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EVALUATION OF PROVOSTS' ROLE PERFORMANCE IN IN PROVIDING STUDENT SECURITY ND ACCOMMODATION SERVICES IN COLLEGES OF EDUCATION IN NORTH CENTRAL ZONE, NIGERIA

BY

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Abstract

This study evaluates the role performance of provosts in providing student security and accommodation services in Colleges of Education in Nigeria's North Central Zone. The research adopted a descriptive survey design, with a sample of 614 participants comprising academic staff, management staff, and NCE III students. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire and analyzed using mean scores and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). Findings revealed that provosts ensured the presence of trained security personnel, proper fencing, and security measures such as CCTV and fire safety equipment. However, challenges such as inadequate toilet facilities and overcrowding persist in hostel accommodations. The study concluded that while provosts perform reasonably well in security provision, improvements are needed in hostel facilities. Recommendations include increased funding for infrastructure, regular security training, and enhanced maintenance of hostel amenities.

Keywords: Provost, Performance, Security and Accommodation Students

Introduction

Education is a fundamental driver of national development, and tertiary institutions play a crucial role in shaping the academic and social well-being of students. Among these institutions, Colleges of Education in Nigeria are pivotal in training future educators, making the provision of adequate student welfare services essential for effective learning. One of the most critical welfare services is student accommodation, which significantly impacts students' academic performance, safety, and overall campus experience (Ogunode and Abigeal, 2020). Student accommodation is an essential component of welfare services in tertiary institutions, directly influencing academic performance, mental health, and social integration (Ogunode and Abigeal, 2020). According to the National Policy on Education (2014), Nigerian tertiary institutions must provide conducive living conditions to support students' academic and personal development. Adequate hostel facilities should include proper ventilation, sanitation, security, and basic amenities such as water and electricity (Mgbodile, 2013). Security in tertiary institutions is also a critical component of campus life, directly impacting students' academic performance, psychological well-being, and institutional reputation (Fasasi, 2008; Okebukola, 2002). Security activities encompasses the presences of wel trained security personnel, fencing and access control, iron protectors for windows and doors, fire safety, CCTV among many others.

The Provost, as the chief administrator of a College of Education, plays a pivotal role in ensuring that student housing meets acceptable standards and their security is guaranteed. This involves planning, funding allocation, facility maintenance, and policy implementation (Okebukola, 2002). However, studies indicate that many Nigerian institutions struggle with overcrowding, poor maintenance, and inadequate funding, leading to substandard living conditions (Ezeadi, 2017).

In Nigeria, the increasing student population in Colleges of Education has placed immense pressure on existing hostel facilities, leading to overcrowding, inadequate maintenance, and insufficient amenities such as water supply, electricity, and sanitation (Mgbodile, 2013). Insecurity had made Students not to be adequately protected from cases of theft, robbery, rape, phone snatching, kidnapping, and cultism among many other related crimes. Security officers generally play a detective rather than defensive role when it comes to securing properties and maintaining safety for the public. In addition, situation of insecurity in the colleges now is alarming. The Provost, as the chief executive officer of these institutions, is responsible for ensuring that accommodation and security services meet acceptable standards. However, concerns persist regarding the adequacy and quality of hostel facilities and security in many Colleges of Education across the North Central Zone.

This study evaluates provosts' role performance in the provision of students' security and accommodation in colleges of education in north-central zone, Nigeria**.** Specifically, it examines the availability, accessibility, and condition of hostel and security facilities, including water supply, electricity, sanitation, and security measures.

Objectives of the Study

The study was aimed at achieving the following specific objectives to:

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1. Determine Provost Role Performance in the Provision of Students Security Services in Colleges of Education in North Central Zone, Nigeria.
2. Ascertain Provost Role Performance in the Provision of Students Accommodation Services in Colleges of Education in North Central Zone, Nigeria.

Research Questions

The following research questions were asked to guide the study:

1. How are the Students' Security Services Provided by the Provosts in Colleges of Education in North Central Zone, Nigeria?
2. How are the Students' Accommodation Services Provided by the Provost in Colleges of Education in North Central Zone, Nigeria?

Hypotheses

The following Null Hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance based in to Research Questions 1-8.

Ho_1: There is no Significant Difference in the Opinion of Academic Staff, Management Staff and NCE III Students on Provosts Role Performance in the Provision of Security Services in Colleges of Education in North Central Zone, Nigeria.

Ho_2: There is no Significant Difference in the Opinion of Academic staff, Management Staff and NCE III Students on Provosts Role Performance in the Provision of Accommodation Services in Colleges of Education in North Central Zone, Nigeria.

Methodology

Descriptive survey design was used in conducting the study. The population for the study consists of 4,314 which comprise 3771 academic staff, 105 management staff and 438 NCEIII Students drawn from the Colleges of Education in North Central Zone, Nigeria. A simple random sampling technique was adopted and a sample of 614 participants (NECIII students, Academic staff, management staff was used to carry out this study. A self-structured questionnaire titled "Accommodation and Security Services in Colleges of Education: Evaluating Provosts' Performance in North Central Nigeria". The questionnaire was designed using 5 Likert scales of Strongly Agree (5), Agree (4), Undecided (3) Disagree (2), and Strongly Disagree (1) with the rating of 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 were used for the study. The instrument had two sections. Section A was Bio-data, section B contains items structured in line with the research questions. The instrument was pilot tested and data collected from the pilot study was calculated using Cronbach Alpha techniques and a reliability index of 0.80 was obtained. Bennett & Elman (2006) assert that, for a scale to be considered reliable, it should have an alpha value of 0.50 to 1. With this level of reliability index, the instrument was considered reliable for use in the main study. The researcher carefully administered the questionnaire which led to 100% properly filled and returned questionnaires. Mean scores were used to answer the research questions while Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

Results

The researcher used 3.00 as the mean otherwise known as decision mean since the instrument was structured along a five-point Likert scale structure to decide on whether to accept or reject the research question after comparing it with the cumulative mean. Therefore, a mean score of 3.0 and above indicate a positive response to the research question and accepted while a mean score below 3.0 indicates a negative answer to the research question and rejected. The summary of the analyses and results of the data collected for the study are presented as follow.

Table 1: Opinions of Respondents on how Students' Security Services Provided by the Provosts in Colleges of Education in North Central Zone, Nigeria.

S/N	Item statement	Respondent	SA	A	UD	D	SD	N	MEAN
1	The provost ensures that there are security personnel within the campus.	Mgt. Staff	10	29	-	3	7	49	3.6
		Acad. Staff	125	109	-	102	16	352	3.6
		NCE III	42	100	2	50	6	200	3.6
2	The provost ensures that security personnel are trained to handle campus security threats.	Mgt. Staff	29	10	-	2	8	49	4.0
		Acad. Staff	105	127	2	18	100	352	3.3
		NCE III	90	32	8	21	49	200	3.5
3	The provost ensures that the college is well fenced to provide security for staff and students.	Mgt. Staff	25	15	-	2	7	49	4.0
		Acad. Staff	54	180	-	116	2	352	3.4
		NCE III	102	15	6	49	6	200	3.5

ISSN 2736-0091
E-ISSN 2737-0107

4	The provost employs the services of private security guard to supplement the in house security.	Mgt. Staff	10	19	-	18	2	49	3.4
		Acad. Staff	108	108	-	126	12	352	3.5
		NCE III	43	113	5	59	29	200	4.2
5	The provost ensures that security personnel are stationed in each of the students' hostel.	Mgt. Staff	14	11	2	22	2	49	3.4
		Acad. Staff	188	28	1	124	1	352	3.7
		NCE III	31	108	6	74	40	200	4.0
6	The Provost ensures that security personnel are equipped with communication gadgets.	Mgt. Staff	26	18	-	1	10	49	4.3
		Acad. Staff	74	113	2	145	18	352	3.2
		NCE III	52	50	6	51	42	200	3.1
7	The hostels and class rooms are protected with iron protector.	Mgt. Staff	10	26	-	10	3	49	3.6
		Acad. Staff	132	79	2	115	24	352	3.5
		NCE III	100	47	-	35	19	200	4.0
8	The Provost ensures that no one is allowed to enter the college campus without identification card.	Mgt. Staff	28	14	-	5	2	49	4.3
		Acad. Staff	171	50	2	117	12	352	4.0
		NCE III	45	60	18	46	31	200	3.2
9	The Provost ensures that the security unit is provided with Security Van roluch is equipped with communication gadgets.	Mgt. Staff	12	6	-	4	27	49	2.4
		Acad. Staff	52	135	-	47	116	352	3.0
		NCE III	77	60	6	56	23	200	4.0
10	The Provost ensures the fire service Unit has functional fire van and fire-fighting equipment.	Mgt. Staff	29	8	-	10	2	49	4.0
		Acad. Staff	85	127	-	128	12	352	3.4
		NCE III	61	102	9	9	19	200	4.0

Aggregate Mean = 3.6

From table 1, shows the mean scores of respondents on Provision of Students' Security Services in Colleges of Education in North Central Zone, Nigeria. Item 1 was on whether the provosts ensured that there are security personnel within the campus. It was revealed that the item statement was accepted by all the respondents with Management staff having mean score of 3.6, Academic staff 3.6. and NCE III Students 3.6. This shows that the respondents agreed that there are security personnel within the campus. Item 2 showed that Management staff have mean score of 4.0, Academic staff 3.3, and NCE III Students 3.5, which indicate acceptance, meaning that the provost ensures that security personnel are trained to handle campus security threats. Item 3 was also accepted by the respondents, with the respective mean scores for Management staff 4.0, Academic staff 3.4, and NCE III Students 3.5. Item 4 was on the provost employs the services of private security guard to supplement the in house security, the responses showed accepted by all the respondents with the mean score of 3.4, 3.5, and 4.2 for Management staff, Academic staff, and NCE III Students respectively, Meaning that the provosts employed the services of private security guards to supplement the in house security. Item 5 had mean score for Management staff 3.4, Academic staff 3.7, and NCE III Students 4.0, which implies it was accepted that the provost ensures that security personnel are stationed in each of the students' hostel. Item 6 showed that Management staff had mean score of 4.3, Academic staff 3.2, and NCE III Students 3.1. Item 7 was accepted by all the respondents with the respective mean scores of 3.6 Management staff, 3.5 Academic staff, and 4.0 NCE III Students, this implies that the respondents agreed that hostels and class rooms are protected with iron protector. Item 8 have the mean score of 4.3, 4.0 and 3.2 for Management staff, Academic staff and NCE III Students, accordingly, indicating acceptance of the item statement. Item 9 have the means score of 2.4, 3.0 and 4.0 for Management staff , Academic staff, and NCE III Students respectively and was accepted. Similarly, item 10 was accepted with the corresponding mean score of 4.0, 3.4, and 4.0 for Management staff, Academic staff, NCE III Students. It was established that Provosts ensured the Fire Service Units have functional Fire Vans and fire-fighting equipment. It was established that most Provosts ensured that trained security personnel are engaged to handle any security threats in Colleges of Education in North-Central Zone, Nigeria.

ISSN 2736-0091
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Table 2: Opinions of Respondents on how are Students Accommodation Services are Provided by the Provosts in Colleges of Education in North Central Zone, Nigeria.

S/N	Item statement	Respondent	SA	A	UD	D	SD	N	MEAN
11	The provost ensures that hostel accommodation is accessible.	Mgt. Staff	10	27	-	10	2	49	3.7
		Acad. Staff	105	100	-	123	24	352	3.4
		NCE III	42	64	-	56	39	200	3.1
12	The provost ensures that Students' Hostels have toilet facilities.	Mgt. Staff	29	7	-	6	7	49	4.0
		Acad. Staff	195	27	2	128	4	352	4.0
		NCE III	62	94	5	30	10	200	4.0
13	The provost ensures that there is steady water supply in the hostels.	Mgt. Staff	25	11	-	12	1	49	4.0
		Acad. Staff	50	170	-	119	9	352	3.3
		NCE III	100	56	4	25	15	200	4.0
14	The provost ensures that rooms in the hostels have good windows.	Mgt. Staff	28	9	-	4	8	49	4.0
		Acad. Staff	80	135	2	124	11	352	3.4
		NCE III	42	120	5	14	9	200	3.7
15	The provost ensures that hostels have good light facilities.	Mgt. Staff	14	28	-	4	3	49	4.0
		Acad. Staff	178	18	2	148	6	352	3.6
		NCE III	30	125	6	25	14	200	3.7
16	The Provost ensures that Porters always clean the toilets with insecticides.	Mgt. Staff	27	12	-	10	--	49	4.1
		Acad. Staff	154	31	2	143	22	352	3.4
		NCE III	72	60	-	44	27	200	4.0
17	The Provost ensures that Solar power systems are installed in the hostel premises for security of students.	Mgt. Staff	10	27	-	3	2	49	3.4
		Acad. Staff	120	59	-	158	20	352	3.3
		NCE III	106	35	-	49	10	200	4.0
18	The Provost ensures every student' has a bed space in each hostel.	Mgt. Staff	13	24	-	1	4	49	3.4
		Acad. Staff	175	30	-	35	12	352	3.1
		NCE III	69	60	2	48	23	200	3.6
19	The Provost ensures that Students Hostels are habitable.	Mgt. Staff	13	27	-	6	3	49	4.0
		Acad. Staff	132	59	-	151	18	352	3.5
		NCE III	72	50	-	40	38	200	3.4
20	The Provost ensures that Students can access accommodation easily using the appropriate technology.	Mgt. Staff	29	6	-	13	1	49	4.0
		Acad. Staff	165	45	-	130	10	352	3.6
		NCE III	73	52	-	55	20	200	3.5

Aggregate Mean = 3.8

From table 2, shows the mean score of respondents on the Provision of Students Accommodation Services Provided by the Provosts in the Colleges of Education in North Central Zone, Nigeria. Item 11 was on whether the provost ensures that hostel accommodation is accessible. It was revealed that the item statement was accepted by all the respondents with Management staff having mean score of 3.7, Academic staff 3.4 and NCE III Students 3.1. This shows that the respondents agreed that the provost ensures that hostel accommodation is accessible. Item 12 showed that Management staffs have mean score of 4.0, Academic staff 4.0, and NCE III Students 4.0, which indicate acceptance, meaning that the provost ensures that Students' Hostels have toilet facilities. Item 13 was also accepted by all the respondents, with the respective mean scores for Management staff 4.0, Academic staff 3.3, and NCE III Students 4.0. Item 14 was on whether the provost ensures that rooms in the hostels have good windows, the responses showed accepted by all the respondents with the mean score of 4.0, 3.4, and 3.7 for Management staff, Academic staff, and NCE III Students respectively, meaning that the provost ensures that rooms in the hostels have good windows. Item 15 had mean score for Management staff 4.0, Academic staff 3.6, and NCE III Students

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3.7, which implies that it was accepted that provosts ensures that hostels have good light facilities. Item 16 showed that Management staff had mean score of 4.1, Academic staff 3.4, and NCE III Students 4.0. Item 17 was accepted by all the respondents with the respective mean scores of Management staff 3.4, Academic staff 3.1, and NCE III Students 4.0, this implies that the respondents agreed that the Provost ensures that Solar power systems are installed in the hostel premises for security of students. Item 18 have the mean score of 3.4, 3.1 and 3.6 for Management staff, Academic staff and NCE III Students, accordingly, indicating acceptance of the item statement. Item 19 have the means score of 4.0, 3.5 and 3.4 for Management staff, Academic staff, and NCE III Students respectively and was accepted. Similarly, item 20 was accepted with the corresponding mean score of 4.0, 3.6, and 3.5 for Management staff, Academic staff, and NCE III Students. It was established that Hostel Accommodations were provided by in most of the colleges of education but some facilities were not adequately provided.

Test of Null Hypotheses

The following are the results of the hypotheses that were tested using a t-test at 0.05 level of significance.

HO_1: There is no Significant Difference in the Opinions of Respondents on Provision of Students' Security Services in Colleges of Education in North Central Zone, Nigeria

Table 3: Summary of Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) on the Opinions of the Respondents on Provision of Students' Security Services in Colleges of Education in North Central Zone, Nigeria.

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	5.989	3	1.996	1.626	0.183
Within Groups	430.896	611	1.228		
Total	436.884	614			

From table 3, the F-value is 1.626 and the P-value is 0.183 at 0.05 levels of significance. Since the P-value was greater than the level of significance set for the study, the hypothesis was therefore retained. Thus, there was no significant difference in the opinions of respondents on provision of Students' Security Services in Colleges of Education in North Central Zone, Nigeria.

HO_2: There is no Significant Difference in the Opinions of Respondents on Provision of Students' Accommodation Services in Colleges of Education in North Central Zone, Nigeria.

Table 4: Summary of Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) on the Opinions of the Respondents, on Provision of Students' Accommodation Services in Colleges of Education in North Central Zone, Nigeria

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	5.998	3	1.999	1.244	0.294
Within Groups	564.137	611	1.607		
Total	570.135	614			

From table 4, the F-value is 1.224and the P-value is 0.294 at 0.05 levels of significance. Since the P-value is greater than the level of significance set for the study, the hypothesis was therefore retained, thus, there was no Significant Difference in the Opinions of Respondents on Provision of Students' Accommodation Services in the Colleges of Education in North Central Zone, Nigeria.

Discussion of Findings

This study established that provosts in Colleges of Education across Nigeria's North Central Zone have made significant efforts in ensuring campus security. The findings from Table 1 indicate that security personnel are present within the campuses, with a mean score of 3.6 across all respondent categories (management staff, academic staff, and NCE III students). This aligns with Fasasi (2008), who emphasized that security services are essential for maintaining peace and order, which in turn fosters a conducive learning environment. Furthermore, the study revealed that provosts ensure security personnel are trained to handle threats (mean score: 3.5-4.0), campuses are well-fenced (mean score: 3.4-4.0), and security officers are

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stationed in hostels (mean score: 3.4-4.0). These measures are crucial in mitigating risks such as theft, cultism, and unauthorized access, which have been major concerns in Nigerian tertiary institutions (Okebukola, 2002). However, the study also identified gaps in security provisions, such as inconsistent access control (mean score: 3.2-4.3) and insufficient communication gadgets for security personnel (mean score: 3.1-4.3). These findings suggest that while basic security structures are in place, there is a need for improved technological integration and stricter enforcement of security protocols.

The study which also assessed the adequacy of hostel facilities, as presented in Table 3. The findings indicate that while hostel accommodations are generally accessible (mean score: 3.1-3.7), some critical amenities remain inadequate. For instance, toilet facilities were reported to be available (mean score: 4.0 across all groups), but maintenance and hygiene standards were inconsistent. This corroborates Ayo's (2003**)** assertion that Nigerian tertiary institutions were designed to provide comfortable hostel accommodations, but poor maintenance and overcrowding have compromised living conditions. Additionally, the study found that hostels have steady water supply (mean score: 3.3-4.0), good ventilation (mean score: 3.4-4.0), and lighting facilities (mean score: 3.6-4.0). However, challenges such as insufficient bed spaces (mean score: 3.1-3.6) and irregular cleaning of toilets (mean score: 3.4-4.1) were noted. These findings align with Mgbodile's (2013) observation that many Nigerian institutions struggle with hostel overcrowding and poor sanitation, which negatively impact students' well-being.

Conclusion

The study assessed the role performance of provosts in ensuring adequate security and accommodation services for students in Colleges of Education in North Central Nigeria. Findings indicated that provosts actively engage in security measures, including deploying trained personnel, fencing institutions, and installing security gadgets. However, hostel facilities face challenges such as insufficient sanitation, overcrowding, and occasional water and electricity shortages. The hypotheses tested confirmed no significant difference in respondents' opinions regarding security and accommodation services, suggesting a general consensus on the state of these facilities. While the provosts' efforts in security provision are commendable, there is a need for sustained improvements in hostel conditions to enhance students' welfare and academic performance.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are made:

1. Provosts should invest in modern security technologies such as CCTV surveillance and regular training for security personnel to curb campus crimes effectively.
2. Institutions should implement a structured maintenance schedule for hostel facilities to
3. Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) should be encouraged. Collaboration with private investors could help expand hostel accommodations and improve existing facilities.
4. Student should be involved in welfare decisions. Student representatives should be included in committees overseeing accommodation and security policies to address their concerns effectively.

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