

An Evaluation of Home Environment as A Social Factor That Influences Student Academic Performances in Secondary Schools in Enugu Urban

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Abstract: The study is on the impact of family background on academic performance of secondary school students in Enugu. The specific objectives include: to find out if there is any significant difference; in the academic performances of students from small and large family size; to discover how stable home influences the academic performance of the students. Design survey method was used in the study. A population of 225 was used, comprising Queens College Enugu (65), Urban Girls Secondary school Enugu (40), New Layout Boys secondary School (40), Girls High school Uwani (50), Boys High School Uwani (30). The method for data collection was questionnaire. The tables were analyzed using percentages. The findings simply indicate that small family sizes promote the qualitative and good academic performance; and that stable home has positive influence on the academic performances of the students. In conclusion, it is said that home is the bases for student academic performance in schools because charity they said begins at home. The study recommends that Parents should be actively involved in supervising student's academic work at home; Teaching materials like charts, maps textbooks, and flannel boards should be provided in large quantity to all schools.

Keywords: Family Background, Academic Performance, Secondary School Students.

INTRODUCTION

Education has a crucial role to play in the economic and social development of any country. Education, in its broadest sense, is a process designed to impact knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to enable individuals to cope effectively with their environment. Knowledge and information is received and spread throughout the world through education. According to Aremu [1], education is the process of developing the capacities and potentials of the individuals as to prepare that individual to be successful in a specific society or culture. Notably, it is often said to be the powerful tool for developing intellectual abilities, shaping cultural attributes, acquiring knowledge and skills as well as a favourable tool to move a nation towards developing it scientific and technological culture. The social and economic development of the country is directly linked with student academic performance.

The students' academic performance plays an important role in producing the best quality students who will become great leaders and manpower for the country. Jansen [2] posited that academic performance is the process of developing the capacities and potentials of the individual student so as to prepare that individual to be successful in a specific society or

culture. In the light of these education is serving primarily as an individual development functions.

The educational system of any country in the world is vital and Nigeria, particularly Enugu urban is no exception; a strong and effective education system can help boost the development of any country. Improving student academic achievement had long been an extremely complicated and annoying problem for school systems and education policy makers. The intensity of under-performance in Nigeria is clear, as many inhibitory factors may be involved.

According to Linus [3], a child for excellent academic performance requires in addition to other factors a good home environment. Home Environment is the surroundings, where one live. Anene [4], observed that environment is the aggregate of all internal and external conditions affecting the existence, growth and welfare of organisms. It is an influence an individual came in contact with after the hereditary has been through the gene plasma. She explained that environment can be divided into physical, social and abstract environment. Physical environment is the objects or materials found in the home, school or community, including the people like parents, siblings and peers. She further said that the social environment is the social life, societies and club affecting the

individual. Abstract environment is the reactions, feedback and the responses received on interactions with others. The author further explained that environment can also be classified as urban or rural environment.

Home environments influence adolescents' aspiration. The social upbringing of the child begins from home (family). It is the home that makes the child to identify him with the society, culture, religion or social class. Thus the home continues to exercise a strong influence over the child's life and academic performance in the school. It has to be noted that homes differ in terms of their significances in the social orders. For instance, some have more prestige, money etc. while some have wider experience and knowledge of how to operate within the society or school environment.

The family, being a powerful influence on the child and its importance as a primary agent of socialization could in no doubt enhance or hinder the academic achievement of the child depending on the social climate in the family. Family size is the total number of people consisting of parents and their children. It is worthy to mention that the family size is one of the factors that determine the academic performance of students. Large family size creates in the upbringing of their children and identified problem of feeding- insufficient food, poor clothing, insufficient fund, disciplinary problem and malnutrition. Students need nutritious food and regular medical care. These things help them get a good start in life and lessen the chances that they will later have serious health problems or trouble learning. Nutrition plays a vital role in the development of students. If a student is hungry in school he/she is less likely to concentrate. It is clear that home environments play a very crucial role in a child's educational development.

From various studies carried out by different professionals, it was observed that poor home climate has remained the major factor that has crippled the academic performance of students. Intellectuals had identified various areas in the home that affect students' academic performance. To some intellectuals attribute poor performance to parent's family size, on socio-economic status. A host of others focuses on the marital status and parents-child relationship. From the point of view of the researcher, a good home is a pre-requisite for high academic performance, since the first environment of any child is the home. It is the home that prepares the child physically, socially, educationally and economically. The home is the foundation of any adventure without which the child cannot engage in any meaningful and successful venture.

The researcher is therefore concerned of the home influence on the academic performance of

secondary school students in Enugu Urban. This is because psychological problems are potential sources of trouble with learning. It is therefore against these backgrounds that this study sought to determine influence of home environment and family background on academic performances of students.

Objectives of the Study

Specifically, the study focuses to:

- Find out if there is any significant difference in the academic performance of students from small and large family sizes.
- To discover how stable homes influence the academic performance of the students?

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The research design used in the study was descriptive survey method. The design was adopted because the study did not include manipulation of variables but mere elicitation of information from respondents.

Area of the Study

The area of the study was all the secondary schools in Enugu Urban of Enugu State. The work was carried out to cover the five (5) selected secondary schools in Enugu Urban of Enugu State.

- Queens College Enugu,
- Urban Girls Secondary school Enugu,
- New Layout Boys secondary School
- Girls High school Uwani
- Boys High School Uwani

Population of the Study

The populations for the study were 225 teachers in the above mentioned schools in Enugu Urban

Sample and Sampling Technique(s)

The researcher used simple random sampling techniques in the selection of his subjects. Five secondary schools were selected from Enugu Urban which comprises some schools in Enugu South and North Area of Enugu State. The researcher made use of 200 respondents from the five selected secondary schools.

Instrument for Data Collection

The main instrument used in the study was questionnaire.

Validation of the Instrument

The validation of the instrument was face validated. In the process, modifications and corrections were made, during which, some of the questions were described, while some were added. The researcher readjusted the instrument to reflect validator's comments.

Reliability of Instrument

To ensure the reliability of the research work, the researcher adopted the external consistency method “test and re-test.” The test was conducted to the given sample of two different times and its results have a high coefficient of correlation. Its reliability was ascertained at 0.57;

Method of Data Collection

The instrument was personally distributed and collected after short-time interval. 225 copies of the questionnaire were distributed. The total number of 200

copies of questionnaire that were properly filled and returned were used by the researcher for the analysis

Method of Data Analysis

The researcher made use of frequency and simple percentage in the analysis of the data collected.

ANALYSIS OF DATA AND RESULTS

Research Question 1

To what extent had the academic performances of secondary school students from small families sizes differ from students from large family sizes?

Table-1: Responses on influence of small family sizes on academic performance students

Items	Responses	Respondents	%
Small family size promotes qualitative and good academic performances.	Agreed	190	95%
	Undecided	-	-
	Disagreed	10	5%
	Total	200	100%

In table 1, a total number of 190 respondents representing 95% agreed with the item, none was undecided, while 10 respondents representing 5%

disagreed with the item. This simply suggests that small family sizes promote the qualitative and good academic performance.

Table-2: Responses on influence of large family sizes on academic performance of students

Items	Responses	Respondents	%
Parents in large family does not have all the time it takes to take care of their children academic problem do you agree?	Agreed	180	90%
	Undecided	10	5%
	Disagreed	10	5%
	Total	200	100%

From the data presented in table 2 above, a total number of 180 respondents representing 90% agreed with the item, 10 respondents representing 5% were undecided, while 5% disagreed with the item.

families being more financially equipped could sponsor their children’s education to any level.

Research Question 2

To what extent had the academic performances of secondary school students from stable homes been different from those of unstable homes?

It was observed that students that came from small family sizes are well provided with materials needed for acceleration of academic works. Such

Table-3: Responses on the influence of unstable homes on academic performance of students.

Items	Responses	Respondents	%
Unstable home affects Students psychologically, and constitutes more the poor performances of such student, do you agree?	Agreed	190	95%
	Undecided	-	-
	Disagreed	10	5%
	Total	200	100%

In the table 3, a total number of 190 respondents representing 95% agreed with the item, none was undecided while 10 respondents representing 5% disagreed.

In the table 4, a total number of 180 respondents representing 90% agreed with the item, none was undecided while 20 respondents representing 10% disagreed. It is generally accepted that marital instabilities has a negative effect on the child’s academic attainment and attitude to life.

It is generally accepted that students from unstable homes always have psychological problems which affects their academic performances negatively.

Table-4: Responses on the influence of marital instability on academic performance of students

Items	Responses	Respondents	%
Marital instability has a negative effect on the child's academic attainment and attitude to life, do you agree?	Agreed	180	90%
	Undecided	-	-
	Disagreed	20	10%
	Total	200	100%

SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS

Research question 1

To what extent had the academic performances of senior secondary school students from small family sizes differ from students from large family sizes?

The finding of this research question, table 1 shows that, the percentage of the grade point average (GPA) of secondary school students from small family size is 90% as against 10% for the big family sizes. It was observed that students that came from small family sizes are well provided with materials needed for acceleration of academic works. Such families being more financially equipped could sponsor their children's education to any level.

Research Question 2

To what extent had the academic performances of students from high socio-economic status been different from students from low socio-economic status?

Many respondents belong to the low socio-economic group and felt that finances and facilities pose a problem to them in the achievement of their academic goals while a lesser number maintained the contrary. To support this fact, tables 5 and 6 show that the mean cumulative GPA of secondary school students from low socio-economic group in percentage is 55% and 45% for students from high socio-economic group. Although the mean score was slightly different, the mean score indicated that both secondary school students from high and low socio-economic group fall within the same grade of pass.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The finding of this research question, table 1 shows that, the percentage of the grade point average (GPA) of secondary school students from small family sizes is 90% as against 10% for the big family sizes.

It was observed that students that came from small family sizes are well provided with material needed for acceleration of academic works. Such families being more financially equipped could sponsor their children's education to any level. This finding corresponds with Women's World [6] in Jude [5] asserted that most parents do not care for their homes. Again, they do not even plan on how many children they want to have. Students who disrupt schools with extreme problems come mostly from poor home with large family sizes.

The findings on research question two, indicated that majority of the students come from stable homes. The cumulative grade point average of secondary school students from stable families is while 49.71 represented students from unstable homes.

It is generally accepted that marital instabilities has a negative effect on the child's academic attainment and attitude to life. This view was supported by Ezeocha [7] Ezewu [7], Okonkwo [8], Denga [9] and Onwuamanam [10]. Each of the named scholars agreed that parent tension disrupt children's outlook.

CONCLUSION

It is said that home is the bases for students' academic performances in schools because charity they said begins at home. Noiseless and conducive atmosphere constitute good understanding after studies. Also, Socio-economic status of parent has its own effect but not much on the student academic performances.

Educational Implications

Based on the general findings, there arise some implications for the parents, students and governments.

For the students, especially those who were not opportune to be with a Silver Spoon in their mouth, it is not an easy task to acquire high academic performances, for this reason such category of students require virtues such as; dedication, honesty, determination and tolerances to pursue their careers, by making use of school facilities during and after school hours, so as to attain high academic performance. For the parents, more efforts are needed both from high and low socio-economic groups in ensuring that adequate facilities are provided in the home.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study the following recommendations were made:

- The ministry of education should provide more funds, facilities and equipment in secondary schools.
- Enough textbooks, reading and writing materials should be provided to the students by the parents.
- Parents should be actively involved in supervising student's academic work at home.
- Teaching materials like charts, maps textbooks, and flannel boards should be provided in large quantities to all schools moreover.
- Students should belong to study groups in the schools so that they can exchange ideas that will help them to excel in their academics

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