

Drop out among Basic Technology Students in Nigerian Educational System: Causes, Effects and Remedies

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Abstract

The paper explained the causes of drop out among Basic technology students in Nigerian educational system.. It also discussed its effects and remedies. The reason for introducing Basic technology in Nigerian educational system was highlighted. Basic technology students' enrolment by gender was mentioned in the paper. The paper disclosed that some of the causes of school dropout include parent socio- economic status, attitude of teachers to students in the class, the culture of people, distance of the school from the students and lack of school infrastructure. The effects of school dropout were discussed and this includes prostitution, spreading of diseases, increase in crime rate, and also turning the adolescent to a delinquent child. The remedies to school dropout include government providing incentives to students by giving them uniforms, exercise books, textbooks free and also provide conducive learning environment. Parents should monitor the progress of their children by going to the school during visiting period to check their performances. Communities can assist in minimizing school dropout rate by village heads advising parents about the importance of education and the effects of school dropout and also by introducing penalty for those that withdraw their children from school.

Keywords: Basic technology, Causes, Drop out, Educational system, Effect, Remedy

Introduction

Education is an instrument for developing the nation. It is also an instrument for developing hidden talents in an individual. It is the only means of eliminating illiteracy in any society. The importance of education to the development of individual and the national cannot be over emphasized. It is a great investment any country can make for accelerating development of its technology, economic and human resources. Isife and Ogakwe (2012) explained that education is a powerful tool or weapon that can be used to eradicate ignorance, poverty, diseases and produce individual that can function effectively in the society. Onwuka (2012) pointed out that education is the instrument that is used to free people from incapacitation and exclusion. When an individual is freed from incapacitation and exclusion or illiteracy, there is usually a change in that person's behaviour. This change influences the person's attitude and his whole life (Apebende, 2013). It is important to note that before obtaining B.Eng (Bachelor of Engineering), B.Tech.Ed (Bachelor of Technology Education), HND. Engr (Higher National

Diploma in Engineering) that person must pass through junior secondary school. Therefore, strong foundation must be laid at the Junior secondary school.

Basic technology is one of the subjects offered to learners towards preparation for the world of work. The students are taught technical drawing, technical trades such as metalwork, woodwork, Basic electricity, Brick/block laying, computer, auto mechanics etc in addition to academic subjects. Theoretical knowledge and practical skills imparted to learners at this level of education is elementary. Though, intelligent learners can exercise dexterity in the use tools and machines if the workshop is well equipped and carry out production, repair and maintenance of items, tools and machines. The essence of introducing Basic technology at the Junior secondary school is to enable learners learn trades and become self reliant instead of staying idle especially for those who can't proceed beyond that level of education while the intelligent learners proceed to senior secondary school to offer academic and technical subjects that can qualify them to read a course of their choice at the university or polytechnic. Basic technology is a subject that is compulsory for all Junior secondary school students because of its benefits to individuals and the society. Students should be encouraged to develop interest in Basic technology at the junior secondary school if not technological development in Nigeria will be a mirage. Therefore, drop out among Basic technology students should be discouraged by parents and government.

Drop out of school among Basic technology students means Basic technology students withdrawing from school before graduation due to some factors. Hornby (2000) explained drop out of school as a process whereby a person leaves school before he completes the study. He went further to define drop out of school as a situation by which a person rejects the ideas and way of behaving that are accepted by the rest of the society. United Nation Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (2008) said that drop out of school are those who could not complete a particular level of schooling. Similarly, a school dropout is a learner who discontinues from school at any level of the educational process.

The figure presented in table 1 and 2 below show both enrolment and drop out rate of Basic technology students.

Table 2: Basic technology Students' Enrolment by Gender in Junior Secondary Schools in 2008

s/no	State	M	F	Total
1	Abia	6,293	6,218	12,511
2	Adamawa	9,832	9,254	19,082
3	Akwa – Ibom	24,865	25,937	50,802
4	Anambra	55,985	55,389	111,374
5	Bauchi	10,970	8,993	19,963
6	Bayelsa	3,659	3,593	7,252
7	Benue	2,452	2,098	4,550
8.	Borno	8,342	7,602	15,944
9.	Cross – River	63,258	61,123	124,381
10.	Delta	567	501	1,068
11.	Ebonyi	8,002	9158	17,160
12.	Edo	-	-	-
13.	Ekiti	8,523	8,688	17,211
14.	Enugu	3,4016	33,714	67,730
15.	Gombe	4,115	4,115	8,270
16.	Imo	1,749	1,643	3,392
17.	Jigawa	48,402	45,294	93,693
18.	Kaduna	11,527	8,703	19,960
19.	Kano	42,97	39,645	85,860
20.	Katsina	4,703	38,830	85,860
21	Kebbi	13,632	11,297	24,929

22.	Kogi	8,669	6,135	14,804
23.	Kwara	18,898	18,339	37,237
24.	Lagos	-	-	-
25.	Nasarawa	24,372	24,051	48,423
26.	Niger	8,742	7,790	16,532
27.	Ogun	12,030	9,642	21,672
28.	Ondo	38,224	38,594	76,818
29.	Osun	38,201	40,360	78,561
30.	Oyo	35,733	36,683	72,416
31.	Plateau	66,203	71,621	137,824
32.	Rivers	7,581	7,412	14,993
33.	Sokoto	45,660	48,031	93,691
34.	Taraba	42,580	25,146	67,726
35.	Yobe	-	-	-
36.	Zamfara	4,560	3,837	8,397
37.	FCT, Abuja	8,389	4,158	12,547
	Total	765,761	723,631	1,489,392

Source: Universal Basic Education Commission, Abuja (2012)

Table 2: Junior Secondary school (Basic Technology Students) aged children out of school in Nigeria in 2012

School	Total number	Number of dropped out of schools	Percentage
Junior secondary School	10.9 million	2.8 million	26

Source: UNICEF (2013)

The population shown in table 1 and 2 are Basic technology students. It is a compulsory subject starting from JSS 1-3. It is clear that the dropout rate among Basic technology students in 2012 was high since none of them is expected to drop out of the programme before graduation. The low educational attainment in Nigeria may be responsible for terrorism and other social vices such as Boko Haram, kidnapping and armed robbery that is rampant in the country. Therefore, it is essential to provide solution to students dropping out of school, if not the other levels of education such as Polytechnic, College of Education and University will lack qualify students which will later affect workforce in various areas of human endeavour .

Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN) (2004) stated that secondary school is the education given to children after primary school and before the tertiary. The broad goals of secondary education are to prepare individual for useful living within the society and higher education. The specific goals of secondary education are stated as follows:

- a. Provide all primary school leavers with opportunity for education of a higher level irrespective of sex, social status, religious or ethnic background;
- b. Offer diversified curriculum to cater for the differences in talents, opportunities and future roles;
- c. Provide trained manpower in the applied science, technology and commerce at sub professional grades;
- d. Develop and promote Nigerian languages, art and culture in the context of world's cultural heritage;
- e. Inspire students with a desire for self improvement and achievement of excellence;
- f. Foster national unity with an emphasis on the common ties that unit us in our diversity,

- g. Raise a generation of people who can think for themselves, respect the views and feelings of others, respect dignity of labour, appreciate those values specified under our broad national goals and live as good citizens and
- h. Provide technical knowledge and vocational skills necessary for agricultural, industrial, commercial and economic development (FRN, 2004).
To achieve the stated goals, secondary education shall be six years duration, given in two stages; a junior secondary school stage and a senior secondary school stage. Each is three years duration (FRN, 2004).

Based on the above goals, parents, Junior secondary school administrators, teachers and individuals should strive to discourage drop out among students. There will be no effective participation and meaningful contribution to the society without formal education. Secondly, when a child drops from school he/she will not have the opportunity to develop his/her skills or talent that is hidden and later become a burden to his/her parents and the society.

Causes of School Drop Out

The causes of students dropping out of school are enormous. These include: parents socio – economic status, attitude of the teachers to students, culture of the people, distance of the school from the students, early marriage, domestic work, parents literacy level, school infrastructure e.t.c.

Parent social – economic status

Socio - economic status of parents contributes immensely to school dropout. Students from learned homes or educated families try to persevere when facing hardship due to advise received from their parents as a result of their experiences when they were in school while those from families that are not learned or educated tend to allow their children to withdraw from school when facing hardship. This happens due to lack of advise from their parents. Some parents usually find it difficult to raise the school fees when school resumes, therefore, take his child's withdrawal from school to be an advantage. Some students were withdrawn to hawking so that the family can get the daily meal. Financial limitation can force student out of school (State University.Com).

Attitude of teachers in the classroom

The attitude of some teachers causes drop out of school. Some teachers have natural hatred for some students and it shows in their faces. This results in either beating the student if he/she commits an error in the class or performs bad in his/her subject. A teacher is a leader of a class and it is expected of him to care and show love to all the students in his/her class irrespective of his/her character, religion, race e.t.c. When such trait is noticed in a teacher, it discourages the student from school and thereby leads to withdrawal from school. Paulynice (2014) observed that many students fail and withdraw from school due to lack of motivation in the class.

The Culture of People: cultural and traditional practices affect girl – child education in some communities. In some communities, they believe that boys can go to school while girls get married or take care of their junior ones .Some parents believe that girls can be impregnated while in school and become useless then others believe that educated girls usually find difficult to get husband. It is also believed that training girls is a waste of money since they automatically belong to another family when married. Therefore, some females that already enrolled in Junior secondary school later withdraw. Some parents prefer to send their children to Qur'anic schools than formal school because they didn't see the benefit of formal education.

Distance of the school from the students

It is not an over statement to say that some students withdraw from school because of distance. Where they live is far from school and no means of transportation. The only way to go to school is by walking. This mostly affects students that are between 9 to 10 years while those students between 11 and 15 years that withdraw from school due to the above reason could be attributed to mere laziness, lack of interest in schooling or poor attitude of parents to education.

Early marriage: Some girls withdraw from Junior secondary school due to early marriage. This is common to poor and uneducated families. Some parents give out their children for marriage due to financial constraints. Early marriage is another problem of adolescents. This may be attributed to financial insecurity, poor job prospect with

respect to their parents and drastic change of attitude towards peers by parents especially when the adolescent still depends on them after getting children. (Egbule & Ugoji in Usakwe & Osagie, 2010).

Domestic work

Boys or girls withdraw from school because of domestic work or to take care of their junior ones. It is very common in villages and towns where there are no child care centers. It is applicable mostly to first child of the family in some cases. It is evident that some children withdraw from school to perform some domestic work such as washing plates, clothes, fetching water and keeping the compound clean by sweeping, weeding or cutting grasses.

Parents' literacy level

Another factor responsible for school dropout is parents' literacy level. Some parents are not aware of the benefit of education despite the advantages of education witnessed everywhere. In the rural area, where the major source of income is agriculture, parents find it difficult to believe that their children will not be better than them through education. It is applicable to people that are in business. Some of them withdraw their children from school and train them in the particular business they are undertaken.. Osakwe and Osagie (2010) postulated that the society at large helps to contribute to school dropout problem in the sense that society cherishes wealth and honour wealthy men. The importance the society attaches to wealth lure the young girls and boys to pursue wealth rather than education.

Lack of school infrastructure

What discourages pupils from school is lack of school infrastructure. In some classes, students are up to 60 per teacher and sitting under the tree or outside the school building due to inadequate classroom desk and chair. It is an inconvenience to some students and due to this reason some of them later withdraw from the school. The other reasons for school drop out could be illness, poor performance in the class, lack of interest in Basic technology practical, caring for the sick parents, and moving with peer group having delinquent behaviour.

Effects of School Drop Out

Drop out of school has negative effect on the students themselves and the society at large. Drop out of school is not only an educational problem but has significant Social and psychological problem also. The effects include the following; prostitution, early marriage, spreading diseases, increase in crime rate and other social vices, turn to delinquent child.

- a. **Prostitution:** when girls drop out of school and have nothing doing, it leads them to look for ways of getting money in order to take care of themselves. Some of the girls end up being a prostitute. To them, it is the easiest way of getting money without stress since it is only to dress and wait for men in the street or in the hotel.
- b. **Early Marriage:** Drop out of school leads to early marriage. It is an opportunity for some parents to give out their daughters for marriage at early age. It is assumed that since the girl is not fit for academic work then the next option is marriage. After all, many parents don't care about girl - child education.
- c. **Spreading diseases.** Many that dropout of school are engaged in loving making and this leads to spread of diseases such as HIV/AIDS. They don't care to go for health check and before it is realized, many have been infected since HIV/AIDS can easily be transmitted through sex, blood transfusion and so on.
- d. **Increase in crime rate:** The social problem we have in this country today could be attributed to school dropout. Some of the pupils turn to armed robbers and thugs when they become adults. It is not an over statement to say that the terrorism we are witnessing in the country today such as Bokko Haram could be attributed to those that drop out of school. I doubt if any educated person with NCE or B.Sc/B.Ed can sacrifice his life for money through suicide bombing. If there are, then very few. It is not an over statement to say that it is those that drop out of school who do not know the value of education and the reason why they are created by God that can sacrifice their life for money.
- e. **Turn to delinquent child.** It is a fact that many school dropout indulge in taking drugs as a result of frustration and become a financial burden to their parents. They either force their parents to give them money or steal the money. These groups of people are not ready to get themselves involved in any income

generation activity or even to follow their parents to farm or help in the business that help in the up keeping of the family.

Remedies to School Drop Out

It is essential to provide solution to school dropout because of its adverse effects on the parents and society. Students dropping from school can lead to shortage of workforce in future. This can be tackled through various means such as government, school, community and parents.

Government: Government can assist in reducing dropout rate by providing incentives to students. This could be in form of providing exercise books, textbooks and uniform to students. Government should strive to provide conducive learning environment by building classrooms, provide enough desks and chairs. Instructional materials should be adequately provided to enhance teaching and learning. Government can as well build more schools and make it accessible to learners so that the issue of dropping out as a result of distance will not be there. Facilities for extra-curricular activities are essential and schools can be provided with funds to purchase them or it can be supplied by government. Some students like to go to school because of playing with their peer groups using these facilities thereby developing their interest in schooling. Various media such newspapers and television can be used by government for campaign to enlighten parents about importance of education.

School: School has a great role to play in students dropping out of school. There should a Guidance Counselor in all Junior secondary schools to talk to learners and advise them especially weak ones who intend to drop out of school. There are Junior secondary schools without Guidance Counselor. The school can always sensitize learners during assembly by telling them the importance of education. Learners should be occupied with school activities so that time for evil thought will not be there. The school management should always talk to teachers to cooperate with the weak pupils and make sure they participate effectively in the class. The teachers should consider individual differences among learners and be closer to the weak ones in order to improve their performances and to reduce dropout rate.

Community: It is vital to involve communities in finding solution to school dropout. Therefore, various communities should use their community meetings to sensitize parents about the importance of education and discourage them from withdrawing their children from school. The community can as well come out with a bye – law to prevent school dropout. The village heads can advise parents about the advantages of education and the effects of school dropout. They can also assist government to provide some essential things needed in the school such as building of classrooms, providing desks, chairs and instructional materials using local resources.

Parents: It is not an over statement to say that some parents contribute to school dropout. Parents should endeavour to provide the needs of their children and make sure they do not drop out of school. They should provide all the necessary things required by the school, sensitize their children by telling them the importance of education and monitor the progress of their children by visiting the school to check their performances. Parents can find out from the teachers on their own if his/her child is playing truancy. Association of Career and Technical Education (ACTE) (2007) disclosed that drop out of school can be prevented through mentoring/tutoring and engagement in academic activities at home and also involving such a child in individualized instruction.

Conclusion

The causes and effects of school dropout have been a serious concern to parents and educationists. Though, school dropout has significant social problem in the society. Learning starts from home and the ability of a child to perform well in the school or withdraw from school also depends on the attitude of the parents. Parents should strive to provide the needs their children especially when in school. It is important to educate them always about the benefits of education and the repercussion of dropping out of school when he/she becomes an adult. The school should endeavour to provide favourable conditions necessary for learning that can always encourage pupils to be in school especially by providing recreational facilities for playing during break period and when waiting for their parents after school. School dropout can be eliminated or minimized through provision of infrastructural facilities that can aid effective teaching, learning and to enhance retention of students in school. A law can be promulgated by government with reference to school dropout. This can prevent parents withdrawing their children from school.

Communities can assist in minimizing or stopping school drop out by advising parents during community meetings and introduce a penalty for anyone that withdraws his/her children from school.

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