

**SELF RELIANCE, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND
GOOD GOVERNANCE AMONG EARLY CHILDHOOD
CARE EDUCATION LEARNERS IN EKET SENATORIAL
DISTRICT OF AKWA IBOM STATE**

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Abstract

This work was designed to find out the relationship between self reliance, sustainable development and good Governance among Early childhood care Education (ECCE) learners in Eket senatorial district of Akwa Ibom State Nigeria. Specifically the study examined the relationship between the inculcation of moral values, developing of cooperation/team spirit and good governance among ECCE Learners. Two hypotheses were formed to guide the study. A correlational design was adopted for the study. The population of the study consists of 4826 ECCE Learners from the 68 public primary schools in the senatorial district. The sample size drawn using simple random sampling Techniques was 500 learners from 20 ECCE Centers in public primary school in the study Area. The instruments used for data collection were; a Questionnaire and observation schedule [checklist]. The instruments with a reliability index of 0.845 and .841 respectively were validated by three expert from ECCE and test and measurement departments. Data collection were analyzed using Pearson product moment correlation coefficient.(PPMC). The

results are that: The inculcation of right moral values, Develop a sense of cooperation/team spirit have a significant relationship with good Governance among ECCE Learners in Eket senatorial district. It was therefore recommended among others that, ECCE Learners should be discouraged against unacceptable moral value always.

KeyWords: *Self reliance, sustainable development, Early childhood care Education and Good Governance.*

Introduction

Education is a crucial sector in any society that determines any nation's economic, social, political and cultural development. It is a pivot which every other sector of a nation rotates. (Obam 2002) The Nigerian formal education system begins with the early childhood care Education (ECCE). It is the foundation upon which any other level of education is built upon. Early childhood education has been widely regarded as a powerful strategy for reducing the influence of poverty, wastage, stagnation and a significant starting point for the universal primary education. According to National policy on education (NPE, 2014) it is the education given to children in an educational institution prior to their entering formal primary school education system. Early childhood education is a crucial period for the development of the mental functions of children. This development including the emergence of the abilities and skills, psycho-social, cognitive and learning is now know to be greatly influenced by exogenous factors including the native of the educational environment to which the child is exposed during the first 3 to 8 years of life (Bowman and Burns 2001). The learning experiences of the preschool years can influence the rest of the child's life. Thereby helping the child to be self reliance, to trust or to have confidence in his or herself and a high self esteem. Self reliance is said to be a precursor of independence and creativity (Obinaju 2005). By the early primary classes, the child who is raised in the positive line of Enkson's psychosocial stages would grow toward knowing what he can do and having sufficient confidence in trying even challenging tasks. By mid primary age and even before end of primary education we would have a child who is confident, knowledgeable about what he or she is able to do and what he may consider challenging; He would use this attitude to approach every other aspect of life. Here, we can say that the foundation of self reliance has been laid. According to Obinaju (2012) sustainable development is simply keeping up or keeping going an action or process. One would understand sustainability to means utilization of

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resource within the context of maintaining them in a good state, not only for use by the present generation, but as well as the generation yet unborn. Sustainable development is a regularization of the means of living which provide for adequate improvement on the previous ways of living, in respect to contemporary exigencies of life with the gull awareness of the need to act in ways and manner which would ensure continued existence and adequate comfort to the succeeding generation (Obinaju, 2005). Sustainable development of any nation can only be achieved through acquisition of relevant knowledge and skills by citizens to enable them participate as effective citizen using and exploiting environmental resources in a sustainable manner for themselves and generation to come. No human being can survive without exploitation of available resources. One's livelihood depends to a great extent on available resource. For livelihood to experience abundance there is need for sustainability and creativity on means of multiplication of the available sources. Self reliance foster independence and creativity, while sustainable development highlight what needs to be done, self reliance paves the way it can be done (Akamboye 2013).

In Nigeria today, one would need to ask what needs to be sustained; A lot deserve attention; polity, values, culture, physical infrastructure, natural resources, environment and livelihood. A child well brought up to know and appreciate his roots will do everything to protect it. He or she would not be convinced in any way to destabilize his home (Duke 2006). It would all start by his seeing the need to respect constituted authority. With social norms well inculcated right from the early childhood care education days, a sense of cooperation and team spirit well developed, the child will innovate ways of living in peace with one another in the society (Ainley and Hidi 2014). Today a lot has befallen Nigeria with the numerous cases of herdsmen- farmer clashes, kidnapping and the Boko Haram menace. It is obvious that sufficient means of self reliance was not laid in the perpetrators of the menace. Self reliance would appreciate beauty seek to improve on what has already been created instead of destruction. Character, sound attitude and morals when mounded in the child would instill in him the awe of, sanctity to life and property (sudha 2011). Citizenship education acquired at the primary education level would give him/her the urge to contribute to the improvement of the life of his community. Self reliance would push him to seek ways of improving on the present rather than destroying the foundation. Violence, rampage and destruction of physical infrastructure are signs of lack of self confidence and improper training. By careful examination, those who perpetrate such acts as mentioned above have neither had proper home training nor formal education (May 2016). Any iota of

creativity in them centers on how to dispossess people to provide for their needs. By this attitude of theirs, polity, values, culture and even infrastructure can not be sustained.

Kester (2009) reveals that, sustaining livelihood ensures not risk of poverty. It ensures peace, good health, proper feeding, stable emotion and reduction of provocative circumstances. In fact none of them can on its own provide development if not linked up one with the other. Self reliance would ensure that the individual is hard working to provide food for self and his household. A hard working person does not have time to find trouble. He or she will have enough resources to provide adequate healthcare, he would feed properly with required nutrients thus having nothing to threaten his emotions.

Barcelona (2002) Opines that self reliance make one see natural resources as God's gift to mankind for which man must be grateful. These natural resources include trees, soil, grass, rocks, fire wood, animals and the like. Self reliance would make the individual exploit these resources with the idea of providing for tomorrow. As these resources make up our environment, self reliance would ensure environmental protection as well. In this way, it can be seen that inculcating self reliance in the citizenry is a sure way of providing sustainability to any nation development (Graves 2006). Ayuba (2014) opines that Governance applies to the exercise of power which is to direct, control and regulates activities in the interest of majority of the citizens. Good governance entails accountability, legitimacy, and transparency in carrying out government affairs. Good governance generates peace and security which is the bedrock of development and which takes root when people's dignity and right are respected. According to Rasheed (2022) good governance is the best foundation and guarantor of National security. He maintained that, we must build institution (education), enhance processes and strengthen our system, not only to make them work more efficiently, but also to make them work for the people. Hence, there is need to inculcate in early childhood care education learners and in our populace a sense of "Ownership" and that the people must have the feeling, indeed, the belief that they are partners in governance and that public facilities and infrastructure are there for their own comfort and welfare (Onyebu 2021). However, bad governance resulted in insurgency, militancy, ritual killing and kid's rape. In order to contain the situation, the imperative of good governance must be embarked upon as an obligation of the government. Ganduje (2022) noted that, the threats to our peace and stability, including the sustenance of our fledgling democracy, can and should be addressed by good governance because there is an inextricable relationship between sustainable development security and good

governance. Functional Early childhood care education can allow sanity to prevail in the running of the affairs of this country when right values, norms & ethics are inculcated in the young ones who are future leaders. Ololube and Egbezo (2012) posited that higher education with proper foundation been laid had greater implications for ensuring peace, security and good governance than most people could realize, thereby transforming the youths of today with skills, knowledge and values that would enhance the security of the nation and its people.

Statement of the Problem

A functional early childhood care education is aimed at the wholesome development of the child physically, mentally, socially and emotionally. It is pertinent to note that, a child well brought up to know and appreciate his roots will do everything to protect it. (Obmaju 2005) with social norms well inculcated right from the early childhood care education days, a sense of cooperation and team spirit well developed, sufficient means of self reliance been laid, the child will innovate ways of living in peace with one another in the society. Today, a lot have destabilize the up bringing of many children in different parts of the country including Akwa Ibom State, ranging from severe hardship, kidnapping, raping, herdsmen – farmers clashes and the menace of Boko Haram. This situation if over look will jeopardized the life of the future leaders. This study therefore seeks to examine the relationship between self reliance sustainable development and good governance among ECCE learners in Eket senatorial district of Akwa Ibom State.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to examine the relationship between self valiance, sustainable development and good governance among early childhood care education learners in Eket senatorial district. Specifically, the study seek to

1. Determine the relationship between the inculcation of moral values in early childhood education learners and good governance.
2. Examine the relationship between developing a sense of cooperation / team spirit in early childhood care education learners and good governance.

Research Hypotheses

To guide the study, two hypotheses were formulated thus:

1. There is no significant relationship between the inculcation of right moral values in (ECCE) learners and good governance.

2. There exist no significant relationship between developing sense of cooperation /team spirit in (ECCE) Learners and good governance.

Methodology

The design adopted for the study was the correlation design. The design was considered appropriate for the study because the study sought to examine the relationship among the variables of self reliance and good governance among children. The purpose of a correlational design is to assess the relationship among two or more variable in a single group (Ary Jacobs Sorensen and Rezavich 2010)

Population of the Study

The population of the study consisted of all the Early childhood care education learners in Eket senatorial district of AKwa Ibom State Numbering 4826 learners of the 2023/2024 Academic session (state universal basic education board) (SUBEB)

Sample and Sampling Techniques

The sample size of the study consists of 500 early childhood care education learners drawn from 20 ECCE centers in the study area. In each of the centre twenty five (25) learners were selected using sample random sampling technique according to Udo and Joseph (2005) simple random sampling technique gives every member of the population an equal chance of being selected for the study.

Instrumentation

The instruments used for data collection were: a 14 item performance observation checklist and a 16 – item questionnaire titled: developing sense of cooperation and inculcating moral values in learners for good governance questionnaire (DSCAIMVLFGGQ). The questionnaire was of the five likert type with the following scales: Excellent (E) with 5- point, very good (VG) with 4 – points, Good (G) with – 3 point, fair (f) with 2 – points, and poor (p) with I – point.

Validity and Reliability of Research Instrument

The instrument were validated by three experts, two from the department of Early childhood care Education and one from test and measurement unit university of Uyo. To ascertain the reliability of the instruments, there were administered to 30 ECCE learners from 3 public primary school in Uyo senatorial district that were not part of the population of the study. Cronbach alpha coefficient was used for the calculation of the reliability index. The reliability of the instruments was .845 and .841 for the questionnaire and observation schedule respectively. These levels of reliability were considered to be highly reliable for this study. Pearson

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product moment correlation coefficient (PPMC) was used for the analysis of the null hypotheses.

Results

The data collected was analyzed using Pearson moment correlation coefficient tested at 0.05 level of significant.

Hypothesis One: There is no significant relationship between the inculcation of moral values in early childhood care education learners and good governance

Table 1

The table below shows Pearson product moment correlation coefficient analysis of the inculcation of the right moral value and good governance among ECCE learners in Eket senatorial district.

R. crit	Variables Decision	Σ	Σ ²	N	Σxy	r.cal	DF
0.089	Moral values	2710	11262	500	13128	0.836	731
	Rejected p< .05 Good governance (y)	3444	16372				

The result in table I revealed that at the degree of freedom of 731 and 0.05 level of significant, the tabulated r-value is 0.089. Since the calculated r.value of 0.836 is greater than the tabulated r-value, the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus, showing that, there exists a significant relationship between the inculcation of the right moral values in early childhood care education learners and good government in Eket senatorial district of Akwa Ibom State Nigeria.

Hypothesis Two: There is no significant relationship between developing a sense of cooperation /team spirit in ECCE learners in Eket senatorial district and good governance.

Pearson product moment correlation Analysis was used for testing of this hypothesis the result of the analysis is as presented in table 2.

Table 2:

Pearson product moment correlation Analysis of developing a sense of cooperation/team spirit among ECCE learners and good governance in Eket Sensational district

V crit	Variables Decision	Σ	Σ ²	N	Σxy	V.cal	DF
0.089	Cooperation/ Team spirit (x)	2480					
	Rejected p< .05	9360		500	11996	0.815	731
	Cooperation/ team spirit (y)	3444 6372					

The result in table 2 revealed that at the degree of freedom of 731 and 0.05 level of significant, the tabulated r.value is 0.089. Since the calculated r-value of 0.815 is greater than the tabulated critical r.value, the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus there exist a significant relationship between developing a sense of cooperation/team spirit among ECCE learners and good governance in Eket Sensational district of Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria.

Discussion

The findings in hypothesis one shows that there exists a significant relationship between the inculcation of the right moral values in EECE learners and good governance in Eket senatorial district of Akwa Ibom State. This result is in agreement with (Obinaju 2005) who opines that the learning experience of the preschool years can influence the rest of the child's life thereby helping the child to be self reliance, trust or to have confidence in himself or herself and a high self esteem. (Sudha 2011) also agreed that character, sound attitude and morals when moulded in the child will instill in him the awe of sanctity to life and property. Furthermore, the finding is in agreement with (Duke 2006) who asserted that a child well brought up to know and appreciate his roots will do everything to protect it and not destabilize his home.

The Finding in Hypothesis Two shows that there exist a significant relationship between developing a sense of cooperation/team among ECCE learners and good governance in Eket sensational District. This result is in support of Aniley & Hidi (2014) who reveals that, social norms well inculcated right from the Early

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Childhood care education days, a sense of cooperation/team spirit well developed, the child will always innovate ways of living in peace with one another in the society. It also agreed with Ololube and Egbezu (2012) who opines that higher education with proper foundation been laid has greater implications for ensuring peace, security, and good governance. Furthermore, the finding agreed with Kester (2009) who opines that, sustainable livelihood ensures no risk of poverty, good health, peace, proper feeding, stable emotion and reduction of provocative circumstances.

Conclusion

On the basis of research findings, the following conclusions were drawn.

The inculcation of the right moral values in Early Childhood care Education (ECCE) learners for self reliance and sustainable development has a strong positive relationship with good governance are such, it should be properly and sincerely encouraged.

There exist a high positive relationship between developing a sense of cooperation/team spirit in ECCE learners and good governance in Eket senatorial district of Akwa Ibom State. Therefore, teachers, head of schools, parents, guidance and meaningful citizens and government should work towards achieving this objective

Recommendations

1. Learners should be discouraged against unacceptable moral values always.
2. Learners should be encouraged to play together; cooperative play should be emphasized in early childhood care education centers.
3. Parents and guidance should always encourage children against deviant behaviors right from their homes.

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