

## **COVID-19 AND E-LEARNING IN PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATION IN NIGERIA: A SURVEY ON THE PERCEPTIONS OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS IN ONITSHA EDUCATION ZONE, ANAMBARA STATE, NIGERIA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The socio-economic backgrounds of households, epileptic power supply and poor internet connectivity in Nigeria have continued to partition the effectiveness of online learning of the primary school pupils across Nigeria, this is due to the closure of schools across the countries of the world as a result of the up-surge of COVID19 outbreak. Therefore, this study investigates the perceptions of primary school pupils concerning online learning in Onitsha Education Zone. Specifically, the study examines the relationship between households' socio-economic backgrounds and pupils' attitudes to online learning in Onitsha Education Zone during the COVID-19 outbreak and the impact of online learning on pupils' academic performance in Onitsha Education Zone. The study used a qualitative research methodology such as Focus Group Discussions, Key-Informant Interview and Questionnaire to elicit information from the respondents, the study population comprises of primary school pupils in Onitsha Education Zone, a sample size of 100 respondents from 100 households were selected for the survey in addition, the study used a random sampling technique to randomly select the respondents across the study areas, the study also used Chi-Square estimation techniques to analyze the data collected from the field. The results from the survey, shows that online learning is not effective in grooming primary school pupils in the study areas to learn from home during the school closure. The study also found a significant negative relationship between the socio-economic backgrounds of households and pupils attitudes to online learning in the study areas. In addition, the empirical findings from the survey also depict a somewhat inverse correlation between online learning and pupils learning outcomes during the school closure. Based on the analysis from our empirical findings in the study areas, this study therefore recommends that the government of Onitsha Education Zone and all stakeholders around its environs should beam their searchlights on E-learning by developing the educational sector of the state through crafting and fine-tuning meaningful educational policy initiatives that will address the issues surrounding the ineffectiveness of online learning across the state as we prepare for an era where COVID-19 becomes a part of our society.

**KEYWORDS:** COVID-19, e-learning, households' socio-economic backgrounds, pupils' academic performance, epileptic power supply, poor internet connectivity, high cost of data subscriptions.