

INFLUENCE OF STREET HAWKING ON THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF STUDENTS OF JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN JOS NORTH LGA OF PLATEAU STATE, NIGERIA

BY

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Abstract

The present research examined street hawking as a factor responsible for poor academic performance among junior secondary school students in Jos North Local Government Area of Kwara state. A total of 200 teachers of junior secondary schools were taken as respondents. Ten schools were selected through simple random samplings. Survey questionnaire was used as a tool for data collection. Frequency, percentage, t-test and Analysis of Variance ANOVA statistical analytical methods were used to analyze the data collected. It was found that street hawking influenced junior secondary school students' academic performance through continuous lateness to school and lack of punctuality to school which may result to drop out of school among others and all the hypotheses tested were accepted which means there were no significant difference in the influence of street hawking on academic performance of junior secondary school students in Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State based on gender, religion affiliation and educational attainment. It was recommended that there is need for government continuous enlightenment of parents on the effect involving their children in street hawking and the importance of education and should make education free at all levels so that the less privileged children would have the opportunity to be educated.

Keywords: Street hawking, Academic Performance, Students, Junior Secondary Schools

Introduction

Children are regarded as important element of development; therefore, their welfare in the society is an index of social and economic development of that society. That is why child welfare is included in the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), (UNESCO, 2020). But most of them are denied this right by engaging them in some forms of child labour, especially street hawking. The street child is defined as any child who may have parents or guardians in a locality but living and working in the street. Street children engaged in work or employment on a regular basis with the aim of earning a livelihood for themselves or for their families. Such activities are often carried out at the expense of schooling. Therefore, children are not adequately prepared for the future in a modernized society, (UNICEF, 2014; FME, 2017).

Hawking is a marketing system characterized by many buyers and sellers usually offering very small quantities for sale at a time (Olukosi, Isitor, and Ode, 2015). It is this system of marketing that becomes a point of concern to the researcher as he sees mostly young children of school age involved in street hawking. Hawking according to the oxford advanced learner's dictionary 6th edition, is means moving to sell things by going from place to place asking people to buy them. However, Olalere (2017) identified two main types of hawkers which are; the hawkers that carry their goods in wheels and the side walk hawkers who sit with their wares beside the road. According to Olalere, the capital out lay for types of trade is determined by nature of goods traded in the hawker builds cart to suit his or her purpose. The hawker also employs different media of advertising their wares like; buy your sweet orange, the hawker may also decide to name their goods in the manner peculiar and appealing to people.

Nseabasi and Oluwabamide (2020) opined child hawking as a negation of the international convention on the right of the child. It is indeed inhuman for anyone to engage a child in money-making ventures; because such a child is denied basic education which is a right for every child. In Nigeria, there has been an increase in the

number of children trading or working in the rural areas which affects their acquisition of education and this can be traced to a lot of factors which according to Dustmann (2013), are: cost of schooling, characteristics of the child, parents, households and community, location and distance of formal education centre. Poverty and illiteracy are reinforced by traditional customs such as polygamy and preference for large family size. Child street trading is a threat to the continued survival of the society; it distorts government policies in the education of the youths. It also distorts acquisition of vocational skills and relevant education thereby destroying the economic sector (Esweren 2021).

Advanced learner's dictionary (2010) defined a child as a young human being who is not yet an adult. On the other hand, child hawking is the act of subjecting a child to work that is dangerous for kids and that are hazardous to their physical, mental or emotional health. It is also a work that prevents kids from attending school such as unlimited or unrestricted domestic work (International Hawking Organization- ILO 2017). According to Anderson (2016) child hawking is engaging under-aged children into work. He maintained that child hawking was utilized to a large extent through most history, but entered public dispute with the beginning of universal schooling with the changes in working conditions during industrialization. In addition, was the emergence of the concepts of workers and child rights laws. In 2004, the United States passed an amendment to the Fair Hawking Standards Act of 1938. The amendment allows certain children aged 14–18 to work in or outside a business where machinery is used to process wood (Department of hawking USA 2012). The law aims to respect the religious and cultural needs of the Amish community of the United States. The Amish believe that one effective way to educate children is on the job (The Economist 2004). The new law allows Amish children the ability to work with their families, once they are past eighth grade in school.

Most of this children hawk before going to school in the morning and continue after, until late night. Street hawking has left many children out of school as they drop out, withdrawn by their parent or not enroll. School age children estimated to be 10.5 million are out of school in Nigeria (The Guardian, 2013). Though, this is not surprising, giving that majority of the population are living below the poverty line couple with the fact that, these children are being engaged in income generating activities to contribute to the sustenance of the family, however, it is embarrassing to a country with abundant natural resources like Nigeria. Until this is addressed, achieving education millennium development goal remains an illusion. According to Dorschner (2000), in the rural areas children are found working in agriculture and on family farms. They are seldom employed by state-owned commercial agriculture plantations, which are responsible for much of the agriculture production for export. In cottage industries and mechanic work-shops, children work as apprentices in serious crafts or trade such as weaving, tailoring, catering and auto repair. In urban areas and towns children work on the streets as vendors, car washers, scavengers, beggars, head load carriers, feet-washers and bus conductors. These economic activities affect the performance of the children since they engage in them at the expense of their studies, this often result in these children leaving school prematurely and entering into paid work. These works are usually under paid.

However, street hawking by underage is a punishable offence as in the child hawking Act of 1974 which prohibit the employment of under-aged children and restricts hawking performed by children to home-based agricultural and domestic work. The child hawking Act of 1974 also prohibits forced hawking. Despite the above act, most parents still give out their children to work because of economic pressure. Some parents exploit their children at home. In most homes, the girl child is engaged in hawking for the financial needs of the family. Finally, the girl child is forced into premature marriage, while the boys are allowed to go to school. The girl child hawk waves in the street to compliment (Mathias 2011). Though there are child right protections nationally and internationally ILO statistics show that a large number of children are still involved in harmful and hazardous work. The search for money to make ends meet in a depressed economy is obviously one of the major reasons for parent and guardians sending their children or wards to hawk. Most of the hawkers are either in primary/ secondary school for the purpose of hawking and at each day sales the children becomes weak and tired that they are unable to concentrate, contribute to discussion or study on their own. Apparently, parents and guardians do not realize this and children do not know that the means by which

the mental. Moral, social and material inheritance of the society can be passed from generation to generation is through formal education. Danesty and Okediran (2002) lamented that street hawking among young school students have psychologically imposed other problems, like sex networking behaviour, juvenile delinquent behavior, which takes most of the students school time and leads to poor academic performance and drop out syndrome noticed among young school students.

Several studies exist on child street hawking with focus on behavioral problems (Udoh & Joseph, 2013; Ugodulunwa, et.al 2004), child Abuse (Akpan & Oluwabamide, 2010), Symptoms of Psychopathology (Ezenwa, 2011) and Socio-demographic characteristics (Ugochuku, et.al 2012). The present study intends to find out the effect of street hawking on academic performance of students in social studies, which is an indicator of students' progress in school as it, shows how high or low students achieved. Academic performance is a reflection of the education of the child (Anumaka, 2012) and it is the desire of parent, their children should achieved high. Different factors are responsible for influencing academic performance of students. Studies, found some of these factors to be; students perception of teachers class room management (Okon, 2005), attendance in class (Nyame, 2010), learning environment (Ekanem, Apebende, & Ekefre, 2011), financial status of parent, and poor method of teaching (Okoji, 2013). In spite of research findings on how to improve, academic performance of students, low performance and failure in examination has been reported. This indicates that, there is a need to carry out more research on students' academic performance. The finding of this study, it is hoped will help in cubing the problem of students' poor academic performance.

Statement of the Problem

The majority of Nigerian parents believe that children are their God sent helpers both for economic purpose and other wise. This is why many Nigerians want to have children until old age. Most average Nigerians do not consider street hawking by children and some other child hawking practices are seen as part of the socialization process in the society. This brings the question to mind that, most of the parents whose children are participating in street hawking may have been street hawkers themselves in their life. Thus, the use of their wards or children as hawkers may largely reflect their value representation. Children under such situation do not receive any formal education; instead many of them are vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse (Okolo 1986). Uchendu (2006) reported that in Eastern Nigerian, there are more than 100,000 boys and girls living and working in the streets. In Northern Nigeria, children known as almajiri, survive on the streets, by begging (Ahianta 2014). Studies have also showed that children who engaged in child hawking do not perform well in school because it affects their concentration in class thus resulting to poor performance. However, with the dwindling economic situation in most developing nations, most parents are forced to send their children to work.

All secondary school students are expected to revise their notes, do their homework, and rest after school to prepare for the next day school activities which will improve their academic performance. It is being observed, however, not all the students revise their notes, do homework and rest after school hours. The students instead, engage in income generating activities such as selling goods after school hours to contribute to family income. By this attitude, the students have their attention divided between academic work and income generating activities. This ugly trend exists at a time academic performance of students is declining. Arising from above the question that comes to mind is; could this attitude have any effect on the academic performance of the students? This motivates the researcher to carry out this study. This study therefore seeks to examine the street hawking as a factor responsible for students' academic performance in junior secondary schools in Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State.

Research Questions

1. What is the influence of street hawking on the academic performance of students of junior secondary schools in Jos North LGA of Plateau state, Nigeria?

Research Hypotheses

Ho₁: There is no significant difference in the influence of street hawking on academic performance of junior secondary school students in Jos North LGA, Plateau state based on gender.

- Ho₂: There is no significant difference in the influence of street hawking on academic performance of junior secondary school students in Jos North LGA, Plateau state based on religion affiliation.
- Ho₃: There is no significant difference in the influence of street hawking on academic performance of junior secondary school students in Jos North LGA, Plateau state based on parent educational attainment.

Methodology

Descriptive survey research method was adopted for this study. This is because this study intended to describe street hawking as a factor responsible for academic performance of junior secondary school students through the use of questionnaire. The population for this study comprised all junior secondary school students in Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State. The target population consisted the selected students in public junior secondary schools in Jos North Local Government Area, Plateau State. The sampling technique used in this study was the simple random sampling techniques. Simple random sampling is a technique where every element in the population is given equal chance to have an equal probability for being selected as part of the study. Ten out of 18 secondary schools in Jos North LGA were selected. Simple random sampling technique was used to select 20 students from each of the 10 selected schools, making a total of 200 respondents. The selected respondents will then be satisfied based on gender, religion affiliation and parent educational attainment: Satisfaction is a process of classifying a sample or subjects under study into researchers' variables of interest. However, the students would be reached from their different schools.

A researcher-designed questionnaire was used as a tool for data collection. The questionnaire is tagged "Street Hawking and Students' Academic Performance Questionnaire (SHSAPQ)". The questionnaire therefore consists of 2 sections: A and B. section A: focuses on the demographic data of the respondents which include information on gender, religion and parent educational attainment. Section B on the other hand, consists of (20) items that seek information on street hawking as a factor responsible for students' academic performance. The researcher used four points like type scale to score section B of the instrument respectively. In section A of this instrument, percentage was used to analyze the generated raw data. Section B was analyzed using t-test and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) statistical methods.

Results and Discussion

The data collected were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. For the demographic data, frequency and percentage was employed, while t-test and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) statistical method were used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents by gender, marital status, year of experience and educational Qualification

S/N	Variable	Frequency	Percentage %
1	Gender		
	Male	89	44.5
	Female	111	55.5
	Total	200	100
2	Religion Affiliation		
	Christianity	51	25.5
	Islam	149	74.5
	Total	200	100
3	Parent Educational Qualification		
	O' Level		
	ND/NCE	42	21
	HND/1 st Degree	58	29
	Postgraduate	77	38.5
	Total	23	11.5
		200	100

Table 1 shows the distribution of respondents that participated in the study. It showed that 89 respondents representing 44.5% of the total respondents are males while 111 representing 55.5% of the respondents are females. 51 (25.5%) of the respondents are Christian while 149 respondents representing 74.5% are Muslim, on parent educational attainment, 42 representing 21% of the respondents have parent with O'Level of education, 58 (29%) possessed ND/NCE certificate, 77 (38.5%) were HND/1st Degree holders, while 23 (11.5%) were postgraduate holders.

Research Question 1: What is the influence of street hawking on the academic performance of students of junior secondary schools in Jos North LGA of Plateau state, Nigeria?

Table 2: Mean and rank order of influence of street hawking on the academic performance of students of junior secondary schools in Jos North LGA of Plateau state, Nigeria.

S/N	In my view, student who involve in street hawking:	Mean	Rank
5.	continuously comes late to school	3.24	1 st
3.	may drop out from school	3.18	2 nd
7.	may not be punctual in school	3.02	3 rd
17.	often sleep in the class	2.91	4 th
1.	may not perform well academically	2.88	5 th
12.	may not do home work	2.84	6 th
13.	may develop poor study habits	2.80	7 th
15.	are likely to develop low self-esteem	2.77	8 th
16.	are likely to develop school phobia	2.69	9 th
2.	may not be attentive in class	2.58	10 th
10.	have low self-expression in communication in class	2.47	11 th
14.	are likely to be involved in examination malpractices	2.46	12 th
18.	are usually shy which may affect their classroom participation	2.43	13 th
11.	can develop anxiety during examination and test	2.39	14 th
6.	may not obey the rules and regulations of the school	2.35	15 th
4.	may withdraw from school several times	2.29	16 th
20.	usually associate with bad gang in the school which impair their academic performance	2.22	17 th
8.	may be stubborn in class	2.14	18 th
9.	often fight (in or around the school)	2.05	19 th
19.	perform better than their counterpart in their academic works	2.03	20 th

Table 2 presents street hawking as a factor responsible for students' academic performance in Jos North LGA, Plateau. The table shows that ten out of twenty items have means scores not less than 2.5⁰ which is the cut-off point. However, items 5 (with mean score of 3.24), 3 (with mean score of 3.18) and 7 (with mean score of 3.02) took precedence over others and were ranked 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively. The items stated students who involve in street hawking "continuously comes late to school", "may drop out from the school" and "may not be punctual in school" respectively. This implies that the respondents attributed street hawking as a factor responsible for students' academic performance because any students who involve in street hawking will continuous come late to school, drop out from the school and may not be punctual in school among others.

Hypothesis One: *There is no significant difference in the influence of street hawking on academic performance of junior secondary school students in Jos North LGA, Plateau state based on gender.*

Table 3: The t-test results showing the influence of street hawking on academic performance of junior secondary school students in Jos North LGA, Plateau state based on gender

Gender	N	Mean	SD	df	Cal. t-val.	Crit.t-val.	p-val.
Male	89	55.14	11.03	198	1.75	1.96	.08
Female	111	56.47					

Table 3 shows that the calculated t-value of 1.75 is less than the critical t-value of 1.96 with a corresponding p-value of .08 which is greater at 0.05 alpha level. This indicates no significant difference; hence, the hypothesis is accepted. Therefore, there is no significant difference in the influence of street hawking on academic performance of junior secondary school students in Jos North LGA, Plateau State based on gender.

Hypothesis Two: *There is no significant difference in the influence of street hawking on academic performance of junior secondary school students in Jos North LGA, Plateau state based on religion affiliation.*

Table 4: The t-test results showing the influence of street hawking on academic performance of junior secondary school students in Jos North LGA, Plateau state based on religion affiliation

Status	N	Mean	SD	df	Cal. t-val.	Crit. t-val.
Christianity	51	58.78	9.06	198	1.64	1.96
Islam	149	55.68	7.92			

Table 4 shows that the calculated t-value of 1.64 is less than the critical t-value of 1.96 at 0.05 alpha level of significant. This indicated that there was no significant difference; hence, the hypothesis was accepted. Therefore, there is no significant difference in influence of street hawking on students' academic performance based on religion affiliations.

Hypothesis Three: *There is no significant difference in the influence of street hawking on academic performance of junior secondary school students in Jos North LGA, Plateau state based on parent educational attainment*

Table 5: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) on the influence of street hawking on academic performance of junior secondary school students in Jos North LGA based on educational attainment

Source	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Squares	Cal. F-val.	Crit. F-val.	Remark
Between Group	458.908	2	152.969			Not Rejected
Within Group	84699.087	197	108.728	1.41	3.04	
Total	85157.995	199				

Table 5 shows that the calculated F-value of 1.41 is less than the critical F-value of 3.04 at 0.05 alpha level. This indicates no significant difference; hence, the hypothesis is not rejected. Therefore, there is no significant difference in the influence of street hawking on academic performance of junior secondary school students in Jos North LGA based on parent educational attainment.

Discussion of the Findings

The study was carried out on street hawking as a factor responsible for academic performance of junior secondary school students in Jos North Local Government Area, Plateau State. The data collected for the study were explained with the aid of tables based on the distribution of respondents on the basis of gender, religion affiliation and parent educational qualification. It was revealed from the study that there were more female respondents with 55.5% than the male respondents who had 44.5%. 51 (25.5%) of the respondents are Christian while 149 respondents representing 74.5% are Muslim, on parent educational attainment , 42

representing 21% of the respondents have parent with O'Level of education, 58 (29%) possessed ND/NCE certificate, 77 (38.5%) were HND/1st Degree holders, while 23 (11.5%) were postgraduate holders.

The findings of this study revealed that street hawking influence junior secondary school students' academic performance through continuous lateness to school and lack of punctuality to school which may result to drop out of school among others. This is in line with the findings of Anderson (2016) which revealed that involvement of child in street hawking may lead to school dropout and exposed the child to anti-social behaviours.

The results of the study based on each of the hypotheses tested are hereby presented: There is no significant difference in the influence of street hawking on academic performance of junior secondary school students in Jos North Local Government Area of -Plateau State based on gender. The result of the t-test analysis used revealed that the null hypothesis was accepted. This means that both male and female junior secondary school students perceived street hawking as a catalyst to child educational development. This finding is in agreement with the study of Ahiente (2008), whose finding revealed that college students' irrigrardless of their gender believed that involvement of child in street hawking can determine the level of students' academic achievement.

There is no significant difference in the influence of street hawking on academic performance of junior secondary school students in Jos North LGA, Plateau state based on religion affiliation. The result of the t-test analysis used revealed that the null hypothesis was accepted. This means that there is no disparity in the perception of Muslim and Christian junior secondary school students on street hawking as a factor responsible for students' academic performance. This can be because both religious teaches against child abuse of any form. This is in line with the findings of Okolo (2017) who's revealed that religion affiliation of college teachers' does not influence their responses on the effect of street hawking on students' academic performance in Nigeria.

There is no significant difference in the influence of street hawking on academic performance of junior secondary school students in Jos North LGA, Plateau state based on parent educational attainment. The result of the Analysis of Variance used revealed that the null hypothesis was accepted. This means that educational qualification of respondents' parent does not influence their responses on street hawking as a factor responsible for academic performance of junior secondary school students in Jos North Local Government Area, Plateau State. This implies that students from low and highly educated parents strongly believed that street hawking is one of the major factors responsible for student academic performance.

Conclusion

From the findings of the study, it can be concluded that student hawkers exhibited continuous lateness to school and lack of punctuality to school, poor study habit which may result to drop out of school. One of the negative effects of street hawking as identified in this study is lateness to school which is also a causal factor for poor academic performance.

Implications of the Study

The findings of the study would be of immense benefits for parent, students, counsellors, government and researchers. The findings of the study will enlighten parents on the impact of street hawking on the academic performance of their children. This will enable parents to stop involving their children (teenagers) in street hawking before or after school hours. From this study parents would learn importance of formal education and so give it its right position while drawing the scale of preference for their children. Similarly, parents would then set goals for their children and motivate children in their academic work so that the children would put formal education which gives self-esteem, respect, prestige and good personality before money making venture.

From this research, children could learn to improve on the ideas they have about themselves as this could be a motivating factor for writing formal education. It would also bring their knowledge that divided loyalty might be a hindrance to better performance in school. Divided loyalty in the sense that as a street hawker one runs after formal education partially; the student would also realize that school education prepares people to get the appropriate key to the doors of wealth.

In addition, understanding the impact of street hawking on the academic performance of teenagers will enable the government to make policies that will eradicate street hawking among teenagers as the future of every great nation lies on the quality of education impacted in the life of the younger generation.

The finding of this study will also be useful to academic writings and publishing of educational textbooks as to meet the need of various backgrounds to enhance academic performance among street hawking teenagers. In summary, finally, this research will serve as guide to parents, teachers and even policy makers on how to develop children positively in order for them to become more useful in the society

Recommendations

Base on the finding of this study, the following recommendations have been proffered:

1. There is need for government continuous enlightenment of parents on the effect involving their children in street hawking and the importance of education. This becomes necessary so that parent look for other means of sustaining the family rather than use their children.
2. There is need for government to create more job opportunities so that citizens would be employed to enable them cater for family needs.
3. Government should make education free at all levels so that the less privileged children would have the opportunity to be educated.
4. Government should legislate against involving school age children in hawking and punish parent, guardian and caregiver who go against it.
5. Parents should be educated on the danger which hawking poses to the academic achievement of their children.
6. Parents should think of other means of generating income and desist from sending their teenage children to hawk.

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