

INFLUENCE OF CORRUPTION ON SCHOOL PLANT MAINTENANCE IN TERTIARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN KEBBI STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT: *The level of dilapidation of school buildings and other facilities in Nigerian schools has become an issue of great concern to educational managers. The study specifically focused on assessing the influence of corruption on school plant maintenance in tertiary educational institutions in Kebbi State. The study deliberately selected five tertiary educational institutions, while 200 lecturers and 850 students were selected using stratified random sampling techniques. A validated questionnaire with reliability index of 0.83 was used to collect data for the study. Three research questions were answered using simple percentages while three hypotheses were formulated and tested using Chi-square at 0.05 alpha level. The study revealed that corruption influenced staff performance of maintenance activities, provision of maintenance tools as well as the management of finances meant for school plant maintenance. It was recommended among others that school managers should strictly supervise maintenance staff and have proper inventory of equipment as well as emphasize honest auditing of finances for maintenance of school plant.*

KEYWORDS: *School Plant, Maintenance, Corruption, Equipment*

I.INTRODUCTION

Because of the value attached to education and the need to create a conducive environment for effective teaching and learning, government in Nigeria and Kebbi State in particular has invested so much on the provision of school facilities. But constructing the school plant and equipping it with appropriate facilities is not the only challenge. Perhaps another serious challenge is the extent to which the school facilities are properly and regularly maintained. Commenting on the significance of schools plant maintenance towards sustaining a conducive school environment Adebeyeje (2000), submitted that school plant maintenance makes it possible to sustain a clean and healthy school environment, keeps facilities in safe and good condition, preserves the aesthetic beauty of the school environment, and slows down the rate of degradation of the frailties. Sani (2007) adds that adequate school plant maintenance actually extends the life span of facilities and forestalls student unrest.

School plant is defined in this paper to be the physical facilities provided in the school to ease the process of teaching and learning. These include school buildings, furniture, playgrounds and infrastructure. School plant maintains is the process of constantly checking and repairing school facilities so as to keep them in good condition for optimum utilization by lecturers and students. Corruption is any illegal and immoral act committed by an individual to gain unmerited benefits for the satisfaction of a selfish personal desire.

In spite of the importance of school plant maintenance however, the level of maintenance of school facilities in Nigeria is generally inadequate (Manga, 2015). As a consequence of this, it is very common to see dilapidated buildings, non-functional equipment and very dirty school environments in Nigeria. It is for this and other reasons that Nigerians are labeled as having poor maintenance culture and ironically, they seem to proudly wear that tag. But it is not just enough to conclude that Nigerians have poor maintenance culture without looking at the fundamental causes of poor maintenance of facilities in Nigeria schools. This paper strongly believes that poor maintenance culture has never been part of Nigeria's cultural heritage. The paper however assumes and proposes that among other factors, corruption is the main culprit that largely accounts for low level of school plant maintenance particularly in tertiary educational institutions in Kebbi State. This is the area that this study tends to address.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

When huge sums of money have been used to construct schools and equip them with necessary facilities, it is expected that all efforts shall be done to ensure that the facilities are properly maintained. In this regard, both staff and students have the duty to actively participate in maintaining the facilities not only for their well-being but for the attainment of educational goals (Ojedele, 2018). But in spite of this legitimate expectation, maintenance staff in tertiary educational institutions that have the task of performing various maintenance activities do not perform their duties punctually and regularly (Edwards, 2012). This is because in the case of Nigeria, corrupt maintenance staff expects to be bribed before they can execute basic maintenance activities such as sweeping, washing toilet, refuse and sewage disposal as well as other critical technical maintenance operations. Cash (2018), posited that maintenance staff are expected to be hardworking, disciplined and well supervised. However, due to high level of corruption in Nigeria, maintenance staff that are lazy and negligent of the duties are not well supervised while those found wanting in the discharge of their duties are not penalized for their misconduct.

For staff to be able to discharge their maintenance duties affectively, there is the need for them to be provided with adequate and functional tools such as brooms, buckets, towels, cutlasses, rakes, mowers, wheel barrows, watering cans, detergents, dust bins, spanners, tools kit and other technical equipment (Durosaro, 1998). Maintenance operations require the services of various experts such as carpenters, plumbers, masons, electricians; mechanics, cleaners, and other technical staff all of who need maintenance tools and equipment. Due to the preponderance of corruption when these tools and consumables are provided, they are sometimes stolen or converted to personal use by corrupt maintenance staff (Hines, 2016). In some cases maintenance staff carelessly mishandles and quickly damage the tools so as to extort more money for replacement or repairs as well as to provide flimsy excuses for non-performance of maintenance activities (Earthman, 2016). In addition Sani (2007) noted that there are cases where maintenance staffs corruptly resist the introduction of modern maintenance equipment that may replace the crude implements they are traditionally used to. This clearly implies that corruption is a hindrance towards the provision of adequate and modern tools for successful performance of maintenance operations.

One of the critical requirements for effective schools plant maintenance is adequate financing, which must be regularly and promptly made available for the payment of specialized maintenance services, crude labour and replacement of damaged facilities (Oluchukwu, 2018). There are cases where money collected for maintenance of school facilities is corruptly diverted for personal use thereby creating gross inadequacy of finances (Lowe, 2015). In some case there is lack of proper record keeping, accountability and transparency in the use of funds for maintenance of school facilities (Philip, 2017). This implies that corruption is the genesis of diversion of funds, outright stealing, and lack of accountability of funds meant to execute school plant maintenance operations.

III. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The study mainly focused on assessing the influence of corruption on school plant maintenance in Kebbi State owned tertiary educational institutions. There is a growing concern that the quality of school plant maintenance is poor because maintenance staffs do not seem to perform their duties punctually, regularly and diligently. Apart from the fact that corruption seem to have contributed to the lack of adequate, functional, appropriate and modern equipment for maintenance, the funds allocated for the purpose seem to be corruptly mismanaged. The main thrust of this paper therefore was to investigate the extent to which corruption influences the execution of school plant maintenance in tertiary educational institutions in Kebbi State.

Research Question:

the following research questions were raised for this study

1. How dose corruptions influence the performance of maintenance activities in tertiary educational institutions in Kebbi State?
2. How dose corruptions influence the provision of school plant maintenance tools in tertiary educational institutions in Kebbi State?
3. How dose corruptions influence the management of fiancés meant for school plant construction in tertiary educational institutions in Kebbi State?

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study were to:

1. find out the perception of lecturers and students on the influence of corruption on staff performance of maintenance activities in tertiary educational institutions in Kebbi-State.
2. ascertain the perception of lecturers and students on the influence of corruption on the provision of school plant maintenance tools in tertiary educational institutions in Kebbi State.
3. determine the perception of lecturers and students on the influence of corruption on the management of finances meant for school plant maintenance in tertiary educational institutions in Kebbi State.

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were tested in the study:

Ho1: There is no significant difference between the lecturers and students perceptions of the influence of corruption on staff performance of maintenance activities in tertiary educational institutions in Kebbi State.

Ho2: There is no significant difference between the lecturers and students perception of the influence of corruption on the provision of school plant maintenance tools in tertiary educational institutions in Kebbi State.

Ho3: There is no significant difference between the lecturers and students perception on the influence of corruption on the management of school finances meant for school plant maintenance in tertiary educational institutions in Kebbi State.

IV.SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY

The study would expose educational managers to the implication of corruption on the quality of school plant maintenance. It will also assist school managers on how to deal with corrupt practices especially among maintenance staff, provision of efficient maintenance activities as well as in the management of finances meant for the maintenance of school facilities.

V.METHODOLOGY

This study was a deceptive survey that compared lecturers' and students' perception on the influence of corruption on school plant maintenance. It investigated the influence of corruption on staff performance, provision of tools and management of finances for maintenance.

The population of the study comprised of all the lecturers and students in the seven tertiary educational institutions owned by Kebbi State government. Five institutions were chosen based on geographical spread across the five Emirates in Kebbi State. Five schools chosen for the study included Kebbi State University of Science and Technology Aleiro School of Health and Technology Jega; College of Education Argungu, Kebbi State Polytechnic Dakingari and College of Agriculture, Zuru. In all, 850 students and 200 lecturers were chosen using stratified random sampling techniques. This was to allow for proportional representation of the institutions school, departments, students and lecturers.

A researcher designed questionnaire titled: Influence of Corruption on School Plant Maintenance Questionnaire (ICSPMQ) was used to generate information from lecturers and students. The questionnaire had three sections and was rated on four point Likert Scale of Strongly Agree (SA),= 4 points, Agree (A),= 3 points, Disagree (D)= 2 points and Strongly Disagree (SD)= 1 point. Each of the sections of the questionnaire consisted of six questions, which gave a total of 16 items. The sections provided data for testing the three hypotheses raised for the study. The first segment required lecturers and students to respond to items that have to do with influence of corruption on staff performance of maintenance operations in terms of their punctuality, regularity to duty, handwork and honesty among others. The second segment examined the influence of corruption on provision of maintenance tools in terms of their adequacy, appropriateness and functionality among others. The third segment contained items on the influence of corruption on the management of finances for school plant construction in terms of adequacy of funds, promptest of release of funds, regularity of supply of funds, prudence and accountability.

The instrument was validated by experts in educational management and it was pilot tested on 25 lecturers 35 students in the College of Preliminary Studies Yauri, which although was not included in the sample used, it has the same characteristic with those included in the sample. After two weeks it was re-tested on the same set of participants. The results from the two tests were correlated using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient and Cronbachalpha, which gave a coefficient of .75 which means that the instrument was highly reliable. The three research questions were analyzed using simple percentages while the three research hypotheses formulated were tested using Chi-Square at .05 level of significance. The results were presented sequentially in tables.

VI.RESULTS:

Three research questions raised for the study were answered and three hypotheses were tested.

Research Question 1: How dose corruptions influence the performance of maintenance activities in tertiary educational institutions in Kebbi State?

This research question was answered and presented in table 1

Table 1: Influence of corruption on performance of maintenance activities in tertiary educational institutions in Kebbi State

S/N	Item statement	Agree	Disagree
1	Corruption influences regularity of maintenance activities	88%	12%
2	Corruption influences promptness of maintenance activities	69%	21%
3	Corruption influences quality of maintenance activities	77%	23%
4	Corruption influences supervision of maintenance activities	64%	36%
5	Corruption influences discipline of lazy maintenance staff	66%	44%
Overall Mean		71%	29%

Results in table 1 indicate that majority of participants agree that corruption influences regularity of maintenance activities (88%); promptness of maintenance activities (69%); quality of maintenance activities (77%); supervision of maintenance activities (64%); and discipline of lazy maintenance staff (66%) Result in table 1 shows that the overall mean percentage of 71% is an indication that majority of lecturers and students agreed that corruption influences the performance of maintenance activities in tertiary educational institutions in Kebbi State.

Research Question 2:How dose corruptions influence the management of school plant maintenance tools in tertiary educational institutions in Kebbi State?

This research question was answered and presented in table 2

Table 2: Influence of corruption on management of maintenance tools in tertiary educational institutions in Kebbi State

S/N	Item statement	Agree	Disagree
1	Corruption influences provision of maintenance tools	70%	30%
2	Corruption influences diversion of maintenance tools	65%	35%
3	Corruption influences utilization of maintenance tools	73%	27%
4	Corruption influences acquisition of modern maintenance tools	68%	32%
5	Corruption influences funding for maintenance tools	66%	34%
Overall Mean		68%	32%

Result in table 2 indicate that majority of participants agreed that corruption influence the provision of maintenance tools (70%); diversion of maintenance tools (65%); utilization of maintenance tools (73%); acquisition of modern maintenance tools (68%) and funding for procurement of maintenance tools (66%). Result in table 2 shows that the overall mean of 68% is an indication that the majority of lecturers and students agreed that corruption influences the management of maintenance tools in tertiary educational institutions in Kebbi State.

Research question 3: How dose corruptions influence the management of fiancés meant for school plant construction in tertiary educational institutions in Kebbi State?

This research question was answered and presented in table 3

Table 3: Influence on corruption on management of school plantfinances in tertiary educational institutions in Kebbi State

S/N	Item statement	Agree	Disagree
1	Corruption influences procurement of maintenance tools	80%	20%
2	Corruption influences budgeting of finances for maintenance tools	65%	35%
3	Corruption influences record of finances for maintenance tools	70%	30%
4	Corruption influences accountability of finances for maintenance	60%	40%
5	Corruption influences utilization of finances for tools	55%	45%
Overall Mean		66%	44%

Table 3 indicate that majority of participants agreed that corruption influences procurement of maintenance tools (80%); budgeting of finances for maintenance tools (65%); record of finances for maintenance tools (70%); accountability of finances (60%); and utilization of finances of maintenance tools (55%) Result in table 3 shows that the overall mean percentage of (66%); is an indication that the majority of staff agreed that corruption influence the management of finances for school plant in tertiary education institutions in Kebbi State.

Ho1: There is no significant difference between the lecturers and students perceptions of the influence of corruption on staff performance of maintenance activities in tertiary educational institutions in Kebbi State.

This hypothesis was tested and presented in table 4:

Table 4: Contingency table on Influence of Corruption on Staff Performance of Maintenance Activities in tertiary educational institutions in Kebbi State.

Participants	SA	A	D	SD	Total	Df	X ² cal	Decision
Students	451 (399)	389 (439)	5 (5)	6 (6)	850	3	70.071	Significant
Lecturers	46 (98)	150 (100)	2(2)	2 (7)	200			
Total	497	539	7	7	1,050			

Table 4 show that the calculated Chi-square value of 70.071 at .05 level of significance was greater than the critical value of 7.815. Therefore, the hypothesis which states that there is no significant difference between lecturers' and students' perception of the influence of corruption on staff performance of maintenance activities is rejected. Thus there is a significant difference in their views. Table 1 also shows that majority of students (840) representing 99% and majority of lectures (196) representing 98% equally agreed that corruption influence staff performance of maintenance activities.

H0₂: There is no significant difference between the lecturers and students perception of the influence of corruption on the provision of school plant maintenance tools in tertiary educational institution in Kebbi State.

This hypothesis was tested and presented in table 5

Table 5: Contingency Table on Influence of Corruption on Provision of School Plant Maintenance tools in Tertiary Educational Institutions in Kebbi State

Participants	SA	A	D	SD	Total	Df	X ² cal	Decision
Students	187 (160)	234 (201)	223(201)	203 (195)	850	3	16.32	Significant
Lecturers	13 (45)	69 (45)	28 (50)	150 (158)	200			
Total	300	246	251	353	1,050			

Table 5 indicated that the calculated Chi-square value of 16.32 was greater than the table value of 7.815 at .05 alpha level. Therefore the hypothesis which states that there was no significant difference between the perception of lecturers and students on the influence of corruption on provision of school plant maintenance tools was rejected. This means that lecturers and students differed significantly in their views. Table 2 shows that majority of students (426) representing 56.38% and majority of lecturers (178) representing 89% agreed that corruption influences the provision of maintenance tools.

H0₃: There is no significant difference between lecturers and students perception of the influence of corruption on the maintenance of finances meant for school plant maintenance in tertiary educational institutions in Kebbi State.

This hypothesis was tested and presented in table 6

Table 6: Contingency Table on Influence of Corruption on Management of Finances for School Plant Maintenance in Tertiary Educational Institutions in Kebbi State.

Participants	SA	A	D	SD	Total	Df	X ² cal	Decision
Students	208 (210)	416 (381)	110(122)	116(137)	850	3	35.258	Significant
Lecturers	54(52)	52(87)	44(32)	50(29)	200			
Total	262	468	154	166	1,050			

Table 6 show that the calculated Chi-square value of 35.258 was greater than the critical value of 7.815 at 0.05 alpha level, which implies that hypotheses three was rejected. Thus there was a significant difference between the views of lecturers and students on the influence of corruption on maintenance of finances meant for school plant maintenance. In specific terms majority of students (625) representing 73% and majority of lecturers (106) representing 53% agreed that corruption influence the management of finances meant for school plant maintenance in tertiary educational institutions in Kebbi State.

VILDISCUSSION

The first finding of this study indicated that corruption influenced staff performance of maintenance duties in tertiary educational institutions in Kebbi State. This financing supports the opinion of Edwards (2012) who noted that some corrupt maintenance staff expect to be bribed before they can carry out their assigned duties punctually and regularly. There are cases where lecturers had to give some gratification before cleaners could sweep their offices and wash their toilets even though the cleaners collect salaries for their jobs. It also

confirms Cash (2018) who asserted that due to corruption in the school system, supervisory officers do not supervise the operations of maintenance staff, and when they do supervise, those staff found wanting are not penalized for their negligence and misconduct. For this reason a lot of facilities remain dilapidated, non-functional, broken down and abandoned.

The second finding of this study showed that corruption influenced the provision of tools for school plant maintenance in tertiary educational institutions in Kebbi State. It was found that there was inadequacy or lack of tools to carry on with their duties because some higher officers corruptly diverted the tools for their personal use. It was also found that school managers are sometimes constrained by funds to provide the necessary tools and that in some cases even when the tools are produced, they are carelessly damaged by the staff. This finding confirms opinion of Hines (2016), and Earthman (2016) who noted that some corrupt maintenance staff carelessly operate and damage tools so as to extent many for continues replacements and repairs.

The third findings of this study indicate that corruption influences the management of finances meant for school plant maintenance. This affirms the view of Lowe (2015), who noted that money allocated for school plant maintenance is corruptly diverted and mismanaged. It also confirms (Philips, 2017) who maintained that corruption is responsible for lack of accountability and transparency on the use of funds meant for maintenance of school plant.

VIII.CONCLUSION

Based on the results of this study it is shown that corruption influence the extent to which maintenance staff perform their duties. It also influences the provision tools for maintenance as well as the management of funds for maintenance operations. This implies that steps must be taken to fight corruption in tertiary educational institution, particularly in Kebbi State.

Recommendation

The following recommendations are hereby provided:

1. School mangers in tertiary educational institutions in Kebbi State should be more vigilant in supervising and ensuring that maintenance staffs perform their duties regularly and punctually without expecting to be bribed.
2. There should be a correct inventory of all maintenance tools and regulations guiding the use of maintenance so as to ensure accountability.
3. There should be regular auditing of accounts so as to ensure that mismanagement of fund meant for maintenance services is strictly penalized.

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