

# **Effects of Parental Profession on Students' Academic Performance In Financial Accounting In Federal Government Colleges, North-West Zone, Nigeria**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*This study was conducted to investigate the effects of the parental profession on students' academic performance in Financial Accounting in Federal Government Colleges in the North-West zone, Nigeria. The study was necessitated by the continuous decline in students' performance in Financial Accounting in Federal Government Colleges in North West zone, Nigeria. The study has one null hypothesis. Five hundred and twenty-nine students from the six Federal Government Colleges in the North-West zone, Nigeria, were used for the study. Regression analysis was used to test hypothesis one at 0.05 level of significance. The entire five null hypotheses were retained. The study revealed among others that: Based on the findings, the study concluded that parental profession has no effect on students' academic performance; which means that a child could excel in life irrespective of the type of profession his or her parents are engaged in so long as they can set achievable goal in life. In other words, children could set achievable goals in life. In view of this, the study, therefore, recommends that society should not rank people based on their profession no matter the type of profession they engaged in.*

**Keywords:** *Parental Profession, Students' Academic Performance, Financial Accounting, Federal Government Colleges*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Education is regarded as one of the most important pillar of nation development. This could be seen in the huge amount of funds invested annually by the Government for the main purpose of providing qualitative and quantitative education at all levels in Nigeria. In Nigeria, stakeholders in education needs to be appreciated. Educators and researchers have long been interested in exploring variables contributing

to the academic performance of students. Student's academic performance is the students' accomplishment in terms of grade obtained in a given test. Nabina (2019) revealed that several factors affect student's academic performance which includes students' factor, teachers factor, school factors, family background and parental factors and school background (Chabaya, Rembe and Wadesango 2019, Hlupo and Tsikira, 2012, Chinyoka and Naidu 2013, Hafiz, Tehsin, Malik, Muhammad and Muhammad, 2013).

The effects of the parental profession on students' academic performance in Financial Accounting needs to be addressed considering the fact that government expects good results at the end of SS 3. Udoh (2018) parental occupation is considered to have a place in the academic performance of students because the nature of occupation affects the time parents spend at work and at home and especially attention on the children's academic activities. Udoh (2018) maternal employment has an overall impact on the time mothers spend with their children, although one hour increase in employment is associated with a much smaller reduction in time spent with children. Adamu (2017) the fact remains that the time consumed by some occupations differs from the others since the length of training of each profession differs. There are some professions that allow those who are engaged in them to have time for themselves and these include the teaching profession, while other professions such as pilot, police work, and military take greater hours for those that are engaged in them.

Although some parents with busy schedules may make all necessary provisions for their children's education, children reared under such an atmosphere may be delinquent and may not be serious academically despite all the provisions made for them. Children from poor parents may be successful in academics because of the time their parents invested following their education progress. Chindanya, (2012) has stated that the role played by parents in their children's education and general competencies in understanding and use of language in understanding some concepts cannot be ruled out. However, some children tend to copy their parents in whatever they do so as to become like them, especially in the choice of career and this can propel them to work harder in their studies. Adamu (2017) parents who are pilot may end up having one of their children interested in becoming a pilot and this may encourage the child to work hard in school to achieve his/her goal for the future. Amoor (2016) nature of occupation engaged in by parents will determine how they give attention to their children's education because some parents that are engaged in low-income occupations ask their children to pay for their school fees and other educational resources materials needed. According to Shady (2015), for some parents, the opportunity cost of schooling is associated with a labor shortage, resources, and services lost by the reason of sending their children to school. Udoh (2018) child labor is indispensable to the survival of many rural households in Sub-Saharan Africa: Agricultural work, domestic work (cooking, collecting fuel, fetching water), marketing as well as child care services are required from children. The need for domestic labor has grown also with the rapid growth of urban areas. Low-paid occupation has made parents respond by sending their children into domestic labor markets in exchange for cash income (Amoor, 2016).

Financial Accounting, in relation to the effects of parental profession studied in this work, is one of the Business Studies subjects offered at the senior Secondary level. Udoh (2018), financial Accounting can be defined as a specialized area of instruction that deals directly with business skills and techniques, business knowledge and facts, business understanding, economic understanding, business attitudes and appreciations necessary to understand and adjust to the economic and social institution called "business" (Udoh, 2018).

Academic performance is the outcome of the educational goals that are achieved by the students. The performance is always evaluated in areas such as homework, oral test, and presentations. It is mainly considered to evaluate enhancement throughout the learning process. The student's academic performance may negatively correlate with the low parental socioeconomic status level as it may prevent the individual from gaining access to sources and resources of learning (Duke, 2011 & Eamon, 2015). Flegm (2015) reports that in educational institutions, success is measured by academic performance or how well a student meets the standards set by the institution. The student's academic performance in financial accounting has not been encouraging as reported by researchers such as (Udoh, 2018). However, West African Examination results of students studying Financial Accounting at the federal government colleges are perform very poorly as reported by Udoh (2018) using WAEC result analysis. The extent to which the effects of the parental profession on students' academic performance in Financial Accounting is what the researcher has an interest in finding out.

### **Statement of the Problem**

This study investigates the effects of the parental profession on students' academic performance in Financial Accounting in Federal Government Colleges in the North-West zone, Nigeria. The challenge of poor students' academic performance has been an issue of concern to parents and the stakeholder in Nigerian Federal Government Colleges in the North-West zone, Nigeria and financial accounting is not exceptional. It was in an attempt to find a solution to this that Udoh (2018) asserted that Federal Government Colleges were established to promote academic excellence in secondary education in Nigeria. However, the dwindling in students' academic performance has been accredited to a number of reasons including the profession of the parents of students. Udoh (2018) parental involvement has been seen in multiple ways, such as activities that parents engage in at home and at school and the positive attitude parents have towards their children's education, school, and teacher. What is however not clear is the extent to which parental profession can influence their children's academic performance?. This was the intent of this study and it was based on observation of students' performance in financial accounting in 110 Federal Government Colleges from 2015 to 2019 WEAC. The Federal Ministry of Education (2019) gave the analysis of performance in Financial Accounting at credit level in WAEC as follows: 2015 - 37% 2016 - 31% 2017 - 39% 2018 - 26% In one of the Federal Government Colleges in focus, the total credit pass in Financial Accounting was 43% in 2018 WEAC result analysis. This academic performance was very low for a college that was regarded as a model for others (Udoh, 2018). The researcher, being a teacher of Financial Accounting was concerned about such a poor performance as most of the students did very well at end of their Junior Secondary Examination (JSSE) in Business Studies conducted by NECO with the average score standing at 89% and above. It is important therefore to investigate the reason for the student's poor academic performance and to specifically clarify whether or not parental professions have any effect on students' poor performance in Financial Accounting.

### **Research Question**

1. What is the difference between parental professions in the teaching profession with those in the health profession on students' academic performance in financial accounting in federal government colleges of North-West, Nigeria?

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Family Background of the Children**

Family background constitutes one of the factors that determine the academic performance of a child. Parental background includes parental occupation, income, wealth, association, education, and the family's socio-economic status. Ibrahim (2018) states that the child's first place of contact with the world is the family. Ibrahim (2018) child acquires initial education and socialization from parents and other significant others in the family, thus parents are indeed the child's first educators. Ibrahim (2018) children who encounter poverty may live in bodily environments that offer less motivation and fewer resources for learning. Udoh (2018) that pupils from well-to-do homes have better quality learning materials, eat daily three meals, have many possessions, and have better-educated parents achieve more in school. It was also noted that if the home environment, for instance, is not encouraging, without media, television, magazines and pleasant parents, children suffer from a narrow code and therefore, will not perform well academically (Udoh, 2018). This is also supported by Chindanya (2019) who asserts that instability and unpredictability of family life is the most destructive force of a child's development. The family is the first and major agency of socialization that has a great influence and bearing on the development of the child (Threlfall, Seay, and Kohl, 2013).

Parental Profession Traditionally, the parental profession has been regarded as a predictor of children's academic performance. Those listed below are some of the professions that parents engage in and which directly or indirectly affect the children's academic performance. A recent meta-analysis of studies investigating the relationship between socio-economic status and academic achievement shows that different variables of socio-economic status e.g., parental education, parental income, and parental profession have different effects on academic attainment (Sirin, 2019). Increasingly parental occupational status is part of a larger constellation of sociological variables influencing children's school outcomes (Sirin, 2019). The nature of occupation engaged in by parents will determine how they give attention to their children's education because some parents that are engaged in low-income occupations ask their children to pay for their school fees and other educational resources materials needed. According to Shady (2019), for some parents, the opportunity cost of schooling is associated with labor shortage, resources, and services lost by reason for sending their children to school. Sani (2019) child labor is indispensable to the survival of many rural households in Sub-Sahara Africa: Agricultural work, domestic work (cooking, collecting fuel, fetching water), marketing as well as child care services are required from children. The need for domestic labor has grown also with the rapid growth of urban areas. Low-paid occupation has made parents to respond by sending their children into domestic labor markets in exchange for cash income (Saifi and Mehmood, 2019).

Low occupation breeds poverty. According to Saifi and Mehmood (2019), children's test scores are lowest when poverty persists across generations, and highest when material advantage is long-lasting. On the other hand, while good social skills also appear to be linked across generations, these do not make a significant direct contribution to the current gap in cognitive test scores between rich and poor children. Adamu (2018) found that the gap in attainment between children whose parents engage in low occupation and high occupation could not be compared; nevertheless, parental occupation had a significant effect on the academic achievement of students. It played a remarkable role in students' academic achievement.

Good parental occupation had a positive effect on the academic achievement of students. Adamu (2018) studied the effects of socio-economic status on student achievement and they used income, parent education, occupation, material possession at home, transport, and servants as the indicators of socioeconomic status, and data were analyzed by applying percentages. The findings revealed that parental education and occupation and facilities at home affected the student's achievement.

## **Students' Academic Performance of Financial Accounting Students in Federal Government Colleges**

Academic performance refers to how students deal with their studies and how they cope with a given task. The Nigeria Education Research and Development Council (NERDC, 2017) specified teaching materials to be used in teaching each subject in secondary school to enhance understanding and better performance in the examination. Failure to use teaching aids associated with each topic will inhibit understanding leading to students' poor performance.

A report from WAEC indicates that the level of attainment of candidates in all subjects over the years has been appalling. For instance, the results of the 2015 May/June West African Senior School Certificate Examination were not encouraging as only 37% out of 310,077 candidates obtained five credits in core subjects including Mathematics and English Language (Sani, 2015). An examination of past performances of students in secondary school indicates that in 20016 only 31% obtained five credits in core subjects, while 39% passed in 2017. In 2018, 26% scaled the line, with the worst performance. There was a high improvement in 2009 when 25.99 percent passed the examination, a figure that went down in 2010 to 20.04 percent (Sani, 2015).

At West African Examination Council (WAEC) marking centers in Kano for the past few years the academic performance of students at SSCE had dominated the discussion of the markers from different schools (Sani, 2015). Interaction revealed the continuous failure of students in National examination. The persistent poor performance of students in National examination in Nigeria in recent times made the development of secondary education in Nigeria a difficult task. Parents, guidance, and other stakeholders in the education sector have variously commented on the performance of secondary school students, particularly in English Language and Mathematics (Udoh, 2018).

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **Reliability of the Instrument**

In order to establish the internal consistency and stability of the measuring instrument, a test re-test method was used. The mean scores of the respondents from the pilot study were used to calculate the reliability coefficient of 0.82. This showed the reliability of the instrument in line with Nworgu (2014) who stated that any reliability coefficient between 0.6 to 0.9 was positive and showed internal stability of the measuring instrument.

## Procedure for data Collection

The researchers collected letter of introduction from the department which identified them and indicated that the researchers was truly carrying out research on the study in order to get maximum cooperation from the selected Federal Government Colleges in the North West, Nigeria. The questionnaire was administered by the researchers to the students to fill in all six Federal Government Colleges with the assistance of Financial Accounting teachers, one in each school, to coordinate the distribution of the questionnaire which was filled by the students. A total of 407 copies of the questionnaire were completed within the period of two (2) weeks

## Sampling Procedure

The total number of subjects that formed the population for the study was 529, and the entire population was used; hence no sample was drawn. Nworgu (2014) stressed that the whole population can be studied if the size of the population of the study is small in order to obtain ideal responses. In view of this, there is no sample size and sampling procedure.

**Table 1 Sampling Size**

S/No	State	Schools	No. of SS II
1.	Kaduna	FGC Kaduna	115
2	Kastina	FGC Kastina	60
3	Sokoto	FGC Sokoto	57
4.	Kebbi	FGC B/Kebbi	64
5.	Zamfara	FGC Gusau	63
6.	Kano	FGC Kano	120
7.	Jigawa	FGC Dutse	50
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>529</b>

Source: School Record from each school 2020/2021 Session

## FINDINGS

**Hypothesis One:** There is no significant effects of the Parental profession on the academic performance of financial accounting students whose parents are in Federal Government Colleges in the North-West zone, Nigeria.

**Table 2**

Variables	N	Mean	SD	t-cal	t-crit	Sign
Parental Profession	09	52.83	19.98	0.118	0.175	0.126
Students' academic achievement in Financial Accounting	520	63.86	10.21			

Source: Field study, 2021

Analysis of data used to determine null hypothesis one in Table 2 revealed that the mean score of parental profession was 52.83 with a standard deviation of 19.98 while the mean score of academic

performance was 63.86 with a standard deviation of 10.21. The calculated value was 0.118, found to be less than 0.175 for the critical value. The Probability value was also greater than the significance value of 0.05. The result, therefore, showed that parental profession had no significant influence on students' academic performance in Financial Accounting. The null hypothesis was therefore retained.

## **DISCUSSION**

Hypotheses one were tested to find out the effects of the parental profession on students' academic performance in Financial Accounting and whether there was no significant influence between parental profession on the academic performance of Financial Accounting students in Federal Government colleges of North Central geo-political zone, Nigeria. It was revealed that most of the students passed at the credit level. It is therefore indicated that parental profession had no effects on the performance of the students in Financial Accounting in Federal Government colleges of North-West zone, Nigeria. The mean score was 52.83 and the SD value of 19.98, the null hypothesis was retained that is,  $t_{cal}$  (0.175) was greater than 0.118 ( $t_{cal}$ ). Saifi and Mahmood (2019) conducted a study on the effect of social economic studies on students' achievement. They used income, parents' education, occupation, and materials possessed at home, transport, and servants as the indicators of social economic status, and data were analyzed by applying percentages. Their findings revealed that parental education and occupation and facilities at home affected students' achievement. Also in a related study Adamu (2017) conducted research on the relationship between Parent's Education, Occupation, and Academic Achievement of Senior Secondary Schools in Yobe State. The findings revealed that the factor that respondents prioritized in their career choice were their own interests, abilities, skills, and future salary, and their courses were related to medicine, engineering, and business. The conclusion of the study showed that parental occupation did not affect course preference but the most preferred course.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that the Parental profession has no effect on students' academic performance; this implies that a child can excel in life notwithstanding the type of profession engaged in by the parents. If the child is helped to set a goal at different stages in life, he or can become whatever he or she desires to become irrespective of the parents' profession. Parents should not allow the type of work they engage in to dominate their time in such a way that they fail to pay attention to other factors like diligence to the child's school work which can lead to better academic performance. The researchers also concluded that other future researchers in the field of financial accounting should investigate on the Influence of parental educational background on their children's choice of course of study in Federal Government Colleges in Nigeria.

## **AUTHOR STATEMENTS**

Dr. Abdulrazak Mohammed wrote methodology, analysis of data, conclusion and recommendation while Hassan Haruna wrote on the introduction aspect of the work, statement of the problem and literature review.

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## **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this article.

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