

TITLE PAGE

**POOR ATTENDANCE AND ITS EFFECT ON PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS
PERFORMANCES IN GADA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, SOKOTO
STATE.**

BY

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**BEING A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF
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CERTIFICATION

This research work has been read and approved as meeting the requirement for the award of Bachelor of Science education (BSC.ED) Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto.

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DEDICATION

This research work is dedicated to our parents, lecturers, brothers and sisters as well as our friends for their support and encouragement.

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Finally, we are indebted to all those whose works were used as reference materials for successful conduct of this research work.

ABSTRACT

The study investigated the effect of poor attendance and its effect on primary school pupils' performance in Gada local government area, Sokoto State. Data was collected from (185) respondents, proportionate sampling technique was used to collect data and data obtained were analyzed using percentages and frequency tables. It was discovered that poor attendance affects primary pupil's performance in Gada local government area, Sokoto. It was also discovered that factors affecting pupils attendance to school in Gada local government includes; School, Students, and Parents. It is therefore recommended among others that headteachers, teachers, parents, stakeholders should encourage primary school pupils to attend to school in order to enhance their education.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Attendance to school is very important during educational activities or academic studies. The issue of school attendance of primary school in rural areas has been a problem affecting the performance of student. School and home factors affects students' attendance, the social status and educational level of parents influence school attendance. (Ogherbvu 1999, Alio 2003 66-69)

Primary education is the initial stage of education, and has its basic aim to create, establish and offer opportunities to all children regardless of age, gender, or country of origin, to achieve a balance, cognitive, emotional and psychomotor development.

The importance of primary education can be seen in the sense that all beneficiaries of other levels of education by necessity have to pass through this level.(Oni 2008).Success and failure of the entire educational system as determined by primary education. (Oni 2008)

Some parents wouldn't send their children to school because of the fear that western education would disrupt their Islamic way of life and the preference for the local language. They prefer the help which children render to them on their farms, in the markets and other traditional occupations which form an important part of economic survival of the parents, others will send their children to school but the children may not go to school.

1.2 Statement to the Problem

This study is aimed at finding out whether poor attendance has effect on pupils performance in primary schools in Gada local government area, Sokoto state.

1.3 Research Questions

The following research questions have been raised to guide this study.

1. Are primary school pupils absenting themselves from their various schools within Gada local government area?
2. Does poor attendance affect pupils performance in primary schools in Gada local government area?
3. What are the factors affecting pupils attendance to school in Gada local government?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are:-

1. To find out whether primary school pupils absent themselves from their various schools within Gad local government.
2. To find out how poor attendance affect pupils performance in primary schools in Gada local government.
3. To identify the factors affecting pupils attendance to school in Gada local government area.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study would will be of great benefits to the following educational bodies:-

1. To the state ministry of education and officials, particularly for planning purposes and policy implementation.
2. Local government education authority for effective mobilization, enlightenment and enrolment drive initiative.
3. To various school administrators, such as Headmasters, headmistress and even to classroom teacher for proper pupils.

1.6 Scope and Delimitations of the Study

This study is only restricted to formal type of schooling and is delimited to the first level of education i.e. primary school.

Its respondent is drawn from members of the community involving parents, teachers, headmasters, and Local government education authority (L.G.E.A) officials.

The study is to examine the poor attendance and its effects on primary school pupils' performance in Gada local government area, Sokoto state.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1. Introduction

This chapter presents a review of available literature related to this work. The review was done along the following sub-themes.

2.2 Concept of school attendance

2.3.1 Excellent school attendance

2.3.2 Poor school attendance

2.4 Causes of poor school attendance

2.5 School attendance and pupil's performance in the primary School.

2.6 Summary of the review and uniqueness of the study

2.2 Concept of school attendance.

A school is an institution designed for the teaching of students or pupils under the direction of teachers. (oxford dictionary 6th edition)

Attendance is the act of being present in a place or a record of how often a person goes to classes, meetings e.t.c.(Merriam Webster, 2008 edition)

School attendance is a measure of the number of children who attend school and the amount of time they are present.(Collins dictionary 7th edition)

A school is set up for the main purpose of bringing children from different families together under one roof(classroom) in order to check students commitment to receiving instruction from the teachers, and to make them develop social co-existence with each other.

School attendance refers to whether a person attend school, fulltime or part time at any accredited institution of programme during all or part of specified period of time (Ogherbvu,1999)

2.3.1 Excellent School Attendance

When we talk about excellent attendance, we refer to a situation, whereby the enrolled number of children in a school attend their normal class with no refusal.

Excellent school attendance is important for achieving core skills, such as literacy and numeracy, achieving adequate levels of education is one of the key factors that is likely to reduce indigenous disadvantages. (Buckle,2010)

Excellent school attendance increases the ability of students to succeed at schools and schools to achieve their mission because students who are in school receive instruction and academic achievement scores are correlated with school attendance (Adelman, 2004)

2.3.2 Poor School Attendance

Poor school attendance simply means a situation whereby the number of students registered in school doesnot attend their normal classes as expected (Collins dictionary 2008).According to Wheatly and Spillane (2001) poor school attendance lead students to leave school early and are less likely to undertake alternative education and training pathways.

Poor attendance have been linked to poor academic achievement (Ziggler,1972).

According to Odell(1963) students with poor attendance from school fewer hours of instruction ;they often leave education early and more likely to become long-term unemployed, homeless and caught in poverty trap.

Poor attendance is an early warning signal for future problems that negatively affects students achievement, which would make student to drop out of school and put themselves at a long term disadvantage in becoming productive citizens.(U.S Department of education).

2.4 Causes of Poor School Attendance.

According to Hurlock(1981) poor attendance usually results from dislike of school caused by poor academic work, poor acceptance,lack of promotion or punishment for misbehavior . Hurlock (1981)also said that poor attendance ofpupils in school usually results from school phobia caused by the school itself.

John (1976) outlinedthat the cause of pupils poor attendance in schools have ranged from the very personal problems of some pupils.

Farrant(1964) attributed the cause of poor attendance in school amongst others as the inability of pupils to pay fees charged by the schools in thecase of poor families.

Reid(2008) stated that poor attendance is caused by the following reasons.

1)Parents and careers;

- (a) Parental condoned absenteeism ,parents failing to accept their legal responsibilities.
- (b) Poor parental attitudes or poor caring attitudes towards schools.
- (c) ‘Them and Us’ attitudes between schools and parents in the society.

2) Society;

- (a) Insufficient valuing of education.

(b) Inadequate welfare support practices, especially in the early years of schooling.

3) Schools;

(a) Poor teaching

(b) Inconsistent approach to absenteeism between and within schools.

4) Government;

(a) Lenient application of laws

(b) Unsuitable curriculum for pupils

(c) Too few out-of-school\alternative curriculum places

5) Students

(a) Bullying, Peer pressure, 'cool' to skip school

(b) Lack of career aspirations

(c) Low self esteem

(d) Local economy

(e) Local unemployment, poverty, poor community facilities.

2.5 School attendance and pupils performance in the primary school.

School attendance is at any accredited institution or programme, public or private Institution ,any level of organized learning at any level of education at the time of the programme, or a major number children who attend school and the amount of time they are present .(Collins dictionary,8th edition)

According to Ogherbvu(1999), school attendance refers to whether a person attends schools or institutions of programmes during all part of a specified period of time.

Wheatley and spillane (2001) Poor school attendance is detrimental to the personal development of the child himself, and it lead students to leave school early and less likely to undertake alternative education and training pathways

While students performance refers to the quality of knowledge, skills technique and positive attitude, behavior and philosophy that the learners achieve or acquire (Ferguson, 1990).

The ability is evaluated by the marks and grades that the pupils attain in attest or examination which is either done at the end of a topic, school term, year or educational cycle.

According to Obanyo and Ezewu(1980) the status of the family can have an influence on the children as observed and that the higher status of a family the likely it motivates its children to learn and perform better .

Nabbuma(1994) reports that the pupils performance and aspirations is linked to level of education of their parents .

Maani (1990) and Mugisha ((1991) attempted to analyze the relationship between children attendance at schooland the level of their performance which they now concluded that poor attendance could result to students poor performance and attendance when excellent results to good performance.

2.6 Summary of the review and uniqueness of the study.

In this chapter, an attempt was made to explain the views of scholars on the concept of school attendance, excellent and poor attendances on primary school pupils, the causes of pupil's attendance and pupils performances in the primary schools.

This study is unique because it is restricted and concerned with Gada Local government area, Sokoto state.

CHAPTER THREE

Research Methodology

3.1 Introduction

The research methodology is a plan for conducting the research project. In this chapter an attempt was made to; explain the research design, population of the study, sample and sampling techniques, instrument used in collecting data and the method of data analysis.

3.2 Research Design

3.3 Population of the study

3.4 Sample and sampling techniques

3.5 Instrumentation

3.5.1 Validity of the instrument

3.5.2 Reliability of the instrument

3.6 Method of data collection

3.7 Method of data analysis

3.2 Research Design

Descriptive survey design was adopted for this study. A descriptive survey enables a researcher to look at current situation of things. It is concerned with collection of data to describe and interpret the existing problems associated with primary school pupils poor attendances in Gada local government area of Sokoto state.

3.3 Population of the study.

All the primary schools within Gada local government area formed the population of the study out of these primary schools. four(4) were selected, namely:- Dasuki Model, Nizzamiyya, Kaffe, Kyadwa primary schools in Gada. The population of the selected primary schools composed of four head teachers, 78 teachers, 284 parents and 714 pupils of primary five and six. The total population is 1080.

Table 1: Population of the study.

Category of population	Population
Headteachers	4
Teachers	78
Pupils	714
Parents	284
Grand total	1080

3.4 Sample and sampling technique.

It is not easily to study all the primary schools in Gada local government area, due to insufficient time and facilities, so, four(4) primary schools were selected. A sample of 185 respondent was selected, this selection was also done through proportionate sampling.

Table 2:- Sample size for the study

Category of population	Sample size
Headteachers	4
Teachers	30

Pupils	100
Parents	51
Grand total	185

3.5 Instrumentation

In an attempt to survey the poor attendance and its effect on primary pupils performance, questionnaire was used. That is by setting a close ended questionnaire whereby respondent are required to give simple answers yes or no. also by setting a close and open ended questionnaire whereby headteachers, teachers and parents are required to give simple answers yes or no and comment freely.

3.5.1 Validity of the instrument

The questionnaire was subjected to the scrutiny of the supervisor and the recommendations were used to finally produce instrument that had the ability to obtain the expected relevant data. Hence the questionnaire was considered valid for data collection

3.5.2 Reliability of the instrument.

The reliability of the instrument is the constituency of the instrument overtime. It was established by administering the instrument to representative sample. The responses obtained were used to establish the coefficient of reliability of 0.63, using Pearson product moment correlation coefficient.

3.6 Method of data collection

Questionnaire was used to collect data for this study by administering it to the headteachers, teachers, parents and pupils of the selected primary schools, by filling it with information related and collecting the information and analyzed it. The total number of the respondent are 185, which was selected through proportionate sampling.

3.7 Method of data analysis.

Frequency counts and percentages were used to analyze the data for this study. The data was presented in tables.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presented the results of the research findings. The parameters measured include personal information of the respondents and frequency counts and percentage were used to analyzed the data.

4.2. Background information

General information comprised data on the sex of the respondents, age, class, school and responsibilities at school as per Part A of the questionnaire.

4.2.1 Respondent by sex

Table 3: Distribution of respondents by sex.(pupils)

SEX	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
MALE	67	67%
FEMALE	33	33%
TOTAL	100	100%

Table 3 illustrates that out of the total of 100 respondents, the male students had the highest representation of about 67% and the female had 33%. The domination of males in this research indicated the lower percentage of female in educational program.

4.2.2. Respondents by age

Table 4 Distribution of respondents according to age.(pupils)

Age	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Below 13yrs	23	23%	23
13-14yrs	37	37%	60
Above 14yrs	40	40%	100.0
Total	100	100%	

Table 4 illustrates that the highest percentage of respondents, 37% were aged between 13 – 14 years. About 40% of the respondents were aged above 14 years and the least number of respondents were 23% which were below 13 years.

4.2.3 Respondents by class

Table 5: Distribution of respondents according to class.(pupils)

Class	Frequency	Percentage
Primary five	40	40%
Primary six	60	60%
Total	100	100%

Table 5 illustrates that the highest percentage of respondents came from Primary Six (over 60%) followed by Primary five pupils (about 40%).

4.2.4 Respondents according to school

Table 6 Distribution of respondents according to school.(pupils)

Primary school	Frequency	Percentage
Dasuki Model	25	25%
Nizzamiyya	25	25%
Kaffe	25	25%
Kyadawa	25	25%
Total	100	100%

Table 6 illustrates that the percentage of respondents from Dasuki Model Primary School were 25%, followed by Nizzamiyya with 25%, followed by Kaffe with 25% and Kyadawa with 25%.

4.2.5 Respondents According to Responsibility

Table 7: Distribution of respondents according to responsibility held at school.(pupils)

Responsibility	Frequency	Percentage
Prefect	24	24%
Classmonitor	20	20%
Clubofficial	12	12%
None	44	44%
Total	100	100%

Table 7 shows that the highest percentage of respondents were those pupils who did not hold any responsibility in school activities with 44%, while the least percentage of respondents were the Club officials with 12%.

4.3 Answering research questions.

Question 1. Are primary school pupils absenting themselves from their various schools within Gada local government area?

Table 8:Level of absenteeism within Gada local government area?

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	50	27.03%
No	135	72.97%
Total	185	100%

Table 8 shows that 27% of parents said that their children absents themselves from school and 72% does not

Question 2. Does poor attendance affect pupils performance in primary schools in Gada local government area?

Table 9: Effects of absenteeism on performance

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	170	91.9%
No	15	8.1%
Total	185	100%

Table 9 shows that 91% of the respondent said that poor attendance affect pupils performance in primary schools in Gada local government area and 8% does not.

Question 3.What are the factors affecting pupils attendance to school in Gada local government?

a) School factors

Table 10 School factors that affect pupils school attendance in Gada local government area

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	165	89.19%
No	20	10.81%
Total	185	100%

Table 10 shows that 89% of the respondent said that school factors affect pupils attendance in primary schools in Gada local government area and 10% does not.

b) Students factors

Table 11 Student factors that affect pupils attendance in Gada local government area

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	160	86.49%
No	25	13.51%
Total	185	100%

Table 11 shows that 86% of the respondent said that students factors affect pupils attendance in Gada local government area and 13% does not.

c)Parental factors

Table 12:Parental factors that affect pupils attendance in Gada local government area

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	150	81.1%
No	35	18.9%
Total	185	100%

Table 12 shows that 81% of the respondent said that school factors affect pupil's attendance in Gadalocal government area and 18% does not.

4.4 Summary of major findings.

1. 72% of pupils in Gada local government area are attending school, only 28% absents themselves from school.
2. Poor attendance affects pupils performance in primary schools in Gada local government area because 91% of the respondents ticked Yes.
3. Factors affecting pupil's attendance to school in Gada local government are; School, Students, and Parents factors.

4.5 Discussion of findings

Primary schools pupils that are absenting themselves from school are minority (28%), which may be as a result of pupils falling sick, doing house hold chores, lacking interest in school, school phobia, trading for their parents and intentionally missing school. Maani(1990) and

Mugisha(1991) attempted to analyze the relationship between children attendance at school and the level of their performance which they now concluded that poor attendance could result to students poor performance and attendance when excellent results to good performance, so these pupils have to be encouraged to attend school daily in order to have good performance.

Poor attendance affects pupil's performance in primary schools in Gada Local government area, pupils who are always absent from school misses what is being taught in class which is likely to appear in their C.A. test and examination, therefore if primary schools pupils have poor attendance, and this will result to poor performance. According to Ziggler (1972), poor attendance have been linked to poor academic achievement. Therefore, headteachers, teachers, parents, educational administrators, should encourage primary school pupils to come to school in other to enhance the education.

Factors affecting pupils attendance to school in Gada local government includes; school factors, student factors and parental factors.School factors which are poor teaching methodology, poor infrastructural facilities, inconsistent approach to absenteeism between and within school. Student factors; Bullying, peer pressure, lack of motivation, lack of career aspiration, low self esteem. Parental factors: poor parental attitude towards school, parent sending their children to farm during rainy seasons instead of school, parental condoned absenteeism. According to Hurlock (1981) poor attendance usually results from dislike of school caused by poor academic work, poor acceptance, and lack of promotion or punishment for misbehavior. Hurlock (1981) also said that poor attendance of pupils in school usually results from school phobia caused by the school

itself. Therefore, all these factors have to be tackled in order to improve primary school pupils' attendance at school.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Summary

The purpose of this study was to analyze the issue of poor attendance and its effect on primary pupils performance in Gada local government area Sokoto.

Chapter one deals with the background to the study, statement of the problem, research questions, objective of the study, significance of the study, and scope and delimitations of the study.

Chapter two focused on the review of the related literature on poor attendance and its effect on primary pupils performance in Gada local government area, Sokoto. Available and relevant literature were renewed.

Chapter three deals with research methodology under which we discussed the research design, population of the study, sample and sampling technique, instrumentation, validity of the instrument, reliability of the instrument, method of data collection and method of data analysis.

Chapter four detailed on the analysis of data collected, answering research question, summary of major findings, discussion of findings were explicated.

Finally chapter five presented the summary, conclusion and recommendation made in the study.

5.2 Conclusion

It was concluded from this study that poor attendance affects primary schoolpupil's performances in Gada local government area, Sokoto state. It was also realized 72% of pupils in Gada local government area are attending school, only 28% absents themselves from school and factors affecting

pupils attendance to school in Gada local government area includes; School, Students, and Parental factors.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study the researcher made the following recommendations:

1. 28% of students don't attend school regularly; therefore students should be encouraged to attend school regularly.
2. Poor attendance affects pupil's performance in primary schools in Gada Local government area, therefore, headteachers, teachers, parents, educational administrators, should encourage primary school pupils to come to school in order to enhance their education.
3. Factors affecting pupils attendance to school in Gada local government area includes; school, student and parental factors. Therefore all these factors have to be tackled in order to improve primary school pupil's attendance in Gada local government area.

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APPENDIX

USMANU DANFODIYO UNIVERSITY, SOKOTO.

FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND EXTENSION SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND VOATIONAL EDUCATION

TOPIC: - POOR ATTENDANCE AND ITS EFFECT ON PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS PERFORMANCES IN GADA LOAL GOVERNMENT AREA, SOKOTO STATE.

Dear Sir/Ma

The purpose of this study to investigate poor attendance and its effect on effect on primary school pupil's performances in Gada local government area, Sokoto state. As a pupil, you have been selected to participate in the research by completing the questionnaire as per the instruction at the beginning of given section. You are kindly requested to freely fill in the questionnaire. All your response will be kept confidential and for academic purpose only. Please endeavor to fill the questionnaire within one week and return it to the researcher.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely.

Researchers.

Part A

Section A: Background information.

Please classify your responses by supplying appropriate facts about yourself as the case maybe. Tick appropriate choice in boxes provided.

- 1. Sex Male female
- 2. Age Below 10years 10-12years Above 12years
- 3. Your class primary five primary six
- 4. Your school
- 5. Responsibility held in school prefect class monitor
 Club official

Section B: Answer by ticking Yes or No

- 1. Do you attend school daily? Yes No
- 2. Do you answer attendance daily? Yes No
- 3. Have you ever missed school? Yes No
- 4. Do your parents encourage you to come to school? Yes No
- 5. Do your parents stop you from coming to school? Yes No

Part B

Questionnaire for primary schools head teachers and teachers on the poor attendance and its effect on primary school pupils performance in Gada local government area, Sokoto state.

Section A: Background information.

1. Years of working experience
.....
2. Years of service in current school

Section B: Academic performance and Poor attendance

3. Does level of literacy among parents results to poor attendance? Yes
No why?
4. Does lack of infrastructural facilities in primary schools causes poor attendance in Gada local government area? Yes No why?
5. Does poor attendance affects primary pupils performances in Gada local government Area? Yes No why?

Part C

Questionnaire for parents on poor attendance and its effect on primary school pupils performance in Gada local government area, Sokoto state.

Section A: Background information

1. What is your occupation?
2. What is your highest level of the education?

Section B: Poor Attendance

3. Are your children absenting themselves from schools? Yes No why?
4. Does level of literacy among parents results to poor attendances? Yes No
Why?
5. Does poor attendance affect your children performance? Yes No
Why?