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Influence of Family Types on Academic Performance of Public Senior Secondary School Students in Rivers State

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ABSTRACT
The study examined the Influence of Family Types on Academic Performance among Public Senior Secondary School Students in Rivers State To achieve the purpose of the study, the researcher developed three (3) objectives, three (3) research questions and three (3) null hypotheses respectively guided the study. The research design used for the study was a descriptive research design. The population of the study consisted of Twenty-One Thousand, Nine Hundred And Fifty-six (21,956) students. The sampling technique used for the study was multistage random sampling technique, with a sample size of 323 students. The instrument used for the data collection was self-structured questionnaire titled: Influence of Family Types on Academic Performance Questionnaire, which was patterned towards 4-point rating scale. The data gathered were analyzed using weighted mean and standard deviation for the research questions, while the null hypotheses were tested using z-test statistical tool at 0.05 level of significance. Based on the analysis of the data, the findings of the study reveals: single parent family, nuclear family structure, and polygamous family had significant influence on the academic performance of public senior secondary students in Rivers State. Based on the findings of the study, the researcher recommends that: Government should organize enlightenment or awareness campaign on the dangers of single parent family on academic performance among the children or senior secondary school students, Non-governmental organizations like churches, companies, etc. should preach or campaign on the benefits of nuclear family which has to do with one man, one wife, Parents should also disregard option of polygamous family in their marriage hence it is always leading to division and disagreement in the future.
Keywords: Influence, Family Types, Academic Performance, single parent family, nuclear family, polygamous family

INTRODUCTION

Education is the bedrock of meaningful societal development and human capacity building. The process of education is carried out in the school a place that nurtures the potential of an individual and the entrance to academic excellence. Education provides for the creation of awareness, acquisition of requisite skills and knowledge that enable an individual function properly in a society. Educational activities are geared towards ensuring that students achieve mastery of educational objectives. In school, the extent to which these objectives have been achieved is determined by their level of time management and behaviour as students' success are reflected in their academic performance.

The family is pronouncedly important to the development, emotional and cognitive growth of a child. He further observed that a child first learns about right and wrong in the family. Modern parents or family face many challenges in teaching values to their children. When you bring your child home for the first time, your family will become their social group (Aremu, 2010). Parents serve as the first

teachers for children. What your child learns through the interactions between you (family) and them is what they will carry for the rest of their life in regards to how to behave and treat others.

Family as an agent of socialization plays a very important role in upbringing of a child. According to Obi (2014), there are different types of family which include: Nuclear Family - This is the traditional type of family structure that consists of two parents (father and mother) and children. The nuclear family was long held in esteem by society as being the ideal in which to raise children. Obi also observed that children in nuclear families receive strength and stability from the two-parent structure and generally have more opportunities due to the financial ease of two adults. We also have single parent family. This consists of one parent raising one or more children on his or her own. Often, a single parent family is a mother with her children, although there are single fathers as well. The single parent family is the biggest challenge society has seen in terms of the changes in family structures. When only one parent is at home, it may be a struggle to find childcare, as there is only one parent working. This limits income, proper care or training and other opportunities in many cases (Billings, 2012).

The extended family structure consists of two or more adults who are related, either by blood or marriage, living in the same home. This family structure includes many relatives living together and working toward common goals, such as raising the children and keeping up with the household duties. We also have childless family. This family structure is sometimes the "forgotten family" as it does not meet the traditional standard set by the society. Childless family consists of a husband and wife living and working together. Many childless families take on the responsibility of pet ownership or have extensive contact with their nieces and nephews as a substitute for having their own children.

Step Family – This family structure consists of a new husband and wife and their children from previous marriages or relationships. Step families are as common as the nuclear family, although they tend to have more problems, such as adjustment periods and discipline issues among the children. Grand-parent family is when one or more grandparent is raising their grandchild or grandchildren.

The family, being a powerful influence on the child and its importance as a primary agent of socialization could in no doubt enhance or hinder the academic achievement of the child depending on the social climate in the family. Variance in psycho-social emotional fortification in the monogamy and polygamy family background could be an indicator to high or low academic performance of students. Research on this aspect has not been exhaustively looked into in Nigeria where the two types of family system is actively practiced bearing in mind the intervening effect of high and low socio-economic status and emotional stability of students which is a prerequisite to academic achievement (Adebule, 2014).

Concept of Family

The family is the smallest unit of society. It is a bio-social unit. Agbukuru (2012) defined the family as a group of individuals related to each other by a recognized legal process which established a consenting relationships (such as marriage and adoption), by blood ties (natural parents, biological child siblings), or by both (for example mother-son-step father family or step siblings). The values, structure and dynamics of family significantly influence its member's behaviour, attitudes, interest and general well being. These factors cushion stress and anxiety and also provide psychologically. However, the family is the main source of physical and psychological problems to its members. Ezeilo (2015) added that the family is a prime giver of health and ill-health. Ezennaya, (2010) opined that what the family gives to the child is what the child presents to people outside the home.

Caithoun, Light and Keller (2017) asserted that in the importance of the family, the family responds to some of the most fundamental human needs, both individual and collective:

a) The need for love and emotional security
b) The need to regulate sexual behaviour
c) The need to produce new generations
d) The need to protect the young and disabled
e) The need to place people in the social order

To fulfill these functions, family structures vary from one society to another; and also vary morally and naturally. Family structure includes monogamy and polygamy. However, for the purpose of this study the following structural forms are considered: intact family, dual-career family, single parent family, step family and polygamous family. An intact family is a two-parent family Michelle (2015)

explained that it is known as a nuclear family, a traditional type of family structure, long held in esteem by society as being the ideal in which to raise children. It includes parents and children. Akanni (2013) reveals that a child from a broken home who did not grow under the tutelage of both father and mother will not be able to raise a home without bruises unless God intervenes. In another vein, when two parents hold jobs, family income increases but the issue of parenting and house chores becomes a challenge.

Another family structure through which the fundamental needs of family must be fulfilled is single-parent household. This family must have arisen due to divorce, death of spouse or out of wedlock situation. Here, the responsibility of rearing child or children in the family rests on the arms of the single parent. A single parent may face the challenges of financial constraints, increase aggression, and disruptive behaviour on the part of the children which in turn may lead to peer rejection, academic failure, and other antisocial behaviour. Remarriage produces a new family structure. When divorced parents, or bereaved parents, or out-of wedlock parents decide to marry again, the result is the raising of step-family.

Polygamous is also known as plural-marriage-a marriage of multiple partners. According to Colman (2013) it is "the custom or practice of having more than one spouse (whether husband or wife at the same time or, in animals of having more than one mate during same breeding season. There is the likelihood that the amount of responsibility and challenges prevailing in a monogamous household may likely be multiplied to the number of wives vis-à-vis children in a polygamous home. So, parenting in a polygamous family may be much more a herculean one.

Concept of Academic Performance

Academic attainment is an important parameter used in measuring students' success or failure in a particular subject in school. Success, in an educational institution is measured by academic performance. Poor performance of Secondary School students has become a common concern of parents, legislators, teachers, counsellors and psychologist. Olayinka (2019) pointed out that the family is the bedrock of the society and reported that a stable and well developed childhood can be guaranteed by a stable family. The current poor economic status of most parents and families in the country has exposed children to undesirable challenges that have negatively affected their academic performance in school. Whatever may be the reason for these poor performances should constitute a cause for concern because students' academic performance plays an important role in producing best quality graduates who will become great leaders and manpower for the country thus responsible for the country's economic and social development.

Students in secondary schools are being encouraged to study government irrespective of which field of study the students wishes to pursue in future. This is so because this subject enables the student to be abreast with the country's policies and activates leadership potentials in students. Moreover, there is hardly any endeavour to any venture where government is not being practiced. It is needed for political and economic developments, which are the two main ideologies, in addition to technology that govern any nation.

Family Types and Students Academic Performance

There is documented evidence of influence of family size on students' academic performance in various subjects in school. Family size in the context of this study refers to the total number of children in a child's family in addition to the child himself. Large numbered families whether rich or poor are difficult to maintain, they are characterized with a high number of children, rowdiness and this does not create convenience for learning. They also create in the upbringing of children some identified problems such as feeding, poor clothing, insufficient funds, and lack of proper attention for children, disciplinary problems and malnutrition which impact negatively on children academic performance Eristwhistle (2016), stated that studies carried out in Scotland found that, children with relatively small size families performed better in verbal and non-verbal tests, than children from large family size in the same test. This according to him is because children from large families have less frequent interactions with adults. Similarly, parental attention by parents declines as the number of sibling's increases and latter born children perform less well than their earlier born siblings.

According to US census data, almost 70% of children live in nuclear families and statistics have also shown that children from such families tend to fare better on a number of cognitive, emotional and behavioural needs. Single parent's family consists of one parent raising one or more children on his/her own. Most times it involves a mother with her children. Although, it involves only fathers as well in some cases.

Billings (2012) stated that such children become delinquent because they are most often deprived of security, protection and love that should come from both parents and these impacts negatively on academic success of the child or children. Stone (2012) asserted that children from single homes are more likely to show to a great extent, the effect of under nourishment, illness, insufficient rest as well as negative attitude towards school, which manifest in infancy, which is a factor that can affect achievement and performance negatively.

In the same vein, Kessler (2013) blamed poor academic performance to another family type known as step family. Individuals who divorce most times choose to remarry. This type of family constitutes two separate families merging in to one unit (a new husband and new wife and their children from previous marriage or relationship). The researcher stated further that children from such families most often become depressed and would want to compensate themselves in acts of unrest and might go astray and loose academic focus. This is because the atmosphere at such homes is not likely to be conducive for the children to make decisions of their own.

Certainly, academic performance is a very important tool with which the success, ability and capability of a student to contribute to the development of a society are measured. The implication of this is that students that perform beyond average of the standard set by the society is not only seen as brilliant but as well probable to contribute meaningfully to the sustenance, growth and development of such society, especially, in the future. As a result of this, every society constantly observe the academic performance of its students at all levels of educational institutions.

Family structure suggests whether a family is intact or broken. A broken family in the context of this research work is a family that has split or separated for various reasons such as death of a parent, separation, divorce or abandonment that may lead to children being raised by single parents, stepparents or relatives. On the other hand, an intact family refers to a family in which both biological parents are present and living together in the home. The intactness of a family may not necessarily mean that it functions well or that the children are being well catered for, as all manners of normal conflicts and problems as well as life threatening issues do occur in intact families as well. Structural analysis of families is important because family is the most important and informal socializing agent that moulds the child in society and the future of the child depends upon it (Colman, 2013). It helps children to recognize and achieve important societal goals. Impliedly, family setting and background play important role in strengthening or upsetting student's academic performance.

Single-Parent Family: A single parent is a separated person who bears virtually all of the daily and regular responsibilities of economic status and family structure. For the purpose of this study, family structure is being conceived in terms of single- or two-parent families. Thus, the intention of this research work is to examine whether these parent styles have different impacts on students' academic performance or not.

Types of Family

The following types of family are discussed as thus:

Nuclear Family: Ezeilo (2015) explained that, it is a traditional type of family structure that consists of two parents (father and mother) and children. The nuclear family was long held in esteem by society as being the idea in which to raise children. Obi also observed that children in nuclear families receive strength and stability from the two-parent structure and generally have more opportunities due to the financial ease of two adults. There is also single parent family. Michelle (2015) observed that it consists of one parent raising one or more children on his own. Often, a single parent family is a mother with her children, although there are single fathers as well. The single parent family is the biggest challenge society has seen in terms the changes in family structures. When only one parent is at home, it may be a struggle to find childcare, as there is only one parent working. This limits income, proper care or training and other opportunities in many cases.

The extended family structure consists of two or more adults who related, either by blood or marriage, living in the same home. This family structure includes many relatives living together and working

toward common goals, such as raising the children and keeping up with the household duties. We also have childless family. This family structure is sometimes the "forgotten family" as it does not meet the traditional standard set by the society. Childless family consists of a husband and wife living and working together. Many childless families take on the responsibility of pet ownership or have extensive contact with their nieces and nephews as a substitute for having their own children. Step Family – This family structure consists of a new husband and wife and their children from previous marriages or relationships. Step families are about as common as the nuclear family, although they tend to have more problems, such as adjustment periods and discipline issues among the children. Grand-parent family is when one or more grandparent is raising their grandchild or grandchildren.

Polygamous Family: Polygamous family is the type of family where a man is married to more than one wife at a time. Odu (2018) observed that, it is the practice of a man marrying multiple spouses. Ewumi (2019) also observed that worldwide, different societies variously encourage, accept or outlaw polygamy. Of societies, which allow or tolerate polygamy, in the vast majority of cases the form accepted is polygamy. From a religious point of view, the bible shows over 36 named men who had more than one wife. In cultures which practice polygamy, its prevalence among that population if often connected to class and socio-economic status.

Different Family Types and their Unique Family Dynamics

Ellwood and Jencks (2014), reviewed 6 different types of family and their dynamics, which include:

1. **Nuclear Family:** Nuclear families, also known as elementary or traditional families, consist of two parents (usually married or common law) and their children. Nuclear families may have one or more children who are biological or adopted, but the main idea is that the parents are raising their kids together in the family home. Even though nuclear families seem to be on the decline, 2016 U.S. Census data shows that 69% of children still live in nuclear families. Even though it doesn't always work out that way, to most people this is the ideal family environment to raise children in.

Strengths of Nuclear Families:

1. Financially stable, both parents usually work now
2. Children raised in a stable parenting situation
3. Consistency
4. Emphasis on health and education
5. Focus on communication

Weaknesses of Nuclear Families:

1. Exclusion of extended family can lead to isolation and stress
2. Can struggle with conflict resolution
3. Nuclear families can become too child-focused, resulting in self-centered children and families neglecting other important things

Nuclear families can be strong and successful, with both parents being great examples for their kids. These kids often have many advantages over other families with less, which can help them get ahead in life. However, like any family, nuclear families have their struggles to face. For example, if parents shut out grandparents and other extended family, chances are their support system will not be strong and getting through hard times can be challenging.

2. **Single Parent**: Single parent families consist of one parent with one or more kids. In these cases, the parent either, never married, is widowed, or divorced. A paper by Ellwood and Jencks, (2014) talks about how single-parent families have been on the rise since the 1960s when divorce rates started going up (and so did births happening out of wedlock). They suggest that these changes could be due to many different factors, from changing morals in society to increasing arguments over gender roles. A mother or father raising kids alone is not that uncommon anymore, and like any other family type single parent homes have their pros and cons. Although fans of traditional families believe that children need both parents, we can see that some single parent families do well while others struggle.

Strengths of Single-Parent Families:

1. Family members can become very close
2. Learn to share household duties
3. Children and parents can become very resilient

Weaknesses of Single-Parent Families:

1. Families struggle to get by on one income; some are on social assistance
2. It can be difficult for parents to work full-time and still afford quality childcare
3. Parenting can be inconsistent, especially if kids go back and forth between parents.

Being a single parent raising kids can be hard. It can also be hard being a kid when your parents are split up or if you grew up only knowing one parent. In this situation, families need to make the best of what they have and rely on each other for love and support.

3. **Extended Family**: While most people in the U.S. would identify nuclear families as being the 'traditional' family type, in different cultures extended families are much more common and have been around for hundreds of years. Extended families are families with two or more adults who are related through blood or marriage, usually along with children. Typically, extended families live together for social support and to achieve common goals. For example, parents may live with their children and their children's grandparents. This gives the family the ability to provide care for their elderly, and in turn, the grandparents may be able to help with childcare while the parents are at work.

Strengths of Extended Families:

1. Things like respect and care for the elderly are important
2. More family around to help with chores, child care, in case of emergencies, etc.
3. Social support

Weaknesses of Extended Families:

1. Financial issues can occur if parents are supporting several other adults and children without any extra income
2. Lack of privacy depending on the living environment

In North America, extended families living together isn't that common, but it does happen occasionally. What's nice about extended families is how close they can be and how they give each other a lot of support. That doesn't mean that so many family members living together are always easy, though. There can be differences in opinion in extended families, and some people might live this way because they obligated, not because they want to.

Characteristics and Importance of Family

Lot (2012) stated that family can have many different characteristics. Here are a few of them.

1. A family frequently spends time together. Even if they live far apart, they will still try to call or message one another on a frequent basis. Families tend to get together during holidays and other events, too.
2. Family shows appreciation for one another. If a family member gives you a gift, you appreciate what they gave you. Families tend to respect one another, even if they don't agree all the time.
3. Families are good communicators. Someone in the family isn't afraid to get something off their chest. If there is a disagreement, the family works their hardest to resolve that in order to be amicable.
4. Families can share certain values and beliefs. Be it religious, political, or moral beliefs. Of course, families can also disagree on certain beliefs, too. Someone isn't a part of the family because they aren't religious. They stick to one another any chance they get. Someone in the family would not be afraid to defend his/her family or support them. Of course, there is a limit. However, a good family will support members if they are looking for a certain job, or if they want to go to college.

Statement of the Problem

In recent times, students have been reported to exhibiting one form of academic performance or the other. This has brought unhealthy scenario in secondary schools. Some teachers are embarrassed and harassed by same deviants. Some families have discovered that they have totally lost control of their wards. Disobedience, violence and lack of respect to rules, norms and elders have become the order of the day. The importance of family upbringing of a child cannot be over emphasis in the society.

The issue of the upsurge of academic failure among the youths is a menace that has stirred both the government and stakeholders in the face. There is a consensus of opinion about the fallen standard of education as a big problem that is hindering the posterity of the nation in terms of man power resources. Most students in secondary school experience academic problem that manifests itself in the form of academic poor performance. Many educational authorities have sought to find out the reasons for the downward trend in the academic achievement of secondary school students.

This has brought unhealthy scenario in some secondary schools in Rivers State. Obi (2014) reveals that in Rivers State now, there are high rate of drug abuse among the students (adolescent), aggressive behaviour, underage smoking and youth violent. Some teachers are embarrassed and harassed by these academic performances. Some families have totally lost control over their wards. Disobedience, violence, anti-societal aggressive behaviour, lack of respect for rules, and regulations, norms, elders among others. Academic performance on a very important note is affecting our society by hindering the academic performance of senior secondary school students, lead students into cultism, to promiscuity. In the light of the above problems the researcher attempts to investigate influence of family types on academic performance of public senior secondary school students in Rivers State**.**

Purpose of the Study

The main aim of this study is to investigate Influence of Family Types as Determinants of Academic Performance of Public Secondary School students in Rivers State. The specific objectives sought to:

(1) Determine the extent to which single parent family type influences academic performance of public senior secondary school students in Rivers State.

(2) Find out the extent to which nuclear family type structure influences academic performance of public senior secondary school students in Rivers State.

(3) Determine the extent to which polygamous family type influences academic performance of public senior secondary school students in Rivers State.

Research Questions

The researcher developed the following research questions that will guide the study:

1. To what extent does single parent family type influence academic performance of public senior secondary school students?
2. To what extent does nuclear family type influence academic performance of public senior secondary school students?
3. To what extent does polygamous family type influence academic performance of public senior secondary school students?

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated by the researcher to guide the conduct of the study:

1. There is no significant difference in the mean rating of the respondents on the influence of single parent family type on academic performance of public senior secondary school students.
2. There is no significant difference in the mean rating of the respondents on the influence of nuclear family type on academic performance of public senior secondary school students.
3. There is no significant difference in the mean rating of the respondents on the influence of polygamous family type on academic performance of public senior secondary school students.

METHODOLOGY

The research design used for this study is the descriptive survey design. This design gives a clear picture of family types on the students' academic performance among adolescent in public secondary schools in Rivers State. This design is suitable for this work because, it serves as a basis for the researcher in assessing the situation as a prerequisite for drawing conclusion. It attempts to describe or document current conditions or attitudes, that is, to explain what exists at the moment. The sample size of this study was three hundred and ninety three (393) students. The researcher adopted multistage sampling technique in the study. Wimmer and Dominick (2011) explain that multistage involves dividing the population into groups or clusters. The first stage is the purposive selection of one (1) local government from each of the senatorial district. The second stage involves the purpose selection of five (5) public senior secondary schools in each of the local government under study. The last stage involves the random selection of the students from the selected five (5) public senior secondary schools. The instrument used for data collection in the study was a self-structured questionnaire titled: "Influence of Family Types on Academic Performance of Students Questionnaire" (IFTAPSQ), which is sub-divided into two parts. The first part sought the demographic information about the respondents, while the second part consists of respondents' responses on the subject matter. It was patterned on a modified 4 – point likert scale of Very High Extent (VHE) – 4 points, High Extent (HE) – 2 points, Low Extent (LE) – 2 points, and Very Low

Extent (VLE) – 1 point. The data gathered were analyzed using frequency, mean score and standard deviation, for the research questions, while the null hypotheses were tested using z-test statistical tool at 0.05 level of significance. The decision rule for answering the research question was based on real limits. Where any mean from 2.50 and above was accepted, while the mean below 2.49 was rejected.

RESULTS

Research Question 1: *To what extent does single parent family influence academic performance among senior secondary school students?*

Table 1: Mean and Standard Deviation Responses on the Extent Single Parents Family Influence Academic Performance of Students

S/N	Questionnaire Items	No. of Male Students	Mean ($\bar{X}$)	SD	Remarks	No. of Female Students	Mean ($\bar{X}$)	SD	Remarks
1.	Single parent family pay less attention to the children or wards thereby exposing them to poor academic performance.	150	2.55	1.60	Moderate Extent	250	2.80	1.67	Moderate Extent
2.	Single parent find it difficult financially to take care of the children thereby exposing them to poor academic performance.	150	2.65	1.63	Moderate Extent	250	2.95	1.72	Moderate Extent
3.	There is always limitation of income, proper care or training in the single parent family thereby exposing them to poor academic performance.	150	2.80	1.67	Moderate Extent	250	3.10	1.76	Moderate Extent
4.	Children from single parent family do better than other children in areas like morals and academics.	150	2.40	1.55	Low Extent	250	2.46	1.57	Low Extent
5.	Single parent family pose more challenges in all the family types.	150	2.68	1.64	Moderate Extent	250	2.90	1.70	Moderate Extent
	Grand Total	**150**	**2.62**	**1.62**		**250**	**2.84**	**1.68**	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The analysis in Table 1 reveals that the respondents accepted or agree that single parent family pay less attention to the children or wards thereby exposing them to poor academic performance. The table still indicates that the respondents accepted that single parent find it difficult financially to take care of the children thereby exposing them to poor academic performance. It is observed from the table that the respondents accepted the point that there is always limitation of income, proper care or training in the single parent family thereby exposing them to poor academic performance. In other way round, the table shows that the respondents rejected the fact that children from single parent family do better than other children in areas like morals and academics. The table also reveals that the respondents accepted the point that single parent family pose more challenges in all the family types.

Research Question 2: *To what extent does nuclear family influence academic performance among senior secondary school students?*

Table 2: Mean and Standard Deviation Responses on the Extent Nuclear Family Influence Academic Performance of Students

S/N	Questionnaire Items	No. of Male Students	Mean ($\bar{X}$)	SD	Remarks	No. of Female Students	Mean ($\bar{X}$)	SD	Remarks
6.	In nuclear family, the family is managed by the two parents so academic performance of children are always encouraged.	150	2.65	1.63	Moderate Extent	250	3.05	1.75	Moderate Extent
7.	The financial strength of nuclear family is always strong because it is coming from two adults so academic performance are encouraged.	150	2.70	1.64	Moderate Extent	250	2.95	1.72	Moderate Extent
8.	Parents in nuclear family pay more attention to their children so academic performance are encouraged.	150	2.55	1.60	Moderate Extent	250	3.15	1.77	Moderate Extent
9.	Nuclear family is the best type of family in terms of raising family hence academic performance are always encouraged.	150	2.60	1.61	Moderate Extent	250	3.10	1.76	Moderate Extent
10.	Children from nuclear family are not responsible in the society because of less attention from parents.	150	2.30	1.52	Low Extent	250	2.45	1.56	Low Extent
	Grand Total	**150**	**2.56**	**1.60**		**250**	**2.94**	**1.71**	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The analysis in Table 2 indicates that the respondents accepted the view that in nuclear family, the family is managed by the two parents so academic performance children are always encouraged. The table still shows that the respondents accepted the fact that the financial strength of nuclear family is always strong because it is coming from two adults so academic performance are encouraged. It is also observed from the analysis that Parents in nuclear family pay more attention to their children so academic performance is encouraged. It is still indicated from the table that the respondents accepted the view that Nuclear family is the best type of family in terms of raising family hence academic performance are always encouraged. However, the table shows that the respondents rejected the fact that children from nuclear family are not responsible in the society because of less attention from parents.

Research Question 3: *To what extent does polygamous family influence academic performance among senior secondary school students?*

Table 3: Mean and Standard Deviation Responses on the Extent Polygamous Family Influence Academic Performance of Students

S/N	Questionnaire Items	No. of Male Students	Mean ($\bar{X}$)	SD	Remarks	No. of Female Students	Mean ($\bar{X}$)	SD	Remarks
11.	Some children from polygamous family are wayward because of poor prenatal care thereby exposing them to poor academic performance.	150	2.68	1.64	Moderate Extent	250	3.05	1.75	Moderate Extent
12.	Polygamous family encourages multiple spouses which may always lead to disagreement in the family thereby exposing children to poor academic performance.	150	2.70	1.64	Moderate Extent	250	2.95	1.72	Moderate Extent
13.	Most of the children from polygamous family are involve in poor academic performance.	150	2.55	1.60	Moderate Extent	250	2.90	1.70	Moderate Extent
14.	Children from polygamous family are properly taken care of financially and otherwise which helped academically.	150	2.35	1.53	Low Extent	250	2.45	1.56	Low Extent
15.	Children and mothers from polygamous family or home are always living in peace.	150	2.30	1.52	Low Extent	250	2.40	1.55	Low Extent
	Grand Total	**150**	**2.52**	**1.59**		**250**	**2.75**	**1.62**	

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The analysis in Table 3 reveals that the respondents agree the view that some children from polygamous family are wayward because of poor prenatal care thereby exposing
them to poor academic performance. It is also indicated from the table that the respondents accepted the point that polygamous family encourages multiple spouses which may always lead to disagreement in the family thereby exposing children to poor academic performance. It is still observed from the table that the respondents agree with the fact that most of the children from polygamous family are involve in poor academic performance However, the respondents disagree with the view that Children from polygamous family are properly taken care of financially and otherwise which helped academically and that children and mothers from polygamous family or home are always living in peace.

Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference in the mean rating of the respondents on the influence of single parent family type on academic performance of public senior secondary school students.

Table 4: Z-test Analysis of Significant Difference in the Mean Rating of the Respondents on the Influence of Single Parent Family Type on Academic Performance Of Public Senior Secondary School Students.

Teachers Perception	N	Mean $\bar{X}$	Standard Deviation	Df	z-cal	z-crit	Decision
Male Students	150	2.62	1.62	398	0.13	1.96	Accepted
Female Students	250	2.84	1.68				

The analysis on Table 4 reveals that the z-cal of 0.13 is less than the z-crit of 1.96. Therefore, the calculated z-ratio is not statistically significant at a 0.05 level of significance since it is smaller than the given critical value of z-ratio. So, the hypothesis 1 is thus accepted and the conclusion is that there is no significant difference in the mean rating of the respondents on the influence of single parent family type on academic performance of public senior secondary school students.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant difference in the mean rating of the respondents on the influence of nuclear family type on academic performance of public senior secondary school students.

Table 5: Z-test Analysis of Significant Difference in the Mean Rating of the Respondents on the Influence of Nuclear Family Type on Academic Performance of Public Senior Secondary School Students.

Teachers Perception	N	Mean $\bar{X}$	Standard Deviation	Df	Std. Error	z-cal	z-crit	Decision
Male Students	150	2.56	1.60	398	0.17	2.24	1.96	Rejected
Female Students	250	2.94	1.71					

The analysis on Table 5 indicates that the z-cal of 2.24 is greater than the z-crit of 1.96. Therefore, the calculated z-ratio is not statistically significant at a 0.05 level of significance since it is greater than the given critical value of z-ratio. Therefore, the hypothesis 2 is thus rejected and the conclusion is that there is a significant difference in the mean rating of the respondents on the influence of nuclear family type on academic performance of public senior secondary school students.

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant difference in the mean rating of the respondents on the influence of polygamous family type on academic performance of public senior secondary school students.

Table 6: Z-test Analysis of Significant Difference in the Mean Rating of the Respondents on the Influence of Polygamous Family Type on Academic Performance of Public Senior Secondary School Students.

Teachers Perception	N	Mean $\bar{X}$	Standard Deviation	Df.	Std. Error	z-cal	z-crit	Decision
Male Students	150	2.52	1.59	398	0.17	0.19	1.96	Accepted
Female Students	250	2.75	1.62					

The analysis on Table 6 reveals that the z-cal of 0.19 is greater than the z-crit of 1.96. Therefore, the calculated z-ratio is not statistically significant at a 0.05 level of significance since it is greater than the given critical value of z-ratio. Therefore, the hypothesis 4 is thus accepted and the conclusion is that there is no significant difference in the mean rating of the respondents on the influence of polygamous family type on academic performance of public senior secondary school students.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The finding of the study in research question 1: To what extent does single parent family structure influence academic performance among senior secondary school students revealed that single parent family has significant influence on academic performance among public secondary schools students in Rivers State. The corresponding hypotheses 1 showed that there is no significant difference in the mean rating of the respondents on the influence of single parent family on academic performance among senior secondary school students. This finding is in collaboration with Michelle (2015). Who observed that single parent family is the highest challenge society has seen in terms the challenges in the family structures, explaining that it is a struggle to find child care when you have one parent thereby exposing the children to delinquent behaviour. The study reveals that single parent family pay less attention to their children or wards thereby exposing them to delinquent behavior and that there is always limitation of income, proper care or training in the single parent family thereby exposing them to delinquent behaviour. It is observed that single parent find it difficult financially to take care of the home or children hence the money is coming from one person thereby exposing them to delinquent

behaviour. In other way round, the analysis shows that the respondents rejected the fact that children from single parent family do better than other children in areas like morals and academics and that single parent family pose more challenges in all the family types.

The study in research question 2: To what extent does nuclear family influence academic performance among senior secondary school students indicated that nuclear family structure influence positively on academic performance among public secondary schools students in Rivers State. The corresponding hypotheses 2 revealed that there is a significant difference in the mean rating of the male and female teachers on the influence of nuclear family on academic performance among senior secondary school students. This study is in line with Odu (2018), who observed that children in nuclear family receive strength and stability from the two-parent and generally have more opportunities due to the financial ease of two adults so delinquent behaviour are hardly find among the children. The findings indicated that in nuclear family, the family is managed by the two parents so delinquent behaviour are hardly find among the children and that the financial strength of the parents in nuclear family is always strong because it is coming from two adults so delinquent behaviour are hardly find among the children. It is also observed from the analysis that parents in nuclear family pay more attention to their children compare to other family so delinquent behaviour are hardly find among the children and that nuclear family is the best type of family in terms of raising children hence delinquent behaviour are hardly find among the children. . However, the table shows that the respondents rejected the fact that children from nuclear family are not responsible in the society because of less attention from parents.

The study in research question 3: To what extent does polygamous family influence academic performance among senior secondary school students revealed that polygamous family influences the academic performance among public secondary schools students in Rivers State. The corresponding hypotheses 4 indicated that there is no significant difference in the mean rating of the male and female teachers on the influence of polygamous family on academic performance among senior secondary school students. This view is in line with Ewumi (2019), who noted that less attention is given to children from polygamous family because of the present of the many wives attached to a particular man thereby affecting their academic performance. The finding revealed that some children from polygamous family or home are wayward because of poor parental care thereby exposing them to delinquent behaviour. It is also indicated from the analysis polygamous family or home encourages multiple spouses which may always lead to disagreement in the family thereby exposing them to delinquent behavior and that most of the children from polygamous family are involve in delinquent behaviour. However, the respondents disagree with the view that children from polygamous family are properly taken care of financially and otherwise and also that children and mothers from polygamous family or home are always living in peace.

CONCLUSION

Influence of family types on academic performance among senior secondary school students in Rivers State cannot be over-emphasized. Evidence from the study indicates that family types have influence on academic performance. Therefore, it is concluded in the study that single parent family has negative influence on academic performance in the society. The study also deduced that the influence of nuclear family on academic performance is positive among the senior secondary school students in Rivers State hence there is a proper care of the children under nuclear family. The study still concludes that extended family or grandparent family types have positive influence on academic performance in senior secondary schools. This is applicable because we have many family members that can take care of other children and the grandparents play elderly roles in raising the children and keeping up with the household duties.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Government should organize enlightenment or awareness campaign on the dangers of single parent family on academic performance among the children or senior secondary school students.
2. Non-governmental organizations like churches, companies, etc. should preach or campaign on the benefits of nuclear family which has to do with one man one wife. This is because proper attention is always given to the children.

3. Parents should also disregard option of polygamous family in their marriage hence it is always leading to division and disagreement in the future.

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