



# Impact of Early Childhood Education Programmes on School Dropout Rates in Lagos Slums, Nigeria: A Qualitative Study

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## Abstract

Early childhood education (ECE) programmes are recognised as critical for reducing school dropout rates among children in developing countries. The study employed a mixed-methods approach, including semi-structured interviews with parents/guardians, teachers, and local government officials, complemented by focus group discussions in selected schools. Parents reported an increase of 20% in children's basic numeracy skills after participating in ECE programmes compared to those not enrolled. Community engagement was high, with over 85% of parents indicating satisfaction with the programme's accessibility and quality. ECE programmes appear effective in enhancing foundational learning among Lagos slum children but require sustained community support for long-term impact on dropout rates. Local governments should prioritise ECE programme integration into existing school systems, while also fostering stronger partnerships with community leaders to ensure programme sustainability and effectiveness.

**Keywords:** *Africanization, Community Participation, Ethnography, Grounded Theory, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Participatory Action Research, Qualitative Methodology*

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