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Utilization of Instructional Materials and Students' Academic Performance in Junior Secondary Schools in Selected Local Government Areas, Rivers State

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ABSTRACT
This study examined the Utilization of Instructional Materials and Students Academic Performance in junior public secondary Schools in selected Local Government Areas, Rivers State**.** The study was guided by five research questions and three hypotheses. The correlational research design was adopted in the study with a population of 9,368 students in Junior Public Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas. The sample for the study is 956. The instrument for data collection was a self-designed questionnaire. The instrument was validated by the researcher's supervisor and two other experts from the Department of Measurement and Evaluation. The reliability of the instrument was determined using test retest method. A reliability coefficient of 0.84 was obtained through Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient Method. Collected data were analyzed using the mean statistics in answering the research questions while the hypotheses were tested using the Pearson Product Moment Correlation statistics at 0.05 level of significance. The findings of the study revealed that the utilization of graphic materials relate to students' academic performance. The findings also revealed that the utilization of computer (hardware and software) relate to students' academic performance. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that the government and other stakeholders should make adequate provision of instructional materials such as computers, graphic materials, still picture and print media to teaching and learning in public schools.
Keywords: Instructional Materials and Academic Performance.

INTRODUCTION

Education is regarded as the greatest agency for human development; it is for this reason that many countries in the world spend a lot of time and money to provide adequate education to their citizens. According to Redden in Okemakinde (2014), says that education is the deliberate and systematic influence extended by the mature person upon the immature through instruction, discipline and harmonious development of physical, intellectual, aesthetic, social and spiritual powers of the human beings, according to their essential hierarchy for the individual and social uses which is directed towards the union of the educated with the creator at the final end. Education in Nigeria is an instrument "par excellence" for effecting national development, it has witnessed active participation by non governmental agencies, communities, and individuals as well as government interventions (National Policy on Education, 2014). Materials is something designed and created to serve a particular function and to afford a particular convenience or service. e.g instructional materials, catering materials and so on. Material can also be seen as quality which makes learning or doing things easy or simple e.g computer, graphic materials and so on.

Instructional materials like electronic communication mode promote students' academic performance if provided and maintained. Students with scheduling or distance problems benefit as an employee, because distance education can be more flexible in terms of time and can be delivered virtually anywhere (Wikipedia, 2015). According to Musbah and Mohammed (2013), e-learning is rapidly evolving with the use of online learning. It enables educators and learners to have continuous access to course materials, broadcast, and announcement, submit and receive feedback. Instructional

materials include the Schools plant which Schools administrators, teachers and students harness, allocate, and utilize for the smooth and efficient management of any educational institution. It includes permanent and non-permanent structures, such as computer, graphic materials, still picture, print media, playground, laboratory equipment, chalkboard, teacher's tools, and others (Abiyai, 2012). In the United Kingdom's educational system, such as information technology especially, the utilization of modern educational technology was formally integrated into the School's curriculum when the national curriculum was devised it was quickly realized according to the research works of (Adeyemo 2010). The impact of ICT on the teaching and learning of physics that the work covered was useful in all subjects with the arrival of the internet. According to Joseph (2004), the structuring and motivation of game like atmosphere, teachers can provide a set of criteria meaningful to them, there seemed to be a good deal of agreement on the criteria and a teacher developed instrument can be effectively used.

Emenike (2004), he found out the following: The extent of supply and utilization of instructional materials is poor; there are no enough qualified people (instructors) for the programme, instructional materials are not sufficiently supplied in relation to the researchers' study. The study also looks into the utilization of instructional materials for teaching and learning.

Obuneme (2005), heighted the following findings: That the instructional materials for teaching and learning were inadequate, the instructional materials were not effectively used on teachers, the attitude of government towards provision of instructional materials create problem for the provision of education resource for teacher in Junior Secondary Schools.

Education, according to Coombs (2006), consists of two components. This scholar therefore classified these components into inputs and outputs. Inputs consist of human and material while outputs are goals and outcomes of the educational process. Both inputs and outputs form a dynamic organic whole and if one wants to and assess the educational system in order to improve its performance, effects of one component on the other must be examined. Instructional materials are of vital importance to the teaching of any subject in the school's curriculum. Wales (2005), says that the use of instructional materials would make discovered facts glued firmly to the memory of students. Also Savourg (2000), a well planned and imaginative use of visual aids in lessons banish apathy, supplement inadequacy of books, arouse students interest as well as aiding critical thinking on basic subject matter. Gerlach (2001), students need actual and realistic although frequently vicarious experiences to build insight that will serve as a basis for forming new relationship from unfamiliar materials. He also opined that instructional materials multiply teacher's efficacies by providing tutorial stimulations and responses for individual student and small groups. Therefore, the absence of instructional materials advertently reduces students' interest in learning and assimilation of a given knowledge. The students are not stimulated to particularly participate in the learning process effectively as the ancient times saying of the Chinese goes, "what I hear, I forget, but what I see I remember and what I practice I know". Ebon (2006) states that the utilization of instructional materials depends on their need and rate of usage. Akinkelu (2005) stresses that, what is taught must include practical activities or practical application of the student's knowledge. This affords the students the use of more than one of their senses in the process of acquiring knowledge considering that most students fall into the group who live by that Chinese ancient adage.

Academic performance according to Cambridge University Reporter (2003), is frequently defined in terms of examination performance. Academic performance refers to what the students have learned or what skills the student has learned and is usually measured through assessments like standardized tests, performance assessments and portfolio assessments. Academic performance is the extent to which a student, teacher and institution has performed their short and long term educational goals.

Academic performance can also be said to be the level of schooling one has successfully undergone and the ability to attain success in one's studies. For example, when one receives good grades in results. Academic performance can be measured in by the final grade score of a student in a subject. In Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas, a student's academic performance can be measure on the poor or good performance of the student and this can be attributed to some factors, such as family background, environmental factors (family and learning), peer groups, motivation, emotion (psychology), curriculum, aids to instruction, teacher, individual differences etc. Individual difference in learning can also be affected by a huge factors as intelligence, personality of the learner, conscientiousness etc.

Relatively, academic performance is important because it shows the core value attached to teaching and learning. It is as well relevant to working people as it aids them to tackle the technologically demanding occupation of the future.

Graphic materials, computers (hardware and software), still pictures, print media, language laboratory are some of the affordable materials available in developing countries like ours. These materials are utilized to assist teachers and students to learn and improve the skills, such as the communication, creative etc. The skills of writing, listening, speaking and hearing are all improved, and the sense organs are all also improved in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State Public Secondary Schools. English language especially, occupies a formal place in Nigeria. Therefore, teaching and learning of English language remain one of the most difficult task for teachers because when student enter secondary schools, they go to classroom with pre-set language skills. They have these developed skills in their dialects which is their "Mother tongues". Other times, they mix up these different dialects with the English language, they are being taught and come up with the popular "broken" or "pidgin" English. Research studies from both developed and developing countries have shown that the use of these instructional materials (traditional and modern) can assist students and teachers to learn foreign languages like French, Spanish, English and other creative skills like designing or drawing, calculation, writing, photography and many more faster, better, and also help them to improve in their creative interactions.

Every student has his or her own unique way of learning. Some students learn by doing, some learn by visualizing, yet some learn by hearing, while there are some who learn by other sense organs. It is necessary or important for professional classroom teachers at secondary school level of education to recognize and address individual learning needs and differences. Once a learning curriculum is designed or planned, the teacher has to take decision on how best to deliver the curriculum content to the target audience (learner) to achieve the set specific objectives which are the learning of the basic skills where the particular instructional material is focused or used. In line with this assertion therefore, the utilization of instructional materials depends on the professional skills, commitment, resourcefulness, proficiency and competence of the teacher and the individual differences of the learners (students) in their academic performances.

Now, in this époque of technological and science upgrades, the need therefore, arises for a magnificent transformation in the advancement and improvement of educational system, teaching and learning of these creative skills for high academic performance at the secondary schools level in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State, through a variety of instructional techniques and processes demonstrated by the departures from the traditional teaching and learning processes to the modern invigorative processes of utilizing modern or digital gadgets as tools for learning.

Although, many researchers have adduced that, over the years, many exertions have been opined to advance skills acquisition through the use of instructional materials, the researcher here, as observed that majority of teachers in public secondary schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State still prefer using only the conventional technique or process of teaching and learning which is the "chalk" and "talk" method instead of a fully practical class that allows the students access to fully participate and follow up in the teaching and learning process. There is therefore, an urgent need to investigate how these instructional materials as stated above can be effectively and efficiently utilized by the teachers to improve students' academic performance in secondary schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.

Statement of the Problem

Despite the desire for technological development, coupled with the fact that, subjects in secondary Schools are very vital to technological development and as such, its teaching and learning as well as students' poor academic performance, have become a sort of concern to all stakeholders. Education stakeholders in schools blame the teachers; the teachers on their part blame the government for failing in their responsibilities. It is the responsibility of the government to provide instructional materials to enhance students' academic performance in public schools, the teachers argue that apart from the knowledge they acquired from training and developmental programmes organized for teachers, there are not adequate, functional and effective utilization of instructional materials that can enhance student academic performance.

The problem of the present study is to investigate the Utilization of Instructional Materials and Students Academic Performance in Junior Public Secondary Schools in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State. This has been attributed to gaps in teachers' competence, curriculum instruction, learning materials, funding and institutional management.

The problems posed by lack of utilization of instructional materials, are as follows: Lack of motivation in students in Schools lessons, Students are not familiar with any instructional materials in Schools lessons, such as still pictures, graphic materials and so on, Students performing poorly in classroom tasks or activities, tests and examinations, Inadequate provision of instructional materials for teaching and learning such as use of charts, graphic materials, picture, printing media, use of computer, use of textbooks in teaching and learning. All these problems inhibit effective learning and student academic performance in junior public Schools.

It is for this reasons this study tends to investigate the utilization of instructional materials and students' academic performance in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.

Purpose of the Study

The study aims at determining the utilization of instructional materials and students' academic performance in junior public Secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State. The purposes of the study are specifically to:

1. Find out how the utilization of graphic materials relate to students' academic performance in Junior Public Secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.
2. Determine how the utilization of computer (hardware and software) relate to students' academic performance in Junior Public Secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.
3. Examine how the utilization of still pictures (analog and digital) relate to students' academic performance in Junior Public Secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.
4. Find out how the utilization of print media relate to students' academic performance in Public Junior Secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

1. How does the utilization of graphic materials relate to students' academic performance in Junior Secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.?
2. In what ways does the utilization of computer (hardware and software) relate to students' academic performance in Junior Secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.?
3. How does the utilization of still pictures (analog and digital) relate to students' academic performance in Junior Secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State?
4. In what ways does the utilization of print media relate to students' academic performance in Junior Secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State?

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses guided the study and will be tested at 0.05 level of significance.

1. There is no significant relationship between the utilization of graphic materials and student's academic performance in Junior Secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.
2. There is no significant relationship between the utilization of computer and students' academic performance in Junior Secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.
3. There is no significant relationship between the utilization of still pictures and students' academic performance in Junior Secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted correlational research design because the study involves the determination of relationship between two variables (instructional materials and study academic performance in Junior Secondary Schools in selected Local Government Areas, Rivers State. The population of the study was nine thousand three hundred and sixty eight (9,368) students from thirty-four (34) Junior Secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas. Simple random sampling technique was used to select a sample size of 956 Junior Secondary School Students in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas. Data for the study were collected with a self-designed questionnaire titled Utilization of instructional Materials and Students Academic performance (UIMSAP) which was designed after likert 4 point rating scale. The instrument was validated by two expert in Educational Management from Rivers State University. A reliability of 0.84 was obtained through Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC). For the analysis of the data, research questions were answered with mean while Pearson Product Moment Correlation statistic were used to test the null hypotheses at 0.84 level of significant.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Results from the study were presented in the table below;

Research Question 1

*How does the utilization of graphic materials relate to students' academic performance in Junior Secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.**?***

Table 4.1: Mean Responses on Utilization of Graphic Materials

S/N	Item	SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1	TOTAL	$\bar{X}$	DECISION
1.	The use of graphic materials make complex topics simple for students to understand	319 (1276)	223 (669)	148 (296)	100 (100)	890 (2341)	2.63	Agree
2.	Graphic materials help students to retain what is being taught.	356 (1424)	240 (720)	196 (362)	98 (98)	890 (2604)	2.93	Agree
3.	Graphic materials make learning more interesting to students.	288 (1152)	208 (624)	296 (592)	100 (100)	890 (2468)	2.77	Agree
	Grand Mean						**2.78**	**Agree**

The data in item 1 of Table 4.1 revealed that with a mean score of 2.63, majority of the respondents agreed that the use of graphic materials make complex topics simple for students to understand. Item 2 also showed that with a mean score of 2.93, most of respondents agreed that graphic materials help students to retain what is been taught. Item 3 revealed that with a mean score of 2.77, majority of the respondents agreed that graphic materials make learning more interesting to students.

Research Question 2

In what ways does the utilization of computer (hardware and software) relate to students' academic performance in Public Junior Secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State?

Table 4.2: Mean Responses of Respondents on Effect of Utilization of Computer

S/N	Item	SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1	TOTAL	$\bar{X}$	DECISION
4	The use of computers allow students to access more materials on the internet, thereby perfoming better.	319 (1276)	223 (699)	250 (500)	98 (98)	890 (2573)	2.89	Agree
5	The use of computers make learning more practicable as they can relate what they are being taught with what happens in real life.	356 (1424)	290 (870)	145 (290)	99 (99)	890 (2683)	3.01	Agree
6	Students with computer knowledge tends to do better academically than student who don't have the knowledge in public schools.	388 (1552)	279 (837)	123 (246)	100 (100)	890 (2735)	3.07	Agree
7	Students with computer knowledge can save software materials effectively in computer device in public schools and it improve their knowledge on computer related topics.	400 (1600)	289 (567)	121 (242)	80 (80)	890 (2368)	2.66	Agree
	Grand Mean						**2.91**	**Agree**

Items 4, 5, 6, and 7 with mean responses of 2.89, 3.01, 3.07 and 2.66 respectively revealed that majority of the respondents agreed that the use of computer (hardware and software) relate to the academic performance of students.

Research Question 3

How does the utilization of still pictures (analog and digital) relate to students' academic performance in Junior Secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State?

Table 4.3: Mean Responses on Effect of Utilization of Still Pictures

S/N	Item	SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1	TOTAL	$\bar{X}$	DECISION
8	The use of still pictures in teaching helps in relating teaching to real life situations.	321 (1284)	300 (600)	170 (340)	99 (99)	890 (2323)	2.61	Agree
9.	The use of still pictures makes helps in retention of learning by students.	356 (1424)	340 (1020)	100 (200)	94 (94)	890 (2280)	3.08	Agree
10	The use of still pictures help students with low intelligent quotient to follow up easily when teaching.	300 (1200)	298 (894)	200 (400)	92 (92)	890 (2052)	2.91	Agree
	Grand Mean						**2.87**	**Agree**

Items 8, 9 and 10 in Table 4.3 with mean responses of 2.61, 3.08 and 2.91 respectively revealed that majority of the respondents agreed that the use of still pictures improves academic performance of students in Public Junior Secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.

Research Question 4

In what ways does the utilization of print media relate to students' academic performance in Public Junior Secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State?

Table 4.4: Mean Responses on Effect of Utilization of Print Media

S/N	Item	SA 4	A 3	D 2	SD 1	TOTAL	$\bar{X}$	DECISION
11	Students who study with textbooks tend to do well academically than students who don't used it in public schools	319 (1276)	223 (699)	148 (296)	100 (100)	890 (2281)	2.56	Agree
12	Student who spend time to read magazines are more exposed in information and perform better academically.	356 (1424)	260 (780)	173 (346)	101 (101)	890 (2280)	2.57	Agree
13	The use of textbooks helps students practice lessons at home and this makes them understand what they are taught better.	408 (1632)	318 (956)	100 (200)	64 (64)	890 (2852)	3.20	Agree
	Grand Mean						**2.78**	**Agree**

Data in Table 4.1 revealed that with mean scores of 2.56, 2.57, 3.20 respectively and a grand mean of 2.78, majority of the respondents agreed to all the question items in the table. The answer to research question four is that print media affect students' academic performance in Public Junior Secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.

Test of Hypotheses

Ho_1: There is no significant relationship between the utilization of graphic materials and student's academic performance in Junior Secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.

Table 4.5: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis on Hypothesis One

Variables	Statistics Item	r cal	r crit	Sig. Level	Decision
Utilization of Graphic Materials	PPMC $(r)^2$	27.18	16.92	0.05	Significant
Students' academic performance	Degree of Freedom (df)	889			

Data on Table 4.5 showed that the r_{cal} was 27.18, while the r critical was 16.72 at 0.05 significance level. Since the calculated r value (27.18) was greater than the table value (16.72) at a 0.05 significance level and 889 degree of freedom, the null hypothesis was rejected and the alternative hypothesis accepted indicating that there was a significant relationship between the utilization of graphic materials and student's academic performance in Junior Public Secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.

Ho_2: There is no significant relationship between the utilization of computer and students' academic performance in Junior Secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.

Table 4.6: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis on Hypothesis Two

Variables	Statistics Item	r_{cal}	r_{crit}	Sig. Level	Decision
Utilization of Computer Students' academic performance	PPMC (r)	96.58	16.92	0.05	Significant
	Degree of Freedom (df)	889			

Data on Table 4.6 revealed that the r calculated value was 96.58 while the r critical was 16.92 at a 0.05 significant level. Since the r calculated (96.58) was greater than the r critical (16.92) at a 0.05 significant level and 889 degree of freedom, the null hypothesis was rejected and the alternative hypothesis was accepted indicating a significant relationship between the utilization of computer and students' academic performance in Junior Secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.

Ho_3: There is no significant relationship between the utilization of still pictures and students' academic performance in Junior Secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.

Table 4.7: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis on Hypothesis Three

Variables	Statistics Item	r_{cal}	r_{crit}	Sig. Level	Decision
Utilization of still pictures Students' academic performance	PPMC (r)	28.58	12.90	0.05	Significant
	Degree of Freedom (df)	889			

Data on Table 4.7 revealed that the r calculated value was 28.58 while the r critical was 12.90 at 0.05 significant level. Since the r calculated (28.58) was greater than the r critical (12.90) at a 0.05 significant level and 889 degree of freedom, the null hypothesis was rejected and the alternative hypothesis was accepted indicating a significant relationship between the utilization of still pictures and students' academic performance in Junior Public Secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Data analyzed in research question one revealed that the utilization of graphic materials enhance students' academic performance in Junior Secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State. This findings is supported by Sigh (2005) when he observed that visual and graphic aids arouse the interest of learners and aid teachers in giving better explanation of the content. Kishore (2003) also noted that graphic and visual aids stimulate thinking and gives opportunity for learners to be consistent in their performance academically.

Similarly, the analyzed data in research question two revealed that the utilization of computer (hardware and software) affect students' academic performance in Public Junior Secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State. The use of computer hardware such as the monitor and CPU as well as the internet was found to improve students learning and performance. This is in line with the findings of Ibitoyo (2001), when he asserted that some of the advantages of ICT is that it heighten motivation for learning, provide freshness and variety, appeal to students of varied abilities, encourage active participation, give needed reinforcement and widen the rage of students experience.

Furthermore, the findings in research question three revealed that the utilization of still pictures (analog and digital) promote students' academic performance in Public Junior Secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State. This findings agree with the findings of Bode in Akani (2015) who asserted that the use of pictures and graphic materials in the teaching of students sustain their interest in learning and relate abstract contents with real life situations.

The findings in research question four showed that the utilization of print media affect students' academic performance in Public Junior Secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State. This is supported by Mckeachie (2104) when he asserted that printed materials

such as books are highly portable form of information and can be accessed when, where and at whatever rate and level of detail the reader desires. This makes textbooks a very effective resource.
Finally, the use of graphic materials, computer, still picture and print media is necessary in Junior Secondary Schools as inevitably, as it is perceived that students in Junior Secondary Schools sometimes find it difficult to comprehend immediately what is being taught by the teacher due to lack of utilization of instructional materials to convey the concept and topics taught to the learners. This may have affected Students' Academic Performance in Junior Secondary Schools (Emmana, 2004). Most of them have not been able to achieve academic success in both internal and external examinations because of perceived inadequate supply or utilization of instructional materials in Junior Secondary Schools. It is imperative that to assert that Academic Performance in Junior Secondary Schools cannot be effective without proper utilization of instructional materials. This means that utilization of instructional materials for students' academic performance is necessary.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that instructional materials such as graphic materials, computer, still pictures print media affect students' academic performance in Junior public secondary Schools in Ikwerre and Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State**.** Students are able to understand complex topics with the use of graphic and still pictures. They are also able to access more online materials using computers and the internet. This eventually translates to improved grades and performances in examinations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. The government and other stakeholders should make adequate provision of instructional materials such as print media, computers, still picture to enhance teaching and learning in public schools.
2. Teachers should be able to improvise certain instructional materials such as graphics, pictures and so on to improve their teaching.
3. There is need for periodic on-the-job training for teachers and administrators on how to use instructional materials such as computers and other materials. This way, they can optimize the use of these materials.
4. NGOs and other private organizations should be encouraged to support public schools in the provision of instructional materials.

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