

Causes of Drop out in Schools as Perceived by Secondary School Students in Idanre Local Government

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Abstract: The study investigated the causes of drop out in schools as perceived by schools in Idanre Local Government. Four research questions were raised for the study. The population consists of all secondary schools students in Idanre. One hundred and 60 students were randomly selected from the schools. A questionnaire tag drop out in schools was used (QDS) adapted Likert scale. The instrument had a reliability coefficient of 0.68. The data collected were analysis frequency count, percentage, mean and standard deviation. The study revealed that factors resident in students and parents contributed to the rate of drop out of students. Drop out of students was rampant among the female students in Idanre Local Government Area. Based on these findings, it was recommended that parents should play their parental roles adequately by bring their children up well and providing for their basic needs. Periodic lecture and symposium on the value of education should be given to the students in the area.

Key words: Idanre, QDS, deviation, perceived, students, education

INTRODUCTION

The desire that Nigeria should be a free, just and democratic society; a land full of opportunities for all its citizens, able to generate a great and dynamic economy and growing into a united and self reliant nation, cannot be over emphasized. To achieve these goals, Education in Nigeria is a instrument par excellence for effective national development (Federal Ministry of Education). With changes in the society, every student desires to become a millionaire within a day. It is now seems to be difficult for majority of the students to really concentrate on their studies in this country, particular in a place like Idanre.

Looking at the term, drop-out of school qualifies those students who could not complete their education programme at any level of education due to one reasons or the other. Good Community Committee (1995) observed that the seed of dropping out have been imbibed from childhood. Many children fail to find self-respect or self discipline and capacity to cope with problems in ways that are constructive or have any appreciation on the importance of skills needed for learning. In other words, it seems to be true that the causes of dropping out are multiple complex and interrelated. Good Community Committee (1995) and Schewertz (1995) identified youth violence (crime), single parenthood, poverty, drug problem, school instability and rebellion as causes of

students drop out of school. Sewell (2000) include among many other reasons for student's drop out as not liking school, being suspended or being expelled. Other reasons include economic reasons, socio-economic status of the family, influence from friends who are also school drop outs, personal reasons such as pregnancy for girls. In addition, school drop out had lower grades in school, more disciplinary problems, lower rate of homework completion and externalized sense control.

Idanre Local Government Area is well known to blessed with natural resources such as cocoa and timber that attract financial benefits. Often times, when student fail their promotion examinations, they would rather prefer going to farm and obtain or acquire plots of land to plant cocoa and become cocoa farmers. During cocoa season, students and parents common slang in Idanre Local Government is Oga teacher how much is your salary? Two kilos (kilogrammes) of cocoa will pay your salary. This local syndrome mighty be responsible for students drop out in the area. The rate of drop out appears to be worst among boys with the emergence of commercial motor cycling known as Okada. Also, some boys become bus conductors or illegal timber contractor known as payabayaba. There was a case of a male student who was arrested for social ills (stealing) and during interrogation, he said that he dropped out from school because his school fees was not paid and his mother gave birth to 9 children for different 9 fathers.

Moreover, in the study of the female students, when they fail or their fees were not paid, they seem to experience fear, anxiety, inferiority complex and guilt among their mates and this seems to give them some psychological problem. This leads such students to be involved in pre-marital sex and hurriedly get married. According to Owuamanam (2002) some people go into marriage when there is no money to pay school fees or take care of their children's need. Another problem observed and rampant among females is the issue of 50 days meeting. In Idanre, as soon as some female students see their drop out friends with expensive wears and their babies, the next thing they do is to copy their colleagues so that they too can dress like their friends and look nice among their peer groups, this usually results in termination of their academic career.

It seems that if parents were not educationally oriented, their interest towards the education of their children might be negatively affected. Adaba (2001) noted that parents do not encourage the education of their female children because of erroneous belief that investing money on the education of female children may end up to be waste when they get married, lose family's name and the husband's family would reap the fruits of their labour. It is also belief that some parents were unable to pay school fees and provide necessary materials needed by their wards may contribute to students drop out of school. Alonge opined that some parents are harsh, ill-treat and wicked to their children if they do not perform well or fail their examinations.

In another development if students do not have a stable school life and bad school experiences are largely contributor to the school drop out rate. Oyeyemi (2005) observed that Idanre youths cherish money so much and they could do anything to acquire wealth. She stated further that there was a lot of reports on mysterious killings of wives and children, kidnapping and ritual just for the sake of getting fast money. A senior secondary class 2 male student (dropped out) planned and killed his father because of money for selfish interest and ambition to become rich young man. In the like manner, another boy said to his colleague you should not have killed him (his father), I only wanted you to collect the money from him.

The effect of drop out seems to be negatively felt in the Local Government Area. The youths seem to count schooling as a waste of time and energy because of the fact that it is always difficult for those who completed their schooling to get good jobs. The purpose of this study therefore is to determine the causes drop out as perceived by secondary schools students in Idanre and find out among sex drop out is rampant.

Statement of problem

- Do factors resident in students parents cause students drop out?
- Do factors resident in school cause students drop out?
- Do factors resident in parents students cause students drop out?
- Among which sex of students is drop out rampant?

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study employed descriptive research design of survey type. The population consists of all secondary schools students in Idanre Local Government Area. Simple random sampling technique was used to select four schools out of 10 schools. The sample consists of 160 students randomly selected from the selected schools. A self constructed questionnaire title drop out in school adapted Likert scale; Strongly Agree (SA) 4 points, Agree (A) 3 points, Disagree (D) 2 and Strongly Disagree (SD) 1 point was used. The instrument was validated by tests experts. The instrument had a reliability coefficient of 0.68 using split half method. Frequency count, mean and standard deviation were employed to analyse the data. The cut off point is 2.5 (i.e., mean = 2.5). Therefore, any item with a mean of 2.5 and above was regarded as Agreed while mean below 2.5 was regarded as disagreed.

RESULTS

Data obtained following the administration of the questionnaire was analysed using frequency count, mean and standard deviation. The results are presented as follows:

Question 1: Do factors resident in students cause student's drop out? This section, views of the respondents are sought based on students (Table 1).

Table 1: Mean and standard deviation showing factors resident on students dropout

Statement	\bar{x}	SD	Remark
Inability of student to comprehend in school?	2.74	1.15	Accept
Preferring business to academic work.	2.78	1.15	Accept
Ignorance of students towards education	2.01	1.00	Reject
Students become pregnant	2.58	1.24	Accept
Students stubbornness	2.51	1.19	Accept
Frequent absence from school	2.66	1.21	Accept
Laziness on part of the students	2.54	1.24	Accept
Peer group influence	2.40	1.18	Reject
Inability to pass examination	2.57	1.45	Accept
Incessant change of school on part of students	2.66	1.20	Accept
No encouragement on the ways to read	2.14	1.12	Reject
Used to get sick/feeling sick often	2.25	1.16	Reject

N = 160 respondents, $\bar{x} > 2.50$ means Accepted, $\bar{x} < 2.50$ means rejected

The respondents agreed with 8 of the statements and disagreed with 4, hence student drop out can be attributed to factors resident in students.

Question 2: Do factors resident in school cause students' drop out? Table 2 shows the distribution of the respondents views on school factor as cause of student drop out.

Two out of 8 predictive statements on factors resident in school as cause of students dropped out were accepted while 6 were rejected. Then students drop out can not be attributed to factors resident in school.

Question 3: Do factors resident in parent cause students drop out? The means of the responses on the ten questions and standard deviation are shown in the Table 3.

From Table 3, the respondents agreed on six while disagreed with out statements. This means that factors resident in parents caused students to drop out of school.

Table 2: Mean and standard deviation showing factors resident in school cause students' drop out

Statement	\bar{x}	SD	Remark
Lack of materials in school	2.67	1.22	Accept
Too much discipline in school	2.66	1.24	Accept
Frequent industrial action by teachers	2.42	1.16	Reject
Teachers are very wicked	2.30	1.14	Accept
School is too far from where students reside.	2.43	1.18	Accept
Teachers do not teach students well	2.22	1.15	Accept
Lack of instruction religion in schools.	2.10	1.13	Accept
My teacher does not encourage students	2.31	1.27	Reject

N = 160

Table 3: Mean and SD showing factors resident in parental on students dropped out of school

Statement	\bar{x}	SD	Remark
Inability of parents to pay school fees	2.87	1.03	Accept
Inability of parents to provide necessary material needed in school	2.64	1.15	Accept
Negative attitude of parents towards education	2.55	1.24	Accept
Uneducated rich parents	2.54	1.24	Accept
Students living with grand parents	2.69	1.25	Accept
Broken home	2.61	1.20	Accept
Students do not live with parents	2.41	1.26	Reject
Parent spoiled their children with money	2.44	1.26	Reject
Forced labour by parents	2.16	1.14	Reject
Parents separation	2.09	1.13	Reject

N = 160, $x > 2.50$ (accepted), $x < 2.20$ (rejected)

Table 4: Percentage of gender in which drop out of school is common

Gender	Frequency	(%)
Male	33	21
Female	127	79
Total	160	100

Question 4: Among what sex does drop out rampant? The respondents agreed that students dropped out is rampant among the female 79% while that of male is just 21% (Table 4).

DISCUSSION

The results shows factors resident to students and parents contributed to the rate of drop out of students in Idanre School. This might be as a result of negative attitude of the students to education. These statement focused on the students as a identical individuals. This findings is line with the view of Schewartz (1995) who agreed that personal problems affecting students seems to the main causes of students drop out of secondary schools. Also Oyeyemi (2005) affirmed that laziness, truancy and thugery contributed to the high rate of drop out of students in secondary schools in Idanre.

As showed in Table 2, the respondents disagreed that factors resident in school does not cause students to drop out of school. This means that school factors have little or no effect on student dropping out of schools in Idanre. Respondents agreed that too much discipline in school cause of students to drop out of school. But Musgrave (1983) and Adeyemo (2004) supported that schools should stress the important of discipline and the responsibilities of the school is to make students good and law abiding citizens.

Table 3 revealed that factors resident in parents are agreed to cause students drop out of school. This means that parents cause students to dropped out of schools. This was supported by Good Community Committee (1995) and Oyeyemi (2005) that parents cannot pay school fees and provide necessary materials needed in school. Also parents seems not have time for their children. Some parents are no longer monitoring the activities of their children in schools even at home because the pursue materials wealth. So their children become free whether they attend school, or not, the parents do not know. Absenteem according Good Community Committee (1995) leads to students drop out.

Table 4 revealed that the rate of drop out in female students 79% is more rampant than that of male counterpart 21% in schools in Idanre. This is in line with the view of Schewartz (1995), Onwuamanam (2001) and Adaba (2001) that female students engage in premarital sex and resulted into unwanted pregnancy. They then graduated into their husbands rooms. This is also confirmed Oyeyemi (2005) study that the issues of

15 days meeting when female students see their dropped out friend with expensive wears and babies and look nice, they have to follow suit. This is why some parents were hesitating in investing on the female children's education.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the findings, it could be concluded that parents and students themselves contributed to the rate of students' dropout in secondary school in Idanre. Also drop out of students is rampant among the female students. The following recommendations are made:

- Parents should play their parental roles adequately by bringing their children up well in the nature and admonition of God and by providing for their basic needs.
- Parents should find way of monitoring their children activities in schools with a view of checkmating any primary deviation and loss of interest in academic.
- Schools children especially female should be discourage from attending or holding 15 days meetings.
- Periodic lecture and symposium on the value of education should be given to the students.

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