

Parallel pathways: parents' practices around the schooling of their children in rural Northcentral Nigeria

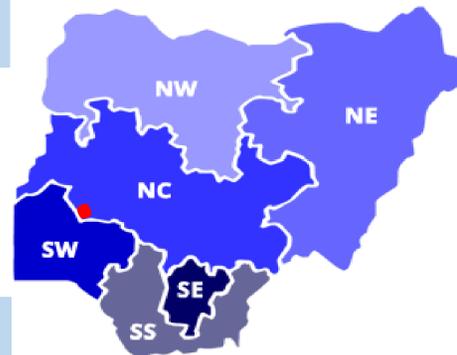
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Relevant RQ: What practices do Yoruba parents in rural Kwara engage in, in relation to their children's schooling?

Research Context (Kwara State)

- ~2.3 million; 53%M 47%F
- Multi-ethnic, multi-religious
- Farmers, weavers, potters



Research Rationale

- Schooling challenges: access, quality, equity & outcomes, more severe in rural parts of the state
- Little qualitative evidence on parental practices around schooling in rural areas

Methodology & Methods:

- Constructivist: rich insight into participant/researcher co-constructed lived experiences in context
- Ethnography & case study
- Two rural communities, one local government area
- 7 parents per community
 - Community A: 6 Mothers, 1 Father
 - Community B: 6 Fathers, 1 Mother
- Interviews [semi-structured, photo-elicitation, go-alongs] & (participant) observations

Preliminary Findings:

- Schooling promises a worthwhile investment, imbibed by parents – ‘our eyes are now open’
- Schooling's reality = extreme rates of unemployment for tertiary graduates
- Promise + reality = parents hedge schooling bets by enrolling children in school AND informal apprenticeships at the same time – ‘so that our children will not starve’

