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A COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN ILORIN METROPOLIS, KWARA STATE NIGERIA

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to compare the educational services provided in public and private secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, kwara state. The population comprised all the public and private Secondary Schools in Ilorin metropolis of Kwara State. Random Sampling technique was used to select 80 i.e 40 public and 40 private secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis respectively. Thereafter, purposive sampling technique was used to select four SS3 students in each school i.e 160 students in public and 160 students in private secondary schools. Therefore, a total of 320 students formed the sample for the study. Data was collected through a questionnaire titled Educational services questionnaire "ESQ" and analyzed using t-test. The study found that the educational services provided in private schools are better than those provided in public schools with 26.48 and 45.24 mean rating for public secondary schools and private secondary schools. However, no statistically significant differences were found in terms of counselling services provided in private and public schools based on the mean rating of 57.04 and 57.28 respectively.

Keywords: Educational Services, Public secondary schools, Private secondary schools.

Introduction

The success or failure of any institution of learning has closely been linked with the educational services provided in such institution. This is because educational services when provided in schools make learning experiences more meaningful for school children. Educational services are necessary in the different levels of education i.e from primary to higher levels in Nigeria. The issue of poor academic performance of students' especially among secondary school students in Nigeria has been of much concern to the government, parents, teachers and even students themselves. Secondary education as one of the levels of education in Nigeria occupies a unique position in the education system of Nigeria because it determines the academic and professional career of students. A student educational success is contingent heavily on educational services provided by the school authority and those provided by their parents. Hence, one cannot divorce educational services from students' academic performance.

Public secondary schools are schools owned, financed and managed by the government with tax payers' money while private secondary schools are schools owned, financed and managed by private owners. Hence, private secondary schools are business organization established with the sole aim of providing educational services for students for a certain fee. Okafor (1984) sees private education as the type undertaken by an organization or agency besides the state. Irrespective of the ownership and management of these schools, they pursue the same objectives to the students.

According to the Federal Republic of Nigeria National Policy on Education (2004), the broad aims of secondary education within the overall objective should be:

- (1) Preparation for useful living within the society; and
 - (2) Preparation for higher education
- Section 4(18) of the National Policy on Education states that, in specific terms the secondary school should:
- (i) Provide an increasing number of primary school pupils with the opportunity for education of a higher quality. Irrespective of sex, or social religious and ethnic background;

- (ii) Diversify its curriculum to cater for the differences in talents, opportunity and roles possessed by or open to students after their secondary school course;
 - (iii) Equip students to live effectively in our modern age of science and technology;
 - (iv) Develop and project Nigerian culture, art and language as well as the world's cultural heritage;
 - (v) Raise a generation of people who can think for themselves, respect the views and feeling of others, respect the dignity of labour and appreciate those values specified under the broad national aims and live as good citizens.
 - (vi) Foster Nigerian unity with an emphasis on the common ties that unite us in our diversity.
 - (vii) Inspire its students with a desire for achievement and self-improvement both at school and in later life.
- It is based on this premise that this study compared the educational services in public and private secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, kwara state.

Literature Reviewed

Educational services facilitate the implementation of educational policy, the attainment of policy goals and the promotion of effectiveness in the educational system (FRN, 2004). These services may include library, transportation, health and safety services, hostel, counselling, sanitation and feeding / catering among others.

A study on study habits, use of libraries and students' academic performance in selected secondary schools in Ondo West Local Government Area of Ondo State was carried out by Jato, Ogunniyi and Olubiyo (2014). Findings of their study revealed that irregular use of school libraries by the students was one of the factors for poor scores in test and examination. Based on the findings of their study, they recommended among others that library study hours should be included on the school time table to allow students to have a specific time to use the school library on a regular basis; school libraries should open beyond school hours to enable the students have the opportunity to study after school hours.

The primary function of a school library is to be a resource center for the acquisition of knowledge by the students. It is widely recognized that service quality and customer satisfaction are essential for retaining current customers and attracting new ones. According to Reitz (2004), library is a collection or group of collections of books and/or other materials organized and maintained for use (reading, consultation, study, research, etc.). The primary objective of any library is to provide relevant and updated information to its users to help them gain knowledge as it relates to their academic endeavours, and perform their work efficiently and effectively. Libraries are expected to provide information, not only to users who are able to visit the library, but also to those who are unable to visit the library. This is done through a variety of information services, such as current awareness services and selective dissemination of information (SDI).

According to Okobiah and Okorodudu (2006) Guidance and Counselling is encompassed by activities of relevant services and also processes of helping persons within and outside the school, to achieve their full potentialities in their emotional, moral, social, academic and vocational developments. Guidance and Counselling according to Akpan (2010) is "an educational service that seeks to provide the school children opportunity to obtain holistic educational development that prepares them for functional life." According to Ipaye (1990), guidance and counselling from educational perspective are those experiences that help pupils to understand themselves, accept themselves and live effectively in their society. In the word of Esen (1998) guidance and counselling is aimed primarily at assisting the receiver to discover his own hidden strengths and ultimately grow in independence and ability to take his own wise informed decisions, make choices or adjustments unaided.

Adiotomre and Ekwevugbe (2005) submitted that private schools were instructionally more effective than public schools when it comes to effective use of instructional materials, use of variety of teaching methods and student evaluation techniques. According to the Council for

American Private Education (2004), private schools gladly join their older counterpart, the public schools in creating an educational system that is the envy of the world and the hope of the continued freedom of Americans. Gobir (2005) identified three categories of private schools, private school owners especially secondary schools, who could not afford quality schools, efficient staff and up to date laboratories and libraries. Another category of private school which intend to maintain more conducive environment for learning, and third category which are good private secondary schools that provide a challenging education. Seattle (2005) argued that basically some private schools are better than public schools.

Statement of the Problem

The astronomical increase in secondary school population in Nigeria which was occasioned by the free education policy of the government has made the educational services provided in schools appears to be grossly inadequate. Even many private schools cannot be said to be providing efficient and effective services to their students probably because of the increasing cost of education. Secondary school students in Nigeria hence faced problems such as poor library services; poor counselling services and absence of transportation services. These problems have remained unabated. The quality of educational services provided in any level of education in a school to a very large extent determines the success of the students. It is on this premise that this study compared educational services in public and private secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State.

Purpose of The Study

The following are the purpose of the study:

- (i) To investigate the differences in educational services provided in public and private secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, kwara state.
- (ii) To find out whether library services provided in public and private secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, kwara state differ from one another.
- (iii) To examine if there is significance difference in counselling services provided in public and private secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, kwara state.
- (iv) To find out the if there is significance difference in transportation services provided in public and private secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, kwara state.

Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses guided the study:

- HO₁: There is no significant difference between the general educational services provided in public and private secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, kwara state.
- HO₂: There is no significant difference between the library services provided in public and private secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, kwara state.
- HO₃: There is no significant difference between the Counselling services provided in public and private secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, kwara state.
- HO₄: There is no significant difference between the transportation services provided in public and private secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, kwara state.

Methodology

The descriptive survey method was considered as the appropriate design for this study because the educational services provided in public and private secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis were examined as provided in the schools sampled. The area covered by the study is secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis of Kwara State. The study involved all the public and private Secondary Schools in Ilorin metropolis of Kwara State. Random Sampling technique was used to select 80 i.e 40 public and 40 private secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis respectively. Thereafter, purposive sampling technique was used to select four SS3 students in each school i.e

160 students in public and 160 students in private secondary schools. Therefore, a total of 320 students formed the sample for the study.

The data for this study was gathered through the use of questionnaire. A researcher-designed questionnaire was tagged "Educational Services Questionnaire". It was developed and used to collect data from the respondents. The structured questionnaire consisted of two sections. Section A was on demographic data of the respondents. Section B consisted of items on the sub-variables used in this study. The instruments were based on the Likert 4 – points rating scale of:

Strongly Agree	(SA)	-	4 points
Agree	(A)	-	3 points
Strongly Disagree	(SA)	-	2 points
Disagree	(D)	-	1 point

The research instrument was subjected to validity by Lecturers in Educational Management in University of Ilorin. Their comments guided the researchers in arriving at the final draft of the questionnaire. The t-test was adopted for analysing the hypotheses of this study, because the t-test is normally used to test a difference between the means of two independent groups.

Results

Hypothesis One: There is no significant difference between the educational services provided in public and private secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, kwara state.

Table 1: Summary of Difference between Educational Services Provided in Public and Private Secondary Schools in Ilorin Metropolis, Kwara State.

	School Type	N	Mean	SD	Df	t-cal	t-value	Remark
Educational Services	Public	160	26.48	1.30	318	78.26	1.96	Significant
	Private	160	45.24	2.66				

significant at 0.05 level

From table 1, mean rating for educational services provided in public and private secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State are 26.48 and 45.24 respectively. This indicates that the educational services provided in private schools are better than the educational services provided in public schools. The table also shows that $t\text{-cal } 78.26 > t\text{-tab } 1.96$ at 0.05 level of significance thus, the null hypotheses is rejected. Hence there is a significant difference between the educational services provided in public and private secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, kwara state. This finding is not surprising because the private school owners are aware that the better the educational services provided in their schools the more customers they get. The findings of this study conformed with the submission of Adiotomre and Ekwevugbe (2005) who submitted that private schools were instructionally more effective than public schools when it comes to effective use of instructional materials, use of variety of teaching methods and student evaluation techniques.

Hypothesis Two: There is no significant difference between the library services provided in public and private secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, kwara state.

Table 2: Summary of Difference between Library Services Provided in Public and Private Secondary Schools in Ilorin Metropolis, Kwara State

	School Type	N	Mean	SD	Df	t-cal	t-value	Remark
Library Services	Public	160	35.04	1.24	318	77.01	1.96	Significant
	Private	160	55.28	3.34				

significant at 0.05 level

From table 2, mean rating for library services provided in public and private secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State are 35.04 and 55.28 respectively. This indicates that the library services provided in private schools are better than the library services provided in public schools. The table also shows that $t\text{-cal } 77.01 > t\text{-tab } 1.96$ at 0.05 level of significance thus, the null hypothesis is rejected. Hence there is a significant difference between the library services provided in public and private secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, kwara state. This finding is in agreement with that of Gobir (2005) who sees private schools as providing challenging education in terms of library services than their public counterparts.

Hypothesis Three: There is no significant difference between the Counselling services provided in public and private secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, kwara state.

Table 3: Summary of Difference between Counselling Services Provided in Public and Private Secondary Schools in Ilorin Metropolis, Kwara State

	School Type	N	Mean	SD	df	t-cal	t-value	Remark
Counselling Services	Public	160	57.04	3.18	318	78.25	1.96	Not Significant
	Private	160	57.28	3.42				

Not significant at 0.05 level

From table 3, mean rating for counselling services provided in public and private secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State are 57.04 and 57.28 respectively. This indicates that the counselling services provided in private secondary schools are not better than the ones provided in public secondary schools. The table also shows that $t\text{-cal. } 78.25 > t\text{-tab } 1.960$ at 0.05 level of significance thus, the null hypothesis is rejected. Hence there is no significant difference between the counselling services provided in public and private secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, kwara state. The findings of this study gave credence to earlier findings by past researchers such as Ipaye (1990); Esen (1998); Okobiah and Okorodudu (2006) and Akpan (2010) who in their submission opined that Counselling services is an educational service that seeks to provide the school children opportunity to obtain holistic educational development that prepares them for functional life.

Hypothesis Four: There is no significant difference between the transportation services provided in public and private secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, kwara state.

Table 4: Summary of Difference between Transportation Services Provided in Public and Private Secondary Schools in Ilorin Metropolis, Kwara State

	School Type	N	Mean	SD	df	t-cal	t-value	Remark
Transportation Services	Public	160	14.04	1.03	318	83.74	1.96	Significant

significant at 0.05 level

From table 4, the mean rating for transportation services provided in public and private secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State are 14.04 and 65.96 respectively. This indicates that the transportation services provided in private schools are better than the transportation services provided in public schools. The table also shows that $t\text{-cal } 83.74 > t\text{-tab } 1.960$ at 0.05 level of significance thus, the null hypothesis is rejected. Hence there is a significant difference between the transportation services provided in public and private secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis, kwara state. This finding is not surprising because the private school owners are into business for profit making purposes and tend to use every available means within their reach to maximize profits.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that the educational services provided in public and private secondary schools differ from one another. Only counselling services provided in public and private secondary schools in Ilorin metropolis is not significantly different.

All secondary schools irrespective of their ownership should take keen interest in providing efficient and effective educational services to their students as this goes a long way in improving their academic performance.

Public schools should be well funded by the government so that the educational services provided in such schools will be able to compete favorably with their private counterparts.

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