

Original Research Article

## Influence of Family Size on Business Studies Students' Academic Achievement in Junior Secondary School (JSS) in Aba Education Zone

Dr Ifeoma Francisca Ehiemere<sup>1\*</sup>, Christopher Joseph Chinedu<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Teacher Education, National Institute for Nigerian Languages

<sup>2</sup>Department of Vocational and Technical Studies, National Institute for Nigerian Languages, Department of Business Education

**Article History**

Received: 25.11.2024

Accepted: 30.12.2024

Published: 03.01.2025

**Journal homepage:**

<https://www.easpublisher.com>

**Quick Response Code**



**Abstract:** The study on the influence of family size on business studies students' academic achievement in junior secondary school in Aba Education zone of Abia has 2 research questions and 2 hypotheses. The study used mix description. The population of the study was 9,487 while the sample was 382. Instrument for data collection was structured questionnaire and students' academic achievement record. Test re- test method was used to establish the reliability of the study. Pearson product moment correlation was used for data analysis and was tested at 0.05 level of significance. The finding of the study reveals that family size has a significant influence on students' academic achievement in business studies. Based on the findings of the study recommended that parents plan the number of children for proper monitoring for effective learning and for better academic achievement especially in business studies.

**Keywords:** Family Size, Business Studies and Academic Achievement.

**Copyright © 2025 The Author(s):** This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution **4.0 International License (CC BY-NC 4.0)** which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial use provided the original author and source are credited.

### INTRODUCTION

Family size refers to the number of children in a family unit. It is a fundamental aspect of family structure and varies greatly among different household and cultures. Family size can have various impacts on family dynamic, child development and socio-economic factors. Family size can affect how a child learns in the school. Academic attainment is an important parameter in measuring of success of students (Soyinka 2009). Research has shown that success or high academic achievement has become a peculiar task to accomplish by students in recent times. The important of family size cannot be over emphasized because family size small or large that a child comes from have important role to play in the life of the child academically (Lacou ,2001). Research has shown that children from small family size tend to perform well because their parents academically will be able to cater for them during their stay in the school by providing for them with the needed materials for quality education as compare to large family size which is not possible.

Business studies is taught as one the basic subjects that will enable student to acquire further skill which are common and fundamental to all personal and occupational activities (Inyang,1998). Business activity affects the daily lives of all Nigerians as they work,

spend, serve, invest, travel, and plant. It influences jobs, incomes and opportunities for personal enterprise. Business has significant effect on the standard of living and quality of life of people, and on the environment in which they live and which future generations will inherit (Ekanem, 2018). Eventually, all students will encounter the world of business, whether they work in urban or rural areas. They must be prepared to engage in business activities with confidence and competence.

Academic performance of junior secondary school students in Business students can be differentiated by many factors as students have many responsibilities with regard to their learning. However, taking responsibility for their own progress and learning is an important part of education for all students regardless of their circumstances hence this research study.

According to JSSCE syllabus every aspect of Business study is taught as a unit and is evaluated either by objective question form or essay or as both. According to National Policy on Education (FRN 2014), business studies prepare student for business careers as well as to enable them to become more efficient and advance to higher business positions. Business studies have five components which include: office practice, commence, book keeping, short hand and typewriting. Base on the nature of business studies family background

\*Corresponding Author: Dr Ifeoma Francisca Ehiemere  
Department of Teacher Education, National Institute for Nigerian Languages

factors accruable may have a tremendous influence in enhancing students' learning in those areas.

Some research suggests that larger family size may be associated with lower academic achievement; other studies have mixed or even positive associations. Downey (2021) explain the relationship between family size and academic achievement according to his hypothesis parental resources, such as time, attention and financial resources are divided among more children in larger families, potentially leading to reduced support and investment in each child's education.

Blake (2019) is of the opinion that quality of parental involvement in a child's education may be more important than family size alone. Even in larger family supportive and engaged parents can positively influence their children's academic achievement through encouragement, assistance with homework, and involvement in school activities.

Black *et al.*, (2020) is of the view that sibling relationship and dynamics within the family can also impact academics achievement. Positive siblings' interaction, cooperation and support may contribute to a supportive learning environment, while siblings' conflict or competition may have a negative effect.

Robinson and Lipinski (2011). In their study explore the development of gender achievement gaps on Business studies providing insights into potential differences in academic performance between male and female students.

### Statement of the Problem

Influence of family size on the business studies students' academic achievement in Junior secondary school student in Aba Educational zone cannot be overemphasized. The present poor academic achievement of student in business studies as reflected in the junior secondary school students.

The study carried out by (Buba, 2016) found that some educational stakeholders such as parents, teachers, government and students blamed each other for student poor achievement in schools. As parent blame teachers for lack of dedication to studies, the teachers in the other way round blame the government for lack of payment of salary which motivate teachers, parents also tend to blame the government for keeping the school environment in a dilapidated condition, lack of learning materials parent on their side are blamed for not disciplining their child at home, while the student are blame for not being discipline. Hach (2017) blamed family size of the students for the student's poor academic achievement especially at the junior secondary school level.

As a result of all this complaint in Aba educational zone, the researcher was motivated to find

out whether family size and gender has influence on student's academic achievement in business studies junior secondary school level in Aba Education zone of Abia State. All these constitute the problems that prompted the researcher to carry out this study with the aim of identifying possible solution using empirical evidence. This study is set to answer the following research questions:

1. To what extent does family size influence students' academic achievement in business studies in JSS in Aba Educational Zone of Abia State.
2. What is the difference between male and female students' academic achievement in business studies in Jss in Aba Education zone of Abia State?

### Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of the study was to examine the influence of family size on business studies students' academic achievement in JSSCE in Aba Education zone of Abia State. Specifically, the study seeks to:

1. Determine the influence of family size on student academic achievement in business studies in JSS in Aba Educational zone, of Abia State.
2. Examine the difference between the males and female's academic achievement in business studies in JSS in Aba Educational zone of Abia State.

### Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses guided the study and were tested at 0.05 level of significance:

**Ho1:** Family size has no significant influence on student's academic achievement in business studies in Jsss in Aba education zone of Abia State.

**Ho2:** There is no significant difference between male and female student's academic achievement in business studies in Jss in Aba education zone of Abia State.

## METHOD

The design of the study was a mix of description and ex-post facto design. The population of the study was 506 junior secondary schools, and 69,487 students which comprises of 36,282 male and 33,205 females. The sample size for the study was 15 schools. A total of 382 students were sample randomly from 15 schools. The major instrument for data collection for this study was 15 structured questionnaire items for students and the students record of academic achievement was collected and used for the year 2020\2021 academic session. They were based on 4-point scale -very high extent (SHE), 4 points in high extent (HE) 3 points; medium extent (ME), 2-point, low extent (LE) 1 point. (4+3+2+1)=10. Test re-test method was used to establish the reliability of the instrument. Peason product moment correlation (r) and the result of the analysis showed the correlation co-efficient of 0.77. The null hypothesis was tested using

sample linear regression (SLR) and z-test in the test of hypothesis for the other hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance.

## RESULTS

**Table 1: Responses on the extent of the influence of family size on student’s academic achievement in business studies**

ITEMS\ STATEMENT	X	SD	DECISION*
Family size has positive implication for student’s academic achievement in business studies	2.89	1.70	H. E
Students from small families enjoy more parental attention in learning business studies than those from large families	3.08	1.45	H. E
Single parents are over burdened by responsibilities which affect their children’s academic achievement in business studies	2.06	1.43	L.E
Children from large families were properly guided in doing their assignment because of their numbers	2.54	1.59	H. E
Children from polygamous families may not have enough money to take care of their needs.	2.87	1.69	H. E
In polygamous family’s children may suffer from domestic work which affects their academic achievement in business studies	2.98	1.69	H. E
Last born children perform less well in business studies than their earlier born	2.91	1.70	H. E
Small family size facilitates the provision of recommended text books for effective learning and academic achievement in business studies	3.06	1.75	H. E
A child who suffer maternal and paternal deprivation may experience academic problems in business studies	3.07	1.75	H. E
Student’s from small-size families achieve better academically in business studies than those from large size families	2.61	1.61	H. E
The life of a single parent family is stressful for the children in learning business studies	2.13	1.46	L. E
Large family parents cannot give their children the same amount of individual attention for them to learn business students	2.89	1.73	H. E
Children from large families perform letter academically in practical correspondent of business studies	2.17	1.47	H. E
A large family suffers poverty which affects the children’s academic achievement in business studies	2.86	1.69	H. E
In single parents’ family’s children may suffer a social problem which affects their academic achievement in business studies.	3.00	1.73	H. E
<b>General weighted mean</b>	<b>2.74</b>	<b>1.63</b>	<b>H. E</b>

\*HE= High extent; Low Extent.

Data in Table I revealed the respondents mean rating and standards deviation of the extent of the influence of family size on student’s academic achievement in business studies in Jss education in Aba education zone of Abia state. The instrument revealed that family size has positive influence on student’s academic achievement in business studies in Junior

Secondary School (JSS) in Aba education zone, of Abia state. (The grand weighted mean was 2.74, and the SD stood at 1.63.

### What is the Difference between Male and Female Students’ Academic Achievement in Business Studies in Jss in Aba Education Zone of Abia State?

**Table 2: Students’ academic achievement in business studies in Jss in Aba Education zone in Abia State (N=380)**

Variable	Gender	N	Mean	SD
Students’ Academic Achievement (Scores)	Males	185	59.89	7.73
	Females	185	58.97	7.69

Source: Field study, 2024

Table 2 reveals students’ academic achievement (scores) in business studies in Jss in Aba Education zone of Abia State. Male student was 195 with mean scores of 59.89 and standard deviation =7.73 while female students was 185 with mean scores of 58.97 and SD=7.69. The result revealed that there is no difference between male and female students’ academic

achievement in business studies in JSS in Aba education zone of Abia State.

### Test of Hypotheses

**Ho1:** Female size has no significant influence on students’ academic achievement in business studies in JSS in Aba education Zone of Abia State.

**Table 3: Summary of simple Regression of the influence of female size on business studies Academic Achievement in JSS in Aba zone of Abia State**

Variables	Business studies	Std. error	T		Beta standardized	R	R2	Add R2	Dec
Family size	31.325	8.015	3.908	.000					
					.911	0.911	.900	.718	HO1 failed retain
Academic Achievement	.244	.191	1.280	.000					

Source: Field study, 2024; Significant,  $p < 0.05$

Data in Table 3 reveal the analysis of family size in relation to students' academic achievement. The table indicate that  $R^2$  value is .900, beta =.911 and  $p = .000$ . This implies that 90% of student academic achievement was dependent upon the family size of the s students. Furthermore, since P-value of .000 is less than the level of significance of 0.05, this implies that family size has a significant influence on students' academic achievement in business studies. Therefore, the null

hypothesis which states that the family size has no influence on students' academic achievement in business studies in JSS in Aba Education Zone of Abia State.

**HO2:** There is no significant difference between male and female students 'academic achievement in business student in JSSS Aba education Zone of Abia State.

**Table 4: Z-test difference between males and females in business studies in JSS in Aba Education zone of Abia State**

variable	Gender	N	Mean	Std Dev	Std Err.	Df	z-cal	z-critical	Sig (P)
Students' academic achievement	Male	195	59.89	7.73	1.056				
						380	1.293	1.96	0.198
Business studies	Female	185	58.97	7.67	1.309				

Source: Field study, 2024; Calculated  $z < 1.96$ , calculated  $p > 0.05$ .

Data in Table 4 reveals students' academic achievement (scores) in business studies in jsss in Aba education zone of Abia state. The calculated p value of 0.198 is greater than the 0.05 alpha level of significance. The z-calculated scores were 59.89 and 58.97 for males and female's student academic achievement score in business studies in jsss in Aba education zone in Abia state reveal that there is no significant difference in the students. Thus, the null hypothesis that stated there is no significant difference between male and female students' academic in business studies in jsss in Aba education zone in Abia state is accepted and retained.

## DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

With reference to research questions the following findings were made in the in HO1, Table 3 family size has no significant influence on students, academic achievement in business studies in JSSS in aba education zone this implies that the hypothesis finds to retain. This can be attributed to the fact that family size has implication. This was in agreement in Gabriel (2013) who stated that the family size of an individual has implication for their education. Okunniyi (2010) reported that children in large families suffers from poverty and lack parental and stimulus which motivate their academic achievement. Large family size creates in the upbringing of children some identified problems such as feeding, insufficient food, poor clothing, insufficient fund, lack of proper attention for children, disciplinary problem and malnutrition. However, family that a child comes from either monogamous or polygamous family usually has impact on the child academic achievement.

The type of family (monogamous or polygamous) determines the size of the family. The study generally reveals that family size influence students 'academic achievement in business studies in JSSS in aba education zone of Abia state.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There is positive influence of family size on students' academic achievement in business studies in JSS in Aba Education zone of Abia State. Based on the findings of the study the following recommendations were made:

1. Parent should plan the number of their children for proper monitoring for effective learning and for better academic achievement especially in business studies.
2. Family counseling services should be emphasis as to sensitize parents to understand the effect of family size on student's academic
3. Environment and other learning materials should be provided for both males and females students by parent. Also, prompt payments of achievement.
4. Enabling school fees should be made by parents for better academic achievement.

## REFERENCE

- Blake, J. (2019). *Family size and the quality of children Demography*, 26(3), 369-381
- Downey, D. B. (2021). Family size, parental resources and children's educational performance. *American Sociological review*, 60(5), 746-761.

- Ekanem, G. E. (2018). Students' characteristics and business studies in junior secondary schools in Akwa Ibom state, Nigeria. Unpublished M.Ed dissertation, university of Uyo.
- Gabriel, P. V. (2013). Family variables and students' Academic performance in public secondary Schools in gboko, Benue state. *Journal of Education*, 4(3), 68-76.
- Okunniyi, O. N. (2010). The influence of family background of students' introductory technology achievement of junior secondary school in Abeokuta South. L.G.A of Ogun state. Unpublished M.Ed. Degree thesis submitted to the school of postgraduate, University of Nigeria Nsukka: Enugu.
- Robinson, L. C., & Iubienski, S. D. (2011). Reconsidering the Effects of sibling configuration: recent advances and challenges. *Annual review of sociology*, 28(1), 243-269.

---

**Cite This Article:** Ifeoma Francisca Ehiemere & Christopher Joseph Chinedu (2025). Influence of Family Size on Business Studies Students' Academic Achievement in Junior Secondary School (JSS) In Aba Education Zone. *East African Scholars Multidiscip Bull*, 8(1), 1-5.

---