



LIBRARY FACILITIES AND CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT: VIABLE TOOLS FOR INSTRUCTIONAL EFFICIENCY TOWARD BETTER ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPILS AKAMKPA LGA, CROSS RIVER STATE- NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study is on library facilities and classroom environment: viable tools for instructional efficiency towards better academic performance of pupils in primary schools in Akamkpa Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. This study was carried out with two research objectives and corresponding research questions and hypotheses. The research adopted ex-post facto research design. The research sample comprised 318 primary six pupils drawn from the population of the study. Data for the study was collected through two instruments which include a questionnaire titled, Learning Facilities and Academic Performance Questionnaire (LFAPQ), and Pupils' Achievement Test (PAT). Data collected were analyzed statistically through the use of simple regression analysis. Major findings drawn from the study revealed that there is a significant influence of library facilities and classroom environment on instructional efficiency towards better academic performance of primary school pupils in Akamkpa Local Government Area of Cross River State. Hence, it was recommended that heads of school and other education stakeholders should team up to ensure books are accessible in their school library for effective learning. The government should assist in corroboration with the other education agencies to provide quality classroom with well-equipped facilities to help improve learning.

KEYWORDS: library facilities, classroom environment, instructional efficiency, academic performance, primary school.

INTRODUCTION

Primary education or elementary education is typically the first stage of [formal education](#), coming after

[preschool/kindergarten](#) and before [secondary school](#). Primary education takes place in [primary schools](#), elementary schools, or [first schools](#) and [middle schools](#), depending on the location. The development of any nation or community largely

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depends upon the quality of education available. Primary education is the foundation on which further education is built. Primary education has two main purposes. The first purpose is to produce a literate and numerate population that can jointly deal with problems both at home and at work. It also serves as a foundation on which further education is built.

Effective instruction encompasses more than your lesson plans – it defines the arrangement of your classroom, how you allocate instructional time, the supplemental resources you select, how you determine whether your students are learning, and the way you communicate with your students' families. Instructional efficiency in primary school level is across the five components: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension (Abam & Monity, 2022). Monity and Oko (2021a) stated that efficient instruction involves aligning the three major components of instruction: learning objectives, assessments, and instructional activities

In spite of the importance of primary education, the education sector continues to witness poor performance of pupils especially in the area of reading in Akamkpa Local Government Area of Cross River State. It is against this backdrop that the researcher carried out a study to investigate the influence of library facilities and classroom environment: A viable tool for instructional efficiency towards better academic performance of pupils in primary schools in Akamkpa Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria.

There is no misgiving that pupils' high-quality academic performance and outcomes is connected to the nature of learning environment and the available useful facilities. Various experiential studies have established that learning environment is a critical necessity for student's academic achievement in Nigeria. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO, 2012) observed that in today's world, education systems must constantly evolve in order to effectively respond to the rapidly changing demands of the societies they serve.

Library facility means any facility whereby library material is made available to the public and includes any act or service intended to encourage or facilitate access to and use of library material by the public. In primary schools, library facilities help in supporting Literacy Instruction. The first function of a classroom library is to support

reading and writing instruction in schools. To this end, furnish your classroom library with books and other media materials to support student learning in the daily curriculum subjects. Ampofo (2019) stated that library facilities to a high extent influence pupils' effectiveness in reading ability in the selected schools. Still in consonant with the present work Hunter (2019) posits that adequate and frequent use of Library can yield a high academic achievement amongst students. It will not however be wrong to argue that students that frequently visit the school Library will discover more information than their counterpart who do not use the library

Classroom environment include rooms in which pupils regularly assemble in public school buildings to receive instruction and education and such facilities and building improvements for the operation and use of such rooms as may be needed in order to provide a complete educational program. A school that is conducive to learning is an environment with comfortable classroom set-ups and facilities, where there is relevant use of teaching materials and interesting classroom activities, that will further motivate the students to learn and understand their studies. Lawrence (2012) posited that classroom environment has a positive impact on students' academic achievement, by provision of physical facilities like furniture, electric supply, painted walls, drinking water, models, charts, overhead projector and other ICT related instructional material. Students take much interest in classroom activities which help them to get high marks in examinations.

Monity and Oko (2021b) stated that provision of physical facilities to schools like, clean drinking water, well-furnished classroom, laboratory with related appliances as the main factors play vital role for better teaching and uplifting students' learning. To reach a common understanding of how both the physical and social dimensions of learning environments affect the quality of learning processes, an exploration of the relationship between place and process is needed. The teaching- learning process cannot take place in a vacuum in formal education settings. It occurs as a result of interaction among components of the learning environment. In learning environment, elements of teaching-learning process include: teacher, students, content, learning process and learning situation

Pupils and teachers work well in a school culture where academic success and the motivation to

learn, is expected, respected and rewarded. Such an atmosphere where students learn to love learning for learning's sake, results in better academic achievement. The school is a special social space where education, training and personality development of children who are a community's future assets are founded and run by proper training methods, appropriate physical space and favorable psychological environment (Raccoon gang, 2018). Students in the process of socialization require a healthy environment and models so as to increase their performance. Hence, a clean, quiet and comfortable environments are important components of learning environment (Heinstrom, & Todd, 2016). Pupils' academic achievement may be influenced by school environment. According to Barrett, Davies, Zhang and Barrett (2015), good classroom arrangement inspires and encourages children to easily interact with each other and develop various skills including language and social behaviour. Poor classroom physical arrangement may affect children's free movement and can result into social behaviour problems. Classroom physical environment plays important role in pupils' educational success. Osagiede (2016) defines physical environment as the physical characteristics of classroom. Physical classroom environment includes different things like size of classroom, floor, walls, desks, lighting, library facilities, school climate, computers, other factors include playground and class size.

Theoretical background

School Climate Theory by [Gregory, Cornell and Fan \(2011\)](#)

The school climate theory was developed by [Gregory, Cornell and Fan \(2011\)](#) to explain the various elements of how students experience their school environment. The theory assumes that the interaction of varied factors creates a school learning environment in a school including the academic activities, safety, community and institutional environment that impact on the cognitive, behavioural and psychological development of students. Thus, school climate, however it is formed, has both direct and indirect effect on students' outcomes in the school, including their academic performance ([Gregory, Cornell, & Fan, 2011](#)).

In building the theory further, later researchers theorised elements of school climate that promote positive student development. For instance, [Wang and Degol \(2015\)](#), borrowing from research on

parenting styles and child development argued that authoritative school climate promotes positive student development. They defined a positive school climate as one that offers a democratic atmosphere for students to express themselves. They used two leading indicators for authoritative school climate, which are democratic disciplinary structures and warmth student support ([Wang & Degol, 2015](#)).

In applying this theory to the current study, the school climate is used interchangeably with a school learning environment to signify various elements of the school environment that affect student learning in both direct and indirect ways. Thus, when the student learning environment is conducive, it will improve the academic performance of the students and vice versa

Problem of the study

The importance of school facilities or amenities in the development and growth of the educational sector cannot be overemphasized. Many schools in Nigeria today do not have certain school facilities that can make teaching and learning to be easier and enjoyable to both the teachers and the students.

Often times, there has been a constant outcry of the inadequate provision or non-provision of the school facilities, especially, the laboratories, the classrooms (buildings) and the libraries which are the main school facilities that aid teaching and learning, for example due to lack of necessary equipment in the school, teachers in the science fields find it difficult to experiment and carryout practical teaching in the school, and the resultant effect is that most science students fail their science related subjects in the external and internal examinations.

Due to lack of provision of libraries, and sufficient classrooms in the school, year after year, the academic performance of students both in arts and science courses continue to go down. This is because the teachers are not able to utilise the instructional materials to present their teaching thoroughly for the better understanding by the students. The inadequate provision or the non-availability of school facilities in our secondary schools is what prompted the investigation of this study.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objective of this study is to ascertain the influence library facilities cum classroom environment on instructional efficiency towards

better academic performance of pupils in primary schools in Akamkpa Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study intends to:

1. Ascertain the extent to which library facilities influence instructional efficiency towards better academic performance of pupils in primary schools in Akamkpa Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria
2. Ascertain how classroom environment influence instructional efficiency towards better academic performance of pupils in primary schools in Akamkpa Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria.

Research questions

1. To what extent do library facilities influence instructional efficiency towards better academic performance of pupils in primary schools in Akamkpa Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria?
2. To what extent does classroom environment influence instructional efficiency towards better academic performance of pupils in primary schools in Akamkpa Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria?

Hypotheses

1. There is no significant influence of library facilities on instructional efficiency towards better academic performance of pupils in primary schools in Akamkpa Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria
2. There is no significant influence on classroom environment on instructional efficiency towards better academic performance of pupils in primary schools in Akamkpa Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria

METHODOLOGY

The research design adopted for the study is ex-post facto. This work employed the simple random

sampling techniques. In doing this, the researcher adopted the hat and draw method in which pieces of papers were written names of the whole government primary schools in Akamkpa LGA of Cross River State. Secondly in picking the sample of the study, the researcher systematically wrote "YES" and "NO" in pieces of papers based on the numbers of respondents in the population (Hat-And-Draw) using 80% percent of the population, the pupils were then allowed to pick one slip per person. Only the respondents that choose yes were considered in this work. Two instruments were employed in the collection of data which include a questionnaire entitled "Learning Environmental and Academic Performance of Pupils' Questionnaire (LEAPPQ), and Pupils' Achievement in Reading Ability Test (PARAT). Section A, personal data example name of school, sex, class and school location. Section B is a structured 24 questions with 6 questions each for library facilities, classroom environment, play grounds and class size. Section C comprised a comprehension passage with (10) questions to measure primary six pupils' achievement in reading ability. The item in the section A part of the instrument were scaled on a four point modified Likert scale type ranging from Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD). It was designed for positively and negatively worded questions

Results

Hypotheses 1: There is no significant influence of library facilities on instructional efficiency towards better academic performance of pupils in primary schools in Akamkpa Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. The independent variable within hypothesis is library facilities and the dependent variable is instructional efficiency towards better academic performance of pupils. To appropriately test this hypothesis, Linear Regression was adopted and the results of the statistical analysis were outlined within Table 1.

TABLE 1: Simple linear regression analysis of pupils' influence of library facilities on instructional efficiency towards better academic performance of pupils in primary schools in Akamkpa Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria

Model	R	R ²	Adj. R ²	Std. Error of the Estimate		
	.098 ^a	.010	.008	5.16292		
Sources of variance	Sum of Squares	Df	MS	F-ratio	p-value	
Regression	180.245	1	180.245	6.762	.010*	
Residual	18525.743	316	26.656			
Total	18705.989	317				

*p<.05

To analyse the data in Table 1 revealed an R-value of .098 and R-squared of .010. This implies that only 10% of the pupils' academic performance is accounted for by availability of literary facilities. The p-< .010 (6.762) is smaller than .05. Sequel to this, null hypothesis was dropped. Meaning there is a significant influence of library facilities on instructional efficiency towards better academic performance of pupils in primary schools in Akamkpa Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria.

Hypotheses 2: There is no significant influence of classroom environment on instructional efficiency

towards better academic performance of pupils in primary schools in Akamkpa Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. The independent variable within hypothesis is classroom environment and the dependent variable is instructional efficiency towards better academic performance of pupils in primary schools. To appropriately test this hypothesis, Linear Regression were adopted in testing the hypothesis and the results of the statistical analysis outlined within Table 2.

TABLE 2: Simple linear regression analysis influence on classroom environment on instructional efficiency towards better academic performance of pupils in primary schools in Akamkpa Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria

Model	R	R ²	Adj. R ²	Std. Error of the Estimate		
	.086 ^a	.007	.006	5.16855		
Sources of variance	SS	Df	MS	F-Cal	p-value	
Regression	139.853	1	139.853	5.235	.022*	
Residual	18566.135	316	26.714			
Total	18705.989	317				

*p<.05

To analyse the data in Table 2 revealed the R-value of .086 and R-squared adjusted of .006. This implies that only 6% of the variance in classroom facilities accounts for primary school pupils' academic performance. The p< .022 related to cal.

F-ratio of (5.235) is less than .05. Based on this, the null hypothesis was rejected. This implies that there is a significant influence of classroom environment on instructional efficiency towards better academic performance of pupils in primary schools in Akamkpa Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Data in Table 1 revealed that there is a significant influence of library facilities on instructional efficiency towards better academic performance of pupils in primary schools in Akamkpa Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. Library has a significant spot in the educating and learning of students. The finding agrees with Aernyi and Odeh (2017) findings which revealed that library facilities to a high extent influence pupils' effectiveness in reading ability in the selected schools. Still in consonant with the present work, Hunter (2019) posits that adequate and frequent use of the Library can yield a high academic achievement amongst students. It will not however be wrong to argue that students that frequently visit the school Library will discover more information than their counterpart who does not use the library.

Data in Table 2 revealed that there is a significant influence of classroom environment on instructional efficiency towards better academic performance of pupils in primary schools in Bekwarra Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. As we all know, **classroom environment** is a second teacher for any learner. A lot of the kid's time is spent sitting in a school classroom.

The current finding is in line with the discoveries of Kausar, Kiyani and Suleman (2017) who posited that classroom environment has a positive impact on students' academic achievement, as by provision of physical facilities like furniture, electric supply, painted walls, drinking water, models, charts, overhead projector and other ICT related instructional material, students take much interest in classroom activities which help them to get high marks in examinations.

The present result is equally in line with Omae et al. (2017) that stated that provision of physical facilities to schools like , clean drinking water, well-furnished classroom, laboratory with related appliances for better teaching and uplifting students' learning

CONCLUSION

In view of the findings of the study the researcher arrived at the conclusion that there is a significant influence of library facilities on instructional efficiency towards better academic performance of pupils in primary schools in Akamkpa Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. Meaning that Library has a significant spot in the

educating and learning of pupils. And there is a significant influence of classroom environment on instructional efficiency towards better academic performance of pupils in primary schools in Akamkpa Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria. Implying that, **classroom environment** is a second teacher for any learner

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were given by the researcher

1. Heads of school and other education stakeholder should team up to ensure that books, chairs, tables and shelves are accessible in their school library and are used by the pupils.
2. The challenges of inadequate class room facilities have affected pupils' quest for learning. Thus, the government should assist in corroboration with the other education agencies to provide quality classroom with well-equipped facilities to help improve learning

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