

The Managerial Enforcement of Covid-19 Protocols of Faculty of Education Students in Enugu State University of Science and Technology, Agbani, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT: *This study investigated the managerial enforcement of Covid-19 protocols of faculty of education students in Enugu State University of Science and Technology, Agbani, Nigeria. Three research questions were formulated. Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. It samples the study was 689 respondents selected from the ten departments of faculty of Education using simple and accidental random sampling techniques. The instrument used for the study was 26-items, modified likert scale type questionnaire titled “Managerial Enforcement of COVID-19 protocols and Faculty of Education Questionnaire (MECPFEQ)” was used for data collection. the instrument was dully validated by experts and its reliability method. Data collected were analysed using mean scores and standards deviation. The findings from the results revealed that there is a great extent in the university management enforcement of Covid-19 protocols in the study area. Based on the findings, it was recommended among other that there should be regular supervision of all staff, students, visitors, task force and security personnel to ensure that there is consistent compliance to prescribed laws for quality service delivery.*

KEYWORDS: managerial, enforcement, Covid-19, protocol, education, students

INTRODUCTION

Towards the end of 2019, the world at large witness the appearance of deadly virus known as corona virus disease COVID-19. The virus was first discovered in Urban city of China in December, 2019. Abid, Mohammed and Raju (2020) stated that corona virus belongs to family of virus that can cause illness such as common cold, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERs). The virus spread to every country of the world including Nigeria. It was imported to Nigeria by an Italian citizen who works in Nigeria and

returned from Milan, Italy to Lagos, Nigeria on 27th of February, 2020 (national Centre for Disease Control (NCDC); 2020).

Statistics retrieved from the World Health organization (WHO) showed that about 4.8 million deaths have been recorded out of 236.7 million confirmed cases worldwide, with about 3,663, 947,703 people vaccinated. (WHO, 2021). With this, Nigeria accounts for about 2,767 deaths, resulting from 208,630 confirmed cases with 7,130,171 doses of COVID-19 vaccines administered so far at when this study was carried out Nation Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA, 2021). COVID-19 vaccination in Nigeria is an ongoing immunization campaign against severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus 2 (SARS-COV-2), the virus that causes corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19), in response to the ongoing Pandemic in the country. Vaccination began on 5 March, 2021. As of 8 October 2021, 5, 118, 422 people have received their first dose a COVID-19 vaccine and 2,359,781 people have received their second doses (NPHCDA, 2021).

The high rate of the viral cases confirmed might be accorded to the diverse means of transmission, beginning from air droplets to fomites during closed and unprotected contact with infected persons. These air droplets and fomites can be transferred via coughing sneezing, or touching a contaminated surface or object. Although reports have indicated that individuals that are immune compromised are more prone to the virus, the virus is non-selective, making it capable of infecting anybody exposed to it (Ngwewond, Nkengazong, Ambe, Ebogo, Mba, Goni, Marie, Ngonde and Oyono, 2020). While trying to mitigate the spread of the virus many protocols were initiated. During the early time of the virus outbreak, there was an observance of inter-country and intra-country lockdown. This was followed by other protocols like the closure of schools, restriction of movement, wearing of facemask regular washing of hands with soap under running water and use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers, be physically active, drinking plenty of water, eat healthy, avoid stress and have enough sleep, stay home if you feel unwell with symptoms of fever, cough, and difficulty in breathing, avoid shaking of hands, maintained at least one and half meters (5 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing, avoidance of crowded environment (like religious, political gathering, social market, as well as funeral gatherings and so on (NCDC, 2020). While setting these protocols, the search for a suitable vaccine was also in place with more trials of antivirals including, hydroxychloroquine, corticosteroids, tocilizumab, interferons, intravenous immunoglobulin, mechanical ventilation, high flow oxygen, and convalescent plasma infusion (Peng, Pei, Zheng, Wng, Zheng, Zheng and Zhu, 2020b).

These preventive measures seen effective as WHO (2020), reported that physical distancing mitigates the spread of the virus. Peng et al (2020b) stated that quarantine and surveillance were the most effective means of controlling the spread of infectious disease. However, the emergence of the other variants of the COVID-19 pandemic could tell how it has not been overcome. The second wave of the COVID-19 is a result of a variety of variants reported. According to the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP, 2021), five variants of the virus including B.1.1.7 (reported more deadly), B.1.351, P.1, B.1427, and B.1.429 have been isolated worldwide. The body admitted that virus are subject to mutation implying that another variant can still emerge.

These variants are more dangerous than the original virus since symptoms might be hidden (CDCP, 2021).

Even though the variants have been reported as more deadly, the Nigerian government was led to reopening schools, all institutions were compelled to provide a conducive environment, concerning the setup of COVID-19 protocols units in every departments and faculties in the study area. Therefore, this study is seek to examine the managerial enforcement of COVID-19 protocols of faculty of education students in Enugu State University of Science and Technology, Agbani, Enugu State, Nigeria under the following variables such as compulsory use of facemasks, hand washing, and social distance.

Use of facemask: masks should be used as part of comprehensive strategy of measures to suppress transmission and save lives, the use of a mask above is not sufficient to provide an adequate level of protection against COVID-19. If COVID-19 is spreading in your community, stay safe by taking some simple precautions, such as physical distancing, wearing a mask, keeping rooms well ventilated, avoiding crowds, clearing your hands, and coughing into a bent elbow or tissue. Here are the basics of how to wear a face mask:

1. Clean your hands before you put your mask on, as well as before and after you take it off, and after you touch it at any time.
2. Make sure it covers both your nose, mouth and chin.
3. When you take off a mask, store it in a clean plastic bag, and every day either wash it if it's a fabric mask or dispose if a medical mask in a trash bin.
4. Don't use masks with values (WHO, 2020).

Hand washing: Hand washing also known as hand hygiene, is the act of clearing ones hands with soap and water to remove viruses, bacteria, microorganisms, dirty grease or other harmful and unwanted substances stuck to the hands. This hand hygiene involves the frequent washing of one's hands with soap and water under a running tap for at least 20 seconds. Provision of alcohol based sanitizer was suggested as alternative to hand washing facilities. Individuals are also encouraged to provide a hand sanitizer for use in the absence of hand washing facilities.

Social distance: This is also called physical distancing, is a measures intended to prevent the spread of a contagious disease by maintaining a physical distance between people and reducing the number of times people come into close contact with each other (John, Sun & Freedom, 2020). It usually involves keeping a certain distance from others (the distance specified differs from country to country and can change with time) and avoiding gathering together in large group (Pearce, 2020). The measures may be used in condition with others, such as good respiratory hygiene, face masks and hand washing. To slow down the spread of infectious diseases are avoid over burdening healthcare systems, particularly during a pandemic, several social distancing measures are used, including the closing of schools and work places, isolation, quarantine, restricting the movement of people and the cancellation of mass gathering (WHO, 2020). Authorities have encouraged or mandated social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic as it is an important method of preventing transmission of COVID-19. COVID-19 is much more likely

to spread over distances longer than 2m (6ft) in enclosed, poorly ventilated places and with prolonged exposure (CDCP,2020).

However, Apanga, Lettor and Akunvane (2021), reported a low response to these protocols as most of the students either did not wear a face marks, practice hand washing/hand sanitizing, or practice social distancing often or always. In the same vein, Abate and Mekonnen (2020) who revealed that more than one-third of the participants had power knowledge, attitude, and precautionary measures towards COVID-19 disease.

Similarly, Jacobs and Ohinma (2020) opined that law enforcement officers demonstrated a strong preference for educating non-mask wearers, and indicated a reluctance to resort civil penalties that were enacted in the state orders. Maqbool and Khan (2020) found that there is a lack of resources for implementing public health and social measures for preventing transmission of COVID-19. The present study deviates, from existing studies in the literature intending to investigate the managerial enforcement of three COVID-19 protocols. This area was considered by the researchers because they observed knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAPs) of students reported in other studies may vary from institution to institution and from place to place. The variation in this variables (KAPs) across locations may be due to the extent of awareness created to enhance a positive behaviour. In the study area, just like other educational institutions, the taskforce on COVID-19 may contribute to students and staff observed knowledge, attitudes and practices (known as KAPs) by the way they enforce the COVID-19 established mitigation measures. This is important because schools need to provide a safe learning atmosphere to all human resources available. The school task force on COVID-19, can contribute to promoting environmental safety by ensuring that all stated protocols are observed in the schools. In conclusion these study would be beneficial to future researchers and educational managers of various institutions. This constituted the gap that the study filled.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of the study was to examine the managerial enforcement of COVID-19 protocols of faculty of education students in Enugu State University of Science and Technology Agbani, Nigeria. Specially, the study sought to;

1. Examine the level at which the compulsory use of facemask protocol are enforcement by the management of Enugu State University of Science and Technology in Enugu State.
2. Determine the level at which the hand washing/hand sanitizing protocol are enforcement by management of Enugu State University of Science and Technology in Enugu State.
3. Find out the level at which the social distancing protocol are enforcement by the management of Enugu State University of Science and Technology in Enugu State.

Research questions

The study is designed to answer the following questions:

1. What is the extent of compulsory wearing of face mask protocol are enforcement by the management of Enugu State University of Science and Technology in Enugu State?

2. What is the extent of hand washing/hand sanitizing protocol are enforcement by the management of Enugu State University of Science and Technology in Enugu State?
3. What is the extent of social distancing protocol enforced by the management of Enugu State University of Science and Technology in Enugu State?

METHODOLOGY

The research design utilized in this study was descriptive survey design. This design was chosen because it allowed the researchers to collect data on the phenomena of interest as they are occurring in the population. The population of this study comprised a total of 1378 Faculty of Education in Enugu State University of Science and Technology. Simple and accidental random sampling techniques were used in selecting 689 respondents for the study. The instrument used for data collection was a questionnaire titled Managerial Enforcement of COVID-19 protocols and Faculty Education Questionnaire (MECPFEQ) designed by the researchers. The instrument was divided into two sections A and B. Section A contained respondents demographic information of the respondents, while section B had 26 items in the form of four points of modified Likert scale type of Very Great Extent (VGE), Great Extent (GE), Low Extent (LE) and Very Low Extent (VLE) with scores 4,3,2, and1 respectively. The face validity was established by using three experts two from Department of Adult and Continuing Education and one from the Department of Measurement and Evaluation who verted the items developed while Cronbach alpha was used to test the reliability and the coefficient yield 0.89 which shows that the reliability coefficient is high enough. Copies of the questionnaire were administered to the subjects and collected by the researchers with two trained research assistants. Data collected were analysed using mean score and standard deviation in answering the research questions.

RESULTS

Research question 1

Research question one examined the extent of compulsory wearing of facemask protocol enforcement by the management of Enugu State University of Science and Technology, Enugu State?

Table 1: Summary of mean scores and standard deviation on the extent compulsory wearing of face masks protocol enforcement by the management of Enugu State University of Science and Technology in Enugu State.

S/N	The university management:	N	X	SD	DEC
1	Ensure that students caught without the use of facemask are usually sanctioned	689	2.57	1.00	GE
2	Campaign on the compulsory use of facemask is rarely organized by the management of my school.	689	2.70	0.99	GE
3	Ensure that students are compelled to wear facemask during lectures.	689	2.58	0.97	GE
4	Ensure that staff are not allowed to enter the school by enforcement agents without the use of a facemask	689	2.63	0.97	GE
5	Do not allow the use of face shield	689	2.59	0.97	GE
6	There is no strict compliance on the enforcement on the use of facemasks upon exist	689	2.61	0.97	GE
7	Ensures that only recommended types of facemask are used by individuals	689	2.71	0.91	GE
8	There are no personnel assigned by the school management to apprehend non-complying individuals in my school.	686	2.28	0.86	LE
9	Some students are often seen roaming the school environment without wearing facemasks.	689	2.28	0.86	LE
10	Staff are usually queried for not adhering to the protocols.	689	2.44	0.94	LE
	Grand mean		2.56	0.94	GE

The data analysis on Table 1 above showed the mean scores and standard deviation on the extent of compulsory wearing of face masks protocols enforcement by the management Enugu of State University of Science and Technology Enugu State. In the above table, the respondents mean ranged from 2.28 to 2.71 while the values of grand mean and standard deviation were 2.56 and 0.94. The outcome revealed the management of Enugu State University of Science and Technology in Enugu State to a great extent.

Research question 2

Research question two examined the extent of compulsory hand washing/hand sanitizing protocol enforcement by the management of Enugu State University of Science and Technology in Enugu State?

Table 2: Summary of mean scores and standard deviation on the extent compulsory hand washing/hand sanitizing protocol enforcement by the management of ESUT in Enugu State.

S/N	The university management:	N	X	SD	DEC
1.	Ensure that hand sanitizer are provided at difference locations.	689	2.64	1.00	GE
2.	Hand washing in my school is not compulsory	689	2.02	0.98	LW
3.	Ensure that staff are made to wash their hands at the entrance	689	2.30	0.91	LW
4.	There are available hand washing facilities in my school.	689	2.04	0.99	LE
5.	Ensure that students are not allowed to enter the school unless they wash their hands on a running tap	689	2.18	1.03	LE
6.	Students who do not comply to hand was regulation are usually penalized in my school	689	2.15	0.92	LE
7.	enforcement agents move from faculty to faculty ensuring strict compliance to hand washing in my school.	689	2.11	0.99	LE
8.	ensure that students without evidence of the possession of hand sanitizers are not allowed into the school.	689	2.52	0.98	GE
9.	awareness campaigns on hand washing/hygiene are usually created in my school.	689	2.26	0.92	LE
	Grand mean		2.25	0.97	GE

The data analysis on Table 2 above showed the mean scores and standard deviation on the extent of compulsory hand washing/hand sanitizing protocols enforcement by the management of Enugu State University of Science and Technology in Enugu State. In the above table, the respondents mean ranged from 2.04 to 2.64 while the values of grand mean and standard deviation were 2.25 and 0.97. the outcome of the above table revealed that the compulsory hand washing/hand sanitizing protocols enforcement by the management of Enugu State university of Science and Technology in Enugu State to a low extent.

Research question 3

Research question three examined the extent of compulsory social distancing protocol enforcement by the management of ESUT in Enugu State?

Table 3: Summary of mean scores and standard deviation on the extent compulsory social distancing protocol enforcement by the management of ESUT in Enugu State

S/N	The university management:	N	X	SD	DEC
1.	Ensure that sanitization on social distance are created using various channels	689	2.51	0.88	GE
2.	Enforcement agents visit classroom to ensure wide spacing of students' seating arrangement	689	2.55	0.99	GE
3.	Students still seat closely to themselves in my class.	689	2.53	0.91	GE
4.	Ensure that students are allowed to stand the way they like	689	2.50	0.89	GE
5.	Ensure that personnel are made to stay two meters apart during hand washing	689	2.59	1.06	GE
6.	Ensure that social distancing policies are not enforced during matriculation, convocation, inaugural lectures etc.	689	2.53	0.92	GE
7.	Ensure that lectures involving large crowd, and students are usually taken in streams.	689	2.37	0.91	LE
	Grand mean		2.51	0.94	GE

The data analysis on Table 3 showed the mean scores and standard deviation on the extent of compulsory social distancing protocols enforcement by the management of Enugu State University of Science and Technology in Enugu State. In the above table, the respondents mean range from 2.02 to 2.64 while the value of grand mean and standard deviation were 2.51 and 0.94. The outcome of the above table that the compulsory social distancing protocols enforcement by the management of Enugu State University of Science and Technology in Enugu State to a great extent.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The finding of research question are showed that there was a great extent of managerial enforcement of compulsory wearing of face masks protocols enforcement by the management of Enugu State University of Science and Technology in Enugu State. This means that, the great extent in this study is attributed to the great extent in management ensuring that students, staff and visitors wear their face masks at the entrance of the institution. No staff and students is allowed to enter the school by enforcement agents without the use of face mask upon entry or exit. The finding of this research question one is in line with the view of Jacobs and Ohinma (2020) opined that law enforcement demonstrated a strong preference for educating non-mask wearers, and indicated a reluctance to resort civil penalties that were enacted in the state orders. The great extent was recorded in terms of management organizing campaigns on the compulsory use of face mask, dedicated personnel that check for the compulsory use of face mask at all entry and exit points and compelling students to wear facemasks during all lectures.

The findings of research question two showed that there was a low extent of compulsory hand washing/hand sanitizing protocol enforcement by the management of Enugu State University of Science and Technology in Enugu State in Enugu State. The low extent in study is the managerial enforcement of hand washing/hand sanitizing was attributed to the low extent in management ensuring that staff, students and visitors wash their hands at the entrance of the institution and also enforcement agents move from place to place ensuring strict compulsory to hand washing/hand sanitizing protocols. Enforcement agent should ensure that staff and students who do not comply to hand washing regulation are penalized for non-compliance. Hand sanitizers are provided at strategic locations. This finding is consonance with the view of Magbool and Khan (2020) stated that there is a lack of resources for implementing public health and social measures for preventing transmission of COVID-19. This study showed that, sometimes personnel without evidence of the possession of hand sanitizers are sometimes allowed into the school, hand washing facilities were made available and awareness campaigns on hand washing/ hygiene were created to a reasonable extent.

The finding of research question three showed that there was a great extent of compulsory social distancing protocols enforcement by the management of Enugu State University of Science and Technology in Enugu State in Enugu State. The great extent in this study is the managerial enforcement ensuring that students sit spaciouly in lecture halls, reducing large crowded classes into streams and personnel agents stay two meters during hand washing including long queues.

Enforcement agents visit lecture halls to ensure a viable spacing of students' arrangement and sensitization on social distancing are created using available channels. This finding is in view of Pearce (2020) stated that keeping a certain distance from others (the distance specified differs from country to country and can change with time and avoiding gathering together in large group. The findings of this study is not in consonance with the view of Abate and Mekonnen (2020) reported that more than one third of the participants had poor knowledge, attitude and precautionary measures towards Covid-19 disease.

CONCLUSION

The outcome of this study revealed that the level of managerial enforcement of COVID-19 protocols of faculty of Education students in Enugu State University of Science and Technology, Agbani, the three levels include wearing of face masks, hand washing/hand sanitizing and social distancing. The findings indicates high great extent of compulsory wearing of face masks by the management of Enugu State University of Science and Technology. The results showed low extent of compulsory hand washing/hand sanitizing protocols enforcement by the management of Enugu State University of Science and Technology in Enugu State. The findings also showed high great extent of compulsory social distancing protocols enforcement by the management of Enugu State University of Science and Technology. The importance of clean water cannot be over emphasized in collective struggle to stop further spread of the virus that causes Coronavirus (COVID-19) in various faculties.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made.

1. At the entry and exit points, there should be strict enforcement of the compulsory use of facemask by both staff and students. No staff or student should be seen in institutional premises without wearing facemask.
2. There should be regular supervision of all staff students, visitors, task force and security personnel to ensure that there is consistent compliance to prescribed laws for quality service delivery.
3. All higher institutions should ensure that all the polices surrounding hand washing and use of sanitizers as prescribed by World Health Organisations and Center for Disease Control are enforced by the management.
4. They should be strong emphasis to strengthen the level of awareness in students of various institutions in Nigeria for enhanced students' participation in hand washing in the country.

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