



# Basic Education Profile for Northwest Nigeria

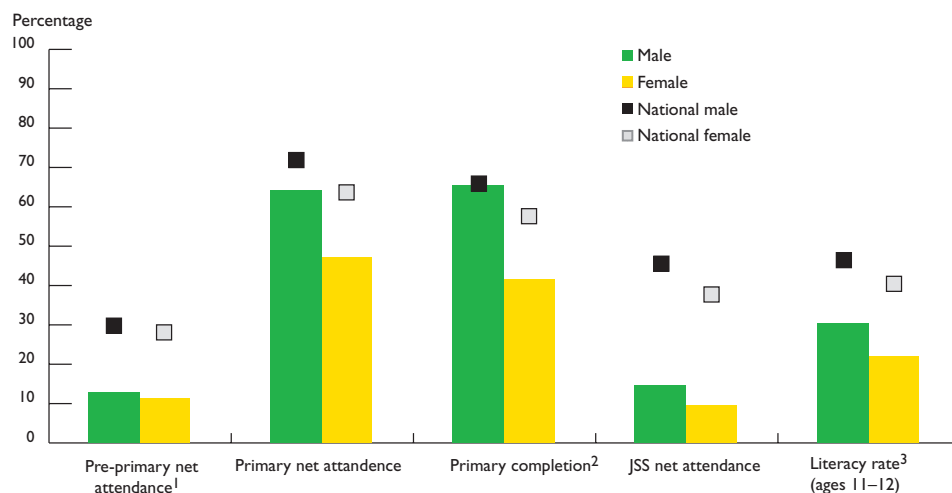
Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Jigawa, Sokoto, and Zamfara States



## BASIC EDUCATION OVERVIEW

This overview provides information on basic education in the Northwest. Ninety-five percent of 6- to 11-year-olds are Muslims, and 40 percent attend only Qur'anic schools, where they are not taught the formal curriculum. On all indicators, performance

on basic education is below the national average, especially for net attendance in junior secondary school (JSS). The Northwest also has larger gender disparities in primary net attendance and completion than nationally.



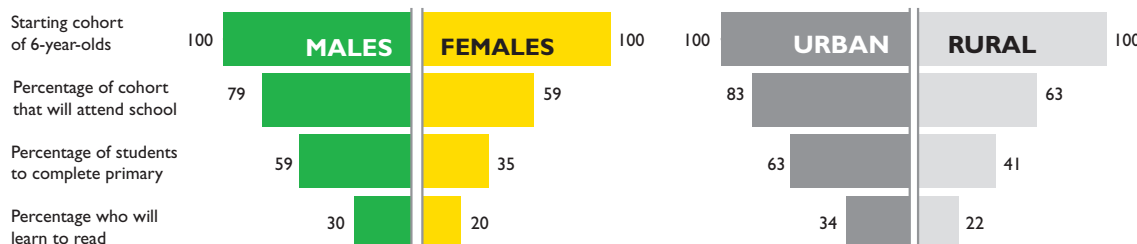
Source: EPDC extraction from DHS 2003 dataset

1. Pre-primary attendance is the percentage of children aged 6–11 who reported having entered school and who had attended pre-primary.
2. Primary completion rate is the number of children in the last year of primary school as a percentage of the population of 11-year-olds.
3. Literacy rate is the percentage of children aged 11–12 who can read a partial or whole sentence.

## LEARNING PYRAMID: ACHIEVEMENT AND LOSSES IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

The learning pyramid shows the proportion of 6-year-olds likely to attend and complete primary school and be able to read a simple sentence by the time they are 12 years of age. In the Northwest, only 59 percent of females and 63 percent of 6-year-olds in rural areas will enter school by age 12, and only 35 percent and 41

percent, respectively, will survive through grade 5. Literacy rates are alarmingly low—20–35 percent—for all four sub-populations (male, female, urban, and rural). Programs to improve access to and quality of basic education are needed, especially for girls and rural children.

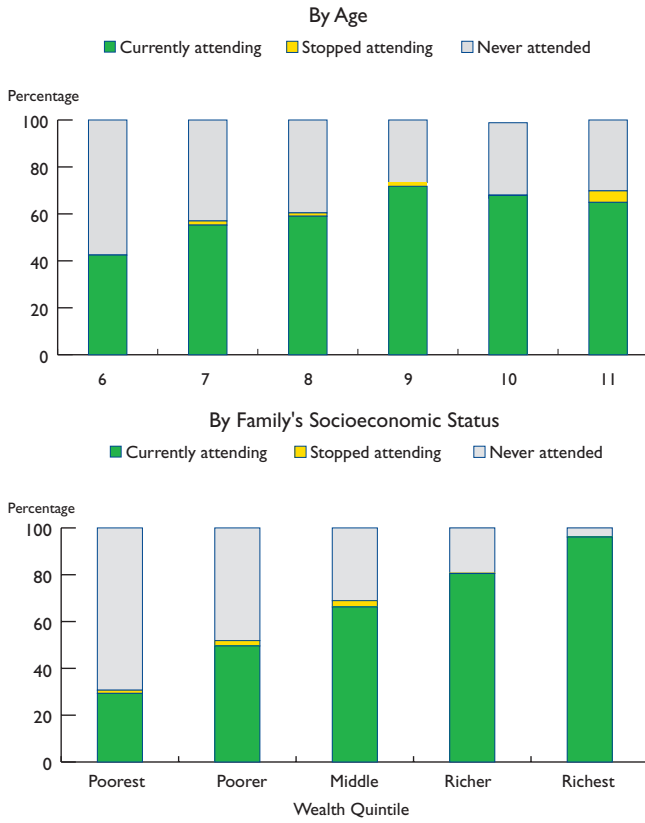


Source: EPDC extraction from DHS 2003 survey dataset

## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE STATUS

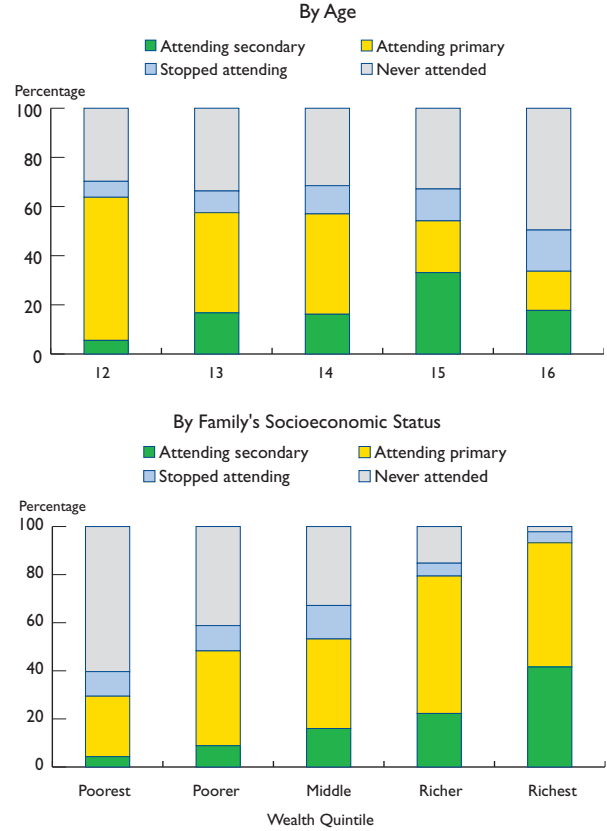
### Primary School-Age Children

Many children at each age between 6 and 11 have never attended school, and dropout rates rise slightly as age goes up. Wealth is a clear determinant of school attendance: children in the lower wealth quintiles are much more likely to have never attended school than children in higher ones.



### Secondary School-Age Children

While school attendance for children ages 12–16, the official secondary school ages, is over 50 percent to age 14, many are still in primary school as over-age pupils. Attendance is very low (33 percent) for 16-year-olds, 50 percent of whom have never gone to school. Children from poorer households are likelier to have never attended or dropped out than those from wealthier homes.

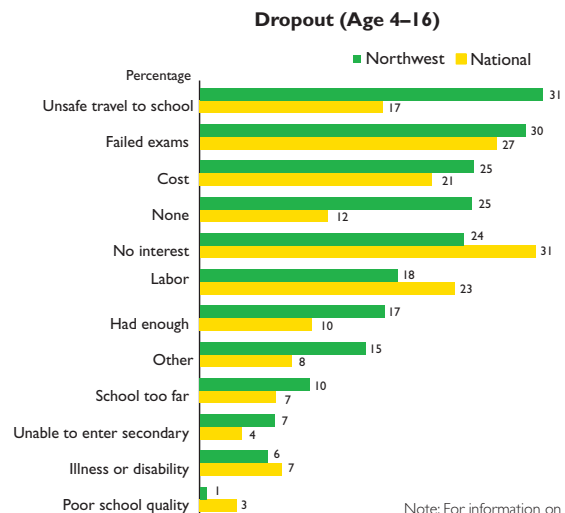
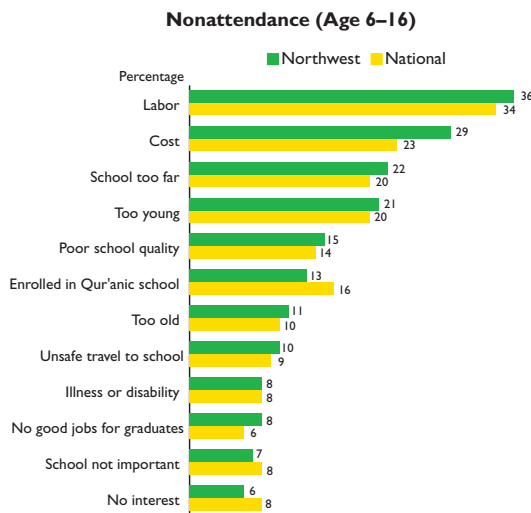


Source: EPDC extraction from DHS 2003 survey dataset. Note: Data on attendance are based on formal education figures.

## FACTORS AFFECTING NONATTENDANCE AND DROPOUT

Schooling costs and household labor needs contribute to children's never having attended school, both to a slightly higher degree than nationally. Cost factors are also the major reasons students drop

out, along with lack of safe access to secondary school. These issues should be examined carefully in the Northwest, as they affect students' attendance more strongly than they do nationally.

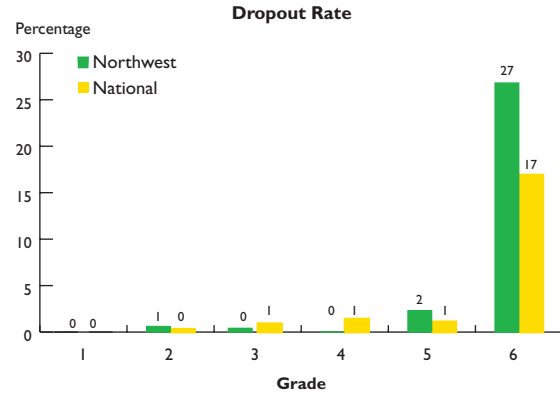
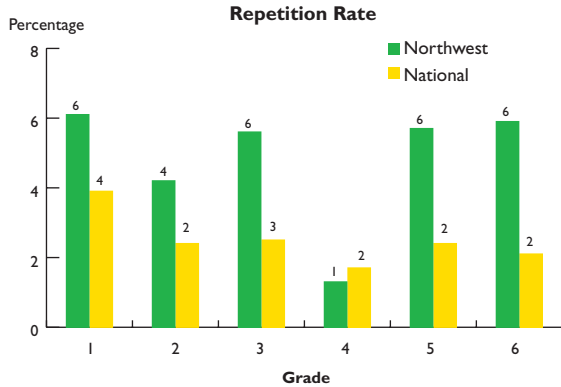


Note: For information on survey sample, see page eight. Source: DHS EdData Survey 2004

## EFFICIENCY: REPETITION AND DROPOUT RATES IN PRIMARY SCHOOL BY GRADE

Repetition rates are overall higher in the Northwest compared to the national average. Dropout rates are relatively low in grades 1–5, but an alarmingly high portion of students leave school at the end of primary schooling—27 percent, compared to the national

average of 17 percent. Students in the Northwest may be repeating grades instead of dropping out, and some children who do not pass the end-of-primary school exams may possibly leave school rather than repeat sixth grade.



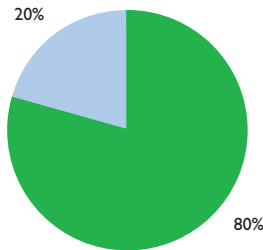
Source: DHS EdData Survey 2004

## STUDENT BACKGROUND AND SCHOOL CHARACTERISTICS

In the Northwest, most primary school students (80 percent) attend government schools as well as schools close to home (90 percent are under 30 minutes' walking distance). Fathers are very

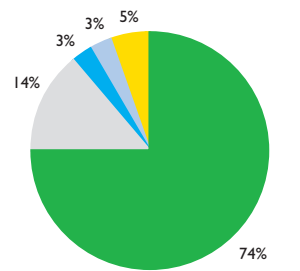
often the chief decisionmaker for children's education (75 percent). Students in government and religious private primary schools come from all socioeconomic levels.

Percentage of Schoolchildren Attending Different Types of Primary Schools



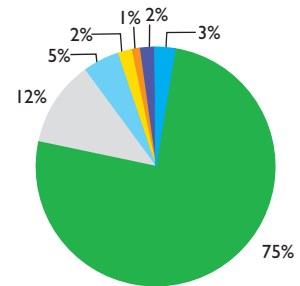
Legend: Government (green), Private, religious (light blue), Private, nonreligious (dark blue)

Minutes Walking to Nearest Primary School



Legend: 0-15 (green), 16-30 (grey), 31-45 (blue), 46-60 (light blue), 60+ (yellow)

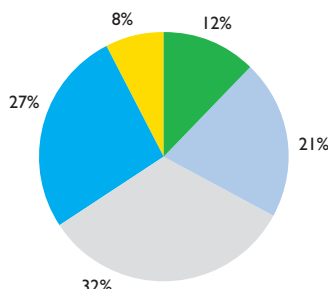
Decisionmakers for Children's Education



Legend: Mother (dark blue), Both Parents (grey), Parents/guardian with child (yellow), Father (green), Guardians (light blue), Someone else (orange), Child (dark blue), Decision not made (purple)

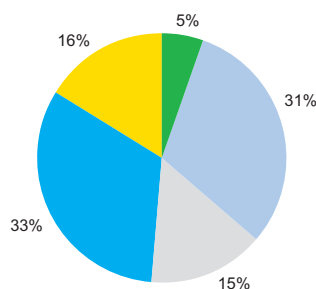
Source: DHS EdData Survey 2004

Family's Socioeconomic Status in Government Primary Schools



Legend: Poorest (green), Poorer (light blue), Middle (grey), Richer (blue), Richest (yellow)

Family's Socioeconomic Status in Private Religious Primary Schools



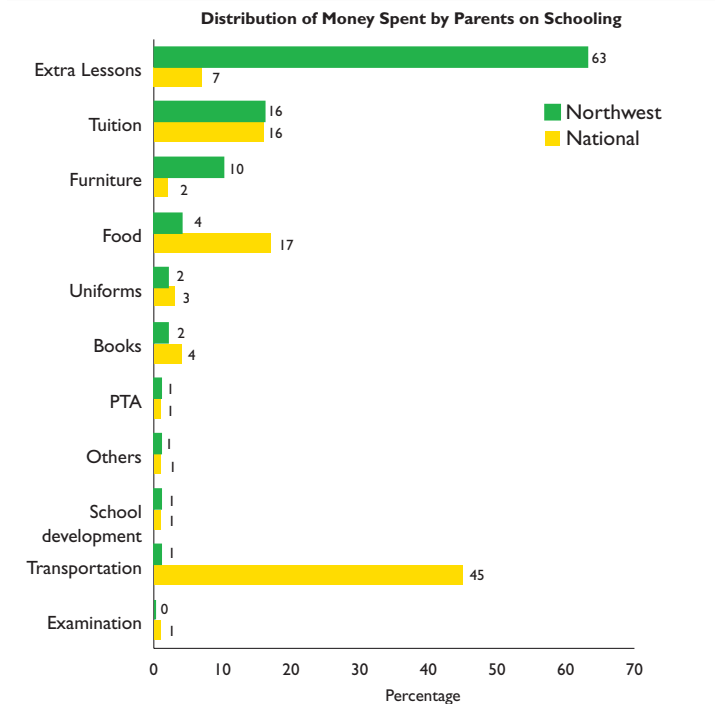
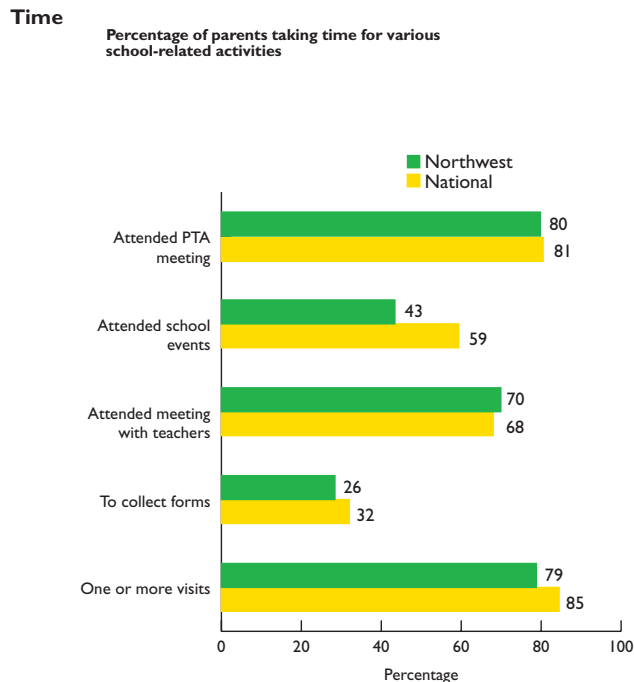
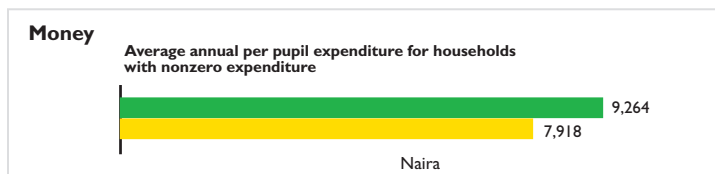
Legend: Poorest (green), Poorer (light blue), Middle (grey), Richer (blue), Richest (yellow)

Source: EPDC extraction from DHS 2003 survey dataset

## PARENTAL CONTRIBUTION AND INVOLVEMENT IN MONEY AND TIME

Parents in the Northwest spend about 9,264 Naira annually for each student in primary school, more than the national average of 7,918 Naira. Most of this is spent on extra lessons (63 percent) and tuition (16 percent). Approximately 79 percent of parents with one or more children in primary school reported that they

have visited the school at least once; 80 percent have attended PTA meetings and 70 percent have met with teachers in the past 12 months. However, parents in this region are less likely to attend school events than nationally.

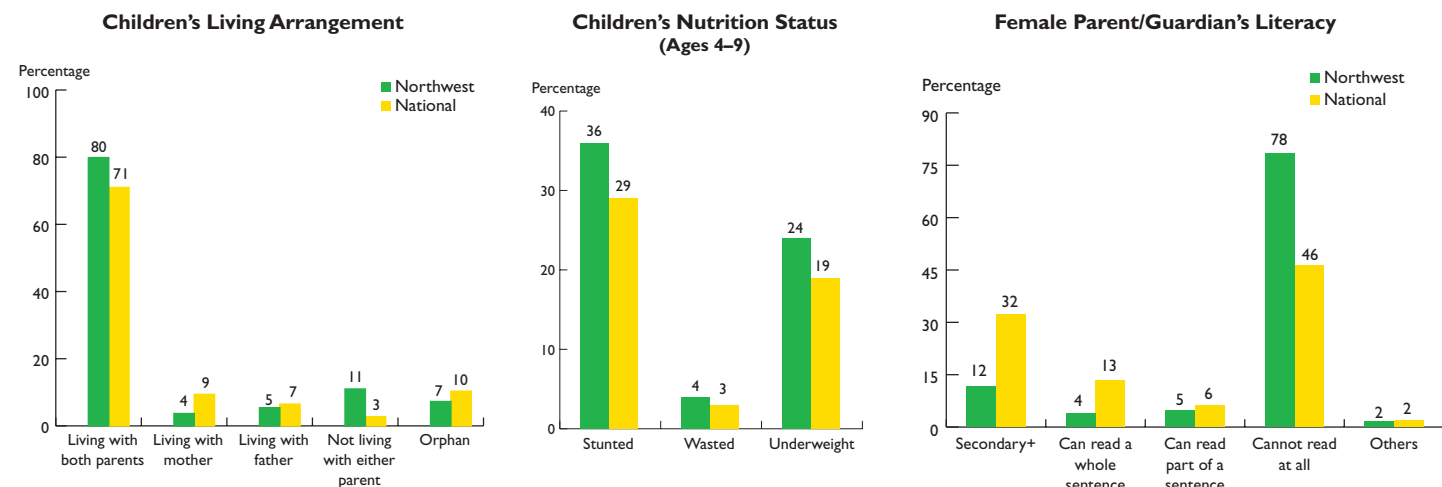


Source: DHS EdData Survey 2004

## CHILD WELFARE

Eighty percent of children ages 4–16 live with both parents, higher than the national average, while 7 percent are orphans, slightly below average. However, 36 percent of children are stunted (a symptom of poor nutrition) and 24 percent of children are

underweight, both higher than nationally. Illiteracy among female parents/guardians is much higher (78 percent) than the national average (46 percent). This region would benefit from adult education in literacy and nutrition.



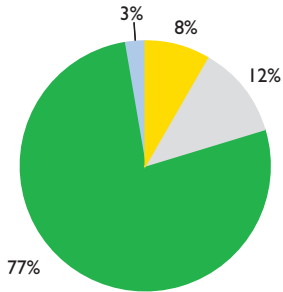
Source: DHS EdData Survey 2004

## PERCEIVED SCHOOL QUALITY

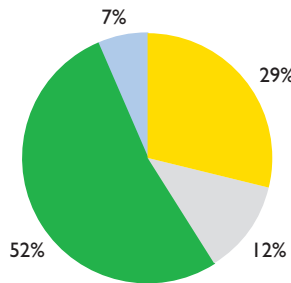
Overcrowded classrooms and poor building quality are concerns for almost half the parents or guardians in this region. However,

most are satisfied with pupil safety, and few see school performance as a big problem.

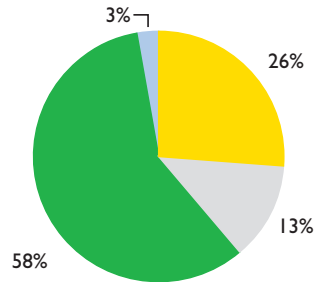
**Primary School Teacher Performance**



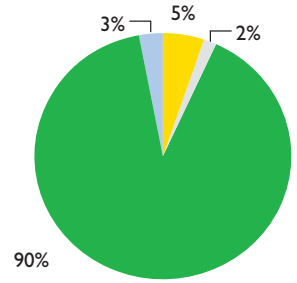
**Overcrowded Classrooms**



**Buildings**



**Pupil Safety**

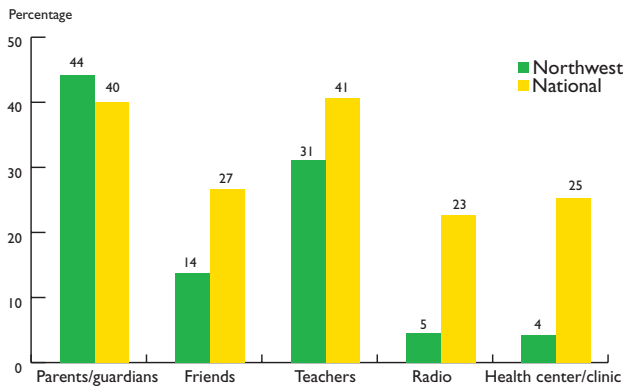


■ Big problem  
■ Small problem  
■ No problem  
■ Don't know

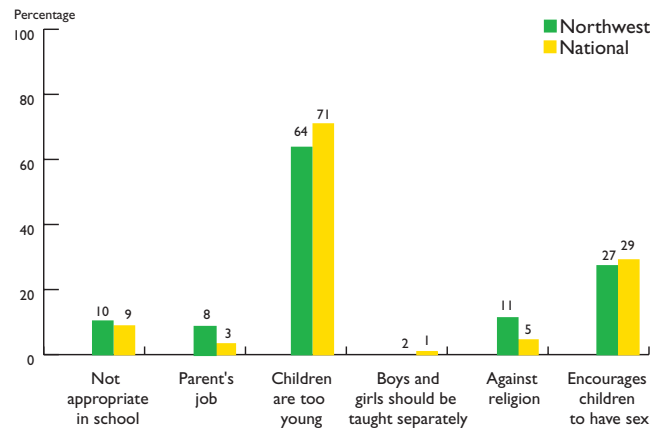
Source: DHS EdData Survey 2004

## REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND EDUCATION

**Sources of Reproductive Education**



**Reasons Primary Schools Shouldn't Provide Reproductive Education**

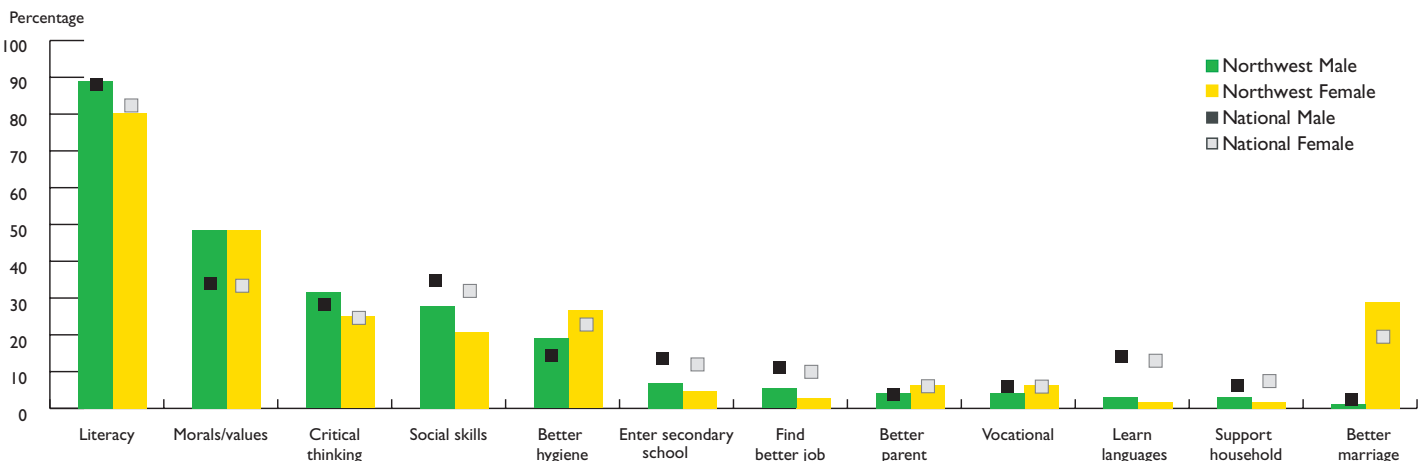


Source: DHS EdData Survey 2004

## VALUE OF SCHOOLING

Acquiring literacy is perceived by parents as one of the main advantages in primary schooling for a 15-year-old, as well as strengthened morals and values. For girls in the Northwest, better marriage and

hygiene skills are other main benefits of schooling, while many parents cited critical thinking and social skills as important gains from schooling for males.



Source: DHS EdData Survey 2004

BASIC EDUCATION INDICATORS	National			Region					
	Total	Urban	Rural	North-Central	North-east	North-west	South-east	South-South	South-west
<b>School Attendance (%)</b>									
Children age 6–11 attending primary school	68	76	64	80	54	56	85	80	82
Children age 6–11 who have ever attended school that attended preschool	27	49	19	29	12	12	80	42	61
Children age 12–14 attending JSS	28	38	22	29	14	12	33	45	49
Children age 12–17 attending SS	35	46	29	38	19	15	49	52	61
Children age 12 who can read part of or a whole sentence	44	58	36	50	28	26	64	50	74
Primary completion	62	77	55	58	44	55	79	73	79
<b>Factors Affecting School Attendance (%)</b>									
<i>Factors in Never Having Attended School</i>									
Monetary cost	23	23	23	27	12	29	14	51	30
Labor needed	34	29	35	14	35	36	17	16	31
Child not interested	8	13	7	11	12	6	7	11	3
Child too young	20	24	19	20	17	21	79	42	35
Child too old	10	16	8	1	10	11	0	0	0
Child very sick/long-term illness	4	6	3	6	3	5	19	0	11
Child disabled	4	4	4	12	3	3	0	12	33
Travel to school unsafe	9	5	10	7	8	10	38	1	20
School too far	20	6	24	10	20	22	42	7	19
Poor school quality	14	4	16	2	14	15	22	0	0
No good jobs for graduates	6	9	5	1	3	8	0	0	0
School not important	8	11	7	3	10	7	0	6	0
Enrolled in Qur'anic school	16	30	12	4	24	13	0	0	0
<i>Factors in Primary School Dropout</i>									
Monetary cost	31	37	29	42	25	24	*	46	36
Labor needed	21	24	20	16	18	25	*	26	19
Failed exams/had to repeat	8	12	7	0	2	15	*	7	24
Child no longer wanted to attend	23	37	19	43	12	18	*	30	49
Child completed enough schooling	7	5	8	2	4	10	*	9	0
Child very sick/long-term illness	4	5	4	6	5	4	*	3	0
Child disabled	3	2	4	0	7	2	*	3	2
School too far	10	4	12	7	11	17	*	1	4
Travel to school unsafe	4	1	5	2	4	7	*	1	0
Poor school quality	17	11	19	0	18	31	*	0	0
Unlikely/unable to enter secondary school	12	6	13	2	2	25	*	0	4
<b>Absenteeism 2002–2003 School Year (%)</b>									
Primary school pupils missing one or more days	60	59	61	40	68	66	71	70	47
Secondary school students missing one or more days	53	50	55	42	61	62	67	61	37
<b>Characteristics of Schools Attended (%)</b>									
<i>Types of Primary School</i>									
Attending public primary school	61	51	67	70	79	71	43	49	43
Attending private, religious primary schools	16	19	14	16	7	20	63	20	27
Attending private, nonreligious primary schools	23	30	18	14	13	9	40	30	30
<i>Reasons for Choice of Primary School</i>									
Proximity	66	52	73	66	78	75	39	67	48

BASIC EDUCATION INDICATORS	National			Region					
	Total	Urban	Rural	North-Central	North-east	North-west	South-east	South-South	South-west
Quality	37	49	30	48	28	33	58	23	44
Expense	18	19	17	29	13	22	15	12	10
Religion	4	6	3	3	1	8	2	2	7
Safety	7	6	8	15	12	6	3	1	3
Other	5	4	5	7	0	3	7	6	6
<b>Parental Involvement in Primary School (%)</b>									
Attended PTA meeting	81	85	78	90	83	80	92	50	94
Attended school events	59	65	56	66	48	43	72	58	87
Attended meeting with teachers	68	72	66	78	73	70	76	45	74
Collected forms	32	37	29	32	18	28	37	38	43
One or more visits	85	88	82	91	77	79	94	79	96
<b>Household Expenditures on Schooling (in Naira)</b>									
Mean household expenditures per pupil on primary schooling	7,918	10,495	6,390	5,194	3,869	9,264	7,725	8,632	13,983
Mean household expenditures per pupil on secondary schooling	20,628	29,948	20,284	15,352	11,231	29,708	22,512	22,370	21,343
<b>Reproductive Health, HIV/AIDS, and Education</b>									
Parent/guardian favoring primary schools teaching about reproductive health (%)	62	55	66	82	69	57	52	66	44
Age at which parent/guardian thinks <i>boys</i> should be taught about reproductive health	14	15	14	13	16	15	14	13	15
Age at which parent/guardian thinks <i>girls</i> should be taught about reproductive health	13	13	13	12	13	12	13	13	14
Parent/guardians favoring primary schools teaching about HIV/AIDS (%)	86	80	89	94	90	82	80	91	72
<b>Children's Characteristics (%)</b>									
<i>Children's Nutrition</i>									
Children age 4–9 who are stunted	29	19	34	22	32	36	13	26	22
Children age 4–9 who are wasted	3	4	3	3	3	4	4	3	1
Children age 4–9 who are underweight	19	14	21	12	21	24	11	18	18
<i>Children's Literacy and Numeracy</i>									
Children age 4–12 who can read	28	45	19	32	13	15	57	39	55
Children age 4–12 who correctly sum numbers	45	63	37	49	33	28	76	64	72
<b>Child Welfare (%)</b>									
Living with both parents	71	67	73	70	74	80	72	57	62
Living with female parent/guardian who cannot read at all	46	34	56	50	80	78	27	27	29
Orphaned	10	11	10	10	10	7	11	16	10
<b>Educational Attainment of Adults (%)</b>									
No schooling	42	30	48	36	62	66	15	15	21
Some primary	9	8	10	11	10	8	12	11	6
Completed primary	12	12	12	13	6	7	19	18	19
Some secondary	20	25	18	24	12	9	26	33	32
Completed secondary and beyond	16	24	11	16	9	9	25	23	22
Don't know/missing	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	1	1

## Northwest Nigeria

This education profile is intended to give a basic overview of the education sector in Northwest Nigeria. The data are from the 2004 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) EdData Survey, and are linked to the 2003 Nigeria DHS. The profile highlights issues related to attendance, retention, learning, and teaching efficiency. It also provides information on parents' contributions to their children's schooling (in money and time) and their perceptions of schooling. One section focuses on overall welfare of children in the region.

Note: The survey question on nonattendance was asked of about 1,665 youth ages 6–16 who had not attended school for any reasons other than physical or mental disabilities. The survey question on dropout was asked of about 306 children ages 4–16 who had dropped out for any reasons other than physical or mental disabilities or long-term illness.



## DATA INSIGHTS

The Northwest region is made up of the states of Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Jigawa, Sokoto, and Zamfara. The basic overview of the formal education system in this region shows that serious improvements are needed in all areas.

- Attendance rates are lower than the national average at pre-primary, primary, and JSS levels, and gender differences are large. Many children who are out of the formal school system are in Qur'anic schools, where they are not taught the formal academic curriculum. Interventions are needed in all areas—from access to retention to learning—for all groups, but especially for girls, the poor, and those living in rural areas.
- The reasons given for nonattendance are many. They include the direct cost of schooling, the need for children's labor in the household, a perception that children are too young, and the long distance to school. Those who have dropped

out of school overwhelmingly cite the poor quality of schools and limited opportunities to enter secondary as reasons. Overcrowded classrooms and poor quality of buildings are identified as problem areas. Repetition rates in schools are high in all grades, and many children end their education after the primary cycle.

- In the Northwest, parents and teachers are the main providers of reproductive education, with relatively low recourse to friends, radio, and health centers. The majority of parents believe that primary school children are too young to be provided with reproductive education, which a sizable minority feel can encourage their children to engage in sexual activities. Parents in this region are also more likely than parents nationally to believe that reproductive education is the parents' job or that it is against their religion to provide it at school.