



Economic Recession And Academic Achievement Of Students In College Of Education Warri, Delta State

Egbedi Wilson & Edimeh, Precious Nneka Nneoma

**Department of Economics
College of Education, Warri, Delta State, Nigeria
¹williblow93@gmail.com; ²precioun2nedimeh@gmail.com**

ABSTRACT

This study investigated the effects of economic recession on students' academic achievement in College of education Warri. The study adopted the descriptive research design. The population of the study consisted of 1046 students in College of Education Warri. Using the social worker sampling technique, a sample of 104 students was selected representing 10% of the population. The instrument utilized for data collection was a questionnaire titled: Effects of Economic Recession on Students' Academic Performance Questionnaire (EERSPQ) where 104 questionnaires was administered and 100 was returned. To guide the study two research questions were raised and two hypotheses formulated. The data collected in the study were organised using simple percentage and chi-square to test the hypotheses formulated. Findings from the study showed that economic recession affects student's academic achievement and class attendance. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that government and private individuals should increase investment into the economy and create jobs as these will help increase the amount of money in circulation which will consequently have a multiplier effect on students. It was also recommended that the recently approved students' loan should be disbursed appropriately to the beneficiaries so as to supplement and compliment funds from parents and funding of education should be improved by providing more infrastructure. Lastly the special bursary award to students in colleges of education and faculty of education in universities should be properly disbursed and the policy sustained.

Keywords: economic recession, academic achievement, students

INTRODUCTION

Most countries of the world are still striving to recover from the blow struck by the Covid 19 pandemic, a catastrophe that sent shock down the spine of different economies and also triggered a global economic meltdown followed by recession. Though Nigeria has been in recession for a long time now, the recent happening has further sloped the curve downwards. The dollarization of the Nigeria economy, the shady dealings of fuel subsidy programme and the inconsistency of economic policies have led to a free fall of the naira and a collapse in the Nigerian economy which is characterized by hunger, unemployment and high cost daily survival.

In the words of Abberger & Nierhause (2008), economic recession is a period of general economic decline and is typically accompanied by a drop in the value of consumer spending, raising unemployment level, a decline in business investment, reduced government revenue and increase in government spending, weak businesses and consumers' confidence. This assertion depicts the true picture of the Nigerian state where inconsistency in policy formulation and implementation has sabotaged the intentions of those who want to build the economy for those who intend to bleed it. Obiakor (2021) opined that the current recession faced in Nigeria is triggered by high level of insecurity accumulating to food insecurity, high levels of unemployment, high level of corruption at all levels of government characterized with embezzlement and squandering of

public funds, theft of resources (crude oil) and other solid minerals and over dependence on foreign goods and more recently poor economic policy like the presumed removal of fuel subsidy only for it to re-appear. It is noteworthy that Government at all levels are the highest spenders in the economy, the spiral effect of misappropriation of funds, sudden drop in the revenue and spending of the government triggers a drop-in consumers' spending which in turn affects manufacturers and service providers. The consequences of these actions is the negative ripple effect on economic, social and education system of the country (Okongo et al., 2015). Although, concerns for the reduction and eradication of the menace of economic recession has been a global phenomenon, the United Nation made a declaration and tagged the year 2020 a year for eradication of economic recession as a plague. This was envisaged through setting up of various targets to fight against economic recession such as stimulating economic growth and reducing the negative impact of recession on people's lives, through co-ordination and co-operation among member countries, to share best practices and the development of coordinated policies, promoting trade and investment, providing financial support, capacity building and advocacy and awareness raising (UN, 2020). Yet their impact could not be felt in resolving the peculiar nature of Nigeria's recession.

Statement of the Problem

Considering the backward nature of the educational system in Nigeria, where all efforts to boost students' performance in school still meets a dead end such that even students with higher intelligence quotient performance experience drop in their ability constantly has become a worrying trend in warri. This trend has been consistent over the years hence, one may be prompted to ask what impacts academic achievement of students of tertiary institution in Warri. Does available evidence indicate that economic recession has been a serious problem confronting most Nigeria students' personal and academic achievement as they have been trapped in same condition over years; inability to afford the basic necessity to make a student stay focus, poor financial state of family, insufficient academic material to learn, unfriendly environment, and insecurity? These issues instigated this study.

Objective of study

The main objective of this study was effects to examine economic recession and its impact on the academic performance of students while the specific objectives are:

1. To find out the effects of economic recession on students' academic achievement in College of Education Warri.
2. To investigate how economic recession affect classroom attendance of students in College of Education Warri.

Research Question

The following research questions were designed to guide the study.

- i) In what ways does economic recession affect students' academic achievement in College of Education Warri?
- ii) How does economic recession affect classroom attendance of students in College of Education, Warri?

Research hypotheses

- 1) Ho1: There is no significant relationship between economic recession and students' academic achievement in College of Education, Warri.
- 2) Ho: There is no significant relationship between economic recessions of classroom attendance of students in College of Education, Warri.

LITERATURE REVIEWS

A recession is a significant decline in economic activities that spreads across the economy, lasting more than a few months or years. It is normally visible in a significant fall of real Gross Domestic Product (GDP), real income, employment, industrial production, and wholesale-retail sales. It is considered an unavoidable part of the business cycle or the regular cadence of expansion and contraction that occurs in a nation's economy (Bamigboye et al., 2016). The above is in concordance with Abberger and Nierhaus, (2008) who viewed economic recession as a significant decline in economic activity that is spread across the economy and lasts for several months. It refer to weak economic phases, of which duration, depth and diffusion exceed the usual bounds; thus one speaks of the three key dimensions of a recession, known as the 'three Ds': Duration, Depth

and Diffusion. Newman et al. (2010) described economic recession as a period of general economic decline and is typically accompanied by a drop in stock market, decline in housing market, a pump in unemployment level and fall in purchasing power of wages and salary earners. It is a consecutive decline in quarterly real gross domestic product (GDP) and economic activities that last for a short period of time but in some cases a year. Onukwu et al. (2018) postulated that, there are more than one way for a recession to get started, from a sudden economic shock to fallout from uncontrolled inflation. These phenomena are some of the main drivers of a recession:

Sudden economic shock: An economic shock is a surprise problem that creates serious financial damage(s). In the 1970s, OPEC cut off the supply of oil to the U.S. without warning, causing a recession, not to mention endless lines at gas stations. The coronavirus outbreak, which shut down economies worldwide, is a more recent example of a sudden economic shock.

Excessive debt: When individuals or businesses take on too much debt, the cost of servicing the debt can grow to the point where they can't pay their bills. Growing debt defaults and bankruptcies then capsize the economy.

Asset bubbles: When investing decisions are driven by emotion, bad economic outcomes aren't far behind. Investors can become too optimistic during a strong economy. This was seen in the oil boom era of Nigeria in the 70s which led to the neglect of other sectors of the economy

Excess inflation: Inflation is the steady, upward trend in prices over time where too much money is chasing after a few goods. This factor leads to fall in real wages of labour as paychecks are not able to meet up the inflation thus purchasing power reduced. Inflation isn't a bad thing per se, but excessive inflation is a dangerous phenomenon that triggers recession.

Excess deflation: While runaway inflation can create a recession, deflation can be even worse. Deflation is when prices decline over time, which causes wages to contract, which further depresses prices. When a deflationary feedback loop gets out of hand, people and business stop spending, which undermines the economy.

In Nigeria as indicated by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) the economy slid into recession path in first quarter (Q1) of 2016 (since 2004) with real GDP of -0.36 percent, the contraction of economic activities resulted from an evaporation of confidence and no new investments, inordinate delay in government spending during the period, acrimonious legislative squabbles in approving budget, erosion in the value of naira in the forex market, pipelines vandalism, misaligned currency and forex shortages, high interest rate, environment as well as trade and import restrictions. The current recession seems to affect socio political structures, Nigeria's credit condition general living standards, education, imports, production and employment as well as consumption demand in Nigeria (Hurd & Rohwedder 2010)). The above assertion corroborated the thoughts of Kamar (2012) who attributed the Nigerian economic recession to the drop in the oil prices in the global market, while some believe the activity of the militants and pipeline vandals in the Niger Delta region of the country which caused significant reduction in the volume of crude oil production was responsible for the recession.

Academic performance on the other hand is a term that indicates a student's achievement after completing a course or subject from an institution. It measures students' learning across various academic subjects, which is assessed by formative and summative assessments. It refers to the outcome of students' efforts to attain some educational goals (Vineeth & Geetika, 2021). Academic performance is defined by students' reporting of past semester Cumulative Grade Point Average/Grade Point Average (CGPA/GPA) and their expected GPA for the current semester. The grade point average is now used by most of the tertiary institutions as a convenient summary measure of the academic performance of their students. The GPA is a better measurement because it provides a greater insight into the relative level of performance of individuals and different group of students (Tiwani, 2017).

Effect of recession on education

The four basic needs of man are shelter, food, clothing, and power (electricity). Without one of these needs, a person's functionality can be greatly affected. For students, their basic needs are expanded to include teaching and learning aids, a conducive learning environment, well-motivated instructors, and job security after graduation. This is based on Walberg's theory of academic achievement, which suggests that a student's

psychological characteristics and their immediate environment can impact their educational outcomes in terms of cognition, behavior, and attitude. The level to which this can be provided is greatly determined by the performance of the economy. The constant fall in the quality of education offered to students in Nigeria which is reflected in the capacity of the Nigeria students' inability to create job and freedom from servitude after graduation is a source for concern on the level of destruction economic recession has caused education in Nigeria. Nigeria like other developing countries, place great prominence on education as it is believed to be the most reliable channel for economic development.

A study carried out by Egbule (2014) showed that students' performance is declining due to economic recession as 70% of Nigerian students in tertiary institution are faced with challenges of meeting with their daily necessities. The above notion is supported by Maslow hierarchy theory of needs which showed that all human activities are always directed towards meeting their basic needs. Deducing from the above it is clear that the quest to meet these needs preoccupies the conscious and sub conscious mind and influence the activities of every sane individual. Harb and El-Shaarawi (2016) averred that economic recessions can result in higher tuition fees and limited financial aid opportunities, making it harder for students from low-income families to continue their education. Many students may be forced to drop out of school. Similarly Kenneth (2017) asserted that during a recession, there may be budget cuts and reduced funding for schools, colleges, and universities. This can lead to larger class sizes, fewer resources, and limitations on extracurricular activities, which can negatively impact the quality of education and subsequently affect students' academic performance. Recession tends to kill motivation to learn in students due to the presence of high unemployment rate and stressful competition for the little available job within the country (Okoro, 2009).

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a descriptive research design Data collected were based on opinions gathered from the sample of the population. The population of the study comprised of 1046 students in College of Education, Warri. The sample was drawn using simple random sampling technique where a total of 104 respondents was selected. The instrument utilized for data collection was a self-designed questionnaire which was made up of 10 items divided into 4 parts i.e. introduction, demographic information, background information and opinion and attitude questions to get responses on the impact of economic recession on students' academic performance. Data collected were organised using simple percentage to answer the research question while chi-square was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The data collected from the field through administration of questionnaire was organized using simple percentage using equation expressed as follows:

$$\% = \frac{\text{no. Of respondent}}{\text{Total no. of respondents}} \times \frac{100}{1}$$

While chi-square was used to test the hypothesis formulated for the study. The formula is expressed below

$$X^2 = \frac{(F_o - F_e)^2}{F_e}$$

X² = chi-square

F_o = observed frequency

F_e = expected frequency

Table 1: Total respondents chosen for the research worked was 100 inclusive of male and female

Sex	No. Of respondent	Percentage
Male	40	40%
Female	60	60%
Total	100	100

Research question 1: *In what ways does economic recession affect students' academic achievement in College of Education Warri?*

Table 2: simple percentage analysis on ways economic recession affects students' academic achievement in College of Education, Warri

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	SD	D
1	Economic recession affects students' concentration in class	50 50%	10 10%	10 20%	20 20%
2	Economic recession affects students understanding of lessons	45 45%	10 10%	35 35%	10 10%
3	Economic recession deter students' performance in examinations.	50 50%	30 30%	10 10%	10 10%
4	Economic recession causes students to engage in examination malpractice	55 55%	25 25%	15 15%	5 5%
5	Economic recession affects students' overall grade score	50 50%	15 15%	15 15%	20 20%

The table above shows that majority of the responses chosen by the respondents for the research work supported the view that economic recession affects students' academic achievement in school.

Table 3: Response of respondents

Opinion	Male student	Female students	Total
SA	18	22	40
A	13	16	29
SD	6	10	16
D	9	6	15
	40	60	100

The table above shows that majority of the responses chosen by the respondents for the research work supported the view that economic recession affects students academics c achievement in in school.

Testing hypothesis

H₀: There is no significant relationship between recession and academic achievement of students in College of Education, Warri

Relationship between economic recession and students' academic achievement in College of Education, Warri.

No	Fo	Fe	Fo-Fe	(Fo-Fe) ²	(Fo-Fe) ² /Fe
1	18	7.36	10.64	113.2	6.28
2	13	5.3	7.7	59.2	4.55
3	6	3	4	16	2.28
4	9	3	4	16	2.28
5	22	11.04	10.96	120.1	5.45
6	16	9.4	6.6	43.5	2.71
7	10	5	4	16	1.77
8	6	5	3	9	1.5

Table 4.

26.82

Computed X²=26.82

Decision rule

The decision here is to accept the Null hypothesis if the critical value of X^2_t is greater than the calculated X^2_t otherwise we reject the Null hypothesis H_0 .

Decision

since the tabulated (critical) chi-square X^2 of 14.067 is less than the computed value of X^2 26.82 at 7 degree of freedom. We are constrained to reject the null hypothesis H_0 which says that there is no significant relationship between economic recession and students' academic achievement as the result proved that otherwise.

Research question 2: *How does economic recession affect classroom attendance of students in College of Education, Warri?*

Table 5: simple percentage analysis on how economic recession affects students' academic achievement in College of Education, Warri

No	ITEM	SA	A	SD	D
1	Economic recession makes students to be absent from school	50 50%	30 30%	10 10%	10 10%
2	Economic recession make students to come to class late	55 55%	25 25%	10 10%	10 10%
3	Economic recession makes students not to stay for classes	54 54%	26 26%	10 10%	10 10%
4	Economic recession makes students not to adhere to academic work	55 55%	25 25%	15 15%	5 5%
5	Economic recession makes students have a negative attitude towards academic work	50 50%	30 30%	10 10%	10 10%

The data on the table above indicate that economic recession affects class attendance of students as most of the responses from the respondents are in support as shown by the data represented in the table.

Opinion	Male student	Female students	Total
SA	18	16	34
A	16	24	40
SD	8	7	15
D	6	5	11
	40	60	100

Hypothesis 2

H_0 : There is no significant relationship between students' economic recession and class attendance of students in College of Education, Warri.

Relationship between economic recession and class attendance of students in College of Education, Warri.

No	Fo	Fe	Fo-Fe	(Fo-Fe) ²	(Fo-Fe) ² /Fe
1	18	7.2	10.8	116.64	6.48
2	16	6.4	9.6	92.16	5.76
3	8	3.2	4.8	23.04	2.88
4	6	2.4	3.6	12.96	2.16
5	16	11.2	4.8	23.04	1.44
6	24	16.8	7.2	51.84	2.16
7	7	4.9	2.1	4.41	0.63
8	5	3.5	1.5	2.25	0.45

Table 6

21.96

Computed $X^2=21.96$

Decision rule

The decision here is to accept the Null hypothesis if the critical value of X^2_t is greater than the calculated X^2_t otherwise we reject the Null hypothesis H_0 .

Decision

Since the tabulated (critical) chi-square X^2 of 14.067 is less than the computed value of X^2 21.96 at 7 degree of freedom. We are constrained to reject the null hypothesis H_0 which says that there is no significant relationship between economic recession and students' academic achievement as the result proved that otherwise.

The decision here is to accept the Null hypothesis if the critical value of X^2_t is greater than the calculated X^2_t otherwise we reject the Null hypothesis H_0 . since the tabulated (critical) chi-square X^2 of 14.067 is less than the computed value of X^2 48.4 at 7 degree of freedom. We are constrained to reject the null hypothesis H_0 which says that there is no significant relationship between economic recession and students' academic achievement as the result proved that otherwise.

Summary of Findings

Findings of the study revealed that economic recession to a great extent deter concentration of students while classes are ongoing which also result to lack of understanding of lessons. Again recession has resulted to poor performance in examination and encouraged students to participate in examination malpractice. All these combined together on the one hand have brought about a fall in the grade of students in the school.

On the other hand, economic recession according to findings from the study has resulted to many students being absent from school and when they decide to come to school, those affected by economic recession come late and leave before the end of class. The inability of students to adhere to follow up of classwork has made them to develop negative attitude towards academics.

CONCLUSION

The paper examined the effects of economic recession on students' academic performance in College of Education Warri (COEWA). It examined the concept of economic recession, the causes, educational performance and how economic recession affects educational performance of students in COEWA.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Government alone cannot shoulder the responsibility of building a functional economy and as such it is important for her to create an environment that will promote self-employment, attract foreign direct investments, diversification of the economy from oil to manufacturing and agriculture through application of modern industrial practices. A sound and rich economy will make it easy for government to fund and develop the educational sector which in turn will make education attractive.
- 2) Government and private individuals through joint ventures should make the school environment suitable for learning, promote and champion the need to properly remunerate educational professionals as seen in other developed world. Infrastructures like decent accommodations, subsidized meals within the school environment and security should be put in place to make the school environment conducive for students to learn especially those from average and poor background.
- 3) When there is recession, unemployment level rises, this creates a negative mindset for those in the school system that there will be no job upon graduation thus their morale to focus and learn is dwindled. For this government and corporate individuals through joint efforts with the government should expand the economy by creating more rooms for diversification and job creation. This will boost zeal to learn and develop in students.
- 4) the special bursary award to students in colleges of education and faculty of education in universities should be properly disbursed and the policy sustained also the recently approved students' loan should be disbursed appropriately to the beneficiaries so as to supplement and compliment funds

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