



Influence of Alcohol Use by Primary School Teachers on the Management of Public Primary Schools in Benue State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the influence of alcohol use by primary school teachers on the management of public primary schools in Benue State of Nigeria. Two research questions and two null hypotheses guided the study. Survey research design was adopted for the study. The population comprised 16,544 teachers from 2748 public primary schools out of which 827 teachers from 276 public primary schools were purposively sampled as respondents for the study. A structured 16-item questionnaire titled “Alcohol Use and Management of Public Primary Schools Questionnaire (AUMPPSQ) was used to collect data. The data collected were analyzed using mean and standard deviation to answer the research questions while Chi-square (χ^2) test was used to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that alcohol use by primary school teachers has significant influence on their discipline and job performance in public primary schools in Benue State of Nigeria. Based on the findings, it was recommended that sale of alcohol within the school premises be prohibited and head teachers should collaborate with community leaders to supervise and enforce non-sale of alcohol around the school premises in order to ensure maintenance of sanity in the schools.

Keywords: Alcohol Use, Teachers, Management, Public Primary Schools.

INTRODUCTION

Education is an important experience both to the individuals who have it and the nation. For without it, it is meaningless to talk about development in any form. According to Tugbiyele as cited in Kwaghbo (2007), education is a necessary national investment for it is the key to overall national development. Hence, government, communities, agencies and individuals invest heavily in the provision of educational experiences to the citizens.

At the center of every education process stands the teacher. According to Eriba (2006) what the teacher knows and does can make a great difference; what he does not know or cannot do or fails to do can cause irreparable loss to the children under his care. This is more so because, the teacher “is a manager of ideas and activities, the judge of disciplinary cases, the molder of character, the rarer of human minds, the

mobilizer of students' efforts and indeed the window through which pupils visualize the world around them" (Eriba 2006, p.1). How well the teachers in the public primary schools in Benue State, Nigeria are performing their roles has become a worry to parents and government. This is because the public primary school teachers who are supposed to be models in character building of children are alleged to be involved in alcohol use, even while on duty. The issue of alcohol use among primary school teachers can however, go a long way in undermining the realization of the objectives of a school and education of the Nigerian child generally, and Benue State in particular, if not addressed (Kobiowu, 2006 in Ogbu, 2014). Alcohol is a drug found in all alcoholic drinks like beer, wine and spirits such as vodka and whisky. Ogbu (2014) submits that alcohol is a substance which depresses the brain when taken in excess. This affects one's ability to control one's behavior and bodily functions, like thinking, talking, walking, and even breathing. Alcohol has a toxic and sedative effect on the body and is available without prescription. It is a central nervous system depressant and its use can cause marked changes in behavior among users, including public primary school teachers. Alcohol use tends to lessen teachers' inhibitions, slows speech, decreases muscle control and coordination and may lead to alcoholism which is capable of negatively affecting teachers' job performance and effectiveness.

Alcohol use among primary school teachers constitutes a major threat to their effectiveness in the management of primary schools. Some of the teachers are alleged to be involved in truancy (staying away from school and/or class), unauthorized exit from school, inability to keep appropriate school records, collecting money illegally from pupils and other acts of misconduct due to addiction to alcohol use (Khalid, 2008).

The issue of alcohol use is observed to be among several factors that can influence teachers' management of schools and classes. A situation whereby a teacher or head teacher drinks excessively before coming to school affects their mental alertness in planning school activities. This reduces their capacity to coordinate and organize classes. The job performance and discipline of school teachers is compromised. It is therefore, not surprising that many teachers consider the period of school examinations as the period to illegally collect money from pupils to aid them pass examinations while they (the teachers) use such money to drink alcohol. Other school management challenges associated with alcohol use include a higher chance of the teachers injuring themselves through accidents which could lead to loss of man-hours and other costs to the school, increased risks of disputes in the school system, and a higher chance of attrition which could affect the school operations.

According to Onyechu (2006), inadequate supervision of teachers by school managers and administrators can encourage excessive use of alcohol. Through supervision, teachers' excesses and weaknesses would be noticed and corrected. Where there is lack or inadequate supervision of teachers by their heads, teachers who engage in acts of indiscipline would not be detected and corrected to enhance their discipline and job performance.

Due to the position of teachers in the management of the educational system, therefore, anything they do effects the pupils that depend on them for direction (Zakat, 2007). Teachers' indiscipline and engagement in deviant behavior often result in poor academic performance of pupils, indiscipline of pupils and ultimately a fall in the standard of education. This appears to be the situation in public primary schools in Benue State and has become a source of worry not only to parents but to education authorities. Teachers seen by the society to become unhealthy role models for children reduce academic opportunities for children and have poor sense of judgment due to alcohol use.

Management of public primary schools involves a process of utilizing human and material resources efficiently and effectively to achieve the desired results or goals. Management is a vital aspect in any organization. The primary functions of effective management which are planning, organizing, directing, controlling and coordinating have to be performed by the manager (head teacher) including in primary schools (Agbe & Bua, 2014). Relatedly, Akpakwu (2008) maintains that management involves the judicious utilization of human, financial, physical and time resources available to organizations in order to effectively and efficiently achieve the objectives of the organizations.

Management of public primary schools can be affected adversely by teachers due to their involvement in alcohol use. Ogbu (2014, p. 4) asserts that “most schools today have teachers who are addicted to alcohol and such teachers absent themselves from school activities and their job performance is compromised due to addiction to alcohol”. This study is therefore intended to reawaken the consciousness of head teachers and the teachers of public primary schools on the influence of alcohol use on the management of public primary schools in Benue State of Nigeria with a view to putting it on check.

Statement of the Problem

The high rate of alcohol use in society, particularly among public primary school teachers in Benue State of Nigeria, seems to be a major concern. The situation has become so critical when one considers the influence of alcohol use on the management of public primary schools and the incalculable human cost due to alcohol use. A lot of mental and physiological disturbances and illnesses among public primary school teachers are traceable to high alcohol use (Ochino; 2010). Today, in Benue state, public primary school teachers are alleged not to be disciplined, they absent themselves from school activities unperturbed of the consequences and their job performance is not optimal. This situation seems to have adverse influence on the management of public primary schools and is a serious concern to the researchers who are themselves professional teachers. The areas of concern are discipline among teachers and teachers’ job performance. The study therefore is focused on the influence of alcohol use on the management of public primary schools in Benue state of Nigeria.

Objective of the Study

The main objective of this study was to examine the influence of alcohol use on the management of public primary schools in Benue state of Nigeria. Specifically, the study endeavored to:

1. find out the influence of alcohol use by primary school teachers on their discipline in public primary schools in Benue State of Nigeria.
2. establish the influence of alcohol use by primary school teachers on their job performance in public primary schools.

Research questions

The following research questions guided the study.

1. What is the influence of alcohol use by primary school teachers on their discipline in public primary schools in Benue state of Nigeria?
2. What is the influence of alcohol use by primary school teachers on their job performance in public primary schools?

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance.

1. Alcohol use by primary school teachers has no significant influence on their discipline in public primary schools in Benue State of Nigeria.
2. Alcohol use by primary school teachers has no significant influence on their job performance in public primary schools.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study adopted the descriptive survey design because it merely collected opinions from a sample of the main population which formed the basis for studying the influence of alcohol use on the management of public primary schools. Descriptive survey research according to Iortimah and Aligba (2011), is the process of collecting and analysing data from a few people considered to be representative of the entire group. The survey design was chosen because it was chiefly concerned with finding, describing and interpreting what was in existence at the time of the study without manipulating any independent variables of the study.

Population of the Study

The population of the study comprised 16,544 teachers from 2748 public primary schools in Benue State (Benue State Universal Basic Education Board, SUBEB, 2017).

Sample and Sampling

The sample of this study was 827 teachers out of 16,544 from 137 public primary schools selected from the three (3) senatorial districts of Benue state. 276 teachers from 46 schools were purposively sampled from each senatorial district to serve as the respondents for the study.

Instrument for Data Collection

The instrument used to collect data for this study was a structured questionnaire designed by the researchers and titled "Alcohol use and management of public primary schools questionnaire (AUMPPSQ). The questionnaire consisted of two sections, A and B. Section 'A' sought for the bio data of the respondents while section 'B' elicited information on the variables of teachers' discipline and job performance in public primary schools in Benue State. The items in the questionnaire were arranged on a four point rating scale with response mode of Strongly Agree (SA) = 4, Agree (A) = 3, Disagree (D) = 2 and Strongly Disagree (SD) = 1. The questionnaire was validated by two experts and trial-tested by the researchers for reliability. The result of the trial-test showed 0.80 reliability coefficient.

Method of Data Collection

The researchers used 46 research assistants to help in collecting the data for the study. Two assistants were attached to each of the 23 Local Government Areas in Benue State. The assistants administered the instrument to the respondents and collected the completed copies of the questionnaire back immediately as the items were not many and as such did not require a long time to complete. A total of 827 copies of the questionnaire were returned completed.

Method of Data Analysis

Data collected were analyzed using mean (\bar{x}) and standard deviation (STD) to answer the two (2) research questions. The mean cut off score of 2.50 and above was considered acceptable while any mean value below 2.50 was not accepted. Chi-Square (χ^2) was used to test the two (2) null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

RESULTS

The results of the statistical analysis of the data collected are as presented below:

Research question 1: *What is the influence of alcohol use by primary school teachers on their discipline in public primary schools in Benue State of Nigeria?*

The data that provided answer to the research question are presented on Table 1.

Table 1: Mean rating and standard deviation of respondents on the influence of alcohol use by primary school teachers on their discipline in public primary schools in Benue State

Item No	Item Description	N	Mean	STD	Decision
1.	Teachers in my school who consume alcohol Are not disciplined personalities.	827	2.59	1.09	Agree
2.	Teachers who take alcohol do not quarrel or fight in school.	827	2.63	1.23	Agree
3.	Teachers who take alcohol are not seen to play truancy.	827	2.43	1.16	Disagree
4.	Teachers who take alcohol indulge in examinations malpractice.	827	2.59	1.06	Agree
5.	Teachers who consume alcohol are careful not to be absent from duty.	827	2.41	1.26	Disagree
6.	Teachers who use alcohol regularly are alleged to collect money from pupils to take alcoholic drinks.	827	2.56	1.07	Agree
7.	Teachers who are alcohol users do accord respect to school rules and regulations.	827	2.53	1.21	Agree
8.	Teachers who take alcohol are careful not to leave school before closing time.	827	2.40	0.90	Disagree
Cluster mean and standard deviation			2.52	1.23	Agree

Note: Negative items were scored in reverse order.

Table 1 revealed that items 1,2,4,6 and 7, have mean ratings of 2.59, 2.63, 2.59, 2.56 and 2.53 with corresponding standard deviation of 1.09, 1.23, 1.06, 1.07 and 1.21 respectively, with cluster mean rating of 2.52 and corresponding standard deviation of 1.23; item 3, 5 and 8 and on the other hand have mean ratings of 2.43, 2.41 and 2.40 with corresponding standard deviations of 1.16, 1.26 and 0.90 respectively. Based on the cut-off score of 2.50, the respondents agreed that items 1,2,4 and 7 are above the cut-off score, with cluster mean also above the cut-off score, while item 3,5 and 8 have cut-off score lower than 2.50. This result indicates that alcohol use by primary school teachers has influence on their discipline in public primary schools in Benue State of Nigeria.

Research Question 2: *What is the influence of alcohol use by primary school teachers on their job performance in public primary schools?*

The data that provided answer to the research question are presented on Table 2.

Table 2: Mean ratings and standard deviations of respondents on the influence of alcohol use by primary school teachers on their job performance in public primary schools.

Item No	Item Description	N	Mean	STD	Decision
9.	Teachers in my school who take alcohol regularly still attend classes promptly.	827	2.54	1.14	Agree
10.	Teachers who take much alcohol have no time to prepare their lesson notes.	827	2.64	1.21	Agree
11.	Teachers who consume alcohol do not leave their classes before allotted time	827	2.43	1.16	Disagree
12.	Teachers who take alcohol do not manage their classes effectively.	827	2.52	1.16	Agree
13.	Teachers who take much alcohol do not mark pupils assignment properly at the right time.	827	2.54	1.24	Agree
14.	Teachers fond of taking alcohol are good at school records keeping	827	2.46	1.09	Disagree
15.	Teachers who are alcoholics do use abusive communication to pupils in the class.	827	2.68	1.16	Agree
16.	Teachers who take much alcohol lag behind in implementing designed Curriculum in their subject areas.	827	2.54	1.00	Agree
Cluster mean and standard deviation			2.54	1.21	Agree

Note: Negative items were scored in reverse order

Table 2 has shown that items 9,10,12,15 and 16 to have mean ratings of 2.54, 2.64, 2.52, 2.54, 2.68 and 2.54 with corresponding standard deviations of 1.14, 1.21, 1.16, 1.24, 1.16 and 1.00 respectively with cluster mean rating of 2.54 and standard deviation of 1.21; all of which are above mean cut off score of 2.50 while items 11 and 14 with mean ratings of 2.43 and 2.46 with standard deviations of 1.16 and 1.00 respectively are below the cut-off score of 2.50.

Based on this result it can be implied that alcohol use by primary school teachers has influence on their job performance in public primary schools in Benue State of Nigeria.

Hypotheses Testing

The null hypotheses for the study were tested using chi-square (χ^2) test of goodness of fit at 0.05 level of significance and the results are presented on Tables 3 and 4.

Hypothesis 1

Alcohol use by primary school teachers has no significant influence on their discipline in public primary schools in Benue State of Nigeria.

Table 3: Chi-square (χ^2) test on the influence of alcohol use by primary school teachers on their discipline

Opinion	Observed Frequency	Expected frequency	DF	χ^2 Cal.	χ^2 crit.	Level of sig.	Decision
No influence	316 (28.22%)	413.5(50%)	21	176.80	32.67	0.05	Significant
Has influence	511 (61.78%)	413.5 (50%)					

Values in parentheses are percentages: χ^2 Cal = 176.80, χ^2 Crit = 32.67, df = 21, P = 0.05 > 0.00

Table 3 has shown that chi-square (χ^2) calculated value of 176.80 is greater than the chi-square (χ^2) critical (tabulated) value of 32.67 at 0.05 level of significance and at 21 degrees of freedom. The null

hypothesis is therefore rejected. This implies that alcohol use by primary school teachers has significant influence on their discipline in public primary schools in Benue State of Nigeria

Hypothesis 2

Alcohol use by primary school teachers has no significant influence on their job performance in public primary schools.

Table 4: Chi-square (χ^2) test on the influence of alcohol use by primary school teachers on their job performance in public primary schools on Benue State.

Opinion	Observed Frequency	Expected frequency	DF	χ^2 Cal.	χ^2 crit.	Level of sig.	Decision
No influence	212 (25.60%)	413.5(50%)	21	155.24	32.67	0.05	Significant
Has influence	611 (74.40%)	413.5 (50%)					

Values in parentheses are percentages: χ^2 Cal = 155.24, χ^2 crit = 32.67, df = 21, P = 0.05 > 0.00

Table 4 has revealed that Chi-square (χ^2) calculated value of 155.24 is greater than the chi-square (χ^2) critical (tabulated) value of 32.67 at 0.05 level of significance and at 21 degrees of freedom. The hypothesis which states that alcohol use by primary school teachers has not significant influence on their job performance is therefore rejected. This implies that alcohol use by primary school teachers has significant influence on their job performance in public primary schools in Benue Stat of Nigeria.

DISCUSSING OF FINDINGS

The first finding of the study revealed that alcohol use by primary school teachers in public primary schools in Benue State of Nigeria has significant influence on their discipline. This finding corroborates with that by Ogbu (2014), who found that alcohol use by primary school teachers has a significant influence on their discipline. According to Ogbu, excessive alcohol use was the major influence on teachers’ behavior and discipline. The finding is similar to that by Kobiowu (2006) who found that alcohol and drug abuse have significant influence on social life of the consumers including teachers’ discipline.

The second finding of the study showed that alcohol use by primary school teachers in public primary schools has significant influence on their job performance. The finding agrees with that by Ochino (2010) who found that teachers’ job performance in public primary schools in Ugenya District of Kenya is significantly affected by their use of excess alcohol. In the same vein, Seidman and Zager (2007) found that excessive alcohol use was the major cause of teachers’ ineffectiveness in school activities and performance. The finding also supports Rukundo’s and Magambo’s (2013) study which found that alcohol consumption by teachers leads to poor decision making in assessing students, poor organization, planning and delivery of lessons, and poor learning environment, which adversely affect management of school operations.

CONCLUSION

The study was conducted on the influence of alcohol use by primary school teachers on the management of public primary schools in Benue State of Nigeria. Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that alcohol use by public primary school teachers has significant influence on their discipline and job performance in Benue State of Nigeria. This affects school management and other school activities. The effects of alcohol use can, also, go beyond the teachers themselves to affect the entire educational system, and consequently other sectors.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of the findings of the study, it was recommended that:

1. Sale and use of alcohol within the school premises be prohibited by school heads and boards who would empower the school heads to enforce same. Any teacher found flouting this law should be made to face necessary disciplinary action.
2. Head teachers should closely collaborate with community leaders to supervise and enforce non-sale of alcohol around the school premises. Community leaders should liaise with parents to support school authorities to maintain sanity in the schools.

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