

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PRIVATE COST AND DEMAND OF SECONDARY EDUCATION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS, ILLORIN METROPOLIS KWARA STATE, NIGERIA

(Hubungan antara kos dan permintaan pendidikan menengah di sekolah menengah, Ilorin Metropolis Kwara State, Nigeria)

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Abstract

It has been observed that parents struggled to send their children to public secondary schools in Ilorin, which may likely be as a result of the expected private cost to be borne by the parents. In view of this paper examined the relationship between private cost and demand for secondary education, in secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State Nigeria. The objectives of the paper include among others; to identify the cost incurred, and attitude of parents on the education of their children in secondary school, and the relationship between private cost and demand for secondary education in public secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis. Three research questions were raised on; cost incurred and attitude of parents, as well as the relationship between private cost and demand for secondary education in Ilorin metropolis. The study adopted quantitative research method. The study found out that; parents spend most on tuition fee and least on damage fee, while parents' attitude towards secondary education of their children was found to be positive and there was significant relationship between private cost and demand for secondary education in public secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis. It was recommended among others that; Government should increase its investment secondary education this would assist in lessen the bothering of parents on the payment of some private cost.

Keywords: Survey, Private Cost, Attitude, Students External Needs.

Abstrak

Telah diperhatikan bahawa ibu bapa bergelut untuk menghantar anak-anak mereka ke sekolah menengah awam di Ilorin, yang mungkin disebabkan oleh kos yang diharapkan ditanggung oleh ibu bapa. Memandangkan kajian ini mengkaji hubungan antara kos dan permintaan untuk pendidikan menengah, di sekolah menengah di metropolis Ilorin, Kwara State Nigeria. Objektif kajian ini adalah untuk mengenal pasti kos yang ditanggung, dan sikap ibu bapa mengenai pendidikan anak-anak mereka di sekolah menengah, dan hubungan antara kos swasta dan permintaan untuk pendidikan menengah di sekolah menengah awam di metropolis Ilorin. Tiga soalan penyelidikan telah dibangkitkan; kos yang ditanggung dan sikap ibu bapa, serta hubungan antara kos dan permintaan untuk pendidikan menengah di metropolis Ilorin. Kajian ini menggunakan kaedah penyelidikan kuantitatif. Kajian mendapati bahawa; ibu bapa membelanjakan yuran pengajian dan sekurang-kurangnya untuk yuran kerosakan, manakala sikap ibu bapa terhadap pendidikan menengah anak-anak mereka didapati positif dan terdapat hubungan yang signifikan antara kos dan permintaan untuk pendidikan menengah di sekolah menengah awam di metropolis Ilorin. Ia disyorkan antara lain bahawa; Kerajaan perlu meningkatkan pelaburan pendidikan menengah ini akan membantu mengurangkan gangguan ibu bapa terhadap pembayaran beberapa kos.

Kata kunci: tinjauan, kos peribadi, sikap, keperluan luaran pelajar.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The cost of education and educating an individual specifically is not only a government responsibility but also an important obligation in the parts of the parents of the students. Though, education is considered imperative for not only the progress of the individuals, but also for the development of community and nation. In order to bring about improvements in all aspects, and utilize modern and innovative techniques and methods, individuals need to generate awareness and enhance their educational skills.

The skills acquisition attributed to secondary education is considered one of the most important because, secondary education not only determines the fate but also dictates the pace of education at the tertiary levels. Gatende (2010) opined that, it is the responsibility of parents and guardians to care for the youths of the community, in the process of undergoing formal education. These consist of expenditures on tuition fees, clothes, books, transportation and accommodation. The decision to go to school is personally costly to the student.

Private cost of education is an economic burden to the household and could be measured by a ratio to household income (Lewin, 2010; & Tsang, 2010). Thus, basic understanding of the how, about 'school financing' is very important. This is imperative because of the complications associated with the process of determining how much, the resources need, and who's to bear the costs (Carnoy, 2009). Direct and indirect private costs have been funded by households continuously as long as the students remain at school.

Costs in education are divided into two, social costs and private costs. Government expenditure on education is referred to as social cost. Private cost is defined as that part of investment in education which is made either by the student or the parent. Osman (2007) in a study, "the cost of schooling" provides that, the parents incur the private cost because the preschoolers are too young and cannot engage in any money yielding project. Private cost is divided into direct and indirect costs. The direct cost is the amount expended in the purchase of education goods and services. Indirect cost is the opportunity cost of the programme.

The fact that households are expected to provide instrumental material needed to put up physical facilities, place a heavy burden on households. The worst hit is students from low-income households (Njeru & Orodho, 2003). The inability to meet school expenses by low-income parents make their children be sent away from school, such frustrations affect academic performance resulting to withdrawal of children from school. When parents are not able to meet such cost, it results to high dropout rate that diminishes the pool of qualified people from diverse backgrounds who will enter the professional and political ranks that make important public policy decisions. Every school's mission should be to educate students to become knowledgeable, socially skilled, healthy, caring, and responsible citizens (Dong & Wan, 2012). This paper is therefore an attempt to provide data on the survey of private cost and parent's attitude towards the provision of student's external needs in secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, Nigeria.

2.0 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

This research examined the problems associated with private cost and parents' attitude towards the provision of student's external needs in secondary schools, based on the knowledge of the researcher, parent's attitude towards the cost of provision of student's external needs in secondary schools is too expensive especially for the poor, which serves as a burden to the household, however, many students continue

to drop out of school due to the costs of schools. A number of studies conducted in some African countries by Alouch (2002) concluded that schooling was perceived as a burden on the family because of both the direct cost and the loss of the child's contribution to household production and income.

Alouch (2002) also concluded that there was low participation of the low-income earners in investing in human capital due to the associated costs. Another study conducted by Ajayi (2008) many poor families cannot afford to buy school uniform, meet transport expenses for their children, pay tuition fee in addition to other direct costs of education and so must keep their children at home. Additionally, Adekambi (2002), Imafidon (2005), Olubor (2005) and Osemwengie (2005) have carried out various studies on the private cost of Teacher education programmes. In all these studies, incidental costs were higher than academic costs. School fees as an item of cost contributed the highest amount to the cost of education in all the studies.

Gatende (2010) also noted that children from poor household drop out of school as their parents fail to equate the cost incurred and the value of education, they see it as a waste of resources and time. This study is about the survey of private cost and parent's attitude towards the provision of student's external needs in secondary schools therefore this research intends to fill the gap on survey of private cost and parent's attitude towards the provision of student's external needs in secondary schools, Ilorin metropolis.

3.0 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- a) identify the cost incurred by parents on the education of their children in secondary school in Ilorin metropolis;
- b) identify parent attitude toward the payment of private cost on the education of their child in secondary school Ilorin metropolis; and
- c) examine the relationship between private cost and demand of secondary education in Ilorin metropolis.

4.0 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- a) What is the cost incurred by parents on the education of their children in secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis?
- b) What is parent attitude toward the payment of private cost on the education of their child in secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis?
- c) What is the relationship between private cost and demand of secondary education in Ilorin metropolis?

5.0 RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS

Ho: There is no significant relationship between private cost and demand of secondary education in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State

6.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

6.1 Cost of Education

Education should not obscure its economic dimension since resources once devoted to education cannot be used for other purposes. Thus, the beneficiaries of education should meet part of the cost in education and especially at primary sub-sector where

the private returns are more than the social returns. Such direct costs include tuition fee, purchase of textbooks, electing and maintaining physical facilities. Indirect costs include exam fee, uniform, activity fee and other school supplies

Although the ratio of enrollment in developing countries increased steadily during the 1970's the number of students who were not enrolled in school increased. Mingat, Tan, Lee (2004) in Malawi and Chernichovsky (2011) in Botswana, had one common observation, that schooling was perceived as a burden on the family both because of direct costs and the loss of the child's contribution to household production and income. Many parents also failed to perceive and realize the benefits of education. Studies conducted in Indonesia indicated that enrolments vary by income and geographical location.

Studies conducted in Nigeria concluded that because of poor funding more than 30% of eligible rural students could not enroll in primary school which in turn shut door for higher education (Okodoko, 2008). Studies on access and participation in secondary education, states, that the poor are disadvantaged concerning investment in the human capital. This economic situation has been characterized by limited resources and several competing claims on the resources. In Nigeria, for example, the provision of Education is a co-operative effort involving local authorities, private agencies such as churches and related organizations (Otieno & Colclough, 2009).

6.2 Types of Education Expenditures (Adapted from Pole De Dakar 2012).

1. Monetary Costs

School Fees:

- a) Registration fees; Tuition fees; Examination fees; Teachers' salary fees; and parents' association fees
- b) Other enrollment-associated fees

School Supplies:

- a) Uniforms and sports clothes; Textbooks; Writing materials and supplies; and other compulsory supplies

Ancillary Services:

- a) Boarding fees; Cafeteria/meal fees; Transportation; Tutoring/private coaching; Additional/special classes; and students' fieldtrips / excursions.

2. Non-Monetary Costs

Opportunity costs:

- a) Parents' time, labor, income; and students' time, labor, income

6.3 Private Costs in Secondary Education

Families with children in secondary schools of developing countries face direct and indirect costs. Direct costs include uniforms, school supplies, books, transportation, contribution to parent groups, and even tuition. Indirect costs include the foregone income of the child's work in the labor market, the foregone contribution of the child to home or farm production, and the value of parents' time contributed to school activities (Ajayi, 2008).

6.4 Private Cost of Education

Private costs Mbipon (2010) posited that it is the responsibility of parents and guardians to care for the youths of the community, in the process of undergoing formal education. These consist of expenditures on tuition fees, clothes, books, transportation and accommodation. The decision to go to school is personally costly to the student. The student foregoes the opportunity to work and contribute to family income earnings. Private cost of education can be estimated by using a simple equation. However, the length of education completed varies among people. A data collection about education expenditure for entire life of schooling becomes complex and difficult.

6.5 Parent Attitude

Parental attitude is a measure or an index of parental involvement. A child, brought up with affection and care in the least restrictive environment would be able to cope up better with the sighted world. Therefore, the family shapes the social integration of the child more than a formal school. Turnbull (2009) has identified four basic parental roles- parents as educational decision makers; parents as parents; parents as teachers and parents as advocates.

According to Filho (2008), parents' positive attitude towards child's education is important in determining school attendance and academic achievement of the child. Parent's attitude towards their children's education is affected adversely by low socio-economic status and since the tribals constitute the disadvantaged population, it is expected that the attitude of parents of tribal children will be unfavorable towards education.

Leyser and Kirk (2004) evaluated the attitudes of parents of children with special needs (N=437). The questionnaire included statements such as 'inclusion is more likely to prepare children with disabilities for the real world'. Parents rated their extent of agreement on the statements using a five-point Likert scale (1=strongly agree, 5=strongly disagree), in which a lower score can be interpreted as a positive attitude. The mean score of 2.56 (SD=1.03) on the total scale showed that parents were undecided in their attitude.

6.6 Appraisal of Reviewed Literature

Private costs according to Mbipon (2010), posited that it is the responsibility of parents and guardians to care for the youths of the community, in the process of undergoing formal education. These consist of expenditures on tuition fees, clothes, books, transportation and accommodation. The decision to go to school is personally costly to the student. The student foregoes the opportunity to work and contribute to family income earnings. Types of education expenditures, registration fees, tuition fees, examination fees, uniforms and sports clothes, textbooks, writing materials and supplies and transportation. Parental attitude is a measure or an index of parental involvement. A child, brought up with affection and care in the least restrictive environment would be able to cope up better with the sighted world. Therefore, the family shapes the social integration of the child more than a formal school.

7.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted using the quantitative method that involved the use of research questions and hypotheses. The population of the study was all secondary school teachers in Ilorin metropolis, while the target population comprises of 256 secondary school teachers randomly selected from 15 secondary schools in Ilorin

metropolis. A random sampling technique was used to select 150 secondary school teachers (male and female) from the selected secondary schools.

In order to ascertain the validity of the instrument, the questionnaire was given to two experts in the department of educational management. They examined the questionnaire items and made useful corrections and contributions on how to improve its quality and scope. Test-retest method was used to ascertain the reliability of the instruments by administering them to some respondents in secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis within the interval of two week. The data gathered was analyzed using mean and mean rating to answer research question while person product-moment correlation statistics was used to test the hypothesis formulated. All the analyses were done with the use of statistical package for social science (SPSS).

7.1 Answering Research Questions

1. *Research Question 1: What is the cost incurred by parents on the education of their children?*

Table 1: Cost Incurred by Parents on Education

S/N	Cost Incurred	X	SD	Rank
1	Transportation Cost	3.55	.98	2nd
2	Stationary Cost	3.28	.34	6th
3	School Meal Charges	3.44	.65	4th
4	Tuition Fees	3.59	.56	1st
5	Uniform Fee	3.47	.67	3rd
6	Examination Fee	3.38	.87	5th
7	P.T.A. Levy	3.11	.76	7th
8	Excursion Cost	3.01	.54	9th
9	Damages Fee	2.65	.61	10th
10	Plant Maintenance	3.02	.11	8th

Source: Fieldwork, 2021

Table 1 showed the cost incurred by parents on the education of their children. The results showed that tuition fee is most cost incurred by the parent on the education of their children and was ranked 1st while transportation cost, uniform cost, school meal charges, examination fee, stationary cost, P.T.A. levy, plant maintenance fee, excursion cost and damages fee were rated 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th respectively.

2. *Research Question 2: What is parent attitude toward the payment and private cost on the education of their child in secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis?*

Table 2 Attitude of Parent toward Cost of Education

S/N	Item	X	SD
1	The cost of tuition affects parent's decision is send all children to private school	2.34	.98
2	Because of money matters, parents could not see through the education of their children in private secondary school	3.47	.34
3	Some children have to write their final year SSC exam in public secondary school because the private charges are high	3.89	.89
4	The tuition charged by private secondary school have always been the reason why all parent do not spend their children to attend private secondary school	3.87	.78

5	Charges made by private secondary school for stationeries are too high and this affect parent's decision for sending children on private secondary school	2.34	.76
6	The transportation cost of children in private school is high	3.98	.76
7	The cost of transport charged by private schools made parents to take their children to school themselves	3.11	.65
8	Private secondary schools introduce a lot of charges and this made parents to withdraw their children from the school for another	2.87	.45
9	Private secondary schools' quest for money as at when due in the face of parents' financial inconsistency affects children's education	3.21	.61
10	Sometimes the amount of money to be spent on stationary, school uniform and other consumables make parents not to want to enroll the children in private school	2.63	.45
Grand Mean			3.17

Source: Fieldwork, 2021

Table 2 indicates that respondents agreed with stated statement. The cumulative overall means score of 3.17 of the respondents which is above the benchmark of 2.50 clearly shows that the parent attitude toward the payment and private cost on the education of their child in secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis was high and cannot be overemphasized.

Ho: There is no significant relationship between private cost and demand of secondary education in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State

Table 3: Private Cost and Demand of Secondary Education

Variable	N	\bar{X}	SD	Df	Cal r-value	P-value	Decision
Private Cost	147	4.09	.45				
				145	.613	.000	Ho Rejected
Demand of Secondary Education	147	8.11	2.12				

*Significant $P < .05$

Table 3 shows the calculated r-value of .613 while p-value (0.002) is less than the significance level (0.05) for 145 degrees of freedom. Therefore, the hypothesis, which states that there is no significant relationship between private cost and demand of secondary education in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State is rejected. It means that significant relationship exists between private cost and demand of secondary education in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State.

8.0 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

This section gives detailed explanations on the various findings discovered from the research questions raised and the hypotheses tested. For instance, the findings on the hypothesis which stated that there is no significant relationship between private cost and demand of secondary education in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State shows that there is significant relationship between private cost and demand of secondary education in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State. This finding is in consonance with the view of Victor (2004) who believed that though government is trying its efforts in the funding of public secondary schools, yet the contributions of the private cost cannot be underrated. No matter how hard government tries, it cannot provide students all the needed resources to excel in their studies. The roles played by private cost of education such as stationeries, PTA levy, textbooks, transport, sports levy and the likes

in the academic excellence of public secondary school students cannot be over-emphasized. Babalakin (2007) also stated that through private cost, supplementary funds which help boost students' academic performance in are made available to schools.

9.0 SUMMARY

The study was carried out to investigate the relationship between private cost on demand for secondary education in Ilorin Metropolis, Kwara State. The independent variable is private cost while demand for secondary education is the dependent variable. It was a descriptive survey of correlation type because it emphasized the degree of relationship among the three variables. A review of related literature led to relevant procedure for identification and construction of the instrument employed for this study. A conceptual framework in line with the literature reviewed was developed. Two research questions and four hypotheses were formulated for the study.

A set of instrument Questionnaire was designed. The questionnaire was tagged "Private Cost of Education Questionnaire (PCOEQ). The two research questions were analyzed using descriptive statistic of simple percentage. All the hypotheses were tested using Pearson product-moment correlation statistic at 0.05 level of significance.

The findings reveal the following:

- a) There is significant relationship between private cost on demand for secondary education in Ilorin Metropolis, Kwara State;
- b) There is significant relationship between tuition fees on demand for secondary education in Ilorin Metropolis, Kwara State;
- c) There is significant relationship between stationary cost on demand for secondary education in Ilorin Metropolis, Kwara State;
- d) There is significant relationship between examination fees on demand for secondary education in Ilorin Metropolis, Kwara State; and
- e) There is significant relationship between transportation on demand for secondary education in Ilorin Metropolis, Kwara State.

10.0 CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the study, it was revealed that parents have positive attitude towards secondary education of their children and incurred the following private costs: tuition fee, transport cost, books and stationery, feeding, pocket money, school uniform, development levy, lesson fee, PTA levy and examination levy. These costs were revealed to have significant relationship with demand for secondary education in Ilorin metropolis. Hence the costs have positive impact on the choice of secondary education in Ilorin metropolis.

11.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

From the findings and conclusions in this study, the following recommendations are made:

- a) Government should increase its investment Secondary Education so that the infrastructure availability gap between private and public schools can be closed, so that parents' financial status would not affect their choice of preparing children for a better secondary education;

- b) Government should award scholarship to students in private secondary schools. This is informed by the fact that a large numbers of youth in rural areas belong to low socio-economic strata;
- c) Government should make learning environment of public secondary schools attractive in order to restore the confidence of the parents in the system;
- d) Government should regulate the cost of price being charged in both public and private schools particularly on school fees. Through this, the financial burden of the parents will be reduced; and
- e) Tuition fee, transport cost, books and stationery, feeding, pocket money, school uniform, development levy, lesson fee, PTA levy and examination levy must be more controlled by the government, in as much as they have impact on the choice in Ilorin metropolis.

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