

## ASSESSMENT OF PRIVATE SCHOOL PRACTITIONERS' INVOLVEMENT IN IMPLEMENTATION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CURRICULUM IN JOS METROPOLIS, PLATEAU STATE, NIGERIA

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### ABSTRACT

The study assessed Private School Practitioners' involvement in the implementation of Early Childhood Education Curriculum in Jos Metropolis, Plateau State, Nigeria. Three research questions and one null hypothesis guided the study. Descriptive survey research design was used for the study. The population was made of 162 private schools with 225 teachers. Twenty-seven schools and 40 early childhood education teachers were randomly sampled for the study. A structured Questionnaire for Early Childhood Education Teachers (QECET) with 20 items on 4points scales was used for data collection alongside observation checklist on learning materials and facilities. The instrument for data collection was validated by experts in Early Childhood Education, Curriculum Studies and Test, Measurement and Evaluation units respectively from university of Jos. Internal consistency of the instrument was established through Cronbach alpha with a correlation coefficient index of 0.89. The instrument was coded and the data obtained were analysed using SPSS version 25.0. Descriptive statistics of frequency table, mean, and standard deviation were used to answer the research questions and the hypothesis was tested using chi-square at 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that, majority of early childhood education teachers have their teaching qualifications in education. Most schools had limited play grounds and play facilities, inadequate learning materials, lack of government grants, use of foreign curriculum in some schools which posed major hindrances to effective curriculum implementation at early childhood education level in Nigeria. Hence, the study recommended that, learning resources should be provided and the state ministry of education should harmonize the curriculum used for implementing early childhood education while government through its educational agencies to frequently monitor the practices of private schools' operators in Plateau State, Nigeria.

**Keywords:** Curriculum Implementation, Early Childhood Education, Private School Practitioners