



STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES IN BUSINESS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN COLLEGE OF EDUCATION IN IMO STATE

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Abstract

This study was carried out to determine the strategies for improving Educational resources in Business Education Department in College of Education in Imo State. Descriptive survey design was adopted for the study; the population consisted of 32 lecturers and 2 instructors who teach in Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education, Owerri Imo State. Two research questions were formulated and the instrument used for data collection was a structured questionnaire. The data collected were analysed, using mean and standard deviation. The results of the study revealed strategies for providing and improving educational resources other than waiting for fund from government. These strategies include; Business Education department should set up business centre where word processing, photocopy and other secretarial services can be rendered at reduced rates, lecturers and office staff of the department should be sponsored constantly for training, workshops and seminars on modern equipment for updating of their knowledge. It was recommended among others, that Alumni members and philanthropists should assist in procuring of learning equipment and building of laboratories.

Keywords: *Strategies, Educational Resources, Business Education*

Introduction

The globalization and rapid changes with ICT demand that there should be adequate provision and usage of educational resources in tertiary institutions in Nigeria especially the modern technology, and information gadgets. This is important because the success of any project is a function of the available resources to carry out such project.

Educational Resources are the resources which are freely accessible, openly licensed text, media and other digital assets used for acquiring knowledge, sharing



knowledge, teaching and learning as well as for research purposes. They are tools that work as keys, supports, complementary elements, among others for education. Ugwuanyi (2013) stated that education resources are those things that stimulate a learner and help in the understanding of the curriculum content. They are the important aids, which are needed for the implementation of educational programmes in schools.

Resources in business education are those basic equipment and requirements for the attainment of the objectives of the programme. It comprises materials; human and financial. Material resources include all instructional facilities and various equipment needed for teaching, workshop and laboratories activities. Human resources are the lecturers, supporting staff in offices and laboratories/workshops instructors/technicians while financial resources have to do with funds for running the schools.

Ibrahim (2013) stated that business Education is a course of study which equips individuals with functional and saleable skills, knowledge, attitudes and values which enable fresh graduates to operate in the environment he/she finds himself or herself such that he/she is self-reliant and becomes a job creator rather than a job seeker. Similarly, Okoli (2010) saw business education as an important component of the overall education, which stresses on skills and capabilities attainment for utilization in offices and business-related occupations. The various programmes of study in business Education expose its recipients to numerous employment opportunities such as secretarial services, marketing, consulting services, management, financial institution workers, office administration services, credit card issuing and others (Awojobi, 2015).

Strategy according to Osahon (2013) is the technique or mechanism put in place to maintain the degree of excellence of a product or service. In education, strategy is the plan of action designed to achieve the set goals of education. Looking at the definitions of business education in this context, it is obvious that conscious effort is demanded to ensure that all the necessary resources needed to achieve quality and efficient results in the programme is guaranteed through proper planning, qualified personnel and adequate funding. In the same view, Awojobi (2015) stressed that the provision of adequate and appropriate learning experiences which generate effective



and meaningful learning, requires adequate manpower, finance and other resources. Ironically, in many educational institutions in our society today, these resources are lacking due to poor funding and mal administration.

Statement of the Problem

The productivity of an organization is seen as the relationship between, units of labour input and units of output. Okoro and Dajur (2011) stated that the success or failure of an organisation depends on management and management entails the coordination of both man and material resources. Modern business Education curriculum is designed to make its graduates to be effective workers and job creators, as such, facilities are needed for the intensive training. In a bid to ensure adequate material, human and financial resources, government established Education Trust Fund (ETF) for the provision of education facilities, yet the funds are not always adequate to install all those equipment and facilities required in most institutions of learning. There is therefore need to come up with strategies to augment and improve on what the institutions and education authority can afford. It is on this promise that the study sought to determine the strategies for improving the educational resources in business Education department in Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education in Imo State.

Research Questions

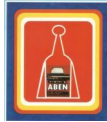
The Following research questions guided the study:

What are the strategies for improving Human resources in business Education department?

What are the strategies for improving materials resources in business Education department?

Method

The study was conducted in Imo State of Nigeria. The population consisted of the 32 teachers and two instructors who teach in Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education, Owerri. There was no sampling because the entire population was used for the study. The study adopted descriptive design since it involved collection of data from a given population to ascertain their opinions, beliefs and attitude. Instrument used was a 20 point structured questionnaire on a 4 point scale of strongly agree = 4, Agree = 3, Disagree =2 and Strongly disagree = 1. The instrument was validated by experts



in business Education and measurement and evaluation, the instrument was administered to the respondents personally by the researcher and all the 34 copies of the instrument distributed were collected and data collected were analysed using the mean (\bar{x}) and standard deviation (SD).

Results:

Research Question One

What are the strategies for improving human resources in business Education?

Table I: *mean responses of strategies for improving Human Resources in Business Education.*

S/N	Improvement Strategies Items	\bar{O}	SD	Interpretation
1.	Manuel type-writers in typing Laboratories should have service technicians.	3.20	0.49	Agree
2.	Technicians/instructors in laboratories to be sent on training on the repairs of equipment.	4.19	0.68	Agree
3.	Lecturers to be sponsored for ICT training regularly.	3.81	0.83	Agree
4.	Management should sponsor lecturers for studies such as PhD, master and PGDE programmes.	4.31	0.79	Agree
5.	Lecturers/instructors to have their own personal computers.	4.33	0.89	Agree
6.	Students should be encouraged to have their portable type writers for practicing.	3.59	0.89	Agree
7.	Business Education department to always organise in-house seminars/workshop and conferences for lecturers and students.	3.70	0.82	Agree
8.	Lecturers in business Education to write textbooks in their various areas to aid teaching and learning.	4.15	0.66	S. Agree
9.	Lecturers be assigned courses according to areas of specialization.	4.44	07	S. Agree
10.	Cordial relationship should be established among lecturers and management.	3.87	0.92	Agree

The data presented in Table 1 showed that all the ten items for improving human resources had means scores between 3.20 to 4.44 .

Research Question Two

What are the strategies for improving material resources in business Education department?

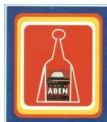


Table 2: Mean responses of respondents on the strategies for improving material resources in business Education department.

S/N	Improvement Strategies Items	O	SD	Interpretation
11.	Students Association to be encouraged to undertake project such as procuring some ICT facilities for the department.	4.70	0.55	S. Agree
12.	Department to establish and run business centre to raise money internally to assist in maintain the facilities in department.	3.78	1.09	Agree
13.	Development levy to be paid by students.	4.00	0.30	Agree
14.	Philanthropists to install computer laboratory fully equipped and such named after their names.	3.96	061	Agree
15.	Authorities of Education Trust Fund (ETF) to include business Education in priority list for assistance in provision of equipment	4.75	057	S. Agree
16.	Offer supplementary admission to few students whose parents can donate some teaching equipment to the department.	3.83	0.86	Agree
17.	Organize lunching/funding raising programmes for stakeholders of the college community Encourage students to join Alumni Association after graduation so as to always assist in provision of some teaching materials	3.59	0.89	Agree
19.	Enrichment of curriculum to incorporate production of improvised instructional materials by students	2.72	1.48	Agree
20.	Sharing of facilities with other nearby institutions by cooperative schedule and joint financing	2.41	0.93	Disagree

Table 2 shows that mean responses of business Education lecturers/instructors on the strategies for improving material resources for teaching and learning in business Education programmes in colleges of Education. The Table reveals that all the items listed were agreed to be strategies for improving educational material resources. They all have mean response between 2.72 to 4.75 signifying that the respondents agreed on those strategies. However, item 10 has a mean score of 2.41 showing that respondents disagreed on the strategies: sharing facilities with other nearby institutions by cooperative schedule and joint financing. Such was not acceptable as strategy for improving material resources in the college.



Discussion

The findings in Table 1 revealed that the strategies listed help in improving human resources in Alvan Ikokwu College of Education. This finding is in line with Uzo_ Okonkwo and Odu (2017) who noted that schools should take steps to help in the teaching and learning of Business Education by providing enough materials, resource persons, facilities and encourage collaborations between schools and industries. Furthermore, the findings in Table 2 showed that most of the strategies identified could enhance the use of material resources in the teaching of Business Education. The finding is in line with the opinions of Mmeremukwu-fiac and Onwukwe (2016) who opined that government should liaise with other stake holders in the society to put in place a workable ICT policy for tertiary institutions and that business Education curriculum should be reviewed to include e-learning in the instructional delivery. Udofia (2013) also noted that different stake holders such as parents, teachers, administrators, ministers among others should participate directly in funding vocational Business Education programme.

Conclusion

The success of any project is affected by the resources available to implement such project and business Education as an academic and laudable programme can only be effective when both human and material resources are provided.

Recommendations

Sequel to the findings of the study and conclusion, the following recommendations were made:-

The students of the department should pay a certain small amount as development levy to help maintain the equipment in the department.

Lecturers and office staff of the department should be sponsored constantly for training, workshops and seminars on modern equipment for updating of their knowledge.

The department should establish consultancy unit and link up with successful Alumni members and philanthropists who may be kind to assist in equipping ICT laboratories, donate other equipment and their names should be written on any laboratory equipment or building donated by such persons.

The department should keep effective accounting system to ensure that the money obtained and generated internally are adequately utilized to provide the needed educational resources.



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