

# An Investigation of the Causes of Dropout among Female Student in Some Selected Secondary School in Sokoto Metropolis, Nigeria.

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## ABSTRACT

This research investigate the causes of female students drop out from secondary school within sokoto metropolis northwestern Nigeria. Descriptive research design guided by three research questions based on the specific purpose of the study were employed. Ten (10) teachers each from five (5) selected secondary school were randomly selected for the study. Well-structured questionnaire was used for the data collection. The data collected were analyze using frequency count and percentages. The findings of this study revealed among others that early marriage, poor socio economic status, lack of parent motivation were among the causes of female drop out from secondary school within sokoto metropolis. Based on the findings of this research it was recommended by the researchers that government should makes education compulsory for all female children in the state and also increased sensitization on the need of female education. It was also recommended that teachers in female secondary school should double their effort in carrying out extracurricular activities that will encourage and motivate students.

**Keywords:** Education, Female education, drop out, causes

## I. INTRODUCTION

Education is the best legacy a nation can give to her citizen especially the youth. This is because the development or progress of any nation or community depends largely on the quality of education given to its citizens (Latif et al.,

2015). The importance of education is a very significant issues to our life. Education is a key to success in our life and also a strong instrument for national development. In general every nation of the world regardless of their economic growth makes proper arrangements of their educational programs of their citizens so as to provide mass literacy among them in order to have functional and productive society. With this in mind many countries comes out with different programs and strategist to ensure that its citizen becomes very educated so that they can contribute toward it economic growth. Nigeria as a developing nation comes out with a program in 1999 known as Universal Basic Education (UBE) with the aim and objective of ensuring mass literacy among Nigerian child in other to achieved millennium development goal. All the educational programs design by government are done to ensure mass literacy among its citizen so as to aid in promoting its economy and national security.

But Nigeria education is facing serious challenge arising from lacks of infrastructures, qualified teachers, teaching aids and increasing number of school dropout due to insecurity, poverty and parental educational background. These problem affect almost all parts of Nigeria and it posing serious problem to the development of the country and also affecting it economy and the society. Lack of proper and sound education hamper the development of a nation economy and also affect its security.

The concepts of school dropout have attract the attention of many educationist,

researchers and other professionals to find possible ways of reducing or controlling this issues. The term drop out refers to those students or pupils that abscond or leave school and sit at home. It was also defined by Luxley in Hussien and Postlewhite (1985) as those students/pupils that leave attending their schools which could be primary, secondary or tertiary institution before completing the educational cycle. Chivore (1986) defines dropout as those pupils/students that permanently or temporarily stop going to school no matter the level they are before completing the design educational program. While Latif (2015) sees dropout as discontinuing schooling or absconding from school due to lack of financial support, motivation and poor examination results before completing a high education program.

Female drop out from school is a persistent problem that is affecting Africa in general and it was attributed to various factors such as over age, poverty, depression, student's misbehavior, limited English proficiency, poor academic performance, boredom and lack of individualized attention. These problems pose a serious threat to the socio-economic and political development of Africa. Osakwe et al (1995) opined that due to religious, cultural, socio-economic status Nigerians girls are not given fair chances in educational sector as compared to their counterpart. It was estimated by UNICEF that there are 7.3 million Nigerian children that do not go to school and out of which 62% were female (UNICEF, 2004). This is an indication that millions of Nigerian girls abscond or drop out from school. Similar research conducted by Muhammad (2004) indicates that among the reasons that some girls drop out from secondary schools is the emergence of a right marriage partner. Alika and Egbochukwu (2009) in their study found out that socio-economic background of a female student plays a major role in making the female student drop out from school. National Bureau of Statistics (2015) ranked Sokoto state as the poorest state in Nigeria, the study area of this study, these contribute to the increasing rate of female drop out from secondary school. Also, the natives of the state are still glued to their religion, traditions and customs which one of them is polygamy. This further increases the number of female student dropout of school. Observation denotes that female students tend to drop out of school due to poverty and polygamy thereby engaging themselves in activities such as farming, petty trading and hawking of grocery products.

## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEMS

The concepts of school dropout have attracted the attention of many educationists, researchers and other professionals to find possible ways of reducing or controlling this issues. The term drop out refers to those students or pupils that abscond or leave school and sit at home. Sokoto state has been ranked the poorest state in Nigeria by the statistics given by NBS in 2015 and these have enormously contributed to the increasing rate of female drop out from school. Religious, cultural and socio-economic status of the state also contributed to the problem. Adaba (2001) opined that parents do not pay much emphasis in investing money on the education of female because of the belief that they will not benefit from it in the future as the husband and his family will be the beneficiary.

It is very disheartening and worrisome that experience shows that in Sokoto metropolis female students were found to be dropping out from secondary school which was attributed to various factors such as religious, cultural and socio-economic background of the society. This paper therefore undertakes to assess the causes of female dropout from secondary school in Sokoto metropolis and provide various recommendations that will be adopted to control female drop out from school.

## PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The general purpose of this study was to investigate the causes of dropout among female secondary school students within Sokoto Metropolis, Northwestern Nigeria. This research work specifically intends to

1. Determine the benefits of female secondary school education in Sokoto metropolis
2. Find out the factors responsible for female drop out from secondary school in Sokoto metropolis
3. To find measures that will be adopted that will restrict female drop out from secondary school.

## SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The significance or importance of this research is to enable the government, the educational planners, the school authorities, the parents and society at large to know the factors responsible for the female students drop-out. The finding of this work will be of great importance to the teachers so as to enhance their effort in identifying the female students who are likely to drop out from school and also carried out their duties effectively and efficiently.

The results of this research will also be of immense benefits to governments so that they will

come up with programs and laws that will restrict female drop out from school.

This research work will also benefits parents to know the benefits of investing money on female education and makes them aware of the consequences of female drop out from school on the economic growth and security of the state and the country at large.

**RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

1. What are the benefit of female secondary education to the development of sokoto metropolis?
2. What are the factors responsible for female student's dropout from secondary school in Sokoto metropolis?
3. How can problem of female drop out be eradicated in Sokoto metropolis?

**Methodology**

Descriptive research design was employed for this study.The designed was establish to find out the causes of female students drop out from

secondary within sokoto metropolis.A total of five female secondary school were randomly selected to represent all secondary school within sokoto metropolis.Fifty (50) teachers distributed in the selected secondary school were used for the study. Ten (10) teachers were selected from each school.Fifty (50) well structure questionnaire was designed by the researchers and was given to two expert for validation.The questionnaire was designed to seek the responses on the causes of female drop out from secondary school in sokoto metropolis.The questionnaires were administered to ten (10) teachers from each selected secondary school.The completed questionnaire were retrieve by the researchers from the respondents for collation.

**II. RESULTS**

All the data obtained following the administration of questionnaire to the respondents were analyze using frequency count and percentage.The results are presented as follows;

**Research Question 1:** Benefit of female secondary education to the development of sokoto metropolis?

Table 1: Response on the benefit of female education

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Does female education add value to the society	10	20%
Does female education help in economic growth of the state	20	40%
Does a female education help in moral upbringings in the society	20	40%
Total	50	100%

Source: questionnaire Administered, 2021.

**Research Question 2:**What are the factors responsible for female student's dropout from secondary school in sokoto metropolis?

Table 2: Response on the factors responsible for female secondary school students drop out

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Inability to cope with the educational system	20	40%
Early marriage	15	30%
Lack of parents motivation and influence	15	30%
Total	50	100%

Source: questionnaire Administered, 2021.

**1. Research Question 3:**How can problem of female drop out be eradicated in Sokoto metropolis?

Table 3:Showing the response on how problem of female drop out can be eradicated in sokoto metropolis

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Early marriage should be discouraged	25	50%
Geographical location of school should be near to students home	10	20%

All schools should be boarding system	5	10%
All extra curriculum activities should be maintained in school	10	20%
Total	50	100%

Source: questionnaire Administered, 2021.

### III. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The findings from table 1 above indicate that 10% of the respondents agreed that female education add value to the society. And this is because female agree to goto school in order to contribute their quota toward the development of their society and to become useful and acceptable members of the society. 20% agree that female education help in the economic growth of the society as they will be train in schools to be self-reliant. Also 20% revealed that female education helps in moral upbringing in the society.

The Result from table 2 above shows that 40% of the respondents agree that female dropout from secondary school because of inability to cope with study, 30% of the respondents also agree that female students dropout to get marry, and this is in agreement with the findings of Muhammad (2004) that female students drop out from secondary school when a right marriage partner shows up. It's also in accordance with the findings of Owuamanam (2002) who opined that some parents gives their children for marriage when there is no money to pay their school fees. Also 30% agreed that female student's dropout from school due to lack of influence of parents and their motivation, this is also in line with the findings of Alike and Egbochukwu (2009) who revealed that poor socio-economic status of the parents imposes considerable limitations upon the continuing staying of their female child in school.

Results from table 3 above revealed that 50% of the respondents are of the opinion that early marriage should be discourage as a way of eradicating female drop out from secondary school. This is in accordance with the findings of Schewartz (1995), Onwuamanam and Adaba (2001) that early marriages and premarital sex are among the causes of female dropout from school. 20% of the respondents agreed that schools should be located near students home and this could be attributed to the growing insecurity in the state. While 10% of the respondents agreed that all the female secondary schools within the metropolis should be change to boarding school. Because this will prevent students from mingling with bad peer groups in the society. And finally 20% of the respondents are of the opinion that all extra-curricular activities should be maintained in female

schools as this will motivate them and encourages them as not to abscond from the school.

### IV. RECOMMENDATION

Based on the findings of this study the researchers recommend the followings;

- 1) There should be increased sensitization of the citizens of the state on the need and importance of enrolling their female children's into schools and allowing them to complete their educational program. This will intrinsically and indirectly reduce the rate of female student dropout of school in the area.
- 2) Governments should makes laws that will makes female education compulsory and free in the state and also early marriage and premarital sex should be discourages.
- 3) Teachers in both public and private schools within the metropolis and state in general should be sensitize on how to establish a positive and cordial relationships with female students. This will enable them discover student who may be prone to school dropout for proper interventional strategies as the need may arise
- 4) Government and Non-governmental organization should create awareness campaign on the need of female education in economic growth in the state and the country at large.
- 5) Parents should be encourage by the government, educational administrators and non-governmental organization on the need of female education.

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