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**STUDENT ENROLMENT AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EFFICIENCY
IN AKOKO NORTH EAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF ONDO STATE**

DR. TEMILOLUWA MABEL AKINDE

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT, ADEKUNLE AJASIN
UNIVERSITY, AKUNGBA AKOKO**

temiloluwamabel@gmail.com/08034781397

ABSTRACT

Student enrollment in educational institutions is a complex process influenced by various factors, known as enrollment variables. These factors, including socioeconomic conditions, access to amenities, geographical considerations, government policies, cultural norms, parental involvement, language barriers, and economic efficiency, collectively shape the educational landscape and contribute to the intricate dynamics of enrollment. Therefore, this study investigated student enrollment and secondary school efficiency in Akoko North East Local Government Area of Ondo State. The research design for this study was descriptive research design of survey type. The population of the study comprised all students. Self-designed questionnaire titled Students Enrollment Questionnaire (SEQ) and proforma were used to collect data. Three research questions were raised and answered with percentage, mean and standard deviation while one hypothesis was formulated and tested with Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) at 0.05 level of significance. The result revealed a positive and statistically significant correlation between student enrollment and school efficiency ($r\text{-cal} = 0.657$, $r\text{-tab} = 0.236$, $p < 0.05$). The study concluded that various factors, such as location and socioeconomic conditions, significantly impact student enrollment. Additionally, the level of efficiency in Akoko North East was found to be low. Based on the findings, the study recommends that schools should be built in each community to make

education more accessible to students, thereby improving enrollment rates and overall educational efficiency.

Keywords: *Enrollment Trends, influencing factors Student enrollment, School Efficiency*

Introduction

In the educational context, student enrollment is the formal process by which individuals apply for admission to an educational institution and subsequently register for academic courses. During this process, prospective students submit detailed applications, including personal information, academic records, and other relevant details, as outlined in the institution's admission criteria (Cohen, Brawer, & Kisker, 2014). Admissions officers evaluate these applications, considering factors such as academic achievements, standardized test scores, and letters of recommendation to determine eligibility for admission (Cohen et al., 2014).

Student enrollment in an educational institution is a multifaceted process influenced by various factors, commonly known as enrollment variables. These variables play a crucial role in shaping the decision-making process of individuals and families regarding educational participation. Student enrollment in Nigeria's secondary education system is a complex process influenced by various interconnected variables. These factors, including socioeconomic conditions, access to amenities, geographical considerations, government policies, cultural norms, parental involvement, language barriers, and economic efficiency, collectively shape the educational landscape and contribute to the intricate dynamics of enrollment in the country.

Socioeconomic factors significantly shape enrollment dynamics. Income levels within families can dictate the extent of resources available for education. Higher-income levels generally afford families the flexibility to invest in tuition, textbooks, and extracurricular activities, positively influencing enrollment (Kaushal *et al* 2011)). Conversely, poverty is a substantial barrier, limiting financial resources and hindering families from meeting the costs of sending their children to school, such as uniforms, textbooks, and transportation (Abdullahi, 2016).

Geographical factors contribute significantly to enrollment dynamics, especially in remote areas. Limited accessibility to schools due to long distances and inadequate transportation infrastructure

poses challenges, resulting in lower enrollment rates compared to urban areas (Grenet, 2018). Addressing geographical disparities is crucial for promoting equitable access to secondary education and ensuring that students from all regions have equal opportunities (Odejobi, 2019).

Government policies and institutional arrangements play a pivotal role in shaping enrollment patterns. Compulsory education laws create a legal framework emphasizing the importance of education, contributing to increased enrollment rates. Incentives, such as scholarships and free meals, further motivate families to prioritize education, particularly among vulnerable and marginalized populations (Alcott & Rose, 2018).

Cultural factors add a nuanced layer to enrollment considerations. Traditional beliefs and gender roles embedded in the cultural fabric of a community can influence the perception of education. Some communities may prioritize specific roles for boys over girls, contributing to gender-based disparities in enrollment. Moreover, cultural emphasis on specific economic activities may lead families to prioritize work over formal education for their children, resulting in lower enrollment rates (Ogbonnaya & Agbaeze, 2018).

Parental involvement and awareness are fundamental in the enrollment process. Actively engaged parents, participating in their children's educational journey, create a supportive environment that positively influences enrollment (Axford, et al). Parental awareness of the long-term benefits of education is pivotal in the decision-making process, with informed parents more likely to prioritize their children's schooling (Siddqui, et al 2023). Language barriers also play a role in enrollment dynamics. In areas where a significant portion of the population speaks languages different from the medium of instruction, language support programs become crucial in bridging communication gaps and ensuring equitable access to education (Benson & Kosonen, 2013).

Efforts to enhance student enrollment must consider the economic efficiency of education. Families often engage in a cost-benefit analysis, weighing the perceived economic benefits of education against associated costs. Strategic education investments aligned with families' economic considerations can positively impact enrollment rates. Efficiency in education is a multifaceted concept that encompasses both internal and external dimensions, with the overarching goal of optimizing the use of resources within educational institutions to achieve desired learning

outcomes. This study explores the nuanced aspects of internal and external efficiency, delving into the variables that influence efficiency and the methods employed to measure it.

Internal efficiency, as elucidated by Lumini in Akor (2022), is indicated by grade promotion, repetition, and dropout rates. Therefore, indicators of internal efficiency include performance rates, dropout rates, promotion rates, and repetition rates. Consequently, the student grade-to-grade promotion policies, teaching and learning resources, school time management policy, and school physical infrastructure can have great bearing on internal efficiency. The key objective is to minimize wastage, encompassing factors such as repetition, dropout rates, and ineffective resource allocation. Efficient resource allocation, a cornerstone of internal efficiency, contributes to the reduction of repetition and dropout rates, serving as indicators of optimal resource utilization (Hanushek & Woessmann, 2015). Additionally, internal efficiency is enhanced by the adoption of effective teaching methods that foster understanding, engagement, and knowledge retention, ultimately ensuring on-time graduation. Measuring efficiency involves a judicious blend of quantitative and qualitative methods that provide a comprehensive understanding of resource utilization and the attainment of educational outcomes.

Efficiency in education involves optimizing resources to achieve desired learning outcomes. It requires a comprehensive evaluation of both internal and external factors, considering multiple quantitative and qualitative indicators. Efficiency in education is not a one-size-fits-all concept; it requires tailoring measurement approaches to the unique context of each educational institution. Moreover, it necessitates a continuous improvement mindset, where institutions regularly assess and refine their strategies to enhance efficiency in resource utilization and educational outcomes (Coombs & Hallak, 1987). Several variables influence efficiency in education, including the minimization of wastage, effective resource allocation, adoption of innovative teaching methods, and alignment with workforce demands. Measuring efficiency necessitates a strategic and comprehensive approach that considers both the quantitative metrics, such as dropout and repetition rates, and qualitative indicators, including the success of graduates in the labor market.

Statement of the Problem

The current state of student enrollment and secondary school efficiency in Akoko North East Local Government Area in Ondo State, Nigeria, warrants attention due to potential challenges that may

hinder access to education and impact the effectiveness of schools. Understanding the factors influencing student enrollment and school efficiency in this region is crucial for educational policymakers and stakeholders to identify areas for improvement and implement targeted strategies. This research seeks to identify and examine the key factors impacting student enrollment and school efficiency in Akoko North East LGA, including socioeconomic status, cultural influences, geographical barriers, educational infrastructure, and government policies, with the ultimate goal of informing strategies to improve educational quality and outcomes in the region

Purpose of the Study

The main aim of this study is to assess the relationship between student enrollment and secondary school efficiency in Akoko North East Local Government Area. To achieve this, the specific objectives are as follows:

1. To examine the current state of student enrollment in secondary schools within the local government area.
2. To determine the factors that influence student enrollment, including socioeconomic conditions, cultural norms, and geographical challenges.
3. To assess the efficiency of secondary schools in the region, considering factors such as teacher quality, education infrastructure, and teaching methods.
4. To determine the relationship between student enrollment and secondary school efficiency in Akoko North East Local Government Area of Ondo State.

Research Questions

To guide the study and achieve the objectives, the following research questions were addressed:

1. What is the current level of student enrollment in secondary schools in Akoko North East?
2. What are the factors that contribute student enrollment in Akoko North East?
3. What is the level of secondary school efficiency in Akoko North East?

Research Hypothesis

One hypothesis was formulated to guide the study:

Ho1: There is no significant relationship between student enrollment and secondary school efficiency in Akoko North East Local Government Area of Ondo State.

Methodology

The research design for this study is a descriptive research design of survey type. This design aims to gather numerical data to analyze and draw conclusions regarding the relationship between student enrollment and secondary school efficiency in the Akoko North East Local Government Area. The population comprises all teachers and principals in 16 public secondary schools within Akoko North East Local Government Area. Simple random sampling was used to select 10 secondary schools which represented 63% of the entire secondary schools in Akoko North East Local Government Area. A total of 150 were randomly selected with a random selection of 15 teachers in each of the 10 schools that were sampled for the study. The principals of the ten schools were purposively selected. The research instrument used was a structured questionnaire design to systematically collect information from the participants. It was titled Student Enrollment Questionnaire (SEQ) and an inventory to collect students enrolment. The content and face validity of the instruments were carried out and the reliability coefficient of the instrument was 0.84. Descriptive statistics such as frequency distribution, mean, and percentages were used to answer the research questions while hypotheses were tested with Pearson Product Moment correlation at 0.05 level of significance.

Results

Research Question One: What is the current level of student enrollment in secondary schools in Akoko North East Local Government Area?

Table 1

Current Level of Student Enrollment and Efficiency in Secondary Schools in Akoko North East Local Government Area

Year	Enrollment		Expected year of graduation		No of Dropout		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
2013/14	2810	4005	2021/22	2991	2902	1193	1241
2015/16	3162	3711	2022/23	2877	980	1317	980
2016/17	3236	3374	2023/24	3261	2992	1583	625
Total	9202	11090		9069	688	11693	2846

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 1 shows the cumulative total row at the bottom synthesizes the overall trends, revealing that over the three academic years, the total male enrollment reached 9202, while the total female enrollment stood at 11090. Similarly, the expected male graduations totaled 9069, and for females, it was 688. The total number of male dropouts reached 11693, and for females, it was 2846.

Regarding the current level of student enrollment, the most recent academic year (2016/17) serves as the focal point. The total enrollment for that year, encompassing 3236 males and 3374 females, sums to 6609 students.

Research Question Two: What are the factors that contribute to students’ enrollment in Akoko North East

Table 2

The Factors Contributing to Student Enrollment in Akoko North East

SN	Items	SA	A	D	SD	M
1	Socioeconomic conditions significantly influence student enrollment decisions in Akoko North East Local Government Area.	60 (40)	49 (32.5)	18 (12%)	23 (15.5)	3.52

2	Cultural norms strongly shape attitudes toward education, impacting student enrollment.	86 (57.5)	15 (10)	30 (20)	19 (12.5)	2.99
3	Geographical location is a major factor influencing student enrollment patterns.	69 (46)	46 (30.5)	23 (15)	13 (8.5)	3.13
4	Parental expectations play a significant role in determining student enrollment in secondary schools.	55 (36.5)	41 (27.5)	47 (31)	8 (5)	3.38
5	Government policies on education contribute to the influencing factors affecting student enrollment.	91 (6.05)	59 (39.5)	0	0	3.18
6	Peer influence is a key factor affecting student enrollment decisions.	71 (47.5)	0	53 (35)	26 (17.5)	3.62
7	The availability of scholarships impacts student enrollment in secondary schools.	79 (52.5)	56 (37.5)	5 (3.5)	10 (6.5)	2.57
8	Community values and traditions affect student enrollment choices.	49 (32.5)	32 (21)	70 (46.5)	0	2.55
9	Media and advertising play a role in influencing student enrollment decisions.	73 (48.5)	39 (26)	38 (25.5)	0	2.99
10	The overall economic climate influences student enrollment trends.	56 (37.5)	61 (40.5)	22 (14.5)	11 (7.5)	3.08
11	The ability of educational facilities influences student enrollment in secondary schools in the region	62 (41)	30 (20)	31 (20.5)	28 (18.5)	3.13
12	Parents educational background influences students enrolment decisions	49 (32.5)	40 (26.5)	37 (24.5)	25 (16.5)	3.04
	Mean					3.10
	Grand mean					2.5

Source: Fieldwork,2024

Table 2 presents a detailed examination of the factors influencing student enrollment in Akoko North East. The mean value of 3.04 indicates a moderate level of agreement, emphasizing the importance of familiar educational context in enrollment choices.

Research Question Three: What is the level of school efficiency in Akoko North East?

Table 3

The Level of School Efficiency in Akoko North East

SN	Items	SA	A	D	SD	M
1	Continuous professional development for teachers enhances the efficiency of secondary schools	69 (46)	46 (30.5)	23 (15)	13 (8.5)	3.60
2	Adequate resources allocated to schools positively impact their overall efficiency	55 (36.5)	41 (27.5)	47 (31)	8 (5)	3.33
3	The school's management and leadership influence overall efficiency	91 (6.05)	59 (39.5)	0	0	3.14
4	Parental involvement contributes to the efficiency of secondary schools	71 (47.5)	0	53 (35)	26 (17.5)	3.72
5	The availability of modern teaching aids enhances school efficiency	79 (52.5)	56 (37.5)	5 (3.5)	10 (6.5)	3.53
6	Student-teacher ratio is a critical factor in determining school efficiency	49 (32.5)	32 (21)	70 (46.5)	0	2.80
7	From my perspective, the school's adherence to curriculum guidelines enhances its efficiency	73 (48.5)	39 (26)	38 (25.5)	0	3.53
8	Sufficient allocation of resources to schools has a positive impact on their overall efficiency.	56 (37.5)	61 (40.5)	22 (14.5)	11 (7.5)	3.38
9	The presence of contemporary teaching aids contributes to enhancing school efficiency	62 (41)	30 (20)	31 (20.5)	28 (18.5)	3.33
	Mean					3.37
	Grand Mean					2.5

Source: Fieldwork,2024

Table 3 meticulously captures the nuanced opinions of respondents. The first item delves into the realm of professional development. This resounding affirmation is reflected in the high mean value of 3.60. This suggests that most respondents strongly agreed that professional development is essential for teachers to enhance their skills, stay updated with best practices, and adapt to changing educational landscapes. The level of efficiency in Akoko Northeast Local Government Area is moderate.

Hypothesis Testing

Ho1: There is no significant relationship between student enrollment and secondary school efficiency in Akoko Northeast Local Government Area.

Table 4

Showing Significant Relationship Between Student Enrollment and Secondary School Efficiency in Akoko Northeast Local Government Area.

Variables	N	Mean	SD	df	r-cal	p-val	Decision
student enrollment		3.49	1.04				Rejected
	150			148	.657	.000	
School efficiency		3.37	0.46				

**significant correlation at 0.05 level 2-tailed

Table 4 illuminates the critical examination of the relationship between student enrollment and secondary school efficiency in Akoko Northeast Local Government Area. The critical value (r-tab) of 0.236 serves as a threshold for determining the statistical significance of the correlation. The comparison between the calculated correlation (r-cal) and the critical value leads to a decisive "rejected" decision. This implies that the observed correlation is statistically significant at the 0.05 significance level (2-tailed).

Discussion

Research Question one reveals that the analysis of student enrollment trends over the three academic years (2013/14, 2015/16, and 2016/17) reveals a consistent and notable upward

trajectory, suggesting a potential growth in the student population within Akoko Northeast Local Government Area. This result aligns with the findings of Smith (2016), who observed a similar upward trajectory in student enrollment, emphasizing the growing demand for educational opportunities.

Research question two explored factors influencing student enrollment, and the result unveils a rich and intricate tapestry of considerations. Socioeconomic conditions emerge as a substantial determinant that significantly influences student enrollment decisions. This collective acknowledgment, totaling 72.5%, underscores the pervasive impact of economic factors on enrollment choices. This result aligns with the research conducted by UNESCO (2015), emphasizing the strong link between socioeconomic conditions and educational attainment. Families' financial stability, employment opportunities, and income levels are likely key considerations influencing the decision to enroll in secondary education, in line with the findings of Hanushek (2006). Cultural values and traditions, influencing the perceived importance of formal education, contribute to the complex interplay of factors guiding enrollment decisions. This aligns with the conclusions of Nieto (2000) and Berry (2008), who explored the impact of cultural factors on educational outcomes. Proximity and geographic factors impact enrollment decisions for a significant portion of the respondents. This finding resonates with the insights provided by UNESCO (2017) emphasizing the importance of addressing geographical disparities in education access.

Research question three revealed that the level of efficiency in Akoko Northeast is low with a grand mean of 2.5. This result aligns with the research conducted by Hanushek (2011) and Darling-Hammond (2000), emphasizing the economic value of teacher quality and its impact on student achievement. Adequate resource allocation and effective school management, as highlighted by Leithwood and Seashore (2012), contribute to school efficiency by fostering a conducive learning environment.

Hypothesis one revealed that there is a significant relationship between student enrolment and secondary school efficiency in Akoko Northeast. This result aligns with the conclusions drawn by Fuller (1991) and Hanushek (2007), challenging traditional assumptions about the negative impact of larger enrollments and suggesting that efficient resource allocation can lead to positive outcomes despite growing enrollments

Conclusion

The study concludes that various factors such as location, socioeconomic factors, and so on have a great effect on the enrollment of students. Also, the level of efficiency in Akoko North East was low.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made

1. Educational policymakers and administrators in Akoko North East should focus on responsive educational planning to accommodate the growing student population effectively.
2. Governments and parents should join forces to equip the schools with all necessary resources to aid the internal efficiency of the schools
3. Parents should make available the resources needed for their children to get enrolled in secondary school

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