

Assessment of Availability, Adequacy and Utilization of Instructional Resources for Teaching Public Secondary School Students in Delta State Nigeria

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Abstract

The purpose of the study was to assess availability, adequacy and utilization of instructional resources for teaching secondary school students in Delta State. The study examined the availability of instructional resources in the state. It also examined adequacy and extent of utilization of resources in public secondary schools in the state. The System Resource Theory of organizational effectiveness provided the theoretical base for the study. The study adopted the ex-post-facto research design. The population of the study included all public secondary schools in Delta State out of which 100 public secondary schools was selected using the stratified random sampling technique. Data was collected with the aid of a checklist adapted from West African Examination Council (WAEC) guidelines for re-inspection and recognition of schools and subjects and a questionnaire to be designed for the study. The following findings were made including the fact that instructional resources for teaching are available in 64.16% of secondary schools in Delta State. Instructional resources are 40.66% adequate in secondary schools in the state. Instructional resources for teaching students in secondary schools in the state are fully utilized. Recommendations were made to cushion the impact on the state's educational system; the government should strive to ensure adequacy of instructional resources in the schools by making available more resources to enhance sufficiency. The extent of physical resources adequacy should be improved upon to make the classrooms, staff rooms and general school environment conducive for learning and principals and their vice should be adequately trained on effective utilization of limited instructional resources to enhance the attainment of school goals and objectives.

Keywords: Assessment of Availability, adequacy and Utilization, Instructional Resources for Teaching, Public Secondary Schools.

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Introduction

It is obvious that Nigeria desires and clamours for technological advancement. It is translated into reality only if there are conscious efforts to prepare our students adequately to face the prevalent under-achievement in schools. Rather than the adoption of theoretical education of teaching subjects such as chemistry, physics, biology, mathematics and other subjects, students should be taught with the necessary instructional resources that will make teaching and learning to achieve the desired goals and objectives (Dawari, 2012).

It is well known among educators that the educational experience involving the learner actively participating using concrete examples are retained longer than abstract experiences. Concrete experience facilitates learning and the acquisition, retention and usability of abstract symbols. We need an educational system that is practical in outlook and scientific in orientation for development. However, only educational institutions stocked with instructional resources that are well utilized by skilled teachers can provide this all important transformation.

The foundation of all learning in Science and Technology is first-hand experience with real things in form of equipment. Therefore, if Science Education is to be learnt effectively, it must be experienced. Unfortunately, instructional materials are scarce, expensive and not adequate in secondary schools. The place of well-equipped laboratory and workshop cannot be over emphasized. There is no known method by which science and technical knowledge can be transferred to students without equipment and practical laboratory work.

Adequacy of instructional resources ensures smooth operation of a school and enhances effective teaching and learning activity and when this is so, there is likely to be a higher level of educational attainment by students. The adequacy of materials in form of print, visual, audio, audio-visual, projected, non-projected as well as graphic materials are a vital pre-requisite for the operation of secondary education because they facilitate the teaching and learning processes in the school and are needed to generate manipulative skills in pupils.

Instructional resources in teaching and learning makes students to learn more and retain better what they have been taught, it also promotes and sustain students' interest. These according to stakeholders are not adequate in the schools. They are acutely in short supply at all levels. For instance, laboratory, workshop and other teaching aids are perceived by stakeholders as inadequate, while chemicals, tools, books and other supplies are terribly inadequate. Indeed, print and graphic materials, films, cassettes, radios, television sets, computers, textbooks and



maps are a rarity even though they are the ingredients for promoting quality education in any country. Secondary schools with adequate resources materials would stand a better chance of having better results than poorly equipped ones. (Igbinoghene & Edokpolor ,2014).

The utilization of resources in the teaching process brings about fruitful learning because it stimulates students' senses as well as motivates them. Goal attainment in any school depends on supply and utilization of educational resources which enhances proper teaching and learning, variation in resources distribution may lead to inequality both in learning and in achievement. The available material resources have to be properly and adequately utilized and taken care of from time to time because students learn more when they are actively involved in utilization of resources. Instructional resources availability, adequacy and level of utilization are one of the most dependable parameter for the measurement of the operational success of secondary schools.

Studies have revealed that laboratories and science materials, maps and globes, libraries, and other expensive components are needed if the higher-level concepts and thinking skills inherent in curriculum at this level are to be taught (Hawthorne cited in Babalola & Ayeni, 2009). The present high class sizes must be relatively reduced since laboratory workspaces are limited and students in all subjects need opportunities to interact with teachers.

Igbinoghene and Nosahaba (2014) defined instructional resources as the sum total of the input that goes into the education system. Instructional resources refer to people, materials and facilities that can be used to encourage, promote and facilitate teaching and learning activities. They are things needed for instructions and acquisition of education. They are factors, which are turned to, for assistance if success is the desired goals of the individual or organization. They can help the teacher to teach more effectively and efficiently and the learner to learn faster and better. The quality and combination of resources needed depend on both the number of students to be served and the nature of the process and the organizational objectives.

The school resources when adequately provided and effectively utilized could lead to students' proper developments in schools is classified into two main areas: human resources and material resources. The human and material resources for education are many and diverse. The most abundant of the resources however are the human beings who engage in the education enterprise as teachers, leaders, administrators and supervisors and those who help to support the schools like the community leaders, parents and members of Parents Teachers Association.

According to Umezulike (2015), many schools lack the essential infrastructure for them to function properly and effectively, resources for whatever activity in education are in short supply. The majority of schools whether urban or rural has no potable water, lack proper sanitation and has no electricity supply. The physical states of the classrooms are very poor with floors full of holes, broken roofs and ceiling. Windows and doors are not lockable where they exist. Adeyanju and Oyetubo (2012) opined that despite her enormous natural and human resources, Nigeria's education system is bedeviled with the challenges of underfunding and thus poor infrastructure, inadequate classroom and teaching aids (projectors, computer, libraries and laboratories) paucity of quality teachers and poor or polluted learning environment. School system is further plagued with numerous social vices like examination malpractices and cultism (Edokpolo, 2011)

Asiyai (2012) wrote that facilities in public secondary schools in Delta state were in a state of disrepair and further stated that school facilities depreciation were encouraged by excess pressure on available facilities. The problem above is very disturbing as some of the existing buildings from observation suffer different degree of dilapidation. Durosaro (2010) explained that there is a widespread shortage of classrooms, shortage of both pupils' and teachers' furniture.

Oluwuo and Ekuro (2014) investigated physical resources for the implementation of Universal Basic Education (UBE) in Rivers state and concluded that physical resources abound but is grossly inadequate especially in the rural primary schools. The provision of desired facilities is highly politicized to the detriment of schools in the rural areas. There is a great disparity between rural and urban schools in terms of provision of physical resources. There is, according to the authors, no clear-cut optimal utilization of available resources as cases of over utilization was glaring in the rural schools.

The scarcity or non-availability of these educational resources will constrain educational system from attainment of educational goals and objectives. According to Olelewe; Nzeadibe and Nzeadibe (2014) availability of educational resources such as material and human capacity makes a school environment conducive to teaching and learning. The extent to which an educational institution attains her objectives is directly proportional to the educational resources available and their level of utilization.

Akinsanya (2010) commenting on educational resources says they are important because the goal of any school depends on adequate supply and utilization of physical and material resources among others as they enhance proper teaching and learning the reason why this study is important. There is no known method by which science and technical knowledge can be transferred to students without equipment and practical laboratory work. Instructional resources in teaching and learning makes students to learn more and retain better what they have been taught, it also promotes and sustain students' interest. These according to Ugwanyi (2013) are not adequate in the schools.



Asiyai (2012) carried out a study to investigate school facilities in public secondary schools in Delta State. The findings of the study revealed that facilities in the schools are generally in a state of disrepair. The findings further revealed that maintenance carried out on school facilities were inadequate for majority of the facilities. The simple analogy is that of a country pursuing quality education in a vacuum. The author recommended that provision should be made towards procurement of training materials to enhance skill training, as well as that government should budget for facilities maintenance.

The extent of resources utilization in Nigerian schools today is being called to question both within and outside the profession. It has been generally agreed that the school resources are poorly utilized simply because the school lacks qualified personnel and manpower resources needed for the improvement of instruction. For resources to be properly utilized there is the need to employ dynamic school heads that are professional grown. Adeoye and Popoola (2011) stated that for learning to take place, learners must have access to necessary information materials and resources. They have to interact with tangible and intangible resources to ensure some level of performance, on this Ekwutosi and Ogbonnaya (2015) believes that urban and rural schools receive equal resources and are equally defective in terms of educational resources.

Statement of the Problem

The secondary schools in Delta State are battling with one crisis or the other, ranging from inadequate staff, inadequate and poor condition of instructional resources that makes teaching and learning to be meaningful. The availability, adequacy and level of utilization of resources could be a major determinant for the quality of output from the schools. Existing information on the level of achievement of students in Senior Schools Certificate Examination is quite disturbing. Researchers have adduced this poor achievement of students to inadequate and poor funding of education and inadequate material resources.

The situation of instructional resources in the secondary schools has been reported by stakeholders as being inadequate and unfriendly to effective teaching and learning due to the deplorable condition of the educational resources. The public secondary schools across Delta State have also been linked with very low level of utilization of instructional resources as well as poor distribution of these resources across the geographical spread of the state.

Government however claims that several millions of Naira has been invested in the provision of instructional resources in recent years leading to an expected boost in the availability and adequacy of this all important resources. The said resources are expected to have been distributed across all secondary schools in the state, it is the hope of government that these will ease the scarcity and improve teachers' ability to appropriately translate the curriculum into students' clear understanding and educational attainment if properly utilized.

The problem of this study therefore, is to assess instructional resource availability, adequacy and utilization in secondary schools in Delta State. Specifically, are instructional resources available, adequate and utilized in secondary schools in Delta State?

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to assess instructional resource availability, adequacy and utilization in secondary schools in Delta State. The specific objectives of the study are to:

- 1 Determine instructional resources availability for teaching in secondary schools in Delta State.
- 2 Ascertain instructional resources adequacy for teaching in secondary schools in Delta State.
- 3 Ascertain instructional resources utilization for teaching in secondary schools in Delta State.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the study.

- 1 Are instructional resources available for teaching in secondary schools in Delta State?
- 2 Are instructional resources adequate for teaching in secondary schools in Delta State?
- 3 What is the level of utilization of instructional resources for teaching in secondary schools in Delta State?

Methodology

The study adopted the ex-post facto research design. Ex-post facto research design is a systematic empirical inquiry in which the researcher does not have direct control of the variables because their manifestations have already occurred.

The population of the study consists of four hundred and forty five (445) public secondary schools in Delta States of Nigeria as at the 2019/2020 academic year.

A sample of one hundred (100) public secondary schools representing 22% was used. The researchers used the stratified sampling technique to select the secondary schools from twenty five (25) local government areas of Delta State. Stratified sampling technique was used in selecting schools on the basis of rural and urban areas. This categorization will help to determine whether there were variations in availability, adequacy and utilization of instructional resources in the state.



There were two instruments for the study. The first is a checklist adapted from West African Examination Council (1999) guidelines for re-inspection/recognition of schools and subjects. The second is a questionnaire titled Questionnaire on Utilization of Instructional Resource to Teach in Secondary Schools in Delta State (QUIRTSS) which will be sub – divided into two parts (section A and B) Section A will require data regarding the name and geographical location of the school. Section B will focus on items relating to the research questions. The respondents will be requested to describe the extent of utilization of the items presented using the following parameters: least utilized (LU), underutilized (UU), moderately utilized (MU), fully utilized (FU). The questionnaire was validated by experts in the Faculty of Education, University of Benin. The test-retest reliability test in public secondary schools in Edo State involving 30 randomly selected secondary schools will be used to determine the reliability of the instrument at 0.05 level of significance using Pearson's product correlation coefficient.

The checklist and questionnaire was administered by the researchers with the help of twenty five (25) trained research assistants to the sampled secondary schools. The data collected was analyzed using frequencies, percentages, mean, standard deviation and t-test statistics.

Presentation of Results Research Question 1

Are instructional resources available for teaching in secondary schools in Delta State?

Table 2 Availability of Instructional Resource materials

S/N	Material Resources	Yes	%	No	%	Remarks
		(Available)		(Not Available)		
1.	Chalkboard	81	8100	19	19.00	Available
2.	Marker Board	49	49.00	51	51.00	Not available
3.	Textbooks	83	83.00	17	17.00	Available
4.	Realia	32	32.00	68	68.00	Not available
5.	Tape recorder	7	7.00	93	93.00	Not available
6.	Overhead Projector	16	16.00	84	84.00	Not available
7.	Multimedia projector	8	8.00	92	92.00	Not available
8.	Video tape recorder	8	8.00	92	92.00	Not available
9.	Charts	81	81.00	19	19.00	Available
10.	Globes	66	66.00	34	34.00	Available
11.	Computers	67	67.00	33	33.00	Available
12.	Television	29	29.00	71	71.00	Not available
13.	CD Player	30	30.00	70	70.00	Not available
14.	Microphone	44	44.00	66	66.00	Not available
15.	Measuring Cylinder	84	84.00	16	16.00	Available
16.	Chemical balance	93	93.00	7	7.00	Available
17.	Hand lenses	93	93.00	7	7.00	Available
18.	Microscope	20	20.00	80	80.00	Not available
19.	Beakers	93	93.00	7	7.00	Available
20.	Skeleton	84	84.00	16	16.00	Available
21.	Pipette	72	72.00	28	28.00	Available
22.	Calorimeter	62	62.00	38	38.00	Available
23.	Periodic table	86	86.00	14	14.00	Available
24.	Thermometer	81	81.00	19	19.00	Available
25.	Watch glass	76	76.00	24	24.00	Available
26.	Batteries	74	74.00	26	26.00	Available
27	Meter rule	86	86.00	14	14.00	Available
28.	Rectangular prism	83	83.00	17	17.00	Available
29.	Tuning fork	83	83.00	17	17.00	Available
30.	Ray boxes	80	80.00	20	20.00	Available
31.	Pendulum bobs	88	88.00	12	12.00	Available
32.	Lenses	93	93.00	7	7.00	Available
33	Spring balance	79	79.00	21	21.00	Available
34.	Trolley	66	66.00	34	34.00	Available
35.	Vanier calipers	81	81.00	19	19.00	Available



The answer to the research question one is derived from the data displayed in table 2, where out of a total of 35 instructional materials listed that are used in public schools, a Cumulative Frequency of instructional materials available shows that 2258 (64.51%) of instructional materials were available, while 1242 (35.49%) of instructional materials were not available. Therefore with regards to research question one instructional materials are available for teaching in secondary schools in Delta State.

Research Question 2 Are instructional resources adequate for teaching in secondary schools in Delta State?

Table 3: Adequacy of Instructional Resource materials for teaching in secondary schools in Delta State

S/N	: Adequacy of Instructiona Material Resources	Yes	%	No	% %	Remarks
5/11	Wateriai Resources	(Adequate)	/0	(Not Adequate)	70	Kemarks
1.	Chalkboard	75	7500	25	25.00	Adequate
2.	Marker Board	34	34.00	66	66.00	Not adequate
3.	Textbooks	56	56.00	44	44.00	Adequate
4.	Realia	26	26.00	74	74.00	Not adequate
5.	Tape recorder	15	15.00	85	85.00	Not adequate Not adequate
6.	Overhead Projector	12	12.00	88	88.00	Not adequate Not adequate
7.	Multimedia projector	25	25.00	75	75.00	Not adequate Not adequate
8.	Video tape recorder	18	18.00	82	82.00	Not adequate Not adequate
9.	Charts	46	46.00	54	54.00	Not adequate Not adequate
10.	Globes	24	24.00	76	76.00	Not adequate Not adequate
11.		28	28.00	72	78.00	
12.	Computers	26		74		Not adequate
	Television		26.00		74.00	Not adequate
13.	CD Player	20	20.00	80	80.00	Not adequate
14.	Microphone	34	34.00	66	66.00	Not adequate
15.	Measuring Cylinder	43	43.00	57	57.00	Not adequate
16.	Chemical balance	43	43.00	57	57.00	Not adequate
17.	Hand lenses	49	49.00	51	51.00	Not adequate
18.	Microscope	37	37.00	63	63.00	Not adequate
19.	Beakers	43	43.00	57	57.00	Not adequate
20.	Skeleton	33	33.00	67	6700	Not adequate
21.	Pipette	54	54.00	46	46.00	Adequate
22.	Calorimeter	35	35.00	65	65.00	Not adequate
23.	Periodic table	53	53.00	47	47.00	Adequate
24.	Thermometer	38	38.00	62	62.00	Not adequate
25.	Watch glass	51	51.00	49	49.00	Adequate
26.	Batteries	42	42.00	58	58.00	Not adequate
27	Meter rule	61	61.00	39	39.00	Adequate
28.	Rectangular prism	52	52.00	48	48.00	Adequate
29.	Tuning fork	34	34.00	66	66.00	Not adequate
30.	Ray boxes	51	51.00	49	49.00	Adequate
31.	Pendulum bobs	54	54.00	46	46.00	Adequate
32.	Lenses	58	58.00	42	42.00	Adequate
33	Spring balance	43	43.00	57	57.00	Not adequate
34.	Trolley	36	36.00	64	64.00	Not adequate
35.	Vanier calipers	40	40.00	60	60.00	Not adequate

The answer to research question two was obtained from the data displayed in table 3, where out of a total of 35 instructional materials listed that are used in rural and urban public schools, a Cumulative Frequency on the adequacy of instructional materials shows that 1423 (40.66%) of instructional materials were Not-Adequate, therefore depicting a wide range of inadequacy of 2077 (59.34%) indicating that, instructional materials are Not-Adequate for teaching in secondary schools in Delta State.

Research Question 3

What is the level of utilization of instructional resources for teaching in secondary schools in Delta State?

Table 4: Statistics of the responses on the level of Utilization of Instructional Resources in Secondary



Schools

Schools								
		Fully	Moderately	Under	Less		Std.	
Variable item	N	Utilized	Utilized	Utilized	Utilized	Mean	Deviation	
		(FU)	(MU)	(UU)	(LU)		Deviation	
Chalkboard	100	72	22	6	0	3.660	0.590	
Marker Board	100	62	14	5	19	3.190	1.187	
Textbooks	100	66	7	0	7	3.720	0.792	
Realia	100	21	36	4	39	2.390	1.205	
Tape Recorder	100	9	2	31	58	1.620	0.908	
OverHead Projector	100	0	18	23	59	1.590	0.780	
Multimedia Projector	100	0	13	28	59	1.540	0.717	
Video Tape Recorder	100	14	0	24	62	1.660	1.037	
Charts	100	51	35	3	11	3.260	0.960	
Globes	100	29	40	14	17	2.810	1.042	
Computers	100	46	9	24	21	2.800	1.231	
Television	100	0	0	21	79	1.210	0.409	
CD Player	100	0	3	31	66	1.370	0.544	
Microphone	100	24	15	21	40	2.230	1.213	
Measuring Cylinder	100	56	24	6	14	3.220	1.069	
Chemical Balance	100	50	30	3	17	3.130	1.098	
Hand Lenses	100	56	21	6	17	3.160	1.135	
Microscope	100	20	55	5	20	2.750	0.999	
Beakers	100	54	23	16	7	3.240	0.965	
Skeleton	100	53	25	6	16	3.150	1.104	
Pipette	100	70	6	10	14	3.320	1.127	
Calorimeter	100	52	9	22	17	2.960	1.197	
Periodic Tables	100	68	11	11	10	3.370	1.031	
Thermometer	100	54	7	26	13	3.020	1.155	
Watch Glass	100	42	12	14	32	2.640	1.314	
Batteries	100	57	17	2	24	3.070	1.249	
Meter Rule	100	74	9	0	17	3.400	1.128	
Rectangular Prism	100	55	22	9	14	3.180	1.086	
Turning Fork	100	36	24	5	35	2.610	1.294	
Ray Boxes	100	54	19	3	24	3.030	1.243	
Pendulum Bobs	100	61	6	3	30	2.980	1.363	
Lenses	100	58	19	6	17	3.180	1.140	
Spring Balance	100	55	21	13	11	3.200	1.044	
Trolley	100	35	8	16	41	2.370	1.331	
Vernier Calipers	100	49	13	5	33	2.780	1.353	
Total Average						2.766	0.672	
With regards to the Utilization of Instructional Passaurae in Secondary Schools in Dalta state. Table 4 shows								

With regards to the Utilization of Instructional Resource in Secondary Schools in Delta state. Table 4 shows that twenty six (26) variable items out of the thirty five (35) items were considered fully utilized as a result of their individual mean score higher than the average mean mark of 2.50, while the remaining nine (9) variable items were considered less utilized because their individual mean score is lower than the average mean mark of 2.50.

The answer to research question three is derived from the mean score of variable items in table 4, where variable items whose mean score are above the standard 2.50 mean mark are considered as fully utilized (using the topmost positive level), while variable items with mean score less than the average 2.50 mean are considered underutilized (using the topmost negative level). A frequency count of variable items above the 2.50 mean marks shows that 26 items score above the 2.50 mean mark while 9 items scored below the 2.50 mean mark, thereby indicating with regards to research question three that instructional resources are fully utilized for teaching in secondary schools on Delta State.

Discussion of Results

The result of the study revealed that the general resources for teaching such as chalk boards, marker boards as well as textbooks were available in most schools. However, most twenty first century technological teaching materials such as tape recorders, overhead projectors, multimedia projectors, computers, microphones are not available in most of the schools sampled.

Generally, instructional resources are available for teaching in public secondary schools in Delta State. The



result of the study is in agreement with Ngure (2012) and Olagunju and Abiona (2012) studies that instructional resources for teaching are available in schools. However, the result of the study is contrary to Olelekwe; Nzeadibe and Nzeadibe (2014) study that instructional resources for meaningful teaching and learning experience are not available.

The result of the study reveals that the resources for teaching such as chalk boards, marker boards as well as textbooks are inadequate in most schools. The 21st century technological teaching materials such as tape recorders, overhead projectors, multimedia projectors, computers, microphones are not available in most of the schools sampled and invariably not adequate.

The result of the finding is in agreement with Owoeye and Yara (2011), Ugwanyi (2013), Uwamieye (2016), Yusuf (2014), Likoko; Mutsotso and Nasongo (2013) that material resources for teaching as required are not adequate in schools. This is contrary to the report of Ngure (2012) and Alonu (2014) that material resources for classroom instruction are adequate.

The result of the analysis revealed that material resources in public secondary schools in Delta state are not adequate for utilization. Specifically, materials showing fully utilized in utilization may not be unconnected with the fact that some of the materials are few where they are available for practical lessons and examinations, if this is the case quality teaching and learning may not be achieved until more supplies are made.. The result of the study is contrary to Ede and Olaitan (2010), Ogwari (2013) as well as Okoro (2017) that materials resources are fairly utilized in secondary schools.

Findings

Based on results from data analysis, the following findings were made:

- 1. Instructional resources for teaching are available in 64.16% of secondary schools in Delta State.
- 2. Instructional resources are 40.66% adequate in secondary schools in the state.
- 3. Instructional resources for teaching students in secondary schools in the state are fully utilized.

Recommendations

The findings above necessitated the following recommendations;

- 1. The governments should strive to ensure adequacy of instructional resources in the schools by making available more resources to enhance sufficiency.
- 2. The physical resources adequacy should be improved upon to make the classrooms, staff rooms and general school environment conducive for learning.
- 3. Principals and their vice should be adequately trained on effective utilization of limited instructional resources to enhance the attainment of school goals and objectives.
- 4. Administrators should bear in mind the need to make annual supplies of the materials that require replenishing and replacement of non-serviceable instructional resources for continuous teaching and learning.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that instructional resources are available yet inadequate to teach students in the secondary schools in Delta State. The extent of adequacy of the instructional resources has affected their utilization such that inadequate resources has given room for over stretched materials while the inadequate resources culminates into situations of overcrowded classrooms, laboratories and workshops that has minimal quantity of materials and other consumables for effective teaching and learning.

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