

# Effects of Covid-19 on Academic Performance of Secondary Schools Social Studies Students in Kwara State Nigeria

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## Abstract

The study examined the effect of Covid 19 on academic performance of social studies students in secondary schools in Kwara state. The design of the study was descriptive survey. The target population for the study consisted of 28 students and 2 social studies teachers randomly selected for the study, yielding a total of 240 respondents. The research mean and instrument used was questionnaire. The data collected were analysis by t-test statistical analysis. the finding shows that under-privilege social studies students are denied of educational opportunities outside school, school closure disrupt academic activities which in turn frustrate students interest in learning of sometimes, students are limited in asking of question in WhatsApp teaching and learning procedure, lack of data frustrate effective teaching and learning situation, lack of face to face interaction by students and teachers allow of confusing area of what is taught untouched, unequal access to digital learning portal frustrate the academic the academic achievement of students and student with learning difficulties that often require more physical attention and guidance from the teachers cannot perform well. The study recommends schools in next year's budget to allow them manage all the damages immediately embark on the integration of all secondary schools into online education and Nigeria government should direct all the secondary schools to extend physical teaching conduct online teaching and jointly solve new problems that may arise in the teaching process.

**Keywords:** Covid-19, Academic performance, Students, Schools

## 1. Introduction

The World Health Organization (WHO), COVID-19 is a family of viruses that results to illnesses ranging from the regular cold to more serious illnesses like acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS). These viruses were initially transmitted from animals to humans. SARS, for example, was transmitted from civet cats to humans while MERS moved to humans from a sort of camel. A few known COVID-19 is spreading in animals that are yet infected humans.

The name Coronavirus evolves from the Latin word corona, which means crown or halo. Under an electron microscope, it appears as though it is surrounded by a solar corona. The pandemic Coronavirus, recognized by Chinese authorities on January 7 and since named SARS-CoV-2, is another strain that had not been recently identified in people. Little is known about it, albeit human-to-human transmission has been affirmed (Ajazeera, 2020).

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According to the WHO, symptoms of infection are fever, cough, and inability to breathe very well, and shortness of breath. In more extreme cases, it can prompt pneumonia, numerous organ failure, and even death. Current evaluations of the incubation period - the time between infection and the beginning of symptoms - going from one to 14 days. Most infected individuals show indications within five to six days. Nonetheless, infected patients can likewise be asymptomatic, which means they do not show any indications in spite of having the virus in their body systems (Ajazeera, 2020).

The idea of what is known as social studies came to mind in the early 1960's with an identity of "civics". This replaced the first foreign ideas "General studies; which involved the inter-mixture of various social science concepts with less attention on indigenous societal problems and possible solutions. The present day social studies discipline was introduced in Nigeria in 1963 at the Aiyetoro Comprehensive High School. Its spread to all other parts of Nigeria was the effort of the Social Studies Association of Nigeria (SOSAN); and by 1971, social studies was included in the primary school curriculum. It was later introduced into the Junior Secondary School curriculum and has since then, exposed students passing through the system to a wider knowledge of their society and the problem within.

Social studies are separate discipline which draws materials from the social sciences to build its own structure and methodology. It emphasizes on the study of man and his activities in the environment. Such activities may be social, economic, cultural, political and or even that of technological designs. In its out-look, social studies is a subject of tremendous impact on students behavior especially, those in secondary schools.

By its aims, goals and objectives; social studies among others is to inculcate the right type of educational values and attitudes for the survival of the individual and the Nigerian society. In its simple summary, social studies provide for all-round development of students' cognitive, affective and psychomotor domains.

By nature, social studies is rallying point from which all development of knowledge and activities generate along the lines of the set objectives which seek to:

- i. Create an awareness and understanding of the evolving social and physical environment.
- ii. Develop a capacity to learn or acquire basic skills essential for forming sound judgment.
- iii. Ensure the acquisition of relevant knowledge and information which is an essential pre-requisite to personal development and to make positive contributions to the betterment of the society (Nwosu, 1987).
- iv. Develop appreciation of the diversity and interdependence of all members of the local community and the wider national and international community.
- v. Develop the ability for a rational utilization of our cultural, spiritual and national development.
- vi. Develop in students a positive attitude to citizenship and the desire to make a positive personal contribution towards united and indivisible Nigeria.

As a result of the suspension of classroom teaching in many schools, a switch to online teaching for students from the primary education to tertiary education became effective (Sahu, 2020; Yamin, 2020). This type of learning gives an alternative method to limit either the contact between students themselves or between the students and teachers or lecturers as the case may be (Pragholapati, 2020).

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, on March 19th ordered the immediate closure of tertiary institutions, secondary and primary schools across the nation over the outbreak of the disease in the country. In addition to this, restriction was placed on interstates movement, market places were locked, religious gatherings of more than 10 persons were banned, social activities such as parties, ceremonies and club meetings etc. were placed on hold (Parke (2020; Burke, (2020). All public and private schools have to shut the doors of their schools following the government directive. The pandemic has unmasked substantial inequities in the education sector. While some private schools in urban areas are engaging their students through online

teaching, a large number of students who are less privileged or are in rural areas were left out (UNESCO, 2020). Most schools lack facilities which hindered them to partake successfully in online teaching like they do in the developed countries (UNESCO, 2020). This study therefore aims to investigate the effect of Covid19 on academic performance of social studies students in secondary schools in Ilorin west local Government Area of Kwara State.

## 2. Purpose of the Study

The aim of this study is to investigate the effect of Covid-19 on academic performance of social studies students in secondary schools in Ilorin west Local Government Area of Kwara State. However, the study sought to examine the following objectives:

- i. To investigate if COVID-19 schools shutdown had effects on the academic performance of students in Ilorin west Local Government Area of Kwara State ,
- ii. To understand the relevance of social studies education to the overall development of the students,
- iii. To find out the efforts made by some schools to ensure continuation of classroom teaching and learning of social studies during coronavirus pandemic.

## 3. Hypotheses

The following research hypotheses were tested by the researcher in the course of the study:

- i. **HO<sub>1</sub>**: There is no significant relationship between COVID-19 schools shutdown and the academic performance of social studies students' performance,
- ii. **HO<sub>2</sub>**: There is no significant relationship between relevance of social studies education to the overall development of social studies students,
- iii. **HO<sub>3</sub>**: There is no significant relationship between efforts made by some schools and continuation of classroom teaching and learning of social studies during coronavirus pandemic.

## 4. Methods

The research design adopted in carrying out the study is a descriptive survey. According to Clinton (2012) survey research enables information to be obtained from relationship sample of a targeted population. In the same vein, Beard and Verma (2017) also agreed that survey method have advantage of being an effective way of collecting data from a large number of samples relatively cheaply and perhaps in a short time. The population of the study was made up of all JSS III social studies students enrolled in JSS level and social studies teachers in Kwara State.

## 5. Results

**HO<sub>1</sub>**: There is no significant relationship between COVID-19 schools shutdown and the academic performance of social studies students' performance

**Table 1** Relationship between COVID-19 schools shutdown and the academic performance of social studies students' performance

Source variation	N	X	SD	DF	Cal-t	Cri-t	Sig level	Remark
Perception of student	224	3.29	0.16					
Perception of teachers	16	3.03	0.28	238	67	1.96	0.05	Rejected
<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>							

Source (field survey, 2023)

Table 1 shows that the calculated t- value 6.7 is greater than the critical value of 1.96 of 0.05 percentage level of significance and a degree of freedom (df) of 146 the result revealed with statistical indicating that hypothesis  $H_{01}$  is unacceptable since the calculated t- vale 6 is greater than critical value (1.96). Therefore,  $H_{01}$  is rejected because there is significant relationship between COVID-19 schools shutdown and the academic performance of social studies students' performance

**$H_{02}$ :** There is no significant relationship between relevance of social studies education to the overall development of social studies students

**Table 2** Relationship between relevance of social studies education to the overall development of social studies students

Source variation	N	X	SD	DF	Cal-t	Crit- t	Sig level	Remark
Perception of student	224	3.29	0.16					
Perception of teachers	16	3.03	0.28	238	67	1.96	0.05	Rejected
<b>Total</b>		<b>240</b>						

Source (field survey, 2023)

Table 2 shows that the calculated t-value 6.7 is greater than critical value of 1.96 at 0.05 percent level of significance and a degree of freedom (df) of 146. The result reveal with statistical indication that the hypothesis  $H_{02}$  is Invalid since the calculated t-value 6.7 is greater than the critical value (1.96). Therefore,  $H_{02}$  is rejected because there is no significant relationship between relevance of social studies education to the overall development of social studies students.

**$H_{03}$ :** There is no significant relationship between efforts made by some schools and continuation of classroom teaching and learning of social studies during coronavirus pandemic.

**Table 3** Relationship between efforts made by some schools and continuation of classroom teaching and learning of social studies during coronavirus pandemic

Source variation	N	X	SD	DF	Cal-t	Crit- t	Sig Level	Remark
Perception of student	224	13.4	0.14					
Perception of teacher	16	11.9	0.30	238	6.7	1.96	0.05	Rejected
<b>Total</b>		<b>240</b>						

Source (field survey, 2023)

Table 3 shows that the calculated t-value 6.7 is greater than critical value of 1.96 at 0.05 percent level of significance and a degree of freedom (df) of 146. The result reveal with statistical indication that the hypothesis  $H_{03}$  is invalid since the calculated t-value 6.7 is greater than the critical value (1.96). Therefore,  $H_{03}$  is rejected because there is significant relationship between efforts made by some schools and continuation of classroom teaching and learning of social studies during coronavirus pandemic.

## 6. Conclusion

The study on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on teaching and learning across the world concludes that although various studies have been carried out, in the case of developing countries, suitable pedagogy and platform for different class levels of higher secondary, middle and primary education need to be explored

further. Internet bandwidth is relatively low with lesser access points, and data packages are costly in comparison to the income of the people in many developing countries, thus making accessibility and affordability inadequate. Policy-level intervention is required to improve this situation. Further exploration and investigation on effective pedagogy for online teaching and learning is an area for research. Need for developing tools for authentic assessments and timely feedback is found to be another area of study. The affordability and accessibility for all the learners of varied economic background is identified as a challenge, for which the educational tools developer could focus on customization.

## 7. Recommendations

The following recommendations were put forward by the researchers:-

- i. The government should increase the funding of secondary schools in yearly budget to allow the management of all the damages caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- ii. The government should immediately embark on the integration of all secondary schools into online education.
- iii. The Nigeria government should direct all the secondary schools to extend physical teaching, conduct online teaching and jointly solve new problems that may arise in the teaching process.

The government should reduce the maximum number of lessons per week for teachers. This would afford them adequate time to prepare and deliver the content effectively and efficiently.

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## Declaration of Conflict

The authors declare that they have not known competing financial or personal relationship that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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