



# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ACADEMIC RESEARCH IN BUSINESS & SOCIAL SCIENCES



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To Link this Article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.6007/IJARBSS/v12-i5/13342>

DOI:10.6007/IJARBSS/v12-i5/13342

**Received:** 11 March 2022, **Revised:** 15 April 2022, **Accepted:** 30 April 2022

**Published Online:** 18 May 2022

**In-Text Citation:** (Kainuwa & Ashiru, 2022)

**To Cite this Article:** Kainuwa, A., & Ashiru, A. (2022). Influence of Parent's Occupational Level on Street Hawking among Secondary School Girls in Zamfara State. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*. 12(5), 1704 – 1713.

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Vol. 12, No. 5, 2022, Pg. 1704 – 1713

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[www.hrmars.com](http://www.hrmars.com)

ISSN: 2222-6990

## Influence of Parent's Occupational Level on Street Hawking among Secondary School Girls in Zamfara State

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### Abstract

The study determines to investigate influence of parent's occupational level on street hawking among secondary school girls in Zamfara state. The population for this study is composed of girl's secondary students in public schools in Zamfara state. The students were selected from the three Senatorial District of the state. A stratified random sampling technique was used in selecting the sample. The schools were stratified on the basis of senatorial districts. Schools were identified based on their number of street hawkers. Schools from rural and urban areas were represented based on their consistent practice of street hawking in each senatorial district. Two schools from each educational zone were selected, making it a total of six schools. From each school a total number of 46 students were selected from both urban and rural schools in both western and central zones and 47 students from each school in the northern zone giving a total of 278 students selected. Questionnaires were used as instrument for data collection. The data was analyzed using descriptive statistics and inferential statistics. The findings of the study indicated that, there is significant relationship between parents' occupational level and street hawking among secondary school girls in Zamfara State. It is anticipated that the findings would actually among other things help in reducing the problem of street hawking among girls who are currently pursuing their secondary education in the study area.

### Introduction

#### Background to the Study

Street hawking is a marketing system characterized by many buyers and sellers usually offering very small quantities for sale at a time (Olukosi et al., 2005). It is this system of marketing that becomes a point of concern to the researchers as they see mostly young children of school age involved in street hawking. According to Nseabasi and Oluwabamide (2010), Street hawking is a negation of the international convention on the right of the child. It is indeed inhuman for anyone to engage a child in money-making ventures; because such a child is denied basic education which is a right for every child. In Nigeria, there has been an increase in the number of children trading or working in the rural areas which affects their acquisition of education and this can be traced to a lot of factors which according to Dustmann (2003), are: parent's occupational level, cost of schooling, characteristics of the child, parents,

households and community, location and distance of formal education center. Poverty and illiteracy are reinforced by traditional customs such as polygamy and preference for large family size. Child street trading is a threat to the continued survival of the society; it distorts government policies in the education of the youths. It also distorts acquisition of vocational skills and relevant education thereby destroying the economic sector (Esweren, 2001; Farauta, 2013).

Ago (2019) maintained that, street hawking is one of the fastest growing events in Nigeria; in every street, there are children both boys and girls hawking just to make a living. Street hawking started as a result of poor socio-economic status or background of parents; it could also be the issue of child trafficking or death of one's parents. Street hawking tends to have a correlation with the socio-economic status of parents or guidance.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Although, street hawking, can contribute to the economic growth and development, however, the risks that are attached supersede the economic positive aspect of it. Risks like motor accident, rape, kidnapping, extortion, sexual molestation and the child involvement in other antisocial behaviors are too great to ignore. Involvement in street hawking exposes secondary school girls to a lot of hazards like sexual defilement, sexual assaults, neglects and threat of punishment for speaking out as stated. The consequences of these acts usually result in an unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, psychological problems and a gradual withdrawal from a healthy relationship with the opposite gender and even dropping out from secondary schools (UNICEF, 2000; Ago, 2019). Oloko (1989) noted that street hawking exposes the male and female child to dangers posed by fraudsters and actual murderers because of their vulnerability at odd hawking hours. Although, various efforts were made by federal government and non-governmental organizations to stem the trend, such as the creation of children's games village, the passage of the Child's Rights Bill in 2005 by the National Assembly and the subsequent passage by some states, not much has been achieved as the trend continues. Although few empirical studies have been carried out on street hawking among girls in Nigeria (Ago, 2019; Agbo, 2017; Abraham, 2011; Adeyemi, 2007); there is no study that examines the social and academic impact of street hawking on secondary school girls in Zamfara state.

This study was justifiable because of the significant importance that will be derived. The study is expected to provide further information on the subject matter relating to the social and academic impact of street hawking among secondary school girls in Zamfara state. The study identified those social and academic impacts. As family demography could be an important determinant of child labor, parent's occupational level may be one of key factor that affects children's involvement in street hawking. Poor parents cannot afford to pay for children school fees, uniforms or other additional costs. Thus, they compelled to street hawking to pay for the educational resources (Bhat & Rather, 2010).

Arguments and justification of choosing the sociological variables as the main impact of street hawking in the study area are due to the unavailability of literature in these aspects because, to date, there is no empirical study that investigate the street hawking as social barrier of adolescent girl's involvement in street hawking and examines their academic achievement in Zamfara state. Therefore, this research intended to fill up the gaps in the literature by unveiling the social and academic impact of street hawking through investigating

the influence of parent's occupational level on street hawking among secondary school girls in Zamfara state.

### **Research Objectives**

To examine the significant relationship between parents' occupational level and street hawking among secondary school girls in Zamfara State.

### **Research Questions**

Is there significant relationship between parent's occupational level and street hawking among secondary school girls in Zamfara State?

### **Research Hypotheses**

**Ho:** There is no significant relationship between parent's occupational level and street hawking among secondary school girls in Zamfara State.

### **Material and Methods**

The study adopted descriptive survey design. The study was carried out in three senatorial zones of Zamfara state. The findings in this paper are drawn from a research study titled "street hawking as a social barrier to girl's education in northern Nigeria: a case of some selected secondary schools in Zamfara state. The population for this study is composed of girl's secondary students in public schools in Zamfara state. The students were selected from the three Senatorial District of the state. A stratified random sampling technique was used in selecting the sample. The schools were stratified on the basis of senatorial districts. Schools were identified based on their number of street hawkers. Schools from rural and urban areas were represented based on their consistent practice of street hawking in each senatorial district. Two schools from each educational zone were selected, making it a total of six schools. From each school a total number of 46 students were selected from both urban and rural schools in both western and central zones and 47 students from each school in the northern zone giving a total of 278 students selected. Questionnaires were used as instrument for data collection. The data was analyzed using descriptive statistics and inferential statistics.

Table 1

*Total Selected Sample Size for the Study*

S/N	Respondents	Study Samples
1	Western Zone (Urban School)	46
2	Western Zone (Rural School)	46
3	Central Zone (Urban School)	46
4	Central Zone (Rural School)	46
5	Northern Zone (Urban School)	47
6	Northern Zone (Rural School)	47
	TOTAL	278

Source: Israel, (1992), Krejcie & Morgan, (1970)

**Findings**

## Introduction

The obtained data was subjected to both descriptive and inferential statistics. The Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) for windows was used for data analysis. Descriptive and Inferential Statistics were used for the hypothesis. Percentages were computed. The hypothesis was tested using chi-square.

**Analysis of the Findings on Descriptive Statistic and Chi-square Test**

Descriptive Statistic and Chi-square Test are conducted on research question 1 in order to examine the significant relationship between Parent's Occupational Level and street hawking among secondary school girls in Zamfara State. These could be seen in the following tables:

Table 2

*Descriptive Statistic on the Relationship between Parent's Occupational Level and Street Hawking among Secondary School Girls in Zamfara State*

		Parents Occupation					
			Civil	Private			Total
Group	of Girls	Count	Servant	Business	Organization	Others	
Respondents	Involved street hawking	Count	35	83	59	101	278
		Expected	48.5	77.5	60.5	91.5	278.0
	Uninvolved street hawking	Count	62	72	62	82	278
		Expected	48.5	77.5	60.5	91.5	278.0
Total	Involved street hawking	% within Group of Respondents	12.6%	29.9%	21.2%	36.3%	100.0%
		% within Parents' Occupation	36.1%	53.5%	48.8%	55.2%	50.0%
	Uninvolved street hawking	% within Group of Respondents	22.3%	25.9%	22.3%	29.5%	100.0%
		% within Parents' Occupation	63.9%	46.5%	51.2%	44.8%	50.0%
Total	Involved street hawking	Count	97	155	121	183	556
		Expected	97.0	155.0	121.0	183.0	556.0
	Uninvolved street hawking	% within Group of Respondents	17.4%	27.9%	21.8%	32.9%	100.0%
		% within Parents' Occupation	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Total	Uninvolved street hawking	% of Total	11.2%	12.9%	11.2%	14.7%	50.0%
		% of Total	17.4%	27.9%	21.8%	32.9%	100.0%

Group of Respondents Parent's Occupational Level Cross tabulation

The analysis of table 2 indicated that of all the 278 parents of involved in street hawking only 35 parents represented by 12.6% are civil servants where by 62 parents represented by 22.3% are the parents of uninvolved in street hawking. When 29.9% representing 83 parents from the parents of involved in street hawking are business men, 72 parents of uninvolved in street hawking represented by 25.9% felled also into business class. 22.3% representing 62 parents out of 278 parents of uninvolved in street hawking are from privates' organizations, as the case of uninvolved in street hawking 21.2% representing 59 parents are also from private

organizations. The difference is clear when 36.3% representing 101 respondents from the parents of involved in street hawking who are not civil servants or business men or members of private organization and the parents of uninvolved in street hawking who are under this Colum are only 29.5% representing 82 parents out of the 278 parents.

### Hypotheses Testing

**Research question:** Is there significant relationship between Parent's Occupational Level and street hawking among secondary school girls in Zamfara State?

**Ho: There is no significant relationship between Parent's Occupational Level and street hawking among secondary school girls in Zamfara State.**

Table 3

*Significant Relationship between Parent's Occupational Level and Street Hawking Among Secondary School Girls in Zamfara State.*

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	10.343 <sup>a</sup>	3	.016
Likelihood Ratio	10.448	3	.015
Linear-by-Linear Association	5.672	1	.017
N of Valid Cases	556		

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 48.50.

Table 3 shows the findings of chi-square for the significant relationship between parent's occupational level and street hawking among secondary school girls in Zamfara State. The P value stand at .016 which is less than 0.05 ( $P < 0.05$ ), therefore, it can be statistically proven that there is significant relationship between parent's occupational level and street hawking among secondary school girls in Zamfara State. This is in line with Pearson chi-square table who maintained that, to be significant, the sig. (p-value) value needs to be .05 or smaller. In this case, the value of .000 which is p-value is less or smaller than the alpha value of 0.05. So it can be concluded that, the hypothesis was rejected.

### Discussion of the Findings

The findings of the present study indicated that, there is significant relationship between parent's occupational level and street hawking among secondary school girls in Zamfara state. The study is in line with a study conducted by Johnson and Ihesie (2015) who maintained that street hawking affects the academic performance of children. According to the researchers, about a third of the hawkers who were in school during their research admitted to worse grades since onset of hawking. This could be as a result of lack of time to study after school hours. For those who hawked in the morning before going to school, Ebigbo (2003) opined that most of them were perpetual late comers and lacked concentration in class as a result of fatigue and stress. A study conducted by Ubah and Bulus (2014) on the effect of street hawking on the academic performance of students in social studies in Nassarawa State, Nigeria, reported that the social studies students who engaged in street hawking performed lower than their counterpart who did not. Similarly, in a study carried out in Epe, Lagos among child traders by Ashimolowo, Aromolaran and Inegbedion (2010), it had been indicated that 70.9% of respondents admitted that street trading had a negative effect on their reading schedule, while 79.2% reported that it affected their school attendance rate. Ubah and Bulus (2014) in their study reported that the students were sometimes seen in uniform hawking goods at

hours when they ought to be in school. It is therefore not surprising that many of them end up dropping out of school and some of them could not communicate in English. Child hawking is one of the key practices that must be tackled in order to make progress with childhood education. According to International labour organization (2009), Worldwide, a link has been established between improving access to education and ending child labour. Low wages have been reported to contribute to incidents of street trading and child labour as children attempt to help support their families (Ashimolowo, Aromolaran & Inegbedion,2010; Akpan, Oluwabamide, 2010; Onuzulike, 2011). Key findings of a study carried out by George (2011) in 2010 among 175 child hawkers in Uyo, Nigeria, were that street hawking was attributed to unemployment and poverty. Similar findings were reported in a study in 2014 among 300 hawkers in Aba, Nigeria. In another study conducted by Johnson and Ihesie, (2015) indicated that a greater number of the respondents lived with their parents whose commonest means of livelihood was small scale trading, the proceeds of which may hardly be enough in most cases to cater for the often-large family sizes. Consequently, about two thirds of the children said the reason they were hawking was to augment family income. Majority had 4 or more siblings, with them being in many instances either 1st or 2nd in birth order. They were therefore expected by their parents to assist in providing for the younger family members.

### **Summary of the Major Findings**

The major findings of this study from the results of both descriptive statistics and chi-square that tested the hypothesis showed that there is significant relationship between parent's occupational level and street hawking among secondary school girls in Zamfara State.

### **Conclusion**

The study determines the influence of parent's occupational level on street hawking among secondary school girls in Zamfara state. Based on the methods and finding from the study, the descriptive statistics and chi-square results indicated that there is significant relationship between parent's occupational level and street hawking among secondary school girls in Zamfara State. With these results, the hypothesis was therefore rejected. The finding also showed that secondary school girls from low parent's occupational level are more likely to involve in street hawking compared to their counterparts.

### **Recommendations**

Considering the findings of this study which indicated that there is significant relationship between parent's occupational level and street hawking among secondary school girls in Zamfara State, the likelihood of secondary school girls from low parent's occupational level to involve in street hawking compared to their counterparts, and the extent to which family demography (parent's occupational level) is affecting academic achievement of secondary school students and their education more especially adolescent girls that involved in street hawking in Zamfara state, Nigeria; these findings are considered basic and require further research and discussion in this area. However, the following recommendations might be helpful to authorities and the whole community to solve and tackle adequately the problems of adolescent girl's street hawking.

Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that:

1. The Nigerian government, at all levels should provide financial or material incentives by adopting a poverty-alleviation strategy, particularly for households with low socio-



economic status and low occupational levels to help them send their daughters to school instead of street hawking.

2. Parents should be intensively enlightened to understand that education is the weapon that breaks the bond of ignorance and poverty, if this is understood by the parents and guardian, it will encourage them to do all within their powers to stop sending their adolescent girls for street hawking and send them to school despite all odds.
3. Community development programs like adult education programs need to be encouraged in order to systematically reduce the prevalence of adolescent girl's street hawking.
4. Finally, these recommendations are said to be appropriate in this particular context the benefits of which if fully implemented, the problem of street hawking among secondary school girls in Zamfara and Nigeria as a whole will be drastically reduce.

### Acknowledgement

This research work was supported by the management of Federal University Gusau Zamfara State Nigeria in collaboration with Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) with the following grant allocation number: "TETF/DR &S/CE/UNV/GUSAU/IBR/2020/VOL.1"

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