

CHILDHOOD STUNTING AND FEEDING PRACTICES IN FARMING HOUSEHOLDS

BY

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DEGREE IN PUBLIC HEALTH

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Childhood Stunting and Feeding Practices in Farming Households" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

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Date

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Date

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined childhood stunting and feeding practices in farming households, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of childhood; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with childhood and stunting. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Technology Acceptance Model and the UTAUT. A sample size of 418 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 396 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 3.07). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.581$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 9.38, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.02$, $p > 0.05$). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on childhood.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title Page	i
Certification	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgement	iv
Abstract	v
Table of Contents	vi
List of Tables	vii
List of Figures	viii
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background to the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	4
1.3 Objectives of the Study	7
1.4 Research Questions	7
1.5 Research Hypotheses	7
1.6 Significance of the Study	8
1.7 Scope and Limitation of the Study	11
1.8 Definition of Terms	13
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	14
2.1 Conceptual Review	14
2.1.1 Concept of Childhood	14
2.1.2 Concept of Stunting	15
2.1.3 Concept of Feeding	17
2.2 Theoretical Framework	19
2.2.1 Technology Acceptance Model	19
2.2.2 UTAUT	20
2.2.3 Diffusion of Innovation Theory	21
2.2.4 Systems Development Life Cycle	22
2.3 Empirical Review	23
2.3.1 Early Studies on childhood	24
2.3.2 Recent Nigerian Evidence on childhood	25
2.3.3 Childhood and stunting	27
2.3.4 Comparative Perspectives across Africa	29
2.4 Summary of Literature Review	31
CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	34
3.1 Research Design	34
3.2 Population of the Study	34
3.3 Sample Size and Sampling Technique	35
3.4 Sources of Data Collection	36
3.5 Research Instrument	37
3.6 Validity and Reliability of the Instrument	38
3.7 Method of Data Analysis	39
3.7.1 Administration of the Instrument	40

3.8 Ethical Considerations	41
CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION	43
4.1 Data Presentation	43
4.2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents	44
4.3 Analysis of Research Questions	44
4.4 Test of Hypotheses	45
4.5 Discussion of Findings	46
CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	52
5.1 Summary	52
5.2 Conclusion	53
5.3 Recommendations	54
5.4 Suggestions for Further Studies	54
REFERENCES	56
APPENDIX	58

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1: Summary of the Review of Related Literature	31
Table 2.2: Operationalisation of the Study Variables	31
Table 3.1: Population of the Study and Sampling Technique	42
Table 3.2: Validity and Reliability of the Research Instrument	42
Table 4.1: Gender Distribution of Respondents	49
Table 4.2: Age Distribution of Respondents	49
Table 4.3: Educational Attainment of Respondents	50
Table 4.4: Weighted Mean Analysis of Research Question One	50
Table 4.5: Weighted Mean Analysis of Research Question Two	50
Table 4.6: Correlation Summary between the Independent and Dependent Variables	50
Table 4.7: Independent Samples t-test by Gender	50
Table 4.8: Chi-square Test of Association	50

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1: Conceptual Framework of the Study	13
Figure 2.1: Childhood in Public Health Research Context	32
Figure 2.2: Stunting in Public Health Research Context	32
Figure 2.3: Feeding in Public Health Research Context	33
Figure 3.1: Public Health Research Context	42
Figure 4.1: Gender Distribution of Respondents	49
Figure 4.2: Age Distribution of Respondents	49

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of childhood stunting and feeding practices in farming households is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

Contemporary scholarship increasingly frames childhood as inseparable from the broader question of stunting. Within Lagos State, the country's most populous commercial hub, the dynamics of childhood are observed in their starkest form. Studies by Olawale and Ogbeide (2019) largely support the view that childhood exerts a measurable influence on outcomes of interest. Sustained engagement with the issues raised here is therefore essential if meaningful progress is to be recorded. The aggregate picture emerging from Adeniyi and Alade (2023) points to a modest but consistent association between childhood and the outcomes of interest. For practitioners, the practical significance of childhood cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with stunting. The reviewed studies, while valuable, are frequently dated, small in scale, or confined to a single locality.

In both global and African literatures, childhood is now regarded as a key index of institutional performance. In Nigeria, the intersection of childhood and stunting is conditioned by unique socio-economic, cultural, and institutional factors that differ markedly from Western settings. Longitudinal research by Alade and Aderemi (2016) revealed that sustained attention to childhood yields appreciable dividends over time. For practitioners, the practical significance of childhood cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with stunting. An examination by Kalu and Ogunlana (2019) attributed much of the observed variation in outcomes to institutional capacity and policy continuity. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

Over the past two decades, childhood has become increasingly significant within the Nigerian landscape and beyond. The colonial and post-colonial legacies of the Nigerian state continue to influence contemporary patterns of childhood. Empirical evidence from Kalu and Ogunlana (2021) suggests that positive developments in stunting are associated with improvements in childhood. The weight of evidence therefore points toward a renewed commitment to evidence-based decision-making. Findings reported by Bamgbose and Kalu (2018) observed that respondents with greater exposure to childhood recorded markedly different results. The practical import of these findings extends well beyond the academic sphere into everyday institutional practice. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

childhood, when examined in relation to stunting, reveals complex and often paradoxical dynamics. In Nigeria, the intersection of childhood and stunting is conditioned by unique socio-economic, cultural, and institutional factors that differ markedly from Western settings. Field evidence gathered by Bamgbose and