



PRINCIPAL ADMINISTRATIVE STRATEGIES OF STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN RIVERS STATE

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ABSTRACT

This study examined principal administrative strategies of students in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State. The population of this study comprised of all public senior secondary students in Rivers State. The population of the study comprised of 261,404 public senior secondary school students in Rivers State. The sample of this study was 399 students of public senior secondary schools in Rivers State and the instrument for data collection was a self-structured questionnaire designed by the researcher titled "Principal administrative strategies and changing demographics in Public Senior Secondary Schools Questionnaire. Mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research questions, while Pearson Product Moment Correlation coefficient was used to test the formulated null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The findings of this study showed that to a high extent, the honesty of the principal of the school helps to enhance the display of good character from students, the ability of the principal to be clean and efficient to make the students to exude good attitude, the transparency of the principal of the school helps to promote excellence among students, the considerate and compassionate character of the principal helps to enhance the all-round behavior of students, and the high ethical status of the principal of the school helps to promote good behaviors among students. The study therefore recommended that different policies should be put in place to control the enrollment of student to overcome over school population to ensure effective administration of public secondary schools.

Keywords: Principal, administrative, strategies and students



INTRODUCTION

The administrators are so important in schools that without which according to the Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN, 2014) effective functioning of schools will be a mirage. Hoy and Miskel (2013) highlighted the administrative functions of principals as maintaining school administrative friendship between the school and the community, allocation of duties, division of labor, supervision/inspection, motivation, appropriate or timely display of leadership styles for effective or viable tranquility that will bring an expected administrative outcome.

As the head of a school, a principal must be ready to handle the complexity of his or her obligations as well as any inevitable social, economic, technical, political, or cultural issues that can obstruct the performance of his or her administrative duties or the general well-being of the school (Patrick, 2021). Principals of secondary schools must devote a lot of time and effort to their administrative duties. However, principals must come up with answers to the many issues that face them in the educational system, including staff indiscipline, staff disengagement, internal and external relations, and subpar academic performance among pupils, among others, that may occasionally arise (Patrick, 2022). As an instructional leader, the principal is increasingly expected to carry out the following responsibilities: fostering an environment that supports teaching and learning; working to improve student performance and hold them accountable for their results; supporting and overseeing teachers' instructional and classroom management; overseeing the implementation of the curriculum and its localization to ensure its relevance to the school; and making sure that an effective staff development programme is in place. In addition to this, no principal can achieve secondary education's aims and goals without knowing how to do their administrative duties in an efficient manner (Patrick, 2023). Lack of these abilities may interfere with positive learning settings and lead to issues like test fraud, cultism, and subpar academic performance.

The administrators may have some influence over how efficiently schools are run. The principals and vice-principals of the school are the administrators in charge of running it on a daily basis. The planning, organisation, monitoring of the curriculum, and evaluation of other educational activities are frequently considered to be characteristics of school administrators.

Statement of the Problem

The day-to-day management of secondary schools is usually done by some administrators who happen to be the principals and the vice-principals. The proper administration of disciplinary measures, guidance and counselling services, personnel services, integrity and orientation programme services in secondary schools is usually being coordinated by the principals and their deputies. These administrators are therefore expected to manage the schools effectively such that the teachers would be able to perform their duties optimally and the students would also do well academically.

However, the researcher has observed that due to the current rise in student enrollment in most public secondary schools in Rivers State, there has been a steady decline in schools' administrative



efficiency resulting to low quality education delivery and poor students' academic achievements as against the objectives of the national policy of education. This is evident in the bad behaviors students exhibit in schools, poor attendance of students to school and classes, high level of truancy among students, amongst other vices. This assertion is assumed to be true because the more the population of students in a school increase, the more difficult it becomes for principal's to effectively manage the school. This maybe so due to the fact that students came from different family backgrounds, hence, they possess different upbringing and societal morals and when they come to school, they tend to exude all the good and bad morals and characters in them thereby making it difficult for school administrators to effectively manage the school. Also, it appears that a good number of principals in public secondary schools lack basic administrative skills, hence they struggle to effectively manage the growing population of students from diverse family setting. It is against this backdrop that this research will seek to determine the principals' administrative strategies and changing demographics of students and how it relates to in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State.

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of the study is to examine principal administrative strategies of students in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State. Specifically, the study seeks to:

1. Determine the extent to which integrity as a principal's administrative strategy influence changing demographics of students in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State.
2. Ascertain the extent to which orientation programs as a principal's administrative strategy influence changing demographics of students in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State.

Research Questions

The following research questions will guide the study:

1. To what extent does integrity as a principal's administrative strategy influence changing demographics of students in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State?
2. To what extent does orientation programs as a principal's administrative strategy influence changing demographics of students in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State?

Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses are formulated to guide the study:

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between integrity as a principal's administrative strategy and changing demographics of students in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State.

H₀₂: There is no significant relationship between orientation programs as a principal's administrative strategy and changing demographics of students in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State



METHODOLOGY

This study used a correlational research design as its methodology. All senior secondary pupils in Rivers State's public schools made up the study's population. 261,404 public senior high school pupils from Rivers State made up the study's population (Planning, Research & Statistics Department, RSSSSB, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, 2021). 399 seniors from Rivers State's public senior secondary schools made up the study's sample. A self-structured questionnaire titled "Principal Administrative Strategies and Changing Demographics in Public Senior Secondary Schools Questionnaire PASCDPSSSQ," created by the researcher, served as the data gathering tool. A and B were the two portions of the instrument. The respondents' demographic information was collected in Section A, and the research questions and study hypotheses were addressed in Section B, which included 50 statement items about shifting demographics and key administrative techniques. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23.0 was used to code, arrange, and analyse the data that had been obtained from the respondents. Mean and standard deviation were utilised to answer the study questions, and the null hypotheses were tested at a 0.05 level of significance using the Pearson Product Moment Correlation coefficient. The results support Ozioko's (2014) hypothesis that there is no discernible difference in the mean evaluations of faculty and students at both the federal and state levels with regard to how much orientation programmes for students improve their academic performance.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Research Question One: To what extent does integrity as a principal's administrative strategy influence changing demographics of students in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State?

Table 1: Mean ratings and standard deviation on the extent integrity as a principal's administrative strategy influence changing demographics of students in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State.

S/N	Item Statement	\bar{X}	SD	Decision
1	The honesty of the principal of the school helps to enhance the display of good character from students	2.98	1.12	High Extent
2	The ability of the principal to be clean and efficient to make the students to exude good attitude	2.99	1.03	High Extent
3	The transparency of the principal of the school helps to promote excellence among students	3.02	1.03	High Extent
4	The considerate and compassionate character of the principal helps to enhance the all-round behaviour of students	3.00	1.03	High Extent
5	The high ethical status of the principal of the school helps to promote good behaviours among students	3.01	1.02	High Extent
Grand mean		2.98	1.07	High Extent



Data on Table 1 show the mean ratings and standard deviation on the extent integrity as a principal's administrative strategy influence changing demographics of students in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State. The table show that students agreed to a high extent that The honesty of the principal of the school helps to enhance the display of good character from students, The ability of the principal to be clean and efficient to make the students to exude good attitude, The transparency of the principal of the school helps to promote excellence among students, The considerate and compassionate character of the principal helps to enhance the all-round behaviour of students and The high ethical status of the principal of the school helps to promote good behaviours among students in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State as agreed by majority of the respondents on item 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 with the weighted mean scores of 2.98, 2.99, 3.02, 3.00 and 3.01 respectively. Hence, integrity as a principal's administrative strategy influence in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State.

Again, the overall weighted mean score of 2.98 shows that students agreed that to a high extent that integrity as a principal's administrative strategy influence changing demographics of students in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State. From the ranking order, item 18 came highest with the mean score of 3.02, while item 16 came lowest with the mean score of 2.98.

Research Question Two: To what extent does orientation programs as a principal's administrative strategy influence changing demographics of students in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State?

Table 2: Mean ratings and Standard deviation on the extent orientation programs as a principal's administrative strategy influence changing demographics of students in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State

S/N	Item Statement	\bar{X}	SD	Decision
6	Provision of orientation services to students helps to improve their level of awareness	3.15	0.96	High Extent
7	Organization of orientation programmes for student helps to give then a proper sense of direction in making career choices	2.91	1.04	High Extent
8	Administration of guidance and advice to students aids to improve their perspective to education	3.08	1.01	High Extent
9	Orientating students on the benefits of avoiding social vices enhances their level of focus in schools	3.04	1.05	High Extent
10	The perception of students towards their academics is a function of the quality of orientation that has been given to them	2.15	1.05	Low Extent
Grand mean		2.85	1.01	High Extent



Data on Table 2 show the mean ratings and standard deviation on the extent orientation programs as a principal's administrative strategy influence changing demographics of students in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State. The table show that students agreed to a high extent that Provision of orientation services to students helps to improve their level of awareness, Organization of orientation programmes for student helps to give then a proper sense of direction in making career choices, Administration of guidance and advice to students aids to improve their perspective to education, and Orientating students on the benefits of avoiding social vices enhances their level of focus in schools in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State as agreed by majority of the respondents on item 21, 22, 23, and 24 with the weighted mean scores of 3.15, 2.91, 3.08, and 3.04 respectively. Hence, orientation programs as a principal's administrative strategy influence changing demographics of students in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State. Again, the overall weighted mean score of 2.85 shows that students agreed that to a high extent that orientation programs as a principal's administrative strategy influence changing demographics of students in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State. From the ranking order, item 21 came highest with the mean score of 3.15, while item 25 came lowest with the mean score of 2.15.

Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis One: There is no significant relationship between integrity as a principal's administrative strategy and changing demographics of students in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State.

Table 3: Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Analysis of significant relationship integrity as a principal's administrative strategy and changing demographics of students in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State.

		Correlations		
		Integrity	Changing Demographics	Decision
Integrity	Pearson Correlation	1	.53	Rejected
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.004	
	N	394	394	
Changing Demographics	Pearson Correlation	.53	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.004		
	N	394	394	

*S= Significant $p < 0.05$

A moderately positive relationship between integrity as a principal's administrative strategy and changing student demographics in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State was found in the statistical testing of hypothesis one, as indicated by the correlation coefficient value of $r = 0.53$ (53.0%). Additionally, the alternative hypothesis was supported, and the null hypothesis that claimed there was no significant connection between integrity as a principal's administrative



method and shifting student demographics in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State was rejected. [(P =.004) $p < 0.05$].

Hypothesis Two: There is no significant relationship between orientation programs as a principal's administrative strategy and changing demographics of students in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State.

Table 4: Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Analysis of significant relationship between orientation programs as a principal's administrative strategy and changing demographics of students in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State.

		Correlations		
		Orientation Programs	Changing Demographics	Decision
Orientation Programs	Pearson Correlation	1	.42	Rejected
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	
	N	394	394	
Changing Demographics	Pearson Correlation	.42	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		
	N	394	394	

*S= Significant $p < 0.05$

A moderately positive relationship between orientation programmes as a principal's administrative strategy and changing student demographics in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State was found in the statistical testing of hypothesis two, as indicated by the correlation coefficient value of $r = 0.42$ (42.0%). Additionally, the alternative hypothesis was supported and the null hypothesis, which claimed that there was no significant connection between orientation programmes as a principal's administrative strategy and shifting student demographics in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State, was rejected [(P =.000) $p < 0.05$].

Discussion of the Findings

The findings of this study showed that to a high extent, the honesty of the principal of the school helps to enhance the display of good character from students, the ability of the principal to be clean and efficient to make the students to exude good attitude, the transparency of the principal of the school helps to promote excellence among students, the considerate and compassionate character of the principal helps to enhance the all-round behaviour of students, and the high ethical status of the principal of the school helps to promote good behaviours among students.

The findings of this study showed that to a high extent, provision of orientation services to students helps to improve their level of awareness, organization of orientation programmes for student helps to give them a proper sense of direction in making career choices, administration of guidance and advice to students aids to improve their perspective to education, and orientating students on the benefits of avoiding social vices enhances their level of focus in schools.



The findings are also in agreement with Ozioko (2014) who postulated that there is no significant difference between the mean ratings of staff and students of both federal and state on the extent to which orientation programs for students enhance their academic performance.

Conclusions

The findings of the study indicated that principal administrative strategies influenced the changing demographics of students. The study revealed that Effective implementation of disciplinary measures to students enhances the attendance of students to class. The study also showed that Provision of guidance and counseling services enhances students' academic performance. The study also revealed that Provision of adequate educational facilities enhance the enrolment of students. Also found out from the study was that the honesty of the principal of the school helps to enhance the display of good character from students; Provision of orientation services to students helps to improve their level of awareness, amongst others. The implication is that, there is relationship between principal administrative strategies and the changing demographics of students based on gender in public senior secondary schools in Rivers State.

Recommendations

Base on the findings the researcher makes the following recommendations.

1. Different policies should be put in place to control the enrollment of student to overcome over school population to ensure effective administration of public secondary schools.
2. The ministry of education and post primary schools board should create different modalities for principals so as for them to effectively manage the changing demographics of students.

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