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Tertiary Institutions' Good Governance and School-Community Relations in Rivers State

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Abstract

The study investigated Tertiary Institutions' good governance and school-community relations in Rivers State. Two research questions and two hypotheses guided the study. The study adopted correlational design. The population of the study was 1,071 respondents while a sample of 535 respondents was drawn using simple random sampling technique. The instruments titled: ' Tertiary Institutions Good Governance Questionnaire (TIGGQ) and Effective School-Community Relations Questionnaire (ESRQ) were used for collection of data. The reliability of the instruments were determined using Cronbach method with indexes of: tertiary institution good governance is 0.83 and School- community relations 0.87. A total of 535 copies of the questionnaire were administered and 508 were properly filled, retrieved and analyzed. The research questions were answered using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient while the hypotheses were tested using r-ratio at 0.05 level of significance. The findings among others revealed that there is a high and positive relationship between grant of access to health care facilities and school-community relations in Rivers State. Therefore, the null hypothesis of no significant relationship between access to health care facilities and school-community relations is rejected. From the finding, Tertiary Institutions' good governance has high positive relationship to effective school-community relations in Rivers State.

Key words: Institutions, Governance, School-Community, Health, Recreation

Good governance is organizational and direction of persons in order to accomplish a specified goal. Good governance is used to designate the principles, practices, and rationalized techniques employed in achieving the objectives or aims of an organization. This buttressed the fact that good governance is the capacity to

coordinate many and often conflicting social energies in a single organization in order that it efficiently operates as an entity to achieve organizational set goals. Good governance is thus considered as the provision of policy for careful and systematic management of resources (human, financial and material) for the realization of the objectives of a given organization. In more functional terms, good governance is concerned with the performance of executive directives, such as the implementation of policies, and decisions to fulfill organizational purpose, resulting in controlling of the day-to-day running of the organization. Good governance at all times, must strive at the accomplishment of defined objectives.

Okoroma (2017) opined that good governance has to do with getting things done with the accomplishment of the defined objectives. The science of good governance is thus the system of knowledge whereby people may understand relationships, predict results and influence outcomes in any situation where people are organized to work together for a common purpose. Further, good governance constitutes a major aspect of any organized society. It is a necessary aspect of the organization, maintenance and operation of various components and units of any institution or organization. Every good governance ensures that rules, regulations and procedures are complied with and that policies and decisions are effectively implemented in order to actualize pre-determined organizational goals and objectives.

The central purpose of good governance is the co-ordination of human and material resources towards the attainment of some pre-determined goals and objectives and avoiding wastage. The degree of success of any organization depends on the effective co-ordination of available resources. The limited nature of resources has reduced man's freedom of choice. His needs are multiple and his wants legion. The available resources - human, material and time must be prudently utilized to produce the best or maximum result. To match demands against these scarce resources requires some special skills which are provided through the practice of good governance.

Akpomi (2019) was of the view that good governance involve management, management in this regard can be seen as a group of people who run a business and are responsible for its success or failure. Many regard it as the act of working with and through people to accomplish goals at a minimum cost to the organization". With respect to the relationship between tertiary institutions and their host communities, the heads of the tertiary institutions as Vice Chancellors, Provosts or Rectors are the key persons who should activate enthusiasm, zeal and attract community support for the institutions in order to actualize their institutions' goals and objectives. Cordial and healthy school-community relations can bring about strategies and mobilization of resources to facilitate youth and women empowerment and overall community development. Building such partnerships requires visioning, strategic planning, creative leadership and new multifaceted roles for professionals who work in schools and communities. In the context of this study, the head of the institution is seen as the professional (Famade, 2015).

Therefore, school-community relation is of vital importance in school administration. It is absolutely necessary to establish a good basis for cordial and effective school-community relations. This can only be possible depending on the head of the tertiary institution's administrative technique. For effective implementation of school-community relations, the head of tertiary institution has to devise some

techniques to be used. Provision of health support services; this has to do with provision of access to health support services and facilities by the school to the community. The goal of school - community health services is to promote, protect and preserve the health of the host community. The school can as well use its health personnel to provide to its host community the relevant education on community delivery of patient care and wellness projects, institute health and wellness programmes, conduct research to improve healthcare system for the benefit of both the school and the community (Oduwaiye, 2011).

Recreation facilities are incredibly important for a healthy and vibrant school-community relation. The recreation or community centers provide opportunities for residents to be active and to interact with other residents. They are common ground or areas that are focused on inclusivity, while fostering a culture of health and well-being in the communities they serve. On top of all this, they should aim to be a beacon of social responsibility for the residents; leading the way in education about wildlife, conservation, health, nutrition and general well-being. Recreational facilities improve communities in many ways.

A recreation facility's main purpose should be to provide opportunities for active living and recreation in a safe, inclusive environment. By creating a positive atmosphere, these facilities become essential to personal health and wellness, thereby reducing reliance on healthcare and other costly social services. This in turn boosts the local economy and can also help contribute to overall economic development (Oduwaiye, 2011).

Statement of the Problem

There are increasing public concerns with respect to the appropriate administrative techniques adopted by heads of tertiary institutions in order to bring about the desired, healthy sustainable school-community relations. The problems of the study such as poor administrative techniques on the part of the heads of tertiary institutions, poor communication between the school and the local communities, non-recognition of the leadership of the communities, especially at the level of the youths by management of the institutions; deliberate and outright refusal to consult and integrate community leadership in the management of the institutions, refusal to grant concession to the communities in terms of access to the use of institutions' facilities where and when it is necessary. The researcher is bothered whether the introduction of good governance such as grant of access to health facilities to community members and access to the use of recreational facilities to community members has positive relationship with effective school-community relations in Rivers State.

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of this study investigated Tertiary Institutions' good governance and school-community relations in Rivers State. The specific objectives of the study sought to:

1. Find out the extent grant of access to health care facilities to community members correlate with school-community relations in tertiary institutions in Rivers State.
2. Examine the extent access to use of recreational facilities of community members correlate with school-community relations in tertiary institutions in Rivers State.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided this study:

1. To what extent does grant of access to health care facilities to community members correlate with school- community relations in tertiary institutions in Rivers State?
2. To what extent does access to use of recreational facilities to community members correlate with school-community relations in tertiary institutions in Rivers State?

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses guided this study:

1. There is no significant relationship between grant of access to health care facilities to community members and school-community relations in tertiary institutions in Rivers State.
2. There is no significant relationship between access to the use of recreational facilities to community members and school-community relations in tertiary institutions in Rivers State.

Theoretical Review

Stakeholder Theory

Stakeholder theory was propounded by Edward Freeman in 1963 cited in Bakwai (2013). In management, the Stakeholders Theory suggests that every business or organization must strive or seek to maximize the values, opportunities, skills and other assets of its stakeholders, including the community and emphasize multiple interconnections or interdependence between the organisation and the community. Theory explains about Strategic Management and Stakeholder Approach. He identified six key stakeholders in a company namely: customers, employees, investors, supplies/vendors, communities and government and argues that they are all important in the survival, growth or failure of a business organization or firm. The organization should be interested in the affairs and wellbeing of the stakeholders.

Empirical Review

Access to Health facilities and School Community-Relations

Health facilities range from small clinics and doctor's offices to urgent care centers and large hospitals with elaborate emergency rooms and trauma centers. Gbemilola (2015) carried out study on Assessment of school- community relations in tertiary Institutions in Oyo State Nigeria. The study examines school-community relations in tertiary institutions in Oyo State, Nigeria. The study utilized both quantitative and qualitative techniques in data collection and analysis. The analysis reveals that there is a significant relationship between recognizing community health need and institutional remedial provision.

Godwin (2015), carried out a study on the Evaluation of School-Community Administration in Secondary Schools in Umuahia North Local Govt. in Abia State. The purpose of the study ascertained health facilities as variables that promote school-community relations. The finding among others is that school administrators are determined to provide health services to host communities. Health facilities may be

owned and operated for-profit, Non-profit organizations, governments, and individuals, can also establish and operate clinics or hospital.

The medical centres and teaching hospitals do not only render medical services to staff and students of the institutions, they also serve the medical needs of the host communities and other members of the public. Where members of the host communities have access to the medical facilities services of the institutions, whether or not the services are subsidized, it will go a long way to strengthen existing cordial relationships between the institutions and their host communities.

Recreational Facilities and School Community-Relations

According to Olubor, Abdulkareem, Alabi and Adeyanju (2017) school facilities are useful to both the school and its immediate community". Recreation is an activity of leisure, leisure being discretionary time. The "need to do something for recreation" is an essential element of human biology and psychology. Wedem, Joseph and Debrah (2015), carried out a similar study on Community Participation in Educational Infrastructure Development and Management in Ghana. Findings generally show that, communities participate in planning, implementation, maintenance plan as well as monitoring and evaluation of educational infrastructure is poor.

Saad (2014) has conducted a study on community support in provision of physical facilities in public senior secondary schools in Yola Metropolis, Adamawa State. The findings among others is that there is no significant difference in the opinion of principals, teachers and non- teaching staff and the officials of M.O.E in their perceptions on the provision and maintenance of infrastructural facilities in boarding secondary schools in Yola Metropolis, Adamawa state, Nigeria. Providing access to community members to utilize school recreational facilities is important in building smooth school-community relations. In a situation where heads of tertiary institutions can meet the needs of the community with regard access to recreational facilities, it is capable of fostering cordial relationship between the school and the community (Kalagbor & Harry, 2018).

Methodology

Research Design

The study adopted correlational design. The population of the study is 1,071 respondents and consisted of 681 Principal Officers, Senate/Academic Board members in the eight tertiary institutions in Rivers State. It also consisted of 390 community leaders from the host communities comprising members of the Community Development Committees, youths, women groups and opinion leaders. A sample of 535 respondents was drawn using simple random sampling technique which represented 50% of the population. The instruments titled: ‘ Tertiary Institutions Good Governance Questionnaire (TIGGQ) and Effective School-Community Relations Questionnaire (ESRQ). The questionnaire were structured on a five point Rating Scale, weighted as Very High Extent (VHE -5-points), High Extent (HE-4-points), Moderate Extent (ME -3,-points), Low Extent (LE -2-points) and Very Low Extent (VLE -1-point).

The face and content validity of the instruments were determined by experts in faculty of Education, Rivers State University. The reliability of the instruments were determined with the application of Cronbach method with following indexes: tertiary

institution good governance is 0.83, grant of access to health care facilities 0.80, access to use recreational facilities 0.89 and School- community relations 0.87. A total of 535 copies of the questionnaire were administered and 508 were properly filled and retrieved which represented 95% return rate and analyzed. The research questions were answered using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (PPMC) while the hypotheses were tested using r-ratio at 0.05 level of significance with 506 degrees of freedom.

Results

Research Question 1: To what extent does grant of access to health care facilities to community members correlate with school- community relations in Rivers State?

Table 1: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis on the Relationship between Access to Health Care Facilities to Community Members and School-Community Relations

Variable	Σ	Σ^2	N	Df	ΣXY	r	Decision
Access to health care facilities to community members (X)	10246	2661					
			508	506	2867	0.86	High Positive Correlation
School-community relations (Y)	11220	3980					

Result from Table 1 reveals a correlation coefficient = 0.86. This value is high and positive, indicating that there is high and positive relationship between the access to health care facilities to community members and school-community relations. This implies that increase in access to health care facilities to community members leads to corresponding increase in school-community relations in Rivers State.

Research Question 2: To what extent does access to use of recreational facilities to community members correlate with school-community relations in Rivers State?

Table 2: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis on the Relationship between Access to use of Recreational Facilities to Community Members and School-Community Relations

Variable	Σ	Σ^2	N	Df	ΣXY	r	Decision
Recreational facilities to community members (X)	10654	2134					
			508	506	2660	0.16	Low Positive Correlation
School-community relations (Y)	10360	3088					

Result from Table 2 reveals a correlation coefficient = 0.16. This value is low and positive, indicating that there is low and positive relationship between the access to use of recreational facilities to community members and school-community relations. This implies that increase in access to use of recreational facilities to community members leads to corresponding increase in school-community relations in Rivers State.

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant relationship between grant of access to health care facilities to community members and school-community relations in Rivers State.

Table 3: Transformed z-test on the Relationship between Grant of Access to Health Care Facilities to Community Members and School-Community Relations

Variable	Σ	Σ^2	N	Df	ΣXY	r	z-cal.	z-crit.	Decision
Access to health care facilities to community members (X)	10246	2661							
			508	506	2867	0.86	33.22	1.96	Sig. Rejected H_0
School-community relations (Y)	11220	3980							

Result from Table 3 reveals that a high positive relationship exists between grant of access to health care facilities to community members and school-community relations. To establish the significance of the relationship, a transformed z-value was computed and an index of 33.32 was obtained. This was compared to the critical z-value of 1.96 at the 0.05 level of significance with a degree of freedom of 506, indicating that there is a significant positive relationship between grant of access to health care facilities to community members and school-community relations (calculated $z = 33.22 < \text{critical } z = 1.96$ at $p < 0.05$ and $df = 506$). Therefore, the null hypothesis of no significant relationship between award of health care facilities to community members and school-community relations is rejected. This implies that the relationship is positive and strong, and any increase in the grant of access to health care facilities to community members tends to be accompanied by improvement in school-community relations in Rivers State.

Hypothesis 4: There is no significant relationship between access to the use of recreational facilities to community members and school-community relations in Rivers State.

Table 4: Transformed z-test on the Relationship between access to the use of recreational facilities to community members and school-community relations

Variable	Σ	Σ^2	N	Df	ΣXY	R	z-cal	z-crit	Decision	
Access to use of recreational facilities to community members (X)	10654	2134		508	506	2660	0.16	17.20	1.96	Sig. Rejected H_0
School-community relations (Y)	10360	3088								

Result from Table 4 reveals that a high positive relationship exists between access to the use of recreational facilities to community members and school-community relations. To establish the significance of the relationship, a transformed z-value was computed and an index of 17.20 was obtained. This was compared to the critical z-value of 1.96 at the 0.05 level of significance with a degree of freedom of 506, indicating that there is a significant positive relationship between access to the use of recreational facilities to community members and school-community relations (calculated $z = 17.20 < \text{critical } z = 1.96$ at $p < 0.05$ and $df = 506$). Therefore, the null hypothesis of no significant relationship between access to the use of recreational facilities to community members and school-community relations is rejected. This implies that the relationship is positive and strong, and any increase in the access to the use of recreational facilities to community members tends to be accompanied by improvement in school-community relations in Rivers State.

Summary of Major Findings

The findings of this study are summarized as shown below:

1. The study revealed that there is a high and positive relationship between grant of access to health care facilities to community members and school-community relations in Rivers State. Therefore, the null hypothesis of no significant relationship between award of health care facilities to community members and school-community relations is rejected.
2. The study revealed that there is a high and positive relationship between access to use of recreational facilities to community members and school-community relations in Rivers State. Therefore, the null hypothesis of no significant relationship between access to the use of recreational facilities to community members and school-community relations is rejected.

Discussion of Findings

Grant of access to health care facilities and school-community relations

The study revealed that there is a high and positive relationship between grant of access to health care facilities to community members and school-community relations in Rivers State. Higher institutions' community health workers are frontline public health workers who have a close understanding of the community they serve. This trusting relationship enables them to serve as a liaison/link/intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery. Higher institutions' community health workers also build individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy (Arogn & Owan, 2018). Therefore, the null hypothesis of no significant relationship between provision of health care facilities to community members and school-community relations is rejected. This implies that the relationship is positive and strong, and any increase in the grant of access to health care facilities to community members tends to be accompanied by improvement in school-community relations in Rivers State.

Access to use of recreational facilities and school-community relations

The study revealed that there is a high and positive relationship between access to use of recreational facilities to community members and school-community relations in Rivers State. Kenkwo (2012) observed that the school depends on the community for a number of resources, such as water, land, human resources (skilled and unskilled labourers), accommodation for staff, finance and equipment for the continued existence of the school. On the other hand, the community depends on: the school for the provision of man power; the school halls for their meetings; the playground for their cultural activities; and the school buildings for emergency cases. Therefore, the null hypothesis of no significant relationship between access to the use of recreational facilities to community members and school-community relations is rejected. This implies that the relationship is positive and strong, and any increase in the access to the use of recreational facilities to community members tends to be accompanied by improvement in school-community relations in Rivers State.

Conclusion

Based on the research finding, Tertiary Institutions' good governance (grant of access to health facilities and access to the use of recreational facilities by community members) has high positive relationship to effective school-community relations in Rivers State.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are proffered:

1. Host community members should be provided with and granted access to health care facilities belonging to the school for community medications.
2. Higher institutions' administration should give access to host communities to use school recreational facilities during community's festivities.

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