the talks on risky sexual behaviour, all the parents and 80.2 per cent of adolescents indicated that it is parents that initiate the talks. The study collected information on the predictors of communication on risky sexual behaviour and the results revealed that all the parents and 80.2 per cent of

adolescents reported that it is parents' own awareness on sex education (Table 5).

In Table 6, chi-square analysis examining relationship between parents' intention to engage adolescents in communication and adolescents' risky sexual behaviour are presented. This analysis was run to test the hypothesis that there is no relationship between parents' intention to engage adolescents in communication and adolescents' risky sexual behaviour. The results show a remarkable difference in the seven (7) components studied under parents' intention to communicate with adolescents and adolescents' risky sexual behaviour. Statistically significant relationships were found among two of the components namely; parents' intention to communicate with adolescents [ $p=0.049$ ] as well as parents' intention to discuss opposite sex relationship with adolescents [ $p=0.018$ ] and adolescents' risky sexual behaviour. However, there was no statistically significant relationships found between the other components namely; intention behind condom usage discussions [ $p=0.197$ ], intention behind the discussions on sexual health matters [ $p=0.242$ ], risky sexual behaviour discussion intention [ $p=0.648$ ], communication frequency [ $p=0.742$ ] as well as the person that initiates the talks [ $p=0.892$ ] and adolescents' risky sexual behaviour.

**Table 6: Relationship between Parents' Communication Intention and Adolescents' Risky Sexual Behaviour**

Factor	Ever practised risky sexual behaviour (%)	Never practised risky sexual behaviour (%)	Total n (%)	Chi square	P-Value
Intention behind communication with a child				7.859	0.049*
Behavioural boundaries	44.4	55.6	63(100.0)		
Positive social conduct	41.7	58.3	36(100.0)		
Appropriate nurturing	37.5	62.5	32(100.0)		
Building child's charisma	19.6	80.4	46(100.0)		
Intention behind talks on opposite sex relationships				8.086	0.018*
For child relationship comfort	32.8	67.0	134(100.0)		
Ensure stable relations	32.0	67.2	25(100.0)		
Clarity of messages about risky sexual behavior and values	12(66.7)	33.3	18(100.0)		
Intention behind talks on condoms				1.663	0.197
For STIs protection	34.6	65.4	159(100.0)		
Prevention of unintended pregnancy	50.0	50.0	18(100.0)		
Intention behind talks on sexual health matters				1.663	0.197
Rejecting sexual risk taking	40.2	59.8	92(100.0)		
Delay sexual debut	31.8	68.2	85(100.0)		
Intention behind talks on risky sexual behaviour				0.868	0.648
Increase knowledge and delay sexual debut	37.5	62.5	152(100.0)		
Self-efficacy and sexual negotiation skills	26.7	73.3	15(100.0)		
Better interpersonal communication skills	30.0	70.0	10(100.0)		
Communication Frequency				0.108	0.742
Often	37.1	62.9	105(100.0)		
Occasionally	34.7	65.3	72(100.0)		
Who initiates the talk				0.018	0.892
Parent	35.9	64.1	142(100.0)		
Adolescent	37.1	62.2	35(100.0)		

**Note:** Row percentages in parenthesis, Chi-square significant at (0.001)\*\*\*, (0.01)\*\*,(0.05)\*  
Source: Fieldwork, 2020

Following the Chi squared test of independence results on parents' intention to engage adolescents in communication and adolescents' risky sexual behaviour, further analysis was run to identify which categories of the various explanatory factors studied under parent's intention to communicate with adolescents were possible risk factors or possible protective factors of adolescents' risky sexual behaviour. Socio-demographic factors are not factors of parent-child communication intention, but, they were added to the model in order to

find out how they also help in driving adolescents' risky sexual behaviour. The socio-demographic factors considered were age, sex, education and religion). This was done because communication is considered to be an important factor that supports closeness in a relationship. The results are presented in Table 7.

**Table 7: Binary Logistic Regression Result on Parents' Intention to Communicate with Adolescents and Adolescents' Risky Sexual Behaviour**

Factor	Odds Ratio	P-value	95% CI	
<b>Intention behind communication</b> (Behavioural boundaries=1.0)				
For positive social conduct	0.787	0.632	0.296	2.095
For appropriate nurturing	0.666	0.431	0.242	1.832
Child's charisma building	0.319	0.030*	0.114	0.894
<b>Intention behind talks on opposite sex relationship</b> (Ensure stable relations =1.0)				
Child relationship comfort	1.001	0.998	0.366	2.743
Clarity of messages about risky sexual behaviour	5.684	0.014*	1.420	22.755
<b>Intention behind talks on condom</b> (For STIs protection=1.0)				
For prevention unintended pregnancy	0.910	0.872	0.289	2.861
<b>Intention behind talks on risky sexual behaviour</b> (Increase knowledge and delay sexual debut =1.0)				
Self-efficacy and sexual negotiation skills	0.733	0.653	0.188	2.850
Better interpersonal communication skills	0.782	0.758	0.164	3.726
<b>Intention behind talks on sexual health matters</b> (Rejecting sexual risk taking=1.0)				
Delay sexual debut	0.596	0.169	0.285	1.246
<b>Communication frequency</b> (Often=1.0)				
Occasionally	0.563	0.407	0.144	2.193
<b>Initiators of communication</b> (Parent=1.0)				
Adolescent	2.609	0.214	0.576	11.824
<b>Age</b> (Age 17=1.0)				
15	0.965	0.965	0.201	4.628
16	0.520	0.445	0.097	2.783
18	3.105	0.203	0.543	17.741
19	1.827	0.538	0.268	12.450
<b>Sex</b> (Male =1.0)				
Female	17.86	0.185	0.758	4.208
<b>Education</b> (Still in school=1.0)				
Secondary	0.729	0.779	0.080	6.650
JHS	0.595	0.441	0.161	2.216
<b>Religion</b> (Islamic=1.0)				
Christianity	10.659	0.075	0.786	144.570
Traditional	0.998	0.999	0.035	28.740
<b>Constant</b>	<b>0.050</b>	<b>0.102</b>	<b>0.001</b>	<b>1.818</b>

It emerged in Table 7 that, building child's charisma was statistically significant related to adolescents' risky sexual behaviour at  $p > 0.030$ , (OR=0.319, 95%CI ([0.114-0.894])). It was observed that adolescents that indicated building child's charisma were 0.68 times or 68 per cent times less likely to engage in risky sexual behaviour relatively to the adolescents that stated for behavioural boundaries (Table 7).

Clarifying messages about risky sexual behaviour was also observed as statistically significant to adolescents' risky sexual behaviour at  $p > 0.014$ , (OR=5.684, 95%CI[1.420-22.755]). This identifies adolescents to have 5.7 times more likely to engage in risky sexual behaviour compared with adolescents that stated ensure stable relations (Table 7).

### The Kind of Structure of Home Parents Build with Children

Adolescent years are a period of speedy growth, experimentation, and risk-taking. However, taking risks give adolescents the chance to try their skills and abilities and conceptualize their self-identity [22]. However, risks such as engaging in unprotected sex can have harmful and everlasting consequences on an adolescent's health and well-being Silk and Morris explain that caregivers are a potent influential people in the lives of their adolescents [23,24]. To determine the kind of structure of home that parents build with children,

several questions were asked to collect data from respondents on the kind of structure of home parents build with children. The questions comprised child monitoring, child discipline, risky sexual behaviour among adolescents and parents' attitudes towards adolescents' risky sexual behaviour. The results are presented in Table 8.

**Table 8: The Kind of Structure of Home Parents Build with Children**

Structure of home	Parents (n=177) %	Adolescents (n=177) %
<b>Monitor a child</b>		
Yes	89.8	100.0
No	10.2	
<b>Discipline a child</b>		
Type of child discipline		
Democratic	95.5	100.0
Don't know	4.5	
<b>Child disciplinary measure</b>		
Restrict child's activities and name calling	86.4	86.4
Slapping and arguing	13.6	13.6
<b>Why child discipline</b>		
Behavioural boundaries and self-control	60.5	91.0
Positive social conduct and self-sufficiency	39.5	9.0
<b>Have permissive attitudes towards child's risky sexual behaviour</b>		
Yes	1.7	
No	98.3	100.0
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2020

Parents were asked to indicate whether they monitor adolescents in the home or not and the results revealed that 89.8 per cent of parents and all the adolescents reported that parents monitor adolescents in the family. Parents who reported that they monitor adolescents were further asked to indicate the kind of monitoring measure they employ to monitor adolescents in the family and the results revealed that 93.1 per cent of parents and 64.4 per cent of adolescents said that parents set rules and regulations for adolescents to obey while 6.9 per cent of parents and 35.6 per cent of adolescents indicated that it is parents strictness (Table 8).

Parents were asked to indicate whether they discipline adolescents or not, the result revealed that all the respondents (both parents and adolescents) said parents discipline adolescents. On the expected type of discipline that parents impose on adolescents, 95.5 per cent of parents and all adolescents said it is democratic. In reference to disciplinary measure parents level on children, a majority of the respondents (parents [86.4%] and adolescents [86.4%]) reported that parents restrict adolescents' activities and resort to name calling. Concerning why parents discipline adolescents, parents were asked to indicate why they discipline adolescents and the results showed that 60.5 per cent of parents and 91.0 per cent of adolescents indicated that it is for behavioural boundaries and self-control (Table 9). On the other hand, parents were asked to indicate

whether they have permissive attitudes towards adolescents' risky sexual behaviour or not, the results indicated that 98.3 per cent of parents and all the adolescents said parents do not have permissive attitudes towards adolescents' risky sexual behaviour (Table 8).

**Parent-Child Time Shared**

In all households, adolescents do well when they have their parents who spend time with them [25]. To analyse whether parents share time with children, some questions were generated to request respondents to provide data that will enable the researcher to measure this objective. The questions asked included the time parents share with children, activities parents share time on with children and why parents share time with children. The results obtained are presented in Table 9.

**Table 9: Parent-Child Time Shared**

Factor	Parents (%)	Adolescents (%)
<b>Share time</b>		
Share time with a child	100.0	100.0
<b>Activities parents share time on with a child</b>		
Watch TV and discuss child's exam papers	95.5	84.2
Playing games and going to field together	4.5	15.8
<b>Why parents share time with a child</b>		
For interactions, discover child's strengths and interests	61.6	56.5
To have fun and to play	20.3	22.0
For guidance and solving of child's problem	18.1	21.5
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2020

The results revealed that all the respondents (both parents and adolescents) indicated that parents share time with adolescents. Regarding the activities parents share time on with adolescents, the result showed that 95.5 per cent of parents and 84.5 per cent of adolescents said that they share time together to watch TV and also discuss child's examination papers. When asked why parents share time with adolescents, the results indicated that 61.6 per cent of parents and 56.5 per cent of adolescents reported that it is for interactions, discovery of adolescents' strengths and interests whilst, 18.1 per cent of parents and 21.5 per cent of adolescents said it is to offer guidance and also help adolescents to solve their problems (Table 9).

**Elements of PCC that Support Closeness in a Relationship**

In recent years, several studies have established the standing of parent-child connectedness (PCC) as a protective factor associated with various youth health outcomes including pregnancy, HIV/STD, drug abuse, tobacco use, and delinquency. None of the studies has documented the elements of PCC that are important, support closeness in a relationship and aid the defensive role that PCC plays in delaying and reducing risky sexual behaviour among adolescents. Given this, objective five, which is to document the elements of parent-child connectedness that are considered to support closeness in relationships and aid the "super protective" role that PCC plays in delaying and reducing risky sexual behaviour among adolescents was formulated to gather

data from respondents to identify the elements of PCC that are considered important, support closeness in a relationship and aid the “super protective” role that PCC plays in delaying and reducing risky sexual behaviour among adolescents. The results are presented in Table 10.

**Table 10: Elements of PCC that Support Closeness in a Relationship**

Elements	Parents (n=177) %	Adolescents (n=177) %
Climate of trust, communication, structure and Time share together	92.7	96.7
Structure, communication and time shared	2.3	3.4
Parent-child communication	5.1	
Total	100.0	100.0

**Source:** Fieldwork, 2020

Concerning the four elements of parent-child connectedness (climate of trust, communication, structure of home and time shared), parents were asked to indicate from the elements those they think were most important, support closeness in a relationship and aid the effective role that PCC plays in delaying and reducing risky sexual behaviour among adolescents. The results revealed that almost all the respondents (parents 92.7% and adolescents 96.6%) stated climate of trust, communication, structure of home and time shared to be their choice of elements whilst 2.3 per cent of parents and 3.4 per cent of adolescents reported structure, communication and time shared as their choice of elements (Table 10).

**Discussion**

The discussion of the analysis is based on the selected variables to investigate the influences that parent-child connectedness (PCC) exert on adolescents’ risky sexual behaviour in the Assin South District. The discussion of the results of the study concerns the objectives, literature review and key variables, using parent-child connectedness as the underlying conceptual framework. The study focused on investigating the climate of trust parents build and maintain with children, parents’ intention to engage children in communication, the kind of structure of home parents build with children, parents and children time shared together, and the specific elements of PCC that influence closeness in a relationship and aid the defensive role that PCC plays in delaying and reducing risky sexual behaviour among adolescents.

**Climate of Trust and Adolescents’ Risky Sexual Behaviour**

As illustrated by Lezin, Roller, Bean and Taylor’s conceptual framework, the results of the study revealed that both parents and children embraced the components of climate of trust (support, openness, protection, encouragement, autonomy, closeness, warmth, and attachment) which might have enabled them to enjoy the relationship that PCC attempts to establish [1]. Parents and children compliance to the components of climate of trust could imply that parents want to shape adolescents’ social, cognitive, and emotional developments that will follow later in the child’s life. It is assumed that the more and more parents and children adore climate of trust, it is the more and more it helps to escalate the mutual cohesion that is “an enduring bond” that exists among them in the family. With this, adolescents without any hesitation, might open up to share their problems with their parents for redress.

Probably, adolescents coping with parents in adhering to climate of trust is an indication that parents are responsive to their children’s needs. This view is per an emphasis made by Jaccard, Dittus and Gordon that, attachment is based on the idea that an infant’s first attachment experience from parents profoundly shapes the social, cognitive, and emotional developments that follow [23].

The binary logistic regression result on climate of trust revealed association between parents’ offering encouragement to adolescents on their own ideas and respecting their individuality and adolescents’ risky sexual behaviour. This association had shown that when parents continue to offer encouragement to adolescents on their own ideas and respecting their individuality, it rather increased their odds of risky sexual behaviour. This finding did not confirm the assertion made by Steinberg, Lamborn, Dornbusch et al.’s study that the probability that parental encouragement will boost adolescent progress in delaying and reducing pregnancy when it happens in the environment of an authoritative home. Moreover, association found between parents building children’s charisma and adolescents’ risky sexual behaviour also confirm that keeping transparency, democratic living and openness towards adolescents in the family can help reduce the odds of adolescents risky sexual behaviour [26].

**Parent-Children Communication and Adolescents’ Risky Sexual Behaviour**

As the study tries to ascertain parents’ intention to engage children in communication on specific risky sex-related behaviour, it was revealed that all parents have at least talked to adolescents about risky sex-related behaviour. This supports the assertion that parents understand the repercussions of the failure to brief adolescents on issues of risky sexual behaviour. The fact that open discussion on sex-related issues in Ghanaian societies is often frowned upon does not necessarily mean that parents in the Assin South District do not talk about them at all. Evidence from both parent and child’s data indicated that the discussion of risky sexual behaviour often takes place in the family. This finding points to the fact that parents understand that adolescence is a period of curiosity and exploration. Therefore, they endeavour to signal their values to the adolescents to avert any challenge they might have encountered as a result of information barrier. This result corroborates to a study by Hutchinson, Jemmott, Jemmott, Braverman, and Fong (2003) that talks on risky sex related matters among female parent and female adolescents were found to be attached to less occurrence of coitus and highest birth preventive methods utilization. The finding, again, affirms a study by Meneses, Orrell-Valente, Guendelman, Oman and Irwin (2006) that by rendering hi-fi messages and creating transparent lines of communication, parents boost their children’s acceptance of safer behaviour such as delaying sexual induction and increasing the usage of condoms and other contraceptives. This result has shown that feelings and ideas are exchanged and acknowledged in the family which conveys the impression that, when feelings and ideas are communicated in the family, it makes communication more productive and even more resilient to adolescents’ risky sexual behaviours [1].

The study identified a statistically significant relationship between parents’ intention to engage adolescents in communication and adolescents’ risky sexual behaviour, therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected. The implication of the result is that most parents in the Assin South District are with the view that they have it as a role to impart unto their children’s sex education. This finding is in line with a study by Whitaker et al. that parent-

child sexuality conversation is targeted towards boosting healthy sexual behaviour, holdup early coitus, reduce the number of sexual partners and improve condom usage [22]. The binary logistic regression analysis on communication revealed association between children's charisma building and adolescents' risky sexual behaviour. This relationship had shown that when parents make time to build their children's charisma, it goes a long way to decrease their odds of risky sexual behaviour. Moreover, the association found between clarity of messages about risky sexual behaviour and adolescents' risky sexual behaviour has demonstrated that when parents keep on explaining and discussing information about risky sexual behaviour, it tickles the adolescents to go, and experiment which on one way or the other can jeopardise their lives.

### **Structure of Home and Adolescents' Risky Sexual Behaviour**

Analysing issues on the kind of structure parents build with children unearthed that parents offer appropriate structure of home which includes discipline, monitoring, and guidance in the family. Evidence from both parent and child's data support this finding that parents set rules and regulations for child to obey. This supports the assertion that if a child is not being effectively monitored in the family, he or she might go wayward. Primarily, parents want to nurture adolescents in a way that will not undermine their potentials as a future resource of the family and the nation as a whole. Parents set rules and regulations for adolescents to obey in the family because maybe they would want to safeguard and protect adolescents' interest so that, adolescents will not go contrary to the acceptable societal norms. This view is in line with Silk and Morris' study that monitoring refers to parenting trait that is supposed to direct the child's behaviour in the mode wanted by the parents. Statistically significant relationship was not found between structure of home and adolescents' risky sexual behaviour. Therefore, the null hypothesis is confirmed [24].

### **Parent-Child Timeshared and Adolescents' Risky Sexual Behaviour**

Analysis of parent-child time shared confirmed that all the parents share time with adolescents. Parent and child fare better only when they share time for interaction, guidance, play and have fun. With this, parents will be in a better position to identify their child's strengths, interest and any strange attitude about the child so that, they can help to correct it. This finding confirms a study by Hughes that, in all households, children do well when their parents spend time with them [25]. This has revealed that, parents in their wisdom want to establish an intimate relationship based on reciprocity with the adolescent, so that, adolescents will feel that parents regard them in the family. Parents effort in establishing a close bond in the family can become a resilient to adolescents' risky sexual behaviour. Parents can also depend on time they share together with adolescents to help expose any accumulated fears and fantasies in the adolescents to help them to overcome those accumulated fears and fantasies in them. Statistically significant relationship was not found between parent-child time shared and adolescents' risky sexual behaviour, and therefore, the null hypothesis was accepted.

### **Elements of PCC that Support Closeness in a Relationship**

The study tries to ascertain the important elements of PCC that support closeness in a relationship and the findings revealed that the majority of the parents adore all the elements of PCC to be important in supporting closeness in a relationship and also aid the super protective role that PCC plays in delaying and reducing risky sexual behaviour among adolescents. Parents knew that the

interplay among the four elements of parent-child connectedness influence closeness in a relationship and also, contribute to the defensive role that PCC plays in the sexual life of adolescents. This finding corroborates to a study by Blum that the interplay of the four elements of parent-child connectedness aid the defensive role that PCC plays concerning a wide spectrum of risk behaviour beyond teen pregnancy [26].

### **Strength and Limitations of the Study**

The study employed appropriate design to investigate if PCC predicts adolescents' risky sexual behaviour, however, it has some weaknesses. The findings cannot be generalised to the whole region since a small segment of parents and children were quantitatively selected into the study. Owing to the fact that strict statistical patterns were followed to select respondents in the field, there could be a possibility that miscalculation of the probability distribution can occur and thereby causing falsity in the sample due to this, the results should be interpreted with caution. Despite the weaknesses, the study has some strengths. The use of PCC as a framework for the study added much value to the relationship that exist among parents and children. This enables parents and children to obviously demonstrate their everlasting mutual relationship from four elements. Thus the climate of trust, communication, structure, and time shared together. In addition, the study has been able to show to parents to review their strategies to what working well, identify any gap, and help strengthen their connection pathways for adolescents.

### **Conclusions**

Parent and child have demonstrated a fare knowledge about PCC. Through cross sectional design, this study has unveiled a climate of trust, communication, structure and time shared to be the most important elements that support closeness in a relationship and also aid the wonderful defensive role that PCC plays in delaying and reducing risky sexual behaviour in an adolescent's life in the Assin South District of Central Region, Ghana. Three out of the four null hypotheses suggesting no statistically significant relationships between climate of trust, structure of home as well as parent-child time shared, and adolescents' risky sexual behaviour were accepted. Association was found between communication and adolescents' risky sexual behaviour. Parents in Assin South district could provide information that will encourage delay among adolescents in starting risky sexual behaviours and at the same time, promote risk-reduction strategies if adolescents choose to practise or are already practising risky sexual behaviour [27-32].

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### **Declaration**

Ethical Approval

Ethical clearance (with ID number UCCIRB/CHLS/2020/09) to conduct this study was obtained from the Ethical Review Board of University of Cape Coast, Ghana.

### **Consent to participate in the Study**

Verbal consent was sought from the respondents in the field before a respondent took part in the study.

### **Consent to Publish**

Respondents were informed that the study was strictly academic and that the results would be published for the purposes of adding

up to knowledge in the academia.

### Competing Interests

There was no competing interest among the author(s).

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### Availability of Data and Materials

The data is only available to the author hence it was a primary data.

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