

## Examining the Effect of Street Hawking on Academic Performance of Female Students in Sokoto State Secondary Schools

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### Abstract

*This study investigated the effect of street hawking on academic performance of female students in Sokoto state secondary schools. The study adopted descriptive survey research of correlational type to probe the opinions of the participants regarding relationship between street hawking and academic performance of female students in Sokoto state secondary schools. The study population consisted of 557 participants (female students) and the study take a sample of 234 out of 557 participants using Creswell (2012) table for determining sample size. The study employed convenience and simple random sampling techniques to carry out the study. The study used the following two (2) researcher-designed rating scale to collect data from the participants which include, Street Hawking among Female Students Rating Scale (SHFSRS) and Academic Performance Rating Scale (APRS) to collect data. The two questionnaires were validated by experts and professionals in educational management and policy studies, as well as, other experts in research methodology. The study conducted a trial testing of instrument using inter-Rater methods of reliability and it obtained 0.81 reliability index for Street Hawking among Female Students Rating Scale (SHFSRS) and 0.73 reliability index for Academic Performance Rating Scale (APRS) and this shows that the research instruments were found reliable for data collection. The study used descriptive statistics to answer research questions of the study, while Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (PPMC) to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) software 20.0 version. The study found that Street hawking exposes female students to the act of immoralities, prostitution, regular road accident and other social vices that endanger their life. The study concluded that street hawking significantly hinders the educational development of female students in Sokoto state, this is because it reduces school attendances, increases truancy, enrollment and dropout rate which affects their academic performance and limit future opportunities. The study recommended that there is need for the state government through ministry of education to educate parents and guidance through sensitization and awareness creation programmes on the implication of street hawking on gild-child.*

**Keywords:** Street Hawking, Female Students, Academic Performance

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## Introduction

Education is widely recognized as a fundamental human right and a key driver of socio-economic development. It plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of individuals and communities, promoting gender equality and breaking the cycle of poverty. Girl child education in Sokoto state began when the Federal Government of Nigeria in collaboration with United Nations International Education Fund (UNICEF) recognized the need to reduce girl-child hawking abuse in the country (Fagunwa & Abidoye, 2025). Many parents were unconcerned about educating their female wards because they believe they would become someone else's property very soon, while others hide behind religion. Girl child are usually saddled with domestic work and the majority of them are withdrawn from schools to the labor market to fend for the whole family through hawking or petty trading (Fagunwa & Abidoye, 2025).

Street hawking is seen as a form of child-labor that is caused by greed, the quest to get riches propels female students into doing a lot of things they are not support to do all pursuit of livelihood instead of employing their youthful strength on farming to produce enough food for the family (Farcuta,2023). Street hawking is also exposes female students to a lot of risk and dangers like in most city centers, they can easily be knocked down by moving vehicles. Honesty and Okediran(2019) lamented that street hawking among female students have psychologically imposed other problem like sex networking behavior, juvenile delinquency behavior which takes most of the students' school time and leads to poor academic performance and dropout syndrome noticed among young female students.

Street hawking constitutes a social problem to female students and it exposes them to road accident, sexual harassment, kidnapping and so on. Street hawkers comes into contact with all sort of people including those with ignoble intention. Female students who engage in street hawking often do not attend school regularly and when they do they may not concentrate on their studies due to distractions, because their attention is often drawn to opportunities of making money thereby not taking their studies seriously. Oluwagbohunmi (2019) stated that female students who participated in hawking activities exhibited poor academic performance due to poor study habits. Street hawking has a negative effect on the level of education attained, school attendance, school grades, literacy and overall human capital

formation. A child who shares the school time with street hawking is always late to school and she bound to develop immoralities I school work which may include poor studying habits, lack of skills, low self-esteem and low academic performance in class resulting to failure or total dropping out of school. Experience as shown that some parents in town and cities withdrawn their female children from school in order send the hawking so as to make more money for the up keep (Umar, 2019).

Academic performance of female students who regularly involves in street hawking always below average as many of them find it difficult to combine schooling with hawking activities (Omorogiuwa,2016). The female students who engage in street hawking while also attending school often struggle with tardiness and many develop academic immoralities, including poor studying habits, lack of skills, low-self-esteem which have severe implication on their academic performance as many of them already have divided attention in the classroom during the lessons. The female students who constantly involve in street hawking always suffer poor academic performance and this will make to show sign of un-seriousness towards school activities as a result of tiredness and stress emanated from street hawking and this singular act might make them to develop school phobia. It is in view of the above background that this study deemed it necessary to investigate the relationship between street hawking and academic performance of female students in Sokoto state secondary schools.

### **Statement of the Problem**

In Nigeria today, particularly Sokoto state, hawking by children specifically girl-child of school age is not entirely new in the society. Street hawking creates room for lack of seriousness and interest in school work, poor memory, learning difficult and under achievement in the classroom activities for the academic excellence. The researcher's experience indicated that most female students who engage in street hawking suffer from fatigue, irregular school attendance, lack of comprehension and motivation, improper socialization, exposure to risk of sexual abuse and high likelihood of being involve in all manners crimes and other social vices. Regular street hawking disrupted their education through absenteeism, tardiness and truancy leading to poor academic performance and poor academic performance culminate to increase in dropout rate. Female student hawkers are depriving of education which consequence is poor academic performance. This is because street hawking

contributes to students' moral laxity, laziness and truant behaviors capable of negatively influence their academic performance in school. Street hawking affect severely the girl child education negatively since the girl child suffers physical discomfort causing loss of concentration.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The following objectives are to find out:

- I. The extent of street hawking among female students in Sokoto state secondary schools.
- II. The level of academic performance among female students in Sokoto state secondary schools.
- III. The relationship between street hawking and academic performance of female students of Sokoto state secondary school.

### **Research Questions**

This study was guided by the following research questions

- I. What is the extent of street hawking among female students in Sokoto state secondary schools?
- II. What is the level of academic performance among female students in Sokoto state secondary schools?
- III. What is the relationship between street hawking and academic performance of female students of Sokoto state secondary school?

### **Research Hypothesis**

Based on research questions and objectives, the study formulated and tested the following hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance

**H<sub>01</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between street hawking and academic performance of female students of Sokoto state secondary school

## **Theoretical Framework**

The study hinged on rational choice theory which was propounded by George Homes in 1961. Theory has been developed to understand the behavior of individuals and groups in various settings. It posits that individuals make rational choice based on their preferences and constraints with the aim of maximizing their utility. The theory has been widely applied in various fields such as economics, political sciences, sociology and psychology. In applying this theory to the present study, it can be seen that, children go into street hawking directly due to the limited resources and overflowing demand experienced by parents in meeting their financial obligation in the family as a result of the disturbing economic situations in the country. so, the choice of street hawking in the family becomes necessary to augment family income. This means that, parents and guidance make the choice of engaging their female children in the street hawking to augment the family income because of the constraint they experienced in meeting family needs.

## **Methodology**

The study adopted descriptive survey research of correlational type to probe the opinions of the participants regarding relationship between street hawking and academic performance of female students in Sokoto state secondary schools. The study population consisted of 557 participants (female students) and the study take a sample of 234 out of 557 participants using Creswell (2012) table for determining sample size. The study employed convenience and simple random sampling techniques to carry out the study. The study used the following two (2) researcher-designed rating scale to collect data from the participants which include, Street Hawking among Female Students Rating Scale (SHFSRS) and Academic Performance Rating Scale (APRS) to collect data. The two questionnaires were validated by experts and professionals in educational management and policy studies, as well as, other experts in research methodology. The study conducted a trial testing of instrument using inter-Rater methods of reliability and it obtained 0.81 reliability index for Street Hawking among Female Students Rating Scale (SHFSRS) and 0.73 reliability index for Academic Performance Rating Scale (APRS) and this shows that the research instruments were found reliable for data collection. The study used descriptive statistics to answer research questions of the study, while Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (PPMC) to test the

hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) software 20.0 version.

### Results

The section presented answer to research question using descriptive statistics such as mean ( $\bar{x}$ ), standard deviation (SD), tables and frequency counts.

**RQ1:** What is the extent of street hawking among female students in Sokoto state secondary schools? The Research Question one is related to 1-5 items in the Street Hawking among Female Students Rating Scale (SHFSRS) and presented in Table 1.

**Table 1:** Showing Street Hawking among Female Students in Sokoto State Secondary Schools

| S/N                      | Item Statements                                                                           | Mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) | SD   | Remarks     |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------|-------------|
| 1.                       | Street hawking exposes female students to the act of immoralities and other social vices  | 3.66               | 0.31 | Significant |
| 2.                       | Street hawking exposes female students to prostitutions and substance abuse               | 3.64               | 0.30 | Significant |
| 3                        | Street hawking exposes female students into regular road accident that can cause injuries | 3.69               | 0.26 | Significant |
| 4.                       | Street hawking exposes female students into the risk of sexually transmitted infections   | 3.72               | 0.24 | Significant |
| 5.                       | Street hawking exposes female students to stereotypically stigmatization and bullied      | 3.68               | 0.30 | Significant |
| Total Mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) |                                                                                           | 3.68               | 0.29 | Significant |

Mean scale=2.50

Table 1 indicated the descriptive statistics (mean and standard deviation) the extent of street hawking among female students in Sokoto state secondary schools. It is evident from the table that the general opinions of the participants presented by the grand mean scores of 3.68 are greater than the scale mean scores of 2.50. This implies that Street hawking exposes female students to the act of immoralities, prostitution, regular road accident and other social vices

**RQ2:** What is the level of academic performance among female students in Sokoto state secondary schools? The Research Question one is related to 1-5 items in the Academic Performance Rating Scale (APRS) and presented in Table 2.

**Table 2:** Showing the Level of Academic Performance among Female Students in Sokoto state Secondary Schools

| S/N                      | Item Statements                                                                                                                    | Mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) | SD   | Remarks     |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------|-------------|
| 1.                       | Street hawking among female students results to loss of concentration in the classroom that culminate to poor academic performance | 3.69               | 0.31 | Significant |
| 2.                       | Street hawking among female students result to high dropout rate due to poor academic performance                                  | 3.68               | 0.29 | Significant |
| 3                        | Street hawking among female students result to absenteeism, truancy and tardiness due to poor academic performance                 | 3.64               | 0.34 | Significant |
| 4.                       | Street hawking among female students lead to physical discomfort causing discouragement result to poor academic performance        | 3.71               | 0.26 | Significant |
| 5.                       | Street hawking among female students exhibit poor study habits affecting their academic performance.                               | 3.68               | 0.23 | Significant |
| Total Mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) |                                                                                                                                    | 3.68               | 0.28 | Significant |
| Mean scale=2.50          |                                                                                                                                    |                    |      |             |

Table 2 indicated the descriptive statistics (mean and standard deviation) about the level of academic performance among female students in Sokoto state secondary schools. Nigeria. It is evident from the table that the general opinions of the participants presented by the grand mean scores of 3.68 are greater than the scale mean scores of 2.50. This implies that street hawking reduces female students' study time, loss of concentration and overall ability to assimilate during class lessons which negatively affected their academic performance in school.

### Hypothesis Testing

**H<sub>01</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between street hawking and academic performance of female students in Sokoto state secondary schools. The hypothesis was tested by subjecting the scores of streets hawking and that of academic performance of female students to Pearson correlation analysis as shown in Table 3

**Table 3:** Relationship between Street Hawking and Academic performance of female Students of Sokoto State Secondary School

| Variables      | N   | Mean  | SD   | Df | R     | Sig   | Decision        |
|----------------|-----|-------|------|----|-------|-------|-----------------|
| Street Hawking | 234 | 20.23 | 3.16 |    | 0.457 | 0.001 | H <sub>01</sub> |

|                      |     |       |      |     |          |
|----------------------|-----|-------|------|-----|----------|
| Academic Performance | 234 | 19.56 | 1.50 | 332 | Rejected |
|----------------------|-----|-------|------|-----|----------|

Source: Field Survey, 2026

Table 3 indicated the results of descriptive statistics and correlation analysis for testing the relationship between street hawking and academic performance of female students of Sokoto state secondary schools. Street hawking has mean of 20.23 and standard deviation of 3.16 while academic performance of female students has mean of 19.56 and standard deviation of 1.50. The result of the correlation analysis revealed the coefficient (r) of 0.457 with p-value=0.000<0.05. This result shows that there is strong, positive and significant correlation between street hawking and academic performance of female students of Sokoto state secondary schools. Therefore, the null hypothesis  $H_{01}$  is rejected at 5% level of significance. This result revealed that there is significant relationship between street hawking and academic performance of female students of Sokoto state secondary schools. This means that female hawkers are not able to attend school regularly as a result of their hawking activities which culminated to poor performance.

- I. Based on results of the analysis, the following are the summary of the major findings
- II. The study found that Street hawking exposes female students to the act of immoralities, prostitution, regular road accident and other social vices that endanger their life.
- III. The study also found that street hawking contributes to female students' moral laxity, laziness and truant behavior capable of negatively influence in their academic performance.
- IV. The study also, found that there is significant relationship between street hawking and academic performance of female students of Sokoto state secondary schools. This means that female hawkers are not able to attend school regularly as a result of their hawking activities which culminated to poor performance.

### Conclusion

Based on research findings this study concluded that, street hawking is highly detrimental to female students' psychological and social development which cannot be overlooked. In Nigeria, Sokoto state in particular, it appears that girl-child development is grossly abused through the increasing display of

hawking in almost all the streets in the state. The study also concluded that, street hawking significantly hinders the educational development of female students in Sokoto state, this is because it reduces school attendances, increases truancy, enrollment and dropout rate which affects their academic performance and limit their future opportunities.

### **Recommendations**

Based on findings and conclusions of this study, the following have been recommended;

- I. There is need for the state government through ministry of education to educate parents and guidance through sensitization and awareness creation programmes on the implication of street hawking and how it exposes female students to the act of immoralities, prostitution, regular road accident and other social vices that endanger their life and this would discourage rampageous street hawking in the state.
- II. There is need for the school management to provide counselling services to female students in all female secondary schools in Sokoto state on how the street hawking would make them to become victim of sexual abuse, kidnapping, road accident moral laxity, and laziness and truant behavior capable of negatively influence in their academic performance.
- III. 3. There is need for collaborative efforts from government, stakeholders and communities to enforce protection of laws and promote access to quality education for the girl-child so as to adequately prepare them for the future opportunities in a modernize society.

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