**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FACILITY UTILIZATION AND SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS’ ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT IN DUTSIN-MA LOCAL GOVERNMENT, KATSINA STATE, NIGERIA**

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**Abstract**

*This study investigated The Relationship between Facility Utilization and Senior Secondary School Students’ Academic Achievement In Dutsin-Ma Local Government, Katsina State, two hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. survey research designs were adopted for the study. The population of the study consisted of all the 22 senior secondary schools principals and 322 senior secondary school teachers in Dutsin-ma local government, making a total of 344 target populations for the study. The study used 20 senior secondary school principals and 176 teachers as a sample which makes 196 sample size for the study. A research self-developed instrument titled “Principals’ and Teachers’ Questionnaire” (PTQ) was used for eliciting necessary information from the respondents. The content validity of the instruments was established by subjecting the instrument criticism of experts and authorities in the field of enquiry. The reliability index of the PTQ instrument was obtained at correlation coefficient r= 0.83 using Pearson product- moment correlation. Mean, standard deviation and Pearson-product- moment correlation (r) statistics tools were used for data analysis. The major findings of the study were summarized as follows: The study revealed that there is a significant relationship between facility availability and senior secondary school students’ academic achievement in Dutsin-ma local government Katsina State. Similarly, there is a significant relationship between facility utilization and senior secondary school students’ academic achievement in Dutsin-ma local government Katsina State.*

**Keywords: Relationship, Facility availability, Facility utilization, Secondary School Students, Academic achievement.**

**Background to the Study**

Education, in every human community is an indispensable instrument for human progress, empowerment and for effective national development. Hence, the Nigerian federal government has adopted education as an instrument per excellence for effective national development (FRN, 2009). This suggests that a nation that lacks a sound educational culture and philosophy stands the risk of decay whereas a nation that sees to the development of its education is bound to achieve great success.

It is a statement of fact that people all over the world are day by day becoming aware of and sensitive to the benefits of formal education. Even though the process of formal education is usually long, it is not without immediate and long-term profits (Blaug, 1970; Eze, 1983; Akangbou, 1987; Akpa 2002). This awareness can be seen as one of the reasons for the annual increase in students’ enrolment at all levels of education in many countries of the world. Furthermore, the world is experiencing an ever increasing rise in human number (Leong, 1971). The increase differs greatly from country to country. Ever level of education is affected by the astronomical increase in population in Nigeria generally and Katsina in particular. Secondary education is an important level of educational structure in Nigeria. It is transitional level (FRN, 2009). It is a link between the primary and tertiary institutions. The success of the tertiary level of education depends largely on the viability secondary education system. The quality of secondary school graduates will affect the input and output of the tertiary level of education (Oke, 2011).

The quality of these secondary school graduates majorly determined by the academic performance of students at the senior secondary certificate (SSCE). There are many factors within the secondary school system itself which contributes either positively or negatively to the product of secondary school. Some of those factors are the school type, school location, population/size, available facilities, teaching staff, students’ themselves and educational opportunities. Each of these variables plays an important role in the academic achievement of students at this level of education.

In recent times there have been various reactions to student performance and achievement in secondary school performance and external examinations. The achievement is on the decline year-by-year and this situation has been regarded by many as a falling standard of education in Nigeria this situation has generated hot debate among scholars and educationist in the country. According to Ajayi cited in Orji (1999) reiterate that the most disturbing outcome of the falling standing of Nigerian educational system is the average school leavers who after six years of elementary school cannot effectively read or write.

This has spread to the junior secondary school students who now have virtually nothing to show for their long years of education. Several scholars and concerned citizens have reached to this situation of poor intellectual performance of secondary school students in Nigeria. Omoriege (2006) lamented that the secondary education which is the pivot of the tertiary educational system in Nigeria is fast loosing relevance, as it not fulfilling the national objectives as set down in the National policy of education.

Any discourse on the subject matter will not be complete without the identification of factors that are responsible for the problem of poor performance of students generally. Ogunwuyi in Alabi (2002) identified the following among the factors that are responsible for the poor quality of education; as “shortage of well trained teachers, inadequacy of teaching facilities, lack of funds to purchase necessary equipment, poor quality textbooks, large classes, overcrowded classroom, laboratory/ workshop. Poorly motivated teachers, lack of laboratories and libraries”. (p.246)

Furthermore, many parents would consider high academic standard and quality of academic attainment together with the tone of the school in choosing secondary school for their children (Karen, 2006). It is certain however that such parents’ consideration stemmed out of the fact that such schools are well-equipped with qualified personnel as well as adequate facilities and materials. It is impossible for a school without qualified personnel as well as adequate facilities and materials to develop high academic standard and produce students with good academic terms the availability of human and physical facilities and consequently student performance high in external examinations than public schools. The situation has made most parents enroll their children in private schools. The state of the public schools have been described as the major factors responsible for the trend in private institution prevalent in the country presently Salami (2008), indicated that “the condition of the public school which are deplorable such as dilapidated classrooms, poor academic environments’ lack of motivation as against good wills, good services and good reputation imbued in private schools culminates into some parents continuous patronizing of these schools despite their exorbitant charges”.

In his contribution to the importance of school plant provision and utilization, Oke (2011) reiterated that absence of adequate facilities, materials and opportunities will make it difficult for students and teachers to function properly and experiment in practical terms the body of knowledge being taught or acquired from time to time.

Educational opportunity were said to be imbalanced in Katsina State; the gap and disparity between rural and urban schools already exists and it was further deepened by the politicization of education. Education becomes politicized when the realities of educational objectives are made to conform to the political purpose of the decision makers. Their merits notwithstanding, plans that are at the variance with their political philosophy and ideology jettisoned, drastically modified or swept under the carpet to score political points. Ovwigho (2004), pointed out that there have been the tendencies for leaders in the country to consider education as weapon that could be used to wield political influence.

From the forgoing assertions, one can conclude that there are many problems facing contemporary secondary education system in Katsina State and that academic achievement of students depends on many variables such facilities provision and utilization and educational opportunities and so on, the aftermath of which culminates in poor students’ academic achievement.

**Statement of the Problem**

This study was on the relationship among secondary school location, facility utilization and students’ academic achievement in Katsina State, Nigeria. The most reported problem is that of educational disparity in the provision and utilization of educational facilities. In Katsina State it has been observed that some secondary schools are facing challenges of over-utilization, congestion and indiscipline as a result of unimaginable student enrolment and over stretched resources, some other schools are begging for students to attend the almost empty classrooms in the schools.

Due to the great role that environmental factor plays on students’ academic achievement; this study identified two major aspects of environmental factors. The problem which the research tries to address is the resultant influence of each of the variables and the interplay of the variables (facility availability and facility utilization) on the academic achievement of senior secondary schools in Katsina State.

**Purpose of the Study**

1. To find out the relationship between facility availability and students’ academic achievement in Dutsin-ma Local Government secondary schools, Katsina State
2. To examine the relationship between facility utilization and students’ academic achievement in Dutsin-ma Local Government secondary schools, Katsina State

**Research Hypotheses:**

**H1**There is no significant relationship between facility availability and students’ academic achievement in Dutsin-ma Local Government secondary schools, Katsina State

**H2**There is no significant relationship between facility utilization and students’ academic achievement in Dutsin-ma Local Governmentsecondary schools, Katsina State

**Methodology**

This study investigated the relationship between facility utilization and senior secondary school students’ academic achievement in Katsina State. Descriptive survey research designs were adopted for the study. The population of the study consisted of all the 22 senior secondary schools principals and 322 senior secondary schoolteachers in Dutsin-ma local government, making a total of 344 target populations for the study. The study used 20 senior secondary school principals and 176 teachers as a sample which makes 196 sample size for the study as suggested by the research adviser (2006). A researcher self-developed instrument titled “Principals’ and Teachers’ Questionnaire” (PTQ) was used for eliciting necessary information from the respondents. Part A of the questionnaire contained demographic information of the respondents, while part B was designed to ask school principals and teachers a number of questions on school facilities availability, facilities utilization, and its influence on students’ academic achievement. The items of the questionnaire were in positive statement and a three points Likert Scale was also been used as a scoring procedure in order to rate the responses levels of agreement or otherwise to a given statement for the study, ie Agree (1), Undecided (2), Disagree (3). The content validity of the instruments was established by subjecting the instrument criticism of experts and authorities in the field of enquiry. The reliability index of the PTQ instrument was obtained at correlation coefficient r= 0.83 using Pearson product- moment correlation. Mean, standard deviation and Pearson-product- moment correlation (r) statistics tool were used for data analysis.

**Data Analysis and Result**

**H1** There is no significant relationship between facility availability and students’ academic achievement in Dutsin-ma Local Government Katsina State

**Table 1 Summary table of Relationship between the facility availability and students’ academic achievement in secondary schools**

|  |
| --- |
| Variable N X SD r.calP.value |
| Facility Availability196 1.17 .497 0.441 0.00  Students’ Academic 196 1.17 .517  Achievement |

Table 1 above reveals the students’ academic achievement had a mean score of 1.17 and a standard deviation of .497 whereas the facility availability had a mean score of 1.17 and standard deviation of .517. In addition, the calculated Pearson correlation r-calculated value is .221 this shows the weak positive relationship between students’ academic achievement and facility availability in Dutsin-ma local government. While the P-value is 0.00 is less than 0.05, this means that the study rejected the null hypothesis, which implies that there is significant relationship between facility availability and students’ academic achievement in Dutsin-ma local government secondary schools Katsina State.

**H2** There is no significant relationship between facility utilization and students’ academic achievement in Dutsin-ma Local Government secondary schools Katsina State

**Table 2Summary table of Relationship between the facility utilization and students’ academic achievement in secondary schools**

|  |
| --- |
| Variable N X SD r.calP.value |
| Facility Utilization 196 1.15 .500.203.004  Students’ Academic 196 1.15 .483  Achievement |

Table 2 above the students’ academic achievement had a mean score of 1.15 and a standard deviation of .500 whereas the facility availability had a mean score of 1.15 and standard deviation of .483. In addition, the calculated Pearson correlation r-calculated value is .203 this shows the weak positive relationship between students’ academic achievement and facility availability in Dutsin-ma local government. While the P-value is .004 is less than 0.05, this means that null hypothesis is rejected by the study, which implies that there is significant relationship between facility utilization and students’ academic achievement in Dutsin-ma local Government Secondary Schools Katsina State.

**Summary of findings**

1. There is a significant relationship between facility availability and senior secondary school students’ academic achievement in Dutsin-ma local government Katsina State.
2. There is a significant relationship between facility utilization and senior secondary school students’ academic achievement in Dutsin-ma local government Katsina State.

**Discussion**

The issues of provision of educational facilities, and effective utilization of the resources available in school organizations remained controversial not only in public senior secondary schools of Dutsin-ma local government but also in every local government area in Nigeria.

The findings of this study revealed among other things that, there is significant relationship between facility availability and senior secondary school students’ academic achievement in Dutsin-ma local government Katsina State is very significant. This finding is in congruent with that of Ekundayo, (2011) in his study to examine the relationship between school facilities and students’ achievement in the effective and psychomotor domains of learning in south-west Nigeria. The study revealed that there is a significant relationship between school facilities and students’ achievement in the effective domain as well as a significant relationship between school facilities and students’ achievement in the psychomotor domain of learning. Similarly, the finding of this study is also in line with that of Okpulor (2010) who carried out the study on school plant provision and secondary school students’ academic performance in Jos North, plateau state. The findings of the study emphasized that school facilities has significant effects on the academic performance of secondary school students in Jos Plateau State. Similarly, the study is in agreement with that of Muhammad (2008) in his study titled provision of educational facilities for universal Basic Education in Katsina State. He found that the provision of educational facilities for the effective implementation of UBE is insufficient and also no strong evidence of effective utilization of these meager educational facilities program.

The findings of this study further revealed that there is a significant relationship between facility utilization and senior secondary school students’ academic achievement in Dutsin-ma local government Katsina State. This is in agreement with that of Ibitoye (2008) in his study carried out on school mapping, physical resource utilization as correlate of students’ academic performance in secondary school in Ekiti State. The findings of the study showed that secondary schools in Ekiti State were cluster in location pattern with 0.33 R-value, while there was no significant relationship between school mapping and location effectiveness. Other findings indicated that there is significant relationship between resource management and students’ academic performance.

**Conclusion**

This study focused on the Relationship between facility utilization and senior secondary school students’ academic achievement in Dutsin-ma Local Government, Katsina State. The findings concluded that secondary education is not given the required attention by government in the aspect of funding for the procurement of instructional resources in the schools for effective teaching and learning. This incidence adversely impacted the quality of secondary school graduates. The problem of lack of instructional materials in the secondary schools bothers on the administration of the schools. The findings of this study further concluded that insufficient utilization of the educational resources has a great influence on students’ academic achievement, by provision and efficient utilization of educational facilities, it meant that the facilities will go round every teacher or as the case may be student. This means that as the school increases in size (population) there is expected to be more provision of facilities to meet that increase.

**Recommendations**

1. Findings of this study have implications for better funding of our secondary schools in Dutsin-ma Local Government Katsina State, for the provision and of both human and materials resources so that the students should perform academically so as to receive better expected skills and training to participate in their high level of learning.
2. Government should effectively utilize and equally distribute the educational resources for both urban and rural secondary schools, by so doing the resources would go round to every angle of the expected area in order to have equal academic achievement by the students

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