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# THE IMPACT OF OVERPOPULATION ON EFFECTIVE CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT IN TECHNICAL COLLEGES IN BAUCHI STATE.

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***Abstract***

*The Study examined the effect of overpopulation on effective classroom management in technical colleges within Bauchi. The study was guided by research objectives. Descriptive survey design was adopted in conducting the research and structured questionnaire was used in collecting data from the one hundred and fifty (150) students who participated in the study, simple percentages, Likert scale and mean were used in analyzing the data collected from the respondents. The study revealed that over population affects effective classroom management due to high rate of population in our schools, lack of enough seats materials, lack of sufficient teaching/learning materials, and small number of schools in the area, little or no participation of communities in the construction of additional classrooms so as to cater and accommodate the high number of students. The findings recommend, building of additional schools or classroom should not be the duty of either the state or federal government alone; the students will be used by the teachers to produce their own instructional materials, materials such as: broom made with palm friends, pots made with clay soil, solid figures like cuboids, cylinders cane, rectangular base prism etc. the old students of the effected technical/ schools who have now become adults and influential people in the community should be approached to assist the management of these schools and provide enough seats to ensure effective classroom management. Parents Teachers Association (PTA) of these schools organizes a seminar (with medical practitioners in attendance) on the importance and advantages of birth control measures.*

**Key words:** Overpopulation, Technical Colleges, Metropolis, Classroom Management

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## INTRODUCTION

Education in general terms is the process of transmitting societal laws, values and desirable attitudes from one generation to another. Education is the act of acquiring knowledge, especially systematically during childhood and adolescence. Fufunwa (1974) sees education as the "aggregate of all the processes through which a child develops abilities, attitudes and other forms of behavior which are of positive value to the society".

Qualitative education remains the fulcrum for global development and freedom. Therefore, all hands must be on deck worldwide for formulate policies that will help enhance qualitative education right from elementary schools to tertiary institutions and continuous effective monitoring must be well established to check all factors that may frustrate this global pursuit. Hence, most societies require children to attend school for a specific number of years or until they reach a certain age. In an action attempt to put sound education worldwide many factors have been incriminated as being responsible for falling standard of education where it is perceived and established. Among such is the issue of "population". Population in general term refers to the total number of people living in a geographical area or country at a particular period of time. Awotua (1999) also opines that "population is mainly concerned with the total number of pupils/students occupying a given classroom or school set-up over a certain period of time".

A lot of argument has gone on the effects of population on effective classroom management most especially at the technical colleges of education in Nigeria. Establishing that climate for learning is one of the most challenging aspects of teaching and one of the most difficult skills to master. Effective classroom management is such more than just administering corrective measures when a student misbehaves; it is about developing proactive ways to prevent problems from occurring in the first place while creating a positive learning environment.

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Technical colleges combine career-specific training with general academic curricular. While some programs take two to four years to complete, most can be completed in two years or less. Technical high schools combine this career training with secondary education. Technical schools, also called technical colleges or technical institutes, provide specialized training in a specific career field, trade, or profession, including culinary also electronics medical assisting, legal assisting, automotive technology and cosmetology. Programs at technical colleges can take anywhere from less than two years up to four years to complete and typically award a certificate, diploma or associate degree.

Associate degree options include an associate of arts (A.A), an associate of science (A.A.S) unlike many community colleges and 4-years universities that require students to complete general education courses prior to delving into their major field of study, students attending technical colleges usually take courses related to their major during their first term. Technical colleges emphasize hands on training and offer internship experience in a relevant work setting. Job placement services are also available to students.

The classroom is a building formally constructed for teaching and learning to take place. While classroom management involves the arrangement and organization of classroom facilities and specific routines of handling equipment, orderliness and well-regulated atmosphere. The purpose of classroom management is to create an atmosphere of efficiency for the teacher pupils' time, efforts and energies.

The class is made up of students of various backgrounds and characters. The behavior of these students can positively or negatively affect the morale of the classroom. There is a consensus among researchers and educational scholars that students' achievement decreases as class size

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increases, the effect of class population on cognitive achievement has been debated and researched for many years, this has been inconclusive.

Adesina (2000) simply defined management as the organization and mobilization of all human and material resources in a particular system for the achievement of identified objectives in the system. The researcher therefore opines that it is the business of management that both human and materials resources within a system should be organized and mobilized so that the objectives of the system can be achieved to the finest.

Education is mainly concerned with the transmission of skills, knowledge, learning, research and dissemination of the findings for ultimate utilization. In this view, Bany (2004) pointed out that classroom management should logically involve arranging and using human and material resources and performance available for education, for the transmission of skills, knowledge vocation and culture through efficient teaching, learning, research, its dissemination and utilization for a better society.

The National Policy on Education (NPE), (2004:55) states that, the success of education is hinged on effective classroom planning efficient management and adequate planning. It further points that management involves organization and structure, proprietorship and control, inspection and supervision.

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## METHODOLOGY

### Area of the Study

Three technical colleges were used for the studies which are situated within Bauchi metropolis. The local government is the first largest town in Bauchi state and it is located at the central area on the map of the state. The area was chosen for research because it is believed to be the heart of the city.

### Research Design

The research is a survey design on the effects of overpopulation on effective classroom management in Bauchi local government area, Bauchi state.

### Population of the Study

The researcher covers the three technical colleges in Bauchi local government area. The three technical colleges represent about 42% out of the total number of technical colleges in the state. Therefore, the entire students of the three technical colleges were used as population of the study. The technical colleges are:

1. Government day technical college Bauchi vocational school Bauchi state.
2. Government day technical colleges, Tafawa Balewa.
3. Government day technical college, Bauchi state (GDTC) is a school on Gombe road in Bauchi.

### Sample and Sampling Techniques

The sample of the study consists of one hundred and fifty (150) students which were selected using random sampling techniques. Fifty (50) students were selected from each of the three technical colleges in Bauchi local government area.

**Research instrument for Data Collection**

The instrument used in collection data for this study is questionnaire, which was structured by the researcher under the supervision of the supervisor. The questionnaire have two parts, that is, section A and B. the first part enabled the researcher to get some personal details about the respondents while part B only required the respondents to tick strongly agree (SA), agreed (A), Disagreed (DA), strongly disagreed (SD), to the questions asked.

**Table 3 Likert Scale Decision Rule**

| Range | Decision |
|---|---|
| 1.00-1.4 | Strongly disagree |
| 1.5-2.4 | Disagree |
| 2.5-3.4 | Undecided |
| 3.5-4.4 | Agree |
| 4.5-5.00 | Strongly Agree |

**Validation of the instrument**

The importance of validity according to Okafor (2011) is to ensure that the instrument measure what it is designed to measure. The instrument for data collection (Questionnaire) administered to the respondents was validated by two experts in the field of educational measurement and evaluation in federal college of education (Technical) Bauchi. Their views formed the validation of the instrument.

**Method of Data Collection**

The researcher in the study limits the use of questionnaire to the areas of the scope of the study, that is, the three technical colleges within Bauchi local government. A total number of 150 questionnaires were distributed evenly to the three technical colleges for their respondents. The questions selected were carefully chosen and typed out, so the respondent will have to tick strongly agree (SA), agreed (A), disagreed (DA), strongly disagreed (SD), to choose on an item of their choice.

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**Method of Data Analysis**

In analyzing the data collected through the use of questionnaire, the researcher adopted simple percentage for demographic characteristic of the respondents and simple mean for research questions, using the following formulas:

Percentage: $= \frac{F}{N} \times \frac{100}{1}$

Where F = frequency of responses

N = Total number of respondents

1 = A Constant

For finding mean

$X = \frac{\sum FX}{N}$

Where;

X = Mean Score

$\sum FX$ = Summation of frequency of responses

N = Total number of sample size

The researcher used the simple percentage method of data analysis. Each group of responses was summed, and then the number obtained divided by the total number of sample size which in this case is 150, after which the researcher multiplied each outcome by 100. The result then becomes the percentage for those responses.

However, the study had set a criterion for decision rule of agreeing or disagreeing with the findings, by a Mean cut-off of 2.5. Any response on the questionnaire items with a Mean below 2.5 falls below average and should be considered negative vis-à-vis.

A Linkert weighted mean average of four point rating scale employed for the analysis of the data.

| Scale of response | weight |
|---|---|
| SA - Strongly Agree | 4 |
| A - Agree | 3 |
| D -Disagree | 2 |
| SD -Strongly Disagree | 1 |

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The presentation shows the results as analyzed according to the objectives of the study. The analysis begins with the sample characteristics of the respondents such as gender and age distributions of the respondents. All were presented using frequency tabulations.

### Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Table 1: **Distribution of respondents according to gender**

| Respondents | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Male | 98 | 65.33% |
| Female | 52 | 34.67% |
| Total | 150 | 100% |

Source: Field survey, 2022

The above table revealed that 98 respondents representing 65.33% are males while 52 respondents representing 34.67% are females. This indicates that the majority of the respondents are males.

Table 2: **Distribution of respondents According to Age**

| Responses | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| 15 – 20 | 65 | 43.33% |
| 21 – 25 | 76 | 50.67% |
| 26 – 30 | 09 | 6.0% |
| Total | 150 | 100% |

Sources; Field Survey, 2022

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The above table indicated that 65 respondents representing 43.33% are between 15-20 years of age 76 respondent representing 50.67% are within the age range of 21-25 while 09 respondents representing 6.0% are between 26-30 years of age. This indicated that the majority of the respondents are adolescent who are between 21-25 years of age.

**Responses on the relationship between population and effective classroom management.**

Table 3: Mean responses on the relationship between population and effective classroom management.

| S/N | Items Statement | SA | A | D | SD | N | FX | X | Decision |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | School administrators provide enough learning materials for teacher. | 220 | 210 | 40 | 5 | 150 | 475 | 3.17 | Agree |
| 2. | The number of students in your school affects the overall situation in the school. | 172 | 207 | 30 | 23 | 150 | 432 | 2.88 | Agree |
| 3. | There is cordial relationship between teachers and students. | 120 | 180 | 50 | 35 | 150 | 385 | 2.56 | Agree |

Source: Field survey, 2022

The above table shows that item 1, 2, and 3 Mean responses of 3.17, 2.88 and 2.56 were positive and accepted, this revealed that school administrators are providing adequate learning materials for teachers and the number of students in classes adversely affect overall learning situation in the schools but still there is a cordial relationship between the teachers and the students which help the teachers to manage the over populated classes. The grand mean score is 2.87 which is positive and indicated that the relationship between population and effective classroom management has an influence on overpopulation and effective classroom management of the technical colleges.

This is in line with the Studies carried out by Aremu (2006), on the effects of school size on student performance in Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara State confirmed this adverse effect. 24 (80%) of the 30 respondents agreed that large class size affects educational output negatively. All

the 30 (100%) teachers agreed that teacher's efficiency is drastically reduced when facing a large class. While 24 (80%) of the respondents agreed that large class size reduces pupils' learning rate.

**Responses on the basic techniques for effective Classroom Management in Technical Colleges in Bauchi Local Government Area.**

Table 4: Some basic Techniques for effective classroom management in Technical Colleges in Bauchi local Government area.

| S/N | Items Statement | SA | A | D | SD | N | FX | X | Decision |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Teachers are using teaching aids frequently during lesson | 120 | 225 | 50 | 20 | 150 | 415 | 2.77 | Agree |
| 2. | Teachers involve students in physical/practical activities (Psychomotor) | 140 | 225 | 50 | 15 | 150 | 430 | 2.87 | Agree |
| 3. | Teachers engage students activity in every stage of their lesson | 120 | 225 | 50 | 20 | 150 | 415 | 2.77 | Agree |

Source: Field survey, 2022

The above table indicated that item 1 and 3 with mean responses of 2.77 respectively were agreed/accepted by the respondents which implies that most teachers are using instructional aid in their lesson and engaging the students actively during lesson. Also, item 2 with mean of 2.87 also were agreed by the respondents that many teachers involve students when it comes to practical activities. The aggregate of all items is 2.80 and positive which indicated that basic skills for effective classroom management in the study have effect on overpopulation and classroom management of the technical colleges. This finding contrasted with Farrant (1975), that identified lack of meaningful activities as one of the results of over population in classes. According to him instructional materials available for teaching which should be practically handled by pupils may not go round. To involve learners meaningfully in the lesson may also be difficult. He stressed that the

more learners are actively involved in lessons, the more they learn. Nothing is learnt except one is actively involved in it. This is the test of true learning.

**Responses on the government ability to minimize the high population in technical colleges in Bauchi Metropolis.**

Table 5: Some government interventions to minimize the high population in technical colleges in Bauchi Metropolis

| S/N | Items Statement | SA | A | D | SD | N | FX | X | Decision |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Building of more classes can reduce population size in schools | 200 | 240 | 30 | 5 | 150 | 475 | 3.17 | Agree |
| 2. | Building more schools can reduce the population size in school | 120 | 270 | 40 | 10 | 150 | 440 | 2.93 | Agree |
| 3. | Providing enough teaching and learning facilities can reduce the effect of overpopulation in classes | 140 | 270 | 20 | 15 | 150 | 445 | 2.97 | Agree |
| 4. | Employing more qualified teachers, the effect of population in schools | 176 | 240 | 40 | 6 | 150 | 462 | 3.08 | Agree |

Source: Field survey, 2022

The above table with mean values of 3.17, 2.93, 2.97 and 3.08 respectively were all positive and agreed by the respondents. This implies that all the items i.e., building more schools, providing enough and functional teaching facilities as well as employing qualified teachers can help to reduce adverse effect of overpopulation in schools to the minimum. The grand mean is 3.04 and positive which shows that the government capability to minimize high population in technical colleges of Bauchi state have much influence in reducing the effect of overpopulation in the technical colleges of the state.

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## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Effective classroom management is essential to classroom management problems by organizing and establishing a classroom environment that is safe and predictable, both physical and psychologically, effective classroom management mostly plays a vital role in enhancing overall educational development. Besides this contribution, an effective classroom management is not without its own challenges which are: high rate of population in our schools, lack of enough seats materials, lack of sufficient teaching/learning materials, small number of schools in the area, little or no participation of communities in the construction of additional classrooms so as to cater and accommodate the high number of schools. Effective classroom management is therefore planned and not improvisational, it is an opportunity for all students and teachers to experience its success.

In a nutshell, attending to and overcoming the above problems or challenges, either by educating parents on the importance and advantages of population reduction measures family planning or involving the parent teachers association (P.T.A) of these schools to provide some of the needed materials in the schools would definitely assists in promoting and enhancing an effective classroom management in our schools.

**Recommendations**

The following recommendations are suggested by the researcher for actions:

Building of additional schools or classrooms should not be the duty of either the state or federal government alone; the management of these affected schools should approach the parent teachers association (P.T.A) for assistance or donations in order to erect more buildings for effective teaching and learning.

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The students will encourage by the teachers to produce their own instructional materials, materials such as: brooms made with palm fronds, pots made with clay soil, solid figures like cuboids, cylinders, cone, rectangular base prism etc., by so doing; a good number of students will not want to destroy what they have produced themselves. All these instructional materials can be used to attract the students attention and to ensure classroom management the instructional materials provided by the school or government could never be enough.

The old students of the affected technical/schools who have now become adults and influential people in the community should be approached to assist the management of these schools in providing enough seating materials to ensure effective classroom management. This process should be thoroughly monitored by a non member of the school management to ensure transparency and effectiveness.

Most importantly, the chairman of the parent's teacher association (P.T.A) of these schools should organize a seminar (with medical practitioners in attendance) on the importance and advantages of population control programmes; this will go a long way in reducing the high population in technical colleges/schools in Bauchi local government.

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