

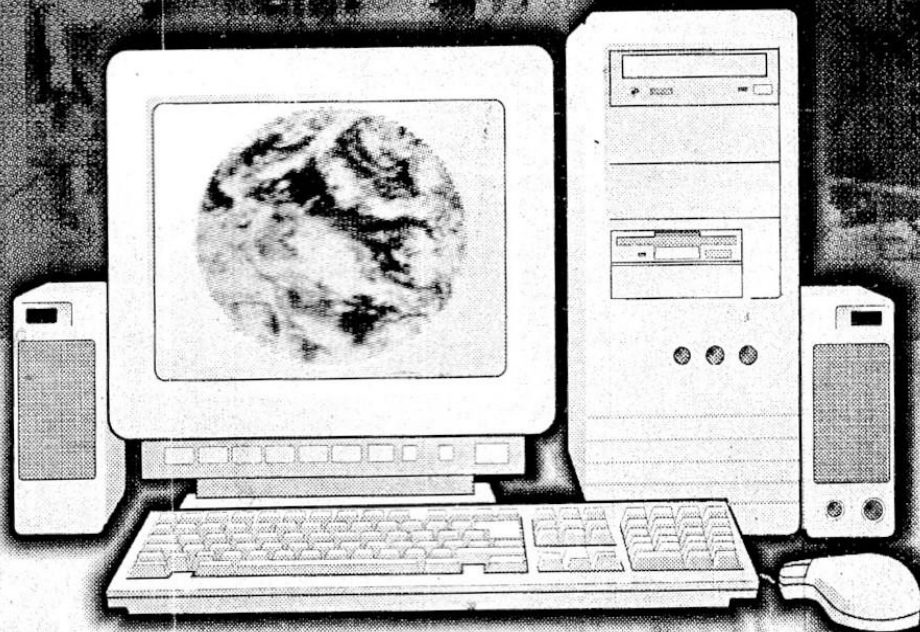
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# RECONFIGURING THE STATE OF EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH FACILITIES IN AKWA IBOM NORTH EAST SENATORIAL DISTRICT: THE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS' MAINTENANCE PRACTICES PERSPECTIVE

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## Abstract

This study investigated the relationship between Principals' maintenance practices and State of Educational and Health Facilities of Public Secondary Schools in Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District. A Sample of 360 respondents (90 Principals and 270 Vice Principals) were selected for the study. A researcher-developed questionnaire named, "Maintenance Practices of Educational and Health Facilities Questionnaire (MPEHFQ)", was used. The statistical technique used for the study was the Person Product Moment Coefficient (PPMC). In the end, it was found out that, there was a significant relationship between supervision of school library and state of educational facilities, there was a significant relationship between supervision of maintenance operation and state of educational facilities and, there was a significant relationship between record-keeping of instructional health facilities and state of educational facilities. The study recommended among others that all stakeholders in order to guide and ensure proper maintenance and usage of school facilities must regularly supervise school principals.

## Introduction

The success of the educational programme and the usefulness of the educational and health facilities to the school community and the society at large is influenced, to a marked degree, by the care accorded the facilities through the cooperative efforts of school personnel under the leadership of the school principal. The need for proper care of educational facilities is to extend their pedagogical advantages. If the facilities are not

properly managed and maintained, they dilapidate and wear out faster than their normal life span and also, if not properly utilized, school system, teachers and the particular school children will not derive optimum benefits from their use.

Once the school facility is constructed, occupied or acquired, it begins to wear and tear, if not countered by effective operational and maintenance practices, the process of deterioration sets in. Upon this premise, many scholars have expressed fear towards the sorry state of affairs in our fast decaying secondary schools (especially in the area of educational and health facilities) and have thus carried out studies aimed at proffering solutions to our school systems' inability to cultivate good maintenance practices. Ibok (2002), carried out a study on resource management and educational productivity. In the end, the study revealed that proper maintenance and operation of school facilities have influences on the level of educational productivity. In another related development, Ibiam (2002), conducted a study on the role of school administrators in managing resources in primary schools. The result of this study indicated that the head teachers belong to the administrative cadre whose responsibilities, among other things, is to administer the school by ensuring that things are put in place. They are not directly involved in maintenance but they assign responsibilities as well as supervise what is happening in the schools. Furthermore, Edem (1987), also asserts that the principal's role involves scheduling of work, sharing what is to be done, at what time of the day, and under whose supervision. By so doing, a proper record

would be kept in order to know the state of educational facilities in the school.

### Administrative Roles of School Principals

The contemporary job demand of principalship have become complex, dynamic and enormous as the expectations the society has for the school, continued to broaden. In his assertion, Achunine (1998), recorded that schools are expected to meet society's needs and creating an enabling environment for political and economic emancipation, improvement of agricultural yields and production of responsible and self reliant citizens. The author stressed further that with these expectations, the principals, staff and school community members are looked upon to provide facilities, programmes, resources, good leadership, processes and procedures for accomplishing the tasks enumerated. How far the principal mobilizes the resources and co-ordinates the activities of the various units of the educational enterprise will determine the extent of the success of the education industry. Furthermore, if administration is to facilitate teaching and learning in the schools, it becomes necessary to do an analytic examination of the various tasks of the principal and probable implications of non-accomplishment of the tasks. The operational areas of administration have been classified into several functions (tasks) by a number of authors. Capbell, Bridges and Nystrad (1977: 116) classified all the functions into six task areas, which include:

- School Community relationship
- Curriculum and instruction
- Pupil personnel
- Staff personnel
- Physical facilities
- Finance and business management.

Physical facilities, is of concern to this study. Physical facilities as observed by Kimbrough and Nunnery (1983), cost the taxpayers millions of Naira. Consequently, administrative responsibility for satisfactory physical environment should not

be limited to providing new facilities always but existing ones should be maintained. School facilities here include school buildings; play grounds, and equipment needed for instruction. As Campbell, Bridges and Nystrad (1977), suggested, that the school plant may be beautiful, but neither monumental character nor artistic expression should be achieved at the expense of functional arrangement.

Kimbrough and Nunnery (1983), also stated that since essential school facilities are provided by government through the tax payers money, the immediate communities of the schools, private and corporate individuals, it is then the utmost business and duty of the school administration to maintain in good order, all the texts books, records, furniture, equipment, buildings and grounds entrusted to their care. In a related development, Moronkola (2003), in his essay on "Healthful school environment", argued that school buildings must be well laid out, painted, ventilated and have adequate artificial and or natural lighting making it easy for both staff and pupils to see each other and ... they will under the right leadership voluntarily contribute to its maintenance. Other health facilities, which need proper and adequate maintenance include:

- ◆ Functional clinic
- ◆ Medical laboratories
- ◆ Drugs
- ◆ Medical chemicals
- ◆ Functional ambulance
- ◆ Functional medical theatre
- ◆ Examination rooms
- ◆ Functional borehole
- ◆ Stand by generator (Egwuasi, 2005: 144)

In congruent, Peretomode (1991), in his study outlined maintenance operations of school facilities to include:

- Determination of the school plant needs of the community and the resources, which can be marshaled to meet those needs.

- Development of comprehensive plan for the orderly growth and improvement of school plant facilities.
- Implementation of plans for the orderly growth and improvement of the school facilities.
- Developing an official programme of operation and maintenance of the physical plant
- Supervision of the custodial staff.
- He also stated that the need for maintaining the school facilities is predicted to be congruent with effective and efficient accomplishment of the task of teaching-learning in schools. Achunne (1998), also concludes that, since the task involved in school plant maintenance are numerous and involving as such, principals should delegate maintenance responsibilities to custodial staffs in order to save time and increase efficiency.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The interest of the government, the communities, and all stakeholders in their various huge investments in education may be formed by the vital roles that education is expected to play in Nigeria. Furthermore, since there is a persistent rise in the prices of goods and services including the cost of building materials and other educational equipment, new buildings, structures and facilities for the schools may not be easily replaced or afforded, hence the old and existing facilities should be adequately maintained.

Observations from many visits to public secondary schools in Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District, have shown that many school buildings, health and other essential facilities have been abandoned with a variety of equipment with minor faults not repaired. Some people such as teachers and Parents lament over many school principals' lack of basic rudimentary knowledge of management and maintenance operations. Others are of the view

that some principals do not have the administrative initiatives nor do they see reasons to maintain the school facilities. While some people also attribute the success of the school to the level of functional facilities available, others wonder why academic standards and performances are still below average? In spite of the level of the educational and health facilities available in schools. Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District not an exception.

### **Purpose of the Study**

This study aimed at the following objectives:

1. To determine the relationship between supervision of the school library and state of educational facilities in library.
2. To determine the relationship between principals' supervision of maintenance operations and state of educational facilities in schools.
3. To determine the relationship between principals' record-keeping of instructional and health facilities and state of educational facilities in schools.

### **Research Questions**

The study sought answers to the following research questions;

- What relationship exists between supervision of school library and state of educational facilities in the library?
- What is the relationship between the principal's supervision of maintenance operations and state of educational facilities in school?
- What is the relationship between principal's record keeping of instructional and health facilities and state of educational facilities in school?

### **Research Hypotheses**

The following Null hypothesis were formulated to guide the study:

1. There is significant relationship between supervision of the school library and state of educational facilities in the library.
2. No significant relationship exists between principals' supervision of maintenance operations and state of educational facilities in schools.
3. There is no significant relationship between record-keeping of instructional and health facilities and state of educational facilities in schools.

### Method

The ex-post-facto research design was used for the study. The design was deemed most appropriate because the researchers cannot manipulate the variables under study.

### Population of the Study

The study population comprised all the serving 90 principals and 270 vice principals in the 90 public secondary schools in Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial district of Akwa Ibom State. (Source: Statistics Department, State Secondary Educational Board, 2006). This also constituted the sample size of the study.

### Validity and Reliability of Instrument

The maintenance Practices of Educational and Health Facilities Questionnaire (MPEHFQ) was a thirty (30) items questionnaire, divided into three sections. Section A had the demographic information of the respondents. Section B was made up of fifteen (15) items which sought information on principals' knowledge of maintenance practices as it relates to supervision of school library, supervision of maintenance operations and record keeping of instructional health facilities while section C had fifteen (15) items on the effect of maintenance practices on the state of educational and health facilities. The instrument was a four rating-scale questionnaire, which were scored 4, 3, 2, and 1 respectively. The instrument was face validated by experts in the field of educational measurement while the reliability was

established using a correlational analysis from the result of a test re-test reliability study. The reliability study was conducted using 10 school administrators (principals). An interval of two weeks was given between the test and the re-test. The test re-test reliability coefficient of the instrument was established by subjecting the two sets of scores to Pearson Product moment coefficient (PPMC) analysis. This gave a reliability index of 0.61.

### Statistical Treatment of Data

The data was analyzed by employing the Pearson Product Moment Coefficient (r). This was done at 0.05 level of significance and 358 degree of freedom.

### Presentation of Results

There is no significant relationship between supervision of the school library and state of educational facilities in library.

**Table 1:**  
**Result of Pearson Product Moment Coefficient Between Supervision of School Library and State of Educational Facilities in library**  
(n = 360)

Variable	$\Sigma x$	$\Sigma x^2$	$\Sigma y$	$\Sigma y^2$	$\Sigma xy$	r-cal	r-crit
Supervision of Maintenance Operation	1984	26715			14191570	0.093	0.088*
State of Educational Facilities	10724	767933					

$P < 0.05$ ;  $df = 358$

The result shows the calculated value of "r" as 0.175, while the critical value of "r" at 358 degree of freedom and 0.05 level of significance was 0.088. The result shows that the calculated "r" value was greater than the critical "r" value. Hence, the null hypothesis was rejected and the

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alternate hypothesis that there was a significant relationship between supervision of school library and state of educational facilities in secondary schools in Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District was accepted.

**Hypothesis Two**

There is no significant relationship between supervision of maintenance operations and state of educational facilities in schools.

Table 2: Result of Pearson Product Moment Coefficient Between Supervision of Maintenance Operations and State of Educational facilities in schools.

(n = 360)

Variable	$\sum x$	$\sum x^2$	$\sum xy$	$\sum y$	$\sum y^2$	r-cal	r-crit
Supervision of library	1681	19517	12002440	0.175	0.088*		
State of Educational Facilities in library	10724	767933					

P < 0.05; df = 358

In the table above, the result shows that the r-cal value stood at 0.093, while r-crit value stood at 0.088. The interpretation is that since the calculated "r" value is greater than the critical "r" value, null hypothesis is rejected, consequently, the alternate hypothesis, there is a significant relationship between supervision of maintenance operations and state of educational facilities in Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District was accepted.

**Hypothesis Three**

There is no significant relationship between record-keeping of school facilities and state of educational facilities.

Table three: Result of Pearson Product Moment Coefficient Between Record-keeping of Instructional and Health Facilities and State of Educational Facilities in schools.

(n = 360)

Variable	$\sum x$	$\sum x^2$	$\sum xy$	$\sum y$	$\sum y^2$	r-cal	r-crit
Record-keeping	2546	43925					
State of Educational Facilities			10724	767933		0.239	0.088*

P < 0.05; df = 358

From the table above, the result revealed that the calculated "r" value is 0.239. While the critical value of "r" stood at 0.088 at 358 degree of freedom and 0.05 level of significance. The interpretation of this result is that since the calculated "r" value is also greater than the critical "r" value, the Null hypothesis is rejected while the alternate hypothesis, there is a significant relationship between record-keeping of school facilities and state of educational facilities in Akwa-Ibom North East Senatorial district was not rejected.

**Discussion of Findings**

The result in table 1. established that there was a significant relationship between supervision of the school library and state of educational facilities in the library. Furthermore, the result agrees with the opinion of Kimbrough and Nunnery (1983), which had it that essential school facilities are provided by government through the tax payers money, and as such, such facilities must be carefully maintained for them to last.

The result in table 2; also showed a significant relationship between supervision of maintenance operations and state of educational facilities. The result was most surprising to the researchers because the researchers had anticipated that the Null hypothesis would have

been accepted, in that a qualified and well trained technical staff or personnel, needs little or no supervision to carry out his/her practical operations. The result agrees with the argument of Peretomode (1991), which outlined among other things, that maintenance operations of facilities include the supervision of the custodial staffs.

In table 3, there was another significant relationship between record-keeping of instructional and health facilities and state of educational facilities in Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District. This is probably because school principals that indulged in effective and regular record-keeping of facilities in their schools had such facilities well maintained. The result also agrees with Edem (1987) who stated that the principals' role also involve scheduling of work, sharing what is to be done, at what time of the day, and under whose supervision. By so doing, proper records would be kept in order to know the state of educational facilities in the school.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the conclusions above, the following recommendations became necessary for this study:

- School principals, must be regularly supervised by School Boards and Ministries of Education in order to guide their activities.
- There must be regular appraisal of school principals in order to ascertain their successes especially in the area of maintenance culture.
- Principals should carryout regular inspections and supervisions of facilities within their schools.
- Principals should appoint only qualified custodial staff to mount and use facilities in their schools.
- Principals should also ensure that facilities are adequately utilized to prevent early breakdown, and when used

should be properly maintained to prevent decay.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the findings of this study, the researchers had learnt that principals' maintenance practices such as supervision of school library, supervision of maintenance operations and record-keeping of educational and health facilities are very vital ingredients in the overall success of secondary schools especially in Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District of Akwa Ibom State. Furthermore, the study concludes that in order to guide and ensure proper maintenance and usage of educational and health facilities, school principals should be regularly supervised.

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**Appendix 'A'**

**Maintenance Practices Of Educational And Health Facilities Questionnaire In Secondary Schools In Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District.**

**Section A: Demographic Information**

School.....

Location: Urban  Rural

Occupation:.....

Position:.....

Sex: Male  Female

Qualification: NCE  B.A.Ed  B.Sc.Ed.

B.Ed  M.A.  M.A.Ed

M.Ed  Ph.D.

**Section B: Principals' maintenance practices please tick (r) the option that is applicable.**

The options are strongly Agreed (SA), Agreed (A), Strongly Disagreed (SD), and Disagreed (D).

S/N	SUPERVISOR OF SCHOOL LIBRARY	SA	A	SD	D
1	I ensure regular record keeping of the books in my school library .				
2	Books and materials lent out from my school library are timely retrieved.				
3	All books and other materials are properly tabled and placed on the paper shelfe.				
4	My school has a qualified librarian incharge of library materials.				
5	My school library is often fumigated against destructive insects like termites.				
	<b>Supervision of Maintenance Operations</b>				
6	Inspection of school facilities are periodically embarked upon in my school				
7	My school reports maintenance needs to be appropriate authorities				
8	Some technical staff are usually sent for inservice training courses to handle technical needs.				
9	Technical staffs in my school are encouraged to carry out technical duties in my school.				
10	I often provide technical tools to technical staff when the need arises.				
	<b>Record Keeping of Instructional and Health Facilities</b>				
11	The records of every equipment in my school is judiciously kept				
12	I ensure that every educational and health facility purchased by the school is duly receipted and documented.				
13	I coordinate all repairs and purchases through my office				
14	I ensure that all educational and health facility documentations are done in conformity with the law.				
15	I also ensure that facilities are properly utilized and repaired where necessary.				
	<b>Section C: State of Educational and Health Facilities</b>	AS	A	SD	D
1	The proper record keeping of books and materials in the library safeguards the materials from theft and being missing .				
2.	The books and materials that are timely retrieved back to the library				



	lead to availability for students and teachers.				
3.	The proper keeping of books in the shelf helps in the record keeping of such books.				
4.	The school librarian ensures the proper utilization and maintenance of library materials and books.				
5.	The regular fumigation of the library often protects the life span of the materials in the library.				
6.	Most of my school facilities are lying waste due to lack of repairs				
7.	Most of my school facilities have been stolen or missing.				
8.	Each classroom has enough chairs, desks and other learning facility.				
9.	There are very clean surroundings in my school.				
10.	The buildings in my school have not been painted in the last 20 years.				
11.	The health facilities in my school's clinic are of modern standard.				
12.	There are enough educational facilities in my school laboratory				
13.	The scientific equipments are often taking care of after every practical.				
14.	The proper record keeping of educational and health facilities enables me to know functional and dysfunctional facilities.				
15.	I ensure regular replacement of any malfunctioning equipment within my financial reach.				

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