

**HAWKING, MAIDSHIP, APPRENTICESHIP AND GIRL-CHILD ACADEMIC
PERFORMANCE IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS, ILORIN-WEST LGA KWARA STATE**

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Abstract

Failure of the government in its obligations to provide free or subsidized education to its citizenry has further played the economically disadvantaged parents to engage their girl children in street hawking, house maidship and apprenticeship so as to cushion the effects of financial difficulty threatening their lives without minding the consequence of their action on their children. This study aimed at examine the resultant effects of street hawking, house maidship, apprenticeship on female student academic performance in senior secondary school in Ilorin west local government area of kwara state. Purposive sampling technique was adopted to select three hundred (300) female students from ten (10) secondary schools in the local government area. The instrument administered to collect data and information are profoma and questionnaire, using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Statistic to test the three hypotheses generated in the study. The outcome of the study revealed that street hawking, maidship, apprenticeship had significant relationship on academic performance of girl child in secondary schools. Based on the findings, it is recommended that government should make education free for all and sundry and provide free text books, stationary, uniform and free meals that will enable children of the less privileged attend schools without complaint.

Keywords: Hawking, Maidship, Apprenticeship, Academic Performance and Girl Child.

Introduction

Education plays an important role in the development of mankind and it is usually linked with an individual's well-being and opportunities for better living (Battle & Lewis, 2002). Education ensures the adequate acquisition of knowledge and skills that enable individuals to increase their productivity and improve their quality of life. This increase in productivity also leads towards new sources of earning which enhances the economic growth of a country (Saxton, 2000). Similarly, Academic performance, according to Ali, (2013) is a measure of the degree of student success in performing specific tasks in a subject or area of study after a learning experience. The outcome of education manifests on how well a student or class of students are doing academically and the extent to achieving the educational goals, the family of the students plays a central role.

Jencks (2012) stated that the family plays an important role in formal and informal education. Family characteristics represent a number of variables like education, income, beliefs, occupation and size of family which have implication on the academic performance of the children. Upon investigation, discoveries showed that a number of factors can influence the academic performance of students at all levels of education. These factors can be within or outside school. These factors may be termed as student factors, family factors, school factors and peer factors (Crosnoe, Johnson & Elder, 2004). Generally, the factors that influence academic performance of students include age, gender, geographical belongingness, ethnicity, marital status, socio-economic status (SES), parents' educational level, parents' profession, language, income and religious affiliations.

To this end, the socio-economic background is a powerful and variable factor that determines the students' academic performance. Jeynes (2002) affirmed that the academic performance of a child is commonly determined by a combination of factors such as parents' educational level, occupational status and income level. Social class and economic status of the parents determine the type of school and the standard of training they desire for their children. The occupation or profession of the parents, the educational level and whether the mothers are working or non-working mothers places them at an advantage or disadvantage to evaluate their children's academic work and monitor their progress.

Meanwhile, status is often determined by the individual's economic attainment, though it is sometimes ascribed to the individual. Okunniyi (2004) identified three distinct socio-economic groups or status which are common in many countries. They are: upper class- which is made up of rich business men and top government officials among others; middle class which consists of skilled workers, professionals and middle ranked government workers and the lower class- which is made up of manual workers, petty traders and low income government officials.

Hence, this study examined hawking, maidship, apprenticeship and academic performance of girl-child in secondary schools in Ilorin West Local Government Area, Kwara State.

Statement of Problem

The effect of hawking, maidship, apprenticeship and academic performance of girl child in senior secondary schools, Ilorin West Local Government Area of Kwara State has immensely attracted interest of educators because one cannot separate the influence of street hawking, maidship, apprenticeship from the performance of students in schools. The reason for this is not far-fetched. Out of the twenty four hours in a day, and the seven days in a week, it is crystal clear that students stay in school for an average of six hours per day and five days a week, eight hours to sleep in the night. It then follows that students spend more time at home and on the street than they do at school. What transpires at home to a reasonable extent may make or mar students' performance in school.

Thus, this study was carried out on Hawking, Maidship, Apprenticeship and Girl-child academic performance of secondary school students in Ilorin West Local Government Area, Kwara State.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to find out:

1. The relationship between hawking and academic performance of girl child.
2. The relationship between maid and academic performance of girl child.
3. The relationship between apprenticeship and academic performance of girl child

Research Questions

1. Is there significant relationship between street hawking and academic performance of girl child?
2. Is there significant relationship between maid and academic performance of girl child?
3. Is there significant relationship between apprenticeship and academic performance of girl child?

Research Hypotheses

- Ho₁:** There is no significant relationship between street hawking and academic performance of girl child in secondary schools in Ilorin West Local Government Area, Kwara State.
- Ho₂:** There is no significant relationship between maid and academic performance of girl child in secondary schools in Ilorin West Local Government Area, Kwara State.
- Ho₃:** There is no significant relationship between apprenticeship and academic performance of girl child in secondary schools in Ilorin West Local Government Area, Kwara State.

Methodology

The study adopted descriptive design of survey type. The population of this study consists of all the female students in thirty two (32) senior public secondary schools in Ilorin West Local Government Area, Kwara State while the target population was SS 2 girl-child students from the ten (10) selected senior secondary schools in the Local Government Area. Purposive sampling technique was adopted to select three hundred (300) SS 2 girl-child students who were involved in street hawking, working as maids and apprentice in the society.

A Questionnaire titled, “Hawking, Maidship, Apprenticeship and Girl-child student’s Academic Performance Questionnaire’ (HMAGSAPQ) and “Students’ Academic Performance Proformna” (SAPP) were used to collect data for the study. HMAGAPQ was used to obtain necessary information from the respondents on hawking, maidship and apprenticeship while SAPP was used to collect promotion results of students identified to be involved in hawking, maidship and apprenticeship right from SS 1 to SS 2 classes.

Result

Hypotheses Testing

There were three hypotheses formulated to guide the study. Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Statistic was used to test all the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

Ho₁: There is no significant relationship between hawking and academic performance of the girl child in secondary schools in Ilorin West Local Government Kwara State.

Table 1: Hawking and Academic Performance of the Girl Child

Variable	N	$\bar{X}$	SD	df	Cal r-value	P-value	Decision
Street Hawking	278	3.16	.83	276	.611	.000	Ho ₂ Rejected
Academic Performance of Girl Child Education	278	2.61	.83				

***Significant $p < .05$**

Table 1 shows the calculated r-value of .611 while p-value (0.000) is less than the significance level (0.05) for 276 degrees of freedom. Therefore, the hypothesis which stated that, there is no significant relationship between street hawking and academic performance of girl child in secondary schools in Ilorin West Local Government Area, Kwara State was rejected. The finding revealed that, there was significant relationship between street hawking and academic performance of the girl child in secondary schools in Ilorin West Local Government Area, Kwara State.

Ho₂: There is no significant relationship between maid and academic performance of girl child in secondary schools in Ilorin West Local Government Kwara State.

Table 2: Maid and Academic Performance of the Girl Child

Variable	N	$\bar{X}$	SD	df	Cal r-value	P-value	Decision
Maid	278	3.13	.82	276	.594	.000	Ho ₁ Rejected
Academic Performance of Girl Child Education	278	2.61	.83				

***Significant $p < .05$**

Table 2 shows the calculated r-value of .594 while p-value (0.000) is less than the significance level (0.05) for 276 degrees of freedom. Therefore, the hypothesis which stated that, there is no significant relationship between maid and academic performance of girl child in secondary schools in Ilorin West Local Government, Kwara State was rejected. The finding revealed that, there was significant relationship between maid and academic performance of the girl child in secondary schools in Ilorin West Local Government Area, Kwara State.

Ho₃: There is no significant relationship between apprenticeship and academic performance of girl child in secondary schools in Ilorin West Local Government Kwara State.

Table 3: Apprenticeship and Academic Performance of the Girl Child

Variable	N	$\bar{X}$	SD	df	Cal r-value	P-value	Decision
Effect of Apprenticeship	278	3.24	.74	276	.559	.000	Ho ₃ Rejected
Academic Performance of Girl Child Education	278	2.61	.83				

***Significant $p < .05$**

Table 3 shows the calculated r-value of .559 while p-value (0.000) is less than the significance level (0.05) for 276 degrees of freedom. Therefore, the hypothesis which stated that, there is no significant relationship between apprenticeship and academic performance of girl child in secondary schools in Ilorin West Local Government Area, Kwara State was rejected. The finding revealed that, there was significant relationship between apprenticeship and academic performance of girl child in secondary schools in Ilorin West Local Government Area, Kwara State.

Discussion of Findings

The major finding of hypothesis one is that there is significant relationship between hawking and academic performance of girl child in secondary schools in Ilorin West Local Government Area, Kwara State. This finding confirmed the findings of Nuhu and Nuhu (2010) who asserted that, girls' exposure to hawking affects their academic performance. There is significant relationship between the two variables because hawking will definitely affect students' attendance in the class thereby may make their academic performance to be poor.

The finding from hypothesis two reveal that there is significant relationship between maidship and academic performance of the girl child in secondary schools in Ilorin West Local Government Area, Kwara State. This finding corroborates that of Ayodele, Afolabi and Ajayi (2009) that the effect of housemaid on academic performance of girl child

education cannot be overemphasized because the effect in the long run affects the education of the girl child, who must run errand for her employer (boss) before leaving for school.

The finding from operational hypothesis three shows that there is significant relationship between apprenticeship and academic performance of girl child in secondary schools in Ilorin West Local Government Area, Kwara State. This finding is in line with that of Adeyeye (2009) who stated that there is significant relationship between apprenticeship and academic performance of girl child, who certainly has divided attention to formal learning and she is probable to shift more attention to where she has monetary advantaged.

Conclusion

Based on the findings, the following conclusions were drawn for the study, duties assigned to the housemaid may lead to lateness, absence from school and total disturbance in study at home. Similarly, many girl child hawkers are emotionally, physically and psychologically disturbed in school and this could make them not to have enough time to do school assignment and revise lessons at home. Furthermore, mental degradation disturbs a number of girl apprentices in the class and makes them to have slow response to academic activities. Fatigue, having overworked body system, could make class activities boring to them. Although apprenticeship is encouraged nationwide, more especially in the face of unemployment that has ravaged the country for decades, it should not be, notwithstanding, designed in such a way that will affect formal study of a girl child.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made:

1. Government at federal, state and local levels should provide incentives that will encourage girl child to attend schools regularly.
2. Government should embarked on sensitization and enlighten of parents on importance of Girl-child Education so that parents can plan against activities capable of disturbing the female child from attaining formal education.
3. Government should make education free and provide free text books, stationery, uniform, and free meals that will enable children of the less privileged attend schools without complaint.

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