

Parents' Perceptions of Primary School Enrolment in Rivers State, Nigeria

Daisy Inyingi Dimkpa

*Department of Educational Foundations, Niger Delta University,
Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State, Nigeria
E-mail: daisdimkpadr@yahoo.com*

KEYWORDS School Attendance. Unequal Access. Poverty. Cultural Attitude. Strategy. Nigeria

ABSTRACT The main aim of this study was to investigate the differences in the enrolment pattern of males and females in the primary school on one hand and to examine parents' perceptions of the causes of sex differences in the enrolment pattern on the other. The descriptive survey design was employed and a total of 20 Universal Basic Education schools were randomly selected from 73 schools in Port Harcourt, Rivers State of Nigeria. Data was obtained from 20 head teachers and 194 purposively selected literate parents using a self-designed instrument titled 'Gender Enrolment Disparity Questionnaire' (GEDQ). The data were analyzed using percentages, mean scores and t-test. The study revealed that the females constituted 6,343 (52.6 percent) and the males 5,714 (47.4 percent). It also revealed that male and female parents were not significantly different in their perceptions of the causes of low-male enrolment ($t=1.42$; $p>0.05$). Based on the findings, recommendations were made.