A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF STUDENTS' OVERPOPULATION ON AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES BETWEEN FEDERAL AND STATE UNIVERSITIES IN NORTH CENTRAL NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This paper investigated "A comparative Analysis of Students' Overpopulation on Availability of Resources between Federal and State Universities in North Central Nigeria. Two research questions and two null hypotheses guided the study. The study adopted the ex-post facto research design. The population of the respondents was 13,784 made up of all academic and senior administrative staff of Federal and State Universities in North Central Nigeria. A multistage sampling procedure was used to select a sample of 269 made up of 125 academic staff and 144 senior administrative staff from Federal university of Agriculture Makurdi and Benue State University, Makurdi. The proportionate stratified random sampling technique of balloting without replacement was used to select the universities and the respondents for the study. The instrument used for data collection were a 20-item structured checklist compared against National Universities Commission (NUC) benchmark on Provision of Resources in universities in Nigeria, using a four point modified rating scale of High Available (HA), Moderately Available (MA), Low Available (LA) and Not Available (NA). Mean and standard deviation were used to test the hypotheses while t-test was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The findings showed that there is no significant mean effect of students' overpopulation on the availability of resources between Federal and State Universities. And recommended among others that Federal and State Government should increase funding to Public Universities, so that the NUC benchmark for provision of resources can be met.

KEYWORDS: Comparative, Students' Overpopulation, Resources and Availability

INTRODUCTION

Education is the bedrock of development for any country socially, economically, politically and otherwise. University education is an important component of human resources development it helps improve security, health, prosperity and ecological balance in the world and encourages social economic, cultural progress, national and international cooperation, (Osokoya 2009) & Akomolafe 2009). But the learning environment has to be conducive for learning to be effective in essence resources availability is the heart of any educational system.

On the other hand students' overpopulation is the excessive annual increase in the number of students admitted and enrolled into universities, (Nwankwo, 2011). This situation occurs when an educational institution enrolls more students than it was designed to accommodate, (National center

for Education statistics, 2005). Students' population in Nigerian universities seem to be increasing steadily annually thereby exceeding the institutions' carrying capacity which may not be commensurate with the available resources. This implies that the quality of academic programmes is adversely affected. The US Embassy Report (2012) affirms that the Nigerian university system suffers from deteriorating quality and insufficient investment to keep pace with the country's increasing number of students in the university.

UNESCO (2012) asserts that universities in Nigeria seems to be finding it difficult to discharge their traditional roles of imparting knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for individuals to contribute positively to the development of society because finds for universities have been low and inadequate so that it seems impossible for public universities to provide resources that are commensurate to the population of students admitted yearly. And even when these resources are provided for, they may be more in federal than in state universities in the study area which has given rise to the study "A Comparative Analysis of Student's Over Population on Availability of Resources between Federal and State Universities in North Central Nigeria.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM
Educational stake holders have observed over the years that most universities in the North Central Nigeria seem to see it resource deficient, but the population of students admitted annually could be on the increase leading to overpopulation of students in the universities in this area. Therefore the students' may not be getting the quality of education they are expected to receive at this level which may have a negative effect on the work force and the development of the country at large. This has necessitated the study of "A Comparative Analysis of Student's Overpopulation on Availability of Resources between Federal and State Universities in North Central Nigeria.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY
The purpose of the study was to compare students' overpopulation on Availability of Resources between Federal and State Universities in North Central Nigeria

RESEARCH QUESTIONS
The following research questions guided the study:
1. What effect does students' overpopulation have on the availability of resources in federal and state universities in North Central Nigeria?
2. What comparative effect does students' overpopulation have on the availability of resources between federal and state universities in North Central?

RESEARCH HYPOTHESES
The following null hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance.
   1. Students' overpopulation has no significant effect on the availability of resources in federal and state universities.

2. Student's overpopulation has no significant mean difference on availability of resources between federal and state universities in north central.

METHODOLOGY
The study adopted the ex-post facto research design. The population of the study was 13, 784 made up of all academic and senior administrative staff of seven (7) Federal and seven (7) State Universities in north central Nigeria. A multi-stage sampling procedure was used to select a sample of 269 which represents 51.2% of the total population made up of 125 academic and 144 senior administrative staff from Federal University of Agriculture Makurdi and Benue State University Makurdi. The proportionate stratified random sampling technique of balloting without replacement was used to select the universities and the respondents for the study.

The instrument used for data collection was a 20-item structured checklist compared against national universities commission (NUC) benchmark on provision of resources in universities in Nigeria, using a four point modified rating scale of high available (HA) moderately available (MA) low available (LA) and not available (NA). Mean and standard deviation were used to answer research questions while t-test was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05level of significance.

INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS OF RESULTS
Table 1: Checklist Percentage Count of the Level of Availability of Resources in Federal and State Universities
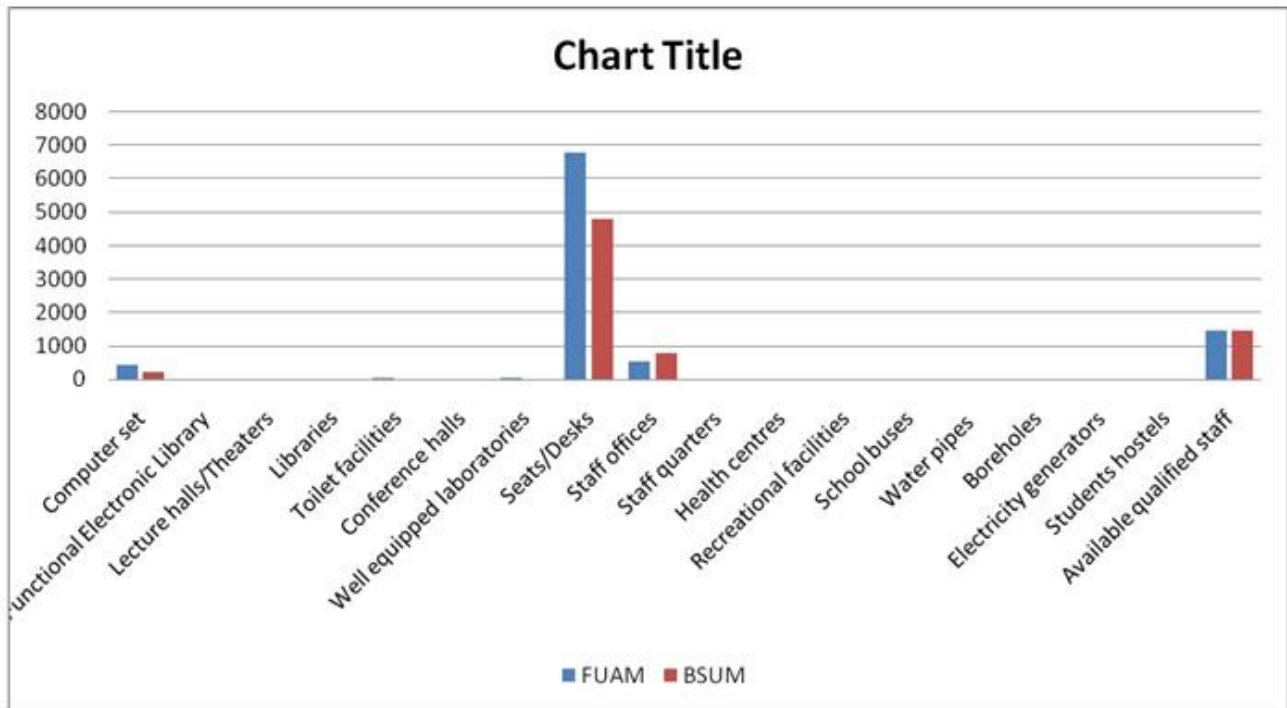
s/no	Resources Available	FUAM		BSU	
		Freq.	Percent. (%)	Freq.	Percent. (%)
1	Computer set	420	5.34	208	3.56
2	Functional Electronic Library	1	0.01	1	0.02
3	Lecture halls/Theaters	12	0.15	10	0.17
4	Libraries	4	0.05	4	0.07
5	Toilet facilities	28	0.36	18	0.31
6	Conference halls	8	0.10	6	0.10
7	Well-equipped laboratories	26	0.33	8	0.14
8	Seats/Desks	6800	86.44	4800	82.01
9	Staff offices	534	6.79	768	13.12
10	Staff quarters	1	0.01	2	0.03
11	Health centres	1	0.01	1	0.02
12	Recreational facilities	1	0.01	-	-
13	School buses	6	0.08	4	0.07
14	Water pipes	16	0.20	6	0.10
15	Boreholes	-	-	4	0.07

16	Electricity generators	10	0.13	3	0.05
17	Students hostels	5	0.06	10	0.17
18	Available qualified staff	1,450	15.56	1,452	19.88
	Total	**9317**	**100.0**	**7305**	**100.0**

Source: *Field Trip, 2019*

Table 1 shows checklist percentage count of the level of availability of resources in federal and state universities. The result reveals that, from federal university of Agriculture Makurdi the checklist indicated that only seats/desks have above 50%, others show: 420(5.34%) for computer sets, 1(0.01%) functional electronic library, 12(0.15%) lecture halls/theaters, 4(0.05%) are libraries, 28(0.36%) are toilet facilities, 8(0.10) are conference halls, 26(0.33%) are well equipped laboratories, 6800(86.44%) are seats/desks, 534(6.79%) are staff offices, 1(0.01%) are staff quarters, 1(0.01%) are health centers, 1(0.01%) recreational facilities, 6(0.08%) are school buses, 16(0.20%) are water pipes while boreholes recorded nothing, 10(0.13%) are electricity generators, 5(0.06%) are students hostels and 1,450(15.56%) available qualified staff. Comparatively, Benue State University Makurdi result reveals that only seats/desks have 82.01% above 50% of availability of resources. Other resources were recorded as follows 208(3.56%) are computers set, 1(0.02%) functional electronic library, 10(0.17%) are lecture halls/theaters, 4(0.07%) are libraries, 18(0.31%) are toilet facilities, 6(0.10%) are conference halls, 8(0.14%) are well equipped laboratories, 4800(82.01%) are seats/desks, 768(13.13.12%) are staff offices, 2(0.03%) are staff quarters, 1(0.02%) are health centers while   recreational facilities was not found, 4(0.07%) are school buses, 6(0.10%) are water pipes, 4(0.07%) are boreholes, 3(0.05%) are electricity generators, 10(0.17%) are students hostels and 1,452(19.88%) represents availability of qualified staff. This result indicates that the level of availability of resources in federal and state universities is low therefore student's overpopulation have no significant effect on the availability of resources in Federal and State Universities in North Central Nigeria.

Bar Chart of the Level of Availability of Resources in FUAM and BSU-Makurdi

Source: *Field Survey (2019)*

The bar chart indicates the low availability of resources in the Federal and State Universities in the North Central Nigeria. It was revealed that only computer sets, seats/desks, staff offices and qualified staff that appeared on the chart. This indicates low level of availability of resources in public universities in the North Central Nigeria.

Table 2: A Sample Statistical Analysis of Significant mean difference of Students Overpopulation on Availability of Resources between FUAM and BSU-Makurdi in North Central, Nigeria

Variables	Group	n	x	St. d.	t-cal.	t-crit.	df	*P.value*	Dec.
	FUAM	18	517.9	1608.4	1.366			.190	
Availability of resources						2.110	17		accepted
	BSU-Makurdi	18	405.8	1158.5	1.486			.156	

Source: *Field Trip, 2019.*

Table 2 shows the sample statistical analysis of significant mean difference of students overpopulation on availability of resources between FUAM and BSU-Makurdi in North Central, Nigeria. The result reveals that the calculated sample t-test for FUAM and BSU-Makurdi value of 1.366, 1.486 is less than the critical value of 2.110 checks at 17 degree of freedom at 0.05 level of significance. Statistically shown as p=.190, .156>0.05 alpha level of significance while mean and standard deviation score value [517.9(1608.4)>405.8(1158.5)]. This therefore implies that students'

overpopulation has no significant mean difference on availability of resources between federal and state universities in North Central Nigeria.

DISCUSSION OF FINDING

The first finding showed that the level of availability of resources in Federal and State Universities in Benue State and North Central Nigeria is low available therefore students overpopulation has significant effect on the availability of resources not rejecting the null hypothesis. In the second finding too the sample statistical analysis of significant mean difference of students overpopulation on availability of resources between FUAM and BSU-Makurdi Benue State of Nigeria. This finding revealed that students overpopulation has no significant mean difference on availability of resources between Federal and State Universities in North Central Nigeria. This findings conform with UNESCO (2012) assertion that universities in Nigeria seems to be finding it difficult to discharge their traditional roles of imparting knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for individuals to contribute positively to the development of society.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that students' overpopulation has no significant mean effect on the availability of resources between Federal and State Universities in North Central Nigeria.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The paper recommends that Federal and State Government should increase funding to Public Universities, so that the NUC benchmark for provision of resources to public universities can be met.

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