

EMERGING BARRIERS TO GIRLS' EDUCATION IN KADUNA



The Issue:

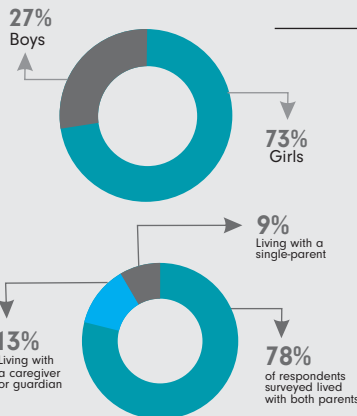
Girls face difficulties with their education in many respects. In the last three years, COVID-19 and insecurity have added to these worries in Kaduna; these difficulties are barriers to Girls' Education.



How do we know of the difficulties or barriers?

A survey was conducted in Kaduna, in November and December 2021, where a total of **171 students** participated in the exercise, to find out some of the difficulties they face in their education.

Survey sample and distribution



Total number of respondents
171 Students

The average age of respondents was
15 Years

15 Schools
7 Public schools
8 Privates schools
were sampled across 5 LGAs



What constitutes a barrier for Girls?

Physical Barriers Access to school is frustrated by long distance Risks of harassment and threats Insufficient classroom infrastructure	Health Barriers Poor water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities Lack of access to menstruation kits	Personal Barriers Fear of bullying Corporal punishment Stigmatisation	Economic Barriers Poverty, or parents' inability to pay schooling associated expenses e.g. uniforms, supplies etc. This burden leads to child labour sometimes.	Social Barriers Early marriage over completion of basic and senior school education Forced marriage of girls Exploitation or involvement in illicit acts
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Illustration of the Difficulties, Fears/Barriers for Girls: An Example of the COVID-19 Lockdown Period

Dealing with stay-at-home orders

What the survey found out

- 75% Girls worried or afraid
- 71.7% Boys worried or afraid

What the respondents said

- 61.6% Falling ill
- 48% Being kidnapped
- 39.2% Being beaten or bullied
- 27% Being touched inappropriately

Trends related to gender-based violence

What the survey found out

- Girls in Kaduna were 6 times more likely to be worried about being 'touched' by an adult when alone than boys
- On average, 19.5% of reported cases in Kaduna involved minors
- Reports from the SARC centre in Jema'a, the southern part of Kaduna, shows that assault cases shot up more than three-fold in the lockdown year (2020)

What the respondents said

- Fear of some form of sexual assault by adults

Hardest aspect of not being in school

What the survey found out

- 81.7% Indicated negative impact on education performance "falling behind in my studies or failing an exam"
- 55.6% Were concerned about their timely advancement in the education system - not being able to take an exam
- 49.1% About half of the respondents referred to socialising as major challenge, with boys twice as likely to cite this as a challenge

What the respondents said

Most of the respondents had issues with their academic performance and advancement, including falling behind in their studies or getting a bad grade, etc.

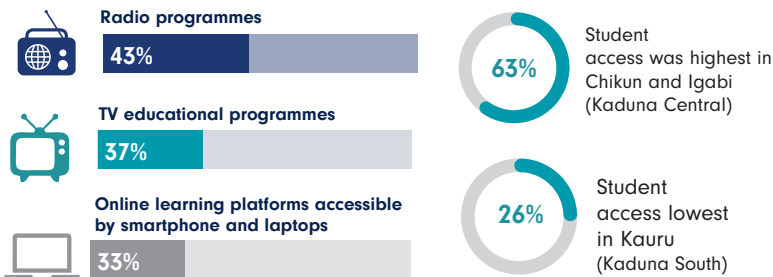
The top respondents expressed concerns about a decline in social connections with their peers (not being able to see my friends)

Learning experience during the lockdown

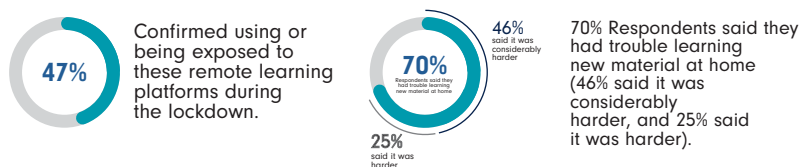
What the survey found out



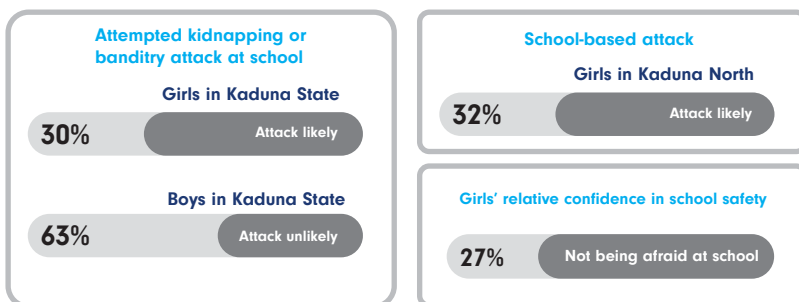
Impact of all the channels offered



What the respondents said



Perception of safety and security



What the respondents said



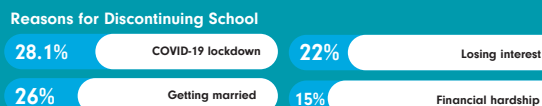
Numerous tasks must be completed at several levels, including those of society, the government, and even schools and teachers. Respondents felt the need to collaborate and reduce reliance on the government or on schools.



They also strongly felt that government is unable to effectively protect them, thus the need to take some level of responsibility – effectively communicating with the vigilante service and community leaders, before asking for further assistance from government.

Retention challenges and reasons for discontinuing school

What the survey found out



"Honestly our parents want us to get married and also be educated but they don't have the resources to support us to that extent. So [it] is better we just get married."
-Dropped out in SS3, Sabon Gari

"Most times, they don't even get to the JSS 3. Because most in my set within JSS 1 and 2, they get married. Some even in JSS3."
- Dropped out in SS3, Sabon Gari

"My parents didn't want me to go to school because they want me to be hawking for them."
-15 years old, dropped out in JSS1, before lockdown, Kauru

"Truth be told I used to go private school and my parents cannot afford to pay school fees. My parents [have] no interest [in] government school that is why I am also not interested."
- 15 years old, dropped out in SS2, approximately two years ago, Kauru

"My parent said because of the kidnapping in Ungwan Gimbiya, I should not go for now. [The kidnapping risk is] Not in school but from the community. We hear that they pick anybody not until you are still in school".
- 17 years old, dropped out mid-way through SS3 prior to the lockdown, Chikun

"Education is the key to success. But some girls also believe that education is a scam. Because they use to say that they have brothers and sisters that have studied up to university and served [in the National Youth Service Corps] yet have no jobs. They live in the street like us. They said that they rather keep hustling that one day it will pay".
- 16 years old, dropped out in JSS3 before lockdown, Chikun

"Most of the girls think after secondary school they will just get married so they will not buckle up in reading. This issue of early marriage is a reason that is affecting most of our school in rural areas. [It] is only in schools in urban area that this is a less problem."
- Education provider, Makarfi

Most out-of-school girls and young women who took part in group talks expressed a desire to continue their education, however they did not always associate this with going back to their old schools or using the same teaching methods. This target group suggested financial assistance, the development of skills geared toward generating money, and alternate arrangements mindful of the limits connected to adolescent pregnancy and early motherhood:

"I know there are people that are privileged and have the resources [to care for] their baby. They keep [their baby] with a nanny and still study. I am very ready if I will be supported. I am ready to go back to school. When I do, I can even teach my baby and will benefit from the knowledge I gained".
- P1, dropped after Primary 6, Sabon Gari

"If you go back to school, a lot of things have passed you, you have to go back to a lower class, because you are left behind, that's my challenge."
- P2, Dropped out in SS3, Sabon Gari

"Yes, because is not easy to see your mate going to school and you are at home."
- 16 years old, dropped out in JSS3 before lockdown, Chikun

"I have boys, I have girls ok. Let me allow the boys to go first then girl hold on a bit. It's more important to educate a boy child than to educate a girl".
- Parent, Igabi

"When school resumed [after the lockdown], some viewed this third term was not complete so they felt it's a waste of money to pay this amount of money. Why will a child resume for this few month".
- Parent, Igabi

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