

**EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES: NECESSARY TOOLS FOR  
EFFECTIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING PROCESS IN SCHOOLS IN ILORIN  
METROPOLIS**

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**Abstract**

*Adequate provision of educational facilities plays a very germane function in the attainment of educational goals through effective teaching and learning process. This paper examined the educational facilities as a tool for effective teaching and learning process in Ilorin Metropolis. Therefore, it covers concept of educational facilities, concept of effective teaching and learning process, relevance of educational facilities in school among others. It was therefore suggested among others that governments at all levels need to be committed to delivering a competitive and high quality and standard of education across the country through adequate provision of educational facilities for effective teaching and learning process. School management should improve on the maintenance culture on the limited available educational facilities for effective teaching and learning process*

**Keywords:** *Educational Facilities, Teaching and Learning Process*

**Introduction**

Educational facilities can be defined as resources within which living organisms interact with the physical element in the school system. Educational facilities interact with effective teaching and learning process in order to be socialized and face the challenges in the school system. Educational facilities can also be seen as aggregate of all the external condition and influence affecting the life and development of every student in the school system.

However, educational facilities encompass all the external condition and influences in the school that affect the academic achievement of the student through effective teaching and learning process such as laboratory equipment, library facilities, qualified teachers, furniture, school building, good administrative management, teacher-student relationship and school location among others (Ugwuanyi, 2018).

Educational facilities are the thread that connects the multitude of activities on the school. In many respects, this thread is almost invisible, yet everyone experiences its influence. It could be said to be the external influences in the school that can influence academic achievement of students irrespective of their intelligent quotient. Educational facilities can also be considered as the second

teacher since space has the power to organize and promote pleasant relationships between people of different ages, to provide changes, to promote choices and activities and for its potential for sparking different types of social and affective teaching and learning (Ugwuanyi, 2018).

The problems of educational facilities in most of the public schools are very tremendous with an unsatisfactory condition of the educational system being operated in Nigeria. Most of the public schools have inadequate school buildings, poor library, inadequate provision of textbooks, poor administrative management, poor laboratory equipments as well as bad school location. Ikediashi (2002) pointed out that poor teaching experience, inadequate or poor physical infrastructure, unsatisfactory building design are likely to cause some physical discomfort for the students and are therefore bound to influence their academic achievement through improper teaching and learning environment.

### **Concept of Educational Facilities**

Educational facilities are needed to develop cognitive areas of knowledge, abilities and skills that are necessary for academic achievement. Moreover, the development of the affective and psychomotor domain is also facilitated by the presence of necessary and relevant school facilities. The educational facilities in which the students learn such as classrooms, libraries and information centers, technical workshops, information and communication technology facilities, multipurpose halls and performing art spaces, laboratories, health, physical exercises and play grounds, conveniences, sanitation, maintenance culture, aesthetics among others, are variables that affect effective teaching and learning process, academic performance as well as teachers' job performance. Hence, the educational facilities remain an important area that should be studied and well managed to enhance teaching and learning process. The physical characteristics of schools have a variety of advantages on teachers, students, and the learning process. Poor lighting, noise, high levels of carbon dioxide in classrooms, and inconsistent temperatures make teaching and learning difficult (Pond & Rehan 2017). Poor maintenance and ineffective ventilation systems lead to poor health among students as well as teachers, which lead to poor performance and higher absentees rates (Lyons, 2011).

These factors can adversely affect student behaviour and lead to higher levels of frustration among teachers, and poor learning attitude among students. Beyond the direct effects that poor educational facilities have on students' ability to learn, the combination of poor facilities, which create an uncomfortable and uninviting workplace for teachers, combined with frustrating behaviour by students including poor concentration and hyperactivity, lethargy, or apathy, creates a stressful set of working conditions for teachers.

In addition to that, the educational facilities which include the classrooms, libraries, technical workshops, laboratories, teachers' quality, school management, teaching methods, peers, et cetera, are variables that affect students' academic achievement through effective teaching and learning process (Ajayi, 2015). Hinum (2009) also observed that there is a significance relationship between students' achievement and the condition of the educational facilities. Investment in education entails the provision of the necessary infrastructure and educational facilities that could lead the system to the desired goals and objectives.

Adegboyega (2012) observed that little attention is paid to education in terms of funding and this money is spent on recurrent expenditure leading to the deterioration of the existing educational facilities. The general conditions of infrastructure as well as instructional materials in some public secondary schools are poor. Adequate infrastructures are quite essential for conducive and productive learning (Oredein, 2010).

Educational facilities also include instructional space planning, administrative places planning, circulation space planning, space for conveniences planning, accessories planning, the teachers as well as the students themselves are essential in the effectiveness of teaching-learning process in schools. The extent to which student learning could be enhanced depends on their location within the school compound, the structure of their classroom, availability of instructional facilities and accessories. It is believed that a well planned school will gear up expected outcomes of education that will facilitate good social, political and economic emancipation, effective teaching and learning process and academic performance of the students (Ajao, 2011).

### **Concept of Effective Teaching and Learning Process**

Effective teaching and learning process can be considered as change that is permanent in nature because change is brought into students by a teacher through techniques like developing specific skills, changing some attitudes, or understanding specific scientific law operating behind a learning environment (Sequeira, 2012). However, in order to be an active learner in higher education, each student expects to be treated as an adult learner who has some right over the learning ambience in the form of asking questions and clearing of doubts through effective teaching and learning process (Michael, & Modell, 2013). That is, students expect to have ownership over the learning session (Mitra, 2008; Pond & Rehan, 2017).

Moreover, students also want their instructor to be cooperative and humorous who would teach clearly and usually use relevant examples so that the course material being taught becomes easy to understand, which is increasingly being required in classrooms today. With the current involvement in the higher education settings, by promoting effective teaching and learning process through different pedagogical approaches may not be enough. It is essential to ensure that education in designing curricula and assessment by ensuring that teaching and learning process enhance our teaching effectiveness and can also be used as a medium to eliminate barriers to education include all students (Pond & Rehan, 2017).

The factors responsible for creating a process to ensure effectiveness in teaching and learning aims to analyze the teaching and learning process to ensure effectiveness through a teacher responsibility to ensure regular interaction occurs between the basic human capabilities of a learner and the culturally invented technologies so that it finally leads to enhancement in their cognitive capabilities. In the context of Cohen and Hill (2000) opined that the quality an effective teaching and learning process is often compromised due to lack of constant up-gradation in knowledge on the subject or issue this is because the witnessed first-hand that innovation and continuous learning is the primary way to ensure success in teaching.

#### **Relevance of Educational Facilities in School**

Moreover, the recent development in Nigerian system of education, in relation to population and the UBE programmes is imperative for the government to improve the standard and quality of classroom buildings and provision of other physical facilities. This in essence will help to promote effective teaching and learning in our schools (Umoren, 2001).

This therefore has necessitated updating school curriculum and programmes to move at the same space as the modern educational facilities. Again, modern educational facilities like computers, information and communication technology (ICT), internet, slides magnetic board, interactive whiteboard and plasma screen, TV, etc must be made available and also use it for teaching process, (Morrish, 2002). Educational facilities consist of educational facilities, which include the hardware and software of the organization such as buildings, the library, furniture, textbooks, the laboratory, school equipment. While the software include the visual teaching aids, instructional materials like magnetic tapes, films, transparency, computer assisted instruction (CAI), internet and ICT. The effective utilization and implementation of these educational facilities in teaching depends on its availability and competence of the teachers (Fayose, 2014). In today's school environment, there exist differences in classroom building structures, instructional resources, library facilities, furniture, computer, internet, information communication technology (ICT), laboratory equipment, social studies resource centre and the teacher who are the promoters and motivators of students' interest in learning (Sequeira, 2012).

The term educational facilities means the entire scope of human, physical and social infrastructure provided in the school for the purpose of teaching/learning process (Okokoyo et al., 2012). Educational facilities as physical resources which the school administrators and his reference group harness, allocate, utilize and maintain for the purpose of effective school administration that will facilitate teaching/learning process in schools (Okokoyo et al., 2012).

Educational facilities are those materials that enhance teaching/learning processes. That educational facilities refer to buildings as well as items such as machines, laboratory equipment, chalkboard and learners' tools. They are those things which enable a skillful teacher to achieve a level of instructional objectives that far exceeds what is possible when they are not provided (Earthman, 2002; Adeiple, 2007). Therefore, the planning and designing of educational facilities for schools,

colleges and universities possess a greater influence on the performance outcome of social studies students. This is certainly true, because deferred maintenance of the educational facilities whether human resources (e.g. teachers), social or physical facilities and inadequate provision of these facilities can create deteriorating environment such as dilapidated buildings, peeling paint, crumbling plaster, broken furniture and non functioning learning facilities. This of course, affects students learning habit and staff morale.

Though educational system in Nigeria has witnessed tremendous increase in the area of expansion and students' enrolment within the past two decades in the midst of limited materials and dilapidated educational facilities, these problems still linger within the Nigerian school system, without a corresponding increase in the area of learning facilities (Higgins, Hall, Wall, Woolner & McCaughey, 2015).

### **Challenges facing the Provision of Educational Facilities in School**

The challenges facing the adequate provision of educational facilities in schools particularly public schools according to Aiyegbusi (2015),

#### **Poor Funding**

The first and possibly one of the greatest challenges facing adequate provision of educational facilities in schools is inadequate funding both the Federal, State and Local Government. In the year 2017, Nigeria's education sector was again allocated much lower than the 26 percent of annual national budget recommended by the United Nations. The global organization recommended the budgetary benchmark to enable nations adequately cater for rising education demands. But, in the proposal presented to the National Assembly, President Muhammadu Buhari allocated only 7.04% of the 8.6 trillion 2018 budget to the education. The total sum allocated to the sector was N605.8 billion, with N435.1 billion for recurrent expenditure, N61.73 billion for capital expenditure and N109.06 billion for the Universal Basic Education Commission (Aiyegbusi, 2015).

#### **Poor Governance**

Poor governance and mismanagement have crippled most sectors in the country not leaving behind the education sector. Government's attitude towards crucial problems of education, especially its quality, is lackadaisical. Governments at all levels are more concerned about issues that are not as important as education and this is crippling the sector.

#### **Corruption**

Corruption is one of the major problems in the country and the educational sector is not an exception. There are stories of lecturers collecting bribes from students in exchange for good grades, university administrators demanding money from students to have their exam results compiled and submitted to the National Youth Service Corps, admission seekers paying money to get admission into universities and so on. Also, school funds meant for salaries, maintenance and so on are being diverted for personal use and mismanaged. This cuts across all the level of the sector; universities, private and public secondary schools.

#### **Lack of Responsibility and Control**

This is a problem not only affecting Nigeria in the areas of adequate provision of educational facilities in schools but most countries who exact controls the educational sector. Be it Federal, State or Local Government, for example, the control of primary education is neither fully in the hand of Federal Government, nor State or Local Government, this is a great barrier for effective educational development at the basic level. Works needed to be done are being passed around and no tier of government wants to actually take any responsibility

#### **Politicization of Education**

Talking about politicization in the sector, the desire to compete with others, governments at all levels, especially at the state level, attempt to run many institutions even when they are least prepared to do such. This cause the general fall in the standard of the initially existing ones and the available budget cannot cater for all their needs. In addition, state governments give accreditation to private schools that they know are not well equipped for teaching, all in a bid to generate more revenue for themselves.

### **Indiscipline**

This is manifested in examination malpractices, secret cult menace, corruption etc. The investigation revealed that some examination centers exist in this nation where parent are paying money for qualifying their wards to pass SSCE –WAEC /NECO/JAMB.

Indiscipline is so endemic in the sector that we hear of cult’s killings almost every day in the media, students are no longer concerned about academic excellence.

### **Unstable Curriculum and Subject**

An effective curriculum provides teachers, students, administrators with a measurable plan and structure for delivering quality education. It acts as a roadmap for teachers and students to follow the path to academic success. There is no stable curriculum in the sector, because of changing policy, most schools cannot keep up and you see most schools using the British curriculum.

### **Scarcity and High Prohibitive Cost of Text-Books at All Levels of Education**

The necessary textbooks needed for easier learning are either scarce or ridiculously expensive, making it hard for students or teachers to buy or use them. The above problems are just a few out of the many problems facing the education sector through adequate provision of educational facilities in schools. Other challenges facing adequate provision of educational facilities are inadequate time for supervision, poor power supply, negative attitudes of the staff, large student population, poor record keeping, inadequate training of the staff, poor funding among others were the challenges encountered by school principals in the management and maintenance of educational facilities.

### **Conclusion**

Personal reflection and class observation for managing the behaviour of individuals or students different strategies may have to be used through adequate provision of educational facilities that will facilitate effective teaching and learning process. The teachers' dynamics need to be understood by the teachers, and behaviours or teaching approaches need to be adjusted. The school principals are to improve in school supervision so as to ensure both quality teaching and learning in the schools. It will enable them appreciate the contribution of educational facilities and equipment on the need for proper instructional delivery.

### **Suggestions**

The following suggestions are put forward

- i. Governments at all levels need to be committed to delivering a competitive and high quality and standard of education across the country through adequate provision of educational facilities for effective teaching and learning process
- ii. School management should improve on the maintenance culture on the limited available educational facilities for effective teaching and learning process
- iii. Measures need to be taken to ensure stability in the teaching profession. Qualified and professional teachers should be employed in order to utilize the educational facilities for effective teaching and learning process
- iv. Teachers should be provided with quality and up to date materials, also quality teaching aids will help to improve the education sector.

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