

Determination of Teachers' Perception on the Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on the Academic Achievement of Secondary School Students: A Study of Some Selected States in the North Eastern, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT: *The determination of teachers' perception on the impact of covid-19 pandemic on the academic achievement of secondary school students: a study of some selected states in the north eastern, Nigeria was a survey study. The population comprised all teachers of public senior secondary schools in the north-eastern geo-political zone, Nigeria. Structured questionnaire was used to elicit data from the respondents. Data collected was analysed using frequency counts and simple percentages. Conclusion and recommendations were drawn based on the results of the findings.*

KEYWORDS: determination, perception, impact, covid-19, academic achievement

INTRODUCTION

Many researchers have written on the origin, transmission and characteristic of corona virus. By way of illustration, Muhammad, A.S., Suliman, K., Abeer, K., Nadia, B. & Rabeea, S. (2020) holds that, "Coronaviruses belong to the coronaviridae family in the Nidovirales order. Corona represents crown-like spikes on the outer surface of the virus; thus, it was named as a coronavirus". There are serious worries globally since the outbreak of the corona virus (COVID-19) pandemic at the end of 2019 due to its foreseen possible impacts on various sectors, education inclusive. The Nigeria Federal Ministry of Education directed the closure of all schools in the country vide letter FME/PSE/HE/1041/C.I/Vol.I/137 dated 19th March, 2020 signed by Sonny S.T. Echono, the permanent Secretary of the ministry, to manage the pandemic. The action was as a result of the quick spread of the virus in the world. Covid-19 as at September 9, 2020 has infected over 27.5 million people worldwide as reported by John Hopkins University as stated by the Radio France International, Hausa Service. The closure of schools has created a wide gap and distorted the academic calendars of the institutions. There were efforts by governments at different levels and proprietors of various educational institutions to minimise the gap created by the pandemic through on line classes, radio and television programmes but yet the gap still is not negligible. Therefore, there is need for

educational institutions to constantly try various aspects of its expertise and pedagogies in minimising the already created gap by the pandemic.

Education is the process of imparting general knowledge; attitude and skills required in a particular area and it is an instrument for affecting national development. Education has great importance because it is the backbone of any meaningful development. Its importance is such that it is indispensable as every society requires it. This is to say that, no individual, community or society that can have meaningful development without it. Individuals can make the best use of their innate abilities when they are properly educated. Education touches every one provided there is need for better life. The stated benefits of education are now under threat as students in the world have missed face to face instruction since the covid-19 outbreak which led to closure of schools to manage the pandemic as part of the measures to minimize its spread. This has caused serious worries on the side of Governments, parents, teachers and students due to its foreseen effects on the academic achievement of students. The closure of schools for long time as experienced due to the covid-19 outbreak may distort many academic activities and it may also widen the gap between high and low achieving students. Governments and Schools were worried and tried to minimize the gap created by the pandemic by adapting online classes for the students at home. The big question is having the adapted online classes served the purpose? The study concerns on investigating the impact of the pandemic on the academic achievement of senior secondary school students in the north eastern Nigeria.

Meaning of corona virus

The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control confirms that, “the coronaviruses are zoonotic, meaning they are normally transmitted between animals and people. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is caused by a new strain of coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) that has not been previously identified in humans. It was first reported to WHO on the 31st of December, 2019 in Wuhan, China”.

Origin of corona virus

Studies have shown that, the virus’s origin is zoonotic with close genetic similarity to bat coronaviruses. This is to say that; the virus has emerged from a bat-borne virus. The virus that causes Corona Virus Disease 2019 is currently under investigation by scientists and public health authorities to actually determine how it will be handled as no cure up till this time approved by the approving bodies with the struggles to have its cure worldwide. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is caused by a new strain of coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) and was first reported to WHO on the 31st of December, 2019 in Wuhan, China.

Symptoms of Coronavirus (CoVID-19)

The following are said to be the symptoms of COVID-19:

- ☐ Cough
- ☐ Fever
- ☐ Shivering/Shaking (Chills)
- ☐ Body Pain
- ☐ Headache
- ☐ Sore throat
- ☐ Recent loss of taste or smell
- ☐ Difficulty in breathing/Shortness of breath

- ☐ Diarrhoea/abdominal pain
- ☐ Runny nose/Catarrh
- ☐ Fatigue (tiredness)

Common Symptoms include fever, cough, Sneezing and shortness of breath.

Spread of corona virus

Health professionals have investigated how the virus spreads and the world Health organization confirmed that, the virus spreads from animal to human and from to human. Abdul, H., Shmmon, A., Sameera, A.S., Mumaz, A. & Shruti, M. (2020) holds that, “the virus is typically rapidly spread from one person to another via respiratory droplets produced during coughing and sneezing. It is considered most contagious when people are symptomatic, although transmission may be possible before symptoms shown in patients.

The office of the President vides letter ref: OP/PA 1/19A dated 13th March, 2020 titled: Re: Suspension of all public gatherings. The letter states that, “The National Security Council through recommendation of the National Emergency Response Committee on Coronavirus has directed all the National Government Administrative Officers to coordinate and enforce the following measures with immediate effect in order to prevent the outbreak and spread of Covid-19 disease:

1. Suspension of all public visits to prisons for the next 30 days
2. Suspension of all inter-schools’ gatherings either for sporting purposes or otherwise for the next 30 days
3. Suspension of all mass/public gatherings or meetings of any nature for the next 30 days
4. Suspension of inter-agency, inter-institutions and inter-religious gatherings for the next 30 days
5. Creation of public awareness through door to door campaigns on good personal hygiene.

All the stated measures by the government were taken in order to manage the spread of the disease. Although, the measures were seen as obstacles in some cases but at the same time the measures were taken by the government as emergency and necessary due to the danger of the virus.

The spread of coronavirus which started from Wuhan, China has speedily reached an unpredicted stage and areas in the world. By way of illustration in Nigeria no case was recorded as of January, 2020 but from the 28th of February when the first case was confirmed to 9th September, 2020 but later the country has recorded a reasonable number of cases.

Impact of corona virus on education sector:

Governmental Perspectives

The ECDC reported that, “the Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) on January 2020 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). This is to say that; all hands should be on deck in handling the disease.

The Federal Ministry of Education on March 19th, 2020 released a circular which directed that, all schools in the country be temporarily closed down effective March 23rd, in order to contain

and prevent the spread of the corona virus. The closure has led to many questions regarding the readiness, capability and ability of the schools to handle the situation using the appropriate technology in order to minimise the negative impact of the closure. The Nigerian government through some of its agencies have taken measures to mitigate learning disruptions for children. By way of illustration, the Universal Education Commission, State Universal Education Boards, UNICEF, United States Agency for International Development in collaboration with some Media Houses introduced some programmes through Television, Radio and online programmes for school children. This is not enough considering economic, social and technological development of the country. There is no doubt the closure will have negative impact on the educational development of Nigeria. At a meeting where the Nigeria Minister of Education and National Assembly interacted on schools reopening, the Vice Chairman House Committee on Education expressed fears that, “the academic calendar could be distorted in public schools where no visible arrangement was being made to teach the children at home compared to their counterparts in private schools” –NUC Monday Bulletin vol.15 No. 13 29th June, 2020 ISSN 0795-3089

Teachers Perspectives

Baba Manga a staff of the Gombe State ministry of Education said ‘the effect of this pandemic cannot be quantified. Teachers are affected, Students are affected, government is affected and the country is affected as education is the bedrock of any meaningful development’. Ibrahim (2021) observed that, Covid-19 Pandemic has huge negative impact on students’ academic progress and the entire education system due to the long closure of schools in an effort to manage the Pandemic.

Parents Perspectives

Muhammad Ibrahim aged 55 said if care is not taken our children may not pass some of the national examinations due to the school closure as a result of the covid-19 lock down. While Hajiya A’ishatu Sambo Umar said children are at home doing nothing as most parents cannot afford to provide most of the means of minimizing the negative impact of the pandemic as students over stayed at home. This will affect their achievement in their various grades of learning. Hassan Muhammad aged 49 a parent in Jakusko town of Yobe State states that, Covid-19 has bad impact on students, education and the education system.

Students Perspectives

An SS III student of Badala Academy, Azare in person Ibrahim said in an oral interview that,” our schools are closed to manage the covid-19 but my fear is how can the missed time be compensated? The said online classes will not suffice considering the economic realities...”.
Bridging the gap created by coronavirus

In bridging the gap created by the virus in the education sector, there is need for measures so that, the impact of the pandemic will be minimized on the education sector. The following are some of the possible measures if properly taken will minimize the impact and will be helpful in bringing the created gap as given by Ibrahim (2020):.

- i. Extra Mural Classes: organizing such classes will allow students and teachers to minimize or reduce the gaps created by the pandemic.

- ii. Use of Social Networking Sites i.e. on line classes: it is of paramount importance for schools to use some online flat forms in order to teach students the missed topics as a result of the school closure due to the pandemic.
- iii. Pre longing the terms or semesters: this will give more time to the schools to reduce the gaps experienced as a result of the Pandemic.
- iv. Tutorials: organizing tutorials will be helpful in bridging the gaps. Students will have time to interact and raise questions to allow them get the inculcated items very well. By this the gaps created due to the school closure will be reduced.
- v. Ready Made Notes: Schools should prepare some materials i.e. reading materials for students to use at their own selected time while at home. This will be helpful in treating most of the uncovered areas due to the school closure.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research investigated perception of Teachers on the impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on the academic achievement of Senior Secondary School Students. The study was carried out in the North East Geo-Political Zone, Nigeria. The research was a survey study; this was based on the fact that survey allows data to be collected from a representative sample. Awotunde, P. O & Ugodulunwa, C. A. (2004) holds that “survey research is the type of research in which data are collected from a representative sample using questionnaire, interview, observation and test” Toluhi, (2001) and Sharma, (2004) also holds that “survey research signifies a situation in which a population or items were studied by collecting data from a limited number of people. Soji, O. & Udida, L.A. (2012), holds that, the design of a research, therefore, refers to the conceptual framework within which the research is conducted. Therefore, questionnaire was used in collecting the data from the respondents. Selltiz, Wrightsman and Cook (1976:90) in Sa’idu, S. (2012) holds that” a research design is the arrangement of conditions for the collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy in procedure. By this therefore, the research design fits as a result of using questionnaire in the collection of data as the relevant technique in survey research as advanced by Ndomi, 2000 and Toluhi, 2001. By the reasons given survey research design was selected due to its suitability.

Population of the Research

Population refers to the aggregate of items or persons from whom data pertinent to the study is to be collected. (Suleiman, A.G, 2006). While (Sambo, A.A, 2005) sees a population as the set off all elements, objects, or events that are of interest for a particular study. Sample as far Sambo’s view is a subset of a population from which data for a study is collected. The population for this study made up of all Public Senior Secondary School teachers in the North East Zone, Nigeria for academic year (2020-2021)

Sample of the research

Sambo, A. A., (2005), holds that a sample is a subset of a population from which data for a study is collected. The sample of the population was a stratified sample which allows random selection within the area under study. The sample consists of teachers of some selected Public Senior Secondary Schools in the North-East Zone.

Sampling Techniques

The stratified sampling technique was used in selecting the schools that their teachers participated in the study. The stratified random sampling was used to ensure different groups were represented in the sample as advanced by Awotunde, P. O. and Ugodulunwa, C. A. (2004) who holds that “one reason for stratifying rather than taking a simple random sample is to ensure that the different groups of which a population is composed are represented in the sample”. The descriptive sample of the research is given below in a tabular form:

Table 1: The table below is showing the distribution of the sample

S/N	Item	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Senior Sec. Sch. I Teachers	200	33.33%
2.	Senior Sec. Sch. II Teachers	200	33.33%
3.	Senior Sec. Sch. III Teachers	200	33.33%
Total		600	100

Table 1 above shows the distribution of respondents in which from the total sample i.e. respondents 200 each were Senior Secondary School I Teachers, Senior Secondary School Teachers II and Senior Secondary School Teachers III which represents 33.33% each totalling 100%. By this, all the responses received were from the stated category of teachers.

RESULTS

Research Question One

What are the perceptions of teachers on the impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on academic achievement of secondary school students?

Table 2: Teachers Perception on the impact of Covid-19 on the academic achievement of secondary school students

S/N	Item	N	Agree %	Disagree %
1.	Covid-19 has negative impact on students' academic achievement	200	180 90	20 10
2.	Covid-19 has forced students to sit at home without relevant academic progress	200	194 97	6 3
3.	Most Students forget what they were taught due to Covid-19 management protocol	200	145 72.5	55 27.5
Total		600		100

Source: Field Work 2022

Table 2 indicated that, 90% of the respondents agreed that covid-19 has negative impact on students' academic achievement while 10% disagreed. The respondents also agreed that, covid-19 has forced students to sit at home without relevant academic progress. This is due to the fact that, 97% of them agreed. Likewise, 72.5% of the respondents agreed that, most students forget what they were taught due to Covid-19 management protocol.

Research Question Two

What is the direct impact of Covid-19 on the education system?

Table 3: Teachers Perception on the direct impact of Covid-19 on the education System.						
S/N	Item	N	Agree	%	Disagree	%
4.	Covid-19 has negative impact on the education System.	200	200	100	0	0
5.	Covid-19 has forced Schools Closure without relevant academic progress	200	198	99	2	1
6.	Schools calendars were interrupted due to Covid-19 management protocol	200	200	100	0	0
Total		600	100			

Source: Field Work, 2022

Table 3 shows that, all the respondents agreed that, Covid-19 has negative impact on the education system. This is to say that, 100% agreed on the item statement. 198 of the respondents representing 99% agreed that, Covid-19 has forced closure of schools without relevant academic progress. Likewise, all the respondents representing 100% of the respondents agreed that, school Calendars were interrupted due to Covid-19 management protocol.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The study revealed that Covid-19 has negative impact on senior secondary schools' academic achievement to a large extent. As the perception of teachers in this regard agrees that, covid-19 Covid-19 has negative impact on students' academic achievement. The perception of the respondents also reveals that, Covid-19 has forced students to sit at home without relevant academic progress and most Students forget what they were taught due to Covid-19 management protocol. This study is in consonant with Ibrahim (2021) who submitted that Covid-19 Pandemic has huge negative impact on students' academic progress and the entire education system due to the long closure of schools in an effort to manage the Pandemic.

Apart from this, the perception of teachers revealed that, the pandemic (Covid-19) has negative impact on the entire education system. Covid-19 has negative impact on the education System, Covid-19 has forced Schools Closure without relevant academic progress, Schools calendars were interrupted due to Covid-19 management protocol. This has corroborated with the

submission of Muhammad (2020) and Hajiya (2020) where they held that, covid-19 has negative impact on the academic achievement of students and the entire education system.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings, the study reveals that, there is significant impact of Covid-19 on the academic achievement of secondary school students in Nigeria and specifically in the area of the study. Therefore, the researchers conclude that, there is significant negative impact of Covid-19 on the academic achievement of secondary school students and the entire education system in Nigeria.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, it is recommended that:

1. Majors should be taken to minimize the negative impact of covid-19 on students' academic achievement.
2. There is need to take relevant majors to minimize the negative impact of covid-19 on the education system.
3. Government at all levels should take majors to manage future occurrences of such pandemic as proactive majors.

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