

# Factors Affecting Girl-Child Enrolment, Retention and Completion of Junior Secondary Schools in North-East, Nigeria

By

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## Abstract

*The study was designed to investigate the influence of parents' income and occupation on girl-child enrolment, retention and completion of junior secondary school in Borno and Yobe States. Two research questions were formulated to guide the study. Two hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance. Correlation design was used. Seven hundred and sixty-nine respondents from Kanuri dominated Local Government Areas of Borno and Yobe State participated in this study. Questionnaire and pro-forma were used for data collection. Data collected were presented using charts while one-way analysis of variance was used to test hypothesis one and two. Finding of the study revealed that, parents' income and occupation had significant influence on girl-child enrolment, retention and completion of junior secondary school in Borno and Yobe States. The study therefore, recommended that government should make provision to educate girl-child particularly where parents cannot afford to educate them.*

**Keywords:** *Girl-child, Enrolment, Retention, Completion, parents' income, Occupation*

## Introduction

Education in its general sense, is a form of learning in which knowledge, skills and habits of a group of people are transferred from one generation to the next through teaching training, research or simply through auto dictates (Muhammad, Danjuma, Jega & Samaila, 2022). Education for girls is one of the criteria path ways to promote social and economic development (Deepika, Reddy, Kameswari & Sreedevi, 2022). According to Dualle, Onkware and Nabiswa (2022), education is an essential part of a living being, whether it is a boy or a girl. It helps an individual to be smarter, to learn new things and to know about the facts around the world. Educating the girl child must be a necessity for the overall development of the country as women play essential part in the country.

Education is generally acknowledged as a tool to foster economic development. It is defined in simple terms as a platform for teaching, learning and acquiring knowledge. Apart from the acquisition of knowledge, one may earn respect from society when educated because to be uneducated is sometimes associate to one being a low life person. Education has been a necessity in the lives of individuals over the years especially in this 21st century and hence considered as a compulsory action in most parts of the world. Moreover, education has been a goal to be achieved by individuals, societies, communities, organizations, governments and the world as a whole. The awareness of its importance has become one of the most talked-about topic today and with that regard, much effort is sorted to bring education to all humans (Gyasi, Lulin, Chen & Amisshah, 2020).

Gender inequality in education is a persistent problem in our society, especially for girls from rural areas and lower socioeconomic backgrounds. In recent times, attention has been focused on girl-child education globally and particularly in developing countries. Girl-child education is very crucial for the development of any society such that any deliberate neglect of their education could cause danger for the entire society. This is so because girl-child education has been found to have a more significant impact on poverty reduction and provision of sustainable development. Unfortunately, many factors have been impeding girl-child education in Nigeria (Saka-Olokungboye et al., 2022).

Many researchers have investigated the influence of parents' income and occupation on girl-child education in literature. For instance, Biswas and Kundu (2022) investigated the factors which can influence overall enrolment and girls' enrolment in primary education in rural India. Their findings revealed that parents' income and occupation have great influence on girl-child enrolment into senior secondary schools in India.

Ronald et al., (2023) determine the impact of household income on school drop-outs among primary schools in the Rukungiri District. Their results revealed that income of a household affects school drop-out, in such a way that low-income households were found to have higher chances of drop-outs by 2 girls compared to those households with high income. Guo et al., (2018) examined the impact of social economic status on children's academic outcomes in China. Findings of their study revealed that parental expectation and socio-economic status such as income and occupation had great impact on child-education

In view of the above advantages, the need for education for women folk is enormous. Okere (2021) is of the view that education of women is very important because the more enlightened the women are, the better home managers they would be. Women are the main custodians of social, cultural and fundamental values of the society and permanent change is best achieved through them. Hence there is need to give them sound education. Akin and İskender (2011) noted that, when women make full use of opportunities which are opened to them or when more women come forward to serve as professionals, the nation will become responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people. They further revealed the dividends of education for women which includes better management of the house and home environment, effective use of health services, application of improved hygiene and nutrition practices, low child mortality longer life expectancy, better child health care, better educated children among others. It is against this background that the study was designed to investigate the influence of parents' income and occupation on girl-child enrolment, retention and education.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study were to determine the:

1. Influence of parents' income on girl-child enrolment, retention and completion of junior secondary school Borno and Yobe State.
2. Influence of parents' occupation on girl-child enrolment, retention and completion of junior secondary school in Borno and Yobe State.

### **Research Hypotheses**

The following null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level

H<sub>01</sub>: Parents' income has no significant influence on girl-child enrolment, retention and completion of junior secondary school in Borno and Yobe States.

H<sub>02</sub>: Parents' occupation has no significant influence on girl-child enrolment, retention and completion of junior secondary school in Borno and Yobe States.

### Methodology

Correlation design was adopted. The population for this study encompasses all the Kanuri girl-child in Junior Secondary Schools in all the twenty-eight Kanuri dominated local government areas of Borno and Yobe States, and 827,512 Kanuri parent in rural and urban areas of Borno and Yobe States. Simple random sampling technique was used in drawing a sample of three-hundred and eighty (380) from Borno and three-hundred and eighty (380) from Yobe making a total of seven-hundred and sixty (760) all together in the two states. Questionnaire and pro-forma were used in data collection. The questionnaire was pilot tested using Cronbach's Alpha and the reliability coefficient of 0.788 which indicated that the items of the questionnaire were reliable and suitable for this study. The pro-forma was used to collect information on girl child enrolment, retention and completion in both Borno and Yobe State. Data collected were analysed using One-Way Analysis of Variance (One-Way ANOVA).

### Results

The socio-economic characteristics of the respondents (that is parents' income and occupation) were presented in bar-charts.

#### Parental Income

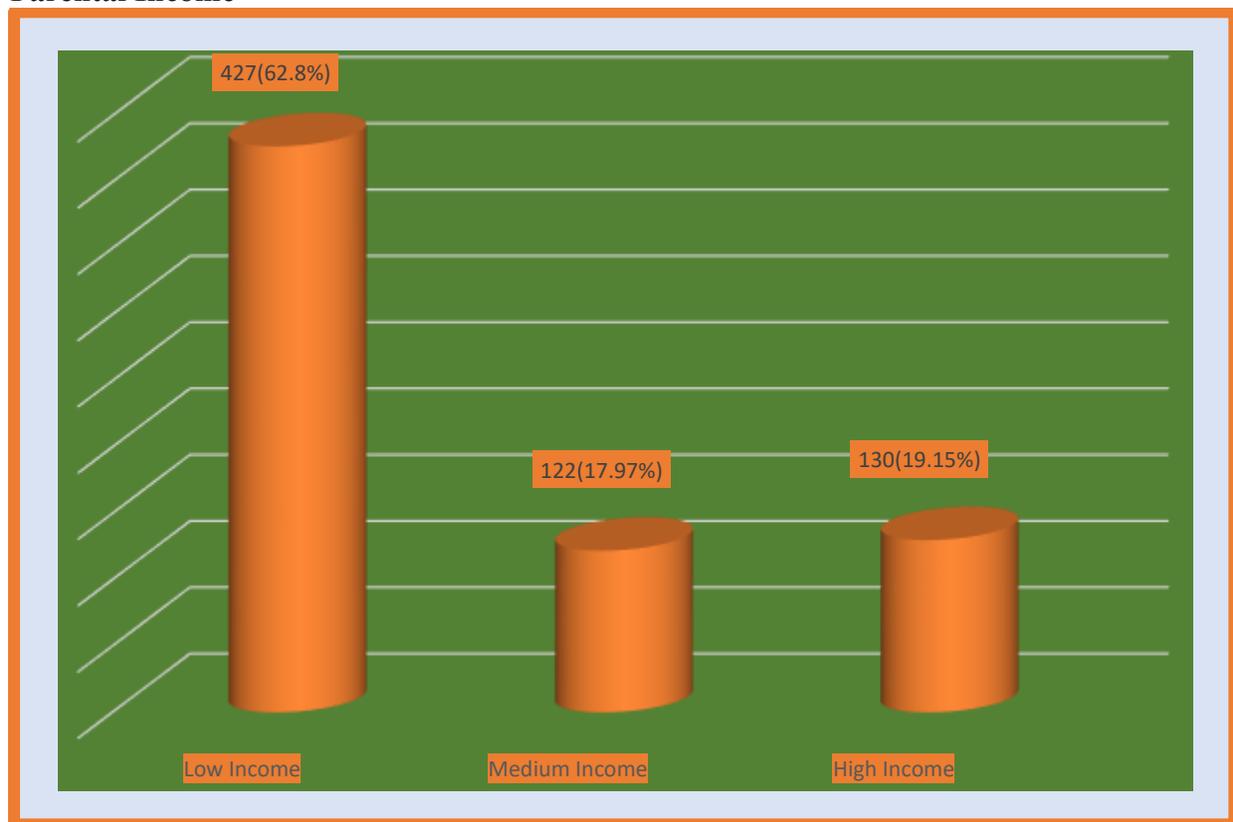
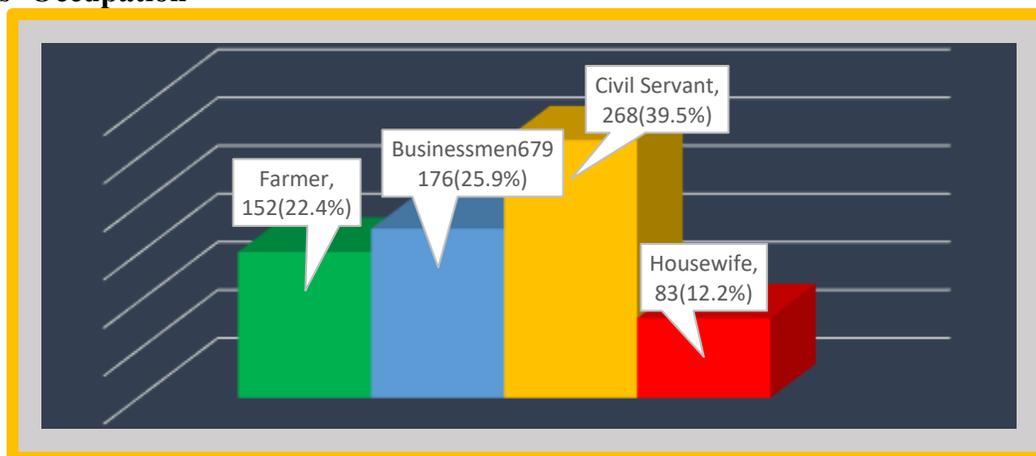


Figure 1: Bar chart showing the distribution of parental income

Figure 1 shows parental income. Result revealed that 427 representing 62.89% of the respondents were low-income earners, 122 respondents representing 17.97% were medium

income earners while 130 respondents representing 19.15% were high income earners. Majority of the respondents were low-income earners.

### Parents' Occupation



**Figure 2: Bar-chart showing the occupation of the respondents**

Figure 2 revealed that 152(22.39%) of the respondents are farmers, 176(25.92%) respondents are businessmen, 268(39.47%) are civil servants while 83(12.22%) of the respondents are housewives.

**Hypothesis One:** Parents' income has no significant influence on girl-child enrolment, retention and completion in junior secondary school in Borno and Yobe States.

**Table 1: Summary of the One-Way Analysis of Variance on the influence of parents' income on girl-child enrolment, retention and completion in junior secondary school in Borno and Yobe State**

<b>Girl-Child Enrolment</b>					
Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	p-value
Between Groups	2026.980	2	1013.490	510.812	0.042
Within Groups	1341.235	676	1.984		
Total	3368.215	678			
<b>Girl-Child Retention</b>					
Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	p-value
Between Groups	874.476	2	437.238	654.889	0.021
Within Groups	451.333	676	0.668		
Total	1325.81	678			
<b>Girl-Child Completion</b>					
Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	p-value
Between Groups	296.445	2	148.222	516.195	0.000
Within Groups	194.109	676	287		
Total	490.554	678			

Table 1 gives the summary of one-way analysis of variance on the influence of parents' income on girl-child enrolment, retention and completion of junior secondary school in Borno and Yobe States. Results revealed that parents' income had significant influence on girl-child enrolment retention and completion of junior secondary schools because all the p-values (0.042, 0.021, 0.00) are less than the level of significant (0.05), therefore, hypothesis one is rejected and hence

parents' income has significant influence on girl-child enrolment, retention and completion of junior secondary school in Borno and Yobe States.

**Hypothesis Two:** Parents' occupation has no significant influence on girl-child enrolment, retention and completion of junior secondary school in Borno and Yobe States.

**Table 2: Summary of One-Way Analysis of Variance on the influence of parents' occupation on girl-child enrolment, retention and completion of junior secondary schools in Borno and Yobe States.**

Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	p-value
Between Groups	1658.17	3	552.724	218.175	0.000
Within Groups	1710.04	675	2.53300		
Total	3368.22	678			

Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	p-value
Between Groups	879.354	3	293.118	443.168	0.001
Within Groups	446.455	675	661		
Total	1325.81	678			

Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	p-value
Between Groups	376.033	3	125.344	738.792	0.000
Within Groups	114.521	675	0.170		
Total	490.554	678			

Table 2 gives the summary of one-way analysis of variance on the influence of parents' occupation on girl-child enrolment, retention and completion of junior secondary school in Borno and Yobe States. Results revealed that parents' occupation had significant influence on girl-child enrolment retention and completion of junior secondary schools because all the p-values (0.000, 0.001, 0.000) are less than the level of significant (0.05), therefore, hypothesis two is also rejected and hence parents' occupation has significant influence on girl-child enrolment, retention and completion of junior secondary school in Borno and Yobe States.

### Conclusion

The study determined the influence of parents; income and occupation on girl-child enrolment, retention and completion of junior secondary school in Borno and Yobe States. The study concluded that parents; income and occupation have influence on girl-child enrolment, retention and conclusion of Junior Secondary Schools in Borno and Yobe States, Nigeria.

### Recommendations

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

1. Parents should be enlightened on the significance of girl-child education especially in areas of enrolment, retention and completion.
2. Girls should be motivated to enroll, remain and complete their education despite all odds.
3. The general public should note that girl-child education is worthwhile for societal advancement in all spheres of life.

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