



# **Biology Achievement Of Teenage Girls In Senior Secondary Schools In Minna, Nigeria: Survey Of Impact Of Street Hawking**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The study examines the impacts of street hawking on biology achievements of teenage girls in senior secondary schools in Minna Metropolis\ Niger State. The study Comprises of senior secondary one , two and three (SSS1,2and3) female biology Students in five secondary Schools in Minna Metropolis Area of Niger State. Two hundred and fifty students (250) were selected through simple random sampling technique. The instruments used for data collection was constructed by the researcher and validated by experts in the field of sociology of education. The second instrument used was third term biology examination results of the sampled students. Two hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance. One of the hypotheses was rejected and one was not rejected. The findings of the study revealed that street hawking has adverse effects on the students' academic achievements in biology, Three factors found to be responsible for students involvements in street hawking were poverty, family size and school fees issues. It was recommended that Students should be discouraged from all forms of juvenile trading and the welfare of students should be taken care of by their parents, guidance and governments as this will enhance their educational achievements.

**Keywords:** Street hawking, teenage girls, poverty, Impact

## **INTRODUCTION**

Nigeria the most populous black nation in the world with an estimated population of about 140 million people (2006, census), is endowed with abundant human and natural resources like oil, bin, limestone, zinc, natural gas, good vegetation and climate. This great country, 3<sup>rd</sup> largest producer of crude oil has about 5.3% annual growth rate but it is estimated that 70% of Nigerians live in poverty. The above features are legacies of decades of prolonged military rules coupled with mismanagement and corruption which have daily improvised the people and made them "beggars" of a sort amidst the populace. Sadly, the quest for material wealth at all cost has introduced a new dimension of wealth, creation into the psyche of Nigerians (especially Northern States) which is street hawking (Tola 2015).

Street, hawking is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest criminal activity in the world after arms and drug trafficking (Tola 2015) in the last decade, the phenomenon of street hawking has considerably increased throughout Nigeria. Every year, thousands of teenage school girls are misleading by decoct or forced to submit to servitude Nwabueze, (2014). The UN convention against Trans, national organized crime (2010) defined street hawking as follows "The recruitment or receipt, transportation by means of threat or use of force or other forms of Coercion, abduction, fraud, deception of abuse of power giving or receiving of payment or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control after another person for the purpose of exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

Dustman (2013) Sees street hawking as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of female by means of threat or use of force or other forms of Coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, a position of vulnerability or the giving or receiving of payments benefits to achieve the consent

of a person having control over the child for the purpose of exploitation. Most parents in Niger State and Minna metropolis in particular according to Ahmad (2018) are ignorant of the legal implications of juvenile hawking. International labour organizations (ILO) (2000) which Nigeria Labour Laws agree, fixes the minimum age of employment at 18. UNICEF (2018) has identified poverty, large family size, rapid urbanization among others as the major factor why many Nigeria teenage girls are Vulnerable to trafficking. Parents with large family are often prone to those traffickers' deceits in giving away some of their teenage girls to city residents or even strangers promising a better life for them and these girls are eventually turned to street hawkers.

Street hawking deprives its' victims the privilege of full time schooling among others. As a result of this the study of the effects of street hawking on teenage girls achievement in Biology in Senior Secondary Schools with particular reference to Minna metropolis of Niger State is worth pursuing. It is hoped that the findings of this study will provide meaningful information as to the stoppage of the act in the metropolis and in Niger Sate as a whole which in turn will enhance academic achievement among these teenage girls particularly in science subjects like Biology.

### **Statement of Problem**

In Nigeria today, hawking by children of school age is not uncommon. Street hawking creates room for lack of seriousness and interest in school work, poor memory, learning difficulty and under achievement educationally. Street hawking among teenage school girls also posed other problems like, rape, commercial sex work, high level of personal insecurity, unwanted pregnancy, physical injury, due to accident, lost of personality development and untimely death. Nwabueze, (2014). These may lead to high rate of academic failures, school drop-out and poor economy encountered in the Country. This study is therefore designed to find out the factors responsible for teenage female students involvements in street hawking and to investigate the relationship between street hawking and biology achievement among teenage senior secondary school girls in Minna metropolis of Niger state in Nigeria.

### **Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of this study is to investigate the factors responsible for teenage girls involvement in street hawking and the effects of street hawking on the academic achievement in Biology among female senior secondary school students in Minna metropolis

of Niger state. The study is specifically aimed at achieving the following objectives:

1. To find out the factors responsible for teenage girls involvement in street hawking.
2. To find out whether street hawking affects Biology academic achievement of teenage girls.
3. To investigate whether there is any difference between Biology Achievements of Senior Secondary School Teenage Girls involved in street hawking from Minna East and Minna West of the metropolis.

### **Research Questions**

The study will find answers to the following research questions

1. What are the factors responsible for teenage girls involvement in street hawking?
2. Is there any difference in the impacts between street hawking and Biology achievement of senior secondary school teenage girls?
3. Is there any difference in the impacts between Biology achievement of senior secondary school teenage girls involved in street hawking from Minna East and Minna West metropolis?

### **Null Hypothesis**

The following null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significant.

**H<sub>01</sub>:** There is no significant difference in the impacts between street hawking and Biology achievement of senior secondary school teenage girls involved in street hawking.

**H<sub>02</sub>:** There is no significant difference between Biology achievement of senior secondary school teenage girls involved in street hawking from Minna East and Minna West

## METHODOLOGY

The design for this study is a descriptive survey design. A questionnaire was used to obtain the necessary information from the participants (female students in SSS 1, 2 and 3) for data analysis. The second design for this research is an ex-post factor design. This design is similar to experimental design. It involved making use of existing results of students from their previous examination and using it to serve the purpose of the research (Sambo, 2000). In the case of this study the third term Biology scores of SSS1, 2 and 3 students were used for data analysis. The population of the study consist of a total of eighteen (18) Day Secondary School in Minna Educational zone of Niger State with population of Ten thousand, five hundred and forty five (10,545) female students in the twenty eight (28) schools in the metropolis. Two hundred and fifty (250) students were randomly selected through a haphazard means to serve as sample for this study. Four coeducational Schools and one single sex School were purposively selected for the research. Purposive selection is to enable the researcher select sample that serves the purpose of the research. In this case, female students are the focus of the research. This involved the selection of co-education and single sex (female) Schools : The instruments for the study were (i) Questionnaire on impact of street hawking on teenage girls achievement in biology among Secondary Schools (SSS) in Minna metropolis (QISHOTGABSSSM) and Third term Biology examination scores for SSS1,2 and 3.

(1) QISHOTGABSSSM: This instrument is divided into three sections. Section one deals with the Biodata of the respondents. This includes information such as: Name, Age, sex, address, School and class. (while section two deals with the causes of street hawking by teenage girls in Schools. Sections three deals with items on effect of street hawking on academic achievement of teenage girls in biology. There are eight (8) items in section two and twenty (22) items in section three (3).

(ii) The third term Biology examinations scores for SSS 1,2 and 3 were collated from the examination office of each of the five Schools selected for this study. The female students that were administered the questionnaire were those whose examination scores were used for this study. So, these female students were identified from the bio-data they provided in the questionnaire. Forty (40) items were developed in the QISHOTGABSSSM and it was given to two experts in sociology of education for validation. Thirty (30) items finally certified to have content validity. Meaning, the instrument has been certified to be valid. The instrument was trial tested at Ahmadu Bahago Senior Secondary School Minna. Forty (40) female students identified to be involved in street hawking were administered the questionnaire. This was done in confidence by the senior teacher (Head) of the School. The questionnaire was scored and divided into two halves. The two halves were correlated using split-halve method using computer statistical package for the social science (SPSS) version 20.0. The reliability index was found to be 0.79. This showed that the instrument was reliable

The questionnaires were given to the subjects personally. The researcher visited the schools, the first time to meet with the school authority and to take permission from the principal of the schools and also explained the nature of the information needed and what the information will be used for. The second day the researcher was introduced to the sampled population by the principal. The third day the researcher personally administered the questionnaire to the respondents and the questions were read to the respondents by the researcher with a brief explanation of each of the sections and items on the questionnaire. The responses from the questionnaires were collected the same day and analysis of the data was done immediately using statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) version 20.0. The first research question was analyzed using frequency count and simple percentage methods. While the hypotheses generated were tested at 0.05 significant level using one way analysis of variance (ANOVA)

**RESULTS**

**Answering Research Question One:** *What are the factors responsible for teenage girl's involvement in street hawking?*

**Table 1: Analysis of the factors responsible for teenage girls involvements in street hawking.**

S/NO	ITEMS	N	SA	A	TOTAL SA+A	% OF SA+A	U	% OF U	D	SD	TOTAL OF D+SD	% OF + SD
1	Poverty: -Poverty is a major cause of street hawking	250	500	320	820	85%	30	3%	100	10	110	12%
2	Peer group: Some female students hawk because of peer influence	250	100	120	220	40%	15	3%	250	70	320	58%
3	School fees: some female students hawk so as to pay school fees	250	250	400	650	83%	15	2%	40	75	115	15%
4	Family Size: Female student hawk so as to provide for family up keep	250	350	320	670	83%	12	1%	80	56	136	17%
5	Parental Attitude to school: Some female teenagers' hawk because their parents discourage them from going to school	250	125	80	205	36%	96	16%	200	73	273	47%
6	Truancy: Some female teenagers hawk because they don't like going to school	250	60	72	132	26%	150	26%	172	84	256	48%
7	Interest in Hawking: Some female students hawk because they like hawking	250	60	72	122	27%	36	8%	180	120	300	66%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1750</b>	<b>1435</b>	<b>1384</b>	<b>2819</b>	<b>380%</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>1022</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>1510</b>	<b>263%</b>

From table 1 three factors have been identified to be responsible for teenage girls involvement in street hawking in Minna metropolis. The first was identified to be poverty with 85% positive response against 12% negative response. The second factor was identified to be school fees issues with positive response of 83% against negative response of 13% and the last factor was identified to be family size with 83% positive response against 17% negative response.

**Hypothesis One:** There is no significant difference in the impact between street hawking and Biology achievement of senior secondary school teenage girls involved in street hawking.

**Table 2: ANOVA Results of the Difference Between Street Hawking and Biology Achievement of Senior Secondary School Teenage Girls Involved in Street Hawking**

Source of Variation	Sum of Square	Df	Mean Square	F	P
Between Groups	50320.512	1	50320.512	134.170*	0.000
Within Groups	186774.640	498	375.049		
<b>Total</b>	<b>237095.152</b>	<b>499</b>			

\*: Significant at 0.05 Level.

Table 2 ANOVA results of the difference in the impacts between street hawking and biology achievement of senior secondary school teenage girls involved in street hawking. The table revealed that there was significant difference between street hawking and biology achievement of senior secondary girls involve in street hawking at  $p = 0.000$ . Therefore, the hypothesis was rejected. This means street hawking affect teenage girls biology achievement negatively.

**Hypothesis Two:** There is no significant difference between biology academic achievement of senior secondary school teenage girls involved in street hawking in Minna East and Minna West.

**Table 3: ANOVA results of biology results of teenage girls from Minna east and west**

Source of Variation	Sum of Square	Df	Mean Square	F	P
Between Groups	781.456	1	781.456	1.397 <sup>ns</sup>	.238
Within Groups	138760.480	248	559.518		
Total	139541.936	249			

Ns: Not Significant at 0.05 Level

Table 3 shows ANOVA results of biology results of teenage girls from Minna East and West. The table revealed that there was no significant difference between the biology results of students in the two groups ( $F(1, 248) = 1.397, p = 0.238$ ). This implies that the results of teenage girls in biology from secondary schools in Minna East and West are not significantly different. This means street hawking does not affect biology achievement of students in Minna East and Minna West differently..

## DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This study revealed that three factors are responsible for teenage girls involvement in street hawking. The factors are: poverty, Low family income and school fees issues.

1. Poverty: it was revealed that poverty is a major factor that is responsible for teenage girls involvements in street hawking. This is because the basic needs of a child (food, shelter and clothing) must be met before a child can be able to go to school and concentrate. A child whose basic needs are not adequately provided for has no other alternative than to get involved in juvenile trading like street hawking in other to make a living. And this will distract the child from concentrating fully in school which will have a negative impact on the academic outcome. This result is in agreement with Matthias and Dada (2013) which identified poverty as a major cause of students' involvement in street hawking, it is also in agreement with Uba, and Bulus (2014) which stated that many students take to street hawking because of poverty.

2 .Family size was also identified as another factor that is responsible for teenage female students involvement in street hawking. Most Students who hawk were identified to come from large family sizes in the study . This study is in agreement with Sola (2017) which stated that there is a positive relationship

between street hawking and students family sizes. It is also related to Adelekan (2014) who stated that most educational needs of children from large family sizes were not provided and that caused them to be involved in juvenile trading for survival

3. School fees issues were also revealed to be another reason for teenage school girls' involvement in street hawking in this study. The user payment system of education where the students are obliged to pay for the lessons received in school also forced some female students to street hawking activities, so as to pay their school fees and other services received in the school. This result is in agreement with Adelekan (2014) and Matthias and Dada (2013) which identified exorbitant rate of school fess as a major cause of students' involvement in street hawking

The results in table 2 revealed that, there is no significant difference between street hawking and biology academic achievements of teenage girls involved in street hawking. Teenage girls who were not involved in street hawking performed better in their third term biology examination than those who were involved in street hawking. This finding is in agreement with previous findings like that of Uba, and Bulus (2014) which stated that street hawking has adverse effects on Educational achievement of secondary school students. In this same vein, it is supported by the finding of Farauta, (2013) who noted that students who were involved in street hawking underperformed academically.

The Result also revealed that there is no significant difference in biology achievement between students who were involved in street hawking in Minna East and those in Minna West. This implies that the biology results of girls in Minna East were not significantly different from that of girls in Minna West. This finding is in agreement with previous finding by Ahmad (2018) in Minna which stated that there is no significant different between academic achievement of students who hawk in Minna Metropolis and other local Governments in the State.

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

In conclusion, the major causes of Street hawking among Senior Secondary Schools girls in Minna metropolis were identified to be poverty, large family sizes and School fees issues. The findings of this study indicate that Street hawking activities affect the student involved in the activities adversely in their education achievement in biology:

The following Recommendations were made based on the findings of this study:

1. That student should not get involved in menial jobs and street trading activities.
2. Parents and guidance should avoid using their teenage girls for juvenile trading.
3. The government should implement free and compulsory education in the state and school fees in private schools should be regulated by the government.
4. That the Government should enact laws banning all forms of juvenile trading among school age children in the state.

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