

# THE ROLE OF PARENTS TEACHERS ASSOCIATION ON QUALITY EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN KOLOKUMA/ OPOKUMA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF BAYELSA STATE

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## Abstract

*The primary objective of this research was to examine the contribution of the parents teachers association (PTA) to enhancing the quality of education in Kolokuma/Opokuma Local Government Area (KOLGA) of Bayelsa State. The paper was structured around five objectives and employed a descriptive design. The research population consisted of principals, teachers, and executive members of the PTA from 15 public secondary schools within the area. A total of 120 participants were picked through random sampling technique. Data were gathered using a questionnaire designed by the researcher. The instrument used a four-point Likert scale. Reliability was determined using the test-retest approach, and it was analyzed using PPMC, which produced a reliability coefficient of 0.73, indicating that the tool was dependable. The data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics. The study was able to establish the fact that the role Parents Teachers Association play greatly improves the quality of Education in KOLGA of Bayelsa State and as such recommended that Parents Teachers Association should be encouraged to be more active in their roles such as bridging home school gap, advocacy for a robust curriculum, raising of funds to provide key infrastructures, helping the school to address the issue of indiscipline and supporting students' well-being which will definitely improve the calibre of Education in public secondary schools in KOLGA of Bayelsa State.*

**Keywords:** Roles, Parents, Teachers, Association, Quality, Education, Public, Secondary Schools.

## Introduction

Education serves as a powerful instrument for societal transformation. It enables people to transmit experiences, knowledge, and scientific advancements from one generation to another. As noted by Enna (2019), every society possesses its own distinct worldview, a set of enduring values shared among its members. This worldview, along with these collective values, shapes social relationships, community organization, and the management of human affairs. Combined with environmental, geographical,

and climatic conditions, these elements influence the way individuals engage in productive, recreational, and creative endeavors. Altogether, they form the material and non-material aspects of a people's cultural heritage. Every society, therefore, invests significant effort and resources in passing down this heritage to its younger members, a process that represents the central purpose of education.

Similarly, Nwanchukwu (2020) describes education as a virtue whose ultimate goal is to promote morality and

social usefulness. Regardless of whether it is traditional or western in form, education aims to empower individuals to effectively manage their personal lives and make meaningful contributions to societal advancement—a lifelong responsibility for everyone. Education grooms enlightened citizens who are morally sound and useful to the nation. This will mean that such citizens will be useful for the economic, social, cultural and political advancement of the country in particular and the nation at large. This clearly shows that a country's development is hinged on education. This has led to the renewed crave for education from countries across the world as they know that education is the only tool that can be used to reshape the society, build a healthy economy and eliminate illiteracy and poverty. For education to thrive, it needs to be supported and one of the most renowned support structure is the PTA.

The Parents Teachers Association (PTA) is an organized body made up of parents, teachers, and other school personnel, established to enhance effective teaching and learning within educational institutions. As stated by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2019), the PTA operates as a non-profit organization that includes students, parents or guardians, teachers, and administrative staff. Its main goal is to encourage collaboration between parents and teachers, particularly through active participation in school activities and support for fundraising efforts aimed at advancing educational projects and overall school development. Parents Teachers Association (PTA) was established in schools mainly as partners in progress and support structure in the educational system. Parents Teachers Association has various responsibilities in the effective learning process of the school. Parents play a pivotal role in the passing of

knowledge from one generation to the other. There is an interplay between the parents and the tutors in schools as parents takes charge of the child's learning at home while the teachers take charge in the school. After students have been taught in schools and assignments and home work are been given by the school teachers, the onus then lies on the parents to ensure that the child is properly guided to do such assignment and home-work. It is very clear that not only the teachers but also the parents are responsible for the child to be properly educated. Every Parent wants to give his or her child the best of everything, including education. Parents are always interested in what goes on in their children's school because it has a direct impact on their children and them. Parents' growing concern and involvement in their children's education led to the establishment of the organization known as the PTA. According to Abiola (2016), the PTA originated in the late 18th century when a group of women in the United States came together to form the association. The first gathering, known as "The National Congress of Mothers," was held in 1877 and was initiated by Alice McLellan and Phoebe Apperson Hearst. This meeting later inspired the creation of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers Association in the year 2000.

Today, the congress of parents and teachers, now called the PTA, plays a significant role in educational policymaking across various schools. Abiola (2016) further explained that since the PTA focuses on students' welfare and holistic development, parents are given responsibilities in school administration. This highlights the PTA's commitment to ensuring the overall success and progress of schools.

Chang (2014) observed that in Hong Kong, the PTA serves as a platform for

parents and teachers to work together, share their educational perspectives, and develop sound policies that promote effective learning. Similarly, Van-Wyke (2019) noted that in South Africa, the PTA actively contributes to the provision of essential educational resources, including laboratory equipment, textbooks, and sanitation facilities. In Nigeria, Obi (2013) emphasized that the PTA upholds moral discipline in partnership with the school leadership. He also pointed out that the PTA is represented in local government education authorities to protect and promote the collective interests of schools, although it does not interfere with their daily operations.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The role played by PTA in public secondary schools have not been given the desired attention. Public secondary schools are faced with myriads of problems ranging from the issues of bridging the home school gap, poor curriculum, lack of funds, indiscipline to lack of students' well-being. The PTA plays a pivotal function in addressing these issues. The PTA can bridge the home school gap by facilitating communication and collaboration between parents and teachers. This will help create a unified approach to students' development, addressing both their academic and social-emotional need.

According to Adeyemi (2020) PTA can advocate for improved curriculum, resources and policies that benefit students and promote their academic excellence. According to Aderemo (2013) for public secondary schools to maintain quality education, parent teachers association can also help the school to raise funds to build critical infrastructures in the school which will be very good for the school.

According to Chang (2014) the issues of indiscipline and students well-being can also

be tackled by the Parents Teachers Association. They can work with teachers and school administrators to develop strategies to address students' behaviour issues and promote a positive climate in the school. Also the Association can organize workshops, events and initiatives programmes that promotes students mental and physical health, including access to counselling services or health education programmes. .

### **Purpose of the Study**

The study examines the role of Parents Teachers Association on quality education in Public Secondary Schools in Kolokuma/Opokuma Local Government Area of Bayelsa State. Specifically, the study was guided by the following objectives:

1. To examine the extent Parents Teachers Association bridging home school gap can improve the quality of education in public secondary schools in Kolokuma/ Opokuma Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.
2. To examine the extent Parents Teachers Association advocacy of robust curriculum can improve the quality of education in Public Secondary Schools in Kolokuma/Opokuma Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.
3. To examine the extent Parents Teachers Association raising funds to provide key infrastructures in the school can improve the quality of education in Public Secondary Schools in Kolokuma/ Opokuma Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.
4. To examine the extent parents teachers association helping the school to address the issue of indiscipline can improve the quality of education in Public Secondary Schools

in Kolokuma/ Opokuma Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

- 5) To examine the extent parents teachers association supporting students' well-being can improve the quality of education in Public Secondary Schools in Kolokuma/ Opokuma Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

### Research Questions

The study was guided by the following research questions:

1. To what extent does Parents Teachers Association bridging home school gap improve the quality of education in public secondary schools in Kolokuma/ Opokuma Local Government Area of Bayelsa State?
2. To what extent does Parents Teachers Association advocacy for robust curriculum improve the quality of education in Public Secondary Schools in Kolokuma/ Opokuma Local Government Area of Bayelsa State?
3. To what extent does Parents Teachers Association raising funds to provide key infrastructures in the school improve the quality of education in Public Secondary Schools in Kolokuma/ Opokuma Local Government Area of Bayelsa State?
4. To what extent does Parents Teachers Association helping the school to address the issue of indiscipline improve the quality of education in Public Secondary Schools in Kolokuma/ Opokuma Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.?
5. To what extent does Parents Teachers Association supporting students' well-being improve the quality of education in Public Secondary Schools

in Kolokuma/ Opokuma Local Government Area of Bayelsa State?

### METHOD

The paper applied a descriptive survey design. This involved collecting data from a representative sample to make generalizations about the entire population. The population included principals, teachers, and executive members of the Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) from 15 public secondary schools (PSS) in the Kolokuma/Opokuma Local Government Area (KOLGA) of Bayelsa State. A total of 120 participants were selected through a simple random sampling method. Data were collected using a researcher-designed questionnaire titled "The Role of PTA on Quality Education in Public Secondary Schools in KOLGA of Bayelsa State" (TRPTAQEPSSKOLGABS).

To ensure validity, two experts in Measurement and Evaluation from the Faculty of Education at Niger Delta University reviewed the instrument. Reliability was tested using the test-retest method. The resulting scores were analyzed using Pearson's Product-Moment Correlation (PPMC), which produced a coefficient of 0.73. This indicated that the instrument was dependable. Questionnaires were administered personally by the researcher, assisted by one research aide. Data analysis was conducted using the Mean and Standard Deviation as the primary statistical tools.

### RESULTS

#### Research Question 1

To what extent does Parents Teachers Association bridging home school gap improve the quality of Education in Public Secondary Schools in Kolokuma/Opokuma Local Government Area of Bayelsa State?

**Table 1:** Summary of mean and standard deviation scores and mean rating of how Parents Teachers Association bridging home school gap impact on Quality Education.

S/NO	Parents Teachers Association bridging of home school gap	Mean	SD	Remarks
1	Extent parents establishing regular communication between them and the school will help improve the quality of Education	2.70	1.70	High Extent
2	Extent parents organizing parents teachers conferences and meeting will improve quality Education	2.85	1.01	High Extent
3	Extent parents fostering collaboration with school will improve Education	2.62	0.93	High Extent
4	Extent parents involving the school in their family events will improve Education	2.56	1.05	High Extent
	<b>Grand Mean/ SD</b>	<b>2.68</b>	<b>1.17</b>	<b>High Extent</b>

**Cut-off mean = 2.50; Total 120**

Table 1 indicate that all the items recorded mean scores higher than the benchmark value of 2.50, with individual means of 2.70, 2.85, 2.62, and 2.56, resulting in a grand mean of 2.68. This shows that all the items were accepted. The findings suggest that the involvement of the Parents Teachers Association in bridging the gap between home and school significantly

enhances the calibre of education in PSS within KOLGA of Bayelsa State.

### **Research Question 2**

To what extent does Parents Teachers Association advocacy for robust curriculum improve the quality of education in Public Secondary Schools in Kolokuma/ Opokuma Local Government Area of Bayelsa State?

**Table 2:** Summary of mean and standard deviation scores and mean rating of how Parents Teachers Association Advocacy for robust curriculum impact on Quality Education.

S/NO	Parents Teachers Association Advocacy for robust curriculum	Mean	SD	Remarks
5	Extent Parents Teachers Association active participation in curriculum development will improve quality Education	2.75	0.97	High Extent
6	Extent Parents Teachers Association supporting teachers training on new curriculum will improve quality Education	2.58	1.16	High Extent
7	Extent Parents Teachers Association engaging with schools board and administration to ensure alignment of educational goals and school needs will improve quality Education	2.78	1.02	High Extent
8	Extent Parents Teachers Association advocacy for the necessary resources such as updated text	2.63	1.05	High Extent

	books, technology, and other learning materials to support the curriculum implementation will help improve quality Education			
	<b>Grand Mean/ SD</b>	<b>2.69</b>	<b>1.05</b>	<b>High Extent</b>

**Cut-off mean = 2.50; Total 120**

Table 2 indicate that all items recorded mean scores above the cut-off point of 2.50, with individual means of 2.75, 2.58, 2.78, and 2.63, yielding a grand mean of 2.69. This demonstrates that all the items were accepted. The results suggest that the Parents Teachers Association's advocacy for a well-structured and comprehensive curriculum contributes significantly to

improving the calibre of education in PSS within KOLGA of Bayelsa State.

### **Research Question 3**

To what extent does Parents Teachers Association raising funds to provide key infrastructures in the school improve the quality of education in Public Secondary Schools in Kolokuma/ Opokuma Local Government Area of Bayelsa State?

**Table 3:** Summary of mean and standard deviation scores and mean rating of how Parents Teachers Association fund raising to provide key infrastructure impact on Quality Education.

<b>S/NO</b>	<b>Parents Teachers Association raising funds to provide key infrastructures</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
9	Extent Parents Teachers Association organizing fund raising events to provide key infrastructure will improve quality Education	2.80	1.03	High Extent
10	Extent Parents Teachers Association direct provision of some key infrastructures they know the school needs will improve quality Education	2.85	1.04	High Extent
11	Extent Parents Teachers Association approaching local businesses for the sponsorship of specific key projects will improve quality Education	2.77	0.98	High Extent
12	Extent Parents Teachers Association leveraging on their network to provide a steady source of funds to finance school project will help improve quality Education	2.70	1.07	High Extent
	<b>Grand Mean/ SD</b>	<b>2.78</b>	<b>1.03</b>	<b>High Extent</b>

**Cut-off mean = 2.50; Total 120**

Table 3 show that all items recorded mean scores exceeding the cut-off value of 2.50, with individual means of 2.80, 2.85, 2.77, and 2.70, resulting in a grand mean of 2.78. This indicates that all the items were accepted.

The findings suggest that the efforts of the PTA in raising funds for the provision of essential school infrastructure greatly enhance the calibre of education in PSS within KOLGA of Bayelsa State.

**Research Question 4**

To what extent does Parents Teachers Association helping the school to address the issue of indiscipline improve the quality of education in Public Secondary Schools in Kolokuma/ Opokuma Local Government Area of Bayelsa State?

Table 4: Summary of mean and standard deviation scores and mean rating of how Parents Teachers Association helping the school address the issue of indiscipline impact on Quality Education.

S/NO	Parents Teachers Association help the school address the issues of indiscipline	Mean	SD	Remarks
13	Extent Parents Teachers Association collaborating with schools to establish rules and consequences will improve quality Education	2.54	1.05	High Extent
14	Extent Parents Teachers Association regular communication with school authority about their children's behaviour will improve quality Education	2.89	0.97	High Extent
15	Extent Parents Teachers Association instilling good morale and value on their children will improve quality Education	2.62	1.11	High Extent
16	Extent Parents Teachers Association establishing clear boundaries and expectations from their children from their homes will help improve quality Education	2.51	1.01	High Extent
	<b>Grand Mean/ SD</b>	<b>2.64</b>	<b>1.04</b>	<b>High Extent</b>

**Cut-off mean = 2.50; Total 120**

Table 4 indicate that all items obtained mean scores above the cut-off value of 2.50, with individual means of 2.54, 2.89, 2.62, and 2.51, leading to a grand mean of 2.64. This shows that all the items were accepted. The results imply that the involvement of the PTA in assisting schools to manage and reduce cases of indiscipline significantly enhances the calibre of

education in PSS within KOLGA of Bayelsa State.

**Research Question 5**

To what extent does Parents Teachers Association supporting students' well-being improve the quality of education in Public Secondary Schools in Kolokuma/ Opokuma Local Government Area of Bayelsa State?

**Table 5:** Summary of mean and standard deviation scores and mean rating of how Parents Teachers Association supporting students' well-being impact on Quality Education.

S/NO	Parents Teachers Association supporting students well-being	Mean	SD	Remarks
17	Extent Parents Teachers Association promoting a positive school environment can improve quality Education	2.63	1.05	High Extent
18	Extent Parents Teachers Association organizing workshops on topics relevant to students well-being can improve quality Education	2.86	0.97	High Extent

19	Extent Parents Teachers Association involvement in anti-bullying campaigns in schools can improve quality Education	2.73	1.09	High Extent
20	Extent Parents Teachers Association involvement in mental health and wellness programmes in schools can help improve quality Education	2.81	1.05	High Extent
	<b>Grand Mean/ SD</b>	<b>2.76</b>	<b>1.04</b>	<b>High Extent</b>

**Cut-off mean = 2.50; Total 120**

Table 5 show that all items recorded mean scores higher than the benchmark value of 2.50, with individual means of 2.63, 2.86, 2.73, and 2.81, resulting in a grand mean of 2.76. This indicates that all items were accepted. The findings suggest that the involvement of the Parents Teachers Association in promoting and supporting students' well-being greatly contributes to enhancing the calibre of education in PSS within KOLGA of Bayelsa State.

### Discussion of Findings

The paper found that the PTA has a substantial impact on improving the calibre of education in PSS in the KOLGA, Bayelsa State. Respondents agreed that the PTA's efforts to bridge the home-school gap enhance educational quality, with mean scores of 2.70, 2.85, 2.62, and 2.56 (items 1–4), and a grand mean of 2.68, indicating that parent-teacher collaboration has a positive influence on student learning.

Respondents also agreed that the PTA's advocacy for a well-structured, inclusive curriculum improves educational quality. Mean scores were 2.75, 2.58, 2.78, and 2.63 (items 5–8), with a grand mean of 2.69, demonstrating the impact of curriculum initiatives on school performance. Respondents agreed that the PTA's fundraising to provide infrastructure greatly improves education. Items 9 to 12 had mean scores of 2.80, 2.85, 2.77, and 2.70, with a

grand mean of 2.78, highlighting the strong effect of development efforts.

The study demonstrated that PTA efforts to address indiscipline make meaningful contributions to quality education, as indicated by mean scores of 2.54, 2.89, 2.62, and 2.51 (items 13–16), and a grand mean of 2.64. This suggests that PTA discipline management fosters a conducive learning environment. Respondents affirmed that PTA support for students' well-being enhances educational outcomes. Items 17 to 20 had mean scores of 2.63, 2.86, 2.73, and 2.81, with a grand mean of 2.76. This indicates that welfare initiatives have a significant impact on public secondary education.

### Conclusion and Recommendations

The study was able to establish the fact that the role Parents Teachers Association play greatly improves the calibre of Education in KOLGA of Bayelsa State. In the light of the findings Parents Teachers Association should be encouraged by stake holders in the educational sector to be more active as their roles such as bridging home school gap, advocacy for a robust curriculum, raising of funds to provide key infrastructures, helping the school to address the issue of indiscipline and supporting students' well-being will definitely improve the calibre of Education in PSS in KOLGA of Bayelsa State.



In view of the above, the following recommendation were made based on the findings of the study:

- 1) Parents Teachers Association should be encouraged by stake holders in the educational sector to help bridge the home school gap to enhance the calibre of Education in KOLGA of Bayelsa State.
- 2) Parents Teachers Association should be encouraged by stake holders in the educational sector to advocate for a robust curriculum to enhance the calibre of Education in KOLGA of Bayelsa State.
- 3) Parents Teachers Association should be encouraged by stake holders in the educational sector to raise funds to provide key infrastructures to enhance the quality of Education in KOLGA of Bayelsa State.
- 4) Parents Teachers Association should be encouraged by stake holders in the educational sector to help the school to address the issue of indiscipline to enhance the quality of Education in KOLGA of Bayelsa State.
- 5) Parents Teachers Association should be encouraged by stake holders in the educational sector to support students' well-being to improve the calibre of Education in KOLGA of Bayelsa State.

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