



Age, Gender and Parental Socio-Economic Background as Correlates of Students' Demand for International Passport in Nigeria

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between all authors. Author OSA designed the study, wrote the protocol and supervised the work. Authors OOI and OO carried out all data collection work and performed the statistical analysis. Author OO managed the analyses of the study. Author OOI wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Author OSA managed the literature searches and edited the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the age, gender and parental socio-economic background as correlates of students' demand for international passport. The study adopted survey research design of the ex-post facto type. Oyo State Command Passport Office of the Nigeria Immigration Service was purposively selected in Nigeria. Four hundred (400) respondents (students) were randomly selected from those who came to Oyo State Command passport Office of the Nigeria Immigration Service to secure international passport. Questionnaire was the major instrument that was developed and used for the study. The questionnaire was divided into sections A and B. Section A has structured items on students' characteristics. Section B consisted of seventeen structured items on demand for international passport (0.70). Three research questions were answered. Data were analysed using

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Pearson Product Moment Correlation and Multiple Regression statistics. The three variables have a joint positive multiple correlation with students' demand for international passport ($R=.213$). The three independent variables also accounted for 4.5% of the variance of students' demand for international passport (Adjusted $R^2 = .045$). Parental socio-economic background made the most significant contribution to students' demand for international passport ($\beta = .170$, $P < .05$), followed by gender ($\beta = .089$, $P > .05$) and age ($\beta = -.091$, $P > .05$) made the least contribution. Students' demand for international passport could be predicted by parental socio-economic background ($B=.310$; $t=3.440$; $p<0.05$). The combination of parental socio-economic background, gender, and age has direct contributions to students' demand for international passport. It was also noted that students' parental socio-economic background proved more effective at predicting students' demand for international passport. The combination of these factors should be taken into consideration to curtail students demand for International passports.

Keywords: International passports; demand; age; gender and parental socio-economic background.

1. INTRODUCTION

A passport is a travel document usually issued by the government of a nation that certifies the identity and nationality of its holder for the purpose of international travel. Standard passport contains the holder's name, place and date of birth, photograph, signature, and other identifying information. International passports are moving towards including biometric information embedded in a microchip machine readable and difficult to counterfeit.

A passport specifies nationality but not necessarily the place of residence of the passport holder. A passport holder is normally entitled to enter the country that issued the passport, though some people entitled to a passport may not be full citizens with right of abode. A passport is a document certifying identity and nationality, having the document does not of itself grant any right such as protection by the consulate of the issuing country, although it may indicate that the holder has such rights. Some passports attest to status as a diplomat or other officials, entitled to rights and privileges such as immunity from arrest or prosecution arising from international treaties.

Many countries normally allow entry to holders of passports of other countries, sometimes requiring a visa also to be held, but this is not an automatic right; many other additional conditions such as not being likely to become a public charge for financial or other reasons and the holder not having been convicted of a crime, may be or is in dispute with it, entry may be prohibited to holders of passport of the other party to the dispute, and sometimes to others who have, for example, visited the other country.

Some countries and international organisations issue travel documents which are not standard passports but enable the holder to travel internationally to countries that recognise the documents. For example, stateless persons are not normally issued a national passport, but may be able to obtain a refugee travel document or the earlier "Nansen passport" which recognised them and sometimes to return to the issuing country. A country may issue a passport to any person, including non-nationals.

Having explained what is meant by a passport and its purposes, briefly, an attempt is made here to capture the likely profile for students demand for passport and their aspiration to travelling abroad. The onlinedictionary.com defined a profile as a set of characteristics or qualities that identify a type or category of person or thing.

It is quite disturbing to note the alarming rate at which Nigerians including students storm the National Headquarters and various offices of the Nigeria Immigration Service to demand for standard Nigerian passports. To this end, one wonders the reasons behind such a high demand for the document which explains why this research work is worthwhile.

A current passport is normally required for all international travel be it by land, air or sea. The passport is expected to be valid for at least six months after travelling to the foreign country. In Nigeria, the organisation saddled with the responsibility of issuing passport is the Nigeria Immigration Service.

[1] observed that one of the duties that has brought the Nigeria Immigration Service to the consciousness of most Nigerians is passport

issuance until recently “most negative publicity and image damaging issues on immigration concern passport offices and passport issuance”. This is to be expected, as the service deals with a large number of Nigerians and generates large amount of revenue for government. Passport issuance therefore attracts all shades of characters and temptations,

To facilitate the convenient handling of visa endorsements as well as certify the identity of its citizens, countries created the national passports. The word “passport” is derived from the French “passport” with the generic meaning as something that enables a person to achieve a desired end. Section 52(1) of the Immigration Act, CAP 171, [2] saw passport as a travel document furnished with a photograph of such a person and issued to him or her on behalf of the country of which he or she is subject or citizen and for a period which according to the laws of that country has not expired, and includes any other similar documents approved by the Minister establishing the nationality or identity of the person to whom it refers to the satisfaction of an Immigration Officer. In addition, Section 6 Passports (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, CAP 343 [2] observed that “passport” means a document of protection and authority to travel, issued by the competent Nigeria officials to Nigerians wishing to travel outside Nigeria.

[3] also stressed further on the requirements of issuance of Nigerian standard passports as follows:

- i. three(3) recent (4x4cm) passport photographs;
- ii. duly completed on-line passport form with the fee of Eight thousand Seven hundred and fifty Naira (8,750);
- iii. duly completed guarantors form (on-line);
- iv. letter of identification from applicants Local Government Area Chairman;
- v. copy of age declaration or birth certificate;
- vi. for a minor (below 16 years) a letter of consent from the father
- vii. for married women, a letter of consent from husbands, marriage certificate or affidavit of marriage

However, Nigeria Immigration Service in 2014 on its website immigration.gov.ng/index.php?id=50 declared the following requirements for obtaining the Green Cover Standard Passport:

- i. guarantor’s form duly signed by a commissioner of oath plus

- ii. photocopy of ; (a) Data page of guarantor’s passport, photocopy of National Passport or driving license;
- iii. father’s letter of consent for minor under 16 years (Mother’s letter of consent in case of deceased father);
- iv. marriage certificate where applicable;
- v. husband’s consent letter or letter of introduction for employee of government or corporate organisation;
- vi. court affidavit and police report in case of lost passport;
- vii. birth certificate or age declaration
- viii. letter of identification from Local Government of origin or residence
- ix. one (1) passport photograph
- x. acknowledgement slip and receipt of payment.

Nevertheless, while marking 50th year of Gatekeeping in [4], the Comptroller General of the Service, Mr Parradang observed that the Federal Government has in line with the current e-passport reforms approved the following payment thresholds for issuance of Nigerian e-passports:

- i. Sixty-four pages e-passport at N20,000.00
- ii. Below Eighteen (18) years e-passport at N8,750.00
- iii. Eighteen (18) years and below Sixty(60) e-passport at N15,000.00
- iv. Sixty (60) years and above e-passport at N8,750
- v. Change of data/lost e-passport at N20,000.00
- vi. Change of name as a result of marriage, divorce and deceased spouse at N8,750.00
- vii. Processing fee for change of data on request N30,000.00

The Comptroller General enjoined all passport applicants to make all payments in respect of passport application online via the NIS website www.immigration.gov.ng.

Remarkably, it is on record that the NIS launched the e-passport in 2007 making Nigeria a pioneer country in Africa and the fiftieth in the world to migrate from the Machine Readable Passport to the current e-passport regime

It is important to note that Nigeria standard passport is issued by the Nigeria Immigration Service on behalf of the Federal Government of Nigeria who owns it a property. The passport

(and all other passports) can therefore be withdrawn anytime if the situation warrants.

Nothing is demanded for nothing in this very world, every action of man is always backed up with purpose. No Nigeria students will demand for Nigeria international passport without a particular reason, after all, it is not issued out free. There are many reasons responsible for many Nigerian students to demand for international passport. Firstly, students can demand for international passport to gain global enlightenment, social economic status of the students' parents may call for the influence of the students demand for international passport in order to gain access to outside world, especially, the developed nations where there are different levels of enlightenments and exposures. Parents that have financial strength may like their children to have firsthand experience of what is happening around them. For instance, if there is new event outside Nigeria, students can travel abroad to gain access to such firsthand experience. It could be organised in form of tour outside. Secondly, some people are of the opinion that Nigeria education is not up to standard in comparison with other countries, especially, the developed nations. Some employers in Nigeria at times attach more values to foreign certificates. Hence, those who have economic means to study abroad will do, after all, they will be first considered for employment. The state of education in Nigeria calls for some parents to demand for international passport for their children to school abroad, provided they have financial strength to do it. Thirdly, availability of scholarship outside Nigeria makes students demand for international passport. Nigeria is a developing country where few scholarships are available for the students. In some cases, scholarships may not be given on merit; therefore, students prefer looking up to available scholarship outside the country. As a result of this, there will be more demand for international passport by those students who seek scholarship from abroad.

In recent years, several million students all over the world study outside their own countries very year as a result of economic globalisation and heightening of governments' awareness of the perceived links between education and economic competitiveness. Many of the students choose to study abroad to obtain higher education and the increasing demand, coupled with the financial power of the growing middle classes, has in turn fuelled the trend for students to choose to leave

their home countries in search of an overseas university. According to statistics, 2.9 million students from all over the world who were accepted by the tertiary education studies abroad in 2006 [5]. It is also predicted that more than 7million students will be accepted in 2025 []. This data revealed that the increasing trend of studying abroad is unavoidable and it will have direct effect on students' demand for international passport. Growth in the internationalisation of tertiary education has accelerated during the past eleven years, which reflects the growing globalisation of economies and societies [5]. As a result, globalisation in education leads to the growth of academic mobility ([7] cited by Naidoo 2007). Due to the rapid economic development, people from many emerging countries have more economic support to afford them to study abroad and the great demand of internationalised qualified people who have a deep understanding of the world's languages, cultures and business methods are increasing [5]

"International mobility of students not only contributes to the internationalisation of education institutions but also impacts on the outlooks and subsequent careers and lifestyles of the students themselves" [8]. [5] reported that international students make up 15% or even more of enrollment in tertiary education in Australia and New Zealand. They also make up more than 20% of enrolments in advanced research program in Belgium, Canada, New Zealand, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. All of these countries and individuals are likely to involve themselves into international education, because it has many positive impacts on them. International mobility of students also enhances by Petroleum Trust Fund (PTF) in Nigeria which eventually increases more and more students' demand for international passport. Individuals are looking to higher education to develop their understanding of the world's languages, cultures and business methods [5]. Studying abroad is the best and direct way for students to expand their knowledge of other foreign societies and languages in other countries rather than their motherland. It is also a good opportunity for students to receive higher level education. In addition, studying opportunities abroad could help the countries which have limited resources on education to ease the pressure of bottlenecks in enrollment. It makes more students have chance to access into campus.

[9] also found that the factors which have effect on students' intentions to demand for international passports in order to study abroad could be accounted as followed: economic factors (29%), educational factors (27%), student's personal factors (15%), social factors (13%), cultural factors (9%), and political factors (7%). Most of these factors were external forces which had the influence on students' choices; however personal factors affected the students' choices at the same time. As well as we has mentioned above, [9] found that economic, educational and personal factors were the most important determinants of students' intentions to study abroad. This opinion has been accepted at large, but there are still some different voices existing.

Several indicators exist for the occupational status of a person, providing information on both the economic and the cultural capital of a family. Most important for educational research are the international Socio-Economic Index of Occupational Status [10-12] and class-based or categorical rationale to social stratification wherein occupations/members of society are divided into a limited number of discrete categories/classes [13,14]. The categorical approach assumes that stratification and mobility processes are multidimensional in nature which contrasts with the international socio-economic index which presupposes a hierarchical order that allows an unlimited number of socio-economic status group to be captured in a single status dimension with a continuous scale. These literatures revealed that parental socio-economic status can influence choice of school in abroad over home based universities.

2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

It has been established that passport is required for the purpose of identifying the holder and equally enables the holder to apply for visa to any country which he or she desires to travel for economic, recreational, social, political and educational fulfillment. However, it has been observed that different categories of individuals besiege the headquarters and various state passport offices of the Nigeria Immigration Service on daily basis for acquisition of passport. Among these categories are students of different ages which make one to wonder why the students are rushing for this document. It is therefore necessary to gear up research work in this aspect so as to explain the motives behind

students demand for passport vis-à-vis their intention to travel abroad.

2.1 Limitations of the Study

Some constraints that were encountered in the process of carrying out this study, which may therefore limit the generalisability of the results, are:

The study was conducted in one state in Oyo State Command Passport Office of the Nigeria Immigration Service in Nigeria. Hence, there is the need to replicate this study using more States in Nigeria.

Some students did not cooperate with the field researchers because many of them thought that the questionnaire has something to do with their issuing of international passport.

Some students appeared afraid and tried to evade the questionnaire. In response, the field researchers did their best to create an atmosphere of trust and reassurance in order to encourage children to participate.

2.2 Research Questions

In an attempt to examine the issue of age, gender and parental socio-economic status as promoting factor to students' demand for international passport, the following questions were developed to guide the researchers:

1. What are the characteristics of students that are demanding for international passport?
2. What is the joint contribution of age, gender and parental socio-economic background to students' demand for international passport?
3. What are the relative contributions of age, gender and parental socio-economic background to students' demand for international Passport?
4. Which of the variables will predict students' demand for international passport?

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

The study adopted survey research design of the ex-post facto type. The study aimed at the composite and relative effects of age, gender and parental socio-economic status on demand for international passports.

3.2 Population

The target population for this study are those students who make themselves available at the Passport Office of the Nigeria Immigration Service to secure international passport.

3.3 Sample and Sampling Techniques

The selected area is Oyo State Command Passport Office of the Nigeria Immigration to secure international passport. This Oyo State command was purposively selected to capture students who come to secure international passport for themselves for the purpose of travelling. A total of four hundred students were selected by using simple random sampling technique for the study.

3.4 Research Instrument

The instrument of the research was a questionnaire. The questions consisted of Seventeen items on a four (4) point Likert scale of Strongly Agreed (SA), Agreed (A), Disagreed (D) and Strongly Disagreed (SD). The respondents were required to tick (✓) the items which best describe their opinion or situation on a survey on age, gender and parental socio-economic background and students' demand for international passport to travel abroad. Some are open structure questions which required respondents to fill their background information.

3.5 Administration of the Instrument

The researcher trained some persons as research assistants. The questionnaire was later administered by both researchers and research assistants on the students who came to secure international passport.

3.6 Methods of Data Analysis

The data collected were analysed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics, involving frequency counts and percentages were used to present the characteristics and responses of the respondents descriptively. Also, inferential statistics, involving Multiple Regression Analysis and ANOVA were used to determine the relationships among the independent variables and the depending variables. All tests were carried out at $\alpha = 0.05$

3.7 Data Analysis

Research Question 1: What are the characteristics of students that are demanding for international passport?

Table 1. Distribution of Respondents by Age

Age	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 15 years	39	9.8
16-20 years	121	30.3
21-25 years	136	34.0
26-30 years	95	23.8
31-35 years	9	2.3
Total	400	100.0

39(9.8%) respondents were less than 15 years, 121(30.3%) were within 16-20 years, 136(34.0%) were within 21-25 years, 95(23.8%) were within 26-30 years while 9(2.3%) were within 31-35 years

Table 2. Distribution of respondents by gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	260	65.0
Female	140	35.0
Total	400	100.0

260(65.0%) respondents were males while their female counterparts were 140(35.0%)

Research Question 2: What is the joint contribution of age, gender and parental socio-economic background to students' demand for International Passport?

Table 3 shows the joint contributions of the three independent variables to the prediction of the dependent variable i.e. demand for international passport. The table also shows a coefficient of multiple correlation ($R = .213$ and a multiple $R^2 = .045$). This means that 4.5% of the variance was accounted for by three predictor variables when taken together. This also means that the remaining 95.5% is due to other factors and residuals. The significance of the composite contribution was tested at $P < .05$.

From Table 4, the R value of .213 obtained tested significant ($F_{(3,396)} = 6.263; p < .05$). This shows that the R value is not due to chance.

Research Question 3: What are the relative contributions of age, gender and parental socio-economic background to students' demand for International Passport?

Table 3. ANOVA of regression on age, gender and parental socio-economic background variables

R	R square	Adjusted R square	Std. error of the estimate
.213	.045	.038	9.8581

*Significant at P<.05 level

Table 5 reveals the relative contribution of the three independent variables to the dependent variable, expressed as beta weights, viz: parental socio-economic background ($\beta = .170$, $P < .05$), gender ($\beta = .089$, $P > .05$) and age ($\beta = -.091$, $P > .05$) respectively. First contribution is made by socio-economic background and second is gender. age of the students made the least contribution.

Hence, while parental socio-economic background was found significant, age and gender were not.

Research Question 4: Which of the variables will predict students' demand for international passport?

From Table 5, only one out of three variables could predict students' demand for international passport. This variable is parental socio-economic background ($\beta = .170$; $t = 3.440$; $P < .05$). While age ($\beta = -.091$; $t = -1.830$; $P > .05$) and gender ($\beta = .089$; $t = 1.797$; $P > .05$) could not predict students' demand for international passport.

4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings from this study revealed that 39(9.8%) respondents were less than 15 years, 121(30.3%), 121(30.3%) were within 16-20 years, 136(34.0%) were within 21-25 years, 95(23.8%) were within 26-30 years while 9(2.3%) were within 31-35 years. The respondents under age 21-25 formed the larger percentage of those students who demand for international passport. The reasons for this can be because of their level of maturity and they can easily take decision on their own with less supervisions by their parents, if need be. Age 16-20 also second the category of age of students that demand for international passport. This is the range of normal secondary school leaving age and they can demand for international passport in order to complete the process of seeking university admission abroad. In fact, some universities abroad, require students to fill in their passport number on their online form. Age category 26-30years came third on the list and the rest have little responses, such as age categories less than 15 years and 31-35 years.

Findings revealed that 260(65.0%) respondents were males while their female counterparts were 140(35.0%). This result revealed clearly that male students demand for international passport more than their female counterpart by the percentage revealed from the result. The reason is that some parents believed that female children are more fragile and they can easily go astray if proper cares are not given to them. This

Table 4. Summary of regression analysis on age, gender, parental socio-economic background variables

Model	Sum of squares	DF	Mean square	F	Sig.	Remark
Regression	1825.827	3	608.609	6.263	.000	Sig.
Residual	38483.923	396	97.182			
Total	40309.750	399				

*Significant at P<.05 level

Table 5. Relative effects of age, gender and parental socio-economic status on students' demand for international passport

Model	Unstandardized coefficient		Stand. coefficient	T	Sig.	Ranking
	B	Std. error				
(Constant)	42.778	3.058		13.987	.000	
Age	-.191	.105	-.091	-1.830	.068	3rd
Gender	1.870	1.041	.089	1.797	.073	2nd
Socio-Economic status	.310	.090	.170	3.440	.001	1 st

reason may limit their movement to study abroad. Many parents who stay abroad facilitate their female children studying abroad; after all, they are already there to give appropriate care needed to them. Male children can still be influenced by the same reason, if their parents stay abroad.

The findings with respect to age revealed that the variable made the least contribution to students' demand for international passport. This showed that the age of the students has nothing to do with their demand for international passport for travelling. Once parents' socio-economic status is good, students can travel at any age, except where it is required by law that the child less than six months should not board plane. This is in line with the requirements for international passports as listed by [3].

The findings also revealed that gender made the second contribution to students' demand for international passport. This is as a result of different care requires by each gender. Female gender requires more care than their male counterpart because of believe that the female children are more fragile; therefore, they need more proper care. The gender demand for international passport is mostly influenced by the level of parents' educational attainment, parental socio-economic factors and their perspectives as regard their children. These influential factors are in line with [8-10].

The results revealed that parental socio-economic status made the most contribution to students' demand for international passport. This showed that the level of economic status of the parents determine the demand for schooling abroad which invariably determine the demand for international passport. This influence of socio-economic background of the parents was also corroborated by the works of [5,9-12].

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The study has shown that students under the age of 21-25 travelled abroad mostly than any other age categories. The study showed that more male students travelled abroad than female students. The study has shown that the three independent variables jointly contribute to the prediction of the variance of students' demand for international passport. The study showed that gender and parental socio-economic background are promoting students' demand for international

passport. Therefore, appropriate measures should be taken to ensure that the variables are adequately and appropriately managed so that their contribution to students' demand for international passport could be curtailed in order to reduce the level at which students from Nigeria are exposed to risks in various foreign land they normally travel for purposes of educational attainment.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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