

HOUSEHOLDS' INCOME STATUS AND PUPILS' RETENTION RATE IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN ANAMBRA STATE, NIGERIA: IMPLICATIONS FOR EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

IJEOMA M. OBIBUBA

Department of Primary Education, School of Early Childhood Care and Primary Education, Nwafor Orizu College of Education Nsugbe, Anambra State, **NIGERIA**

OLUWASEYI A. MOHAMMED

Research Department-Data Analytics Unit, NOI Polls, Abuja, Nigeria and Doctoral Researcher, Department of Economics, University of South Africa (UNISA), Pretoria, **SOUTH AFRICA**

ABSTRACT

Despite government's commitments in increasing children's retention and enrolment rates in primary schools in Nigeria, the number of out of school children in Anambra state have continued to increase. This may be attributed to low income status of households. This study analyzed the association between households' income status and learners' retention rate in primary schools in Anambra State; it also analyzed the relationship between parental involvement towards enrolling wards in primary school and emotional stress among out of school children in Anambra State, Nigeria. The research employed a descriptive quantitative research design to address the research problem in the study locations. A representative sample size of 1, 500 households were drawn across the three senatorial districts in the sampled State. The study developed a 5 points Likert scale questionnaire to elicit information from the respondents about their current income status and their wards retention rate in public and private primary schools across the study locations. The results of the study findings revealed that households' income status had a positive relationship with pupils' retention rate in primary schools in Anambra State, it also revealed negative relationship between parental involvement on enrolling pupils in primary school and emotional stress among out of school children across the study locations. Following the results from these research findings, the study concluded that households' level of income plays a significant role in pupils' retention rate in the primary schools across the study areas with the correlation coefficient of 0.754 and P-value of 0.01. Based on the results of the research findings, this study suggests that government should work towards improving the socio-economic status of households across the study locations through social safety net so as to encourage satisfactory pupils' enrolment into primary schools. Government should, in addition to tuition-free basic education, provide school wears and study materials for public primary schools to encourage satisfactory pupils' enrolment into primary schools in Anambra State and Nigeria at large.

Keywords: Household, Income, Retention Rate, Psychological Effect, Emotional Distress, Out-of-School Children, Anambra State-Nigeria.