



Relationship between Student Discipline and Academic Achievement in Senior Secondary Schools in Akko Local Government of Gombe State

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Abstract: *This research work was carried out specially to investigate the relationship between student discipline and academic achievement in senior secondary schools in Akko local government of Gombe state. This study adopts the survey research design. The total population of this study constitutes eight hundred (800) students in the selected senior secondary schools in Akko local government council of Gombe state. The simple random technique was adopted to select from the classes and this was done by balloting, there the total sample size for all the four schools are two hundred (200) in number. The instrument used in collecting data for this study is a formal questionnaire which was constructed by the researchers. The instrument was validated by expert, while the reliability was tested using Cronbach's alpha method. The method employed in the analysis of the data collected is Pearson product moment correlation coefficient. The research findings also revealed that there is significant relationship between student discipline and academic achievement in senior secondary schools of Akko local government. The following recommendations were put forward as a corrective measure that school authority with the help of the ministry of education should organize a workshop on the impact of discipline to academic achievement.*

Keywords: *Students' indiscipline and students' academic achievement.*

INTRODUCTION

Majority of the Nigerian citizens nowadays send their children to schools where it is believed that educational standard is very high, in fact many people including those in government, royal families and private individuals have their children sent to various senior secondary schools irrespective of their financial status where they believed that there is improved quality of education (Masitsa, 2008).

Basic education has played a very important role not only in Nigeria or developing countries but even in the developed countries over the past two decades, daily times (June 8, 2004), this reflects the broad recognition that education is often considered a right which nations have a responsibility to guarantee to its citizens, the benefits to education are now well established putting discipline and academic achievement into consideration, student discipline is an important virtue, it is obviously essential for success in secondary school and student academic pursuit (Ali, Dada, Isiaka, & Salmon, 2014).

Discipline refers to orderliness in life which results from our adherence to certain code of conduct prepared by learned people (teachers in the school), student motivation and discipline play an important role in learning and academic achievement, closely related to motivation is self-discipline, the ability of student to monitor and control their own behavior. Students who are highly self-disciplined may be able to better focus on long term goal and make better choice related to academic engagement (Ehiane, 2014).

Education raises the quality of life, it improves health and productivity, increases individuals access to paid employment and often facilitates social and political participation, senior secondary schools because

of the nature of our educational system and the quality of education it offers to the people to meet their felt needs has been identified as the agent most strategically placed to undertake this arduous task of providing quality education to the Nigerian populace, despite numerous reforms and re-organization in Nigeria 's educational sector; government senior secondary school in the country have not been able to make any meaningful impact in the in calculation of discipline into the student, abysmal failure is commonly attributed to conventional problem, vis-a-vis poor quality, quantity variety of food, inadequate provision of school materials such as chairs, desk, uniforms, textbooks, lack of effective communication between school authority and students, power failure teacher's personality e.t.c. Bodovski, Nahum-Shani and Walsh (2013) opined that lack of funds, inadequate supply of skilled manpower (qualified teacher's), uncorporate attitude among parents constitute some of these problems.

However, the researcher's reject this argument for it is pretentious and deceptive, by focusing on this problems without placing senior secondary schools in their proper historical milieu is similar to accepting this problems while living the root causes of this problems untouched we argue instead that to understand the nature of senior secondary schools vis its persistent predicament of discipline, one must go beyond cataloging of over-flogged problems to move vigorous examination of its(senior secondary schools) nature and historical origin particularly the nature and character of the Nigerian state and the place and purpose of senior secondary schools within the Nigerian state (Garegae, 2008). This research work attempts to examine the extent, context and nature of the process of indiscipline in senior secondary schools and its attendant effects on student academic achievement.

Statement of the Problem

One of the most pervasive issues in national attitudes and actions or non-action of the Nigerian leadership towards achieving the wishes and aspirations of its people in the process of governance, this negative attitudes have created and nurtured a culture of indiscipline and corruption occasioned by complete absence of public and political accountability in all aspects of our national endeavors, which has greatly undermined the search for a social and political order.

Duckworth and Seligman (2006) opined that discipline for instance has become an house hold word in the Nigerian society, it pervades all the strata of the society forms the highest level of political office holders and business elites to the ordinary person in the village, its multifarious manifestation at the school level include obedience of school rules and regulations, adequate provision of school materials such as chairs, desks, note books' uniforms and textbooks good quality and variety of foods effective communication between school authority and students examination success rewards good grades in exams and teachers personality, discipline is closely related to achievement and in fact cannot be separated, the latter is one of the greatest forms of discipline in the country.

Objective of the Study

The specific objectives are:

1. To determine the level of discipline in senior secondary schools
2. To determine the courses of indiscipline in senior secondary schools
3. To determine the relationship between discipline and student academic achievement in senior secondary schools

Research Questions

The following research questions were formulated to guide the study:

1. What are the courses of indiscipline in senior secondary schools?
2. What is the level of discipline among students in senior secondary schools?

Hypothesis

1. There is no significant relationship between discipline and student academic achievement?

Research Methodology

This study adopts the survey research design. It sought to find out the opinion of students pertaining relationship between students discipline and academic achievement in Gombe state senior secondary

schools, Akko local government council. The total population of this study constitutes eight hundred (800) students in the selected senior secondary schools in Akko local government council of Gombe state. The simple random technique was adopted to select from the classes and this was done by balloting, that is after selecting a total of fifty (50) students from each school. There the total sample sizes for all the four schools are two hundred (200) in number. In this manner, they will be given some paper then the selection will be made among them, that means those to be sampled have easily been picked.

The instrument used in collecting data for this study is a formal questionnaire which was constructed by the researchers. The questionnaire was divided into four (4) sections, section 'A' deals with the personal data which is the personal information, while section 'B' deals with the levels of discipline, section 'C' deals with the courses of indiscipline, while section 'D' deals with academic achievements. The alternative response which required the respondent to tick either YES or NO in the above was the system adopted.

Validation as related to this study is that the extent to which the instrument used to measure what is intended to measure. While the reliability of the instrument is accuracy, stability and also the reliability of the data produced by the instrument. The validation and reliability of the instrument and the expert advice given by the supervisor who dropped, added and modified some items of the drifted questionnaire.

The items collected for the questionnaire were typed out and clearly printed in the computer; the questionnaire is made up of eight (8) questions. Before the researchers start administering the questionnaire, the principal had to be met with in other to solicit his support and cooperation. This is to obtain permission and to enable the principal know the mission of the investigation, the form masters (teachers) also try to render their assistance where possible along with the vice principal academics. The corporation of the students were also sought to tick and give the information best to their understanding pertaining the social or actual relationship between students discipline and academic achievement of senior secondary schools. A number of ten (10) questionnaires will be distributed to each school, that makes a funeral of 200 questionnaires, three hours will be given to respondents to fill in the questionnaire and return to the researchers.

The method employed in the analysis of the data collected is called correlation method; a correlation method is a term that refers to the strength of the relationship between two variables. A strong or high correlation means that two or more variables have a strong relationship with each other, while a weak or low correlation means that the variables were hardly related, correlation coefficients can range from -1.00 to 1.00, the value of -1.00 represents a perfect negative correlation while the value of 1.00 represents a perfect positive correlation, a value of 0.00 means that there is no relationship between the coefficients. Correlation is calculated by taking the co-variance of the two variables and dividing by the product of their standard deviation.

Findings

Data Analysis and Presentation of Results

This chapter deals with presentation, analysis and interpretation of data collected from the questionnaires were distributed. Twenty five (25) questionnaires were administered to each of the four (4) selected senior secondary schools in Akko local government of Gombe state summing the total number of one hundred (100) questionnaires.

Research Question one: What is the level of discipline used in your school?

Table 1: The level of discipline

S/N	Items	N	Mean	SD
1	What is the level of discipline used in your school?	89	0.97	1.005

Table 1 above is trying to find out the level of discipline used in senior secondary schools. The table shows that the most prepared level of discipline used in senior secondary schools is high level of discipline; the mean value from the above table is 0.97 while the value of the standard deviation is 1.005.

Research Question two: What are the causes of indiscipline in senior secondary school?

Table 2: Causes of indiscipline

S/N	Items	N	Mean	SD
1	Did emotional and social immaturity cause indiscipline?	89	0.25	0.471
2	Did parental influence cause indiscipline?	89	0.33	0.434
3	Is peer group influence among the causes of indiscipline?	89	0.18	0.386
4	Cultural misperception and misinterpretation among student causes indiscipline?	89	0.28	0.452
5	Is drug abuse among the causes of indiscipline?	89	0.22	0.420
6	Resistance and defiance causes indiscipline?	89	0.29	0.457
7	Environmental influence causes indiscipline?	89	0.33	0.471

Table 2 above, present the result of the causes of indiscipline in senior secondary schools, the mean value from the above table is 1.88 while the value of the standard deviation is 3.091 which is high level of indiscipline.

Hypothesis one: Relationship between student discipline and students’ academic achievement.

Table 3: Correlation coefficient between causes of discipline and academic achievement

S/N	Items	N	Mean	SD	t-value	p-value
1	Causes of indiscipline	89	0.27	0.44	29.203	0.482
2	Academic achievement	89	2.55	0.67		

Table 3 is on the question of whether there is relationship between student discipline and academic achievement, from the above table it reveals that the p-value is greater than or equal to 0.05, there is no any statistically significant relationship between students’ discipline and academic achievement in senior secondary schools, therefore accepted H_0 and rejected H_{01} .

Conclusion

Based on the results of the study, conclusions were drowning as follows:

1. That there is significant relationship between student discipline and academic achievement.
2. The research findings also revealed that indiscipline has no significant relationship with student academic achievement in senior secondary schools of Akko local government.
3. The findings also revealed that most accepted form of discipline to be applied or administered in senior secondary schools of Akko local government of Gombe state is the high level of discipline.

Recommendations

Based on our summary of findings, the following recommendations were put forward as a corrective measure, which would probably contribute in no small measure in restoring discipline in our society at large.

1. The school authority with the help of the ministry of education should organize a workshop on the impact of discipline to academic achievement.
2. The students should be thought how to study hard and pass their examinations.
3. The students should have knowledge on the importance of discipline or what discipline can bring to them.
4. Religious group and organizations should enlighten their followers on the importance of discipline and the danger or implication of indiscipline.

5. Parents and school authority should always be alert for any sudden change in behavior by youth in the community and willing to the causes of such mis-behavior for appropriate actions.
6. Schools should be encouraged to form organization and clubs that could educate them on the dangers cause by indiscipline and the positive impact of discipline.
7. Government local, state and federal should endeavor to provide scholarship to students on their good academic achievements.
8. Students at all levels should be made to understand that indiscipline have negative effects on their academic performance.

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