STATE BASED ANALYSIS OF CANDIDATES' WASSCE PARTICIPATION AND ACHIEVEMENT OF FIVE CREDITS PASSES AND ABOVE INCLUDING MATHEMATICS AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

The level of Candidates' WASSCE participation and achievement of five credit passes including Mathematics and English Language were examined for a period of five years. Validated May/June WAEC results for each State in Nigeria from 2014 to 2018 were collected and analyzed. The result of the study showed that 35.13% of States had consistent average percentage and above representation of Candidates and 13.51% of States consistently recorded average percentage of candidates that achieved five credit passes and above including Mathematics and English Language. The result also showed that year 2014 had the highest number of candidates that sat for the examination and the lowest percentage of candidates that achieved five credits and above including Mathematics and English Language. Abia State had the highest mean percentage of 74.11% and Jigawa State 10.08% attaining the 1st and 36th positions respectively. It is recommended based on the results of the study that Teachers, Schools and States that have shown consistent high achievement should be applauded, Educational Stakeholders in States with consistent low participation and achievement should identify the causes and proffer solution, Federal Ministry of Education, Academic and professional bodies should follow up States with consistent low achievement in order to speedily identify and eliminate the cause, Local Government based studies should be carried out in States with low achievement in order to identify poor performing schools.

Keywords: WASSCE participation, WASSCE achievement, Five Credits and above including Mathematics and English Language, States.

Introduction

Education in no doubt is the bedrock of human and National development. A Nation's position in today's highly competitive global knowledge economy is directly dependent on the quality of its Human capital- the aggregate of skills and knowledge imparted to its citizens by its education system (Adamu, 2017). A nation's educational attainment most importantly the proportion of the work force with secondary credentials is a significant contributor to the country's ability to compete in the global market place (Skaggs in Jackson, 2015). In Nigeria, the attainment of secondary credential is possible when an individual successfully completes a tertiary (Higher or Post-Secondary) education. Post-Secondary education is highly beneficial to an individual as it creates a path to financial security, economic mobility, personal growth, professional development, leadership opportunities and the promise of a brighter future (Hout in Jackson, 2015). Efficient Human resources are made through the education systems especially Higher Education System by such a nation (Adebisi, 2014).

To be admitted into any of the Higher Education Institutions in Nigeria, one must have successfully undergone a six year Secondary Education Programme and written the Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination (S.S.S.C.E). This examination is organized by examinations bodies such as the West African Examination Council (WAEC), National Examination Council (NECO), National Business and Technical Examination Board (NABTEB). These examination bodies are saddled with providing uniform standard to all examination takers irrespective of the type or method of instruction they have received.

West African Examination Council (WAEC), was set up in 1952 as an inter-territorial body to the five West African countries namely, Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra-Leone, Gambia, Liberia with the major task of reviewing and considering annually the examinations to be held in West Africa and award certificates/Diplomas on the results of examination conducted. WAEC in Nigeria, administers its examination twice annually in May/June for school base and November/December for private candidate. WAEC grading system is as follows, A₁ (Excellent), B₂ (Very Good), B₃ (Good), C₄ (Credit), C₅ (Credit), C₆ (Credit), D₇ (Pass), D₈ (Pass), F₉ (Fail). The choice of WASSCE results was due to its credibility and acceptance by tertiary institutions for Higher learning (Sakiyo and Badau, 2015). The awarding of Senior Secondary School Certificate is one of the most important events in Nigerian academic calendar because of its economic and social importance and the opportunities for higher education for those who possess such certificate (Kpolovie, Olalube & Ekwebelem, 2011). A basic requirement by most higher education institutions in Nigeria to be admitted is a minimum of five credit pass in subjects relevant to applied course including Mathematics and English Language in West African Secondary School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) organized by WAEC or its equivalent examination body. Utibe & Agwagah (2015) reported that zones in the country are not performing equally in Mathematics; there are zones with significantly better performance and those with consistently poor performance. They further declared there is urgent need to arrest the poor performances in these zones and to keep up and or improve on the standard of the zones with better performance levels. This is achievable when state by state

analysis of performance is made since the zones in Nigeria are made up of different States. It is in view of this and the important role of acquisition of higher education that this study is focused on analyzing the pattern of students participation and their obtaining five credit passes and above including Mathematics and English Language from 2014 to 2018 (May/June) years for the 35 States in Nigeria and its Capital (Federal Capital Territory). This State by State analysis which is presented in numerical form will give an explicit view of the level of students participation and achievement of five credit passes and above in the last five years. This will give Policy Makers and Stakeholders in the various State in particular and Nigeria in general a guide on what to do to improve or sustain the level of participation and achievement in WASSCE.

Purpose of the Study

1. To ascertain the level of participation in May/June WASSCE from 2014 to 2018 years in Nigerian States and Federal Capital Territory (FCT).
2. To ascertain the level of students achievement of five credits and above including Mathematics and English Language in May/June WASSCE from 2014 to 2018 years in Nigerian States and Federal Capital Territory (FCT)..
3. To ascertain the position of Nigerian States and Federal Capital Territory (FCT) based on students level of obtaining five credit passes including Mathematics and English Language in May/June WASSCE from 2014 to 2018 in Nigeria States and Capital.

Research Questions

1. What is the level of Students participation in May/June WASSCE from 2014 to 2018 in Nigerian States and FCT.
2. What is the Level of Candidates' achievement of five credit passes and above including Mathematics and English Language in May/June WASSCE from 2014 to 2018 in Nigeria' States and FCT.
3. What is the position of each of Nigerian States and Capital based on candidates' achievement in five credits and above including Mathematics and English Language in May/June WASSCE from 2014 to 2018.

Method

The Study adopted the descriptive survey. All the students in the West African Countries of Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra-Leone, Gambia and Liberia who sat for the WASSCE from 2014 to 2018 constitute the population with a sample of 7,886,565 students in Nigeria who sat for the examination were used for the study. The sample was purposively selected. Data was collected from records. The sources of the data are both primary and secondary.

Data Analysis

The data collected were analyzed by using frequency count and percentages.

Results

Research Question One: What is the level of students' participation in May/June WASSCE from 2014 to 2018 in Nigerian States and FCT?

Table 1: Number and Percentage of Candidates that Sat for May/June WASSCE in Nigerian States and FCT from 2014 to 2018 Years.

S/N	State	YEARS					Mean(%)	Position
		2014 TNCSE (%)	2015 TNCSE (%)	2016 TNCSE (%)	2017 TNCSE (%)	2018 TNCSE (%)		
1	Abia	55738 (3.33)	52226 (3.31)	51260 (3.36)	49672 (3.19)	47468 (3.06)	3.25	8th
2	Adamawa	29922 (1.79)	18287 (1.16)	23924 (1.57)	25955 (1.67)	22037 (1.42)	1.52	30th
3	Akwa-Ibom	58591 (3.50)	59816 (3.80)	59255 (3.89)	55152 (3.54)	54897 (3.53)	3.65	7th
4	Anambra	50916 (3.04)	45783 (2.91)	29887 (2.62)	42661 (2.74)	44550 (2.87)	2.84	15th
5	Bauchi	28972 (1.73)	28947 (1.84)	29177 (1.91)	36419 (2.34)	42187 (2.72)	2.11	23rd
6	Bayelsa	19722 (1.18)	19397 (1.23)	19205 (1.26)	17888 (1.15)	20428 (1.31)	1.23	33th
7	Benue	50741 (3.03)	47436 (3.01)	42698 (2.80)	45194 (2.90)	44379 (2.86)	2.92	13th
8	Borno	31618 (1.89)	21489 (1.36)	14255 (0.93)	28006 (1.80)	34386 (2.21)	1.64	27th
9	CrossRivers	45914 (2.74)	38156 (2.42)	38862 (2.55)	39228 (2.52)	36401 (2.34)	2.51	19th
10	Delta	50312 (3.01)	51550 (3.27)	50728 (3.33)	49445 (3.17)	53546 (3.45)	3.25	9th
11	Ebonyi	25089 (1.50)	25086 (1.59)	23821 (1.56)	23389 (1.50)	24970 (1.61)	1.55	29th
12	Edo	63977 (3.82)	62012 (3.94)	61167 (4.01)	64062 (4.11)	59831 (3.85)	3.95	6th
13	Ekiti	21864 (1.31)	20957 (1.33)	18062 (1.18)	19889 (1.28)	19057 (1.23)	1.27	31st
14	Enugu	45618 (2.73)	43644 (2.77)	42241 (2.77)	42538 (2.73)	41328 (2.66)	2.73	17th
15	FCT	16913 (1.01)	17579 (1.12)	18884 (1.24)	21514 (1.38)	23622 (1.52)	1.25	32nd
16	Gombe	19175 (1.15)	18955 (1.20)	17670 (1.16)	16388 (1.05)	16328 (1.05)	1.12	34th
17	Imo	45662 (2.73)	45305 (2.87)	43163 (2.83)	45623 (2.93)	45549 (2.93)	2.86	14th
18	Jigawa	17536 (1.05)	18962 (1.20)	22635 (1.48)	17218 (1.10)	22424 (1.44)	1.25	32nd
19	Kaduna	99840 (5.96)	83850 (5.32)	90129 (5.91)	92596 (5.94)	81312 (5.23)	5.67	2nd
20	Kano	65723 (3.93)	62244 (3.95)	49316 (3.23)	38766 (2.49)	30003 (1.93)	3.11	11th
21	Kastina	43065 (2.57)	44439 (2.82)	19988 (1.31)	21717 (1.39)	23916 (1.54)	1.93	24th
22	Kebbi	26332 (1.57)	27832 (1.77)	26732 (1.75)	27134 (1.74)	30122 (1.94)	1.75	26th
23	Kogi	42483 (2.54)	37126 (2.36)	33722 (2.21)	34545 (2.22)	30379 (1.96)	2.26	21st
24	Kwarra	33428 (2.00)	33165 (2.10)	34190 (2.24)	34832 (2.24)	35380 (2.28)	2.17	22nd
25	Lagos	145196 (8.67)	140412 (8.91)	143353 (9.40)	154430 (9.91)	162066 (10.43)	9.46	1st
26	Nasarawa	46862 (2.80)	45912 (2.91)	47938 (3.14)	50662 (3.25)	47373 (3.05)	3.03	12th
27	Niger	51060 (3.05)	44441 (2.82)	52814 (3.46)	48146 (3.09)	51590 (3.32)	3.15	10th
28	Ogun	69871 (4.17)	75290 (4.78)	83939 (5.50)	92526 (5.94)	91754 (5.91)	5.26	3rd
29	Ondo	38261 (2.29)	28295 (1.80)	34260 (2.25)	40592 (2.60)	39357 (2.53)	2.29	20th

30	Osun	47161 (2.82)	48299 (3.06)	35978 (2.36)	32481 (2.08)	36171 (2.33)	2.53	18th
31	Oyo	77321 (4.62)	78574 (4.99)	70581 (4.63)	53850 (3.46)	65340 (4.21)	4.38	4th
32	Plateau	52020 (3.11)	42884 (2.72)	39922 (2.62)	43255 (2.78)	39108 (2.52)	2.75	16th
33	Rivers	63729 (3.81)	62610 (3.97)	61030 (4.00)	61656 (3.96)	65005 (4.18)	3.98	5th
34	Sokoto	24806 (1.48)	25475 (1.62)	25311 (1.66)	27673 (1.78)	26084 (1.68)	1.64	27th
35	Taraba	24066 (1.44)	18653 (1.18)	18093 (1.19)	21754 (1.40)	N/A	1.30	
36	Yobe	15143 (0.90)	14769 (0.94)	13378 (0.88)	13297 (0.85)	16898 (1.09)	0.93	35th
37	Zamfara	29120 (1.74)	26031 (1.65)	27263 (1.79)	28196 (1.81)	28481 (1.83)	1.76	25th
	Total	1673767 (100)	1575888(100)	1524832 (100)	1558349(100)	1553727(100)		

Source: Federal Ministry of Education, Nigeria Digest of Education Statistics (2017); National Bureau of Statistics 2019.

Note: TNCSE=Total number of candidate that sat for the examination. N/A = Not available.

Table 1 shows the total number and percentage of candidates that sat for May/June WASSCE from 2014 to 2018 in Nigeria's 36 States and FCT. The result shows that Abia recorded 3.33%, 3.31%, 3.36%, 3.19%, 3.06% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 3.25%. Adamawa recorded 1.79%, 1.16%, 1.57%, 1.67%, 1.42% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 1.52%. Akwa-Ibom recorded 3.50%, 3.80%, 3.89%, 3.54%, 3.53% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 3.65%. Anambra recorded 3.04%, 2.91%, 2.62%, 2.74%, 2.87% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 2.84%. Bauchi recorded 1.73%, 1.84%, 1.91%, 2.34%, 2.72% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 2.11%. Bayelsa recorded 1.18%, 1.23%, 1.26%, 1.15%, 1.31% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 1.23%. Benue recorded 3.03%, 3.01%, 2.80%, 2.90%, 2.86% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 2.92%. Borno recorded 1.89%, 1.36%, 0.93%, 1.80%, 2.21% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 1.64%. Cross-River recorded 2.74%, 2.42%, 2.55%, 2.52%, 2.34% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 2.51%. Delta recorded 3.01%, 3.27%, 3.33%, 3.17%, 3.45% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 3.25%. Ebonyi recorded 1.50%, 1.59%, 1.56%, 1.50%, 1.61% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 1.55%. Edo recorded 3.82%, 3.94%, 4.01%, 4.11%, 3.85% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 3.95%. Ekiti recorded 1.31%, 1.33%, 1.18%, 1.28%, 1.23% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 1.27%. Enugu recorded 2.73%, 2.77%, 2.77%, 2.73%, 2.66% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 2.73%. FCT recorded 1.01%, 1.12%, 1.24%, 1.38%, 1.52% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 1.25%. Gombe recorded 1.15%, 1.20%, 1.16%, 1.05%, 1.05% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 1.12%. Imo recorded 2.73%, 2.87%, 2.83%, 2.93%, 2.93% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a

mean percentage of 2.86%. Jigawa recorded 1.05%, 1.20%, 1.48%, 1.10%, 1.44% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 1.25%. Kaduna recorded 5.96%, 5.32%, 5.91%, 5.94%, 5.23% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 5.67%. Kano recorded 3.93%, 3.95%, 3.23%, 2.49%, 1.93% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 3.11%. Kastina recorded 2.57%, 2.82%, 1.31%, 1.39%, 1.54% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 1.93%. Kebbi recorded 1.57%, 1.77%, 1.75%, 1.74%, 1.94% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 1.75%. Kogi recorded 2.54%, 2.36%, 2.21%, 2.22%, 1.96% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 2.26%. Kwara recorded 2.00%, 2.10%, 2.24%, 2.24%, 2.28% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 2.17%. Lagos recorded 8.67%, 8.91%, 9.40%, 9.91%, 10.43% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 9.46%. Nasarawa recorded 2.80%, 2.91%, 3.14%, 3.25%, 3.05% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 3.03%. Niger recorded 3.05%, 2.82%, 3.46%, 3.09%, 3.32% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 3.15%. Ogun recorded 4.17%, 4.78%, 5.50%, 5.94%, 5.91% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 5.26%. Ondo recorded 2.29%, 1.80%, 2.25%, 2.60%, 2.53% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 2.29%. Osun recorded 2.82%, 3.06%, 2.36%, 2.08%, 2.33% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 2.53%. Oyo recorded 4.62%, 4.99%, 4.63%, 3.46%, 4.21% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 4.38%. Plateau recorded 3.11%, 2.72%, 2.62%, 2.78%, 2.52% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 2.75%. Rivers recorded 3.81%, 3.97%, 4.00%, 3.96%, 4.18% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 3.98%. Sokoto recorded 1.48%, 1.62%, 1.66%, 1.78%, 1.68% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 1.64%. Taraba recorded 1.44%, 1.81%, 1.19%, 1.40% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 respectively with a mean percentage of 1.30% for four years. Yobe recorded 0.90%, 0.94%, 0.88%, 0.85%, 1.09% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 0.93%. Zamfara recorded 1.74%, 1.65%, 1.79%, 1.81%, 1.83% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with a mean percentage of 1.76%.

Research QuestionTwo: What is the level of candidates' achievement of five credit passes and above including Mathematics and English Language in May/June WASSCE from 2014 to 2018 in Nigerian States and FCT?

Table2: Number and percentage of candidates that obtained five credits and above including Mathematics and English Language in Nigeria's 36 States and FCT.

S/N	STATE	2014 FCAME(%)	2015 FCAME(%)	2016 FCAME(%)	2017 FCAME(%)	2018 FCAME(%)	MEAN (%)	POSITION
1.	Abia	33287(59.72)	36548(69.98)	42050(82.03)	38012(76.52)	39056(82.28)	74.11	1 st
2.	Adamawa	2094(7.00)	3369(18.42)	10576(44.21)	10913(42.05)	7611(34.54)	29.24	27 th
3.	Akwa- Ibom	17592(30.03)	23147(38.70)	30143(50.87)	33583(60.89)	29583(53.89)	46.83	15 th
4.	Anambra	30867(60.62)	29754(64.99)	28657(71.85)	30515(71.53)	22897(51.40)	64.08	5 th
5	Bauchi	1551(5.35)	4452(15.38)	9805(33.61)	8511(23.37)	8537(20.24)	19.59	32 nd
6	Bayelsa	10404(52.75)	10448(53.86)	14302(74.47)	14326(80.09)	11895(58.23)	63.88	6 th
7	Benue	12711(25.05)	17662(37.23)	23391(54.78)	26349(58.30)	20869(47.02)	44.48	17 th
8	Borno	4472(14.14)	6128(28.52)	7918(55.55)	12271(43.82)	7097(20.64)	32.53	26 th
9	Cross- Rivers	10098(21.99)	13437(35.22)	23570(60.65)	21521(54.86)	19573(53.77)	43.30	19 th
10	Delta	19727(39.21)	24654(47.83)	32209(63.49)	32071(64.86)	27754(51.83)	53.44	9 th
11	Ebonyi	8976(35.78)	11463(45.69)	10289(43.19)	15910(68.02)	15500(50.95)	50.95	11 th
12	Edo	36771(57.48)	38929(62.78)	47290(77.31)	48770(76.13)	37334(62.40)	67.22	3 rd
13	Ekiti	7146(32.68)	9211(43.95)	10209(56.52)	14287(71.83)	10827(56.81)	52.36	10 th
14	Enugu	2266(49.67)	20165(46.20)	25703(60.85)	30871(72.57)	25483(61.66)	58.19	7 th
15	FCT	5073(39.99)	6856(39.00)	9820(52.00)	13302(61.83)	12310(52.11)	46.99	14 th
16	Gombe	1091(5.69)	1431(7.55)	2955(16.72)	4077(24.88)	2747(16.82)	14.33	4 th
17	Imo	17830(39.05)	24737(54.60)	32876(76.17)	35600(78.03)	34047(74.75)	64.52	34 th
18	Jigawa	1178(6.72)	1308(6.90)	4006(17.70)	1662(9.65)	2113(9.42)	10.08	36 th
19	Kaduna	36001(36.06)	36344(43.34)	51544(57.19)	49298(53.24)	33116(40.73)	46.11	16 th
20	Kano	16451(25.03)	15966(25.65)	19502(39.54)	17875(46.11)	16395(54.64)	38.19	22 nd
21	Kastina	4421(10.27)	5566(12.53)	7721(38.63)	11612(53.47)	7188(30.06)	28.99	28 th
22	Kebbi	1649(6.26)	3513(12.62)	6119(22.89)	11850(43.67)	12167(40.39)	25.17	30 th
23	Kogi	10150(23.89)	15018(40.45)	16886(50.07)	14885(43.09)	10270(33.81)	38.26	21 st
24	Kwarra	9659(28.89)	11926(35.96)	20320(59.43)	21605(62.03)	17421(49.24)	47.11	13 th
25	Lagos	67501(46.49)	71060(50.61)	91784(64.03)	101150(65.50)	98411(60.72)	57.47	8 th
26	Nasarawa	6416(13.69)	12302(26.79)	25905(54.04)	27759(54.56)	21131(44.61)	38.74	20 th
27	Niger	7508(14.70)	9560(21.51)	18327(34.70)	18074(37.54)	12963(25.13)	26.72	29 th
28	Ogun	18529(26.52)	26518(35.22)	44440(52.94)	50095(54.14)	47432(51.69)	44.10	18 th
29	Ondo	12436(32.50)	11881(41.99)	23316(68.06)	17970(44.27)	20550(52.21)	47.81	12 th
30	Osun	8541(18.11)	9114(18.87)	16469(45.78)	14128(43.50)	14776(40.85)	33.42	24 th
31	Oyo	14754(19.08)	16998(21.63)	25774(36.52)	28852(53.58)	24742(37.87)	33.74	23 rd
32	Plateau	9138(17.57)	11541(26.91)	19776(49.54)	18767(43.39)	9914(25.35)	32.55	25 th
33	Rivers	32131(50.42)	37159(59.35)	48053(78.74)	50741(82.30)	50587(77.82)	69.73	2 nd
34	Sokoto	1743(7.03)	4339(17.03)	7425(29.34)	10770(38.92)	8877(34.03)	23.27	31 st
35	Taraba	3354(13.94)	5570(29.86)	11603(64.13)	11195(51.46)	N/A		
36	Yobe	717(4.72)	847(5.73)	1907(14.25)	3550(26.70)	2674(15.82)	13.44	35 th
37	Zamfara	1927(6.62)	2073(7.96)	4379(16.06)	8283(29.38)	3404(11.95)	14.38	33 rd
	Total	506551(30.02)	590994(38.40)	827019(54.20)	881010(56.53)	747251(48.09)		

Source: Federal Ministry of Education, Nigeria Digest of Education Statistics 2017; National Bureau of Statistics.

FCAME=Five credits and above including Mathematics and English Language. N/A = Not Available.

Table 2 shows the Number and percentage of candidates that obtained five credits and above including Mathematics and English Language from 2014 to 2018 for each of the 36 States and FCT. The result showed that Abia recorded 59.72%, 69.98%, 82.03%, 76.53% and 82.28% for

years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 74.11. Adamawa recorded 7.00%, 18.42%, 44.21%, 42.05% and 34.54% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 29.24%. Akwa-Ibom recorded 30.03%, 38.70%, 50.87%, 60.89% and 53.89% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 46.88. Anambra recorded 60.62%, 64.99%, 71.85%, 71.53% and 51.50% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 64.08%. Bauchi recorded 5.35%, 15.38%, 33.613%, 23.37% and 20.24% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 19.59%. Bayelsa recorded 52.75%, 53.86%, 74.47%, 80.09% and 58.23% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 63.88. Benue recorded 25.05%, 37.23%, 54.78%, 58.30% and 47.02% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 44.48%. Borno recorded 14.14%, 28.52%, 55.55%, 43.82% and 20.64% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 32.53%. Cross-Rivers recorded 21.99%, 35.22%, 60.65%, 54.86% and 53.77% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 43.30%. Delta recorded 39.21%, 47.83%, 63.49%, 64.86% and 51.83% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 53.44%. Ebonyi recorded 35.78%, 45.69%, 43.19%, 68.02% and 62.07% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 50.95%. Edo recorded 57.48%, 62.78%, 77.31%, 76.13% and 62.40% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 67.22%. Ekiti recorded 32.68%, 43.95%, 56.52%, 71.83% and 56.81% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 52.36%. Enugu recorded 49.67%, 46.20%, 60.85%, 72.57% and 61.66% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 58.19%. FCT recorded 29.99%, 39.00%, 52.00%, 61.83% and 52.11% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 46.99%. Gombe recorded 5.69%, 7.55%, 16.72%, 24.88% and 16.82% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 14.33%. Imo recorded 39.05%, 54.60%, 76.17%, 78.03% and 74.75% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 64.52%. Jigawa recorded 6.72%, 6.90%, 17.70%, 9.65% and 9.42% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 10.08%. Kaduna recorded 36.06%, 43.34%, 57.19%, 53.24% and 40.73% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 46.11%. Kano recorded 25.03%, 25.65%, 39.54%, 46.11% and 54.64% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 38.19%. Kastina recorded 10.27%, 12.53%, 38.63%, 53.47% and 30.06% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 28.99%. Kebbi recorded 6.26%, 12.62%, 22.89%, 43.67% and 40.39% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 25.17%. Kogi recorded 23.89%, 40.45%, 50.07%, 43.09% and 33.81% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 38.26%. Kwara recorded 28.89%, 35.96%, 59.43%, 62.03% and 49.24% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 47.11%. Lagos recorded 46.49%, 50.61%, 64.03%, 65.50% and 60.72% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 57.47%. Nasarawa recorded 13.69%, 26.79%, 54.04%, 54.56% and 44.61% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and

2018 respectively with mean percentage of 38.74%. Niger recorded 14.70%, 21.51%, 34.70%, 37.54% and 25.13% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 26.72%. Ogun recorded 26.52%, 35.22%, 52.94%, 54.14% and 51.69% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 44.10%. Ondo recorded 32.50%, 41.99%, 68.06%, 44.27% and 52.21% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 47.81%. Osun recorded 18.11%, 18.87%, 45.78%, 43.50% and 40.85% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 33.42%. Oyo recorded 19.08%, 21.63%, 36.52%, 53.58% and 37.87% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 33.74%. Plateau recorded 17.57%, 26.91%, 49.54%, 43.39% and 25.35% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 32.55%. Rivers recorded 50.42%, 59.35%, 78.74%, 82.30% and 77.82% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 69.73%. Sokoto recorded 7.03%, 17.03%, 29.34%, 38.92% and 34.03% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 23.27%. Yobe recorded 4.72%, 5.73%, 14.25%, 26.70% and 15.82% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 13.44%. Zamfara recorded 6.62%, 7.96%, 16.06%, 29.38% and 11.95% for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively with mean percentage of 14.38%.

Research Question Three: What is the position of each of Nigerian States and Capital based on candidates achievement in five credits and above including Mathematics and English Language in May/June WASSCE from 2014 to 2018?

The positions of States based on candidates achievement of five credits and above including Mathematics and English Language is shown in table 2 as follows: Abia 1st with mean percentage of 74.11%, Rivers 2nd with mean percentage of 69.73%, Edo 3rd with mean percentage of 67.22%, Imo 4th with mean percentage of 64.52%, Anambra 5th with mean percentage of 64.08%, Bayelsa 6th with mean percentage of 63.88%, Enugu 7th with mean percentage of 58.19%, Lagos 8th with mean percentage of 57.47%, Delta 9th with mean percentage of 53.4%, Ekiti 10th with mean percentage of 52.36%, Ebonyi 11th with mean percentage of 50.95%, Ondo 12th with mean percentage of 47.81%, Kwara 13th with mean percentage of 47.11%, FCT 14th with mean percentage of 46.99%, Akwa-Ibom 15th with mean percentage of 46.83%, Kaduna 16th with mean percentage of 46.11%, Benue 17th with mean percentage of 44.48%, Ogun 18th with mean percentage of 44.10%, Cross-Rivers 19th with mean percentage of 43.30%, Nasarawa 20th with mean percentage of 38.74%, Kogi 21st with mean percentage of 38.26%, Kano 22nd with mean percentage of 38.19%, Oyo 23rd with mean percentage of 33.74%, Osun 24th with mean percentage of 33.42%, Plateau 25th with mean percentage of 32.55%, Borno 26th with mean percentage of 32.53%, Adamawa 27th with mean percentage of 29.24%, Kastina 28th with mean percentage of 28.99%, Niger 29th with mean percentage of 26.72%, Kebbi 30th with mean percentage of 25.17%, Sokoto 31st with mean percentage of 23.27%, Bauchi 32nd with mean percentage of 19.59%, Zamfara 33rd with mean percentage of 14.38%, Gombe 34th with mean percentage of 14.33%, Yobe 35th with mean percentage of 13.44%, Jigawa 36th with mean percentage of 10.08%.

Discussion of findings

The result of the study showed that Abia, Akwa-Ibom, Benue, Delta, Edo, Imo, Kaduna, Lagos, Nasarawa, Niger, Ogun, Oyo, Rivers consistently had high percentage (average percentage and above) representation of the candidates that sat for the May/June WASSCE from 2014-2018 years with Lagos having the highest percentage for the five years studied while Adamawa, Bayelsa, Borno, Ebonyi, Ekiti, FCT, Gombe, Jigawa, Kebbi, Kogi, Kwara, Ondo, Sokoto, Yobe, Zamfara consistently had low percentage (below average percentage) representation of candidates with Yobe and Gombe having the lowest for Four consecutive years and one year respectively. Similarly, Abia, Anambra, Bayelsa, Edo, Rivers consistently recorded high percentage (average percentage and above) of candidates that achieved five credits and above including Mathematics and English Language with Rivers having the highest percentage of 82.30% while Adamawa, Bauchi, Gombe, Jigawa, Kebbi, Niger, Osun, Plateau, Sokoto, Yobe, Zamfara consistently recorded low percentage (below average percentage) of candidates that achieved five credits and above including Mathematics and English Language with Yobe having the least percentage of 4.72% in year 2014. Bayelsa, Rivers and Edo which are among the five States that consistently had high percentage of candidates that achieved five credits and above including Mathematics and English Language are States from the South-South zone while Adamawa, Bauchi, Gombe, Yobe States from the North East are among the States that consistently recorded low percentage. This aligns with the findings of Utibe and Agwagah (2015) that South-South Zone performs best with the highest percentage performance while North-East has the least. Also, the findings of the study revealed that years 2014 recorded the highest number of candidates that sat for WASSCE and the lowest number/percentage of candidates that achieved five credits and above including Mathematics and English Language. This shows that most of the states that recorded consistent high percentage of candidates that sat for the WASSCE had no consistency in achieving five credits and above including Mathematics and English Language. This finding is in consonance with the study of Sakiyo and Badau (2015) who reported the existence of a steady increase in the enrolment of students who sat for the May/June WASSCE in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics and English from 2008-2012 in Nigeria without a steady increase in the students' academic achievement. The result also showed that very few States (29.73%) had high mean percentage with Abia having the highest mean percentage of 74.11% obtaining the 1st position and Jigawa the lowest mean percentage of 10.08% obtaining the 36th position.

Conclusion

The State by State study has revealed that few States had high percentage level of candidates' participation in May/June WASSCE. Similarly, very few States had average and above percentage of candidates that obtained five credits and above including Mathematics and English Language. Although, most of the States recorded a significant percentage increase of candidates who obtained five credits and above including Mathematics and English Language in 2016, 2017 and 2018, only 11 States obtained a high mean percentage above average. This will

certainly strain and retard human and resource development in the States in particular and Nigeria in general.

Recommendation

The following recommendations are made based on the findings of the study:

1. The Federal Ministry of Education, WAEC, academic and professional bodies should applaud teachers, schools, states that have shown consistent high participation and achievements in order to encourage them to sustain and improve on their existing performances.
2. Educational stakeholders in States with consistent low participation and achievements should identify its cause and proffer solution.
3. Federal Ministry of Education, academic and professional bodies should follow up States with consistent low achievement in order to speedily identify and eliminate the cause.
4. Qualified teachers, conducive learning environment, maintenance of infrastructure should be ensured in all secondary schools.
5. Study should be carried out in Local Government Areas of States with consistent low achievement to identify poor performing schools.

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