

Causes And Consequences Of Female Students Dropout Of Secondary School In Nasarawa L.G.A. Of Nasarawa State

Dr Bala Sani Abdullahi^{1 1}

Abubakar Aji²²

Abstract

Education is the backbone for the development of every nation, so also schools; are best known as the centres for education upon which educational knowledge is acquired. On the other hand, educating a girl is as educating a family, community, nation and the globe at large. Therefore it would be of global importance to find out any factor that will threaten the female student education. One of these issues is the dropout of school. This paper will investigate the causes and the consequences of female students dropout of secondary school in Nasarawa L.G.A. of Nasarawa state. Among the causes were; social, cultural, religion and the economic status of the society. A total of 110 female students were selected as the sample for the study. The instrument used for collecting data was a questionnaire of two sections; A and B, which contains the personal data and the research questions (RQ1 - RQ20) respectively. The data collected were analyzed using simple percentage, tables and chart (Figure 1).

¹ Department of Educational Foundations, Faculty of Educations, Nasarawa State University, Keffi, Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

² Male Hostel Supervisor, Nile University, Abuja, Nigeria, Presenting author: abbakaraji@gmail.com

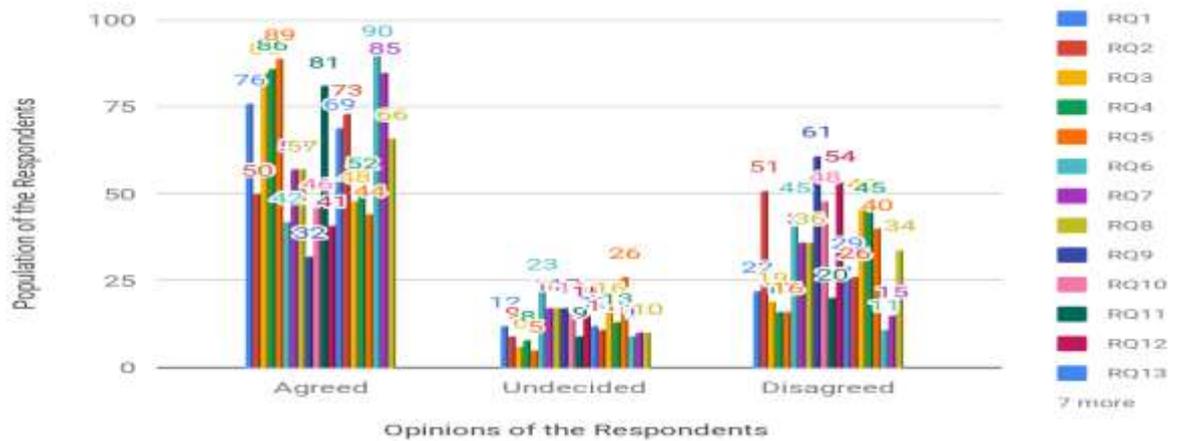


Figure 1: Bar chart displaying the summary of results

From the analysis of the data, it was found that peer groups influence (81.82%), socioeconomic factor (80.91%) and early marriage (73.64%) were the major causes of female students dropout of secondary school in Nasarawa L.G.A of Nasarawa State. Provision of free education, enlightenment, learning material by the government and non-governmental Organization and parents were among the recommended remedies to the research problem.

Keywords: Education, Consequences, Causes, Dropout

Introduction

Background of Studies

Education is the backbone for the development of every nation, so also schools; are best known as the centres for education upon which educational knowledge is acquired. On the other hand, educating a girl is as educating a family, community, nation and the globe at large. Therefore it would be of global importance to find out any factor that will threaten the female student education. One of these issues is the dropout of school. Dropout is a situation or a person who willingly or unwillingly stop coming to school without obtaining the designated certificate of that school. Being a developing country, Nigeria is one of the countries in the world that has the highest rate of uneducated citizens. Female students, when compared with the male students,

are more vulnerable to dropout. Students who dropout from school are far more likely to be unemployed, engage in criminal acts, drug abuse and prostitution among female students.

Causes of Dropout

Dropout is caused by Poverty, Crises, Religious believe, and Early marriage among others. According to Usman (2014) "in the year 2000, 56% of dropouts were unemployed, and high school dropouts comprise 52% of welfare recipients, 85% of juvenile justice cases and 82% of prison population. The school dropout rate has remained relatively stable for the past 30 years. This is a serious issue in the education system today, especially in the urban schools and particularly among the poor and minorities."

Statement of the Problem

Despite all the efforts made by federal and state governments to provide equal opportunity for both male and female to acquire education, it is obvious that the female students' dropout more from the schools compared to their opposite counterparts. Therefore this prompted the researchers to find out the causes of dropout and its likely consequences.

Objectives

The objectives of the study are to find out, If the socioeconomic status of parents, religious beliefs and practices of the people, teenage pregnancy and early marriage, academic problems, and peer group influence, are responsible for or influence female students to dropout of secondary school in Nasarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa State.

The significance of the Study

The research, when successfully completed will be significant for the following reason;

1. The study will enlighten the society particularly the youth on repercussion of dropping out of secondary school in Nasarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa state.
2. The study will enable curriculum experts, administrators, states, and local governments to decide on how best to reduce the rate at which female students' drop out of secondary school before completing their studies in Nassarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa State.

3. It will serve as reference material to educational institutions, Teachers' service board and parents on how best to tackle the problem of female students drop out of secondary school in Nasarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa state.

4. It will serve as a source of information to other researchers who may be interested in further investigating the problems of female students drop out of secondary school in Nasarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa state.

Materials and Methods

Design of the Study

The design to be used for the research work is survey research design, and this is by asking many people the same question usually to find out their opinion about the various factors responsible for female students dropout of secondary school in Nasarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa state.

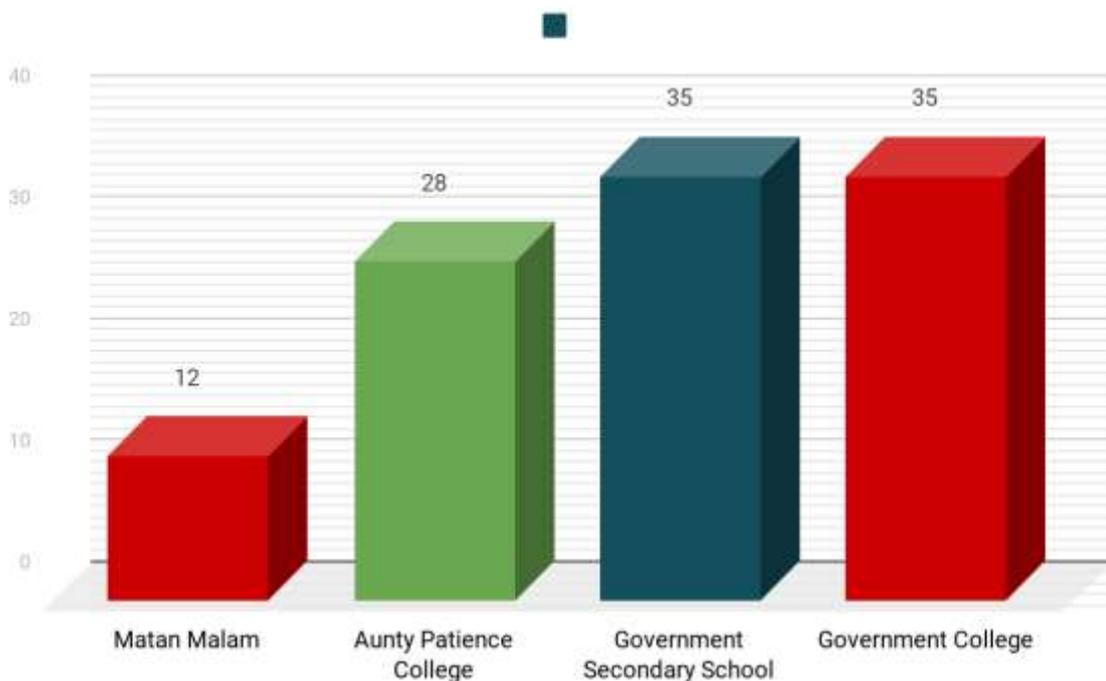


Figure 1: Population of Studies

Table 1: Population of Studies

S/N	Schools	Towns	Sets	No. of Stds	Sex
1	Matan Malam Mem. Sec. Sch.	Nasarawa	JSS 1-3	12	F
2	Aunty Patience College	Gunki	SS 1 & 2	28	F
3	Government Secondary School	Laminga	SS 2	35	F
4	Government College	Nasarawa	SS 3	35	F
	Total			110	

Sample and Sampling Techniques

A random sampling technique was used to select students from Matan Malam Memorial Secondary School, Nasarawa, Aunty Patience College, Gunki, Government Secondary School, Laminga and Government College, Nasarawa, all of Nasarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa State. Based on the above table (1), the total population used was 110 students.

Research Instruments

In an attempt to carry out this research, the researchers make use of one set of questionnaire which was for female students in secondary schools in Nasarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa State. The questionnaire consists of two sections, A and B sections. Section A contains personal data while B contains 20 questions design for the female students' response.

Validity and Reliability of the Instrument

The researchers design the questionnaire under the guidance of an expert. It was designed to cover a large area so as to enable the researchers to get divergent opinions. The questionnaire was formulated based on three points scale: Agreed, Disagreed and Undecided. The respondents tick the column of scale based on their opinions.

Method of Data Collection

The source of data employed by the researchers is the primary source. The primary source is a questionnaire which was distributed to only female students in the sampled schools. They all filled the questionnaire appropriately and returned all the copies that were given to them.

Methods of Data Analysis

For this study, a simple percentage score has been used to analyze the respondent's opinions. A simple percentage is used for conveyance, computation and interpretation of data to obtain a simple percentage score for an item. This was calculated as the obtained score divided by the total. The possible score is then multiplied by a hundred.

For example

$$X/Y = Z$$

$$Z \times 100/1 = P$$

Where:

X is the obtained score

Y is the total

P is a possible outcome.

Data Presentation and Analysis

The researchers followed the procedure already spelt out in the Material and Methods; analysis of data based on each research question. Subsequently, the data presentation and analysis were treated. The results were presented in tabular form and a chart followed by a discussion of findings. The research questions were:-

1. To what extent does a socioeconomic status of parents influence female students' dropout of secondary school in Nasarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa state?
2. To what extent does religious beliefs and practice responsible for female students' dropout of secondary school in Nasarawa L.G.A. of Nasarawa state?
3. Why does early marriage responsible for female students' dropout of school in Nasarawa L.G.A. of Nasarawa State?

4. To what extent does academic problem responsible for female student drop out from secondary school in Nasarawa L.G.A. Nasarawa state?
5. To what extent does peer group influence female student dropout from secondary school in Nasarawa L.G.A. of state?

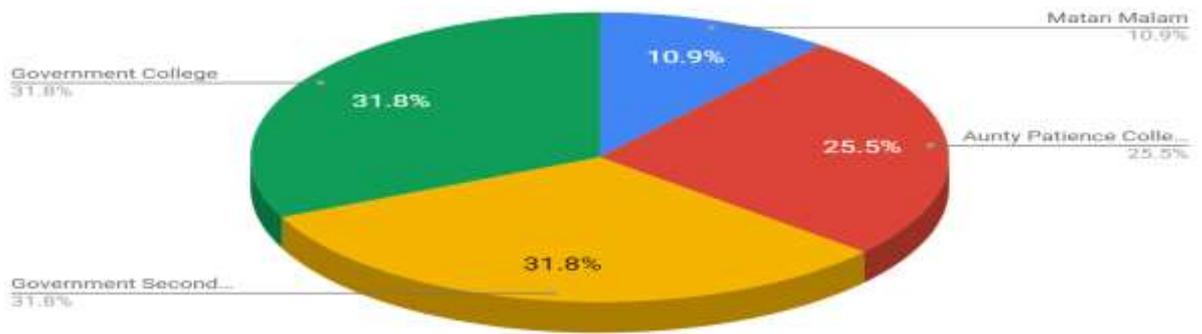


Figure 2: A Pie chart displaying the population distribution of respondents

Table 2: Information on Selected Schools

S/N	Questions	Respondents	Percentage
1	Matan Malam Memorial Secondary School	12	10.91
2	Government Secondary School Laminga	35	31.82
3	Auntie Patience College Gunki	28	25.45
4	Government College Nasarawa	35	31.82

Table 2 shows the information on selected secondary schools

This shows that 12(10.91%) students were selected from MatanMalam Memorial Secondary School Nasarawa, 28(25.45%) from Aunty Patience College Gunki, 35(31.82%) from Government Secondary School Laminga and 35(31.82%) from Government College Nasarawa, Nasarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa State.

Table 3: Respondents by Gender/Sex

S/N	Gender/Sex	Respondents	Percentage
1	Male	0	0
2	Female	110	100
	TOTAL	110	100

Table 3 shows the information of gender/sex; 0(0%) male student and 110(100%) female students in the selected secondary schools.

Table 4: Respondents by Age

S/N	Responses	Responded	Percentage
1	Below 10 years	0	0
2	10-14	16	14.56
3	15-17	65	59.09
4	Above 18	17	15.45
5	Blank	12	10.91

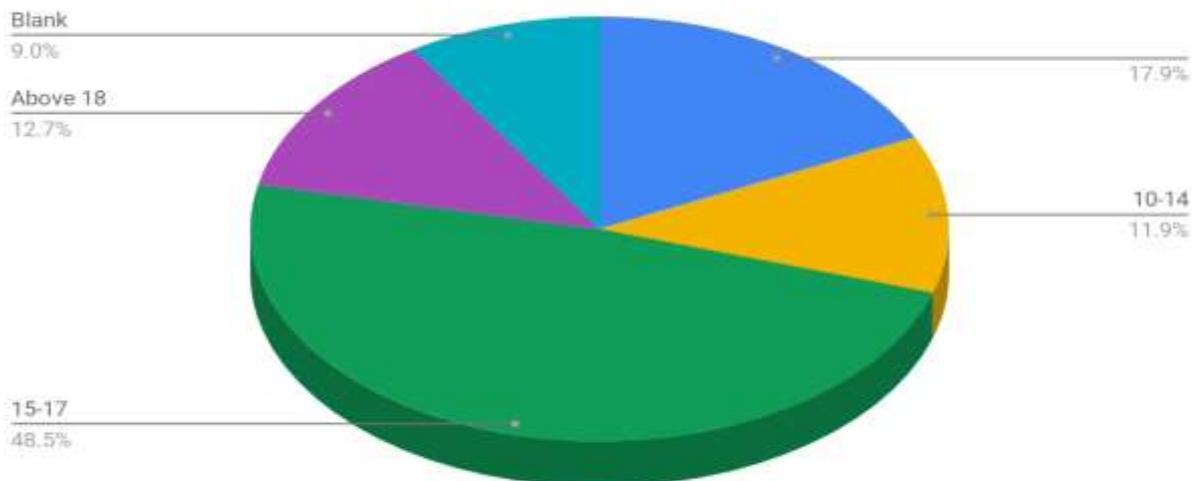


Figure 3: Respondents by Age

Table 4 shows the information on age. This shows that students below 10 years are 0(0%), 10-14 years are 16(14.56%), 15-17 years are 65(59.09%) and above 18 years are 17(15.45%), while the unspecified age (blanks) are 12(10.91%). The age of respondents is used to differentiate between the different categories of the respondents.

Research Question 1

To what extent does socioeconomic status of parents influence female students’ dropout of secondary school in Nasarawa L.G.A of Nasarawa State?

Intention: Research questions intend to find out whether the socioeconomic status of parents influences students dropout of secondary school in Nasarawa L.G.A of Nasarawa state. In answering this research question, item 1,2,3,4,5 and 6 of the questionnaire were used.

Table 5: Analysis of Respondents Responses on Whether socioeconomic Status of Parents Influence Students Dropout of Secondary School in Nasarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa State

S/N	Statements	Agree	Undecided	Disagree
1	The inability of parents to buy school uniform & writing materials can result in students' dropout	76(69.09%)	12(10.91%)	22(20%)
2	Some students from low families perform poorly in school and as a result, students will dropout	50(45.5%)	9(8.18%)	51(46.36%)
3	Most parents, because of lack of money prefer for their children to go to farm and business than a school	85(77.27%)	6(5.45%)	19(17.27%)
4	Parent withdraw their children from school as a result of large numbers of children they have since they cannot afford to send all of them to school	86(78.18%)	8(7.27%)	16(14.55%)
5	Students dropout from school as a result of nonpayment of school fees by their parents	89(80.91%)	5(4.55%)	16(14.55%)
6	Parents see education as a waste of money and time, and as such, they withdraw their children from school	42(38.18%)	23(20.91%)	45(40.91%)

In table 5, item 1 shows 76(69.09%) of the respondents agreed with the statement that low socioeconomic status of parents leads to female students dropout of secondary school, 22(20%) disagreed with the statement while 12(10.91%) were undecided.

On item 2, responses show that 50(45.5%) agreed with the statement that students from low families perform poorly in school and as such, they dropout of school. 51(46.36%) disagreed, and 9(8.18%) were undecided about the statement.

On items 3, 85(77.27%) of the respondents agreed with the statement that most parents, because of lack of money preferred their children to go to their farm and business than keeping them in school. 19(17.27%) disagreed with the statement, and 6(5.45%) were undecided.

On item 4, which stated; the parents withdraw their children from schools as a result of a large number of children they have, since they cannot afford to send all of them to school. 86(78.18%) agreed, 16(14.55%) disagreed and 8(7.27%) were undecided.

On item 5; students' dropout in school as a result of nonpayment of school fees, 89(80.91%) agreed, 16(14.55%) disagreed, and 5(4.55%) were undecided.

Item no 6 states that parents see education as a waste of money and time and as such withdraw their children from school. 42(38.18%) agreed, 45(40.91%) disagreed, and 23(20.91%) were undecided.

Based on the above outcome, the researchers observed that the socioeconomic status of parents seriously influences female student dropout of secondary school in Nasarawa L.G.A of Nasarawa State.

Research Question 2

To what extent does religious beliefs and practices are responsible for female students' dropout of secondary school in Nasarawa L.G.A of Nasarawa State. Item number 7, 8 and 9 of the questionnaire were useful for answering this research question.

Table 6: Analysis of Respondents' Responses on Whether Religious Beliefs and Practices are Responsible for Female Students Dropout of Secondary School in Nasarawa L.G.A of Nasarawa State

S/N	Statement	Agreed	Undecided	Disagreed
7	Many parents believe so much in an Islamic school and see western education as a threat to Islam and as such withdraw their children from school.	57(51.82%)	17(15.45%)	36(32.73%)

8	Parents' belief that reading Qur'an is better than attending school, so they prepare to withdraw them.	57(51.82%)	17(15.45%)	36(32.73%)
9	Parents believe that western education can change their children's religious, so they prepare to withdraw them from school	32(29.09%)	17(15.45%)	61(55.45%)

On table 6, item 7 states that many parents believe so much in an Islamic school and see western education as a threat to Islam and as such withdraw their children from school. 57(51.82%) respondents agreed with the statement 36(32.73%) disagreed were 17(15.45%) were undecided.

Items 8 shows 57(51.82%) agreed to the statements that Parents believe that reading the Quran is better than attending school, so they prepare to withdraw them. 36(32.73%) disagreed, 17(15.45%) were undecided.

Item 9 shows that 32(29.09%) agreed to the statement; parents believe that western education can change their children religion, so they prepare to withdraw them from school. 61(55.45%) disagreed, and 17(15.45%) were undecided.

In answering research question 2, which asked if religious belief and practice are responsible for female students' dropout of Secondary school in Nasarawa L.G.A of Nasarawa state, we can conclude that some parents believe so much in Islamic education and see western school as a threat to Islam. Some of the parents also believed that reading the Quran is better than attending school. At the same time, western education can change their children religion (see responses to item 7,8 and 9 on table 6).

Research Question 3

To what extent does early marriage is responsible for female students dropout of secondary school in Nasarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa State? In answering this research question, item 10, 11 and 12 of the questionnaire were used.

Table 7: Analysis of the Respondents Responses on Whether Early Marriage is Responsible for Female Student Dropout of Secondary School in Nasarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa State.

S/N	Statements	Agreed	Undecided	Disagreed
10	Parents withdraw their female children from school so that they do not become morally bankrupt; as such they marry them off early.	46(41.82%)	16(14.55%)	48(43.64%)
11	Female students dropout of secondary school as a result of unwanted pregnancy.	81(73.64%)	9(8.18%)	20(18.18%).
12.	Parents withdraw their female students from school thinking that it can changes the children's beliefs about early marriage.	41(37.27%)	15(13.64%)	54(49.09%)

On table 7, item number 10 states that parent withdraw their female children from school so that they do not become morally bankrupt. As such they marry them off early. 46(41.82%) agreed, 48(43.64%) undecided and 16(14.55%) disagreed.

Item 11 state that female students dropout of Secondary school as a result of unwanted pregnancies. 81(73.64%) agreed, 9(8.18%) disagreed, and 20(18.18%) were undecided.

Item 12 shows that 41(37.27%) agreed, 54(49.09%) disagree and 15(13.64%) were undecided about parents withdraw their children from school thinking that it can change their children belief about early marriage.

In answering research question 3 which ask whether early marriage is responsible for female student dropout of Secondary school in Nasarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa state, one can conclude that early marriage is indeed responsible. This is because parents withdraw their female children from school so that they do not become morally bankrupt as they marry them off early or female students dropout of secondary school because of unwanted pregnancies (see responses to item 10,11 and 12 tables 7)

Research Question 4

To what extent does academic problems are responsible for students dropout in secondary schools in Nasarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa state? In answering this research question. Item number 13,14,15,16 and 17 on the questionnaire are useful.

Table 8: Analysis of Respondents Responses on Whether Academic Problems are Responsible for Female Students Dropout in Nasarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa State

S/N	Statements	Agreed	Undecided	Disagreed
13.	Students withdraw from school as a result of poor academic performance.	69(62.73%)	12(10.91%)	29(26.36%)
14.	Student dropout of school because of examination malpractice.	73(66.36%)	11(10%)	26(23.64%)
15.	Teachers' inadequate knowledge to handle students' problem in class leads to students' dropout.	48(43.64%)	16(14.55%)	46(41.82%)
16.	Lack of guidance and counselling service I secondary school leads to student dropout of school.	52 (47.27%)	13 (11.82%)	45 (40.91%)

17.	Lack of academic facilities such as textbooks, library and other items can lead to students' dropout of school.	44(40.0%)	26(23.64%)	40(36.36%)
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Table 8 Shows responses of the respondents to item 13 which states that students withdraw from school because of poor academic performance. 69(62.73%) agreed, 29(26.36%) disagreed, and 12(10.91%) were undecided.

Item 14 states that students dropout of school as a result of examination malpractice. 73(66.36%) agreed, 26(23.64%) disagreed, and 11(10%) were undecided.

Item no 15 states that teachers inadequate knowledge of handling students problems in class can lead to students dropout. 48(43.64%) agreed, 46(41.82%) disagreed, and 16(14.55%) were undecided.

Item no 16 states that lack of guidance and counselling service in secondary school leads to female students dropout of the school of which 52(47.27%) agreed, 45(40.91%) disagreed and 13(11.82%) were undecided.

Item 17 states that lack of academic facilities such as good teachers, textbooks, libraries and other items leads to students dropout of school. 44(40.0%) agreed, 40(36.36%) disagreed, and 26(23.64%) were undecided.

In answering research questions 4, which asked to what extent does academic problems are responsible for female students dropout of secondary school in Nasarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa State, one can conclude that academic problem leads to their dropout of school. This is because the students said one can be withdrawn from school as a result of poor academic performance, examination malpractice and as a result of lack of guidance and counselling services (see responses to item 13,14,15,16 and 17 of Table 8).

Research Question 5

To what extent does peer group influence female students dropout of secondary school in Nasarawa Local Government Nasarawa State. In answering this research question, item 18, 19 and 20 on the questionnaire were useful.

Table 9: Analysis of Respondents Responses on Whether Peer Groups Influence Female Students Dropout of Secondary School.

S/N	Statements	Agreed	Disagreed	Undecided
18.	Peer group sometimes introduce their friends to drugs, and this leads to students dropout	90(81.82%)	9(8.18%)	11(10%)
19.	Some students are initiated into cultism by their peers and they dropout of school	85(77.27%)	10(9.09%)	15(13.64%)
20.	Students dropout of secondary school because of their peers think that education is not important since one can get wealth without it	66(60.0%)	10(9.09%)	34(30.91%)

On table 9, item 18 states that peer group sometimes introduce their friends to drugs and this leads to students dropout of school, 90(81.82%) agreed, 11(10%) disagreed and 9(8.18%) were undecided.

Item 19 states that some students are initiated into cultism by their peers and this leads to students' dropout of school. 85(77.27%) agreed, 15(13.64%) disagreed, and 10(9.09%) were undecided.

On item no 20, 66(60.0%) of the respondents agreed that students dropout of school because their peer group think that education is not important since one can get wealth without it. 34(30.91%) disagreed with the statement while 10(9.09%) were undecided.

In answering research question 5 which ask to what extend those peer group influence students dropout of secondary school in Nasarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa state, one can conclude that it does so. This is because peer group sometimes introduce their friends to drugs and this leads to students dropout. While some students are initiated into cultism by their peers or their peers, think that education is not important since one can get wealth without it and as such they dropout of school (see responses to items 18,19 and 20 on table 9)

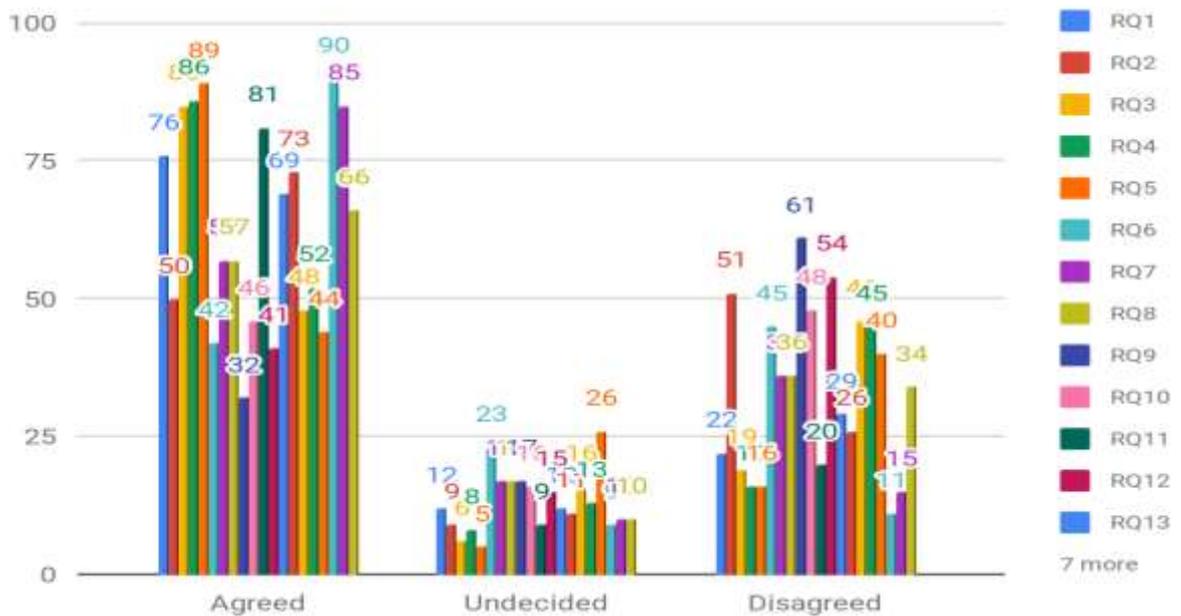


Figure 4: Chart Displaying the Summary of the result

Discussion of Findings

The results of the major findings of this research study are here by discussed below

1. The Research findings show that the socioeconomic status of parents leads to students' dropout of school in Nasarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa state. This was clearly seen and revealed by the responses of the respondents. They were of the view that many students dropout of school because most of the parents cannot afford to pay their school fees or to buy them school uniform and writing materials. Some of the parents see education as a waste of money. This is in line with Alika (2009). It follows that when parents are not able to pay various fees and levies, their children are withdrawn from school.

2. Religious beliefs and practices were also found to be responsible for students dropout of school in Nasarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa state. Some of the parents withdraw their children from school because they believe or see western education as threats to Islamic belief. They also believe their children would be converted to Christianity in western schools. Some students also believe that reading the Quran is better than going to western schools. This is in line with Lemu (2002), who said parents believed that western education was

meant to convert their children to Christianity and consequently some withdraw their children from western schools and send them to only Islamic schools.

3. Early marriage was also found to be a contributory factor to dropout rate in a secondary school in Nasarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa state. This is because most of the respondents are of the view that parents withdraw their children from school so as not to become morally bankrupt. Hence they marry them early. Besides that, they also believe that most girls may not get married on time if they attend western school. This is in line with the research conducted by Usman (2014 as cited in Musa 1987), where he revealed that some parents in northern Nigeria withdraw their female children from school for premature marriage fearing that their daughters may bring home unwanted pregnancies. According to him, this has led to the dropout of many female students from schools.

4. Academic problems also influence female students dropout in Nasarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa state, because of some of them dropout when their performance is poor in school. They also agreed that teachers are unwilling to help the female students solve their academic problems whereby the students' dropout of school. This is also in line with the Usman (2014 as cited in Ekstrom 1986), a study on dropout where he said dropout may be attributed to the inability of students to meet their academic needs. Students who have difficulty in meeting the academic demand of the school tends to leave than to continue in the face of frustration they often experience in trying to obtain good grades.

5. The research findings show that peer group influence makes female students dropout of school in Nasarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa state. This is because the majority of the respondents are of the view that peer groups sometimes influence their friends to drugs, cultism and other bad habits which result in dropping out of school. Peers also influence their friends and make them believe education is not important since they can get wealth without education. This is in line with the research conducted by Yokozeki (1996), who studied "The Causes, Processes and Consequences of Student Drop-out from Junior Secondary School (JSS) in Ghana".

Conclusion

From the analysis of the data, it was found that, peer groups influence (81.82%), socioeconomic factor (80.91%) and early marriage (73.64%) were the major causes of female students dropout

of secondary school in Nasarawa L.G.A of Nasarawa State. Hence we can say that socioeconomic factor greatly influences female students dropout of school in Nasarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa state. The research also unveiled that poverty leads to academic failure among female students of secondary schools in Nasarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa state. The inability of parents to pay school fees and to provide writing materials can make their children dropout of school. So also by cause of poor academic performance, students are liable to be withdrawn.

Peer group influence also leads to female students' dropout of school in Nasarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa state. Some students tend to initiate others into cultism and drug abuse. Early marriage is also one of the factors that lead to female students' dropout of school in Nasarawa L.G.A. of Nasarawa state. The students who became pregnant often dropout of school or the school authorities expel them. In some cases, other parents withdraw their children from school to give them out for marriage.

Recommendations

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

1. The government should introduce a free education throughout the state so that the poor ones can send their children to school.
2. Both the Government and Non-Governmental organizations should provide materials such as school uniform, textbooks, writing materials and computers for free. This will improve the academic performance of female students.
3. Findings of this research also show that religious belief and practices lead to female students' dropout of school in Nasarawa L.G.A of Nasarawa state. Religious leaders should enlighten people of the community about the importance of western education.
4. Since early marriage is also one of the factors that lead to female students dropout of school in Nasarawa L.G.A of Nasarawa state, the researchers recommended that ministry of women affairs should organize talk show, workshop, trainings and orientation for parents and female children on the importance of completing secondary school education and the marriage.
5. The government should also employ qualified teachers to the education sector so as to annul the effect of guidance and counseling as a factor for female students' dropout of secondary school.

6. The research also discovered that peer group influence female students' dropout of secondary school in Nasarawa L.G.A of Nasarawa state. As such, parents should be mindful of the friends their children move with. On the site of the students also, they should be very careful with the types of friends and group they keep in touch.
7. It is also recommended that schools should have guidance and counselors unit. Schools should organize programmes to enlighten both the parents and the students on the consequences effects of dropout of secondary school.

Suggestion for Further Research

Further researches have to be conducted to cover the other Local Government Areas in the state and the country at large so as to capture the broad picture of the causes and consequences of female students' dropout from secondary schools.

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