

Effects of Street Trading on Academic Performance of Junior Secondary School Students in Mubi North Local Government Area, Adamawa State, Nigeria

Dr. Dorcas Oluremi Fareo,

Senior Lecturer, Department of Science Education,
Adamawa State University, Mubi Nigeria.
dorkyfareo@gmail.com

Abstract: *This study examined the effects of street trading on the academic performance of junior secondary school students in Mubi North Local Government Area. The study adopted survey research design. The population of the students were all junior public secondary schools in Mubi North Local Government Area of Adamawa State, out of which a sample size of four hundred was drawn through stratified sampling technique. The research instrument for data collection was self-developed. The validity of the research was carried out by two experts both in Counselling Psychology and Test and Measurement, while t-test reliability method was used to carry out the reliability of the instrument, and the reliability co-efficient was 0.81. Data were analyzed using mean, frequency count, percentage and t-test statistics. The result revealed that child street trading which was form of child labour was significant problem in Mubi North Local Government Area of Adamawa State which was due to a many factors such as poverty, broken home/parent separated, personal interest and parent's death (father/mother or both). The poor socio economic condition of parents was a core factor that forced the children to street hawking. This street hawking significantly affected the academic performance of those students who engaged in street hawking. It was recommended that free and compulsory education for all children up to the completion of secondary education should be made available by the government. And also, it is important to educate both parents and children on the danger involved in child trading and on the educational attainment of the child.*

Keywords Words: *Hawking, adolescent, hazards, child labour and psychological problems.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

Involving children in hawking goods in the street is an emerging trend in Nigeria and an issue of concern. This trade is referred to as street trading (Ashimolowo, Aromolaron & Inegbedion, 2010), Children are preferred to adult in hawking goods because; they are less criminal and a cheap labour to the employer (Anumaka, 2012). This led to increase in the number of children who roam the street daily hawking good while those of their ages are in school. Studies identified the age bracket of those children to fall between 10 and 19 years (Ugochukwu, Okeke, Onubogu & Edokwe, 2012). 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 dropout, withdraw by their parents or not enrolled (Aderinto, 2006). asserts that, street trading exposes the operators to various risks and health hazards as most children end up engaging in various economic activities like bus conducting, load carrying, car washing, hawking earlier as a means of survival, In Nigeria, hawkers are seen on the streets of major cities and majority of them are young people mostly teenagers.

These children are usually sent out to hawk by their parents or guardians in order to earn money for the family. However, these children hawkers they are exposed to certain dangers. In some cases, they are knocked down by reckless drivers. There are cases where some of them are abducted and used for ritual purposes. Female hawkers are raped by either male customers or strangers. Many of these children do not attend school and even when they do, they have little or no time to work on after school assignment or to do test. Due to the usual high level traffic accident, physical exhaustion, sexual harassments such as rape, molestation and different forms of exploitation are believed to be associated with street hawking (Okoji, 2007). Some social and psychological problems are also associated with street hawking. For instance, it exposes the not yet fully equipped or maturing children hawker to sweat and hunger following long trekking, but more importantly to undue exposure to strangers including those with ignoble intention (Ezenwa, 2011).

Several studies have examined the physical and psychological hazards associated with adolescent street hawkers but one area which has received little attention is the social and physical health factors associated with street hawking. African Network for Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN, 1993) study on street children in Nigeria shows that hawkers mentioned the following problems like tiredness, hunger, loss of

money to criminals, headache, body pains, problems with their masters, lack of school attendance, pains in the eye, touching of sensitive parts of their bodies especially their breasts and buttocks headiness of head and neck, dizziness, etc. In his own contribution, Maduka (2006) identified some problems associated with street hawking to include increase in teenage pregnancy high rate of sexually transmitted disease (STSDs) among teenagers rape high illiteracy among the youth, youth alcohol a drug addiction.

In a study carried out by Ekpenyong and Sibiri, (2011), street hawking and child labour, the findings indicate that street hawking and child labour reflect chronic urban poverty which can compel boast family income for many hours each day. They study shows that 46% of the hawkers are females while 36% of them are male. The implication is that more females engage in street hawking than males. Results of the study also show that 98% of the respondents are from very poor families opening the door to survival driver occupation. Ogbuaga, (2004) carried out a study that children engage in hawking due to lack of income and education of their parents.

Nsiong and Eme (2011) carried out a study on juvenile street hawking in Uyo, results of the study show that juvenile street hawkers develop maladjusted patterns of behaviour which turn may impair academic, moral, social, physical and psychological growth and development thus affecting their future negatively. Aderinto and Okunola (1998) carried out a study in Ado-Ekiti, South western Nigeria and they identified problems like truancy, potential for accident, exposure to hazards of weather to kidnappers, rape and recruitment into hawking drugs and barons, early unwanted pregnancy and contraction of STDs. Ashimolowo, Aromoran and Inegbedion (2010) carried out a study on street trading activities and its effects on the educational attainment of its victims in Mubi North Local Government Area of Adamawa state. The findings show that waste is generated by street hawkers are a result of indiscriminate dumping along the streets gutters and drainage. Also the study indicates that children who engage in street hawking perform badly in school in order to face hawking fully. These studies on street hawking have identified the various factors that influence street hawking in major cities in Nigeria. Also the studies threw light on the social, psychological and physical problem associated with street hawking.

2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

The human society is confronted daily by a good number of problems. These problems appear in various destructive forms and shapes. Some of them are inherent while others are acquired social problems in spite of remarkable natural and human resources most people have tasted the bitter pills of poverty, however, academic performance of junior secondary school student in Nigeria experience poverty differently. It is expected that all junior secondary school students should revise their notes, do their homework, and rest after school to prepare them for the next day school activities which will improve their academic performance. It is been 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? Hence, this study.

2.2 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What are the economic activities engaged in by students?
- What are the causes of street trading among students?
- What are the effects of street trading on students?

2.3 RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

HO₁: There is no significant difference between the academic performance of students who participate in street hawking and their counterpart who do not in junior secondary schools in Mubi North Local Government Area of Adamawa State.

HO₂: There is no significant difference between the academic performance of students from single parents and those from two parents who engage in street trading.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The study adopted survey research design. The target population for this study were all junior public secondary schools in Mubi North Local Government Area of Adamawa State. The population of students in the thirty five secondary schools was ten thousand seven hundred and forty two. The sample size of four hundred was chosen from four junior secondary schools by stratified sampling technique using class and sex as strata. The research instrument titled "Effect of Street Trading on the Academic Performance of Junior Secondary School Students (ESTAPJSSS)" was adopted from Ashimolowo, Aromolaran and Ineqbedion (2010) by the researcher. The instrument comprised of 28 items divided into four sections. Section A contained six demographic characteristics of the respondents which consisted of sex, name of school, class and Local Government Area. Section B contained ten (10)

items that measured the commonly engage items sold by students. Section C contained six (6) items which measured causes of street trading of students while Section D contained eight (8) items that measured the effect of street trading on students.

The face and content validity of the instrument was established by two experts both in Counselling Psychology and Test and Measurement in the Department of Science Education, Adamawa State University Mubi. A pilot study of the instrument was carried out in Adamawa State University Staff Junior Secondary School, Mubi. The reliability of the instrument was carried out using test-retest reliability method. First test was carried out in Adamawa State University Secondary School on thirty (30) students; while the second test was administered after four weeks interval to the same students. The reliability coefficient of 0.81 was obtained. The researcher and two research assistants administered the questionnaires at the scheduled time and collected them on the spot Data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics,

4. RESULTS:

4.1 Research Question 1: What are the economic activities engaged in by students?

Table 1: Frequency and percentage Distribution of Respondents on the Economic Activities engaged in by students.

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Total
1.	Pure water	169(42%)	99(25%)	68(17%)	64(16%)	400(100%)
2.	Oranges	190(48%)	109(27%)	80(20%)	21(5%)	400(100%)
3.	Bread	291(73%)	52(13%)	31(8%)	26(7%)	400(100%)
4.	Bean cake	167(42%)	138(35%)	56(14%)	39(10%)	400(100%)
5.	Sugar cane	200(50%)	124(31%)	45(11%)	31(8%)	400(100%)
6.	Vegetables	196(49%)	128(32%)	63(16%)	14(4%)	400(100%)
7.	Groundnuts	224(56%)	76(19%)	62(16%)	38(10%)	400(100%)
8.	Nunu	40(10%)	42(11%)	139(35%)	179(45%)	400(100%)
9.	Truck pushing	143(36%)	105(26%)	72(18%)	80(20%)	400(100%)
10.	Load carrying	52(13%)	151(38%)	136(34%)	61(15%)	400(100%)

Table 1 showed the economic activities commonly engaged in by students were pure water, oranges, bread, bean cake, sugar cane, vegetables, nunu truck pushing and load carrying.

4.2 Research Question 2: What are the causes of street trading among students?

Table 2: Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondents on the causes of street hawking among students.

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Total
1.	Broken home/parent separated	189(48%)	87(22%)	66(17%)	58(15%)	400(100%)
2.	Parent health (sick)	91(23%)	83(21%)	99(25%)	127(32%)	400(100%)
3.	No school in my environment	52(13%)	43(11%)	183(46%)	122(31%)	400(100%)
4.	Personal interest	188(47%)	98(25%)	56(14%)	58(15%)	400(100%)
5.	Parent's death (father/mother or both)	102(26%)	127(32%)	89(22%)	82(21%)	400(100%)
6.	Poor parent	308(77%)	53(13%)	20(5%)	19(5%)	400(100%)

Table 2 showed the causes of street trading among students as broken home or separated parents, sickness of the parents, lack of schools in their environment, students personal interest of engaging in street trading as a result of monetary value, death of parents and poor parenting.

4.3 Research Question 3: What are the effects of street hawking on students?

Table 3: Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondents on the effects of street hawking among students

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Total
1.	Street trading prevents me from doing my homework	129(32%)	108(27%)	87(22%)	76(19%)	400(100%)
2.	It makes me fail at school	212(53%)	89(22%)	72(18%)	27(7%)	400(100%)
3.	It makes me tired	188(47%)	127(32%)	45(11%)	40(10%)	400(100%)
4.	It prevents me from reading	198(50%)	127(32%)	40(10%)	35(9%)	400(100%)
5.	It occupies my time	200(50%)	128(32%)	51(13%)	21(5%)	400(100%)
6.	It makes me sleepy in class	152(38%)	148(37%)	91(23%)	9(2%)	400(100%)

7.	It discourages me from going to school	166(41.50%)	147(36.75%)	63(15.75%)	24(6.00%)	400(100%)
8.	It makes me hungry	37(9%)	87(22%)	168(42%)	108(27%)	400(100%)

Table 3 showed the effects of street trading on students were failure in academic work, tiredness, inability to read as a result of stress, lack of time to do any other school activities, sleeping in class as a result of inadequate night rest, discouragement of attending school and hunger.

4.4 Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference between the academic performance of students who participate in street hawking and their counterpart who do not in Junior Secondary Schools in Mubi North Local Government Area of Adamawa State.

Table 4: t-test Analysis of Academic performance of students who participate in street hawking and their counterpart who do not

Variables	N	\bar{x}	SD	df	t-calculated	t-critical decision
Students who participate	243	15.80	245.05			Rejected
				398	7.71	1.962
Students who do not participate	157	77.00	1,014			

*Significant (P < 0.05)

Table 4 above shows the academic performance of students who participate in street hawking and their counterpart who do not. The analysis shows that the t-calculated (7.71) is greater than the t-critical (1.962). Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. This means that academic performance of students who do not participate in street hawking differ significantly from academic performance of students who participate in street hawking.

4.5 Hypothesis 2: There is no significance difference between the academic performance of students from single parent and those from two parents who engaged in street trading.

Table 5: t-test Analysis between Academic performance of students from single parents and those from two parents who engaged in street hawking

Variables	N	\bar{x}	SD	df	t-calculated	t-critical decision
Student from two parents	272	67.40	556.40			Rejected
				398	5.50	1.962
Student from single parent	128	27.10	516.90			

*Significant (P < 0.05)

Table 5 above shows the analysis between the academic performance of students from single parents and those from two parents who engaged in street hawking. The result shows that t-calculated (5.50) is greater than the t-critical (1.962). Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. This means that the academic performance of student from two parents differ significantly from academic performance of students from single parent who engage in street hawking.

5. DISCUSSION:

The analysis of the study was based on the following three factors; Economic activities engaged in by students, causes of street hawking and effects of street hawking among junior secondary school students. It was revealed that the commonly economic activities engaged in by students are Bread, Groundnut, Sugarcane, Vegetable, Orange, Pure water, Acara and Load carrying.

The finding on causes of street hawking revealed that poor parent, broken home/parent separated, personal interest, parent death (father/mother or both) and parent health are the major causes of street hawking in the study area. This finding is in line with William (2008) who opines that factors such as broken home, unemployment and death of parent can make or lead a child to be a hawker.

The study further revealed the effect of street hawking as failure in school, prevent student from reading, prevent student from doing homework, going to school late and making them sleepy in the class. This finding is in line with Nuhu and Nuhu (2010) who reported that street hawking may have effects on children education such as high dropout rate, absenteeism and poor school performance.

The finding on hypothesis one revealed that the academic performance of students who do not participate in street hawking differ significantly from academic performance of students who participate in street hawking among. This is in line with Danesty and Pkedirah (2002) as cited in Farauta (2013) lamented that street hawking among school students have psychologically imposed other problems like sex, networking behaviour, juvenile development behaviour which takes most of the students school time and lead to poor academic performance.

The finding of hypothesis two revealed that the academic performance of student from two parent differ significantly from academic performance of students from single parent who engaged in street hawking. This is in line with the finding of Udoh and Joseph (2012) who reported that students from single parent who participate in street

hawking contributes to their moral laxity, laziness and truancy behaviour and is capable of negatively influencing their academic performance.

6. CONCLUSION :

The study concluded that child street trading which was form of child labour was significant problem in Mubi North Local Government Area of Adamawa State which was due to a many factors such as poverty, broken home/parent separated, personal interest and parent's death (father/mother or both).The poor socio economic condition of parents was a core factor that force the children to street hawking.This street hawking affected the academic performance of those students who engaged in street hawking

7. RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made:

- Free and Compulsory Education for all Children up to the Completion of Secondary Education.
- The government should make basic education free or affordable to the common Nigerian child.
- The State government should legislate against street hawking by school aged children so that they can concentrate on their studies.
- Government should provide assistance in form of grant, free education or scholarship for children of poor. This can be done through well articulated and target programmes to these families.
- It is also important to educate both parents and children on the danger involve in child trading and on the educational attainment of the child.

REFERENCES

1. Aderinto, A. (2006). Social correlates and coping measures of street children: A Comparative study of street and non street children in South Western Nigeria, Ado Ekiti: Olubamese Printers.
2. Aderinto, A. A. & Okunola, R. A. (1998). Push, pull and sustaining factors of child labour in Nigeria. *Ife Psychologia: An International Journal*, 6 (1) 173 – 184
3. Anumaka, I. B. (2012). Child labour: Impact on academic performance and implication: A case of North East Uganda. *Journal of Educational Science and Research*, 2(2): pp 12-18.
4. Anyanwu, S. O. (2007). The girl child: Paper presented at the Bunna Conference of the Nigerian Association of Universities Women (NAUW).
5. African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) (1993). *Child Watch*. No. 29, June.
6. Ashimolowo, O. R., Aromolaran, A. K. & Inegbedion, S. O. (2010). Child street - trading activities and its effect on the educational attainment of its victims in Epe Local Government Area of Lagos State. *Journal of Agricultural Science*, 2(4): 211-220
7. Ekpenyong, S. N. & Sibiri, A. E. (2011). Street trading and child labour in Yenogoa. *International Journal of Scientific Research in Education*, 4(1): 36-46.
8. Ezenwa, M. (2011). Symptoms of psychopathology among street hawkers in Enugu metropolis Nigeria. *Ife Psychologia*, 19(1): 23-34.
9. Farauta, K. (2013). Effect of street hawking on the academic performance of students in practical agriculture: A case study of secondary schools in Taraba State. *Journal of Education and Practice*, 4(15): 33-36.
10. Maduka, O. (2006). Symptoms of psychopathology among street hawkers in Enugu metropolis. *Nigeria: Health Magazine*.
11. Nsisong, A. U. & Erne, U. J. (2011). Behavioural problem of juvenile street hawkers in Uyo metropolis, Nigeria: *World Journal of Education*, 12: 131 – 144.
12. Nuhu, F & Nuhu, S. (2010) Opinions and attitudes of some parents in Ilorin north central Nigeria. *Towards Child Abuse and Neglect*, 16:27-32
13. Ogbuaga, A. A. (2004). The prevalence of child-hawkers' in motor parks in Ibadan municipality: *An Overview. Open Journal of Social Science Research*, 1(7): 174-179.
14. Okoji, C. E. (2007). *Income generation in occupational structure among the urban poor*. Owerri: Evans Publishers
15. Udoh, N. A. & Joseph, E.U. (2012). Behavioural problems of juvenile street hawkers in Uyo Metropolis, Nigeria. *World Journal Of Education*, 2(1):137-144
16. Ugochukwu, E.F., Okeke, K.N., Onubogu, C.U. & Edokwe, E. S. (2012). Socio-demographic characteristics of child street vendor in Nnewi Nigeria. *Nigerian Journal of Pediatric*, 39(4):174
17. William, S. (2008). Justice illuminates aspect of child labour in part of the West and East Africa. Internet: <http://illworlddo.govlusdepartmentforlabour>