

Street Hawking and Truancy as Predictor of Academic Performance Amongst Secondary School Students in Ondo State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The paper examined street hawking as predictor of truancy among secondary school students in Ondo State, Nigeria. The population of the study comprised all the secondary school teachers. A simple random sampling technique was used to select 200 teachers. The instrument for data collection was self-constructed questionnaire titled “Street Hawking and Truancy” on four-point Likert scale. Pearson product moment correlation was used to determine the correlation coefficient which was 0.76. Three hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. The hypotheses were tested using analysis. The result indicated that there was a significant relationship between street hawking and truancy amongst secondary school students. The result also showed that there was a significant relationship between street hawking and academic performance of secondary school students, and finally the result revealed that there was a significant relationship between street hawking and academic performance of secondary school students. The study concluded that there was a positive relationship between street hawking, truancy and academic performance due to so many factors such as inability to pay school fee, unauthorized extra fees being charged by school authorities, poor socio-economic status of the students. The study recommended amongst others that the state’s constituted law enforcement agents should further intensify efforts towards apprehending any student found roaming about the streets during official school hours.

Keywords: *Street hawking, truancy, academic, performance, school.*

Introduction

Street hawking or vending in developing countries is attracting a rising interest amongst researchers due to the various health, social, and economic implications to those who engage in the trade. Developing countries are faced with exponential growth giving rise to rural-urban drift in search of a better means of livelihood (Hoyamo and Keenan, 2007). This in addition, encroaches on the limited resources available in these countries. Families who cannot afford the high cost of house rent are forced to live in urban slum which further exposes them to numerous health and environmental hazards, unemployment and poor education (Ekpenyong and Nkereuwem, 2011).

The need to continually provide for the family in the midst of unfriendly conditions has led women, men, youths and children to engage in street hawking activities (Ekpenyong and Nkereuwem, 2011). Hawking irrespective of who (age and sex) engages in it, is associated with major hazards This includes sexual assault which increases the vulnerability of the hawkers to diseases such as HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, increased risk of unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortion (Lu, 2011).

Other hazards include physical assaults, mobbing, involvement in road traffic accidents, kidnapping and ritual killings. Street hawking leads to increased exposure to antisocial activities like smoking, drug and alcohol abuse, cultism and crime. Hawkers are exposed to harsh weather conditions, insect and reptile bites and hunger. When children are involved, in addition to these other risks, they are deprived of education and sound health and these constitute child abuse (Ekpenyong and Nkereuwem, 2011).

The incidence of hawking in Nigeria, has been related to the high rates of unemployment, poverty, inflation, poor school performance, unstable families, peer group influence, large family size and poor parental care (Fawole, 2003). Poverty has been given as a major factor for engaging in hawking due to the need to compensate for the family income (Onuzulike, 2007).

The challenge of school attendance of students in the country, especially at the rural areas has been a persistent issue. In most cases, many of these students come late to schools in the morning. While many of them participate in collective worship at assembly, they leave schools before closing hours for other unauthorized activities and in some cases too, a handful number of these students will not even bother to come to school (Fagbenle, 2008). Though this

absenteeism being exhibited by the Secondary School students may be with genuine reasons, majority of them displayed this attitude for no condonable reasons (Fagbenle, 2008).

Good (1973) Attendance has been defined as the physical presence of the students in schools/classes. attendance at schools is not merely being bodily present but including actual participation in the work and activities of the school. Attendance can be divided into two extremes of being ‘a mere appearance of the students at school’ and ‘the students present during the whole day’. Though some students may truly be at the assembly during the collective worship period and leave school before the closing hour after the row might have been called in the morning. In some cases, some of these students may truly be in school and but rather engage themselves in illegal activities such as sleeping, reading negatively motivated novels, playing with electronic devices (handsets, androids, ipads, ipods, etc) and going to the field to play games among others (Rogers, 1980).

Fagbenle (2008) identified two types of attendance as regular attendance and irregular attendance. According to the author, regular attendance is characterized as being present, punctual and being involved in the activities of the school. The regular students will always come to school except for some certain reasons beyond their control which may probably be sickness, death or accident which are regarded as legal absenteeism in the dictionary of education. On the other hand, irregular attendance for whatever causes is a distress call. It can therefore be described as a deliberate absenteeism of oneself from school for no just cause. Good (1973) further described irregular attendance as a failure of the students to be physically present in the school for reasons that are not recognized by the school authority as legitimate. This may be in form of absence, truancy, illegal works such as being in the family’s farm or being compelled by their mothers to stay at home to take care of babies.

According to Iyamu and Obiunu, (2006), the effects of attendance dilemma/absenteeism in our schools have been identified. They include: academic underachievement which increases costs wastage; difficulty in making friends which could lead to boredom, loss of confidence and engagement in premature sexual activities which could lead to pregnancy resulting in dropout and stress among young careers. The society suffers as the children of school age hang around in the streets intimidating other people and stealing properties of those who are in school other place of

work (Davidson *et al.*, 2003). Attendance dilemma could also result into poor academic achievements, loss of friends and partners, disruption in class when absentees return to school, difficulty in keeping accurate records, reduced ability to meet instructional targets and damaged school reputations (Oghuvbu, 2010).

Oghuvbu (2010) studied the attendance and academic performance of Secondary School students in Delta State, Nigeria and concluded that there is a fair positive correlation between attendance and academic performance. It was also revealed that academic performance is influenced by attendance in Secondary Schools in the study area. Iyamu and Obiunu (2006) reflected on the dilemma of Primary School attendance in Nigeria and summed up that education in Africa/Nigeria is encumbered by the poverty level of individuals in this region.

Students must be present in school in order to benefit from the academic programme in its entirety. Schools and law enforcement officials are getting tough by enforcing laws that mandate school attendance. It is a problem that extends beyond the school. It affects the students, their family and community". (Delkalb, 1999). Regular school attendance is essential to assist students maximize the potentials. Schools in partnership with parents are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. Thus, this study investigates the impact of student attendance in schools and its educational implications. It aims at determining the differences between student's attendance and their academic performance in schools. Hence, the need to investigate street hawking and truancy as predictor of academic performance amongst secondary school students in Ondo State.

Statement of the Problem

Developing countries such as Nigeria are burdened with over population leading to high rates of unemployment thus contributing to the large number of people seen on the streets engaging in hawking activities. The need to continually provide for the family in the midst of unfriendly conditions has led women, men, youths and children to engage in street hawking activities. Hawking irrespective of who age and sex engages in it, is associated with major hazards This includes sexual assault which increases the vulnerability of the hawkers to diseases such as HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, increased risk of unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortion. There is still a need to address student attendance. Testing programs,

accountability issues and student achievement remain the focus for educators today. The challenge is finding and implementing effective programs designed to improve student attendance and academic achievement at all levels. Hence, the need to examine street hawking and truancy as predictor of academic performance amongst secondary school students in Ondo State.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of the study was to investigate street hawking and truancy as predictor of academic performance amongst secondary school students in Ondo State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study seeks to:

1. identify the level of street hawking and truancy on academic performance amongst secondary school students.
2. ascertain the impact of street hawking and academic performance of secondary school students.
3. investigate the level of truancy on academic performance of secondary school students.

Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated and tested in this study.

- 1) There is no significant relationship between street hawking and truancy on academic performance amongst secondary school students.
- 2) There is no significant relationship between street hawking on academic performance of secondary school students.
- 3) There is no significant relationship between truancy on academic performance of secondary school students.

Methodology

This study adopted a descriptive survey research design. The population consisted of all the secondary school students in Akoko South-West Local Government Area of Ondo State, Nigeria. A simple random sampling technique was used to choose the sample for the study. The sample of the study consisted of 200 secondary school students in Akoko South-West Local Government Area of Ondo State. The instrument for data collection was a self-constructed questionnaire titled “Street Hawking and Truancy” on Four-Likert scale. 200 copies of the questionnaire were distributed and were returned. Pearson product moment correlation was used to determine the

correlation coefficient which was 0.76 which certified that the questionnaire was reliable. Data were analyzed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation.

Results

Research Hypothesis One: There is no significant relationship between street hawking and truancy amongst secondary school students.

Table 1: Summary of significant relationship between street hawking and truancy amongst secondary school students

Variable	N	Df	r-cal	P-value	Decision
Street Hawking	120	198	0.234	0.000	Sig.
Truancy	80				

@0.05 alpha level of significance

Table 1 showed summary of the significant relationship between street hawking and truancy amongst secondary school students. The calculated value revealed 0.234 while the p-value is 0.000, degree of freedom of 198 at 0.05 alpha level of significance. It is therefore concluded that there was a significant relationship between street hawking and truancy amongst secondary school student's academic performance.

Research Hypothesis Two: There is no significant relationship between street hawking and academic performance of secondary school students.

Table 2: Summary of significant relationship between street hawking and academic performance of secondary school students

Variable	N	Df	r-cal	P-value	Decision
Street Hawking	120	198	0.324	0.000	Sig.
Academic Performance	80				

@0.05 alpha level of significance

Table 2 showed summary of the significant relationship between street hawking and academic performance of secondary school students. The calculated value revealed 0.324 while the table value is 0.451, degree of freedom of 198 at 0.05 alpha level of significance. It is apparent here that correlation calculated table is greater than p-value which means null hypothesis was rejected. It is

therefore concluded that there was a significant relationship between street hawking and academic performance of secondary school students.

Hypothesis Three: There is no significant relationship between truancy and academic performance of secondary school students.

Table 3: significant relationship between street hawking and academic performance of secondary school students.

Variable	N	Df	r-cal	P-value	Decision
Truancy	90	198	0.211	0.000	Sig.
Academic Performance	110				

@0.05 alpha level of significance

Table 3 showed summary of the significant relationship between truancy and academic performance of secondary school students. The calculated value revealed 0.211 while the table value is 0.451, degree of freedom of 198 at 0.05 alpha level of significance. It is apparent here that correlation calculated table is greater than critical value which means null hypothesis was rejected. It is therefore concluded that there was a significant relationship between truancy and academic performance of secondary school students.

Discussion

The findings from hypothesis one revealed that there was a significant relationship between street hawking and truancy amongst secondary school students. This is in line with (Oghuvbu, 2006 and 2010) who found out that attendance dilemma could also result into poor academic achievements, loss of friends and partners, disruption in class when absentees return to school, difficulty in keeping accurate records, reduced ability to meet instructional targets and damaged school reputations.

The findings from hypothesis two revealed that there was a significant relationship between street hawking and academic performance of secondary school students. This is in line with (Fawole, 2003) who found that the incidence of hawking has been related to the high rates of unemployment, poverty, inflation, poor school performance, unstable families, peer group influence, large family size and poor parental care.

The findings from hypothesis three revealed that there was a significant relationship between truancy and academic performance of secondary school students. This is in line with Oghuvbu (2010) who found out that there was a fair positive correlation between attendance and academic performance. It was also revealed that academic performance is influenced by attendance in Secondary Schools in the study area.

Conclusion

The study concluded that there was a positive relationship between street hawking, truancy and academic performance due to so many factors such as inability to pay school fee, unauthorized extra fees being charged by school authorities, poor socio-economic status of the students

Recommendations

- Towards ameliorating the challenge of attendance among this category of students however, Government should curb all unauthorized extra fees being charged by the various schools' authorities.
- Parents should also be re-oriented on the need for prompt release of their wards for schooling activities. Moreover,
- The state's constituted law enforcement agents should further intensify efforts towards apprehending any student found roaming about the streets during official school hours.

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