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PERCIEVED INFLUENCE OF ECONOMY RECESSION ON THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF SENIOR SECONDARY STUDENTS IN ENGLISH IN ABAKALIKI EDUCATION ZONE OF EBONYI STATE

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ABSTRACT

This study, investigated Perceived Influence of Economy Recession on the Academic Performance of Senior Secondary Students in English Language in Abakaliki Education Zone of Ebonyi State. Two research questions and two null hypotheses guided the study. The population of the study comprised all the 221 English Language Teachers in the 77 Public Secondary Schools in Abakaliki Education Zone, Ebonyi State. The sample of the study comprised 221 English Language Teachers in Public Secondary Schools in Abakaliki Education Zone of Ebonyi State. The researcher developed a structured questionnaire titled, 'Questionnaire on Perceived Influence of Economy Recession on the Academic Performance of Senior Secondary Students in English Language (QPICEAPSSSEL)' which was used as instrument for data collection. Data collected were analyzed using mean (x) and standard deviation to answer the research questions and t-test statistics to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. The study revealed that: to a high extent inflation negatively influenced students' academic performance in English Language, Secondly, that poverty to a high extent negatively influenced students' academic performance in Abakaliki Education Zone of Ebonyi State. Based on the findings, the study recommended that: Government of Ebonyi should help in the implementation of effective scholarships and tuition assistance programs targeted at low-income students to alleviate financial burdens caused by Economy Recession and also provide subsidies or vouchers for purchasing textbooks and educational materials to ensure that all students are given access to the necessary resources for learning English Language and to address the negative influence of poverty on students' academic performance in English Language, Government should initiate mentorship programs that connect students living in poverty with positive role models who can provide academic support and encouragement and also ensure that schools provide counselling services to help students deal with the emotional and psychological challenges related to poverty amidst economy recession.

Keywords: Economy Recession, Academic Performance, Senior Secondary, English Language, Inflation, Poverty

Introduction

English language as a global lingua franca, has been defined and characterized in various ways by numerous authors and linguists. Language is seen as a set of sentences, each finite in length and constructed from a finite set of elements (Ajibola, 2021). Her work emphasizes the innate structures of language and the cognitive processes involved in language acquisition. English is a global language that is spoken by people from different countries and backgrounds. She highlights the status of language as a means of communication that transcends geographical and cultural boundaries, making it one. Inyiama, (2021) describes English as a complex linguistic system that is dynamic and constantly evolving. This definition underscores the fluid influences, technological advancements, and social changes. English as the language of the English-speaking people is characterized by its unique phonetic, grammatical, and lexical features. The definition focuses on the specific attributes that distinguishes English from other languages. In his explanation of language, English is seen as a living entity that changes and adapts over time. Andrew, (2018) discusses how language is influenced by culture, technology, and social interactions, pointing to the dynamic aspects of English as it continues to develop. These definitions collectively illustrate that the English language is not merely a set of grammatical rules or vocabulary; it is a rich and evolving medium of expression that embodies the complexity of English and its significance in communication, identity, and education in a diverse world. The promotion of effective teaching and learning of English Language in our present society are vehemently hindered due to Economy Recession in Nigeria.

The term Economy Recession refers to an economic environment characterized by limited resources and increased competition, where businesses must operate with heightened efficiency and adaptability. It often arises during times of consumer behaviors (Aminu and Anono 2022). In a crunched economy, companies may need to innovate, streamline operations, and focus on providing maximum value to their customers while minimizing costs. Some economists have defined the Economy Recession as one where firms face resource scarcity, pushing them to find new ways to leverage technology and optimize operational processes. The emphasis is often on resilience and sustainability in business practices. Udoka (2021) described Economy Recession as a scenario that compels companies to revisit their business models, emphasizing flexibility and responsiveness to market demands. This includes redefining customer engagement strategies to ensure continued loyalty under constrained circumstances. From a sociological perspective, the crunch economy can reflect broader social trends where individuals and organizations are forced to adapt to changing economic realities. These changes can lead to shifts in consumer priorities and purchasing behaviors, influencing how businesses approach marketing and product development. In discussions about sustainability, some experts interpret the Economy Recession as a response to the need for more responsible consumption patterns, which can shape industries towards eco-friendly practices amid resource limitations (Inyiama, 2021).

The performance of English language students can be influenced by several factors, and understanding these can help

educators and institutions develop effective teaching strategies. Students who have a genuine interest in learning English often perform better. Schools have no worth without students (Okoro, 2020). Students are most essential asset for any educational institution. The social and economic development of the country is directly linked with students' academic performance. The students' performance plays an important role in producing the best quality graduates who will become great leaders and manpower for the country thus responsible for the country economic and social development.

Students' academic performance measurement has received considerable attention in previous research, it is challenging aspects of academic literature and English students' performances are affected due to social, psychological, economic, environmental and personal factors. These factors strongly influence on the students' performance, but these factors vary from person to person. So, education is the best legacy a nation can give to her citizens especially the youth. This is because the development of any nation or community depends largely on the quality of education of such nation (Benjamin, 2017). It is generally believed that the basis for any true development must commence with the development of human resource. Much then is said that formal education remains the vehicle for social- economic development and social mobilization in any society but the issues of Economy Recession in the area of inflation hinders effective development of the school system.

Inflation significantly impact the academic performance of English language students in various ways. Inflation to Ferdinard and Isidore (2018) is the rate of increase in prices over a given period of time. Inflation is typically a broad measure, such as the overall increase in prices or the increase in the cost of living in a country. inflation is a general increase in the prices of goods and services in an economy. Inflation according to Chuka, (2019) affects the overall economy, it also influences educational institutions, student resources, and individual circumstances linked to learning. Here are some key areas where inflation may plays a role in shaping the academic experiences and outcomes of English language learners. Inflation rises, the costs associated with education such as tuition fees, textbooks, and supplies also increase. Many families may struggle to afford rising educational expenses, which lead to reduced access to quality education and resources for English language students. When financial constraints limit a student's ability to procure necessary materials, it may hinder their learning opportunities.

Educational institutions often face budget constraints due to inflation, resulting in fewer resources allocated to language programs. Schools may reduce the availability of English language support services, such as tutoring, language labs, and specialized instructors. This lack of support can negatively impact students' proficiency in English and their overall academic performance. Inflation contributes to increased economic stress for students and their families, leading to mental health challenges. Financial insecurity can create anxiety and distraction, making it difficult including language acquisition. English language learners may be particularly affected if they already face the added pressure of mastering a new language while managing external stresses.

In today's educational landscape, technology plays a crucial role in language learning. Inflation may limit families' ability to purchase devices like computers or tablets, or to afford reliable internet access. Without access to technology, English language learners may miss out on valuable digital resources and online learning opportunities that can exert and enhance their language skills.

Participation in extracurricular activities, may have financial pressures. Activities such as language clubs, theater, or debate teams provide practical language use opportunities and foster engagement. If students cannot afford participation fees or related expenses, their chances for enrichment in the English language may diminish (Ajibola, 2021).
Inflation leads to shifts in family stability, such as job loss or relocation, impacting a student's educational continuity. Frequent changes in schools can disrupt language learning progress, as students may have to adapt to different curricula, teaching styles, or peer groups, which can hinder their academic performance. In times of inflation, schools may struggle to attract and retain qualified teachers, particularly in specialized areas such as English as a Second Language (ESL). A lack of trained educators directly affects the quality of instruction that English language learners receive, inflation can exert a multifaceted influence on the academic performance of English language students by creating economic barriers, limiting resources, increasing stress, and disrupting educational equity. To mitigate these effects, challenges. Providing adequate support and resources can help ensure that all students, regardless of economic conditions, can succeed in their language learning journeys. By proactively addressing the impacts of inflation, stakeholders can foster an environment conducive to effective language learning and academic achievement

Poverty significantly impacts the academic performance of English language students in various ways, influencing their educational experiences and outcomes. Students from low-income families often lack access to educational resources such as books, technology, and learning materials. This scarcity hinders their ability to practice and enhance their English language skills outside of the classroom and tutoring services, may require financial investment that these families cannot afford. A stable and supportive home environment is crucial for academic success. Students living in poverty may face chaotic living conditions, family stress, or instability, which can detract from their ability to focus on their studies (Udoka 2021).

Poverty is one of the most serious problems contorting Nigeria today; it is generally associated with condition under which people lived. Poverty can be simply put as a condition where a person is unable to satisfy the most basic and elementary equipment's for human survival in the term of food, clothing, shelter, heath, transport, education and recreation. That is, it is the absence of access to the basic human needs of the citizen. The poverty level in Nigeria contradicts the country disposal; the country ought to have done better than it is doing presently. Poverty is a global phenomenon that is very dynamic, complex and multi-dimensional. It is currently one of the most serious problems in the world (Udoka, 2021).

Additionally, if parents or guardians have limited English proficiency themselves, they may struggle to support their children's language development or homework, creating further barriers to learning. Poor nutrition and health issues associated with poverty can directly affect cognitive development and concentration (Maton, & Moore, 2019). Malnutrition lead to decreased energy levels and impaired cognitive function, making it challenging for students to engage in the learning process. Moreover, students from low-income backgrounds may experience higher rates of illness, leading to increased absenteeism and missed opportunities to practice and learn English. Economic instability and the stress associated with living in poverty can adversely affect mental health. Anxiety and stress can significantly impact a student's capacity to learn and perform academically. Absenteeism may determine students from learning effectively well in English and this may lead to poor students' performance (Isu, 2021).

Extracurricular activities, such as clubs, language exchange programs, and cultural events, play important roles in language acquisition. However, students in poverty may miss out on these opportunities due to transportation issues, lack of funds, or after-school responsibilities. These activities can provide valuable language practice in informal settings, enhancing learners' conversational skills and cultural understanding.

It is unfortunate that the educational system in Ebonyi State is not left out of the heat of the Economy Recession especially when government owned secondary schools are shielded under the guise of TSA (treasury single account), which leads to shortfalls in the payments of teachers' salaries, non-payment of annual increment and accumulated promotion arrears for many years, poor infrastructure, among other factors would definitely cause a lot of harm to the sector. For this reason, majority of parents and stakeholders are afraid of poor quality delivery services in this sector as majority of them cannot afford their children's school fees. Most especially those parents whose wards attend private schools are left with no option than to withdraw them to public schools (Isu, 2021). But are the public schools safe or better? Shafiq (2010) opines that research on school quality in developing countries is challenging because formal data collection initiatives on schools are typically infrequent. This is a fact about Nigeria because millions of children roam the streets during school hours and both government and parents give little attention because they can't cater for the academic needs of these innocent children. UNESCO (2009) states that prior to the financial crisis or economic recession that has really affected the educational sector, that money gotten from the economy is supposed to be channeled to the development of the education, but owing to economic recession, the money needed in the educational sector is diverted to other sectors; the number of teachers reduces teaching are due to crunched economy. Teacher migration has become an increasing feature of cross-border flows of highly skilled professional workers during crunched economy. This will definitely lead to brain drain; it is very glaring today in Nigeria where teachers migrate to neighboring countries for better offered jobs, changes in other benefits (pension, health, other social protection concerns have been expressed that social security programmes including the sustainability of

education sector pension funds, would be negatively affected by Economy Recession. Others negative impacts seem to include: corruption, over dependency on oil, laziness, poor implementation of education programmes, poor leadership, just to mention a few, are some of the lingering factors. All these no doubt would impact negative students performance. The crux of this paper is to investigate the extent of economy recession on students' performance in English Language in Senior Secondary schools.

Statement of the Problem

Economic recession is a situation that does no country any good. It will rather make them to work hard which may lead to civic order and citizenship and for sustainable economic growth and the reduction of poverty and inflation. Education is also about culture; it is the main vehicle for disseminating the accomplishments of a group of people. It encompasses general skills such as language, science, mathematics and communication that provide the foundation for further education and training. Education also includes the development of values and attitudes necessary for meaningful contribution and participation in civic life. These multiple purpose makes education a key area for human rights in all countries. In fact, the right to education is accepted internationally and enshrined in major international conventions and many national constitutions including our own (Nigeria) constitution. It therefore, becomes a very disturbing phenomenon, to observe that Nigeria's education standards are falling down at an alarming rate, thereby, negating the noble objectives of this service (education). This has affected the performance of English Language Students in the system. English Language students' academic performance is totally poor as asserted by (Nwafor, 2022). It is a fact that a multiplicity of factors of which economic recession seems to be one of them that contributed to this deterioration educational standard. The Economy Recession the country is experiencing seems to be main cause of falling standards in the education sector especially in English language. It is on the basis of this, that this prompted the researchers poise to investigate the extent to which Influence of Economy Recession impact on the Academic Performance of Senior Secondary Students in English Language in Abakaliki Education Zone of Ebonyi State

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of the study is to investigate the Influence of Economy Recession on the Academic Performance of Senior Secondary Students in English Language in Abakaliki Education Zone of Ebonyi State. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Ascertain the extent to which inflation influences senior secondary school students' academic performance in English language.
2. Determine the extent to which poverty influences senior secondary school students' academic performance in English language

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study.

1. To what extent does inflation influence senior secondary school students' academic performance in English language?
2. To what extent does poverty influence secondary school students' academic performance in English language?

Hypothesis

The following null hypothesis was tested at 0.05 level of significance to further guide the study.

Ho_1: There was no significant difference in the mean ratings of male and female teachers on the extent to which inflation impact on senior secondary school students' academic performance in English language

Review of Related Literature

Economy Recession

Economy Recession refers to an economic situation where there is significant strain or pressure on resources, leading to a contraction in economic activity (Aminu and Anono 2022). This term is often used to describe conditions characterized by high inflation, rising unemployment, reduced consumer spending, and overall decreased economic growth. In a crunched economy, individuals and families may face challenges such as job loss and limited access to essential goods and services. Businesses may struggle to operate profitably, leading to layoffs and closures, which further exacerbates the economic downturn. The overall effect can create a cycle of poverty and decreased opportunity for many, particularly impacting vulnerable populations.

a Economy Recession signifies a period of economic distress, marked by financial constraints that affect both individuals and businesses, and requires strategic interventions to promote recovery and stability. There is no certified definition of crunched economy, but there is general understanding that the term refers to a period of decline in economic activity (Bamigboye and Adeyemi 2020). Very short periods of decline are not considered economy crunch. The NBER defines a Economy Recession more broadly as 'a significant decline in economic activity spread across the economy, lasting more than a few months, normally visible in real GDP growth, real personal income, employment, industrial production, and wholesale-retail sales. Economy Recession begins when the economy reaches a peak of activity and ends when the economy reaches its trough (Enejeta 2019). Benjamin (2017), also sees recession as a phase of economic cycle which occurs after two consecutive quarters of negative growth. This exhibits low output and investment, abnormal increases in unemployment due to massive retrenchment, falls in the availability of credit facilities, fluctuation in exchange market (instability in exchange rate), illiquidity and downsizing and dismiss as well as reduced amount of trade and commerce. From the above, Economy Recession can simply mean economic condense or economics recession.

Inflation

Inflation is one of the most frequently used terms in economic discussions, yet the concept is variously misconstrued. There are various schools of thought on inflation, but there is a consensus among economists that inflation is a continuous rise in the prices. Simply put, inflation depicts an economic situation where there is a general rise in the prices of goods and services, continuously. It could be defined as a continuing rise in prices as measured by an index such as the consumer price index (CPI) or by the implicit price deflator for Gross National Product (GNP). Inflation is frequently described as a state where "too much money is chasing too few goods". When there is inflation, the currency losses purchasing power (Andrews, 2020). The purchasing power of a given amount of naira will be smaller over time when there is inflation in

the economy, for instance, assuming that N10.00 can purchase 10 shirts in the current period, if the price of shirts double in the next period, the some N10.00 can afford 5 shirts. In the definition of inflation, two things must be borne in mind (Enejeta 2019). First, is aggregate, which implies that the rise that constitutes inflation must cover the entire basket of goods in the economy as distinct from an isolated rise in the prices of a single commodity or group of commodities? The implication here is that changes in the individual prices or any combination of prices cannot be considered as the occurrence of inflation. However, a situation may arise such that a change in an individual price could cause the other prices to rise. An example is petroleum product prices in Nigeria. This again does not signal inflation unless the price adjustment in the basket is such that the aggregate price level is induced to rise. Second, the rise in the aggregate level of prices must be continuous for inflation to be said to have occurred. The aggregate price level must show a tendency of a sustained and continuous rise over different time periods. This must be separated from a situation of one off rise in the price level.

Poverty

Poverty has been defined in the literature from two perspectives the macroeconomic perspectives and the expansive cultural perspective. The economic perspective defined poverty in terms of the external circumstance that influence a person's economic behaviors and transaction like the purchase of consumer goods, the acquisition of skills and provision of production service. In this regard, poverty is defined as a state of deprivation in terms of both economic and social indicators such as income, education, health care, portable water, access to food, social status, self-esteem and self-actualization (Okog 1998). Poverty is also said to exist when income or disposable resource are inadequate to support a minimum standard of decent living.

Research Method

A descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. Descriptive survey design according to Abonyi, (2011) consist of studies in which data are collected from a small sample of a large population to enable the researcher describe in a systematic manner and interpret the characteristic features and facts about things that exist. A survey is a descriptive study when it seeks to document and describe what exists or the present status of existence or absence of what is being investigated. The study was carried out in Abakaliki Education Zone of Ebonyi State. The population of the study comprised all the 221 English language teachers in the 77 public secondary schools in Abakaliki Education Zone of Ebonyi State (Secondary Education Management Board, 2022). The entire population was used as the sample size of the study. The instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire designed by the researcher, titled ' Perceived Influence of Economy Recession on the academic performance of senior secondary students in English Questionnaire (PICEAPSSSEQ). To determine the reliability of the instrument, 20 copies of the questionnaire were trial tested in public secondary schools in Onueke Education Zone which was outside the study area. The instrument was administered to 20 teachers and the data collected was subjected to the test of internal consistency using Cronbach Alpha procedure with reliability coefficient of 0.86. The data collected for this study were analysed using mean and standard deviation

to answer the research questions while the null hypotheses were tested using the t- test at 0.05 level of significance. Any item with a mean equal to or greater than 2.50 was accepted, while those below 2.5 were rejected. That is, on a four point scale of (Very High Extent (VHE = 4), High Extent HE = 3), Low Extent (LE = 2), and Very Low Extent (VLE = 1). Where: 4+3+2+1 = 10/4 = 2.50.

Presentation of Results

Research Question One: To what extent does inflation influence senior secondary school students' academic performance in English language?

Table 1: Mean and standard deviation on the extent to which inflation influence secondary school students' academic performance in English language

S/N	Items	N	$\bar{X}$	SD	Decision
1	Inflation increases cost of education leading to dropout of students from school	216	3.42	0.52	HE
2	It leads to limited resources for educational investment which students' performance in English language	216	3.41	0.56	HE
3	It leads to limited access to technology devices due and this leads to poor students performance	216	3.33	0.49	HE
4	It leads poor participation in extra curriculum because of lack of infrastructural provision	216	3.43	0.53	HE
5	It leads to limited support services due to economy crisis and it affects students' performance in English Language	216	3.43	0.58	HE
6	It leads non or poor procurement of learning materials/equipment because of inflation	216	3.47	0.53	HE
7	It leads poor instructional devices for English Language learning due to non-training and retraining of teachers	216	3.63	0.48	VHE
	Grand Mean		**3.45**		**HE**

Table 1 showed that the respondents agreed to high extent in item 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 with mean score of: 3.42, 3.4, 3.3, 3.43, 3.43, 3.47 and 3.63 respectively that, inflation negatively influenced secondary school students' academic performance with a grand mean score of 3.45.

Research Question Two: To what extent does poverty influence secondary school students' academic performance in English language?

Table 2: Mean and standard deviation on the extent to which poverty influence secondary school students' academic performance in English language

S/N	Items	N	X	SD	Decision
8	It makes students from low-income families to often lack access to education	216	3.80	0.40	VHE
9	Low-income setting reduces students' conversational practices	216	3.00	0.49	HE
10	Students in poverty experience higher rates of health issues	216	3.41	0.46	HE
11	Financial instability creates chronic stress to students	216	3.36	0.53	HE
12	Low income in families lead to lack of focus in the classroom	216	3.47	0.53	HE
13	Poverty among English Language students decrease motivation abilities to learn	216	3.67	0.47	VHE
	Grand Mean	216	**3.45**		**HE**

Table 2 showed that the respondents agreed that poverty negatively influence secondary school students academic performance in English language as recorded on item, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 which scores a grand mean of 3.45.

Ho_1: There was no significant difference between the mean ratings of male and female teachers on the extent to which inflation influence secondary school students' academic performance in English language in Abakaliki Education Zone Ebonyi State.

Table 3: t-test on the difference in the mean ratings of male and female teachers on the extent to which inflation influence secondary school students' academic performance in English language

Items	Status	N	Mean	SD	t.cal.	Df	P-value	Decision
1	Male	100	3.58	0.53	0.12	114	0.98	NS
	Female	116	3.57	0.52				
2	Male	100	3.51	0.55	0.11	114	0.70	NS
	Female	116	3.50	0.56				
3	Male	100	3.71	0.48	0.33	114	0.43	NS
	Female	116	3.68	0.50				
4	Male	100	3.44	0.52	0.31	114	0.68	NS
	Female	116	3.43	0.53				
5	Male	100	3.44	0.58	0.21	114	0.81	NS
	Female	116	3.43	0.59				
6	Male	100	3.48	0.52	0.27	114	0.55	NS
	Female	116	3.46	0.53				
7	Male	100	3.63	0.48	0.10	114	1.00	NS
	Female	116	3.63	0.48				

Key: NS: Not significant

Result on Table 3 revealed that the mean ratings of male and female teachers on the extent to which inflation influence secondary school students' academic performance in English language in Abakaliki Education Zone Ebonyi State was not significant as the P value of 0.05 ($P < 0.05$) was less than the calculated values. This means that the sampled male and female teachers were of same opinion on the extent to which inflation influences secondary school students' academic performance in English language in Abakaliki Education Zone Ebonyi State.

Discussion

Result of the study as presented in Table 1 showed that the respondents agreed that, inflation to a high extent influenced students' academic performance in English Language. As the respondents to high extent agreed that: increase cost of education because inflation affect students' academic performance, Limited resources for educational investment influence students' performance in English language, Limited access to technology devices due to inflation affect students' performance, Participation in extra curriculum activities carry financially pressure due to inflation, Limited support services due to economy crisis affects students' performance in English Language, Procurement of learning material/equipment are affected because of inflation and that shortage of instructional devices for English Language learning affect students' performance while the result of the hypothesis revealed that there was no

significant difference between the mean ratings of male and female teachers on the extent to which inflation influence secondary school students' academic performance in English language in Abakaliki Education Zone Ebonyi State .

The result is in line with the findings of Meremo (2017) who reported that inflation play a crucial role in destabilizing educational system. As inflation according to Chuka, (2019) affects the overall economy, it also influences educational institutions, student resources, and individual circumstances linked to learning. Here are some key areas where inflation play a role in shaping the academic experiences and outcomes of English language learners. Inflation rises, the costs associated with education such as tuition fees, textbooks, and supplies also increase.

The result on table 2 showed that the respondents agreed that students from low-income families often lack access to educational resources, low-income setting reduces students' conversational practices, Students in poverty experience higher rates of health issues, financial instability creates chronic stress, low income in families lead to lack of focus in the classroom and poverty among English Language students' motivation decreases abilities to learn.

The finding is consistent with the views of Udoka (2021) that poverty significantly impacts the academic performance of English language students in various ways, influencing their educational experiences and outcomes. Udoka asserted that students from low-income families often lack access to educational resources such as books, technology, and learning materials. This scarcity can hinder their ability to practice and enhance their English language skills outside of the classroom. and tutoring services, may require financial investment that these families cannot afford. A stable and supportive home environment is crucial for academic success. Students living in poverty may face chaotic living conditions, family stress, or instability, which can detract from their ability to focus on their studies.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the findings indicate a clear and troubling relationship between inflation, poverty, and the academic performance of English language students. As inflation rises, the cost of living increases, leading to greater financial strain on families. This economic pressure often results in reduced access to educational resources, including tutoring, books, and technology, which are essential for language acquisition. Moreover, students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds are more likely to experience stress and instability at home, which further hinders their ability to focus on their studies and perform well academically. Furthermore, the cumulative effects of poverty, such as food insecurity and inadequate housing, exacerbate these challenges, making it difficult for students to engage actively in learning environments. The intersection of these socioeconomic factors creates significant barriers that not only limit academic achievement but also impact long-term language proficiency and overall educational outcomes.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. : Government of Ebonyi should help in the implementation of effective scholarships and tuition assistance programs targeted at

low-income students to alleviate financial burdens caused by Economy Recession and also provide subsidies or vouchers for purchasing textbooks and educational materials to ensure that all students have access to the necessary resources for learning English Language and in addressing the negative influence of poverty on students' academic performance in English Language,

2. Government should initiate mentorship programs that connect students living in poverty with positive role models who can provide academic support and encouragement and also ensure that schools provide counselling services to help students deal with the emotional and psychological challenges related to poverty amidst of crunched economy.

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