

# Characteristics of Private Preschool Proprietors in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana

## Background

Innovations for Poverty Action, the National Nursery Teacher Training Center in Ghana, and researchers from New York University and the University of Pennsylvania are conducting a randomized evaluation to measure how a kindergarten teacher training program and a parental awareness program in Greater Accra impact classroom quality and children’s learning and development. The study also assesses whether the programs have different impacts on public and private schools.

This brief presents findings from the fall 2015 baseline survey on the owners of Ghana’s private kindergarten schools. The data are drawn from 110 schools and their proprietors in the Greater Accra region.

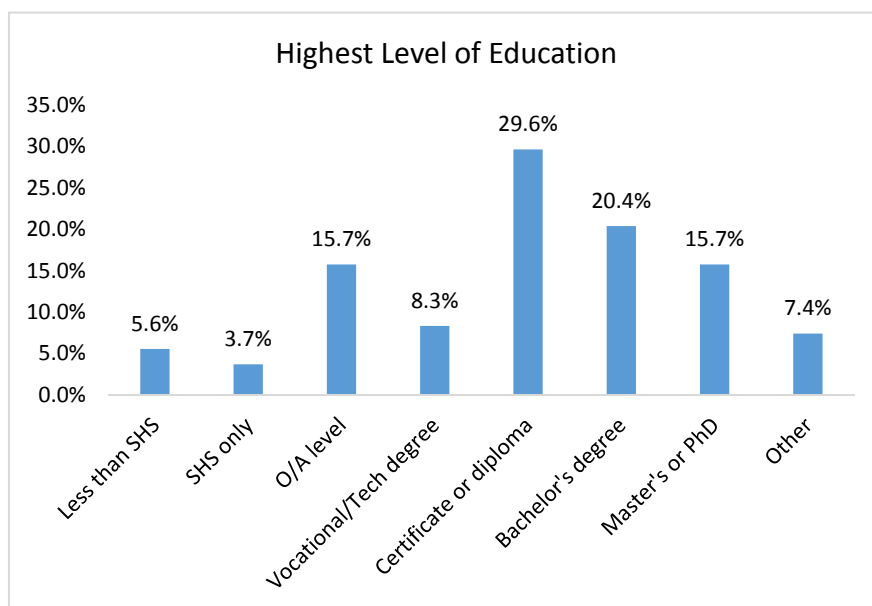
## Who are the school proprietors?

On average, school proprietors are **55.2 years** old, with a wide range from 26-89. The majority—**59%**—are male.

Proprietors have owned their school for an average of 16.7 years. **34% were once teachers** themselves before becoming proprietors; only 1 proprietor was ever a head teacher.

**Nearly one-quarter (23.6%) of proprietors hold another job** in addition to owning the school; the remaining three-quarters are full-time school owners.

The largest education group of proprietors hold a post-secondary certificate or diploma. Over one-third (36.1%) of proprietors have a bachelor’s or graduate degree.



**Connection to the school community:** Over three-quarters of proprietors—**77.3%**—live in the same community as their school, and have lived in that community for an average of 18.8 years (ranging from 1.5 to 64 years). Nearly all (91%) of those individuals lived in the community before starting the school.

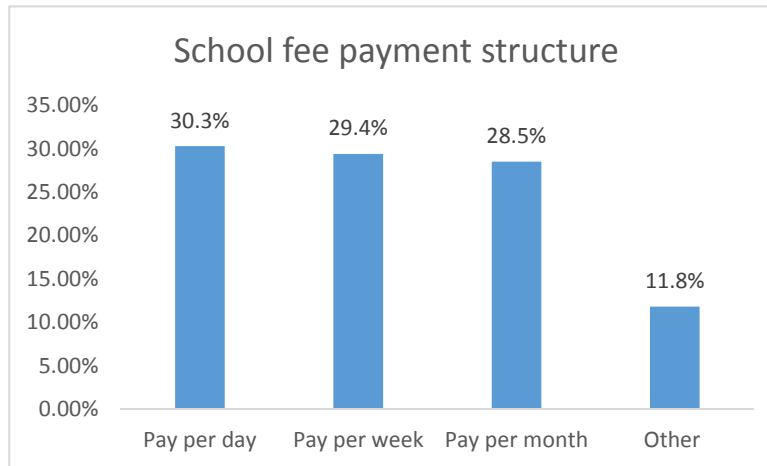
## School Financing

Nearly all private schools (93.6%) are **independent, stand-alone schools** (i.e., not part of a chain of schools). Over half (58.2%) have the **goal of making a profit** eventually.

Only 10 schools (9.1%) took out a loan to finance the opening of the school.

**School financial strain:** 69.1% of schools reported having **problems paying teacher salaries on time** sometimes or always.

**Payment of school fees:** The majority of schools (91.8%) allow parents to pay school fees in installments by day, week, or month.



## Beliefs about Early Childhood Education

Proprietors were asked a set of questions about their views of early childhood education. Below are the percent of proprietors who agree or disagreed with each statement. Notably, **all proprietors agreed** that if children get a good education early in life, it is easier for them to catch up to their peers.

	Agree	Disagree
Kindergarten children learn much at school.	93%	7%
If children get a good education early in life, it is easier for them to catch up to their peers.	100%	0%
Teachers should focus kindergarten instruction on building children's social and behavioral skills.	99%	1%
Kindergarten education is necessary for children to do well in primary school.	88%	2%
Teachers should focus kindergarten instruction on building children's literacy and math skills.	95%	5%
KG children learn best when the teacher directs their instruction, rather than child-directed learning.	82%	18%
KG children learn best when they are expected to sit still and pay attention while they are at school.	45%	55%
KG children learn important skills that are necessary for their success in primary school.	91%	9%
KG children learn best when they are asked to memorize facts.	58%	42%
Expectations for the behavior of kindergarten children should be different from expectations for older children.	96%	4%
Kindergarten children learn best through play, rather than through formal instruction.	96%	4%
KG children learn important skills that lay the foundation for their future educational success.	98%	2%
KG children learn best when the teacher holds them accountable for completing work and for attaining a high standard of work.	64%	36%
Children succeed at school if they are helped by their teachers.	99%	1%
Children succeed at school if they are helped by their parents.	96%	4%