

# **INFLUENCE OF FAMILY STRUCTURE ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS STUDENTS IN GIREI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF ADAMAWA STATE, NIGERIA**

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## **Abstract**

*The concept of family structure was viewed as students' birth order and polygamous family. Two objectives were stated and two null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance. Empirical studies were reviewed in respect of variables of the study. Correlation research design was used; Questionnaire and profoma were used for data collection. The data collected was analyzed using multiple regressions. The findings of this study revealed that there was a significant relationship between polygamy family and academic performance of students in Girei local Government area secondary schools. The study was also revealed that there was a significant relationship between birth order and academic performance of students in Girei local Government area secondary schools Adamawa State. Based on the findings, the study was concluded that polygamy family has significant relationship with students' academic performance in Girei local Government area secondary schools. The study further concluded that there was a significant relationship between students' birth order and academic performance of students in Girei local Government area secondary schools. Therefore it was recommended that Religious leaders and counselors should make double efforts on the sensitization on the disadvantage of divorce and separation and the importance of child spacing in marriage life.*

## **Background of the Study**

Family is one of the most important social institution or agent of socialization charged with the responsibility among other things determining ones attitude toward religion, intellectual training, love for others and vocational training. It is the parents that lays the foundations of moral and spiritual development of the child and also relate to the idea of right and wrong, good and bad. parents also plays a major role in determining ones future career through socializing the younger ones into vocation or trade for self reliance by exposing the

child to either the vocation of the parents or any desirable trade before the child become adult.

Family structure demonstrates the features of parents such as the number of wives or the present of one versus two parents in the house-hold has serious effects on educational performance of students. Researches of industrial countries consistently show that there is an increase relationship between family structure and educational attainment. Michael (2009) stress the effect of single parenthood on children's educational attainment in developing countries Nigeria in particular ranges from a greater probability of school drop out to lower performance and have been attributed in part to economic stress associated with female hardship and in part to the lack of human or social capital in the household. He also stated that the life of children who are living with both of their parents will be better than those with one parent as a result of divorce or death likewise their academic performance. Parents being the initial contact where the child learns the concept of authority, good manners and respect for elders, it is also laid down or determines the intellectual development of the child through activities that develop language and number competence in the child.

It is well known fact that parents inspire values which are more practical than theoretical. Parent's central role is to socialize and educate the child about norms and social values of the society that will qualify one to be a functional and acceptable member not only to the immediate family but to the entire society at large. Socialization differs from one family to another; each and every family has a way and manner in which they want to bring up their younger ones. What is considered important in one family may not be necessary relevant to another family. (Haralambos 2008)

Family structure according to this research comprises the polygamous family and birth order. The scope of study therefore limited to the statement of the objectives which will cover the area of the research and to investigate the relationship between the dependent variable and independent variables.

Academic performance in the school system is usually measured with in specified standard. The specified standard is usually called pass mark and the pass mark is scored above average which students are considered having passed and below which students are considered having failed. The tracking of academic performance fulfils a number of purposes. Area of performance and failure in a student's academic career needs to be evaluated in order to foster improvement and make full use of learning process.(Bello 2013).

Girei local government is one of the local governments in Adamawa state with capital of Girei town. The local government located along yola mubi road 10 kilometers after yola main bridge popularly known as river Benue. The local government have more than ten public secondary schools in which the researcher selected three out of the secondary schools. These schools include GDSS Venoklang, GSS Girei and GDSS Jabbi-lamba respectively.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Over the years, the researcher as a teacher has observed with keen interest the increasing rate of low academic performance among the students of secondary schools in Girei local government area of Adamawa State. Many students complete secondary school without having minimum credits that would qualify them to proceed to post secondary education while other will be withdrawn from secondary school prior to the completion of the secondary school willingly or as a result of poor performance, while others were unwillingly

dropout from the schools due to the economic constraint. Therefore this study is set to find out the influence of family structure on the academic performance of secondary school students in Girei local Government area of Adamawa State, Nigeria.

### **Objective of the study**

The objectives of the study are to determine

1. The relationship between polygamy marriage and academic performance of students in secondary schools
2. The relationship between birth order and academic performance of students in secondary schools

### **Statement of hypothesis**

**H<sub>01</sub>** There is no significant relationship between polygamy family and Academic performance of students in secondary school in Girei Local Government

**H<sub>02</sub>** There is no significant relationship between birth order and Academic performance of students in secondary school in Girei Local Government

### **Review of Related Empirical studies**

#### **Polygamy family and academic performance of students**

Hassan (2013) disclosed that the social behavior and attitudes of students reflects the type of treatment they receive at home. The child therefore, as a reflection of the home such variables like the value system, norms, accepted standard of behavior and training system that are internalized in the home will either enhance the child's academic performance in school. Children who live with both the parents are usually different with those living with one parents separated or divorced.

Abubakar (2018) conducted a research on the relationship between parents' socioeconomic background and academic performance in Adamawa state polytechnic yola. The finding the research disclosed that there was a significant relation between family background and academic performance of students, been family structure is part of family background

Sa'ad (2013) stated that children living with polygamous parents are less privilege in terms of care and attention in their lives and academic performance in particular, than that of children who lives with monogamous parents. This is so because; both of the parents are concentrating on their children life unlike the children who does not have one of their parents in the home as a result or separation, divorce or death.

Aliyu (2006) stated that there is both positive and negative influence of family size on students' academic performance it is observed that when students have fewer siblings they are likely to have good academic performance because they are likely to receive more parental attention and have more access to resources than students of separated families. A comprehensive review of recent research shows that family structure whether a child's parents are married, divorced, single or cohabiting have a significant influence on children educational performance. It affects educational performance at all levels. Family size influence these processes in part because it affects a range of child behaviors that can bear directly on educational success, such as school misbehavior, drug abuse, alcoholic consumption, teenage pregnancy and psychological distress. As early as age three, children's

ability to adapt to classroom routines appears to be influenced by their parents' marital background. For instance, three and four years old children growing with their own married parents and three times less likely than those in any other family structure to experience emotional or behavioral problems such as attention deficit disorder. Over all children living with their own married parents have fewer behavioral problems compared to children whose parents are living together but not married. More than half of the couples who divorced have children. Research found that, the household of divorced mothers and fathers are substantially more disorganized than those in intact families with the children more likely to evidence behavioral and academic problems. (Gambo, 2008)

Financial problems complicate the difficulties of many women. Only half of divorce mothers receive any money at all from their children's father and this is seldom much, moreover, divorce is not the end of family change but often the beginning. Most divorced parents remarry and because the rate of divorce among remarriage is greater than among first marriages, many children experience complex family lives (Gambo, 2008). The notion that divorce has adverse consequences for children influence many couples to remain unhappily married unit until their youngsters reach adulthood. However, some evidence suggests that staying together for the sake of their children is not necessarily helpful if the marriage is marred by conflict, tension and discord. Many of the emotional behavioral and academic problems children exhibit after their parents' divorce are apparent before the time of the actual breakup of the parents (Gambo, 2008).

Aminu (2006) pointed out that serial-marriage children that exposed to a consistently negative child rearing environment are likely to encounter high level of interpersonal conflict which may result in a heightened level of anxiety and aggressive behavior, learned feeling of helplessness, depression and feeling incompetence, all these outcomes will be mediated by the child personality characteristics. Gambo (2008) found that children living with both biological parents and single mother have higher educational attainment than children living with step parent or children living single father. They also interpret their findings as consistent with evolutionary psychological theory which argues that mothers care more about the well-being of their children as fathers.

Buba (2013) Who stated that children living with single parent are less privilege in term of care and attention in their lives and academic achievement than the children who lives with both parents. This is so because both of the parents are concentrating on the children lives achievements unlike the children who missed one of the parents as a result of divorce, separation or death. Jamess (2014) who said there was no significant relationship between family structure and academic performance of students conducted in Taraba Central Zone secondary schools. According to him, only parents' occupational background and parents' educational level that determines the achievement of the children academic performance. In his studies findings, he found that there was no significant relationship between family structure and children academic performance.

### **Birth Order and Academic Performance of Students**

Aminu (2006) pointed out that serial-marriage children that exposed to a consistently negative child rearing environment are likely to encounter high level of interpersonal conflict which may result in a heightened level of anxiety and aggressive behavior, learned feeling of helplessness, depression and feeling incompetence. All these outcomes will be mediated by

the child personality characteristics. Family structure substantially influences academic performance such as high dropout rate.

Gambo (2008) found that children living with both biological parents and single mother have higher educational attainment than children living with step parent or children living single father. They also interpret their findings as consistent with evolutionary psychological theory which argues that mothers care more about the well-being of their children as fathers. Therefore, to what extent, family structure affects or influence academic performance of students in secondary schools. Lucky(2018) stated that family structure influence this processes in part because it affect the range of child behavior that can bear directly on education al success , such as school misbehavior, drug abuse, alcoholic consumption, teenage pregnancy and psychological distress. Aiyu (2019) opined that that there is both positive and negative influence of family structure on students’ academic performance. It was observed that when students have fewer siblings they likely to have good academic performance because they would receive more parental attention and have more access to resources and finance.

### **Research Methodology**

Correlation research design was adopted for this study. This is because it would determine the relationship between the variables. The design was also used to determine the relationship between family structure and academic performance of secondary school students of Girei local Government area of Adamawa State without manipulation of variables. Cohen, Manion & Morrison (2009) Stated that Correlation is used to scan a wide field of issues, population, events and program in order to determine, describe and generalize features; hence it is economical and efficient.

The research instrument that was used in the study was questionnaire. The questionnaire was adopted to obtain data on students’ family background of sample schools. The questionnaire contained items on parents’ marital status and students’ birth order. The items in the questionnaire were open ended. Descriptive statistic was adopted as method for data analysis. The completed responses obtained from the questionnaire were coded using multiple regressions to analyse the Relationship between family structure and academic performance of students in secondary schools of Girei Local Government area of Adamawa State.

### **Data presentation and Analysis**

**Hypothesis one (H<sub>01</sub>):** There is no significant relationship between polygamy family and academic performance of students in Girei Secondary Schools

**Table 1:** Results of multiple regressions analysis of Polygamous family and students’ Academic Performance in Girei Secondary Schools

<b>Model</b>	<b>Un standardized Coefficient</b>	<b>Standardized Coefficient</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>P Value</b>	<b>Remark</b>	
	<b>B</b>	<b>Standard Error</b>		<b>Beta</b>		
<b>Constant</b>	57.520	4.050		13.604	.000	
<b>Polygamy family</b>	3.852	1.435	.454	2.784	0.015	Sig

*Dependent variable: Academic Performance*

According to table 1, parents' polygamous family has a significant relationship with academic performance of students in secondary schools of Girei Local Government and to extend that it was served as the best predictor of academic performance of students because the P.Value of (0.015) was less than the level of significance (0.05). Therefore the null hypothesis is rejected for alternative.

**Hypothesis two (H0<sub>2</sub>):** There is no significant relationship between birth order and academic performance of students in Girei Secondary Schools

**Table 2:** Results of multiple regressions analysis of Students' birth order and Academic Performance in Girei Secondary Schools

Model	Un standardized Coefficient	Standardized Coefficient	T	P Value	Remark
	<b>B</b>	<b>Standard Error</b>		<b>Beta</b>	
<b>Constant</b>	57.520	4.050	13.604	.000	
<b>Students' Birth Order</b>	3.699	1.307	.276	2.276	0.023 sig

*Dependent variable: Academic Performance*

Meanwhile, students' birth order was also has a significant relationship with students' academic performance in secondary schools of Girei Local Government. This is so because the P-Value of (0.023) in Table 2 was less than the level of significance (0.05). Therefore, the null hypothesis number two is rejected.

### Discussion of Major Findings

The finding of the study indicated that family structure was a significant predictor of academic performance of students in secondary schools in Girei local government area of Adamawa State, Nigeria. The result agreed with the findings of Buba (2013) who stated that children living with single parent are less privilege in term of care and attention in their lives and academic achievement than the children who lives with both parents. This is so because both of the parents are concentrating on the children lives achievements unlike the children who missed one of the parents as a result of divorce, separation or death. This result Contradicted the finding of Jamess (2014) who said there was no significant relationship between family structure and academic performance of students conducted in Taraba Central Zone secondary schools. The result agreed with the findings of Aiyu (2019) who stated that there is both positive and negative influence of family structure on students' academic performance. It was observed that when students have fewer siblings they likely to have good academic performance because they would receive more parental attention and have more access to resources and finance. The result also agreed with the findings of Lucky (2018) who stated that family structure influence this processes in part because it affect the range of child behavior that can bear directly on education al success , such as school misbehavior, drug abuse, alcoholic consumption, teenage pregnancy and psychological distress. The study also collaborated with the findings of Gambo (2008) who found that children living with both biological parents and single mother have higher educational attainment than children living with step parent or children living single father. They also interpret their findings as consistent with evolutionary psychological theory which argues that mothers care more about the well-being of their children as fathers.

## **Conclusion**

In line with the findings of the study, the study was concluded that there was a significant relationship between polygamous family, students' birth order and academic performance of students in secondary schools of Girei local government area. The study was also concluded that family structure has significant relationship with academic performance of students in secondary schools. This implies that the student who lives with both of his parents likely have a better care than the student who lives with either one of the parents, or step mother along.

Since family structure has significant relationship with students' academic performance in secondary schools of Girei Local Government area, it was recommended that the religious leaders and councilors should stay active in sensitizing parents on the disadvantages of divorce in the society and its effects on children future carrier.

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