Library Collection Funding and Corrupt Practice in Public and Private Schools in Nigeria

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Structured Abstract:

Purpose: Library is a place set apart to contain books, periodicals, and other material for reading, viewing, listening, study, or reference, as a room, set of rooms, or building where books may be read or borrowed. The study noted that both public and private schools are mad with corruption by officials that are responsible in buying library materials.

Design / Methodology / Approach: The study adopted the use of descriptive sampling techniques to elicit response from the respondents.

Findings: The funds are diverted to private use instead of equipping the school libraries with modern library collection. Questionnaire was used to elicit information from respondents. A total of 20 schools were used for the study. These consist of 10 public school and 10 private schools. The sample size consist 168 respondents and teachers respectively. This represents 84% of the total population sampled.

Practical Implications: The study concludes that most schools make use of the library funds in other areas of importance while in some case it is used for personal benefit.

Originality / Value: Library collection funding and corrupt practice in public and private schools in Nigeria. There should be provision of statutory monitoring bodies should constantly visit schools with the aim of making sure all schools have a functional library for student's academic achievement.

Keywords: Library Collection, Funding, Corrupt Practice, Public, Private, Schools, Nigeria.

Paper Type: Case Study.

Introduction

Library services in schools are a basic and essential phenomenon to the growth of education in Nigeria. The library houses educational materials that are used for research by both public and private school students from Nursery, through lower basic, middle basic and upper basic

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education. It is therefore necessary to get some basic meaning of library since this paper is aimed at bridging the gap in providing quality funding for libraries in schools in Nigeria.

Library in this context is places set apart that contain books, periodicals, and other material for reading, viewing, listening, study, or reference, as a room, set of rooms, or building where books may be read or borrowed. Thus is a place where collection of manuscripts, publications, and other materials for reading, viewing, listening, studying, computer software or data usually reflecting a specific theme or application etc. According to Udoh-Ilomechine (2008) "A school library is an academic library that supports school programs as well as the teaching and learning process".

School libraries serve students by providing materials to meet their various needs and encouraging reading and the use of libraries (Clark 1999). While Martin (2000) also opined that "research shows that the reading scores for students in schools that focus on improving their library programs are, on average of eight to twenty one percent, higher than similar schools with no such development." Adomi (2006) stresses the importance of adequate collections. It therefore means that where quality library materials are in the library it will enhance the students' academic achievement. Research has shown that students who read books, view intellectual materials do better than students who do not create time to study. It is sad to note that most schools do not have library this days especially the public schools. While in the private schools there is library in the standard schools but lake quality materials in the library. The books in the private schools library are old books collection. The trend is worsening the academic achievement of students thereby reducing their interest in visiting the library for research purpose.

The public and private schools are mad with corruption by officials that are responsible in buying library materials. The funds are diverted to private use instead of equipping the school libraries with modern library collection. The question is what is corruption? or simply put, academic corruption. Kalu (1991) cited in Uwhejevwe-Togbolo, Egware, & Esenohor, (2016) defined corruption as the conscious and well planned act by a person or group of persons to appropriate, by unlawful means, the wealth of another person or group of persons. Corruption can also be seen as diversion of resources from the betterment of the community to the gain of individuals at the expense of the community. Academic corruption is that corrupt practice that is carried out through the use of BIRO and Public position in the offices to subvert the

cause of providing education materials or by implication social amenities to the end users. Therefore, Corruption is the official misuse of resources for personal enrichment; this is done at the expense of the majority to satisfy the few in government. The history of Nigeria is tainted with the absence of good moral and ethical values in the conduct of the ruling elites (Uwhejevwe-Togbolo, Egware, & Esenohor, 2016).

Uwhejevwe-Togbolo (2005) observed that corruption is like cleaning the stairs; we are all victim of corruption in the light of basic amenities and infrastructure for the Nigerian society is corruption. Public office holder have to be accountable to the subject (School Heads), they are personalizing the authority that has been giving to them, due to the long term of shape and corrupt practices that has hampered the Nigeria society to the extent that we cannot positively questioned the authority of the public officers. Building integrity in our schools is a collective assignment; we know the problems of our schools, the encomium to solve this problem are the beginning of a better educational growth and achievement (Uwhejevwe-Togbolo, 2005).

Problem of the study

The usefulness of library in schools to students' academic achievement is a well known fact that cannot be swept under the carpet. Library is the store house of research materials that will equip the students with the needed research that will grow them academically. In spite library enamours importance in the school system it is surprisingly that some schools do not have functional library even though the library building is standing erected. In some public schools and private schools that have library, there are no qualified librarians to run the library. The private schools however, have a library (reading room) but no modern library materials while most of the books are old collections without new editions of books.

The public schools on one hand have a lock up library building with the inscription school library. In a situation where the library is open, clerks are met to attend to students in place of qualified librarian. The funds that are provided by the government to stock the library are diverted by the school management for personal benefit.

Purpose of the study

Base on the problem of the study, the researcher is poised to state the following as the purpose of the study

1. To identify if public and private schools have library

2. To ascertain the usefulness of library to students academic achievement

3. To investigate if funds are really diverted by school management met for library collections.

4. To investigate if the students are interested in using the school library.

Research Questions

The following research question will guide the study

1. Does your school have Academic Library?

2. What is the usefulness of library to student's academic achievement?

3. Is the management of school diverting library funds?

4. Are you interested in visiting the school library?

Hypothesis

The following hypotheses are formulated to guide the study:

1. There is no significant different in the funding of public and private schools library

2. There is no significant different in the usefulness of library to public and private school student's academic achievement.

Review of Literature

The literature of the study will be reviewed under the following headings:

- Library
- Concept of Public school
- Concept of Private school
- Usefulness of library to student's academic achievement

Library: Library is a place were reading materials, such as books, periodicals, and newspapers, and often other materials such as musical and video recordings, are kept for use or lending. Libraries are at the centre of the academic excellence of all educational institutions providing all the relevant information through resource collections necessary for sustaining the teaching, learning and research functions of students in our schools.

The academic health, intellectual vitality and effectiveness of schools (Public and Private) in producing high quality graduates into the labour market depend largely on the quality of resources collections available in the school libraries to support the teaching, learning and research activities in the schools (Okiy, 2004).

Library is a collection of sources of information and similar resources, made accessible to a defined institution or community for reference or borrowing purposes, (Celano & Neumann, 2001). It provides physical or digital access to material, and may be a physical building or room, or a virtual space, or both. Library collections can include books, periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts, films, maps, prints, documents, microforms, CDs, cassettes, videotapes, DVDs, Blu-ray Discs, e-books, audio books, databases, and other formats. Libraries ranges in size from a few shelves of books to several million items (Udomisor, Udomisor, & Smith, 2013). Thus, library is necessary in any school be it public or private school.

Public and Private school and corrupt practice: Public schools in Nigeria context are schools own and management by the government. This could either be federal, state or local government schools which are mainly funded by the government. The head of these schools are appointed by the government including the library, while in some cases through a recommendation by the school head. As regard the private schools, they are owned and managed by an individual investor. The management usually the owner of such school could be the head of the school or may appoint an head and a library who takes care of the running of the school and report back to him/her. In this scenario, the own finance the school and make provision for necessary school amenities.

Corruption in the public and private school could be of high or low degree depending on the management of the school. in most cases the management could live the responsibility of library acquisition and collection of materials in the hand of the school library who is in charge of acquiring library resources materials and collections. If there is no proper monitoring of funds that are made available to the library, it could lead to corrupt and sharp practices, either through inflation of prices on books and other collections or under stocking the library with the needed collections required by students. Thus, librarians should put the interest of their profession at heart and regard the library profession as a

wind flow of academic tentacles which can change the society through the students' academic prowess, in disabusing their minds from corrupt tendencies.

Usefulness of library to student's academic achievement: Library is an important tool in students' academic achievement. Research has showed that students that perform very well in examination are mostly students that use the school library regularly. Anyadike (2000) established a link between library use and students' academic achievement. His study revealed that students perform better when they frequently use the school Library than when they do not. Hunter (1999) cited in Gbemi-Ogunleye, (2016) posits that adequate and frequent use of Library can yield a high academic achievement amongst students. It will not though be wrong to argue that students that frequently visit the school Library will discover more information than their equal who does not use the library.

According to Soria, Fransen, & Nackerud, (2013) library research scholarship within the last two decades has increasingly addressed important questions related to the impact of libraries on students' acquisition of information literacy skills and development of critical thinking skills. The implication to this is that students that use the library consult library resource materials are prone to critical thinking thereby leading to direct high academic impact in their studies. However, most library are lacking useful materials that will benefit the research interest of students, this can be trace to either poor funding or corrupt tendencies of librarians who are vest with the responsibility of acquiring library resource materials.

It is imperative for libraries to keep up to their professional calling by sincerely providing the needed resources materials in the library if the funds are made available to them. Corrupt and sharp practices are virus which is capable of destroying a system with a short time. Therefore quality resource materials should be provided in the library for students use to enable the students achieve academic height.

Methodology

The descriptive survey design was employed in this study. A descriptive design seeks to document and describe what exist of the present status of existence or absence of what is being investigated (Ali, 1996 cite in Ejeromedoghene, Ephibayerin, & Akpadaka 2017). Brehod, (2001) cite in Ejeromedoghene, Ephibayerin, & Akpadaka (2017) describe survey as

a technique for gathering information from a large number of users. The design was used in the study to investigate early Library Collection Funding and Corrupt Practice in Public and Private Schools in Nigeria.

Instrument for Data Collection

The instrument for data collection was a researcher's designed questionnaire, titled "Questionnaire on Library Collection Funding and Corrupt Practice in Public and Private Schools (QLCFCPPPS)". The questionnaire QLCFCPPPS contains two sections A and B. Section A was use to elicit information from respondents while section B was used to elicit information from but public and private schools on Library Collections Funding and Corrupt Practice in Public and Private Schools.

Population of the Study

A total of 20 schools were used for the study. These consist of 10 public school and 10 private schools. The population consist of Basic 3 students from both public and private schools and teachers. The National Policy on Education 2014 referred to Senior Secondary (SS1-3) as Upper Basic 1-3 hence the adoption of the new status as the population.

Sample and Sampling Technique

A total of 200 students were sampled for the study. 168 respondents returned the questionnaire while 32 questionnaires from respondents were not returned. This represents 84% of the population sampled.

A total of 168 teachers were used for the study from both public and private school. This consists of 84 teachers from public school and 84 teachers from private schools.

Method of Data Analysis

The researcher used the four point likert scale of Strongly Agreed (SA), Agreed (A), Strongly Disagreed (SD) and Disagreed (D) to answer the research question, the responses were scored SA= 4, A= 3, SD= 2, D= 1points respectively, while the t-test was used to answer the research hypothesis. The mean scores and standard deviation was also use to answer one of the research questions. The decision rule was that any item means that attain a response mean

score of 2.50 and above was accepted otherwise it was rejected. The t-test was used to test the hypothesis formulated for the study at 0.05 (5%) level of significance.

The SPSS statistical tool was use to analyse the research questions and research hypothesis formulated for the study.

Results

The result of the study was derived from the research questions and testing of hypotheses.

Findings and Discussions

Table 1: Distribution of Public and Private Schools and Responses

Research Questions

Table 2: Does your School has Academic Library

Table 2 shows the total number of respondents for public and private schools. It was observed that the 85.71% which represents 72 respondents said their private school has library while 14.19% which represents 12 respondents said their school does not have a library. While the public school students also agreed that their school has a library with a response of 57 which represent 67.86% while 27 respondents disagreed which represent 32.14%.

This finding shows that most of the school have a library in the school for student's research purposes which is vital to their academic achievement.

Table 3: What is the usefulness of library to your academic achievement?

Table 3 shows that students in the public and private schools agreed that library is very useful to their academic achievement as seen from the data above.

Table 4: The management of school usually divert library funds

Table 4 shows the response of teachers on the diversion of library funds. It was strongly agreed by 19 teachers which represents 22.6% that school management usually divert library fund, while 17 teachers which represent 20.2% strongly disagreed.

The government should monitor the subvention that is been allocated to the school from time to time. However, most of the school teachers said the government is not sending funds

regularly for the school overhead cost hence the diversion of funds to some other areas of needs.

Table 5: The management of school usually divert library funds

Table 5 shows the distribution of respondents from the teachers of private schools. In this regard about 34 teachers which represent 40.5% of respondents strongly agreed that management of the private schools are diverting the funds met to stock the school library to private use, while 14 respondents which represent 16.7% strongly disagreed as shown above.

The implication of this results shows that the library fees paid alongside tuition fees are not used for the purpose they are met to be used. The ministry of education should to up the responsibilities to compel the school proprietor (Management) to make use of the library funds for the purpose they are met to achievement.

Table 6: Are you interested in visiting the school library

Table 6 shows the interest of students in using the library for their research work. It is observed that public and private school students have a high interest rate of using the academic library to improve their knowledge in their academic pursuit. However, the private school students show more interest in the use of library.

Testing of Hypothesis

Table 7: There is no significant different in the funding of public and private schools library

Teachers Response

Table 7 shows the responses of teachers that there is significant difference in the funding of public and private school libraries in Nigerian school, this is so because privates' schools are into business and are in for profit thereby trying all possible interesting in making their schools more attractive compare to government schools.

The null hypothesis is rejected since the t-calculated is -2.169 and the calculated level of significance is 0.033 less that 0.05 alpha level of significance while the alternative hypothesis is upheld that There is no significant different in the funding of public and private schools library.

Table 8: There is no significant different in the funding of public and private schools library

Students Response

Table 8 shows the response to the hypothesis that there is no significant difference in the funding of public and private schools library. The null hypothesis is upheld since is greater than 0.05 alpha level of significance. This shows that the students due to their level of understanding and experience may have not been able to separate the private school from the public schools.

Table 9: There is no significant different in the usefulness of library to public and private school student's academic achievement.

Teachers Response

Table 9 shows hypothesis response of teachers that there is no significance of the usefulness of library to public and private school student's academic achievement. The t-calculated is -1.992 with a level of significance of .050 which agrees with 0.05 alpha level of significance, this show that academic library is very important to academic achievement of students. The null hypothesis is upheld.

Table 10: There is no significant different in the usefulness of library to public and private school student's academic achievement.

Students Response

Table 9 shows hypothesis response of students that there is no significance of the usefulness of library to public and private school student's academic achievement. The t-calculated is -2.056 with a level of significance of 0.043 which is less than 0.05 alpha level of significance; this shows that academic library is very important to academic achievement of students. The null hypothesis is upheld.

Library therefore cannot not be ruled out of education because is the life wire o research and academic growth.

Conclusion

Library should be given a top priority in schools. The ministries of education should advise the government to send funds to public schools to make the library functional in their schools. The funds should be monitored to avoid misappropriation and to reduce the indices of

corruption amongst educational administrators who are giving the responsibility of managing the public schools.

The private school should also be monitored by the ministry of education through the local education authority to encourage all private schools to properly channel the library funds in providing standard libraries for their various schools. The study noted that most schools make use of the library funds in other areas of importance while in some case it is used for personal benefit.

Recommendations

The study made the following recommendation that will assist in making sure school academic libraries are functional. This includes:

1. The provision of statutory monitoring bodies to constantly visit schools with the aim of making sure all schools have a functional library for student's academic achievement.

2. To provide funds to government schools and making sure that the funds are used for the purpose of purchasing quality library collections. While the private schools are made to acquire modern library collection from time to time since the students are already paying the cost.

3. Qualified librarians should be employed to be in charge of the library.

4. The school library should also provide conducive and adequate library space instead of having a reading room.

5. The library collection should be such that will have creative collections that will arouse the interest of students to constantly visit the library.

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Tables for the study

Table 1: Distribution of Public and Private schools and Responses

S/N	*Name of Schools* *Public Basic School*	*No. Of Respondents*	*Name of Schools* *Public Basic School*	*No. Of Respondents*
1.	Essi College, Warri	14	Our Ladys School, Effurun	9
2.	Government College, Ughelli	9	Merit Secondary, Sapele	11
3.	Ogbe Secondary School, Effurun	6	Classical Secondary School, Udu	10
4.	Otor-Udu Secondary School, Otor-Udu	8	Standard International School Warri	6
5.	Emadadje Secondary School, Emadadja	4	Kogbodi Secondary School, Ughelli	7
6.	Ubogo Secondary, Ubogo	5	Edulyn Secondary School, Ekpan	5
7.	St. Michaels College, Oleh	11	Seat of Wisdom Secondary School, Ekpan	8
8.	Okpaka Secondary School, Okpaka	5	Evans International Secondary, School Emevor	11
9.	Unity Modern School, Agbarho	10	Boys Catholic Secondary School, Oyede	8
10.	Hussey Modern College, Warri	12	Cambridge Montessori Secondary School, Warri	9

Table 2: Does your school has Academic Library

Basic School	*Yes*	*No*	*% of Yes*	*% of No*	*No. Of Respondents*	*Total No. Of Respondents*
Public School	57	27	67.86	32.14	84	
Private School	72	12	85.71	14.19	84	168

Table 3: What is the usefulness of library to your academic achievement?

Descriptive Statistics

	N	*Mean*	*Std. Deviation*
Public School	84	2.5714	1.05609
Private School	84	2.9286	1.10623
Valid N for Study	84		

Table 4: The management of school usually divert library funds

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Public School Teachers					
Valid	Strongly Disagreed	17	20.2	20.2	20.2
	Disagreed	21	25.0	25.0	45.2
	Agreed	27	32.1	32.1	77.4
	Strongly Agreed	19	22.6	22.6	100.0
	Total	84	100.0	100.0	

Table 5: The management of school usually divert library funds

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Private School Teachers					
Valid	Strongly Disagreed	14	16.7	16.7	16.7
	Disagreed	12	14.3	14.3	31.0
	Agreed	24	28.6	28.6	59.5
	Strongly Agreed	34	40.5	40.5	100.0
	Total	84	100.0	100.0	

Table 6: Are you interested in visiting the school library

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Variance	Skewness	
Descriptive Statistics						
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error
Public School Students	84	2.8690	.91546	.838	-.217	.263
Private School Students	84	3.2024	.90220	.814	-.819	.263
Valid N (listwise)	84					

Table 7: There is no significant different in the funding of public and private schools library

Teachers Response

Paired Samples Test

		Paired Differences					t	Df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	Public School Students - Private School Students	-.33333	1.40852	.15368	-.63900	-.02767	-2.169	83	.033

Table 8: There is no significant different in the funding of public and private schools library

Students Response

Paired Samples Test

		Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	Public School Students - Private School Students	-.26190	1.43215	.15626	-.57270	.04889	-1.676	83	.097

Table 9: There is no significant different in the usefulness of library to public and private school student's academic achievement.

Teachers Response

Paired Samples Test

		Paired Differences					t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
					Lower	Upper			
Pair 1	Public School Students - Private School Students	-.29762	1.36902	.14937	-.59471	-.00052	-1.992	83	.050

Table 10: There is no significant different in the usefulness of library to public and private school student's academic achievement.

Students Response

		Paired Differences							
					95% Confidence Interval of the Difference		*t*	*df*	*Sig. (2-tailed)*
		Mean	*Std. Deviation*	*Std. Error Mean*	*Lower*	*Upper*			
Pair 1	*Public School Students - Private School Students*	-.30952	1.37951	.15052	-.60890	-.01015	-2.056	83	.043

Paired Samples Test