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## Relationship between Utilization of Educational Resources and Business Education Students' Academic Performance in College of Education Ekiadolor, Benin

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### **Background of the Study**

Business is dynamic and can be defined in different ways. A business is an establishment, an enterprise or an activity engaged in to satisfy human wants and make profit. It is an organization that realizes the objectives of producing goods and services to satisfy human wants and at the same time to make gain or profit. According to Osuala (2000), business can be defined as "Those activities involved in providing the goods and services needed or desired by people, seeks profit and competes with one another. The food we eat, the clothes, furniture and books we read, cars we enter while travelling are all provided by business."

The alarming dimension unemployment has assumed in Nigeria has reached a crisis situation as can be seen in the way graduating Nigerians are roaming the streets in search of jobs that so not exist. The situation was further compounded by retrenchment exercises carried out by the governments both at the State and Federal levels which affected strong and healthy people amongst them were graduates who did not have formal training in education, but have to take up teaching jobs in private schools so as to keep body and soul together or make ends meet. It is a common sight nowadays to see young Nigerians being engaged in menial jobs such as motor-cycle (okada) riding, cattle slaughtering, car washing, using private cars as taxi, all with a view to surviving.

Olayinka (1999) stated that one major problem with Nigerians is "that they do not have saleable skills to enable them get jobs. Some of the menial jobs enumerated above do not require formal training to undertake. Often, it is found out that with time, those engaged in them get frustrated because they can no longer cope with constraints inherent therein, coupled with environmental demands of the undertakings." There is a general consensus that in order to increase productive powers of a nation, acquisition of requisite skills is a sine qua non, hence the need to equip all employable Nigerians. When this happens, all able-bodied youths and adults would be gainfully employed or are able to set up an enterprise where he/she would possibly become employer of labour and this would ultimately act as a catalyst towards reducing unemployment. These skills can only be

acquired in Vocational and Technical Education (VTE) of which Business Education is a sub-set or an option.

### **Statement of the Problem**

It has been discussed and recorded in the Academic Board Meeting of College of Education, Ekiadolor, in year 2008 second semester academic session that 18 students of 100 level had poor performance in academic examination. Seventeen students of 200 level performed badly in second semester academic session. In year 2009 second semester academic session 21 students had poor performance in academic examination. These students were advised to withdraw their studies from the school or repeat their present class and be serious in their academic studies.

Educational resources; are they available and fully utilized?

### **Purpose of the Study**

The main purpose of this study is to establish the relationship between utilization of educational facilities and business students' academic performance. Specifically, the study will find out:

1. The relationship between utilization of library services and academic performance of the students
2. The relationship between utilization of typing pool services and academic performance of the students
3. The relationship between utilization of internet services/computer laboratory and academic performance of the students
4. The relationship between utilization of classroom/lecture theatre services and academic performance of the students

### **Research Questions**

1. Is there any relationship between utilization of library services and academic performance of the students?
2. Is there any relationship between utilization of typing pool services and academic performance of the students?
3. Is there any relationship between utilization of internet services/computer laboratory and academic performance of the students?
4. Is there any relationship between utilization of classroom/lecture theatre services and academic performance of the students?

### **Significance of the Study**

The findings of the study would help the curriculum planners in choosing course content to match the needs and aspirations of the students in societal content. The guidance counsellors would find the study useful in providing the students with career education. It would also help students to develop the right attitude towards business education as a career. It would be used as a base for further studies for research projects

### **Scope of the Study**

The study covered the relationship between availability and utilization of educational facilities and business students' academic performance in College of Education, Ekiadolor, Benin. The study will be narrowed to one College of Education particularly Business Education Department.

### **Conceptual Framework of Business Education**

Vocational Education is the type of education provided in the New Policy of Education (1998) for the purpose of the acquisition of practical and applied skills as well as basic scientific knowledge. According to Osuala (1991), "Vocational Education includes areas such as Agriculture Education, Business Education, Computer Education, Home Economics, Art Education, Traditional Vocations and Professions." Mshelia (1995) said that "Vocational education is activity oriented, various interesting activities are learned and centre on acquisition of knowledge and skills that can be applied in our lives for survival." The place of vocational education is very vital for survival of man, though very expensive to provide.

### **Literature Review**

#### **Equipment and Material Resources of the Colleges of Education**

##### **1. Business Education Textbooks and Journals of Business Education (VTE Journals)**

Business education textbooks are difficult to come by since it is expected that the imported programme should come with the imported textbooks and their workbooks. Such books if found are difficult to understand due to lack of workbooks and the answers to such workbooks. The worst of all is that the books are not written to suit the Nigerian environment. It is therefore expected that the well-encouraged vocational teachers would write textbooks suited for the environment of the programme.

2. Accounting textbooks, typewriting textbooks, business administration and management textbooks, shorthand textbooks, commerce textbooks, economics textbooks, English and communication textbooks, business math textbooks, office practice textbooks, methods of teaching, business textbooks, dictionaries, secretarial duties textbooks, chalkboards, chalks and writing materials. These are inadequately in supply to lecturers.

3. The typing pool laboratory, shorthand laboratory, computer/internet services laboratory and model executive office laboratory must be equipped with some of the following machines and equipment:

#### **Infrastructures of the Colleges of Education and Some Other Higher Institutions**

##### **1. Laboratory Shorthand, typing and computer and a Model Executive Office**

It is commonly said that much learning is achieved when learners can comfortably participate in the teaching-learning process laboratory method of teaching is presumed to be capable of fully involving the individual learner in the learning and teaching activities as well as help to remove individual differences and absent-mindedness, which characterize most shorthand, accounting, and typing writing lesson. It possesses the advantage of making those subjects "exciting, interesting and meaningful to students." (Odili, 1990)

"The singular privilege of manipulating the keyboard of a computer, typewriter, adding machine to obtain the desired result which the laboratory method of learning offers, plays a very important role in motivating the learning and making teaching lively." (Odili, 1990). According to Odili (op cit) "the use of instructional materials which laboratory techniques offers, enhance better understanding of the curriculum contents."

Macforiland (1996); Nicholls (1998) and Dunhill (1996) opined that "the use of aids in teaching assists the teacher to achieve the instructional objectives faster and carry out the task of teaching with relative ease" Sharp (1996) and Gatt (1995) indicate that "apparatus and aids supports the teacher to systematically develop effective and efficient learning experience for the students, evaluated the result of the activities and provide remedial action where there is need."

### **Academic Libraries**

Academic Libraries are laboratories found in institutions of higher learning like Colleges of Education, Polytechnics, Universities and Research Institutions. The major function of academic library is to serve the academic needs of the institutions, especially, in the area of provision of information resources to supplement the study and research programmes of the users. Academic libraries usually have large holding covering a wide range of subjects. Students constitute greater percentage of the academic library users. The significant of the library in the academic life of the students lays on the degree of effective and efficient use of the library and its information resources to the maximum. To achieve these laudable benefits, the Librarians have to instruct the students on how to use the library. They have to familiarize the students with the techniques of library use and information retrieval.

### **Problems of Business Education**

#### **(a) Shortage of modern equipment, and materials and machines**

It is the effect of inadequate funding of any educational system, which leads to shortage of equipment, materials or machines that are needed for teaching and learning. Without them the gap between theory and practice would continue to widen. Students or beneficiaries cannot be exposed to the required practical training as demanded by the different vocational and technical education training right from the primary school level to the tertiary institutions.

#### **(b) Corruption**

All forms of corruptions are contributing to non-realization of self- reliance or self-employment in the country. Many youths, adults and elders have thrown away the virtues of hard-work and put in its place the culture of corruption.

**(c) Poor Maintenance of Educational Infrastructural Facilities** Most institutions have no specialized technicians to repair damaged machines and equipment in the laboratories. Management has refused to give permanent employment to expert technicians.

**(d) Inadequate Teaching Personnel**

Before now teachers' status in Nigerian was poor. Inadequate pay, which was not also promptly paid, no good housing condition, no transport facilities, no good offices to work while retirement benefits cannot sustain the retiree.

**Politics and Discrimination in Vocational Education in Academics**

The human person is a social animal. This is why politics has not been ruled out academics. Selfishness, avarice and other destructive social vices are enemies to vocational education. There is no place vocational college may be sited in Nigeria that will not benefit the consumer of the vocations. Yet the citing of a vocational school in an area not close to the consumer might not be beneficial to politicians who want such schools sited in their area and amongst others

**Funding of Educational Institutions in Nigeria**

Funding has continued to decline in real terms considering that the system is expanding and inflation is high. A close study of release to the College of Education System with Y<sup>^</sup>bto<sup>^</sup>Sftfo reveals a wide gap between the approved budget and the amount released. The budget figures and the release by government for the period 1990-2000 on recurrent was as follows:

**Table 1:**

Years	Budget(£3)	Release(M)
1990	161,768,433.00	82,853,530.00
1991	181,161,885.00	90,346,670.00
1992	691,088,234.00	251,753,239.00
1993	784,150,338.00	512,088,622.00
1994	1,205,791,838.00	751,448,790.00
1995	1,407,424,215.00	790,579,418.00
1996	1,353,526,620.00	1,113,919,480.00
1997	2,820,334,900.00	1,256,606,210.00
1998	2,972,769,752.00	1,544,678,682.00

1999	5,538,545,403.00	2,463,454,608.00
2000	20,070,257,049	2,215,681,783.00
TOTAL	37,186,622,667.00	14,073,411,032.00

### **Design of the Study**

This study employed in descriptive survey design. The researcher's interest was the identification and selection of variables, constants, subjects, elements which were considered relevant to the investigation as regards the relationship between utilization of Educational Resources and Business Education. Students' academic performance in College Of Education, Ekiadolor Benin.

### **Population and Sample of the Study**

The population of the study comprises of all the 900 students or respondents of the Business Education from 100 - 300 level registered students undergoing the full time undergraduate program in the College of Education, Ekiadolor during 2014/2015 session. 300 students were randomly selected from the total population of 900 students and used for the study

### **Instrumentation and Data Collection Techniques**

The questionnaires were administered by the researchers herself and they were immediately collected on the spot. The entire questionnaires distributed were duly completed and returned. This gave a 100 percent return rate.

### **Validity of the Instrument**

The instrument was given to the project supervisor and two lecturers in the department of VTE for vetting after which the necessary collections made were reflected in the final copy.

### **Reliability of the Instrument**

To estimate the reliability of the instrument, it was pilot-tested on 30 respondents that were not part of the sample size of the main study. Test-retest method of estimating reliability was adopted.

The data generated from pilot study were statistically correlated with the use of person's product moment correlation coefficient and the value of 0.78 was obtained.

### **Method of Data Analysis**

Method of data analysis depends on the data itself. In this study, data collected were analyzed using the mean and standard deviation to answer the research questions.

### **Research Questions 1**

What is the relationship between utilization of library services and academic performance of the students?

**Table 1: Mean and Standard Deviation of Respondent's Opinion on the Relationship between Utilization of Library Services and Academic Performance of Students**

S/N	ITEMS ACADEMICS	X	SD	DECISION
1	There is a library facility in your school	13.8	1.66	Positive relationship
2	Materials in the library are relevant to course of my study	13.4	1.63	Positive relationship
3	You have sufficient time to study in the library	14.4	2.19	Positive relationship
4	Library is instrumental to my academic achievement	12.3	1.56	Positive relationship
5	You can locate business studies textbooks in the library on your own	11.6	1.52	Positive relationship

Source: Field survey, 2014 11

From **Table 1** above, majority of the respondents were of the view that there was a strong relationship between utilization of functional library services and academic performance. This was derived from respondent's response to items number one, two, three, four and five of the research questionnaires which corresponds to the above mean ratings of 13.8, 13.4, 14.4, 12.3, and 11.16 respectively.

In all, we can say that there is a positive relationship between the utilization of functional library services and academic performance of students of Business Education in the college.

### **Research Question 2**

To 'what extent does the utilization of typing laboratory services enhance student academic performance?

**Table 2: Mean and Standard Deviation of Respondent's Opinion of the Extent to which Utilization of Typing Laboratory Services Enhance Students' Academic Performance**

S/N	ITEMS ACADEMICS	X	SD	DECISION
6	There is typing laboratory in my institution in my institution	3.14	1.19	Agreed
7	I have access to the typing laboratory after office hours and it makes me to study better	2.14	0.84	Disagreed
8	The typing laboratory is equipped with modern facilities	1.70	0.74	Disagreed
9	The equipment in typing laboratory are adequate for teaching and learning	1.85	0.78	Disagreed

Source: Field survey, 2014

From **Table 2** above, majority of the respondents agreed that a typing laboratory was available in their institution for business education students, which corresponds to 3.14 mean ratings and 1.19 standard deviation. But mean ratings 2.14, 1.70 and 1.85 disagree on the items numbers of 7, 8 and 9 of the research questionnaire that asked respondents whether they have access to the existing typing laboratory after normal office hours. They disagreed that the equipment's were not modern facilities and the numbers were not adequate enough for teaching and learning to be effective. By imperative, they can only make use of such laboratory under the supervision of an instructor during normal lecture hour's,

### **Research Question 3**

To what extent does the utilization of internet services/ computer laboratory services enhance students' academic performance?

**Table 3: Mean and Standard Deviation of Respondents Opinion on the Extent to which Utilization of Internet Services/ Computer Laboratory Services Enhance Student Academic Performance**

S/N	ITEMS ACADEMICS	X	SD	DECISION
10	There is computer laboratory with internet services linked to my school	3.14	1.19	Agreed



11	There is no congestion in the usage of computer facilities	1.70	0.74	Disagreed
12	The cost of usage is affordable	1.92	0.82	Disagreed
13	The frequency of usage is commendable	2.14	0.84	Disagreed
14	There is steady power supply for the internet services	1.70	0.74	Disagreed

Source: Field survey, 2014

From **Table 3** above, majority of the respondents which agreed that their school's computer laboratory was linked to the internet services which corresponds to 3.14 mean and 1.19 standard deviation. But there's always congestion in the usage, the cost of the internet facilities were also not affordable or not utilized, the frequency of usage was also not commendable and the power supply to the facilities was rather epileptic, hence most of the students disagreed into items no 11,12,13 and 14 as showrwn the **Table 3** above. Although there was a positive relationship between internet services and academic performance.

#### **Research Question 4**

**Table 4: Mean and Standard Deviation of Respondent's Opinion on the Extent to which Utilization of Lecture Rooms/Theatre Services Enhance Students' Academic Performance**

S/N	ITEMS ACADEMICS	X	SD	DECISION
15	I have permanent lecture rooms/theatre for receiving lectures	2.74	1.19	Agree
16	The seats are adequate for the number of students	1.92	0.82	Disagree
17	I have lecture theatre for receiving lectures	3.41	1.11	Agree
18	The teacher-student ration is tolerable	1.50	0.62	Disagree
19	I sit always to receive my lectures	2.12	0.82	Disagree

Source: Field survey, 2014

From **Table 4**, majorities of the respondents agreed that they had permanent lecture rooms/theatre for receiving lectures which translated into 2.74 mean rating and standard deviation of 1.19 while 1.82 mean rating of the respondents disagreed on the adequacy of seats in their lecture rooms/Vtheatres representing 3,41 mean rating and standard deviation of 1.11. They also agreed that they had lecture theatres for receiving lectures

The respondents disagreed on the teacher-student ration being tolerable and they disagreed on the opinion that they sat always to receive their lectures which resulted to standard deviation of 0.62 and 0.82 respectively.

### **Findings of the Study**

1. The study revealed that utilization of academic library and stocking it with relevant textbooks had enhanced the academic performance of business education students.
2. The study revealed that typing pool services were not fully utilized in their department but their accessibility to such services, adequacy of the facilities present and the obsolete nature of such facilities were not encouraging them and thus inadequate in quantities when compared with great number of students using them.
3. The study revealed that the internet and computer laboratory services currently offered them were costly or unaffordable and power supply to these laboratories was not available all the times. These students found it difficult to acquire mastery competences and manipulative skills needed to operate computer and internet browsing of information communication technology
4. The study revealed that their learning environment(classrooms, lecture halls, lecture theatres) lack the necessary infrastructures for effective teaching and learning and therefore lack modern facilities

### **Discussion of Findings**

**Table 1** revealed that there was a significant relationship between the use of library services and student academic performance. In support of this view, Oyesika and Akinbode (2004) stated that the library is to provide materials and services which will now and in the future best contribute to the fulfillment of the objective of the schools.

**Table 2** revealed that there was significant relationship between the use of typing pool services and student academic performance. The use of typing pool services enhance positively the academic performance of students. This is in line with Odili' s (1990) position that typing laboratory helps to involve individual learner in the learning process and as well as helping to remove individual differences and absent-mindedness.

**Table 3** revealed that there was significant relationship between the use of internet services and students' academic performance. In support of this view, Ajiboro (2004) stated that the internet services had become an invaluable tool for learning, teaching and research.

**Table 4** revealed that there was significant relationship between the use of lecture rooms Mhatre and students' academic performance. In the view of Nwaokolo(1999) and Ayeduso(1997), for teaching to be effective, the classroom\theatres should have adequate chairs and table rows or in a manner that would allow the teacher to move freely around the learners seats on the spot for evaluation of the learners.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the academic achievement of any institution depends on the utilization of educational resources, human resources, material resources and financial resources. All these put together will enhance the achievement of educational goals and objectives.

Material resources and financial resources were lacking in most colleges of education in Edo State.

### **Recommendation**

1. The government should increase their current annual budgetary allocation to educational sector in general and to the colleges of education in particular
2. Government should help Chief Librarian to equip Business Department Library constantly with international and indigenous textbooks, journals and periodical magazines, newspaper and other materials that are capable to enhance performance positively
3. Business Education Department should have separate computer laboratory linked with internet facilities
4. Recognizing the indispensable role of Business Education to employment generation drive in the country, the department should be well equipped with the necessary infrastructures and office information communication facilities for effective teaching and learning
5. There is need for the college management to supply more seats and improve on the present students seating arrangement in our classrooms, lecture theatres and laboratories.

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