

The Effects of Family Structure and Parenthood on the Academic Performance of Nigerian University Students

V.O. Uwaifo

*Department of Vocational and Technical Education, Ambrose Alli University,
Ekpoma, Edo State, Nigeria*

Telephone: (234) 08035472684, E-mail: vuwaifo@yahoo.com

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ABSTRACT This paper examines the effects of family structure and parenthood on the academic performance of Nigerian university students. The sample for the study consisted of 240 students drawn from the six randomly selected faculties in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State. The adapted form of "Guidance and Counseling Achievement Grade Form" was used for data collection and the data collected were subjected to statistical analysis using the t-test statistical method. The three null hypotheses formulated were tested at .05 level of significance. The results showed that significant differences existed between the academic performance of students from single-parent family and those from two-parent family structures. The results also indicated significant differences in academic performance of male and female students compared on two types of family structures. On the basis of these findings, it was recommended that school counsellors should be employed in all schools and that they should provide necessary assistance to students especially those from single-parent family to enable them overcome their emotional concerns.