

# **Influence of Cultural practices on Girl-Child Participation in Secondary School Education in Adamawa State, Nigeria**

**By**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This study examined the cultural determinants of girl-child participation in secondary school education in Adamawa State, Nigeria. The study was guided by two specific objectives: to determine the influence of Cultural factors on girl child participation in secondary education; to determine the influence of early marriage on girl child participation in secondary education.

Cultural in this study includes beliefs, customs and behavior that exist within a particular population. Girl child relating to this paper is a female child between the ages of schooling and who live with their parents. Participating as regards to this paper is the act of attending, taking part or coming to school, class and dropping out of school. The term secondary school education is an accredited program that students must pass through before the University Education. The study adopted descriptive research design. Using a population sample of 416 students and 80 teachers, the study collected data using close-ended Likert-type questions. The reliability and internal consistency of the measuring instrument was checked using test and re-test method and administered to the sample subjects of the instruments twice but in different time spans.

Cronbach alpha coefficient was used to assess the reliability of the two administered tests. A correlation coefficient of 0.8 and above indicated a strong correlation between the measures. As the study aimed at exploring reasons for inadequate participation of the girl child in secondary education, 16 parents from two schools were interviewed to yield the appropriate data. The data generated was then subjected to quantitative and qualitative analysis using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 22.0. Simple descriptive statistics in terms of frequencies and percentages were used to analyze the data and present the findings. Qualitative data was analyzed thematically based on the objectives of the study. The findings revealed a high dropout rate of 51.13% of the girl child participation in secondary education compared to that of boys

with only 14.71%. Further, the findings revealed that cultural affiliation, beliefs of parents, and early marriages influence girls' participation in secondary education in Adamawa State. The study recommends that policy makers should put in more effort to support girls to participate fully in secondary education. Also, parents should be educated and sensitized on the effect of cultural practices on girls' education and there should be penalties for parents who withdraw or refuse to enroll a school age child. The study creates public awareness on the importance of girls' education towards national development and provides information to policy makers on how to solve the problems associated with girls' education in Adamawa State and Nigeria in general.

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