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ATTITUDE OF PARENTS TOWARDS GIRL CHILD ACCESS TO PRIMARY EDUCAION IN DOMA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF NASARAWA STATE

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Abstract

This study investigates the attitude of parents towards girl-child access to primary education in Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State. A descriptive survey research design was employed, with a sample of parents selected through a multi-stage sampling technique. Data were collected using a questionnaire and interview schedule. The study reveals that many parents in Doma Local Government Area hold negative attitudes towards girl-child education, citing cultural and socio-economic reasons. Some parents believe that educating girls is a waste of resources, as they will eventually get married and become homemakers. Others cited concerns about safety, security, and morality. The study also shows that these negative attitudes affect girl-child access to primary education, leading to low enrollment and high dropout rates. The findings suggest that parents' attitudes are influenced by traditional and patriarchal values, which prioritize boys' education over girls'. The study recommends that government and stakeholders should implement awareness campaigns to change parents' attitudes towards girl-child education. Additionally, policies and programs should be put in place to support girls' education, such as providing

Keywords: Parents' Attitude, Girl-Child Education, Primary Education, Access to Education Socio-Cultural Factors

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scholarships, improving school infrastructure, and training teachers to promote girl-child friendly learning environments. The study's findings have implications for policy and practice, highlighting the need to address the root causes of negative attitudes towards girl-child education and promote equal access to primary education for all.

Introduction

Girl child education has become a major issue in most developing Countries especially in Nigeria. In Nigerian culture, there is the belief that women are second class citizens. Women are traditionally believed to be weaker sex and therefore need the support and protection of men. Many parents have the attitude that educating girls is a waste of time and money, because they will eventually be married out and their education would only profit their husbands and their families (Olomukoro and Omiunu, 2011).

Parents believed that boys will become the breadwinners of their families and consequently, had be educated. According to Ekrjiuba (2011), the issue of poverty has further aggravated the situation of girls' lack of access to education, because some parents when faced with scarce resources chooses to educate boys rather than girls. These traditional beliefs and parental poverty have been found to foster negative attitudes which limit parents support for girl child education.

The girl-child education in Nigeria has been lagging behind all this while in terms of education one can wonder why the situation should persist like this in respects of the light of the clear provisions in National Policy on Education that education is a right for every Nigerian Child. Thus, The National Philosophy of Education of Nigeria is based on "the integration of the individual into a sound and effective citizen and to provide equal educational opportunities for all citizens of the Nation at primary, secondary and tertiary levels, both inside and outside the formal system".

Statement of Problem

In Nasarawa State as is the practice in Doma Local Government Area, girls face the problem of early marriage since it is culturally believed that early marriage prevents promiscuity. Also Doma Local Government Area the economic factor of high bride prize makes some parents to given out their daughters early to wealthy families. Indeed the above parental attitudes urged the female 6 child to think of nothing rather than becoming wives and mothers as their parents and society expects. More so, parents inculcate this in to the girl from very tender age, in the choice of duties in the home for instance girls young ones cook, wash and tidy the home, the boys are left with duties as washing the car or laundry. Furthermore, the western education system indoctrinated

parents hence added little scale to poor parental attitude to western education. This is vividly illustrated in the text book. Used at all levels of Nigerian education system. The text book seems to be gender stereotypes. Because even at primary level the text book have stereotyped pictures such as father reading newspaper, or watching television , mother with baby on back, carrying basket on her way to market conversely. Within the cultural factor, lies the religious dimension which in Nasarawa State also seem to be a prominent issue in parental attitude on girl-child education owing to poor parental attitude thus factor has created a wide gap between male and female enrolment in western education. Economic factor is also another problem which makes parents to deprive their female children from education. This is because girl-child seen, as migrants hence need not to waste any fund for them. However, some parents are absolutely poor and could not the burden of their female child education. Since to some parents the female would be married to another family.

Research Questions

This research study intends to answer the following questions with regard to attitudes toward girl-child access to primary education.

i. What is the level of girl-child access to primary education in Doma Local Government?
ii. What are the attitudes of parents towards girl-child access to primary education in Doma Local Government?
iii. What are the factors that hinder the girl-child access to primary education in Doma Local Government?

Statement of the Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses are therefore postulated to guide the study and were tested at 0.05 level of significant.

Ho_1: There is no significant relationship between girl-child access to primary education in Doma Local Government.

Ho_2: There is no significance relationship between factors that hinder girl-child access to primary school education in Doma Local Government.

Ho_3: There is no significant relationship between attitudes of parents towards girl-child access to primary education in Doma Local Government.

Significance of the Study

This study would be of great importance to the girl child access to primary education in Doma Local Government Area and to parents, policy makers, educational planners, stakeholders and so on.

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It will enable parents who have a view about education for girl-child to have a rethink and their negatively about girl-child education changes to positively.

The findings of the study will enable the policy makers in Nasarawa State in the sense that, the study will illustrate the position that, educating the girl-child today enhances the productivity of women tomorrow. With reference to traditional and religious beliefs, the professional roles of women from Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State in general will be enhanced by findings from the study.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The study adopted evaluative survey design. This is because the researchers are interested in investigating attitude of parent towards girl child access to primary education in Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State. The study is evaluative because it collects evidence for assessors for passing judgment over the issue under investigation.

Seyoum and Ayalew (2015) also agreed that "descriptive survey design is the more appropriate to gather several kinds of data in a broad size to achieve the objectives of the study". In the same line of argument, Best and Kahn (2003) have argued that descriptive design is concerned with conditions or level of performance that exist, opinions that are held, process that are going on, effects that are evident or trends that are developing.

Population of the Study

The population for the study consisted of all wards in Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State. There are ten (10) wards in Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State. The size of the target population (139607) which comprise of three hundred and two *(70545)* males and two hundred and eighty (6906) females (Source: Doma Local Government Statistics Department).

Table of population distribution of 10 wards

S/N	WARD	MALE	FEMALE
1.	Galadima	10	25
2.	Sarkin dawaki	40	20
3.	Madachi	30	45
4.	Sabon gari	27	35
5.	Madaki	50	15
6.	Doka	23	28
7.	Alagye	60	18
8.	Iwashi	22	14

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S/N	WARD	MALE	FEMALE
9.	Burum burum	15	48
10.	Anna	25	32
	Total	302	280

Sample and Sampling Procedure

The sample for the study consists of three hundred (300) respondents from 5 wards in Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State. Simple random sampling strategy was adopted to select 300 (165 males and 135 females) respondents from 5 wards in Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State. Respondents' samples were drawn in such a way as to reflect gender representation.

Table 1: Sample frame of students according to school and Genders

S/NO	SCHOOLS	STUDENTS		TOTAL
		Male	Female	
1.	R.C.M Primary School, Doma	34	26	60
2.	Central Primary School, Doma	25	45	70
3.	Doma West Primary School	20	34	54
4.	Doma North Primary School	35	25	60
5.	Doma East Primary School	21	35	56
TOTAL	5	135	165	300

Instrumentation

The instrument for the data collection tagged: Questionnaire on attitude of parents on Girl-child access to primary Education (QAPGCE) The questionnaire consists **of a** like-scale type with two sections (A and B). Section 'A' consists of background information focused on relevant independent variable such as location, sex and school type. Sections B contain 23 items on attitude of parent towards girl child access to primary education in Doma Local Government of Nasarawa State.

Validation and Reliability of the Instrument

Validation of the Instrument

Panels of 5 judges comprising experienced primary school teachers and lecturers determine the accuracy of contents, appropriateness of language and readability of the instrument. Their corrections and suggestions were incorporated in the final production of the study.

Reliability of the Instrument

A pilot study was carried out to establish the reliability of the instrument. The pilot study was carried out in Karu Local Government Area of Nasarawa State. The score or responses were used to determine the reliability of the instrument. Split half method was employed in the determination of the reliability. Pearson's product movement correlation coefficient formular was used to obtained the reliability of coefficient. The obtained in the haft test was correlated with Spear Brown step-up formular to obtain the reliability of coefficient. The reliability coefficient obtained was 0.05. The value of the correlation gives a measure of the instrument reliability, since it is on approximation.

Administration of Research Instrument

The research visited the sample wards used for the study. At the various schools, the researchers introduced themselves to the respondents. The researchers briefed the subject on the purpose of the visit and the study. The respondents were administered with the instrument. The researchers collected the instrument after completion from the respondents and analyzed the results.

Procedure for Analysis of Data

Data generated from the study were collected into frequencies and analyzed using descriptive statistics to investigate attitude of parent towards girl child access to primary education in Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State. For the proposed null hypothesis, t-test statistic was applied for the tests of significance. All analyses was done using Statistical Package for social sciences.

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

Bio- Data of the Respondents

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents base on Gender

Variables	**No** .of **respondents**	percentage
Male	165	**60%**
Female	135	**40%**
Total	300	100

Table 2 showed the distribution of respondents according to gender. From the table, 165 respondents representing 60% were male while 135 respondents representing 40% of were female. By implication, majority of the respondents within the study area are male.

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Table 3 showed the distribution of respondents' base on school location.

Variables	**No of** respondents	**Percentage**
Urban	180	**60%**
Rural	120	**40%**
Total	**300**	100%

From the table 3, 180 respondents representing 60% were from urban schools while 120 respondents representing 40% are from rural schools. This is shows that, majority of the respondents within the study area are from urban location.

Presentation of data and interpretation of Results

Research Question 1: What is significant difference between factors that responsible for the backwardness in educating girl child in Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State?

Table 4: Students opinion about the factors that responsible for the backwardness in educating girl child

Variables	**No of respondents**	**Mean**	**SD**
Parent attitude	152	14.0	1.04
Girl child education	148	12.60	5.40
Total	300		

From the analysis shown in table 5, the study reveals that, 152 of the respondents with the mean of 14.0 were agreed that there is significant difference between factors that responsible for the backwardness in educating girl child in Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State while others disagreed with the mean of 12.60. By implication,

Research question 2: What is the attitude of parents towards Girl-Child access to primary education in Doma Local Government Area in Nasarawa State?

Table 5: Students opinion about their parents' attitude to Girl-Child access to education

Variables	**No of respondents**	**Mean**	**SD**
Parent attitude	165	3.44	1.04
Girl child education	135	3.93	1.16
Total	300		

From table 4, the study showed that, 165 agreed with mean of 3.44 and standard deviation of 1.04 that attitude of parents towards Girl-Child access to primary education is negative

while 135 of the respondents disagreed. By implication, parents have negative attitude towards girl child education.

Research Question 3: What is the level of girl child participation in basic access to education in Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State?

Table 6: Level of girl child **participation** in **basic education**

Variables	No of respondents	Mean	SD
Parent attitude	180	3.41	0.90
Girl education	120	3.95	1.2
Total	300		

From table 6, the study reveals that, there is significant difference between attitudes of parent on the level of girl child participation in basic education in Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State. This has answered that 180 of the respondents agreed with mean of 3.41 while 120 disagreed with mean of 395. By implication, attitude of parent brings backwardness of girl child participation in basic education.

Testing of Hypotheses and Interpretation

The hypotheses were tested and interpreted base on the contents of the study. Strongly agreed was match together to have agreed (A) and strongly disagreed also match to have disagreed (D). The purpose of theses is to enable the researchers to come out with a unique summary of the interpretation.

Interpretation of Results Hypothesis I:

There is no significant difference between factors that responsible for the backwardness of girl child access to primary education and parents attitude in Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State.

Table 7: t-test result for difference between factors that responsible for the backwardness of girl child access to education and parents' attitude

Variables	Number of count	DF	Mean (x)	Standard Deviation	t-cal	t-tab	A	Decision
Parent attitude	152		14.6	1.04				
		298			4.87	1.96	0.05	Rejected Hoi
Girl child education	148		12	5.4				

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Table 7 shows the t-test results for significance difference between factors that responsible for the backwardness of girl child access to primary education and parents' attitude in Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State. Furthermore, at 0.05 level of significance and degrees of freedom of 298, the t-test value is 4.87 which is greater than critical value of 1.96. Therefore, since the calculated value of t-test is greater than its tabulated value, the hypothesis is therefore rejected in favour of alternative hypothesis. Hence, there is significant difference between factors that responsible for the backwardness of girl child access to primary education and parents' attitude in Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State.

Hypothesis ii: There is no significant difference between attitude of parents and girl child access to primary education in Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State.

Table 8: t-test result for difference between attitude of parents and girl child education

Variables	Number of count	DF	Mean (x)	Standard Deviation	t-cal	t-tab	A	Decision
Parent attitude	165		3.44	104				
		298			4.31	1.96	0.05	Rejected Hoi
Girl child education	135		3.933	1.16				

Table 7 shows the t-test results for significant difference between attitude of parents and girl-child access to primary education in Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State. Furthermore at 0.05 level of significance and degree of freedom of 298, the t-test value is 4.31 which is greater than critical value of 1.96. Therefore, since the calculated value of t-test is greater than its tabulated value, the hypothesis is therefore rejected in favour of alternative hypothesis. Hence, there is significant difference between attitude of parents and girl-child access to primary education in Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State

Hypothesis iii: There is no significant difference between the level of girl child access to primary education in Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State.

Table 9: t-test result for difference between parent attitude and level of girl child access to primary education

Variables	Number of count	DF	Mean (x)	Standard Deviation	t-cal	t-tab	A	Decision
Parent attitude	180		3.41	0.98				
		298			4.87	1.96	0.05	Rejected Hoi
Girl child education	120		3.95	1.12				

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Table 9 show the t-test result for significant difference between levels of girl child access to primary education in Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State. Furthermore, at 0.05 level of significance and degrees of freedom of 298, the t- test was 4.87 which is greater than critical value of 1.96. Therefore since the calculated value of t-test is greater than its tabulated value; the hypothesis is rejected in favour of alternative hypothesis. Hence, there is significant difference between levels of girl child access to primary education in Doma Local Government Area of Nasarawa State.

Conclusion

It is concluded in the study that the attitude of parent towards the relevance of girl child education differs due to gender. The attitude of parent towards the relevance to girl child education also differs due to their educational status or attainment. And, sex education is relevant in primary school curricula. So far the researchers have highlighted some of the problems that affect teaching of girl child education in primary school using Doma Local Government as a case study. Some of the major problems identified include inadequate funding, lack of sufficient facilities, inadequate manpower among others.

Attitude of parent and teachers and students attitude toward teaching of girl child education. It is in delight of this, that the researchers has made certain suggestions and recommendations towards ameliorating these teething problems affect teaching of sex education.

Recommendations

From the findings, the following were recommended in the study:

i. Girl child access to primary education programmes should be held for young people in primary schools to help their self-worth, sense of responsibility, understanding and acceptance of diversity and sexual health.
ii. Girl child access to primary education should be given to dispel the unfounded belief by many that girl child education would encourage "sexual experiment".
iii. Girl child access to primary education should also be delivered via mass media as most information available to youth comes largely from news, magazines, movie, etc.

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