

# Relationship Between Parents' Socio-Economic Background, Parental Involvement and Students' Academic Performance in Higher Institutions of Learning in Adamawa State, Nigeria

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**Abstract**— *The main objective of this study was to determine the relationship between parents' socio-economic background, parental involvement and the students' academic performance in higher institutions of learning in Adamawa state. The study used correlational survey research design. The population of the study consisted of all 649 final year 2016/2017 business education students in higher institutions of Adamawa state while the sample size of the study was two hundred and sixteen (216) students drawn using proportionate random sampling technique. The instrument for data collection was a questionnaire titled "Influence of Parent's on Academic Performance Determination Questionnaire (IPAPDQ)". The data collected were analyzed using mean and standard deviation and simple correlations. The findings of the study among others revealed that socio-economic background of parents relates with students' academic performance in higher institutions of Adamawa State. The study also revealed that there was no significant relationship between parental involvement in the educational pursuit and business education students' academic performance in higher institutions of Adamawa state. It was recommended that parents, irrespective of their tight schedule should endeavor to be more involve in the educational pursuit of their children either financially or morally.*

**Keywords:** *Parent's Socio-Economic Background, Parental Involvement, Business Education, Academic Performance*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Parents by virtue of their position at homes, families and society play a greater role on the lifestyle and behaviors of the younger generation [1]. As a result, their attitudes and how they relate with their children at home determine the level at which they are involve in the upbringing and performance of their child or children [2]. More so, parents exert greater influence on the children's decision as to who to associate with or not, what course to study at school, what career to pursue and even what type of person to marry or not for their future prospects. In an implied sense, parents influence their children by their own admiration for education and acquisition of knowledge, the zeal and interest in their respective occupation, the type of associates they move with and even the type of messages they want to hear. Parents, therefore tend to modify the behavior, taste and preferences of their children.

However, parents' socio-economic background such as their language, culture, religion and educational level attained provide a motivational factor on how far their children can go in the educational ladder. [3] highlighted that parents with more than minimum level of education are expected to have a favored attitude to their children's education and to encourage and help them with schoolwork. However, parent with low level of education

may not feel capable of assisting their child home exercises or play a role in his academic life as they may not understand the material to guide them with [4]. Parent's socio-economic status which is usually a reflection of their profession, vocation or trade makes significant impact on the academic pursuits of their children [5]. In addition to the above [6] stated that parental income is a cogent factor upon which the academic and vocational successes of secondary school students' life depends. A child that is deprived of the essential needs is likely to perform poorly in his school work.

The cry of many Nigerians on the falling standard of education and no one can say empirically that the Nigerian standard of education has 'risen' since then. Sincerely, speaking the standard of education is getting worse. This has been corroborated by [7] who asserts that students' poor academic performance is gradually becoming a norm in secondary and tertiary institutions in Nigeria. More so, judging from the previous academic performances of business education students in Adamawa state, their academic reports have indicated that high academic achievements have become a herculean task to attain among them as less than 5% of the students could graduate with a first class honor. [8] noted that the poor performances of business education students have affected the attainment of the objective for the provision of competent business education teachers at the secondary school level in the state. The extent to which these factors

are responsible for poor academic performance has, however, not been clear. In consequence, this study therefore seeks to determine the influence of parents on business education students' academic performance in higher institutions of learning in Adamawa State.

**1. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The main objectives of this study was to determine the influence of parents' attitude and environment on academic performance of business education students in higher institution of learning in Adamawa state. Specifically, the study sought to:

- a) Determine socio-economic background of business education students' parents in higher institutions of learning in Adamawa State.
- b) Determine the extent of parental involvement in the educational pursuit of business education students in higher institutions of learning in Adamawa State.
- c) Determine academic Performance of business education students in higher institutions of learning in Adamawa State.
- d) Determine the relationship between socio-economic background of business education students' parents and their academic Performance in higher institutions of learning in Adamawa State.
- e) Determine the relationship between parental involvement in the educational pursuit of business education students and their academic Performance in higher institutions of learning in Adamawa State.

**2. METHODOLOGY**

The research design used for this study was correlational survey design. The design provides an opportunity for the researcher to predict scores and explain the relationship among variables [9]. The population of this study comprised of all the 649 final year 2015/2016 business education students in the higher institutions of Adamawa state. The sample of this study was given as 216 students out of the total population of 649 final year business education students in Adamawa state. Stratified random sampling was used to divide each school's population into a stratum and proportionately draw out from each stratum to form the sample of the study. The instrument used for data collection in this study was a questionnaire. The questionnaire was titled "Influence of Parents on Academic Performance Determination Questionnaire (IPAPDQ)" and used for eliciting information from final year students of business education in Adamawa state higher institutions. Documents (specifically the academic records of the students) from the academic offices of the various departments, showing the 2015/2016 End of Semester results and Cumulative Grade Point Average

(CGPA) of final year students was collected, in order to derive the mean scores for academic performance [10]. The data collected was analyzed using mean and standard deviation for research questions and z test was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance.

**4. RESULTS**

**4.1 Socio-economic background of business education students' parents in higher institutions of learning in Adamawa State**

Table 1 below showed that out of 6 items of parents' socio-economic background, respondents agreed with all the items in the table and more emphasis was given to 1, where the respondents strongly agreed with it. With an average mean of 4.15 and standard deviation, the table revealed that socio-economic background of parents of business education students' contributes in improving students' academic performance in higher institutions of Adamawa State.

Table 1: Socio-Economic Background of Parents of Business Education Students

S/N	ITEMS	N	Mean	SD	Rmk
1.	Parent's Religion	195	4.60	0.77	SA
2.	Parents' Culture	191	4.14	0.72	A
3.	Parents' Language	199	4.20	0.84	A
4.	Parents' Health Status	202	4.04	0.85	A
5.	Parental Style of Upbringing	206	3.89	1.01	A
6.	Parents' Economic Class	188	4.03	1.04	A
	Average	199	4.15	0.88	A

Key: S.D = N = Number; Standard Deviation; SA = Strongly Agree; A = Agree; RMK = Remark

**4.2 Extent of parental involvement in the educational pursuit of business education students in higher institutions of learning in Adamawa State**

Table 2 below showed that all the respondents agreed with all the items on parental involvement. With an average mean of 3.97 and standard deviation of 0.93, the table revealed that the extent to which parental involvement contributes to business education students' academic performance was high in higher institutions of learning Adamawa State.

Table 2: Parental involvement in the educational pursuit of business education students

S/N	ITEMS	N	Mean	SD	Rmk
1.	Payment of School Fees	197	3.83	0.91	A

2.	Purchase of academic materials like school bags, handouts, textbooks etc	199	3.97	0.91	A
3.	Assistance towards school assignment	198	4.01	0.93	A
4.	Encouraging you to read	200	3.97	0.92	A
5.	Reaction towards your test and examination Scores	203	4.05	0.95	A
6.	General concern for your progress in school	199	3.94	0.97	A
	Average	197	3.97	0.93	A

Key: S.D = N = Number; Standard Deviation; A = Agree; RMK = Remark

**4.3 Academic Performance of business education students in higher institutions of learning in Adamawa State**

Table 3 shows grades and descriptive statistics of students' academic performance in higher institutions of learning in Adamawa State. The scores of results ranged from a minimum of 0.93 to maximum of 4.78 scores. The result revealed that only 5 students obtained grade A result; 52 obtained grade B result; 97 grade C; 52 grade D and 10 grade E. However, an average mean of 2.97 and standard deviation of 0.23 indicates the academic performance of the majority of students was within the lower grade level, generally falls within the range of grade C to E. This implies that getting grade A and B was a very difficult task to majority of business education students in higher institutions of learning.

Table 3: Academic Performance of business education students

S/N	ITEMS	N	Min	Max	Mean	SD
1.	Grade A (70% and above)	5	4.54	4.78	4.63	0.11
2.	Grade B	52	3.5	4.4	3.96	0.2

	(60 – 69%)		0	6		8
3.	Grade C (50 – 59%)	97	2.40	3.49	2.94	0.31
4.	Grade D (45 – 49%)	52	1.55	2.38	2.04	0.25
5.	Grade E (40 – 44%)	10	0.93	1.49	1.29	0.19
	Average				2.97	0.23

Key: N = Number; S.D = Standard Deviation;

**4.4 Relationship between socio-economic background of business education students' parents and their academic Performance in higher institutions of learning in Adamawa State**

Table 4 shows the simple correlation (r) between

business education students' academic performance and their parents' socio economic background. The results revealed that only two items have a positive statistically significant relationship with the students' academic performance in the institutions. These items include Parents' Language (0.03\*) and Parents' Economic Class (0.03\*). This implies that language and economic capacity of parents plays greater role improving students' academic performance.

Table 4: Correlations between socio-economic background of business education students' parents and their academic Performance

S/N	ITEMS	Corr.	Sig
1.	Parent's Religion	0.13	0.07
2.	Parents' Culture	0.11	0.50
3.	Parents' Language	0.16	0.03*
4.	Parents' Health Status	0.08	0.28
5.	Parental Style of Upbringing	0.07	0.35
6.	Parents' Economic Class	0.16	0.03*

\*P < 0.05

**4.5 Relationship between parental involvement in the educational pursuit of business education students and their academic Performance in higher institutions of learning in Adamawa State**

Table 5, shows the simple correlation (r) between

business education students' academic performance and their parental involvement in the educational pursuit in higher

institutions of learning in Adamawa State. Analysis of the items revealed that statistically significant relationship does had not existed between business education students' academic performance and their parental involvement in the educational pursuit in higher institutions of learning in Adamawa State. This implies that parents do not usually care much to know the progress of their children in acadmic activities.

Table 5: Correlations between parental involvement in the educational pursuit of business education students and their academic Performance

S/N	ITEMS	Corr	Sig
1.	Payment of School Fees	0.02	0.76
2.	Purchase of academic materials like school bags, handouts, textbooks etc	0.05	0.05
3.	Assistance towards school assignment	0.07	0.38
4.	Encouraging you to read	0.07	0.34
5.	Reaction towards your test and examination scores	0.07	0.34
6.	General concern for your progress in school	0.06	0.38

\*P< 0.05

5. DISCUSSION

The findings of this study revealed that bivariate correlation between socio-economic background of parents influences business education students' academic performance in higher institutions of Adamawa State revealed that parents' language, parents' economic and academic performance that significant association existed. This further emphasized the need of including mother tongue in the training of vocational education students in Nigeria. This finding concurred with [11] [12] [13] finding that parental backgrounds, parental economic status, parental marital status and parental home location have an influence on a child's academic performance. Although, the findings disagree with that of [14] and [15] who found out that there is no much difference between the academic performance of students who have rich parent and that of students who are from poor parents. As there was a significant relationship between parents' socio-economic background and business education students' academic performance in higher institution of Adamawa state.

Also the finding of study showed that bivariate correlation between the items revealed that

statistically significant relationship had not existed between the between business education students' academic performance and their parental involvement in the educational pursuit in higher institutions of learning in Adamawa State. This supported the finding of [13] and [16] who founded that there is always a tendency of improvement when parents involve themselves in their children's academics activities. Although, this contradicted the findings of [15] and [14] who found out that home factors do not really measure up to a students' academic performance in terms of students who have other guides aside from their parents.

7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that parental attitude (i.e. parents' socio-economic background and parental level of involvement) influence business education students' academic performance in higher institutions of Adamawa state. The following recommendations were also made;

- Parents should be fully made aware that their socio-economic background has an influence on their children's academic achievement in school.
- That, parents irrespective of their tight schedule should endeavor to be more involve in the educational pursuit of their children either financially or morally.

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