Abstract: The study investigated sport and health facilities as school plant utilization correlates of administration of public secondary schools in North Central Nigeria. Two objectives which were translated to hypotheses guided the study. The study adopted correlation research design. The population of the study comprised of Thirty one thousand one hundred and twenty eight (31,128) teachers from public secondary schools in the study area. A sample of 395 teachers was used. The sample was selected from the population using multi-stage sampling procedure. Simple random sampling and proportionate stratified random sampling were used at various stages. A questionnaire titled “School Plant Utilization and Administration Questionnaire (SPUAQ)” was used as the instrument of data collection. The instrument was validated by experts. The internal reliability estimate of the instrument was determined using Cronbach Alpha correlation statistic. A reliability coefficient of 0.98 was obtained. Data collected from field was statistically analyzed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient. All hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance. Findings revealed a significant relationship between all the two school plant utilization variables and administration of public secondary schools in North Central Nigeria. Based on these findings, it was concluded that school plant utilisation has significant relationship with administration of secondary schools in North Central Nigeria. This makes school plant utilisation a necessary strategy for successful administration of public secondary schools. The study recommended amongst other things that, school administrators should continuously develop strategies that encourage optimal utilisation of school plant in public secondary schools in North Central Nigeria.

Keywords: Sport Facilities, Health Facilities, School Plant Utilisation, Correlates, Administration, Public Secondary School

Introduction

Organisations or institutions rely on human, physical and material resources to administer programmes that lead them to achieve goals. The human resources in educational institutions including secondary schools use school plant to achieve educational goals. School plant refers to all physical or material provisions of the school (Correa, 2015; Aloga, 2014 & Macalino, 2014). The term describes operational input resources of every programme in school (Ekpoh, 2018; Udele, 2016). Sport and health facilities and other structures or features on a school site are components of school plant (Brown, 2015).

Sport facilities as part of school plant include: playgrounds and equipment for sports such as football, table tennis, volleyball, hockey pitches, javelin, hurdles, trophies, jersey/sports vests and others. Sport facilities are beneficial in the implementation of extra-curricular activities in secondary schools. The administration of extracurricular activities in secondary schools could be made easier with the proper utilisation of sport facilities available in the school.

Similarly, health facilities are school plant components essential for giving emergency care and other medical services to members of the school community while at school. According to Yelkpieri (2009), health facilities play primary roles in fostering good sanitation, good health and in developing healthy habits among staff and students. The administration of personnel health and well-being in secondary schools could be made easier with the proper utilisation of health facilities available in the school.
Utilisation of these facilities where they are available in secondary schools is important because it translates plans and programmes into action and lead school administrators to achieve set goals. School plant utilisation is a measure of how well existing school plant components are applied in the implementation of educational programmes in the school for optimum performance and waste minimization (Udele, 2016). School plant utilisation has to do with the effective use of existing school plant in terms of frequency, capacity and function (Lewin in Jessa, 2017). According to Leung, Lu and Pip (2014) school plant utilisation is aimed at providing learners with sustainable quality education using minimum school plant components.

As a way of maximising the utilisation of sport and health facilities and other school plant, secondary schools could share these with neighbouring schools to promote alliances, partnerships, collaborations, improve rapport and save cost among schools in an area and with the community. Brown (2015) adds that the school plant available in a school could be utilised by a single school or by two or more schools sharing the use of common facilities. This means that the utilisation of existing school plant facilities in a school could be utilised in the administration of educational activities of that school and could also be extended to neighbouring schools and even to the community for cost benefit reasons and to achieve school goals. According to Yohanna (2016), effective school plant utilisation could add value to administration of secondary schools in terms of educational programmes. According to Ochai (2012), this also reduces operational costs.

Public secondary school administration involves responsibilities and functions in running state schools through daily operations. Administration of such schools is therefore concerned with tasks of seeing that curricular, extracurricular programme, personnel relationships and well being, school-community relations and others are effectively maintained to realise school goals. The implementation of these tasks could be made easier with the proper utilisation of the school plant under consideration in this work.

Researches carried out on relationship between utilisation of school plant and administration of school programmes has clearly demonstrated explicit relationship between school plant utilisation and the quality of educational systems (Lowis, 2016; Odufowokan, 2011). Musa (2015) in a study on sport facilities utilisation and management of interpersonal relationship of disengaged students in Nasarawa State found significant relationship. Chabo and Akpan-Ibok in a study carried out in 2019 also established significant impact between health facilities and implementation of health programmes in secondary schools. Inspite of these findings, public secondary schools in North central are still lukewarm in appropriating the gains of school plant utilisation to improve school administration. In many public secondary schools in the area, there are observed problems with the way school plant including sport and health facilities are utilised. This limits the execution of vital programmes and derails the achievement of goals. It is therefore pertinent to bring insight to school administrators on this matter to help them to be more effective, hence this study on sport and health facilities as school plant utilisation correlates of administration of public secondary schools in North Central Nigeria.

Objective of the Study

The main objective of the study is to investigate sport and health facilities as school plant utilisation correlates of administration of public secondary schools in North Central Nigeria. Specifically, the study

1. Investigated the relationship between sport facilities utilisation and administration of public secondary schools.
2. Ascertained the relationship between health facilities utilisation and administration of public secondary schools.

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated to guide this study, and were tested at 0.05 level of significance:

1. There is no significant relationship between sport facilities utilisation and administration of public secondary schools
2. There is no significant relationship between health facilities utilisation and administration of public secondary
**Scope of Study**

The study covered public secondary schools in North Central Nigeria only. The variables of the study included utilisation of sport facilities, utilisation of health facilities, and administration. The geographical coverage of the study would be North Central Nigeria. The subjects of this study were teachers.

**Methods**

**Design of the Study**

The study used correlation research design. Emaikwu (20) indicates that, the design helps to assess the relationship between two variables without manipulating any of them.

**Population of the Study**

The population of the study was 31128 teachers

**Sample and Sampling Procedure**

A sample of 395 teachers was used. The sample was selected in multi stages. Simple random sampling and proportionate stratified random sampling were used at various stages of sampling.

**Tools Used for Data Collection**

A self developed tool called school plant utilisation and Administration Questionnaire (SPUAQ) was used to collect data. The instrument had five items each on sport facilities utilisation and health facilities utilisation respectively. It was validated by three experts in the department of educational foundations and general studies of Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi. The reliability coefficient of the instrument estimated using Cronbach alpha was 0.98.

**Method of Data Analysis**

Data collected was analysed using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (PPMC) to test hypotheses at 0.05 level. Null hypothesis was rejected at P<0.05 and accepted at p>0.05

**Results**

**Relationship between Sport Facilities Utilisation and Administration of Public Secondary Schools**

Ho1: There is no significant relationship between sport facilities utilisation and administration of public secondary schools in North Central Nigeria.

Results of test of analysis on hypothesis one is presented on table 1 on page 5. The result on table 1 reveals that, p < 0.05 with correlation coefficient of 0.951 so the null hypothesis is rejected. This indicates that, there is significant relationship between sport facilities utilisation and administration of public secondary schools in North Central Nigeria.

**Relationship between Health Facilities Utilisation and Administration of Public Secondary Schools**

Ho2: There is no significant relationship between health facilities utilisation and administration of public secondary schools in North Central Nigeria.

Results of test of analysis on hypothesis one is presented on table 2 on page 5. The result on table 2 reveals that, p < 0.05 with correlation coefficient of 0.962 so the null hypothesis is rejected. This indicates that, there is significant relationship between health facilities utilisation and administration of public secondary schools in North Central Nigeria.
Discussions

The first finding revealed that, there is a significant positive relationship between sport facilities utilisation and administration of secondary schools. This means that, higher levels of sport facilities utilisation, the more the effective the administration of extracurricular programmes in public secondary schools in North Central Nigeria. This finding supports an earlier finding by Musa (2015), that utilisation of sport facilities had significant relationship with administration of schools. When sport facilities are well utilised, promotes students’ interest to participate in sports is stimulated. Musa indicates that, sport facilities utilisation enhances talent development and promotes social interactions. Secondary school administrators who wish to enhance the administration of the school should therefore encourage enhanced utilisation of sport facilities available in the school.

Finding also revealed a significant positive relationship between health facilities utilisation and administration of secondary schools. This means that, utilisation of health facilities enhances staff and students’ health and wellbeing. This finding confirms Chabo and Akpan-Ibok (2019) who previously found significant relationship between health facilities utilisation and the administration of health programmes in secondary schools. This establishes the import of health facilities in the administration of public secondary schools. Proper utilisation of health facilities will enhance staff and students health by helping to keep them fit to participate in various activities in the school. It could promote well being, motivation to perform, attendance rates, participation and achievement of the schools set goals. Utilisation of health facilities should be upheld by administrators of public secondary school to smoothen operation of programmes and activities planned in school.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, the following conclusions are made: sport facilities and health facilities as school plant components each has significant relationship with administration of secondary schools in North Central Nigeria. This calls for secondary school administrators to always establish school plant utilisation schedules that ensure optimal utilisation of school plant variables in their schools. It is clear from this study that, administrative successes greatly depend on how well these facilities are utilised.

References


### Table 1: PPMC Analysis of Sport Facilities Utilization and Administration Public Secondary Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sport Facilities Utilisation</th>
<th>School Administration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pearson Correlation</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.951**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sig. (2-tailed)</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>395</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).**
P<0.05

### Table 2: PPMC Analysis of Health Facilities Utilization and Administration of Public Secondary Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Health Facilities Utilisation</th>
<th>School Administration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pearson Correlation</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.962**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sig. (2-tailed)</td>
<td>395</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

**Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).**
P<0.05