



Pregnancy Related Wastages Among Senior Secondary School Female Students In Ikwerre Local Government Area Of Rivers State

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ABSTRACT

This study examined pregnancy related wastage among senior secondary school female students in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State. The study area was Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State. The study employed a descriptive survey design. The population of the study consists of all the head teachers and teachers in the study area. The sample size for the study was 160 respondents comprising of 16 Principals, 16 Vice principals and 128 teachers randomly selected from 16 public schools in the study area. Three research questions were posed for the study. A research questionnaire was structured in Likert type 4-point rating scale of agreement (SA-4, A-3, D-2 & SD-1). Cronbach alpha reliability coefficient was used to test the instrument and was found to be reliable at 0.72. Instrument were administered and retrieved at spot. Collected data were analysed using mean statistic and standard deviation with an acceptance mean value of ≥ 2.50 . Based on the data collected, it was found that there areas in the educational system that wastage occur like fund, textbooks, writing materials among others in the study area; pre-mature withdrawal, repetition as well as drop-out were some cases of pregnancy related wastage among senior secondary school students in the study area; as well as putting some strategies such as ignite policies confronting sexual violence, reward outstanding female students, monitoring students/stuff discipline, ensure that schools are free from sexual harassment, being responsive to the need of girl child, in place as to reduce pregnancy related wastage among senior secondary school students in the study area. Based on the findings of the study it was recommended that government should make policies that will protect the girl child from sexual harassment/violence, and should allow parents participate meaningfully in decision making.

Keywords: Wastage, pregnancy, senior secondary school.

INTRODUCTION

Wastage is the inefficient use of resources. When wastage is being applied to education it has an unfamiliar ring and educationist may object to it as a depersonalizing of what is essentially and seem to liken education to industry with capital invested in plant and materials being processed into finish products (Babalolo, 2014). Nwankwo (1981) opined that the concept of wastage and efficiency are twins that are very difficult to separate. He confirmed that no line of demarcation can be drawn between the two concepts of wastage and efficiency. He defined educational wastage as an inefficient use of educational resources. However, wastage includes dropouts, repeaters, pre-mature withdrawal from schools, misguided type of education and non-employment of school leavers. Ojo (1985), viewed wastage as the

number of students who entered for a course in a given year and never had the qualification which they registered to attained. According to Wamahiu (1997), wastage is the premature withdrawal of students from school at any stage before the completion of the primary purpose for which they pursue in their academic life.

Wastage occurs in different aspect of education ranging from failure of the system to provide a well organised universal education, failure of government to recruit children into the educational system to failure to hold children whom are already in the system within the system, failure to efficiently achieve the educational goals and objectives and so on (Olatoun, 2016). To this end, Ojo (1985) stressed that wastages emanates from failures, stagnations and drop-out and the extent as well causes of this wastages may differ from country to country as it equally occur in primary education, secondary education as well as tertiary education.

Secondary education or school is the bridge between the primary and tertiary education. The importance of secondary education made the Federal Government of Nigeria to state the broad aims of secondary education as the preparation of children for useful living within the society and for higher education (Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN), 2004). Secondary education according to Olatoun (2016) is meant for children between the ages of 11 and 16years. In Taiwo (1983) account, this stage of educational level started in Nigeria as far back 1859 with the founding of Church Missionary Society (CMS) Grammar School in Lagos and later with the establishment of secondary schools in other parts of the country including Abeokuta, Calabar etc. This aspect of education is being financed by the government with the money released from both tax and allocation from the Federal Government Revenue (Olatoun, 2016). This is done to create the awareness that investing in human capital especially the girl child is necessary for every nation of the world but many things has being hindering this vision and objectives from its fulfillment which among them is pregnancy among senior secondary school female students which other wards leads to drop-out, repetition and so on.

Pregnancy at whatever stage in life can be a life changing experience that cuts across boundaries of race, educational attainment and socio-economic status (Kost, Henshaw & Carlin, 2010). It is noted that motherhood places much demand on a woman's life which were hitherto non-existent prior to the birth of the woman. Nnodim and Albert (2016) noted that when a girl that should be in school becomes pregnant, her entire life could be completely altered as her hopes and aspirations could be shattered. They went further to state that teenage pregnancy do not only affect the teenage-mother, but also her child could be devastating as teenage mothers may not continue with their education. This is evident in Haveman et al. (1997) and Hoffman (2006) which shows that less than 2% of young teen mothers of less than 18 yrs attain college degree before they are attain 30 years of age and about 50% of them repeat a grade with lower performance on standardized test. This act has led to series of wastage in the educational system as provisions has been made by the government to the multitude students who as a cause of pregnancy are out of school or repeating class.

The delivery of secondary education to female students in Nigeria and Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State in particular has been marked by lots of challenges ranging from under utilization of material resource, to over utilization of manpower which has been classified as wastage by educationist. Series of effort has being put in place by government who have been on the forefront of funding the secondary education in Nigeria as to give better life to her citizenry more especially the female child who in time past has been agitating of being marginalized in the society. Government have made policies as to support the girl child and see them equal their male counterpart but every effort seem to be a waste as most girl drop-out of school as a result of what is tagged unwanted pregnancy which may result to early marriages or living a wayward life as teen who only approach the adolescent age wanting to exploit life not remembering that lots have been put in place for them to be educated. This leads to wastage of the materials put together by government for the purpose of giving literacy studies to the female child. Yusuf and Sofoluwe (2014) noted that the resource so invested in the educational system are regarded as a loss to the system if the objectives of producing completers are not achieved due to incidence of pre-mature withdrawal from secondary school either through failure, repetition or other causal effects. Mutambai

(2005) & Gaby (2012) while conducting an analysis of a high school dropout found that it is caused by many factors which includes individual, families, schools, communities and peers factors, teenage pregnancy, alcoholism, drug addiction, sexual promiscuity, social and health problems among adolescents and sexual abuses resulting to unwanted sex and pregnancy and this withdrawal leads to wastages.

Several researches' has been carried out by researcher in that Yusuf & Sofoluwe (2014) examined wastage of secondary education in Ekiti south senatorial district of Ekiti State. This study investigated the wastage ratio of secondary schools in Ekiti south senatorial district of Ekiti state. The purpose of the study was to identify sources of fund, the utilization of fund and wastage ratio of the secondary schools between 2003 to 2009. The population of this study consists of all secondary schools in Ekiti south senatorial district of Ekiti state. Simple random sampling was used to select 20 schools from Ekiti south senatorial district. The research design for the study was descriptive research of survey type. True cohort analysis was used to determine the degree of wastage of the secondary schools in the area covered by the study. The instrument used for the study was the Wastage Ratio of secondary schools in Ekiti south senatorial district of Ekiti state questionnaire. Twenty (20) government public schools were randomly selected for the study. The research showed that very huge amount of money was spent on secondary school education every year during the period under study. Salaries and allowances of staff gulped the highest expenditure during the period under study. It was also revealed that the wastage ratio of secondary schools was minimal while the internal efficiency of the school was also high during this period.

In another related study, Nnodim & Albert (2016) examined the effects of teenage pregnancy on the academic and socio- psychological well being of rural women in Etche Ethnic Nationality, Rivers State. A descriptive survey study was employed. 120 respondents was used for the study. Data were collected using structured questionnaire and interview schedule for those who could not fill the questionnaire. Frequency counts and mean statistics were used to analyze the data at an acceptance value of ≥ 2.50 . Findings of their study established that there were negative influences from peers and environment, care free attitude of parents among others were factors that pre-dispose the girl-child to early motherhood. Also the effects of this early motherhood include disruption of academic process, school drop-outs and poor public image, among others.

Therefore, it is against this background that this study is carried out to examine pregnancy related wastages among senior secondary schools students in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State.

The cumulative effect of this current declining educational system in the country and in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State in particular as a result of drop-out due to female students getting pregnant has become a problem and this have led to wastage of educational resource both human and material resource. Education as any other organisation were investment is made, need all necessary expertise to maintain its status and it is pertinent that this investment be managed and utilized as to avoid wastage as these resource are scarce.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to examine pregnancy related wastages among senior secondary schools students in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. determine various areas in the educational system where wastages occur in senior secondary schools in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State
2. examine possible cases of pregnancy related wastage among senior secondary schools students in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State
3. establish strategies of reducing pregnancy related wastages among senior secondary schools students in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State

Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance in the study:

1. There is no significant difference in the mean responses of male and female beneficiaries on various areas in the educational system where wastages occur in senior secondary schools in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State
2. There is no significant difference in the mean responses of male and female beneficiaries on possible cases of pregnancy related wastage among senior secondary schools students in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State
3. There is no significant difference in the mean responses of male and female beneficiaries on strategies of reducing pregnancy related wastages among senior secondary schools students in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Ikwerre Local Government Area (LGA) of Rivers State. The LGA is bounded on the West by Emoaha LGA, on the East by Port Harcourt LGA, on the North by Imo and Abia state and Eleme LGA by the South all in Rivers State. Rainfall in the area is seasonal, variable and heavy. Rainfall is adequate for all year round crop production in the area. Ikwerre LGA is traditionally farming and fishing area as determined by the availability of land and body of water. It is typically an agrarian area, with majority of the women folk in agriculture as their primary occupation, which dominance and cultural adherence limits their participation in decision making, attaining higher degree in education, thereby making the area suitable for a study of this nature. The study employed a descriptive survey design. The population of the study consists of all the head teachers and teachers in the study area. The sample size for the study was 160 respondents comprising of 16 Principals, 16 Vice principals and 128 teachers randomly selected from 16 public schools in the study area. Three research questions were posed for the study. A research questionnaire was structured in Likert type 4-point rating scale of agreement (SA-4, A-3, D-2 & SD-1). Cronbach alpha reliability coefficient was used to test the instrument and was found to be reliable at 0.72. Instrument were administered and retrieved at spot. Collected data were analysed using mean statistic and standard deviation with an acceptance mean value of ≥ 2.50 , while z-test was used for hypotheses testing at 0.05 level of significance.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Mean responses of respondents on areas of wastages in senior secondary schools

S/N	Variables	SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1	\bar{x}	S.D	Remark
1.	Fund	60	50	35	15	2.97	0.98	Agreed
2.	desk	37	70	23	30	2.71	1.02	Agreed
3.	time	32	57	46	25	2.60	0.98	Agreed
4.	teaching aids	42	53	20	45	2.58	1.15	Agreed
5.	classrooms	46	47	31	36	2.64	1.12	Agreed
6.	textbooks	31	49	55	25	2.54	0.97	Agreed
7.	writing materials	70	60	20	10	3.19	0.70	Agreed
8.	human learning	41	59	30	30	2.69	1.05	Agreed
9.	tuition fees	70	80	6	4	3.35	0.67	Agreed
10.	labour of teachers	36	42	50	32	2.51	1.05	Agreed
11.	school building	43	56	32	29	2.71	1.05	Agreed
12.	school uniform	53	56	41	10	2.95	0.91	Agreed

Source: Field survey, 2017

Findings in table 4.1 above revealed the mean and standard deviation values of respondents on areas in the educational system where wastages occur in senior secondary schools in the study area. Respondents agreed that fund (2.97 & 0.98), desks (2.71 & 1.02), time (2.60 & 0.98), teaching aids (2.58 & 1.15), classrooms (2.64 & 1.12), textbooks (2.54 & 0.97), writing materials (3.19 & 0.70), human learning (2.69 & 1.05), tuition fees (3.35 & 0.67), labour of teachers (2.51 & 1.05), school building (2.71 & 1.05) and school uniform (2.95 & 0.91) respectively area some of the areas in the educational system that wastages occur in senior secondary schools in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State. This is in conformity with Agboola & Adeyemi (2012) and Durosaro (2012) who stressed that time wastage, material resource wastage and human resources wastage are some areas where wastages occur in the educational system. So also in line with this is a study by Ojo (1985) who asked a question as to "What is being wasted? Which they also provided an answer stressing that Human learning, school buildings and equipment, the labour of teachers were some of the things that were wasted in the educational system. Therefore, it is established that the variables posed were all areas were wastages occur in senior secondary schools in the study area.

Table 2: Mean responses of respondents on cases of wastages as a result of pregnancy among senior secondary schools

S/N	Variables	SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1	\bar{x}	S.D	Remark
1.	pre-mature withdrawal	28	52	53	27	2.51	0.97	Agreed
2.	repetition	65	40	15	40	2.81	1.49	Agreed
3.	drop-out	80	60	15	5	3.34	0.77	Agreed

Sources: *Field survey, 2017*

Findings in table 4.2 above revealed the mean and standard deviation value of respondents on possible cases of pregnancy related wastage among senior secondary school students. Respondents agreed that pre-mature withdrawal (2.51 & 0.97), repetition (2.81 & 1.49) and drop-out (3.34 & 0.77) respectively were all cases that leads to wastages of materials in educational system in senior secondary schools in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State. This is in affirmation with Olatoun (2016) findings which revealed that repetition was the major source of wastage in secondary schools. It was also reported that repetition rates are the commonly used parameters to measure educational wastage (Longe & Durosaro, 1986; Yusuf, 1997). They went further stressing that repeating a grade means utilizing more resources than allocated to a student and hindering the intake capacity of schools. Similarly, leaving a school (dropping) before completing a particular cycle/level of education is wastage in resources.

Table 4.3: Mean responses of respondents on strategies of reducing wastages in senior secondary schools

S/N	Variables	SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1	\bar{x}	S.D	Remark
1.	ignite policies confronting sexual violence	50	44	26	40	2.65	1.16	Agreed
2.	reward outstanding female students	52	48	31	29	2.77	0.79	Agreed
3.	monitoring students/stuff discipline	57	72	18	13	3.06	0.48	Agreed
4.	ensure that schools are free from sexual harassment	48	65	13	34	2.79	1.09	Agreed
5.	being responsive to the need of girl child	36	73	22	29	2.73	1.00	Agreed
6.	setting of goals and standard to keep them focus	52	49	32	27	2.79	1.07	Agreed
7.	initiating & managing changes	57	59	29	15	2.99	0.97	Agreed
8.	increasing parental interest/ involvement in school	70	60	10	20	3.13	0.99	Agreed
9.	there should be a guidance/counseling department addressing problems face by girls	78	60	20	2	3.34	0.74	Agreed
10.	advising parents against aggressive cultural practices	57	43	50	10	2.92	0.96	Agreed

Source: *Field survey, 2017*

Findings in table 4.3 above revealed the mean and standard deviation values of respondents on strategies of reducing pregnancy related wastages among senior secondary schools students in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State. Respondents agreed that ignite policies confronting sexual violence (2.65 & 1.16), reward outstanding female students (2.79 & 0.79), monitoring students/stuff discipline (3.06 & 0.48), ensure that schools are free from sexual harassment (2.79 & 1.09), being responsive to the need of girl child (2.73 & 1.00), setting of goals and standard to keep them focus (2.79 & 1.07), initiating & managing changes (2.99 & 0.97), increasing parental interest/ involvement in school (3.13 & 0.99), there should be a guidance/counseling department addressing problems face by girls (3.34 & 0.74), advising parents against aggressive cultural practices (2.92 & 0.96) respectively are some of the strategies of reducing pregnancy related wastages among senior secondary schools students in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State. This is in affirmation with Gaby (2012) who stressed that increased parental interest and involvement in school would have a positive impact on effects to decrease corruption in school. Furthermore, they also affirm that school levies that are imposed on students result to drop out especially to students who come from poor families but in a situation where parents are fully involved in schooling is an important indicator of child success of schooling. Alika and Egbochuku (2009) on their study also stressed that the school administration plays a crucial role in determining whether or not students will stay in school to complete the education cycle or dropout before completion. The policies in place will either promote school attendance or discourage it which may include setting goals and standards that keep everybody focused, initiating and managing change and monitoring students and staff discipline. In line with the above also is the study by Achoka (2009) who pointed out that to minimize school dropout amongst girls, school administration is the key in advising parents, teachers and students against regressive cultural practices that threaten retention, ensuring that the school is free from violence,

sexual harassment, threats and individual hatred. It was further noted that the school is responsive to the needs of the girl child and there should be a guidance and counseling department to address problems faced by girls in school will significantly encourage girls to stay in school.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the study, it is deduced that fund, desks, time, teaching aids, classrooms, textbooks, writing materials, human learning, tuition fees, labour of teachers were some areas that educational system wastages occur in senior secondary school students in the study area. The study also deduced that pre-mature withdrawal, repetition and drop-out were possible cases of pregnancy related wastage among senior secondary school students in the study area. However, strategies such as ignite policies confronting sexual violence, reward outstanding female students, monitoring students/stuff discipline, ensure that schools are free from sexual harassment among others were suggested to help in reducing pregnancy related wastage among senior secondary school students in the study area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. The government should ignite policies that will protect the girl child from sexual harassment/violence. Also making sure that such policies are implemented and offenders punished. This will give the female students some level of protection from being abused.
2. Parents should be made part and parcel of the decision making process in the school as to make meaningful contributions to the development of their female child in school.

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