

Full Length Research Paper

Managing campus accommodation and extent of achievement of millennium development goals for sustainability in University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria: students' perception

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This paper analyses the types of accommodation for millennium development goals achievement available for sustainability in the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria and the extent of students' satisfaction with them. Literature review was used to construct the questionnaire. The descriptive survey has two research questions and hypotheses. The stratified random sampling technique was used to select 1000 male and female students from the population of 4000. It discovered four types of accommodation, students' dissatisfaction and a significant difference between male and female students opinion. It concludes that campus accommodation is vital for goals achievement hence recommends the provision of the appropriate types and students' involvement in decision making on pertinent issues.

Keywords: Managing campus accommodation student, goals achievement sustainability

INTRODUCTION

All over the world, education is known and accepted as the major means by which economic, social, political and technological development could be achieved. Here in Nigeria, the Federal Government has accepted education as an instrument "par excellence" for effective National development. In fact, it has specified three levels of education namely Primary, Secondary and Tertiary in that direction. These levels of education are carried out in approved educational institutions where the formal teaching-learning transactions take place. Such educational institutions as a matter of necessity have and require accommodation for not only the teachers as those transferring their knowledge and skills but also for the

learners as those who are to acquire the knowledge and skills for the future and sustainability of development. A close look at the eight millennium development goals reveals that majority of them hinge on education as the fundamental instrument for their achievement. Also in the hierarchy of needs propounded by Maslow over the ages, the basic needs of every individual include accommodation or shelter among food and clothing. Therefore, this paper shall focus on campus accommodation and the extent of millennium development goals achievements for sustainability in University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

Statement of the problem

The principle of participatory decision-making requires

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that those to be affected by any anticipated decision should be involved in the process of making that decision. Also most successful production companies remain in business when their customers continue to patronize their goods and services probably because they continue to derive satisfaction by the utilization of such goods and services. In the case of the educational industry, the main stakeholders normally affected by the educational policies and decisions are the students because they are the major and primary customers of the "goods and services" of educational institutions. Moreso, the success or failure of any educational institution depends to a very large extent upon the effective and efficient utilization of available resources in the teaching-learning transactional process and the level of patronage by the stakeholders. Most cases, it seems that the students, who are the major stakeholders and primary customers are not being involved in the decision making on issues that concern them. Therefore, it is the focus of this paper, to examine the students perception on managing accommodation and extent of achievement of millennium development goals for sustainability in University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study is to;

1. Find out the types of campus accommodation for millennium development goals achievement that are available for sustainability in University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria.
2. Determine the extent of students' satisfaction with the type of campus accommodation for millennium development goals achievement available for sustainability in University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

Research questions

1. What types of campus accommodation for millennium development goals achievement are available for sustainability in University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria?
2. To what extent are the students satisfied with the type of campus accommodation for millennium development goals achievement available for sustainability in University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria?

Hypotheses

1. There is no significant difference between the male and female students as regards the types of accommodation for millennium development goals achievement available for sustainability in University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

2. There is no significant difference in the opinion of male and female students who are satisfied with the types of campus accommodation for millennium development goals achievement available for sustainability in University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria and those who are not.

Significance of the study

This study is very significant in the sense that educational policy makers and institutional administrators would have or renew the need of awareness of involving the students who are the major beneficiaries of the educational system in important decision making process that concerns them. On the other hand, students and potential students would see the need of being very mature, articulate, compromising and understanding the dialoging-nature of participation and skills in decision making. Sponsors and philanthropists would use the outcome of this study to become aware of the types of accommodation necessary for the achievement of educational goals and objectives. Lecturers and workers of educational institution would use the result of this study to identify the edifice, structures and types of accommodation expected by the students hence prepare for accreditation and continued sustainability and maintenance.

Review of related literature

University of Port Harcourt is a higher educational institution in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Like all other higher institutions, it has its aims, goals and objectives, which require managing. According to Nwachukwu (2007:3) "Managing is one of the most important human activities that permeate all organizations". Whereas Appleby (1980), Koontz and Weihrich (1989) and Sheldrake (2000) had earlier said that management is one the most difficult activities of mankind because of its numerous functions especially as it concerns the effective and efficient utilization of resources to achieve objectives. But in the case of education, the scope nature, principles and functions of management involve the effective and efficient utilization of educational resources, to achieve predetermined educational goals and objectives Obasi (2003), Peretomode (1991), Adesina (1992). However, to Meenyinikor (2006), Agun (1988) and Okunola (1986) educational resources are the people, materials and facilities that are used to encourage, support, promote and facilitate the teaching-learning process. In this respect, accommodation and plant layout facilities found in educational institutions are very vital resources, the effective and efficient management of which would definitely enhance the overall achievement of educational objectives not only by the individual student but also for the teachers as well as the institutions Wodi (2011),

Anikpo (2011), Agabi (1999). For example, Nwodo (2011) stated that the student objectives of getting a First Class begins from the Library and Willie-Abbey (2011) says University education is all about research and dissemination of its knowledge and results while Okowa (2011) advocates that funding is imperative for Nigerian Universities. The eight millennium development goals that came out in September 2000 during the United Nation Millennium summit have become the yardstick for development and measurement of progress of institutions, nations and even continents. They include:

1. The achievement of universal primary education
2. Ensure environmental sustainability
3. Global participation in development
4. Improved maternal health
5. Combination of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
6. Reduce child mortality
7. Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty and
8. Promote equality of gender and women empowerment.

The striking issue about the millennium development goals is that they depend upon education for achievement and without the appropriate accommodation in educational institutions particularly at the higher level where all other levels of education derived their resource personnel from. The determination of the effectiveness and appropriateness of any particular goals and services is best done by the customers who are the major users and consumers. Hence, the students in the educational system are in the best position to determine the types of campus accommodation for millennium development goals achievement available for sustainability in University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopted the descriptive survey research design. This is because the information required are all existing and do not require any further experiment to obtain them. University of Port Harcourt, according to the Federal Republic of Nigeria (2000) has about 16,000 students. This forms the population of the study, of which 25%, that is 4000 students becomes the sample chosen. This sample was evenly stratified into male and female. Based on the related literature review, document analysis and observations, questionnaires, which is the major instrument for data collection for this study, was constructed by the researchers. The validity was obtained through the scrutiny of colleagues and Professors very knowledgeable in the area under review. The test-retest method of reliability was carried out in a similar university within two weeks outside the University of Port Harcourt and a 0.95 Pearson's product moment coefficient of correlation was obtained, signifying that the instrument

was very reliable. The administration of the instrument was done by the researchers with the help of responsible members of staff and colleagues. There was a 100% rate of returns of the instrument for the desired period. The data collected were analyzed and presented using the appropriate statistics in the next section

Answering research question 1

Table 1 is about the types of campus accommodation for millennium development goals achievement that are available for sustainability in University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria. It shows that while all other types of campus accommodation are available, students' cafeteria or refectory or dining halls, students drinking parlours or botterings, staff games/physical exercising centres as well as Junior Staff residential quarter are not available in University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Similarly, it shows that on the average 929 or 46% of the male students and 1029 or 51% of the female students which gives a total of 1955 or 49% of the entire students sampled are of the view that the available campus accommodation should be sustained for millennium development goals achievement in University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

Answering research question 2

Table 2 is about the extent to which the students are satisfied with the type of campus accommodation for millennium development goals achievement available for sustainability in University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria. It shows specifically that 929 or 46% of the male students and 1027 or 51% of the female are satisfied while 1071 or 54% of the male and 973 or 49% of the female students are not. Thus on the whole, 1956 or 49% of the entire students are satisfied while 2044 or 51% are not.

Testing hypothesis 1

Table 3 supplies the particulars upon which the decision for hypothesis 1 is based. Specifically it shows that at 0.05 confident level of significance with 6.00 degree of freedom, the computed value of students t-test value of 0.626 is less than the table value of 1.943. Therefore the null hypothesis is accepted. This means that there is no significance between the male and female students as regards the types of campus accommodation for millennium development goals achievement available for sustainability in University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

Testing hypothesis 2

Table 4 contains the particulars upon which the decision

Table 1. Types of campus accommodation available in University of Port Harcourt: Students analysis

| Types | Male n=2000 | | Female n=2000 | | Total n=4000 | |
|---|----------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| | <i>f</i> | % | <i>f</i> | % | <i>f</i> | % |
| A Teaching-Learning Accommodations | | | | | | |
| 1. Students classrooms | 1095 | 55 | 1084 | 54 | 2179 | 55 |
| 2. Auditorium/Halls | 1014 | 51 | 1022 | 51 | 2036 | 51 |
| 3. Laboratories/Workshops | 941 | 47 | 1045 | 52 | 1986 | 50 |
| 4. Single consulting staff rooms | 1126 | 56 | 1194 | 60 | 2320 | 58 |
| 5. Shared consulting staff rooms | 1383 | 69 | 1739 | 87 | 3122 | 78 |
| A. Total | 5559 | 278 | 6084 | 304 | 1164 | 252 |
| A. Average | 1112 | 56 | 1217 | 61 | 2329 | 58 |
| B Recreation/physical education centres | | | | | | |
| 6. Staff Restaurants | 1065 | 53 | 1022 | 51 | 2087 | 52 |
| 7. Students Refectory/Dining Halls | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8. Staff drinking parlours | 1011 | 51 | 1006 | 50 | 2017 | 50 |
| 9. Students Bars/mineral centre | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10. Staff Games/physical exercise centres | 253 | 12 | 156 | 8 | 409 | 10 |
| 11. Students Games/sports centres | 1374 | 69 | 1681 | 84 | 3055 | 76 |
| B. Total | 3703 | 185 | 3865 | 193 | 7568 | 188 |
| B. Average | 617 | 31 | 644 | 32 | 1261 | 31 |
| C Worshipping Centres | | | | | | |
| 12. Catholic Chaplaincy | 1292 | 65 | 1376 | 69 | 2668 | 67 |
| 13. Protestants Chaplaincy | 1363 | 68 | 1379 | 69 | 2742 | 69 |
| 14. Muslim Central Mosque | 1138 | 57 | 1647 | 82 | 2785 | 70 |
| C. Total | 3793 | 190 | 4402 | 220 | 8195 | 206 |
| C. Average | 1264 | 63 | 1467 | 73 | 2732 | 69 |
| D Residential Accommodations | | | | | | |
| 15. Female Hostels | 1302 | 65 | 981 | 49 | 2383 | 57 |
| 16. Male Hostels | 1177 | 59 | 1714 | 86 | 2891 | 72 |
| 17. Senior Staff Quarters | 989 | 49 | 1068 | 53 | 2057 | 51 |
| 18. Junior Staff Quarters | 198 | 10 | 363 | 18 | 561 | 14 |
| D. Total | 3666 | 183 | 4126 | 206 | 7792 | 194 |
| D. Average | 917 | 46 | 1032 | 52 | 1948 | 49 |
| Grand Total | 16721 | 836 | 18477 | 923 | 35198 | 880 |
| Grand Average | 929 | 46 | 1027 | 51 | 1956 | 49 |

Table 2. Students extent of satisfaction with campus accommodation in University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

| Students | Satisfied | | Not Satisfied | | Total | |
|----------|-----------|----|---------------|----|----------|-----|
| | <i>f</i> | % | <i>f</i> | % | <i>f</i> | % |
| Male | 929 | 46 | 1071 | 54 | 2000 | 100 |
| Female | 1027 | 51 | 973 | 49 | 2000 | 100 |
| Total | 1956 | 49 | 2044 | 51 | 4000 | 100 |

Table 3. Decision table for hypothesis 1

| Particulars | Male students | Female students |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Total scores | 196 | 218 |
| Total number of items | 4 | 4 |
| Mean scores | 49 | 55 |
| Standard deviation | 12 | 15 |

Table 3. Continue

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|----------|
| Variance | 144 | 225 |
| Confident level of significance | | 0.050 |
| Degree of freedom | | 6.00 |
| Computed value of students t-test | | 0.626 |
| Table value of students t-test | | 1.943 |
| Final hypothesis 1 decision | | Accepted |

Table 4. Decision table for hypothesis 2

| Students | Satisfied Frequency | | Not Satisfied frequency | | Total |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|-------|
| | Observed | (Expected) | Observed | (Expected) | |
| Male | 929 | (978) | 1071 | (1022) | 2000 |
| Female | 1027 | (978) | 973 | (1022) | 2000 |
| Total | | 1956 | | 2044 | 4000 |
| Degree of Freedom | | | 1 | | |
| Alpha level of confidence | | | 5% | | |
| Computed value of Chi-squared | | | 9.62 | | |
| Critical value of Chi-squared | | | 3.84 | | |
| Hypothesis 2 decision | | | Rejected | | |

for hypothesis 2 is based. Specifically it shows that with 1 degree of freedom at 5% alpha level of confidence, the computed value of chi-squared of 9.62 is greater than the critical value of 3.84 obtained from the table. Hence the null hypothesis 2 is rejected. Therefore it is concluded that there is a significance difference in the opinion of male and female students who are satisfied with the type of campus accommodation for millennium development goals achievement available for sustainability in University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria and those who are not.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The findings of this study include the scoring of the four main types of campus accommodation by the students who are the main beneficiaries of the uses. This categorization or typologies supports Wodi (2011:1) who reported that the executive Governor Amaechi of Rivers State, "denounces the use of class rooms for religious activities hence promises to build schools" and other accommodations in University of Port Harcourt. Also, the expression of satisfaction or dissatisfaction of each type of accommodation as well as those available and not available is a clear information and potential applications for the provision, improvement and maintenance of accommodation which are necessary for goals and objectives achievement as posited by Appleby (1980), Agabi (1999) and Shel Drake (2000). The acceptance of the hypothesis that there is no significant difference between the male and female students as regards the

type of campus accommodation for millennium development goals achievement available for sustainability in University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria is indicative of the unanimous belief that accommodation is one of the basic essentials in the hierarchy of needs by Maslow in Koontz and Weihrich (1989) and Adesina (1990). Moreover, it points out the importance of accommodation for the achievement of the millennium development goals not only in the University of Port Harcourt but also in Nigeria in general. Finally the rejection of the hypothesis that there is no significance difference in the opinion of male and female students who are satisfied with the types of campus accommodation for millennium goals achievement available for sustainability in University of Port-Harcourt, Nigeria and those who are not is a pointer to the special efforts required for the achievement of the millennium development goals on gender equality and women empowerment promotion. Most importantly the results bring into focus the perception and analysis of the respondents, who are mainly youths and the generally acclaimed and proclaimed leaders of tomorrow on their expectations for accommodation in Nigerian Tertiary institutions.

CONCLUSION

Accommodation or campus accommodation is one of the most important desirable requirements for proper teaching and learning activities to take place. The students, who are the major beneficiaries and customers of the educational industry are the most appropriate

groups of stakeholders to determine its conduciveness and appropriateness. The role of education in the achievement of the millennium development goals is dependent greatly upon the type of accommodation available in educational institutions as well as the perception of the direct beneficiaries and major end-users of such a basic and fundamental facility. The sustainability of the extent of achievement of the millennium development goals is therefore directly proportional to the level of continued satisfaction with the types of accommodation available in the educational institutions where all the stakeholders locate and located from.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Educational administrators should ensure the maintenance of the available types of accommodation in educational institutions to avoid dilapidation and obsolescence.
2. Policy and decision makers in education should as a matter of necessity involve and include students who are the major beneficiaries of the policy decision in the process of policy-decision making particularly on issues that are very pertinent, crucial and fundamental.
3. The Government, all tiers of Government, should facilitate and provide the environment for actual provision of the types of accommodation that will enhance the achievement of educational objectives hence the millennium development goals achievement.
4. The students should be constantly trained, encouraged and reminded for their role in participatory decision-making processes because they will eventually take over the mantle of leadership from the present leaders as a result of retirement due to the inevitable inactiveness, age and death as the case may be one day.
5. Similar study should be carried out from the staff perspective so as to obtain a balance of the perceptions of both the students and the mem-

bers of staff who are in one better position in the making of decision on the issue of campus accommodation.

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