

SCHOOL PLANT FACILITIES UTILIZATION AND MAINTENANCE: A TOOL FOR EFFECTIVE STUDENTS' ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN KWALI AREA COUNCIL, FCT ABUJA

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ABSTRACT

This study examine school plant utilization and maintenance: A tool for effective students' performance in Senior Secondary Schools in Kwali Area Council, FCT Abuja. Specifically, the study investigated the utilization and maintenance school plant facilities on student performance. Two research question were raised for the study. Descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. From the population of 208 secondary school teachers, 90 teachers were sampled from 9 schools using simple random sampling technique. Questionnaire was structured on four-point Likert scale. The data collected were analyzed using the mean and standard deviation to answer the research questions. Findings from the study

Introduction

Education is a vital instrument used for the development of any country. It is a process for bringing positive change for the benefit of the society. The guiding principle of education in Nigeria is the equipping of every citizen with the relevant knowledge, skills, attitudes and values as to enable them contribute and derive maximum benefits from his/her membership in society, live a fulfilling life and contribute to the development and welfare of

revealed that school plant facilities are utilized and maintained to enhance students' performance in senior secondary schools in Kwali Area Council, FCT Abuja. It was therefore, recommended that school principals should continue to ensure proper utilization of school plant facilities in secondary schools so as to create enabling environment for effective teaching and learning which enhance students' academic performance and school principal should ensure maintenance of school facilities in order to improve students' academic performance.

Key word: School Plant Utilization, maintenance, Students' Performance

The community. According to the Federal Republic of Nigeria FRN (2013), the national policy on educational is aimed: the inculcation of national consciousness and national unity; the inculcation of correct types of values and attitudes for the survival of the individual and the Nigerian society; and training for understanding the world around. State governments own a large proportion of secondary schools in the country. With regard to state secondary schools, administration and management fall within the purview of ministries of education and their proprietors, but they have to comply with minimum standards which are prescribed by state laws. The administration of public primary schools is under local education authorities, while pre-primary schools are predominantly maintained and administered by private proprietors. Federal and state governments maintain quality control through inspection of schools (Aba, 2012).

Other agencies involved in education are the ministries of Women's Affairs and Social Welfare, Health, Agriculture, Information and Culture, Finance and the National Planning Commission. For example, the Ministry of Information undertakes publicity and sensitization for educational policies and programmes. The Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Welfare and the State Commissions for Women collaborate with Ministries of Education in the promotion of the education of women and girls. The Ministry of Finance provides funding while the National Planning Commission and State Ministry of Planning approve educational plans.

School plant comprises the immovable structures such buildings, play grounds, health facilities, instructional materials and all forms of school equipment. Its proper management facilitates teaching and learning process as well as protect the wellbeing of the occupants. The main objective of a school plant is to help in achieving the educational goals which have been predetermined by educational planners. A school plant enhances better school programmes and the community needs by providing a place for psychological and physical safety for students and teachers. It also enhances the academic performance of students (Oyosola, 2017).

The school plants plan and the utilization have diversified roles it plays on teachers, students and the learning process. Poor lighting, noise, high level of carbon dioxide in classrooms and inconsistent temperatures make teaching and learning difficult. Poor plants location and ineffective ventilation systems lead to poor health among students and teachers. This could lead to poor performance (Mark, 2019).

Akpakwu (2022) state that a school plant should start and end with the students and staff. This means that a school plant should be designed to satisfy the physical and emotional needs of both students and staff. The physical need of staff and students can only be met by ensuring safe structures, adequate sanitary facilities, balanced visual environment, a satisfactory acoustic environment and sufficient accommodation for their work and relaxation. The emotional needs of both staff and students can be met by creating conducive and pleasant surroundings. A friendly and an inspiring school plant is capable of increasing academic performance of students. The teaching and learning process involves large number of learners coming together to acquire knowledge. This is not possible without physical spaces and facilities which aid teaching and learning process.

Ada (2016) opined that a well-developed curriculum will fail if it is not supported with adequate facilities. A well-trained teacher who can improvise will not succeed if he or she does not have the minimum facilities to work with. Indeed, teaching and learning other sporting activities of the school can only successfully take place in a conducive environment. The provision of adequate school plant therefore would create a favourable environment for teachers to

use their creativity and knowledge in teaching for the students to learn properly.

The term performance is the ability of students to retain and be able to transfer acquired knowledge in the appropriate situation. Performance of a student is ascertained when he or she is able to understand what is taught by the teacher and is able to explain or write when evaluated. Performance can be described as the scholastic standing of a student at a given moment. This scholastic standing could be explained by the grades obtained in a subject or group of subjects taken (Owoyemi, 2020). Aloga (2014) maintains that school site location is important in educational accomplishment of students. Schools that are well-sited in the urban areas enjoy basic facilities such as light, portable water, and other educational facilities.

It is the duty of the school head to ensure that the school plant is ready for use when due and that it is correctly used for the purpose for which it is meant. This is necessary in order to prevent any disruption of the educational programme. We had earlier stated that using the school buildings and equipment in the right way prolongs their life spans and prevents avoidable damage. Jibrin (2014) pointed out that, the school plant is a very important part of educational planning. Unless schools are programmed, buildings adequately constructed and equipment adequately utilized and planted, much teaching and learning may not be realized. The responsibilities of the principals in secondary schools do not stop at the human and financial aspects of the school but also involves their ability to effectively and efficiently utilize and maintain the school facilities such as: instructional materials, school libraries, students' hostels, staff offices, medical facilities as well as recreational facilities among others.

Alaska (2013) opined that it is a planned programme of maintenance for each component of the school plant scheduled regularly to prevent premature failure or to maximise the useful life of a plant. Such scheduled activities include items such as roof inspections, repainting, door hardware adjustment, cleaning or lubricating to complete overhauling, reconditioning, belt replacement, Sweeping, dusting and storage of school items. These are routine, emergency maintenance, scheduled based on visual and physical

inspection on regular basis. In large districts like tertiary institutions, there is a crew, who is certified in areas of maintenance.

It is unfortunate that due to the increase in enrolment in secondary schools as well as increase in staff strength in our schools, the school plant in secondary schools has not kept pace with the trend. Most of the secondary schools in the area of study are sited where they are not supposed to be located. Some of the schools are sited on the highways while others do not meet the minimum landmass requirements for secondary schools. The high level of students' academic performance may not be guaranteed where instructional materials, medical facilities, school laboratories, recreational facilities, library facilities are not properly kept or maintained.

Base on the above explanation, school plant, which is the planning, is equally important. This is because it could have influence on students' academic performance. However, it seems that proper school plant has not been accorded its due place in our educational institutions as can be seen in the sitting of some schools in areas instructional materials facilities. It is certain that all these may have negative effects on the teaching and learning process. Inadequate school plant in most schools has given way to dilapidated buildings, vandalism, poor state of laboratories, library facilities like text books, furniture, laboratory equipment and chemicals. All these could lead to poor academic performance among students. The researcher observed that though some of the schools in the study area to some extent good school plant, they too are not properly organized and maintained. It is against this background the research focused on examining the school plant utilization and maintenance: A tool for effective students' performance in Senior Secondary Schools in Kwali Area Council, FCT Abuja

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to examine the school plant utilization and maintenance: A tool for effective students' performance in Senior Secondary Schools in Kwali Area Council, FCT Abuja. The study sought to:

1. examine the extent of utilization of school plant facilities on student performance in Senior Secondary schools in Kwali Area Council, FCT Abuja

2. investigate the extent of maintenance of school plant facilities on student performance in Senior Secondary schools in Kwali Area Council, FCT Abuja

Research Questions

The study is guided with the following research question:

Research Question 2

1. What is the extent of utilization of school plant on student academic performance in Senior Secondary schools in Kwali Area Council, FCT Abuja
2. What is the extent of maintenance of school plant on student academic performance in Senior Secondary schools in Kwali Area Council, FCT Abuja

Methodology

The study adopted descriptive survey design. The population of the study comprised of 208 teaching staff in 9 public senior secondary schools in Kwali Area Council Abuja. The sample for the study was 90 teachers. Simple random sampling technique was used to select the respondents. This was done to avoid bias and ensure that each respondent has equal chance of being selected. A four point rating scale was use for the questionnaire. The instrument was a rating scale of Strongly High Extent (HE), Moderate Extent (A), Low Extent (LE) and Low Extent (LE). The reliability of this instrument was authenticated by carrying out a pilot study, which 10 teacher education students from the population (not the sample) were given the questionnaire to respond to. Afterwards, split-half statistics was used to split the items on the questionnaire into two sets (even and odd numbers). Data obtained from the two sets of the questionnaire was analyzed by using Pearson Product Momment Correlation coefficient statistics and Spearman Rho Rank Order Correlation coefficient statistics respectively. In the final analysis, 0.71 coefficient score was obtained proving that the instrument was reliable. A total of 90 copies of the questionnaire were given out to the respondents in the sampled schools for the study which was collected back on a spot. The

mean statistics was used to analyze the research questions which was adjudged by the decision rule from 2.50 and above being agreed, below 2.50 being disagreed. Same parameter was used for the sectional mean to determine the acceptance or the rejection of the research questions.

Data Analysis.

1. **Research Question One:** What is the extent of utilization of school plant on student academic performance in Senior Secondary schools in Kwali Area Council, FCT Abuja?

Table 1: Extent of Utilization of School Plant and Student Performance

N=90

S/N	Items on Utilization of School Plant and student performance	HE	ME	LE	VLE	\bar{X}	Decision
1	Classrooms are well utilized	35	25	20	10	2.94	Moderate Extent
2	Specialized facilities such as laboratory, studios and computer labs are always utilized	37	12	18	23	2.70	Moderate Extent
3	Library stock with books, journals, and online resources which promoting academic excellence are always utilized	28	25	16	21	2.67	Moderate Extent
4	Sports and recreation facilities available in school are always utilized	25	30	14	21	2.66	Moderate Extent
5	Administrative and support facilities are always utilized	27	20	19	24	2.56	Moderate Extent
	Sectional Mean					2.70	Moderate Extent

The table shows that the mean score for items 1-5 were 2.94, 2.70, 2.67, 2.66 and 2.56 respectively. All the mean score are above 2.50. This means that the respondents agreed that classrooms are well utilized, specialized facilities such as laboratory, studios and computer labs are always utilized, library stock with books, journals, and online resources which promoting academic excellence are always utilized, sports and recreation facilities available in school are always utilized and administrative & support facilities are always utilized. All the respondents accepted with sectional mean score of 2.70 that school plant are moderately utilize which enhance student performance in Senior Secondary schools in Kwali Area Council, FCT Abuja.

Research Question Two: What is the extent of maintenance of school plant on student academic performance in Senior Secondary schools in Kwali Area Council, FCT Abuja?

Table 2: Maintenance of School Plant and Student Academic Performance
N=90

S/N	Items on Maintenance of School Plan and Student Academic Performance	SA	A	D	SD	X	Decision
6	Library are stocked with book, journal and online resources are maintained	20	36	17	17	2.66	Moderate Extent
7	Administrative block are well maintained	31	29	19	11	2.89	Moderate Extent
8	Sports and recreation facilities	21	33	17	19	2.62	Moderate Extent
9	Classrooms	24	35	11	20	2.70	Moderate Extent
10	Specialized facilities such as laboratory, studios and computer labs	20	27	33	10	2.63	Moderate Extent
	Sectional Mean					2.70	Moderate Extent

The table shows that the mean score for items 6-10 were 2.66, 2.89, 2.62, 2.70 and 3.63 respectively. All the mean score are above 2.50. This means that the respondents agreed that library are stocked with book, journal and online resources are maintained, administrative block are well maintained, sports and recreation facilities, classrooms and specialized facilities such as laboratory, studios and computer labs. The sectional mean of 2.70 was also found to be above the cut-off point of 2.50. This implies that school plant are moderately maintained to improve students' performance in Senior Secondary schools in Kwali Area Council, FCT Abuja.

Discussion of Finding

Based on the result of the analysis of the research question.

The finding of the study showed that school plant facilities utilization enhance student performance in secondary schools. This study finding is in line with the study of Jibrin (2014) pointed out that, the school plant is a very important part of educational planning. Unless schools are programmed, buildings adequately constructed and equipment adequately utilized and planted, much teaching and learning may not be realised. The responsibilities of the principals in secondary schools do not stop at the human and financial aspects of the school but also involves their ability to effectively and efficiently utilize and maintain the school facilities such as: instructional materials, school libraries, students' hostels, staff offices, medical facilities as well as recreational facilities among others.

The finding of the study showed that maintenance of school plant facilities improve students' performance in senior secondary schools. This study finding is supported Alaska (2013) opined that it is a planned programme of maintenance for each component of the school plant scheduled regularly to prevent premature failure or to maximise the useful life of a plant. Such scheduled activities include items such as roof inspections, repainting, door hardware adjustment, cleaning or lubricating to complete overhauling, reconditioning, belt replacement, Sweeping, dusting and storage of school items.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that, school site, classroom, medical facilities, utilized and maintained to enhance students' academic performance in Kwali Area Council, FCT-Abuja.

Recommendations

Based on the finding of the study, the following recommendation was made:

1. School administrator should organize training for teachers and student on utilization of school plant so as to enhance students' academic performance

2. School principal should ensure maintenance of school plant facilities in order to improve students' academic performance.

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