

THE ROLE OF PARENTS ASSOCIATION IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN ENUGU NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF ENUGU STATE

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ABSTRACT

This study was carried out to investigate the role of Parents Association in the administration of secondary schools in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State. The research design adopted by the researcher in this study is the descriptive survey research design. The population of the study will consist of all principals and teachers in nine public secondary schools in Enugu North Local Government Areas of Enugu State, numbering, 525. Simple random sampling was used to select one hundred and five (105) principals and teacher respondents which represented the ten percent (10%) of the entire population. The instrument for data collection will be a researcher structured questionnaire. The instrument was subjected to both face and content validation. The researcher used Cronbach's alpha statistical method in determining the reliability coefficients of the instruments. The reliability coefficient of the samples yielded overall score yield 0.75. The data collected will be analyzed in tables using mean and standard deviation. The findings revealed that; The finding shows that the of parent associations contributes to the management of school facilities, that parent associations contributes to staff management and development in secondary schools. It was recommended that; The PA and educational administrators should make concerted efforts to improve and sustain the contributions of the PA in raising school's moral tones.

Keywords: Parents, Association, Administration, and Secondary Schools

Introduction

In the education value chain, parents are a group of stakeholders that play a wide range of roles. Right from the home through the school environment, their involvement continues to be pivotal in enhancing smooth teaching and learning processes in education (Iremeka and Ezenwaji, 2021). One prominent ways through which parents get directly involve in their children education is by establishing and/or joining Parents Association solely for the maintenance and possibly improvement of educational standards in the schools.

Parent associations in secondary schools are organizations formed by parents and caregivers of students attending the school. In secondary schools, one of the most common parents association is the Parent-Teacher Association (PA). A parent-teacher association (PA) is a formal



organization composed of parents, teachers and other school staff intended to facilitate parental participation in the school administration. According to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2016), the PA is a not-for-profit body consisting of students' parents/guardians, teachers, and other administrative staff and whose objective is to promote parents'/guardians' involvement in school-level decision-making, and support fundraising initiatives for supplementary educational projects. In the same vein, Mutinda (2015) sees PA as a formal body made up of parents whose children are officially registered as students in the school together with their teachers. Thus, the PA is a voluntary association of parents and teacher in a particular school established for its development (Ugwulashi, 2018).

These associations play a vital role in supporting the educational experience of students by fostering a strong partnership between parents, teachers, and the school community (Duze, 2017). They provide a platform for parents to collaborate with the school administration, share ideas, and work together to enhance the learning environment. Parent associations often organize various activities and events such as fundraisers, family fun days, workshops, and educational programs. These initiatives not only help raise funds for the school but also create opportunities for parents to actively participate in their child's education and build a sense of community within the school (Steven, 2020). Additionally, parent associations can serve as a valuable resource for parents, offering support, information, and a forum for discussing concerns related to their child's education. They may also play a role in advocating for the needs and interests of the student body, ensuring that the school provides a safe and inclusive environment for all students (Eziuzo and Enueme, 2015). All of the above functions aid the smooth administration of the school.

School administration is an important part of any education system. Administrators face a variety of issues on daily basis. These issues range from installation/maintenance of the physical school environment (building); acquisition of educational facilities; staff management; student academics performance among others (Thusyansini and Ravavithani, 2014). Meanwhile, every school administrator (principal) has a personal educational leadership philosophy. Therefore, administrative effectiveness will be the positive response to administrative efforts and actions with the intention to deal with these issues of administration (Akomolafe, 2012). In other words, effective administration is the administrative performance in decision making, delegation of duties to subordinates, and setting good examples and motivating the teachers and students alike in an effort to create a conducive working environment to accomplish school goal and objectives which enhances subordinate performance for school success. The administrative ineffectiveness of secondary school principal had been observed by Adegun (2012), as a factor inhibiting attainment of goals in secondary schools. Tess (2013), claimed that administrators must motivate staff to use their creativity and initiative as necessary in making inputs, towards the accomplishment of institutional goals.

Every school is only as strong as the leadership and administration that runs it. Being a school administrator or in a school leadership position is a thankless job and one that comes with making difficult decisions. However, an effective school leader can change the fortune of a school and the benefits of seeing student growth. This is where the job of the principal, whose sole responsibility is to manage secondary school, is augmented by Parents Association. Parents Association plays an effective role in the present scenario of school education system. It is an



important group to spread discipline, knowledge and cooperation among the students, parents and teachers at the grass root level. In school education system such associations have provided significant results at the National and International level. Many developed and underdeveloped countries have adopted the formation of Parents Association at school level. “Parents Association” is a group that is formed by the parents and teachers who have a positive interest in the harmonious development of the students. The aim of the Parents Association is to contribute to the development and improvement of all aspects of school life – academic, moral values, sports, culture, extra-curricular activities, equipment and organization, through the following objectives

To bring parents, teachers and students together to nurture a spirit of mutual understanding, civilization, loyalty, fellowship and co-operation with the aim of achieving the highest education, moral, ethical and cultural standards. (ii) To enable effective communication between parents, teachers, and students and school principal, administration and state education governing body. (iii) To strengthen the relationship between the home and the school. (iv) To assist the Principal/Headmaster and teachers of the school for overall welfare of the society. (v) To organize, jointly various functions and social activities that will contribute to the objectives of parents Association. (vi) To generate funds for the benefit of the students collectively. (vii) To maintain full transparency in all matters affecting parents, teachers and students of the school. (viii) To develop a platform to share and spread the national educational policies among the society and to maintain a positive image of the school to the broader community.

Thus, it is against the background that the current study seeks to investigate the role of Parents Association in the administration of Secondary Schools in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State.

Statement of the Problem

A careful examination of the secondary school system in Nigeria suggests that there are some problems bedeviling the effective administration of the secondary school education. Some of these are the problem of Inadequate funding is a major problem facing the educational institutions in Nigeria from the primary level to the university level. The success of any secondary school system depends on the amount of resources available to it. Money is an input of any educational system that provides the essential purchasing power with which the system acquires its human and physical input. Again there is the challenges of poor physical and instructional facilities. Efficient and effective running of schools to achieve pre-determined goals can hardly be without sufficient facilities to aid teaching and learning. Meanwhile, the state of inadequacy of facilities in most secondary schools in Nigeria is a manifestation of poor funding of the system. It has been observed that some school principals do not involve the parents in administration of the schools for the fear of being criticized. The non-involvement of parents in school governance, most often than not, results in lack of cooperation between the school and the parents which invariably limits the extent to which the schools can perform

Thus, the effective administration of secondary schools could be hampered where the Parents Association is not performing its roles as expected. It is based on this identified and observable



problems that this study seeks to investigate the role of Parents Association in the Administration of secondary schools in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State for studies have revealed the many benefits that are accrued for the school and for parents themselves when parents become involved in the administration of school their children/wards attend.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of the study is to examine the role of Parents Association in the administration of secondary schools in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Determine the contributions of parent associations to the management of school facilities in secondary schools in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State
2. Ascertain the contributions of parent associations to staff management and development in secondary schools in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State

Research Questions

The following questions guided this study:

1. What are the contributions of parent associations to the management of school facilities in secondary schools in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State?
2. What are the contributions of parent associations to staff management and development in secondary schools in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State?

Method

The research design adopted by the researcher in this study is the descriptive survey research design. This study was carried out in Enugu North Local Government Area. Enugu North is one of the local government areas that make up Enugu state. The population of the study will consist of all principals and teachers in nine public secondary schools in Enugu North Local Government Areas of Enugu State, numbering, 525 (Source: PPSMB Enugu Zone, 2024). The sample size for the study will comprise one hundred and five (105) principals and teacher respondents which represented the ten percent (20%) of the entire population of principals and teachers in the public secondary schools in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu state. The instrument for data collection will be a researcher structured questionnaire. The questionnaire was titled: Role of Parent Association in Administration of Secondary School Questionnaire (RPAASSQ). The instrument was subjected to both face and content validation, it was validated by three experts, two in Education department Teacher and Curriculum Studies, Faculty Education and one in educational measurement and evaluation. To determine the reliability of the instrument, the researcher used Cronbach's alpha statistical method in determining the reliability coefficients of the instruments. The reliability coefficient of the samples yielded 0.73 and 0.76 respectively while the overall score yield 0.75. This was considered high enough for this study. The data collected will be analyzed in tables using mean and standard deviation.



Results

Research Question 1: What are the contributions of parent associations to the management of school facilities in secondary schools in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State?

Table 1: Responses on the contributions of parent associations to the management of school facilities

S / N	Questionnaire Items	SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1	N	Σfx	\bar{X}	Decision
1	Parents task themselves to raise funds for acquiring instructional materials for school	36	45	18	6	105	321	3.06	Accept
2	They sometimes solicit sponsorship/goodwill from patrons for pet projects in schools	37	38	21	9	105	313	2.98	Accept
3	They draw government attention to dilapidated structures	46	37	11	11	105	328	3.12	Accept
4	They device means for maintaining existing structures/facilities in school	29	37	11	28	105	277	2.64	Accept
5	They help keep school management accountable for existing plants and instructional materials	31	33	13	28	105	277	2.64	Accept
Grand Mean								2.89	Accept

The results in table 1 shows the opinions of the respondents on the contributions of parent associations to the management of school facilities in secondary schools in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State. From table the mean scores of 3.06, 2.98, 3.12, 2.64 and 2.64 for items of 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 respectively were all above the criterion mean score of 2.50. Therefore, we accept and agree that the of parent associations contributes to the management of school facilities in secondary schools in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State

Research Question 2: What are the contributions of parent associations to staff management and development in secondary schools in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State?

Table 2: Responses on the contributions of parents associations to staff management and development in secondary schools

S/N	Questionnaire Items	SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1	N	Σfx	\bar{X}	Decision
6	The make recommendation for recruitment in cases of staff shortages	46	37	11	11	105	328	3.12	Accept
7	They initiate nonfinancial incentives to motivate teachers	28	39	16	22	105	283	2.70	Accept
8	Parents sometimes offer honourary awards to deserving teachers, which boost their job performance	31	36	18	20	105	288	2.74	Accept
9	They recommend and even sponsor training programmes for teachers	37	38	21	9	105	313	2.98	Accept
10	They play supervisory role, which enhances teachers job performance	30	57	7	11	105	316	3.01	Accept
Grand Mean								2.76	Accept

The results in table 2 indicates the opinions of the respondents on the contributions of parent associations to staff management and development in secondary schools in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State. From table the mean scores of 3.12, 2.70, 2.74, 2.98 and 3.01 for items of 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 respectively were all above the criterion mean score of 2.50. Therefore, we accept and agree that the of parent associations contributes to staff management and development in secondary schools in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State

Summary of Findings

Based on the result of data analysis, the following findings were made;

1. The finding shows that the of parent associations contributes to the management of school facilities in secondary schools in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State such that Parent associations contribute finance and solicit sponsorship to the provision of instructional materials, building facilities; and even hold school management accountable for maintenance of school facilities in secondary schools in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State



2. The finding indicates that parent associations contribute to staff management and development in secondary schools in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State such that the parent associations make recommendations for staff recruitment and remuneration; they even contribute to staff supervision in secondary schools in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State.

Discussion of the Findings

Research question 1 sought the contributions of parent associations to the management of school facilities in secondary schools in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State. It was revealed that parents task themselves to raise funds for acquiring instructional materials for school; they sometimes solicit sponsorship/goodwill from patrons for projects in schools, draw government attention to dilapidated structures; they devise means for maintaining existing structures/facilities in school; they help keep school management accountable for existing plants and instructional materials. This finding is in line with those of Adeyemi and Bolarinwa (2013) and Omeke and Onah (2012) who found that in the administration of schools, Parents Association often help in providing efficient and effective facilities that aid teaching and learning.

Research question 2 inquired into the contributions of parent associations to staff management and development in secondary schools in Enugu North Local Government Area of Enugu State. It was found that parents' association make recommendation for recruitment in cases of staff shortages; they initiate nonfinancial incentives to motivate teachers; parents sometimes offer honorary awards to deserving teachers, which boost their job performance; They recommend and even sponsor training programmes for teachers; They play a supervisory role, which enhances teachers' job performance. This finding is similar to that of Akomolafe C.O. (2012). On democratic leadership, it was found out that teachers think that it affects job satisfaction to a great extent, particularly teachers were satisfied with democratic leadership style of principals, Omeke and Onah (2012) and Akomolafe C.O. (2012). The findings indicated that the laissez-faire leadership has little effect on teachers' job satisfaction.

Conclusion

From the findings of the study, the following conclusions were reached:

1. It was apparent that the Parents Association play a huge role in maintaining school facilities.
2. Parent Association play a huge role in staff recruitment in secondary schools.
3. Parent Association have a huge role to play in enhancing students' academic engagement in secondary schools in Enugu North Local Government Area.

Recommendations

Upon the findings of this research work, the following recommendations were made:

- (1) The State Education Commission and Ministry of Education in Enugu State should formulate relevant policies to compel school PAs to be more useful to school's management.
- (2) The PA and educational administrators should make concerted efforts to improve and sustain the contributions of the PA in raising school's moral tones

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