

1 Educational Status and Mothers' Child Rearing Practice as a
2 Predictor of Child Delinquency among Primary School Pupils in
3 Borno State, Nigeria

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7

8 **Abstract**

9 This study investigated the Educational status of mothers as a predictor of child delinquency
10 among primary school pupils in Borno State, Nigeria. The Educational differences of mothers
11 grouped illiterates, pre-post primary and post-secondary groups and the nature of
12 delinquencies associated with them were determined. The populations of the study were all
13 mothers of delinquent pupils in primary schools in Borno State and their delinquent children.
14 Data were collected from eight hundred mothers of various Educational groups and the
15 teachers of their delinquent children for the study. Stratified and purposive sampling
16 techniques were used to select the sample. Two types of self-made instrument: 55 items
17 questionnaire and 26 items child delinquent rating scale with Alfa reliability index of 0.89 and
18 0.93 were used to collect data for the study. Data generated were analyzed by the use of
19 descriptive (simple percentage, mean, standard deviation and standard) and step-wise
20 multiple regression statistic. The result indicated that there were differences in the
21 Educational status of mothers of delinquent pupils and the nature of delinquency associated
22 with their children and that Educational status of mothers could be a predictor of a child's
23 delinquent status. The researcher recommends grass root campaign for girl child education
24 and reality counseling for all mothers on how to help their children. Women with higher
25 educational status raise children with fewer delinquents; Mothers should be counseled to
26 improve on their Educational status.

27

28 *Index terms—*

29 **1 Educational Status and Mothers' Child Rearing**

30 Practice as a Predictor of Child Delinquency among Primary School Pupils in Borno State, Nigeria

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4 STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

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46 their Educational status.

47 I.

48 2 Introduction

49 Child-rearing practice is a universal human activity.

50 It is an industry of adult-child relationship where the child benefits in the process of his/her total development.
51 It is an interaction between the child and the caregiver, in which the child achieves mental, social and physical
52 development, acquires moral values, as well as creative individuality, consolidates language and understands more
53 deeply the cause and effect contingency of the physical world. It is a global human process where all types of
54 family structures (be it the two parents, single mothers, and fathers, adoptive parents, biracial, widows, aunts
55 and uncles older siblings) take the responsibility of nurturing, guiding/modeling the child to be properly brought
56 up.

57 Child-rearing is a human endeavor, a God-given privilege that requires thorough preparation as well as
58 commitment (Mambula 1999).

59 Educational status of mothers refers to the level of education of women under study. Women who have
60 not attended schools and those that did and obtained one type of qualification or the other such as Primary
61 School Certificate, GCE, NCE, Diploma, degree ,etc. Educational status of a mother is a characteristic that
62 could influence mother child-rearing practices. Kattey (1995), asserted that educated and high working class
63 women have positive attitudes that contribute towards child-rearing practices compared to low class working
64 women. Research conducted by Iwundu (2002) confirmed that high-class women give their children best moral
65 and academic training and plan the size of their family in proportion to their income and ability. ??nyechi and
66 Okere (2000) in a similar study titled 'Sources of parental anxiety' found that there is a significant difference
67 between anxiety level of educated and illiterate mothers when it comes to raising their children. Research by
68 ??kinboye (1996), on 'self concept study behavior and health attitude of male and female in Nigeria's adolescents',
69 discovered that both poor, rich, educated and non-educated parents have concern for their children's progress
70 and well-being. But there was a significant difference in the parents' level of support based on education and
71 economic status. The finding also shows that educated and high socioeconomic parents give better moral and
72 financial support to their children than the illiterates and low socio-economic parents.

73 Psychogenic theory of by McCord, McCord, and Zola, (1959) identified low-class education, economic and
74 poor or faulty culture as sources of delinquency in children. From their research, they discovered that delinquents
75 from low socio-economic status and low education parents and living in poor cultured society differed from non-
76 delinquents in the extent of parental rejection, an inconsistency of punishment and discipline. The Sociogenic
77 theory postulated by Resis and Rhodes, (1964) and Spergel (1964) stated that delinquency is rooted like the social
78 structure and the particular patterns of neighborhood and community life. Communities, where delinquent gangs
79 abound, are of high population density, low educated population, low socio-economic status and high rates of
80 family disorganization.

81 The way educated parents interact with their children especially in issues of discipline, could influence the level
82 of their children's development. ??obson, (1984) and ??fe and Egbochukwu (2001) posited that in rearing children,
83 emotional characteristic of each stage of a child needs consideration while disciplining the child. The level of
84 Parents education could help to deal the situations very well. Inability to handle it will lead to the development
85 of traits like violence, aggression, stress, resentment, anxiety, and desire for revenge among developing children.

86 Okocha and Egbochukwu (2007) stated that parenting featured with physical abuse especially in early childhood
87 could lead to delinquency at the adolescence stage. In their study 'physical abusive parenting a hindrance to
88 civic and grassroots development discovered that there are differences between those that have parents of low
89 and high educational background. They concluded that the educational status of parents could influence their
90 childrearing practice.

91 3 II.

92 4 Statement of Problem

93 Good child-rearing practice among Borno State mothers seems to have been affected as many childrearing mothers
94 have a poor educational background. Their poor education background has effect on their ability to practice
95 the best child care in raising their children and their choice of child care supplement. Consistency in care, love,
96 security training communication and other basic needs given by mother with a degree of sameness, consistency,
97 and continuity are no longer obtained. Coincidentally, it delinquent behaviors are now common among primary
98 school pupils in Borno State. Could this be due to the educational status of child-rearing mothers in Borno
99 State? This study is designed to determine whether the educational status of mothers and their rearing practices
100 are predictors of juvenile delinquency among primary school pupils in Borno State, Nigeria.

101 **5 III.**

102 **6 Objectives of the Study**

103 The study determines:

104 1. The types of child rearing practice educated and illiterate mothers in Borno use to supplement their child-
105 rearing practices 2. The differences in child-rearing practices and juvenile delinquency among primary school
106 pupils due to Educational status of mothers in Borno State, Nigeria.

107 3. The differences in the nature of juvenile delinquency among primary school pupils due to mothers'
108 educational status in Borno State, Nigeria.

109 IV.

110 **7 Research Questions**

111 The following research questions were answered in the course of the study. V.

112 **8 Research Hypothesis**

113 Child rearing practice and educational status of mothers in Borno State has no significant relationship with
114 juvenile delinquency among primary school pupils in Borno State, Nigeria.

115 **9 VI.**

116 **10 Methodology**

117 This study is a survey. It was used to determine the Educational status of child rearing mothers of delinquent
118 pupils in Borno State primary schools. It is used to determine whether pupils' delinquent behavior is associated
119 with their mothers' educational status. This method is used because the study is behavior related and
120 questionnaire and rating scale were therefore used to collect data. Jen, (2002) noted that the survey is suitable
121 for behavior related studies that deal with relationship between two or more variables.

122 The study population consisted of the mothers and the teachers of the delinquent children of six to eleven
123 (6)(7)(8)(9)(10)(11) years in public primary schools in Borno State. A total of 940 delinquent pupils were
124 identified and assessed by their teachers. The mothers of these delinquents automatically become the second
125 sample. At the end of the field work, the questionnaire filled by eight hundred (800) mothers are paired with the
126 delinquency rating scale filled by the teachers of their delinquent children were found to be useful for the study.

127 Two sets of researcher made instruments (55 questionnaire items for mothers and 26 items for delinquency
128 rating scale for teachers with an Alpha reliability of .89 and .93 respectively were used to collect data. Descriptive
129 statistic was used to answer the three research questions raised in the study and standard and step-wise multiple
130 regression analysis was used to test the null hypothesis at an alpha level of $P < 0.05$.

131 **11 VII. Data analysis, Result, and Discussion**

132 Three raised research questions, and null hypothesis was answered and tested respectively. When a group mean
133 of child practices is higher than the total means of the child-rearing practice, it is good. When the standard
134 deviation is less <1 or exactly $?1$, the deviation within the group child rearing practice is not much. When groups
135 mean of delinquency is higher than the total means it means that the delinquency is high.

136 When the standard deviation is less <1 or $?1$ the difference within the group is not much, but when it is
137 >1 within the group, it is much. When the F-ratio value is more than F critical, there is a positive statistical
138 relationship between the educational status of mothers and child rearing with juvenile delinquency.

139 Research Question1: What are the types of child-rearing practice mothers of different educational status use
140 in rearing their children in Borno State? Table 2 above shows that all mothers have above average score in child-
141 rearing practices but mothers with post-secondary educational qualification have higher mean in child rearing
142 practices while the illiterate mothers have a lower mean in child rearing practices. The Table ??lso shows that
143 children of noneducated mothers have higher levels of academicrelated delinquency but a lower level of personal
144 social and physical related delinquencies. Children of mothers with post-secondary education have a lower level of
145 academically-related delinquency but have a higher level of personal and physically related delinquencies. There
146 is high variation in practices and delinquencies among groups as all the standard deviations are above 1 one (1).

147 Null Hypothesis: Child-rearing Practices and educational status of mothers in Borno state has no significant
148 relationship with juvenile delinquency among primary school pupils, in Borno State, Nigeria. The result shows
149 that independent variables entered in the equation, educational qualification of mothers and child rearing practices
150 yielded a multiple $R=.825$, reflecting the contribution of educational qualification of mothers and child-rearing
151 practice on juvenile delinquency. The R square .697 indicates 70% of the variance observed in juvenile delinquency
152 among pupils was accounted for by the educational qualification of the mothers and their child-rearing practices.

153 Further analysis shows the relationship between the educational status of mothers and juvenile delinquency
154 of f-ratio of 14.354 which is more than the f critical value of 3.85. This implies that there is a positive
155 statistical relationship between the educational qualification, and mothers' and child-rearing practices and juvenile

18 RECOMMENDATION

156 delinquency among primary school pupils in Borno State. A change of one standard deviation in educational
157 qualification of mothers and child rearing practices produce a change in standard deviation in juvenile delinquency.

158 The null hypothesis of child rearing and educational qualification of mothers have no significant relationship
159 with juvenile delinquency among primary school pupils in Borno State", is therefore rejected. It equally means
160 that when mothers are educated, they practice better child-rearing which helps in developing the child to have
161 less delinquent behavior.

162 12 IX.

163 13 Summary of Findings and Discussion

164 Analysis of results in this study revealed that:

165 14 Discussion

166 Regarding question one that sought for the types of child -rearing practices mothers use in Borno State; The
167 research shows that child-rearing mothers in Borno use varieties of child-rearing practices to raise their children.
168 The most commonly used is Nanny Childcare while the sibling/relation care is the least used. The total of 637
169 out of 800 sample used are educated mothers accounting for 79.6% of the sample. It means that about 79.6%
170 of mothers that use varieties of childrearing care to supplement their child-rearing practices in Borno state are
171 educated. It equally means that 79.6% of sampled delinquent children in Borno State are children of educated
172 women of different educational levels.

173 The highly educated women have better childrearing practices than the illiterate mothers. The finding in
174 respect of null hypothesis indicates that Educational Qualification and child -rearing of mothers is a predictor of
175 child delinquency among primary school pupils in Borno State.

176 The findings in this study seem to agree with finding by Iwundu, (2000) that highly educated women have
177 less delinquent children because they plan the seizes of their family. They also have better economic stands, and
178 education wise, they know better the problems obtained in the different child-rearing practices used in rearing
179 children. Their level of education helps them direct their children academically. The high mean of physical and
180 personal social related delinquencies observed could be due to some issues that call for another research.

181 Childrearing practice is the stronger variable that has significant predicting strength on juvenile delinquency
182 and educational qualification of mothers can contribute much. When a child is not given proper cares, the child
183 will tend to be delinquent.

184 15 XI.

185 16 Conclusion

186 Findings of the study show that educated and non-educated mothers in Borno State use varieties of child-rearing
187 practices to raise their children though most of those that use supplement Childs-care are educated mothers.
188 Highly educated mothers have better child rearing practices. The study shows that children of higher educated
189 mothers have less academically related delinquency.

190 17 XII.

191 18 Recommendation

192 The researcher recommends that enlightenment or sensitization should be made across the Local Government
193 Areas in Borno state, Nigeria and to all stake-holders on the need for Girl Child Education, and reality counselling
194 for all children-rearing mothers or how to help their children. If this is done, delinquency among children will be
195 less. ^{1 2}

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Child rearing practice	The Choice by education status
EM	
Day	83
Care	
Mix	134
care	
Mother care	31
Nanny care	281
Neighborhood care	78
Siblings/Relation Care	30
Total	637

KeyEM = Educated Mothers

NEM =Non-educated Mothers

Table1: Presents Frequency distribution and percentages of the types of child-rearing practice used by educated and illiterate mothers in Borno State to supplement their child-rearing practice. The table reveals that Day-care ,Mixed -care, Nanny-Care, Neighborhood and Sibling/relation-care are the types used by both Educated and non-educated mothers in Borno to supplement their child-rearing practices. Day

Table1.2: Nigeria?

Location of mother	Child-rearing practices			
	Feeding	Cleaning	Teaching/	Securi
	(8 items)	(9 items)	Train-ing	Love (9 items)
			(5 items)	& Com (9 items)
Illiterates X N SD	4.2615	6.1231	3.1846	5.75385.7538
	130	130	310	130 130
	2.5443	3.4798	1.8333	3.28033.2803
Pry/Post	3.9589	6.5285	3.3101	6.02536.0253
pray X	316	316	316	316 316
N SD	2.1115	3.2194	1.7653	3.10853.1085
Total X	4.8850	6.6450	3.4038	6.18386.1838
N	800	800	800	800 800
SD	2.3930	3.1247	1.7035	3.00023.0002

Figure 1: Table 1 :

2

They also have means and standard deviation of 4.99 ± 1.28 , 7.25 ± 2.41 and 3.29 ± 1.16 in academic, personal social and physical delinquencies respectively.

Mothers with primary and post primary educational qualification have means and standard deviations of 3.96 ± 2.14 , 0.53 ± 3.22 , 3.31 ± 1.77 , 6.03 ± 3.11 , 6.03 ± 3.11 and 5.43 ± 2.71 in ling, cleaning, teaching and training, security love and communication and discipline practices lively They also have mean and standard deviation or 4.02 ± 1.34 , 7.43 ± 2.38 and 3.46 ± 2 in academic, personal social and physical related delinquency respectively.

Mothers that have post-secondary educational qualification have means and standard deviations of 4.94 ± 2

Figure 2: Table 2 :

3

Model	Sum of Square	DF	Mean square	F	Sig
Regression	989.119	1	989.119	24.1570	
Residual	32674.561	798	40.946		
Total	33663.680	799			

$R = .825$; $R^2 = .697$ and $F = (1,799=3.85)$; Predictors = Education of Mothers and child

VIII. Dependent Variable Juvenile

Delinquency

Table 3 is a Forward stepwise multiple regression ANOVA table on educational qualification of mothers about child rearing practice and juvenile delinquency among primary school pupils in Borno State.

Figure 3: Table 3 :

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