

## **Relationship Between Parents' Occupational Status and Academic Performance of Students in Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola, Adamawa State, Nigeria**

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### **Abstract**

The concept of parents' occupational Status was viewed as parents' income and parents' occupation. Two objectives were stated and two null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance. Empirical studies were reviewed in respect of variables of the study. Correlation research design was used; Parents Questionnaire (PQ) and profoma were used for data collection. The data collected was analyzed using percentages and multiple regressions. The findings of this study revealed that there was no significant relationship between parents' income and academic performance of students in Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola. The study was also revealed that there was a significant relationship between Parents' occupation and academic performance of students in Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola, Nigeria. Based on the findings, the study was concluded that parents' income has no significant relationship with students' academic performance in Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola, Nigeria. The study further concluded that there was a significant relationship between parents' occupation and academic performance of students in Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola. Therefore, it was recommended since parents' income has no significance relationship with students' academic performance; parents should take their wards' education as primary responsibility. It was also recommended that parents should be encouraged to acquire entrepreneurship education to supplement their current occupation.

**Keywords:** *Occupation, Performance, Regression, Academic and Profoma*

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### **Background of the Study**

Family is one of the most important social institution or agent of socialization charged with the responsibility among other things determining one's attitude toward religion, intellectual training, love for others and vocational training. It is the parents that lays the foundations of moral and spiritual development of the child and also relate to the idea of right and wrong, good and bad. parents also play a major role in determining one's future career through socializing the younger ones into vocation or trade for self-reliance by exposing the child to either the vocation of the parents or any desirable trade before the child become adult.

Saifi (2011) good parental occupation has a positive effect on the academic achievement of students. It is a fact that families where the parents are privileged educationally, socially and economically, promote a higher level of achievement in their offspring who gives higher levels of psychological support for their children through enriched atmosphere that promote and encourage the development of skills required for success at school.

It is well known fact that parents inspire values which are more practical than theoretical. Parent's central role is to socialize and educate the child about norms and social values of the society that will qualify one to be a functional and acceptable member not only to the immediate family but to the entire society at large. Socialization differs from one family to another; each and every family has a way and manner in which they want to bring up their younger ones. What is considered important in one family may not be necessary relevant to another family.

In educational institutions, success is measured by academic performances or how well a student meets standards set out by institutions its selves. As career competition grows in the working world, the importance of students doing well in schools has caught the attention of parents, teachers and education department alike. Academic performance in the school system is usually measured with in specific standard. The specific standard is usually called pass mark and the pass mark is scored above average which students are considered having passed and below average which students are considered having failed. The tracking of academic performance fulfils a number of purposes and areas of performance and failure in a student's academic career needs, and it would be evaluated in order to foster improvement and make full use of learning process.

It was observed many years by the researcher in Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola, the increase rate of low academic performance of students became matter of consideration. Many students scored less than credit and the requirement needed by the universities through direct entry is credit minimum. A student who has low academic performance would not further his education through direct entry. The main essence of diploma education is to bridge the gap between secondary school level and university through direct entry and to equip the student with academic and vocational skills through entrepreneurship education as well as moral ethics that would make himself reliance.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Over the years, the researcher as a lecturer in Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola has observed with keen interest the increasing rate of low academic performance among the students of Adamawa State polytechnic. Many students scored below average point. For example, in 2013, 45% of the students scored less than 1.5 grade points for non NBTE accredited courses and 2.5 for NBTE accredited courses. In 2014, 57.3% of the students scored less than 1.5 grade points for non NBTE accredited courses and 2.5 for NBTE accredited courses. While in 2015, 61% of the students scored less than 1.5 grade points for non NBTE accredited courses and 2.5 for NBTE accredited courses according to what the researcher observed several years as lecturer in the institution. When a student scored less than credit in his or her final results, it is therefore affect his further education. The main essence of diploma education is to bridge the gap between secondary education and university through direct entry requirement and to equip the students with academic and vocational skills as well as moral ethics that would make them self-reliance. Based on this observation, the researcher prompted himself to study on the relationship between parents' occupational status and the academic performance of students in Adamawa State polytechnics Yola, Adamawa State, Nigeria.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are to determine:

1. The relationship between parents' income and Academic performance of students in Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola
2. The relationship between parents' occupation and Academic performance of students in Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola

### **Statement of Hypotheses**

The following null hypotheses was tested during the study at 0.05 level of significance

- H<sub>01</sub>**, There is no significant relationship between Parents' income and Academic performance of students in Adamawa State Polytechnic
- H<sub>02</sub>**, There is no significant relationship between Parents' Occupation and Academic performance of students in Adamawa State Polytechnic

### **Literature Review**

#### **Parents' income and students' academic performance**

Umar (2012) pointed out that poverty contributes a lot towards the academic failure, not simply because poor children are cultural disadvantage but because of their natural background is inadequate to allow for the maximum mental development and for the realization of their academic potentials. Evans (2004) stated that children from lower income parents have less stable homes, greater exposure to environmental toxins and violence and so limited extra-families social support network. There is no doubt that parents in such setting would report lower academic expectation, less monitoring of children academic work and less overall supervision of social activities compared to students from high socio-economic families.

Evans (2004) repeatedly disclosed that low income background children are less cognitively stimulated than high income background children as a result of reaching less and experience less compels of communication with parents. Ford and Harris (1997) also examined parental influence in African and American students' school performance by focusing on specific socio-demographic factors which income of the parents is one of them. They believed that children from high income parents are better exposed to a learning environment at home because of provision and availability of extra learning facilities.

Aliyu, (2006) opined that the most important predictor of education attainment of the child is parents' income. The higher the income of the children's family, the higher educational attainment will be realized; funding education required a good income by parents: The academic future of the student's rest on the parents' income because Parents who have high income level may witness high academic performance. This is so because parents with high income level can take care of all necessary academic needs of the children. It is an evidence that children from high income background may have access to all learning materials and equipment which may affect his learning positively unlike the children of low income parents, where they only depend on the materials available with the school. However, income of parents remains a source of finance to the education of their children.

Abubakar, (2013) stated that, income level of parents can decide the extent parents can go for their children to enhance their learning process for good academic performance. Parents of low income level are members of the low class; they usually tend to place less value of education owing to their inability to meet up with catering for the necessary academic needs of their children. They also tend to be unserious with proper education for their children. In this situation, their children likely find education not pleasurable, therefore it may fail to achieve good academic performance to great extent, financial background of parents, contributes a lot towards the academic performance of their children. This is certainly true because paying school fees, provision of learning materials and facilities all requires fund and funds itself can be obtained from the income of parents. A child does well in academics when there is provision of all necessary academic needs that foster learning process for good academic performance for the child.

Nyemeka (2011) believed that the failure of parents to provide learning materials for their children to encourage their academic performance is a clear evidence of parents' lack of finance to cater for the academic needs of their children owing to low income level. However today, low income level of parents negatively affects the academic performance of their children. This is so because students' failure in academic performance in many cases has links with the in ability of the parents to meet up with required academic needs of their children, which in turns make their children unable to achieve good academic performance in schools.

Sa'ad (2013) stated that access to education differs depending on the income level. Income level of parents reflects on difference of enrolment of students into school and graduation of students. Only few children from poor background remain in schools due to higher level of financial cost of schooling. Such financial cost includes not only the school fees but also other

indirect cost such as the cost of transport, materials, workshop equipment, laboratory equipment, etc. therefore education requires funds. Parents of low income level usually fail in providing the needs for their children to encourage their learning so as to promote their academic performance.

Faith (1996) disclosed on low income parents, their homes are not conducive for learning, there are factors like lack of light, spending much time on domestic work, not having reading/research room, absence of books in the home etc. this low income circumstance affects the learning situation of the students and leads to their failure in an academic performance.

Nuhu (2013), stated that poverty which is associated with low income families has made learning inadequate, poor academic performance, and impossible for children to meet the required demands in academic performance. In this context, the income level of parents will affect the academic performance of the students. Poverty can also make parents of low financial background less willing to keep their children in schools because of the difficulty to provide them with learning materials which would keep them to learn effectively. A poverty result from low income level drastically affects academic performance of students. Children of low income parents are usually less successful in academic performance than the children of parents living above poverty level.

Many research studies have shown that the income background is a factor responsible for the academic attainment of the students. Research studies show that income background influences student's achievements (Jeynes, 2012; Eamon, 2005). It is believed that low income background has significant effects on the academic achievement of the students because low income background is the obstruction of access to every important resource and creates additional tension and stress at home (Eamon 2005; Jeynes 2012). Students who have a low income background show poor results and are more likely to leave the school. Eamon, (2009) also found that there is a relationship between socio-economic background and academic achievement of the students.

Sulaiman et al (2012) stated that the parents' characteristic is the most influential predictor of school performance; the higher the income level of the student's parents, the higher his academic achievement". A recent meta-analysis of studies investigating the relationship of socioeconomic background and academic achievement showed that different variables of socioeconomic background e.g., parental education, parental income and parental occupation have different effects on the educational attainment.

### **Parents' Occupation and Students' Academic Performance**

John (2012) stated that academic performances are likely dependent on families at the lower end of the social scale where the father and or mother are unemployed or perform unskilled or semi-skilled work. Akhtar and Hussain (1996) cited in Adamu (2009) stated that the most significant factor associated with parents' academic performance in elementary level in Karachi Pakistan appears to be parents' occupation and also concluded that variation in

parents' occupation determines the factor responsible for low academic performance in schools. Rothman (2004) stressed that occupation is the useful index of social class position because it determines so many aspects of a parson's social life such as family background, educational qualifications, speech and manners and even economic life such as income.

Saifi and Mahmud, (2011) Good parental occupation has a positive effect on the academic achievement of students. He studies the effects of socio-economic background on student's achievement and he used parents' income, parent's occupation, material possessed at home, transport and servants as the indicators of socio-economic background and data were collected analyzed by applying percentages. The findings revealed that parents' occupation and facilities at home influence the student's achievement. It is a fact that families where the parents are privileged educationally, socially and economically, promote a higher level of achievement in their offspring who gives higher levels of psychological support for their children through enriched atmosphere that promote and encourage the development of skills required for success at school.

Adamu (2009) conducted a study on academic performance differences between parents of higher and lower achievement students in Adamawa central zone Adamawa State. He used parents' occupation to classify the lower and higher achievement in the study. One of the objectives he used was to determine the relationship between parents' occupation and academic performance of students in Adamawa central zone Adamawa State. Survey research design was adopted for the study and sample of 315 students and their parents were selected using simple random sampling techniques from all secondary schools under study. Both interview and questionnaire were used for data collection. The data was analyzed by using descriptive statistic and Pearson product moment correlation co-efficient. The result of study shown there was significant relationship between parents' occupation (lower and higher achievement parents) and academic performance of students in Adamawa central zone secondary schools Adamawa State.

### **Research Methodology**

Correlation research design was adopted for this study. This is because it would determine the relationship between the variables. The design was also used to determine the relationship between parents' parents' occupational status and academic performance of polytechnic students of Adamawa State without manipulation of variables. Cohen, Manion & Morrison (2009) Stated that Correlation is used to scan a wide field of issues, population, events and program in order to determine, describe and generalize features; hence it is economical and efficient.

The research instruments that were used in the study were parent's questionnaire (PQ) and profoma on academic performance of students (PAPS) designed by the researcher. The parents' questionnaire was adopted to obtain data on parents' socio-economic background (parents' income and occupation) of sample students. The Parents' questionnaire (PQ) contained items on parents' income and parents' occupation of the students. The items in the parents' questionnaire (PQ) were open ended with the exception of parents' income which

requires the parents to choose one among the items provided. Profoma for data collection on students' academic performance was used to collect diploma II scores of the students from examination office of Adamawa State Polytechnic. Descriptive statistic was adopted as method for data analysis. The completed responses obtained from the parents' questionnaire (PQ) were coded using Percentages and multiple regressions to test the Relationship between parents' occupational status (parents' income and parents' occupation) and academic performance of students in Adamawa State Polytechnic.

### Data Analysis and Results

**Table 1:** Percentage of Respondents on Parents' income

Variance	Sample	Percentage
Below 400,000	177	50%
400,000- 1,000000	120	33.90%
Above 1Million	57	16.10%
Total	354	100%

**Table 2:** Percentage of Respondents on Parents' Occupation

Variance	Sample	Percentage
Civil Servant	158	44.68%
Business	79	22.32%
Farmer	68	19.21%
Artisan	37	10.45%
Others	12	03.39%
Total	354	100%

**Hypothesis one (H0):** There is no significant relationship between parents' income and students' academic performance in Adamawa State Polytechnic

**Table 3:** Results of multiple regressions analysis of Parents' income and students' Academic Performance in Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola

Model	Un standardized Coefficient		Standardized	T	P Value	Remark
	B	Standard Error	Beta			
Constant	57.520	4.050		13.604	.000	
Parents' Income	-1.819	1.109	.125	-1.867	0.058	NS

*Dependent variable: Academic Performance.*

The results in table 4 showed that parents' income was not a significant predictor of academic performance of students in Adamawa State Polytechnic. This is so because the P. Value (0.058) was greater than the level of significance (0.05), therefore the null hypothesis is accepted.

**Hypothesis three (H<sub>0</sub>):** There is no significant relationship between parents' occupation and student' academic performance in Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola

**Table 4:** Results of multiple regressions analysis of Parents' Occupation and students' Academic Performance in Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola

Model	Un standardized Coefficient		Standardized Coefficient	T	P Value	Remark
	B	Standard Error	Beta			
Constant	57.520	4.050		13.604	.000	
Parents' Occupation	3.526	1.567	.286	2.380	0.027	Sig

*Dependent variable: Academic Performance*

Parents' occupation has significant relationship with academic performance of students in Adamawa State Polytechnic. This is so because the P-Value (0.027) in Table 4.4 was less than the level of significance (0.05), therefore the null hypothesis two was rejected for alternative as well.

### Discussion of Findings

The study determined relationship between parents' occupational status and academic performance of polytechnic students in Adamawa State, Nigeria. The first hypothesis stated that there is no significant relationship between parents' income and academic performance of students in Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola. The study revealed that there was no significant relationship between parents' income and academic performance of students in Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola Adamawa State, Nigeria. The finding of the study contradicted the findings of Umar (2012) who stated that poverty contributes a lot towards the academic failure, not simply because poor children are cultural disadvantage but because of their natural background is inadequate to allow for the maximum mental development and for the realization of their academic potentials. The findings also disagreed with the findings of Aliyu, (2006) who stated that the most important predictor of education attainment of the



child is parents' income. The higher the income of the children's family, the higher educational attainment will be realized; funding education required a good income by parents: The academic future of the student's rest on the parents' income because Parents who have high income level may witness high academic performance.

The finding was also contradicted the findings of Sa'ad (2007), Morakinyo (2013), Suleiman (2012), who are collectively concluded that parents' income has significant relationship with academic performance of students. Generally, all this studies had established that economic status of parents was an important factor that responsible for better academic performance or otherwise in schools. However, this study does not establish similar results due to certain reasons such as the general condition of the study area and level of maturity of the area where the study was conducted, most of the previous studies were on secondary schools where the parents are the custodian of all the student's liabilities.

With respect to hypothesis three ( $H_{o3}$ ), there is no significant relationship between parent's occupation and academic performance of students in Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola. The finding of the study revealed that there was a significant relationship between parents' occupation and academic performance of students in Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola, and it was served as best predictor of academic performance of students. This result agreed with the finding of Akhtar and Hussain (1996) sited in Adamu (2009) who stated that the most significant factor associated with student' academic performance in elementary level in Karach Pakistan appears to be parents' occupation and also concluded that variation in parents' occupation determines the factor responsible for low academic performance in schools.

The findings also collaborate with the findings of John (2012), who stressed that occupation is the useful index of social class position because it determines so many aspects of a parson's social life such as family background, educational qualifications, speech and manners and even economic life such as income. The finding also agreed with the findings of Saifi (2011).

In line with the findings of the study, the study was therefore concluded that there was no significant relationship between parents' income and academic performance of students in Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola. This indicated that the income of parents has no relationship with students' academic performance. The study was also concluded that there was a significant relationship between parents' occupation and academic performance of students in Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola, Nigeria.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were stated;

1. Since parents' income has no significant relationship with academic performance of students in Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola, parents regardless of their income should take education of their wards as one of their primary responsibility.
2. Since parents' occupation has significant relationship with students' academic performance in Adamawa State Polytechnic Yola, parents should be encouraged to

stay active in their jobs whatever small it is. Consequently, parents should be encouraged on having self-help jobs to serve as supplement to the available job they have acquired

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