

Perception of Students on the Influence of Study Habits on Academic Achievement of Senior Secondary School Students in Chemistry in Abia State

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Abstract

The research work aimed at examining the influence of study habit on the academic performance of senior secondary chemistry students in Isiala Ngwa North Local Government Area of Abia State, Nigeria, as perceived by the students. The researchers adopted a descriptive survey design for the study. The population of the study includes senior secondary school two and three chemistry students from ten government owned secondary schools within the council totaling six hundred and sixty six students. A sample size of eighty four students was selected for the study, which represented 30 % of the population of five randomly selected schools out of the ten secondary schools within the area of study. A total of eighty four copies of the questionnaire were distributed to the respondents in order to obtain answers to the questions that were posed. The study revealed that students who study hard and spend quality time for private studies perform better than those who do not have time for their studies. In addition to that, health, parents and technological improvements affected the study habits of senior secondary school students of chemistry in Isiala North local Government Area of Abia State, Nigeria. It was recommended that students should give quality time for personal studies. Also, parents and teachers should interact with the students so as to expose the needs of the student to them. Government should provide technological infrastructures and other varieties so as to encourage the students in their study.

Keywords: Perception, influence, study habits, students, chemistry

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I. Introduction

Education is a veritable tool that shapes and develops an individual as well as the larger society. The scientific development of any nation is largely enhanced by the quality of science education in her school system. Azikwe (2018) describes study habit as the adopted way and manner a student plans his/her private readings after classroom learning so as to attain mastery of the subject. Good study habit enhances academic performance while bad study habits could lead to poor performance. Ogbodo (2010) highlighted that students should be properly counseled to study effectively and use an appropriate study habit model designed with the aim of showing the students how to study effectively. Verma (2008) stressed that good study habit promotes academic performance of the student. High and low achievers as well as over and under achievers differ significantly with regard to quality and strength of their study habits. Moreover, a study by Nagaraju (2004) indicates that students usually do not devote sufficient time to their studies and thus have poor study habits. Good study habits lead to good academic records and bad study habits leads to poor academic records, as there is direct relationship between study habits and academic achievement (Verma 2008; Verma and Kumar 2009). According to Nuthana and Yenagi (2009) in Mendezabal (2013), students' academic achievement occupies a very important place in education as well as in the learning process. Consequently, it is considered as a key criterion to judge one's total potentials and capacities which are frequently measured by examination results.

Evans and Julius (2015) sought to determine the relationship between study habits and academic achievement of students of Spicer higher school in India. N.M. Palsane's study habit inventory and school examination records were the instruments used to generate data for the study. Quantitative method was used to analyze data generated. The study showed that there is a positive relationship of 0.66 between study habit and academic achievement. In another study carried out by Jafari, Aghaei and Khatony (2019), on the relationship between study habits and academic achievement in students of medical sciences in Kermanshah-Iran, it was

discovered that there is a direct and significant relationship between study habits and academic achievement. In the same vein, John and Shiaki (2020) investigated the study habits of secondary school science students in Jalingo metropolis in Taraba state, Nigeria. The study generated data with questionnaire and used descriptive statistics to analyze the results. The findings of the study showed that there is a strong positive and significant correlation between study habits and academic performance among the students.

In the same vein, Onuekwe (2015) sought to determine the influence of study habits on academic achievement of students in Home Economics in Junior Secondary Schools in Enugu State, Nigeria. The study which employed Study Habits Inventory Questionnaire for data collection used the statistical methods of mean, standard deviation and ANOVA to analyze the data generated. The results showed that there was a positive correlation between study habits and students' achievements for Home Economics students. Over the years, researchers have devoted efforts to examine learners' reading habits and how it is affected by gender (Razia, 2015; McGeown, 2015), income (Razia, 2015) and career and professional growth (Erden, 2015). Ameyaw and Anto (2018) stated that the lack of a conducive home environment hinders the reading habits when they are at home. Le *et al.* (2019) mentioned that home condition often dictates the choice of reading and the time spent to read. Ezenwafor and Amadi (2016) reported poor academic performance of students in eternal examination. They suggested improved parental support and study habit.

In another development, Zahra and Sharifah (2019) attempted to establish a correlation between study habits and academic achievement of Afghan EFL students, using Palsane and Sharma Study Habits Inventory and the students' previous semester grade to generate data for analysis. The result showed that there is a significant positive correlation between Afghan EFL students' study habits and their academic achievement. Besides, a study carried out by Egbujuo and Ajagun (2019), attempted to measure the students' study habit to predict academic achievement in chemistry. The study employed Study Habit Inventory and Chemistry Achievement Test as instruments for data collection. Analysis of data was achieved by using mean, standard deviation and multiple regression analysis. The study revealed that chemistry students possessed fairly good study habits. Likewise in another study carried out by Nwanze and Okoli (year) on the analysis of student-related factor affecting academic achievement in chemistry among college of education students in Delta State, it was discovered that the joint predict of the 10 variables of achievement in chemistry was significant. Agaba (2020) in a study on students' achievement and perception of Integrated Science in Colleges of Education in Nigeria also discovered that the students were weak in their academic performance, and that the students perceived Integrated Science as tricky. Again, Uchenna and Edidiong (2020) in their study on the influence of locus control, study habits and gender on the academic achievement of senior secondary school physics students in Ibadan discovered that these variables predicted students' academic achievement.

Reviewed literature shows that there is no record of the research work on the perceived impact of study habit on academic performance of chemistry students in senior secondary students in Isiala Ngwa South L.G.A of Abia State, Nigeria, of which the present research proposed to study.

Research Questions

- i. To which extent does study habit affect the academic performance of senior secondary school students of chemistry in Isiala Ngwa North Local Government Area of Abia State?
- ii. To what extent does parental attitude influence the study habits of senior secondary school students of chemistry in Isiala Ngwa North Local Government of Abia State?
- iii. To what extent has technological improvements affected the study habits of senior secondary school students of chemistry in Isiala Ngwa North Local Government Area of Abia state?

II. Material and methods:

Study design:

The research is a descriptive survey designed to investigate the perception of students on the influence of study habits on academic achievement of senior secondary school students in chemistry in Abia state.

Study location: The research location is Isiala Ngwa North Local Government Area of Abia state, with its headquarters at Okpuala Ngwa, Other communities under the local government include Obikabia, Osusu, Amapu, Umuoha, Amasaa, OhuhuNsulu, UmuezeUkwu, Amachi, Nsulu, Amaorji, Mbasi, Umuakwu, Apunekpu, NgwaUkwu, Ntigha, Nbawsi and Ahiaba. The local government has ten senior secondary schools, out of which five are selected for this study.

Study duration:

The study was carried out between the period of January 2021 and July 2021.

Sample size:

The sample for this study consists of five secondary schools which were randomly selected out of the ten secondary schools in the study area and a proportion of 30% was used to select the students from each of the classes giving a total number of eighty-four (84) students.

Data collection and statistical analysis:

The instrument for data collection was the researchers’ designed questionnaire, which consisted of two sections A and B. Section A was constructed to collect personal data from the respondents. Section B was designed to collect vital information on the perception of students on the influence of study habits on academic achievement of senior secondary school students in chemistry in Abia state The researchers explained most of the items to the students. The questionnaire was validated by two experts, one from chemistry department and the other from faculty of Education, Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education, Owerri, Imo state, Nigeria. One hundred and fifty-five copies of questionnaire were distributed by the researchers to the students and afterwards, collected for analysis. The questionnaire was designed using the four likert scale as follows: strongly agree (4 points), Agree (3 points), disagree (2 points) and strongly disagree (1 point). Data analysis was achieved by using the percentage, mean, and standard deviation. The decision rule stipulates that values obtained which were below 2.5 were rejected, while values of 2.5 and above were accepted.

III. Results

The results obtained were presented in tables 1-3 as follows:

Research Question One: To which extent do study habits affect the academic performance of senior secondary school students of chemistry in Isiala Ngwa North Local Government Area of Abia State?

Table 1: Analysis of data on study habit and performance

S/N	Questionnaire items	Total no. of responses	Total Score	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Standard Deviation	Decision
1	Students who study hard and show serious interest in their academic work perform better than those who do not.	84	308	73%	27%	0%	0%	3.6	1.91	Accepted
2	Students who spend quality time in private study perform better in school.	84	292	67%	29%	3%	1%	3.4	1.86	Accepted
3	Extra-curricular activities like debates, quizzes, clubs and societies and so on can improve students study habits and academic performance.	84	297	71%	25%	2%	1%	3.5	1.88	Accepted
4	Health can affect study habit and academic performance in schools.	84	298	62%	38%	0%	0%	3.5	1.88	Accepted
	Average	84	299	68%	30%	1%	1%	3.5	1.88	Accepted

Table 1 represents students’ responses to the influence of study habit on the academic performance of chemistry students in Isiala Ngwa North Local Government Area of Abia State, Nigeria. Four parameters were considered for this research question and the results showed that 68% of the students strongly agreed that study habit influenced the academic performance of students. An average mean value of 3.5 was obtained which is above the average mean or decision rule of 2.5 as stipulated in the methodology. The responses that students who spend quality time in private study perform better in school, had the least standard deviation of 1.86.

Research Question Two: To what extent does parental attitude influence the study habits of senior secondary school students of chemistry in Isiala Ngwa North Local Government of Abia State?

Table 2: Analysis of data on parental attitude on the study habits of secondary school students.

S/N	Questionnaire items	Total no. of responses	Total Score	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Standard Deviation	Decision
5	Students study and perform better when their parents provide them with enough learning materials.	84	294	68%	30%	1%	1%	3.5	1.87	Accepted
6	The active and dedicated involvement of parents in the academic activities of children will improve the study habit and academic performance of students.	84	311	80%	19%	1%	0%	3.7	1.92	Accepted
7	The nature of parent's occupation can affect the study habit and academic performance of students.	84	275	58%	35%	5%	2%	3.2	1.81	Accepted
8	Children whose parents are educated show more interest in their studies.	84	294	71%	25%	3%	1%	3.5	1.87	Accepted
	Average	84	294	69%	27%	3%	1%	3.5	1.87	Accepted

Table 2 represents students' responses to the influence of parental attitude on the academic performance of chemistry students in Isiala Ngwa North Local Government Area of Abia State, Nigeria. Four parameters were considered for this research question and the results showed that 69% of the students strongly agreed that parental attitude influenced the academic performance of students. An average mean value of 3.5 was obtained which is above the average mean or decision rule of 2.5 as stipulated in the methodology. The responses that the nature of parent's occupation can affect the study habit and academic performance of students. had the least standard deviation of 1.81.

Research Question Three: To what extent has technological improvements affected the study habits of senior secondary school students of chemistry in Isiala Ngwa North Local Government Area of Abia state?

Table 3: Analysis of data on influence of technological improvement on study habit and performance.

S/N	Questionnaire items	Total no. of respondents	Total Score	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Standard Deviation	Decision
9	Assignments involving the internet will expand the understanding of students.	84	265	45%	46%	7%	2%	3.1	1.78	Accepted
10	With information from the internet, students will perform better in their academics.	84	290	71%	24%	3%	2%	3.4	1.86	Accepted
11	Computer-based examinations will encourage students	84	285	65%	29%	5%	1%	3.3	1.84	Accepted

12	to study hard. Modern computer technology has made learning easier and more interesting.	84	267	45%	46%	8%	1%	3.1	1.78	Accepted
	Average	84	277	57%	36%	6%	2%	3.5	1.82	Accepted

Table 3 represents students' responses to the influence of technological improvement on the academic performance of chemistry students in Isiala Ngwa North Local Government Area of Abia State, Nigeria. Four parameters were considered for this research question and the results showed that 57% of the students strongly agreed that technological improvement influenced the academic performance of students. An average mean value of 3.5 was obtained which is above decision mean of 2.5 as stipulated in the methodology. The responses that modern computer technology has made learning easier and more interesting had the least standard deviation of 1.78.

IV. Discussion

The first research question tried to examine the responses of the students on the extent that study habit influenced the academic performance of students. An average mean of 3.5 was obtained and 68% of the responses strongly agreed that study habit influenced the academic performance of students. The findings showed that a greater number of respondents agreed that those students who spend quality time in private study perform better in school. This is similar with the findings of Jafari, Aghaei and Khatony (2019), which discovered that there is a direct and significant relationship between study habits and academic achievement. Verma (2008) also stressed that good study habit promotes academic performance of the student.

The second research question attempted to find out the extent parental attitude influenced the academic performance of students. An average mean of 3.5 was obtained and 69% of the respondents strongly agree that parental attitude influenced the academic performance of students. Besides, a greater number of the respondents attest that the nature of parent's occupation can affect the study habit and academic performance of students. Le *et al.* (2019) mentioned that home condition often dictates the choice of reading and the time spent to read. Ezenwafor and Amadi (2016) reported poor academic performance of students in external examination and suggested improved parental support and study habit.

The third research questions assessed the responses of the students on the influence of technological improvement on the academic performance of students. At least, 57% of the respondents strongly agreed that technological improvement affected the academic performance of students and a greater number of the respondents agree that modern computer technology has made learning easier and more interesting.

V. Conclusion

The study has discovered that students who study hard and spend quality time in private study perform better than those who do not show serious interest in their academic work. Students study and perform better when their parents provide them with enough learning materials. The nature of parent's occupation can affect the study habit and academic performance of students. Modern computer technology has made learning easier and more interesting.

VI. Recommendation

The following recommendations were made:

Students on their own should endeavour to discover their best learning styles and never joke with their personal time tables and if possible should join societies like jet club, literacy and debating clubs etc.

Parents should map out time to interact with their children based on their academic activities and performances.

The school authorities should always upgrade their learning resources by organizing workshop and in-service training for their teachers, also employ special teachers to train the students on the benefits and how to effectively utilize the social media mainly for upgrading their intellectuals and academic performances

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