

Relationship Between Parental Socio-Economic Status and Academic Performance of Students of Senior Secondary Schools in Katagum Local Government, Bauchi State, Nigeria.

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Abstract

This study investigated the relationship between parents' socio-economic status and academic performance of students of senior secondary school in katagum local government Bauchi state.

Correlation design method was used on a population of 2,399 students from all senior secondary schools, a total of 242 was used as a sample based on krecie and Morgan table of sampling from the total population. Data collected was analyzed using descriptive statistics to find out the frequency and percent of the respondents, while Pearson product Moment Correlation Co-efficient was used to establish the relationship between the variables. The results of the findings reveal that significant relationship exists between parents' occupation and academic performance of students. Significant relationships exist between parent income and academic performance of students. Significant relationships exist between parent level of education and academic performance of students. It was recommended that Bauchi state government, katagum local government and the proprietors of private schools should pay attention to students regardless of where they come from. Efforts should not be only on providing materials, but should equally be geared towards mobilizing parents and the society on the importance of the education of their children.

Introduction

A good number of researches have been conducted and they tend to hold the views that, there is a great relationship between parents' socio-economic status and the student academic performance. They frequently stated that children from high socio-economic status may have high academic performance, while children from low socio-economic may exhibit low academic performance. This notwithstanding, because, at times, those from low socio-economic status if they are opportune may perform better than those from high socio-economic status

Education as a means or vehicle for advancement is a right for every child irrespective of his or her race, *religion*, ethnic, or status. For country to develop there is the need to educate its citizens from lower level (primary education) to tertiary level so that they may contribute towards the development of that country. Parents on the other hand, contribute financially or otherwise toward academic performance of their children, no matter how small, parents play their

roles in the education of their wards. According to the national policy on education (2004), secondary education is the education children receive after primary and before tertiary stage. N.P.E. (2004). Any system of education developed in any society whether simple or complex is related to its social stratification and social discrimination. In many societies, power is being concentrated in the hands of few individuals, they control, preserve and distribute wealth, job opportunities and even knowledge. Musgrave (1998) and Dan-malam (2009) note that in a society, power is based on wealth and those with power wish to preserve the advantage they have in the distribution of not only wealth, but also of knowledge. In this way, they can secure their children future status. Socio-economic status of a parents includes things like: parents occupation, level of their education, sources of their income, type of houses they live in, dress they wear, even the type of cars they ride. All these constitute and clearly show the position or status of parents and these in turn will influence the academic performance of their children.

Parents, especially those in the high economic status, that is the bourgeoisies, use to enroll their wards in a class school, or private schools, and provide them with all the necessary materials needed in the school. These include things like good school uniform, reading and writing materials, good feeding, transport from home to school, and the school fees. People of high socio-economic status do send their wards to school earlier than those from lower socio-economic status. This implies that people in the high socio-economic status afford to enroll their wards at early age. That is, they enroll their children from nursery school which allowed them to be familiar with some of the school activities and also to learn how to read and write some alphabets and also identification of some objects and colors.

Academic performance of a child or student can be seen or identified in the scores or examination grade he or she obtained at the end of final year examination.

Statement of the problem.

Secondary schools students or students in schools in general learns fast when all necessary materials needed are provided. These materials includes qualified teachers, reading and writing materials as well as ventilated classrooms. People usually relate examination failure to socio-economic status of a students. That is students failed as a result of the type of home or families they came from. This simply means directly or indirectly students failed because of the poor family background, when their parents level of income is low and when the children are many and the parents cannot provide for them. Therefore, this study examines the relationship between parent's socio-economic status and academic performance of students of senior secondary schools in katagum local government.

Objectives of the study.

Objective of this study are to examine;

- The relationship between parents' occupation and academic performance of their children
- The relationship between parents' income and academic performance of their children.
- The relationship between parents' level of education and academic performance of their children

Research Questions:

- What are the relationship between parents occupation and academic performance of their children?.
- What are the relationship between parents income and academic performance of students?.
- What are the relationship between parents level of education and academic performance of their children

Research Hypothesis.

The following hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance.

H₀₁ There is no significance relationship between parents' Occupation and academic performance.

H₀₂ There is no significance relationship between parents' Income and academic performance of their children.

H₀₃ There is no significance relationship between parents' level of education and academic performance of their children.

Theoretical Framework.

The study is based on the Sociological theory which attempt to explain events, factors, ideas, or behavior in a comprehensive way.

There are three main sociological theories. These are: Structural functionalist or functionalism, conflict theory and symbolic interactionism.

According to structural functionalism, society is an organism, a system of parts all of which serve a function together for the overall effectiveness and efficiency of society. Ogumbameru (2008).

Functionalists believe that the basis of an orderly society is the existence of a central value system that imposes common values on all its members. Functionalist theory placed emphasis on function, interdependence, consensus, equilibrium and evolutionary change. Functionalist see education as contributing to the smooth functioning of the society. They did not see education as not contributing to inequality among class, race, gender, but rather as serving the positive function of the overall society.

Conflict theory is the theoretical approach in social sciences that views social phenomena as the result of conflict between individuals or groups. It has developed in both micro and macro levels. At the micro level, it studies the individuals from his or her behavior.

Conflict theorist emphasized the importance of interest over norms and values, and ways in which the pursuit of interest generated various parts of conflict as normal aspect of social life, rather than abnormal or dysfunctional occurrences. Marshal, (1998) in Ogumbameru (2008). In addition, all conflict perspectives use in one form or another, of the notion that there are groups in society that have different interest. Thus, social arrangement social arrangement will tend to benefit some groups at the expense of others, because of the existence of different interest, the potential for, and likelihood of, conflict is always present. In this sense, the researcher used conflict theory due to its suitability.

Socio-economic status and academic performance

Ajeh (1991) in Danmalam (2009) shows that occupation level of parents have important relationship with English language achievement in students. Furthermore, parents occupation in terms of professional, semi-professional and the manual group has similar academic performance in their children. This is because of job mobility and child rearing practice.

It should be clear that, the performance of students with mother from professional groups is not related to the semi-professional and manual groups. This is the result of the former having positive needs for the achievement of the student. But students from semi-professional mothers and manual groups have similar academic performance in English language, and on the other hand, parent level of education is important to schooling as the parents wants their children to maintain the status quo.

Salawu (2007) stated that, socio-economic status remain one of the most important prediction of children academic performance. In addition, he reported that when parents are civil servants and businessmen, they have money to buy materials for reading and writing for their children, they also arrange extra lesson for their children.

Nigeria is one of the developing nations in Africa, which is vast, diverse with 36 states and capital territory (Abuja). It occupies an area of 922,000 square kilometers (356,699 square miles) and has a population of about 150 millions, comprising 250 ethnic groups. The federal government and state government placed a high premium on education. The government recognized education as a weapon against ignorant, diseases, squalor and poverty. It is used as means of raising an enlightened, lively and industrial citizenry and producing a good prosperous nation (Taiwo, 1980) in Dan-mallam (2009).

Maji (2002) stated that, it is when students value education and aspire to achieve in that area they will be committed to devote their time for studies which contribute to good performance in the S.S.C.E. The yearning of their community and its aspiration determine their commitment to the course of education, which in turn influence the effort they put in and their final performance.”

In line with the above, Gunduma *and muhammed* (2006) pointed out some factors that serve as hindrance to education or academic performance of learners, among which they include: poverty as barrier to education. This is manifested in inability to pay school fees. This makes children to work on the farm and to engage in petty trading instead of attending school.

Abdou (2007) identified factors of social environment that may affect children which include the occupational status of parents the parents’ attitude towards their children school and expectation they have for their children. A child from high socio-economic background has advantage over a child from low socio-economic class. In a higher class, there may be television set, radio, pictures, reading and writing materials. All of these help to prepare a child to school performance.

In Nigeria, we have two types of school: government owned schools (public) and private owned schools which are manage and control by private individuals. The public schools are not in proper shape in terms of staffing, provision of materials (learning materials) even the staff available were not qualified to teach. Moreover, appointment of teachers in public schools is not based on merit but whom you know.

Methodology

The study adopted the correlational design which establishes the relationship between two variables, that is students' academic performance and parents' socio-economic status, on the sample of **242** students, from 4 schools out of 14 senior secondary schools in katagum Local Government Area. Purposive sampling was used in selecting 4 schools which gives a total number of 242 students out of a total number of 2,399. From 14 senior secondary school. The instrument for data collection was designed by the researcher which is titled "parent socio-economic status questionnaire for student" (PSESQS) properly validated by experts from guidance and counselling department, psychology and foundations respectively in order to elicit information from the respondents (students). The data collected were subject to Pearson Product moment Correlation Coefficient statistic.

Results and Discussion.

HO1: There is no significant relationship between parents' occupation and academic performance of their children

This hypothesis was tested and the result is presented in table 1

Table 1: Relationship between parents' occupation and academic performance of students

Variables	No of respondents	Freq of respondents	Percent of respondents	Cal-r	Cri.r	Deci.
Acad.	206	20.6	9.72	.25	.062	rejected
POC	206	5.72	2.7			

Key: Accad=Academic performance

POC=Parents' occupation

Table1 shows that the calculated r value of .25 was less greater than the critical r value of .062 at 0.05 level of significance. For this reason, the hypothesis which stated that, there is no significant relationship between parents' occupation and academic performance of their children was rejected. Meaning that the relationship between parents' occupation and students' academic performance exist.

Ho2: There is no significant relationship between parents' income and academic performance of students.

This hypothesis was tested and the result is presented in table 2

Table 2: relationship between parents' income and academic performance of students

Variables	No. of respondents.	Freq of respondents	Percent of respondents	Cal-r	Cri.r	Deci
Acad.	206	20.6	9.76	.22	.086	rejected

Key: Accad=Acade perfor

Pinc=Parents' income

Table 2 shows that the calculated r value of .22 was greater than the critical r value of .086 at 0.05 level of significance. The hypothesis which stated that, there is no significant relationship between parents' income performance of students was rejected. Meaning that the relationship between parents' income and students' academic performance exist.

Ho3: There is no significant relationship between parents' level of education and academic performance of student

This hypothesis was tested and the result is presented in table 3.

Table 3: Relationship between parents' level of education and academic performance of students

Variables	No.	Freq.	Percent.	Cal-r	cri.r
Acad.	206	20.6	9.72	.21	.090
rejected					
Plead	206	6.05	2.85		

Key: Accad=Academic performance

Plead=Parents' level of education

Table 3 shows that the calculated r value of .21 was greater than the critical r value of .090 at 0.05 level of significance. For this reason, the hypothesis which stated that, there is no significant relationship between parents' level of education and academic performance students was rejected. Meaning that the relationship between parents' level of education and students' academic performance exist

Conclusion

Based on the findings, the following conclusions were arrived at:

Parents' occupation has link with students' academic performance. Students or children whose parents are civil servant or has a private business, like doctor, lawyer, farmer or whatever type of occupation you practice will influence your children academic performance. Similarly, the level of income also does influence student academic performance, whatever parents earn every day or monthly has positive relationship with academic performance.

On the other hand, parents' level of education also influences academic performance of their children. A student from a graduate or semi graduate family may perform far better academically, unlike his counterpart from semi- or less educational advantage parents or families.

Recommendations.

Based on the major findings and conclusion of this study, the following recommendations were provided:

1. Bauchi state, government, katagum local government, and the proprietors of private schools should pay attention to students regardless of where they came from.

2. Parents no matter the level of their socio-economic status should encourage their children to study hard. This will definitely motivate them and enhance learning as well, thereby boosting their children academic performance.

3. Parents and community at large should join hand together in assisting those (students) in pursuing education.

Efforts should not be only on providing materials, but should equally be geared towards mobilizing parents on the importance of the education of their children

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