

Rate of Student Dropout in Egor Local Government Area of Edo State, Nigeria

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Abstract- Background: *The rate of dropout of secondary schools' student has increased in recent times. Kara 2006 defines dropout as any student who leaves school for any reason before graduation or completion of a program of study. Causes of dropout includes lack of support from parents or government, academic difficulty, mental health challenge, lack of motivation, poor infrastructure amongst others. The consequences of dropout affect the individuals and society at large. Dropout often face higher rates of unemployment, low earnings which directly and indirectly increase crime. Dropout also leads to early pregnancy, violence, drug abuse, suicide among others. This work investigated the rate of drop out in senior secondary schools specifically between SS1 to SS3 in Egor Local Government Area.*

Method: *Data/statistics were collected from Edo State Ministry of Education, Planning Department for 2023/2024 academic year to which comprehensive studies were done to be able to draw valid conclusion. The data collected showed the numbers of student (male and female) from SS1 to SS# in twelve (12) schools across Egor Local Government Area. The data provided were for only government school and comprises of mixed, male only and female only schools.*

Result: *Cumulatively, male had a percentage dropout of 48.5% while female had a dropout of 46.6% which support the claim of high percentage of dropout in Senior Secondary School. Even in single school type (male or female) where there ought to be no distraction from opposite sex, male had a percentage dropout of 33% and female 30%. According to National center for Education Statistics (NCES), the dropout rate (for individuals aged 16 – 24 who are not in school or haven't completed high school) was around 5.8% in 2017. Thus, the result support UNESCO 2023 Global Education Monitoring Report which says the number of out of school children in sub-Saharan African has increased.*

Conclusively, its therefore necessary to investigate the cause of dropout on Senior Secondary Schools and how to curb it.

Indexed Terms- *Rate, dropout, Egor, local government, Edo State, Nigeria*

I. INTRODUCTION

The rate of dropout of secondary schools' student has increased in recent times. Kara 2006 defines dropout as any student who leaves school for any reason before graduation or completion of a program of study. Causes of dropout includes lack of support from parents or government, academic difficulty, mental health challenge, lack of motivation, poor infrastructure amongst others. The consequences of dropout affect the individuals and society at large. Dropout often face higher rates of unemployment, low earnings which directly and indirectly increase crime. Dropout also leads to early pregnancy, violence, drug abuse, suicide among others.

The Local Government Area whose schools are being studied is termed Egor Local Government, located in Benin City, Edo State. The headquarters of Edo is Uselu. A number of town and villages make up Egor Local Government as follows: Okhoro, Useh, Uwelu, Iguikpe, Ughighoko, Iguediaye, Evbuogide and Oghedaivbioba

II. PROFILE OF EDO STATE

Geography

Edo State was created from the defunct Bendel State on 27 August 1991. The name, Bendel, derived from the colonial heritage of the Benin and Delta provinces; the amalgamation of the two provinces formed Bendel. Bendel State was the former Mid-western

Region of Nigeria carved out from the western Region through a referendum on 9 August 1963. It is bounded in the North by Kogi State, in the West by Ondo State, in the South by Delta State and in the East by Anambra State. Edo State has a land mass of 19,794 square kilometres and lies between latitudes 05° 44' N and 07° 34' N and between longitudes 05° 04' E and 06° 45' E.

Some areas in the southern fringes of Edo state are swampy mangrove forests with numerous creeks and rivers dissecting the land area. The south west of the state is characterised with sandy plains, rivers and streams. This part of Benin lowlands has few hills which is drained by the Ikpoba, Orhionmwon and Osse rivers. In the North is the Esan Plateau (mainly sandstone plateau) whose heights ranges from 200 to 300 metres above sea level, which is an extension of the plateaux and ranges that are found in the far north areas of the state.

Demography

The main tribes in the State are the Binis, Esans, Owans, Etsakos and Akoko-Edos. Other tribes in the State include Igbiras, Ijaws, Urhobos and Itsekiris. The Bini speaking people occupy 7 out of the 18 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the State. A lot of communities and indeed the ruling dynasties in all the clans trace their roots to the ancient kingdom of Benin. Cultural similarities are in the area of religious worships, folk-lore, dances, festivals, traditional modes of dressing, arts and craft. The popular festivals among these are the Igue and Ekaba festivals among the Binis and manhood initiation (age groups) in all the ethnic group in the State.

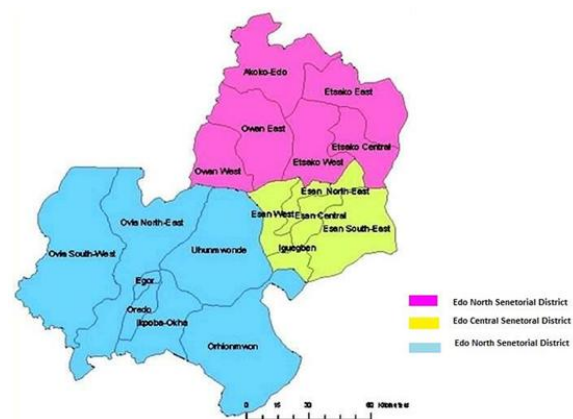


Figure 1: Map of Edo State showing the 18 LGAs

Population

According to the 2006 National Household and Housing Census, the Edo State population was 3,233,366. With the annual growth rate of 3.2%, the State population is estimated to be 4,597,550 in 2017 and projected to be around 6 million by the year 2025. The gender disaggregation shows that the male population (50.53%) is slightly higher than female (49.47%). The age structure of the State shows that just over one-third (34.8%) of the population are in active labour force aged 25-64 years while more than a quarter (20.2%) of the population are young people (15-24 years) who are usually in school or learning a trade. A significant proportion of the population are dependents; comprising 41.8% young children aged 0-14 years and 3.2% elderly above 64 years, thereby contributing to the high dependency ratio of the State. The population pyramid shown in figure 2 indicates that the gender ratio is almost the same across all age groups, except for ages 5-9 years and 70-74 years but the difference is not significant. See Table 1 and figure 2 for details.

Table 1: Population estimates and projections	
Year	Total
2006	3,233,366
2017(Estimate)	4,597,550
2025(Projection)	5,938,896

Table 1: State Population by age distribution- 2017 estimate

Age Group (years)	Male	Female	Total	% Contr.
0-4	373793	365952	739745	41.8
5-9	331048	324103	655151	
10-14	266929	261330	528259	
15-19	246485	241315	487800	20.2
20-24	222325	217661	439986	
25-29	202113	197873	399987	
30-34	156580	153295	309875	34.8
35-39	121268	118724	239992	
40-44	106632	104396	211028	
45-49	75967	74373	150340	
50-54	70391	68915	139306	
55-59	34150	33434	67584	
60-64	40422	39575	79997	3.2
65-69	19050	18650	37700	
70-74	22069	21607	43676	
75-79	9525	9325	18849	
80-84	12545	12282	24827	
85+	11848	11600	23448	100.0
Total	2323140	2274410	4597550	

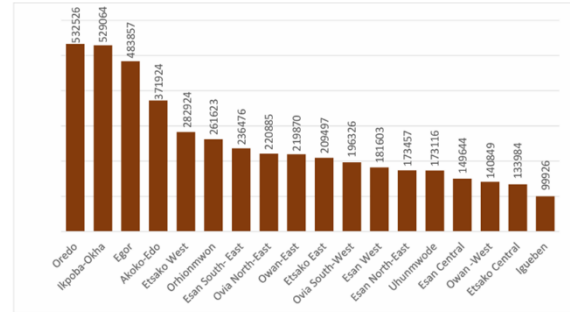


Figure 3: State Population by LGA - 2017 Estimates

Governance

The political administration of Edo State is managed by the three arms of government. The Executive arm headed by the Governor, The Judiciary headed by the Chief Judge and the Legislature headed by the Speaker. This structure ensures there is a balance of power in government. The State is also divided into three senatorial districts (Edo South, Edo North and Edo Central) to ensure adequate representation of the people at the federal level. The Oba who is the King of the Benin kingdom still play a vital role in governance and political matters of the State.

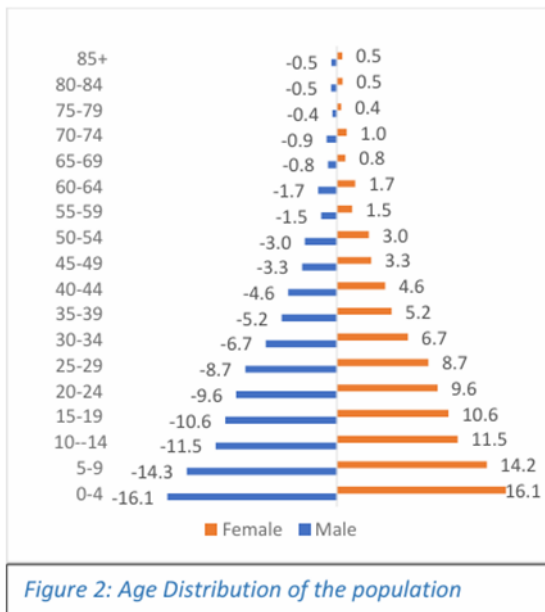


Figure 2: Age Distribution of the population

The breakdown of the population by LGAs in figure 3 shows that Igueben LGA has the least population with 99,926 people while Oredo has the highest population of 532,526 people. The three largest LGAs (Oredo, Ikpoba-Okha and Egor) are located within Edo South Senatorial District.

III. RESULT

S/N	SCHOOLS	SCHOOL TYPE	SS1		SS2		SS3		DROPOUT SS1 – SS3		% DROPOUT SS1 – SS3	
	SENIOR SECONDARY		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
	ASORO	MIXED	268	235	155	182	76	73	192	162	72	69
	EDO BOYS	MALE ONLY	186	0	160	0	125	0	61	0	33	0
	EGOR	MIXED	152	174	144	177	66	60	86	14	57	66
	EVBARKEKE	MIXED	96	87	80	74	100	85	-4	2	NIL	2
	EVBOTUBU	MIXED	121	100	66	66	50	48	71	52	59	52
	EWEKA	MIXED	40	39	25	21	2	12	38	27	95	69
	IYOBA GIRLS	FEMALE ONLY	0	128	0	138	0	90	0	38	0	30
	OHONRE	MIXED	24	43	18	57	15	36	9	7	38	16
	ORHOKHUGBO	MIXED	44	47	47	47	50	49	-6	-2	NIL	NIL
	USEH	MIXED	77	85	56	120	34	53	43	32	56	38
	USELU	MIXED	81	108	57	73	14	47	67	61	83	57
	UWELU	MIXED	35	65	36	64	47	40	-12	25	NIL	39
	SUB TOTAL		1124	1111					547	518		

Cumulatively between SS1 & SS3

$$\% \text{ Dropout male} = \frac{545}{1124} \times 100 = 48.5\%$$

between SS 1 & SS 3

$$\% \text{ Dropout female} = \frac{518}{1111} \times 100 = 46.6\%$$

IV. DISCUSSION

Cumulatively, male had a percentage dropout of 48.5% while female had a dropout of 46.6% which support the claim of high percentage of dropout in Senior Secondary School. Even in single school type (male or female) where there ought to be no distraction from opposite sex, male had a percentage dropout of 33% and female 30%. According to National center for Education Statistics (NCES), the dropout rate (for individuals aged 16 – 24 who are not in school or haven't completed high school) was around 5.8% in 2017. Thus, the result support UNESCO 2023 Global Education Monitoring Report which says the number

of out of school children in sub-Saharan African has increased.

V. RECOMMENDATION

Conclusively, its therefore necessary to investigate the cause of dropout in Senior Secondary Schools and how to curb it.

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