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Managing Educational Facilities and Students' Enrolment in Nigerian Universities in South-West Nigeria

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Abstract

Investigations into the factors that affect management of educational facilities on students 'enrolment have attracted the interest and concern of researchers, universities administrators and planners as well as stakeholders in educational sectors in Nigeria. Different factors are capable of influencing the enrolment of students in the Nigerian Universities. Such factors range from the school library, school building, uncondusive classroom environment and the school laboratory. The Study adopted a survey research design of ex-post facto type. Population consisted of 300 participants in which about 50% of the target population was sampled. Multi- stage sampling technique was used to get the sample size in South – western Nigeria. A Standardized research Instrument was used: Managing Educational Facilities and Students Enrolment Questionnaire (MEFSEQ). The Instrument was content, construct and face validated while its reliability co- efficient was established through the test -retest method of 0.84. Inferential Statistics of Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient and Multiple Regression were used to analyses the stated Hypotheses at 0.05 level of Significance. The result showed classroom environment as a major

determinant of student enrolment. There was a strong positive significant relationship between the School building and Student Enrolment (0.634; $P < 0.05$). It was recommended among other that parents should pay full attention to their wards education while the necessary educational facilities should be provided by the school authorities, government as well as the stakeholders in order to aid students' enrolment as well as learning activities.

Key Words: Students Enrolment, Managing, Educational Facilities, Nigeria Universities, South- Western States.

Introduction

The basic focus in any higher institution is on Educational Facilities and its Management because effective and efficient running of the system depends on proper maintenance and use of available structural units and facilities. Ogbodo (1995) defined Educational facilities as those things of Education which enables a skilful teacher to achieve a level of instructional effectiveness that far exceeds what is possible when they are not available. In the past, little consideration was given to the effect in which educational facilities would have on the learning – learning process and enrolment of students in Schools. It was stated that well planned and maintained educational facilities will not only enhance good teaching process but also facilitate high enrolment of students (Oyesola, 2000).

Onyene (2000) stated that in any institution, the basic focus is on school plant and administration of facilities because effective and efficient running of the system, proper maintenance and use of the structural units and facilities are quite accurate and imperative. A well designed functional school building provides effective delivery of the school's curriculum and is positively related to enrolment of the students (Ogbodo, 1995). Adesina (1981) stated that it is becoming increasingly obvious to our higher institution in Nigeria that their future survival as an educational entity depends to a large extent on the efficient management of available resources. Educational facilities carry wide meanings which include the school building, uncondusive classrooms and office infrastructures, equipment, library, hostel, blackboard and school records. Its material conditions should be conducive for all – round development of the student- physical, emotional, social, cultural and moral. Good learning environment should be created by the educational facilities. It is the most important factor in the educational process (Stickhard & Mayberry, 1992).

A positive school environment creates an optimal setting high enrolment. The school is a stabilizing force for young people, both emotionally and academically particularly when they are experiencing transition or crises (Robert Blum, 2005). Educational facilities such as school plant have been repeatedly found to have

positive relationship with standard and quality of educational system (Nwagwu, 1978; Adesina, 1990 & Ojedele, 2000).

The school enrolments are rapidly expanding in the situation where equipment and facilities are difficult to supply in adequate proportions. There is insufficiency of fund to procure new equipment and facilities despite the fact that some of the existing ones have become overstretched and obsolete. Previous related study had revealed clearly that Nigerian School Managers do not usually take the issue of Educational facilities maintenance seriously. Olutola (1981) reviewed that the Managerial arrangement typical of the educational System are grossly inadequate to deal with the new Challenges in the Educational system and this is creating Educational crisis.

Adesina (1981) reviewed that many abandoned and uncompleted school plant projects apart from many school plants suffering neglects of maintenance in our Universities in South-western Nigeria. The existence of School Plants in poor state of neglect will wield negative influence on the public Universities in South-Western Nigeria. Therefore, there is need to call for planned and Managed School Plant in our universities in order to reduce the high cost of replacement that often result from total breakdown of School Plants due to improper Management.

Statement of the Problem

Despite the apparently high percentage of the annual budget on education, recently the federal Government releases over #3bn through TET Fund, there are still major constraints in the Public Tertiary Institution (*The Punch*, Oct. 24th, 2014). Universities enrolments are rapidly expanding in the situation where educational facilities and Equipment are difficult to supply adequate proportion. Hence the Study examines Managing Educational Facilities and Students 'Enrolment in Nigeria Universities in South – Western States.

Purpose of the Study

This study seeks to ascertain the influence of managing educational facilities in the consideration of students' enrolment in public universities in South –Western Nigeria.

Significance of the Study

It is anticipated that this study will provide useful information to policy makers on how to make provision for high standard of facilities and on how to cultivate maintenance/managing culture. It will also assist government and educational planners to realize the extent to which constant renovation and reconstruction of dilapidated infrastructures will aid Students' enrolment in Public tertiary institutions.

Research Hypotheses

The following research Hypotheses were formulated and tested:

1. University library has no significant relationship with students' enrolment in South-Western Nigerian universities.
2. Conducive Classroom environment has no significant relationship with students 'enrolment in South- Western Nigeria Universities
3. School Building Structure has no significant relationship with students 'enrolment in South-Western Nigeria Universities.
4. There is no significant Composite Contribution of School Library, Conducive Classroom Environment and School Building Structure on Students' enrolment in South-Western Nigerian Universities.

Review of Related Literature

This section is discussed under the following heading.

Studies on Relationship between Conducive Classroom Environment and Students' Enrolment

Classroom Environment is an important factor in School design and drives a host of costly facility. The Classroom Space should be capable of being subdivided by rearrangement of portable furniture and equipment, should be air- conditioned, acoustically dampened. Classroom environment should be spacious enough and well ventilated to remove dilute contaminated that can build up the classroom. Poorly ventilated classroom makes the students and teachers sick and students cannot perform at their full capacity.

According to Ijaiya (2007) and Fabunmi (2007), state that classroom condition influence students' enrolment in the Nigerian Universities. A good classroom environment will no doubt have positive effect on students' enrolment. Oyinlola (2007) noted that where classroom are overcrowded, method of teaching that requires movement and sensitivity from students produce such physical disturbance and difficulties that concentration is hard to sustain and the peace of teaching can become so slow as to be ineffective.

Adeogun (2001) asserted that a classroom that is suitable has much more than good lighting, a good seating desk and cupboard. The poor enrolment of students into the public universities mat is traced to the poor state of infrastructure. Overcrowded classroom qualitative study on the effect of infrastructures on students' enrolment has largely ignored.

Studies on Relationship between School Building and Students Enrolment

Many research findings have shown that the success of an educational endeavour rests on the availability of physical facilities especially the school building (Taiwo, 2000; Oyesola, 2000; Adeogun, 2001).

Onasanya and Adegbija (2007) opined that the availability of the school building and other plans contributes to good school enrolment as they enhance effective teaching – learning activities. He further states that well sited school buildings with aesthetic conditions, playground, lavatory and many more usually contribute to enrolment and higher educational attainment by the students.

Olaniyonu (2006) pointed out the level of deterioration of standard of schools in Nigerian Universities when he posited that ‘Most of the School buildings today were built some thirty to forty years ago and cannot last for the next fifteen years, because they have not been maintained over the years and are now very old and weak. Apart from not presenting a conducive environment for enrolment, they are dearth trap for children whose lives are put at risks in fact that have been cases where students lost their lives and some get seriously injured as a result of collapse of school buildings.

Fabunmi (2000) lamented that school building of public Universities have no roofs, windows and doors, some walls are cracked, instructional facilities are lacking while lecturers are frustrated consequent upon lack of equipment to meet educational endeavours. Comparing Universities in developing countries with what obtains in the industrialized world in term of facilities, materials, utilization and provision. Good facilities appear to be an important preoccupation for students’ enrolment, provided that other conditions are present that support a strong academic programme in the school. A growing body of research has linked students’ enrolment and behaviours to the physical building conditions and overcrowding.

Studies on Relationship between School Library and Students’ Enrolment

Fayose (1995) stated that a school library is that part of school where a collection of books, periodicals, magazines and newspapers, films and filmstrips, videotapes, recordings of all types, slides, computers, study kits and other information resources are housed for students’ and lecturers’ use in research.

Todd (2003) took a different approach in an Ohio study that it was found that the school population increased by 52.5% as majority of the students rated the library as” Most resourceful” quite helpful in getting better grades in projects and assignments. This suggests that students themselves endorse the idea that good school libraries have impact on enrolment.

Agada (1994), Candill and Olutola (1989) stressed the importance of the library. Luban (1994) asserted that any purposeful education can be achieved through the library in Nigerian Universities, by the user, certain minimum physical and material requirements must be present.

Methodology

Design

The study adopted a descriptive survey where no variable was manipulated or controlled but studied. Analysis was based on responses from the subjects on the variables studied.

Population and Sample

The target population for this study was based on the entire students in the South-Western Nigerian universities. Purposive sampling method was used to select 150 subjects for the study which cut across University of Ibadan, Ibadan; University of Agriculture, Abeokuta; and Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

Research Instrument

A questionnaire instrument containing 20 items was developed, validated and subjected to reliability test. The questionnaire was tested using Cronbach Alpha re-test at 0.05 which yielded 0.86 reliability coefficient. The items were presented with a 4-point Likert scale of Strongly Agreed (SA), Agreed (A), Strongly Disagreed (SD) and Disagreed (D).

Data Collection

The questionnaire was administered on the students within the institutions with the aid of the research assistants. About 98.3% questionnaires were returned and were used for the study.

Methods of Data Analysis

The Research hypotheses were analyzed using Person Product Moment Correlation Co-efficient and Multiple Regression was used for the data.

Findings and Discussions

The results are presented in the order in which the research hypotheses were posed.

Hypothesis 1: *University library has no significant relationship with students' enrolment in South- Western Nigeria.*

Table 1 shows the significant relationship between University Library and Students' enrolment

Variable	N	X	SD	DF	R	P	Remark
Students' Enrolment	150	60.4	38.54	197	0.575	.845	Accept
University Library	150	27.8	9.78				

Table 1 above revealed a significant positive relationship between university library and students' enrolment at $r = 0.575$; $p < 0.05$. These show that university library and students' enrolment are positively related. Good and effective well equipped library may lead to high student enrolment. This is in line with Fayose (1995) view that the importance of library to enrolment of students which is rapidly expanding cannot be overemphasized. School library have been repeatedly found to have positive relationship with standard and quality of educational system (Adesina 1990; Ojedele 2000).

Hypothesis 2: *Conducive Classroom Environment has no significant relationship with students' enrolment in South- Western Nigerian Universities*

Table 2 shows the significant relationship between Conducive Classroom Environment and Students' Enrolment in South- Western Nigeria Universities

Variable	N	X	SD	DF	R	P	Remark
Students' Enrolment	150	54.2	38.45	197	0.693	.439	Accept
Conducive Classroom Environment	150	26.3	11.26				

Table 2 revealed significant positive relationship between conducive classroom environment and students' enrolment into the University at $r = 0.693$. Conducive classroom environment may lead to good enrolment of students. This is in line with the observation of Oyinlola (2007) that where classrooms are overcrowded, methods of teaching that require movement and sensitivity from students produce such physical disturbance and difficulties that concentration is hard to sustain and the

peace of teaching can become so slow as to be ineffective. Fabunmi (2007) and Ijaiya (2007) said research work have shown that classroom condition influence students' enrolment in Nigerian Universities. Classroom space should be capable of being subdivided by the arrangement of portable furniture and equipment and well ventilated to remove dilute contaminated that can build up in the classroom

Hypothesis 3: *School Building Structure has no significant relationship with Students' Enrolment in South –Western Nigerian Universities*

Table 3 shows the significant relationship between School Building Structure and Students' Enrolment in South- Western Nigerian Universities

Variable	N	X	SD	DF	R	P	Remark
Students' Enrolment	150	58.7	37.88	197	0.634	.370	Accept
School Building Structure	150	29.4	11.0				

Table 3 revealed a significant positive relationship between school building structure and students' enrolment at $r = 0.634$; $p < 0.05$. The entire unattractive physical structure of the school building structure could interpret the large extent of students' enrolment into the universities. This is in consonance with Onasanya and Adegbija (2007) who opined that the availability of the school building and plans contributes to a good school enrolment as they enhance effective teaching-learning activities and well sited school building with aesthetic condition, playground, lavatory and many more usually contributes to enrolment into Universities.

Hypothesis 4: *There is no significant composite contribution of University Library, Conducive Classroom Environment and School Building Structure on Students' Enrolment*

ANOVA

R	=	.093
R-Change	=	.009
R2	=	.009
Std Error	=	40.25317

ANOVA

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Score	F	Sig
Regression	1313.293	03	547.763		
Residual	14 0775.148	93	1366.397	.694	.817
Total	142088.441	96			

The above table revealed the value of $R = (0.093)$ with an adjusted $R^2 (0.009)$ which indicates that 0.9% of the variance in student enrolment is only accounted for the predictor variables. The F- value 0.694 which is significant at 0.05 shows that the composite effect is significant.

Conclusion

In conclusion, education is an important tool in the society which helps in the development of an individual and the nation as a whole. For a quality education to be achieved through the enrolment of students there must be adequate educational facilities such as good and well equipped library, good conducive classroom environment and a well structured building.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made:

1. Government should take necessary action to provide basic educational facilities for students and lecturers in the universities. This will enable the students and lecturers to be comfortable.
2. School Managers should give an adequate maintenance of school facilities making sure that preventive measure is put into consideration.

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