



Effect of Family Size and Parents' Income on Children's Access to Education in Maiduguri Metropolis, Borno State, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study examined the effect of family size on children Access to Education in Maiduguri Metropolis, Borno State, Nigeria. The population of the study was two hundred and eighteen thousand, nine hundred and seventy-six (218,976). The sample size of the study was three hundred and eighty (380). Family heads or caregivers of the children were selected using purposive sampling technique within Maiduguri Metropolis, Borno State. The instrument used for this study was self-designed questionnaire. The research design used was correlation method. Data were analyzed using charts, simple percentage, Pearson's Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) and chi square. The findings revealed parents' income is a significant contributor to children access to education while family size was not a determinant of children access to education. Based on these findings the following recommendations were made: government should make sure that free and compulsory education were fully implemented so that children of school age will have free access to education

Keywords: *Effects, Family size, Parents income, Children, Access to Education,*

Introduction

The influence of family size on child's academic attainment has received extensive study attention from researchers. Most of the argument to this regards has dwelled on the

different contribution of the small and large family to the child educational achievement and which of these best predict academic attainment of the child. To this effect, Eamon, (2005) in

the study involving family size and academic attainment reported that smaller family size is better linked to high academic achievement. He argued that children with a fewer sibling are likely to receive more parental attention and have more access to resources than their counterparts from the large family. This additional attention and support lead to better school performance. Supporting the claims of Eamon and Majoribanks (2001) posited that children from smaller family perform better in schools, he argued that family resources deplete as family size increase thus become insufficient to cater for the educational need of the child from a large family as such family distributes its resources among the several children in the home.

Similarly, Bolk and Kee (2005) explored the degree to which family size affects the child's educational achievement using data retrieved from 2003 British Household panel from large families have the lower level of education and performed poorly when compared with their counterparts from smaller families. Black, Deveruex, and Salvanes (2005) examined the effect of family size and birth order on children educational achievement. In this study, a set of college student's order correlating the date to their GPA. They found that the number of siblings' cohabitants has a significant influence on the student's GPA. A large number of a sibling the poorer academic performances.

Nutall, Nutall and Hunter (2002) in their study on family size and academic achievement, selected a sample of 306 girls and 247 boys from the Boston area. The sample was divided into the small family (two kinds) and large family (5t kind) group. Academic achievement was examined using school records and an IQ test. They concluded that boys from smaller family tend to have better academic achievement than boys from a larger family because boys in the larger family are probably more influenced by a poor group who tend to have anti-academic values.

Jone, (2005) studied family size and its socio-economic status in Fenton's in the Sunyani municipality of the Porong Ohafo region of Ghana and the result shows that smaller family size was also seen to enjoy better social and economic life as compared to their counterparts with relatively large family size. This is so since families of less than six have healthy children, provide better medical care as well as giving them better housing and welfare services.

In investigating the issue of children's access to education in Maiduguri metropolis, it is important to examine the variables that constitute on obstacles or barriers to children's access to education. Some of these obstacles may be

socio-economic determinant such as parental education level, income, occupation and family size. It is against this backdrop that this study examined the relationship between parent's income and family size on children's access to education in Maiduguri metropolis of Borno state, Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study were to determine the relationship between:

- i. Parent's income and children's access to education in Maiduguri Metropolis Borno State.
- ii. Family size and children's access to education in Maiduguri Metropolis Borno State.

Research Hypotheses

The following research hypotheses were tested:

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between parent's income and children's access to education in Maiduguri Metropolis Borno State.

H₀₂: There is no significant relationship between family size and children's access to education in Maiduguri Metropolis Borno State.

Methodology

The study adopted a correlation research design. Correlation is the non-experimental type of research which is used to determine relationship without manipulation of variables. According to Creswell, (2012) correlational design provides an opportunity for a researcher to predict scores and explain the relationship among variables. The target population of this study consists of all the out-of-school children in Maiduguri Metropolis, Borno state. The total population of the study is 218,976, out of these 380 was taken as sample. A technique that was used in selecting the sample for the study was purposive sampling technique.

The instrument used for this study was self-developed questionnaire entitled "socio-economic determinants and children's access to education in Borno state". The instrument consists of demographic information, socio-economic variables and children's access to education. The instrument was validated by esteem members of postgraduate committee in the Faculty of Education. After the validation, the instrument was tested to ascertain the reliability using test-retest method. The Cronbach alpha level stood at 0.78. The index shows that

the instrument used were reliable for this study. The instrument was administered with the support of the trained researched assistance after seeking permission from the appropriate authority. A total number of three hundred and seventy – one (371) questionnaire were successfully retrieved from the respondents. Data collected were analysed using charts, simple percentage, Pearson’s product moment correlation (PPMC) to determine the relationship between the dependents and independents variables.

Results and Discussion

Demographic Characteristics of the respondents

Age Group of the Respondents

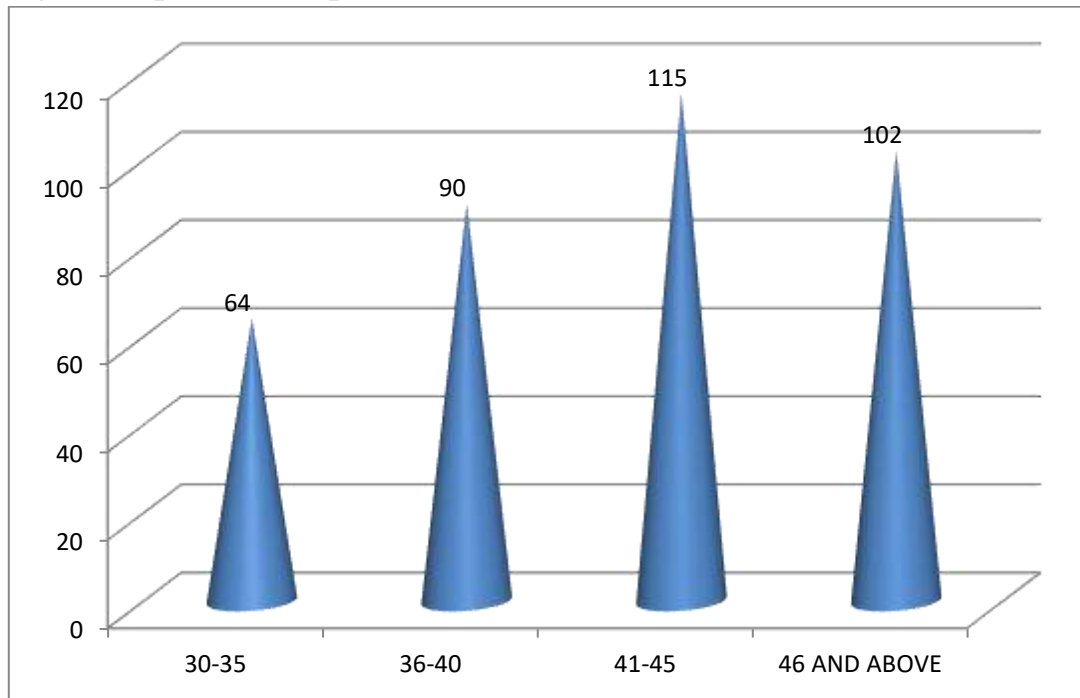


Figure 1: Bar-chart showing the distribution of the respondents based on age group

Source: *Field survey, 2019*

Information in figure 1 revealed that 64 respondents representing 17.25% are 30-35 years of age, 90 respondents representing 24.26% of the parents are 36-40 years of age, 115 respondents representing 31.0% of the parents are 41-45 years of age while 102 respondents representing 27.49% of the parents are either 46 years of age or above 46 years. Therefore, majority of the parents involved in this study are within the age bracket 41-45 years of age.

Income of the Respondents

Information on parents' income was presented in the pie chart in figure 2 below:

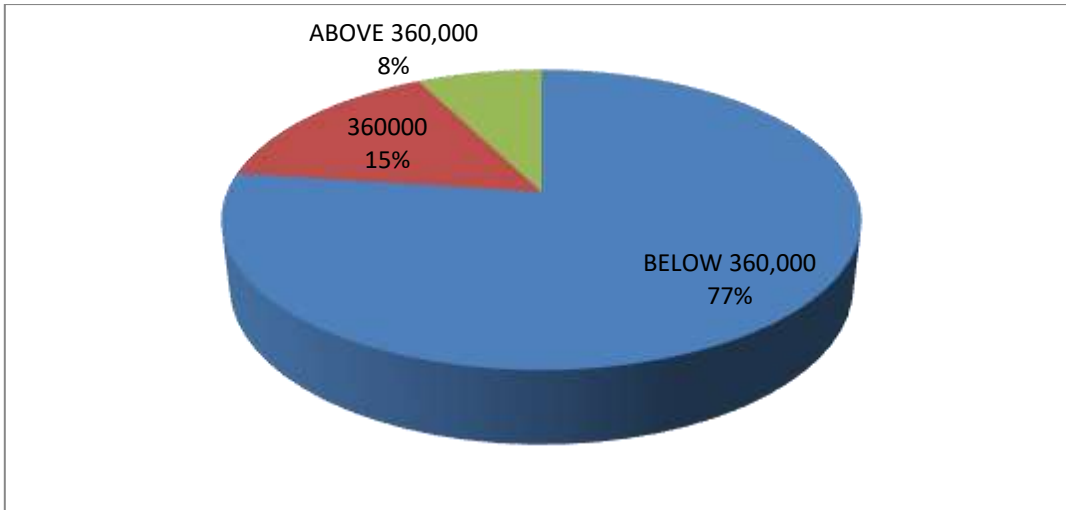


Figure 2: Pie-chart showing the distribution of the respondents based on income

Source: Field survey, 2019

Information in figure 2 revealed that 286 of the respondents representing 77.09% of the parents are low income earners, 57 respondents representing 15.36% of the parents are middle income earners while 28 respondents representing 7.55% of the parents are high income earners. Therefore, majority of the parents are low income earners.

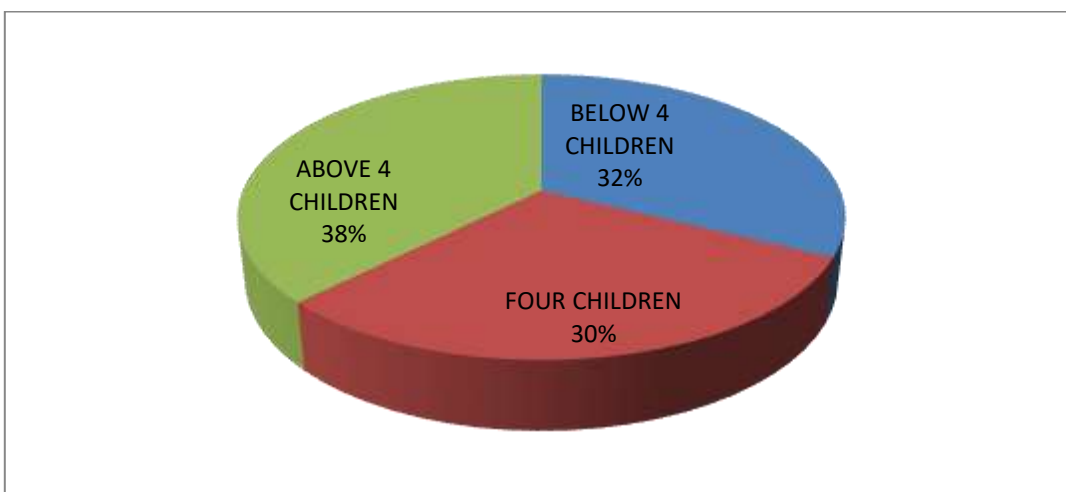


Figure 5: Pie-chart showing the distribution of the respondents based on number of children

Source: *Field survey, 2019*

The information in figure 5 revealed that 120 respondents representing 32% of the families have below four children, 112 respondents representing 30.19% of the families have 4 children while 139 representing 37.47% of the families have more than four children.

Hypothesis One: There is no significant relationship between parents' income and children's access to education in Maiduguri Metropolis, Borno state.

Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used to test the relationship between parents' income and children's access to education and the summary of the analysis is presented in table 1:

Table 1: Summary of the Pearson Product Moment Correlation on the relationship between parents' income and children's access to education in Maiduguri Metropolis, Borno State

Variable	N	r	p-value	Remark
Parents Income	371	0.728	0.00	Reject H ₀₁
Children access to education	371			

Source: *Field survey, 2019*

Result from table 1 above revealed that there was strong positive relationship/correlation between parents' income and children access to education with Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient ($r = 0.728$). The result further revealed that, relationship significant as indicated by the p-value of 0.00 which is less than the level of significant ($\alpha = 0.05$). Therefore, hypothesis one is rejected and hence parents income greatly influence children access to education.

Hypothesis Two: There is no significant relationship between family size and children's access to education in Borno state.

Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used to test the relationship between family size and children's access to education and the summary of the analysis is presented in table 2:

Table 2: Summary of the Pearson Product Moment Correlation on the relationship between family size and children’s access to education in Maiduguri Metropolis, Borno State

Variable	N	r	p-value	Remark
Family size	371	0.227	0.663	accept H₀₄
Children access to education	371			

Source: *Field survey, 2019*

Results from table 1 above revealed that there is weak positive relationship/correlation between family size and children access to education with Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient ($r = 0.227$). The result further revealed that, the relationship is not statistically significant as indicated by the p-value of 0.663 which is greater than the level of significant ($\alpha = 0.05$). Therefore, hypothesis two is accepted and hence family size is not a determinant of children access to education.

Conclusion

The study established that parents’ income had significant influence on children access to education but family size has no influence to children access to education. The income of some parents significantly affects the ability to pay their wards’ school fees and since the majority of them were farmers, petty traders and civil servants who earned less than N360, 000 per annum. It was very difficult for them to enroll their children to schools. Parents who earned more than N360,000 per annum enroll more children in school than their counterparts.

Recommendations

With the conclusion drawn, the following recommendations were made:

- i. Government should make sure that free and compulsory education were fully implemented in the state so that children of school age will have free access to education.
- ii. Parents whose children are out of school because of economic benefit should be prosecuted by law.
- iii. Awareness programme on the need and value of education is necessary and it should be encourage.

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