

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT IN NIGERIAN COLLEGES OF EDUCATION: CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDED SOLUTIONS

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ABSTRACT

This paper posits that the goals of the Nigerian Colleges of Education could never be realised as is maximumly required without effective classroom management. This is because, effective classroom management has the potentials of enhancing students' engagement, promoting effective learning, building positive teacher-students' relationships, and also increases students' achievement. It is the thrust of this paper therefore, to explore and delineate the crises or challenges that surround effective classroom management in the Nigerian Colleges of Education. Based on the review, it was found that the challenges affecting effective classroom management in the Nigerian Colleges of Education include among others, poor infrastructure, poor teacher quality, poor students' motivation, poor funding and overcrowded classrooms. These resulted in to decrease in students' engagements, decrease in students' motivation, decrease in students' learning, and low academic performance of the prospective teachers

(students). To address these challenges for effective classroom management in the Nigerian Colleges of Education, it is recommended that the government should be providing regular training and professional development opportunities to lecturers so as to help them improve their pedagogical skills, lecturers should employ the use of technology in teaching larger classrooms, lecturers should be encouraging collaborative learning among students, lecturers should be adopting active learning strategies in the classrooms such as hands-on experiments, role-playing, and case studies, lecturers should adopt differentiated teaching methods that cater for individual students' strengths and preferences, and that College Authorities should reduce greediness and emphasise on smaller class sizes.

Key words: Challenges, Effective, Classroom-management, Colleges-of-Education, Nigeria.

Introduction

Basically, the Nigerian Colleges of Education are higher educational institutions that are established to purposely train individuals to become teachers. These institutions provide formal teacher training and award Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE) qualifications upon successful completion of the program (NCCE, 2017). The historical evolution of the Nigerian Colleges of Education could be traced back to the establishment of the first teacher training institution in Nigeria, the Yaba Higher College, in 1932. The college initially focused on training teachers for secondary schools, but later expanded its programs to include primary school teachers (Zirra, 2018).

Over the years, the Nigerian government has made efforts to enhance the quality of teacher education in the country. One significant step in this direction was the establishment of the Nigerian Certificate in Education (NCE) program in 1962, which replaced the former Grade II Teacher Training program (NCCE, 2017). This program standardized the teacher education and created a formal qualification for teachers in Nigeria. The Federal Government of Nigeria later decentralized the administration of teacher education by transferring the responsibility to the states. This led to the establishment of numerous Colleges of Education across the country. These colleges are funded and managed by state governments and are often affiliated with universities. Each state in Nigeria has at least one College of Education, and some states

have multiple institutions. These colleges offer a wide range of programmes and courses in various disciplines related to education, including early childhood education, primary education, secondary education, and special education (Zirra, 2018). Accordingly, Zirra (2018) observed that recently, there is a growing focus on improving the quality of teacher education in Nigeria, including the Colleges of Education. To this end, attention turned to the direction of effective classroom management and lesson delivery with the sole aim of crucifying some of the likely crises surrounding it for overall development of qualified teachers who in turn provide quality education to the younger generations of the future.

It is therefore, the aim of this paper to explore the challenges affecting effective classroom management in the Nigerian Colleges of Education. The paper thus, collapses in to examining the roles of the Nigerian Colleges of Education in the development of Educational System in Nigeria, importance of effective classroom management on the quality of education, challenges facing effective classroom management in Nigerian Colleges of Education, as well as the consequences of ineffective classroom management on students' educational pursuits. The paper concludes by recommending ways of improving the effectiveness of classroom management in the Nigerian Colleges of Education.

Role of the Nigerian Colleges of Education in Improving the Nigerian Educational System

The roles of Colleges of Education in promoting the Nigerian education system are diverse and multifaceted. According to Afolabi, and Mekiliuwa, (2016), Federal Republic of Nigeria. (2014), as well as NCCE (2018), the roles of the Nigerian Colleges of Education include:

1. **Provision of Teacher Education.** The primary role of Colleges of Education is to provide pre-service teacher education programmes. These programmes aim to equip prospective teachers with the necessary pedagogical skills, subject knowledge, and teaching methods. Through rigorous coursework and practical teaching experiences, the colleges ensure that teachers are well-prepared to meet the educational needs of students (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2014).
2. **Curriculum Development.** Colleges of Education collaborate with relevant stakeholders to develop and revise the curriculum for teacher education programs. These institutions work closely with government agencies, curriculum coordinators, and professional bodies to align their programs with national educational goals and policies. By regularly updating their curriculum, Colleges of Education ensure that it remains relevant and

responsive to the changing needs of the Nigerian education system (NCCE, 2018).

3. **Research and Innovation.** Colleges of Education also engage in research activities to contribute to knowledge advancement in the field of education. Through research, faculties and students explore effective instructional strategies, assessment techniques, and policy recommendations. These research findings help to shape and improve teaching practices and policies within the Nigerian education system (Afolabi & Mekiliuwa, 2016).
4. **Professional Development of Teachers.** Colleges of Education are involved in the continuous professional development of teachers. They organize workshops, seminars, and conferences to enhance the knowledge and skills of both new and experienced teachers. These activities enable teachers to stay updated with current pedagogical approaches, educational technologies, and teaching trends (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2014).
5. **Collaborations and Partnerships.** Colleges of Education collaborate with other higher education institutions, educational organizations, and schools to foster partnerships in the promotion of the Nigerian education system. These partnerships often involve sharing resources, exchanging expertise, and undertaking joint research projects. Such collaborations enhance the

educational ecosystem and contribute to the overall improvement of the education system (National Commission for Colleges of Education, 2018).

Importance of Effective Classroom Management on the Quality of Education

Effective management of classrooms plays a crucial role in ensuring the overall quality of education in schools because, it involves various teaching strategies, instructional methods, and classroom management techniques that contribute to students' learning outcomes and academic success. Here are some key reasons why effective classroom management is important as identified by Darling-Hammond, and Gardner, (2017); Marzano, Marzano, and Pickering (2003); as well as US-DE, (2012):

1. It helps in enhancing student engagement. Effective classroom management can provide students with an engaging learning experience. This is because, when students are actively involved in the learning process, they are more likely to retain information, develop critical thinking skills, and apply their knowledge in real-life scenarios.
2. It promotes effective learning. A well-structured and organized classroom environment enables students to focus on their studies and maximize their learning potential. Teachers who effectively deliver their lessons by using clear explanations, relevant examples, and appropriate resources can facilitate better understanding and knowledge retention among students.

3. It helps in differentiating instruction. Effective classroom management allows teachers to cater to the diverse learning needs and abilities of their students. By implementing differentiated instruction, teachers can tailor their teaching approaches, materials, and assessments to match each student's unique learning style, interests, and abilities. This helps to ensure that all students are appropriately challenged and supported in their academic progress.
4. It helps in building positive teacher-student relationships. Effective classroom management fosters positive teacher-student relationships, which are important for creating a conducive learning environment. When teachers establish rapport with their students, show genuine care, respect, and support, students feel valued and motivated to actively participate in the learning process.
5. It enhances behaviour management. Classroom management plays a significant role in managing students' behaviours and creating a peaceful learning atmosphere. Effective classroom management strategies such as clear expectations, consistent discipline, positive reinforcement, and respectful communication help to minimize disruptions and create an environment conducive to learning.

6. It increases students' achievement. Ultimately, effective classroom management positively impacts student achievement. When teachers effectively manage their lessons, employ research-based instructional strategies, and provide appropriate support, students are more likely to achieve their learning goals, demonstrate academic growth, and succeed academically.

Challenges Facing Effective Classroom Management in Nigerian Colleges of Education

Scholars including Adebayo (2017) and the NCCE (2017) reiterate that effective classroom management in Nigerian Colleges of Education is bedevilled by the following challenges:

1. **Poor Infrastructure.** Poor infrastructure in Nigerian Colleges of Education is a major challenge to effective classroom management. This includes inadequate classrooms, lack of modern teaching aids, and inadequate access to technology. For example, a study conducted by the National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE) in 2017 revealed that only 8.3% of the Colleges of Education had access to computers and other ICT facilities (NCCE, 2017).

2. **Poor Teacher Quality.** Another challenge to effective classroom management in Nigerian Colleges of Education is the quality of teachers. Many teachers lack the necessary qualifications and experience to effectively manage and deliver their curriculum in the classrooms. Furthermore, the lack of professional development opportunities for teachers has resulted in a lack of up-to-date knowledge and skills.
3. **Poor Student Motivation.** Poor student motivation is another challenge to effective classroom management in Nigerian Colleges of Education. Many students lack the motivation to engage in the learning process due to a lack of interest in the subject matter, lack of parental support, and a lack of resources.
4. **Poor Funding.** Poor funding is another challenge to effective classroom management in Nigerian Colleges of Education. Many Colleges of Education lack the necessary resources to provide quality education. This includes inadequate funding for teaching materials, textbooks, and other resources.
5. **Overcrowdness of classrooms.** This is yet another to effective classroom management because, overcrowded classrooms can lead to a decrease in student engagement and a decrease in the quality of instruction. This is because overcrowded classrooms can lead to a lack of individual attention

for students, which can lead to a decrease in student motivation and a decrease in the quality of instruction (Adebayo, 2017).

6. Inadequate resources can lead to a decrease in the quality of instruction. This is because inadequate resources can lead to a lack of materials and equipment needed to effectively teach the material, which can lead to a decrease in student engagement and a decrease in the quality of instruction (Adebayo, 2017).

Consequences of Ineffective Classroom Management on Students' Education

Scholars such as Uzoka, (2021), Jere, (2015) and World Bank (2016) observed that poor classroom management can have a number of negative consequences on students of Colleges of Education in Nigeria in number of ways. These include:

1. It leads to a decrease in student engagement. When instructors fail to effectively engage students in the learning process, students may become bored and disinterested in the material. This can lead to a decrease in student participation, as well as a decrease in student attendance. Additionally, students may become frustrated with the lack of engagement and may become less likely to ask questions or seek help from the instructor (Oyedele, 2018).

2. It leads to decrease in students' motivation. When instructors fail to effectively engage students in the learning process, students may become discouraged and unmotivated to continue learning. This can lead to a decrease in student effort, as well as a decrease in student performance. Additionally, students may become less likely to take initiative and may become less likely to pursue further learning opportunities. (Oyedele, 2018). In other words, when classroom delivery is poor, students may become disengaged and lose motivation to actively participate in the learning process. This can lead to a lack of interest in their studies and a decline in overall learning outcomes.
3. It leads to a decrease in student learning. When instructors fail to effectively engage students in the learning process, students may become confused and overwhelmed by the material. This can lead to a decrease in student comprehension, as well as a decrease in student retention.
4. It can result in teachers having limited subject knowledge. This can negatively impact their ability to effectively teach the curriculum and adequately address students' questions and challenges.
5. It can lower the academic performance. Students in colleges of education may experience lower academic performance when teachers fail to properly deliver the required content. Inadequate teaching can lead to a lack of

understanding and mastery of subjects, which can lower students' performance in examinations and assessments.

6. It limits the practical skills. Colleges of education are expected to provide practical training and skills acquisition for teaching. However, poor classroom delivery may hinder students from acquiring the necessary practical skills and pedagogical techniques required for effective teaching in real classroom settings.
7. It affects the students' confidence. Poor classroom management can undermine students' confidence in their abilities. When they constantly struggle to understand concepts or fail to perform well academically, it can lead to a loss of self-confidence and a reluctance to actively participate in class activities.
8. It limits students' professional development. Ineffective classroom management may hinder students' professional development as future teachers. Without exposure to effective teaching methods and strategies, students may find it challenging to adapt their teaching styles to cater to diverse learners' needs.

Conclusion

The goals of the Nigerian Colleges of Education do not transcend beyond the provision of quality teacher education, curriculum development, research and innovations, as well as making collaborations and partnerships. To achieve these, effective classroom management is sacrosanct. This is because, it helps in enhancing students' engagement, promoting effective learning, building positive teacher-students' relationships, and also increases students' achievement. However, this important factor, is bedevilled by certain challenges such as poor infrastructure, poor teacher quality, poor students' motivation, poor funding and overcrowded classrooms. These absolutely affect the Colleges of Education from achieving their target goals as these can lead to decrease in students' engagements, decrease in students' motivation, decrease in students' learning, and low academic performance of the prospective teachers (students).

Recommendations

Based on the challenges identified so far, the paper recommends the following as ways of overcoming the challenges for effective classroom management in Nigerian Colleges of Education:

1. There is need for both the federal and state governments to be providing regular training and professional development opportunities for lecturers so as to help them improve their pedagogical skills. This can be done through in-service trainings, workshops, seminars, and mentoring programs.

2. There is the need for lecturers to employ the use of technology in teaching larger classrooms as it enhances the teaching and learning processes. This involves the use of interactive whiteboards, projectors, educational software, online resources, and mobile devices to engage students and make learning more interactive and engaging.
3. There is the need for lecturers to be encouraging collaborative learning among students. This helps them develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Thus, lecturers should emphasise and encourage group projects, discussions, and peer-to-peer learning activities among students so as to promote collaboration in the classroom.
4. Lecturers should be adopting active learning strategies in the classrooms such as hands-on experiments, role-playing, and case studies. This can help students to actively engage with the content and improve their understanding and retention.
5. There is the need for lecturers to tailor their teaching methods to accommodate diverse learners. Thus, recognizing and accommodating the diverse learning styles, abilities, and needs of students, can help improve classroom delivery. In essence, lecturers should adopt differentiated teaching methods that cater to individual students' strengths and preferences.

6. College Authorities should avoid greediness and emphasise on smaller class sizes. This is because, reducing class sizes can allow for more individual attention and interaction between teachers and students, leading to improved learning outcomes. This might require additional resources and staffing, but can significantly enhance the quality of classroom delivery.
7. There is need for establishing strong relationships with parents and community stakeholders can foster a supportive learning environment. Regular communication, involvement in school activities, and seeking feedback can help ensure that classroom delivery meets the needs and expectations of all stakeholders.
8. There is need for the provision of adequate resources and infrastructure in the Colleges. Provision of necessary resources and infrastructure, such as textbooks, teaching aids, libraries, and well-equipped classrooms, can enhance effective classroom delivery. Investment in these areas can contribute to a more conducive learning environment.

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