

POLITICS OF SCHOOL MAPPING AND FACILITIES PROVISION IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS IN DELTA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study examines politics of school mapping and facilities provision in tertiary institutions in Delta State, Nigeria. The study adopted the survey research design using structured questionnaire of 4-point likert scale. Three research questions analyzed with mean and standard deviation and three hypotheses tested using t-test statistics were used in the study. A questionnaire designed with an internal consistency of 0.80 coefficient using Cronbach Alpha was administered to management staff and lecturers from 9 higher institutions in Delta State, and a sample of 324 was derived based on the number of questionnaire retrieved. The finding of the study showed that politics influence the location of institutions, employment of personnel and the distributions of physical facilities in higher institution in Delta State. It was therefore, recommended among others that the process of school mapping and locational strategy should be adhered to, to locate schools and allocate facilities.

Keyword: *Politics, school mapping, facilities provision*

Introduction

Education has ever since been a political issue the world over especially in developing countries like Nigeria. Politics exist in every human institution of which the school is one. It is therefore, difficult to divorce education from politics; little wonder education seems to be an easy tool in the hands of politicians in every dispensation.

Over the years, it has been noticed that Higher Institutions in Nigeria were not judiciously and equitably located due to the fact that the introduction of education and the establishment of educational institutions which were inherited from the missionaries and later the colonial government who were initially not interested in the education of the citizens, started in a disjointed and disorganized manner, for the education of the citizens, for the obvious reasons that both the missionaries and the colonial government administered their own style and philosophies of their education, to suit their own purpose and mission. However, Consequently, learning institutions were located haphazardly without due regards to school mapping principles and guidelines. Thus, without school mapping, schools would be haphazardly located without consideration for the needs of the populace. This has resulted to so many inadequacies in the school system such as lopsided location of learning establishment, disparities in access to education, over-location and under-location of educational facilities. (Adamma, 2015)

However, it is pertinent to note that the location of learning institution is a crucial educational management activity requiring some measure of expertise and the planning strategies of institutional mapping in order to ensure even spread of institutions of learning and equitable distribution of resources for the benefit and optimum utilization. School location is planned with a view to remove inequalities in the spread of schools or educational facilities such as: human, material, physical or other

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resources so as to ensure that the desirable educational objective is achieved. The curriculum also has to be revised and re-designed to meet changing trends in the education industry (Ifebuzor, Mkemakolam & Akinloye, 2015). Unfortunately, Nigeria education sector seems to become ethnically, religiously and political driven in terms of location and distribution of facilities in our tertiary institutions. Political leaders ushered in a new age of politicalizing the education sector include recruitment of heads of institutions, academic, non-academic staff and student admission process.

Furthermore, Obanya, (2011), Lenshie (2013), Cecilia & Osagi, (2013), posited that government in power indulges in the opening and running of many educational institutions, even when they are least prepared to do so, without due regards to school mapping guideline, principle, equity and rationality. This has often resulted to lowering of educational standards and so many inadequacies in the school system such as lopsided location of learning establishment, disparities in access to education, over-location and under-location of educational facilities thereby depriving particular set of learners the use of such facilities. The interference of politics in education issues has often led to the formation of educational policies which either contradict one another or complicate implementation strategies.

However, in order to realize the specified education policies, certain activities need to be systematically designed and carried out. One important educational planning activity vital to the entire process is school mapping and facility provision which this study examined based on the influence of politics.

Statement of problem

Institutions of learning are regarded as the society's refinery to refine human behaviors and thinking in order to produce a total man that is economically, socially, spiritually and morally viable. However, during school mapping, some communities may have two or three and may not have at all. In fact, Delta state has the most tertiary institutions in any Nigerian state. There are 26 tertiary institutions in Delta state in the 25 local government areas. These 26 tertiary institutions in Delta state all accredited by the Nigerian University Commission (NUC) and all relevant agencies.

However, it has been observed that there has not been an equitable situation and distribution of resources to institutions in the state show disparity. It is obvious that the provision of facilities is glossed over or neglected and it will eventually have adverse effect on quality of school environment location, student study habit and staff personnel services. Thus, if these institutions, does not meet the yearnings, the aspirations and the needs of the people in that community, is it not a total waste of resources?

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to find out politics of school mapping and facilities provision in higher institution in Delta State. Specifically, the study sought to;

1. Determine the influence of politics in the location of tertiary institution in Delta State.
2. Find out the influence of politics in the employment of personnel in tertiary institutions in Delta State.
3. Investigate the influence of politics in the distribution of physical in tertiary institution in Delta State.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study.

1. In what way has politics influence the location of tertiary institution in Delta State?
2. In what way has politics influence the employment of personnel in tertiary institutions in Delta State?
3. In what way has politics influence the distribution of physical facilities in tertiary institutions in Delta State?

Hypotheses

Ho1: There is no significant differences between on the mean score of management staff and lecturers on influence of politics on the location of tertiary institution in Delta State.

Ho2: There is no significant differences between on the mean score of management staff and lecturers on influence of politics on the employment of personnel in tertiary institutions in Delta State.

ho3: There is no significant differences between on the mean score of management staff and lecturers on the influence of politics on the distribution of physical facilities in tertiary institutions in Delta State.

Methodology

The data for the study were collected from a random sample of 324 respondents from 9 higher institutions (3 Universities, 3 colleges of Education and 3 Polytechnics) all in Delta state, across the three Senatorial district of the State. Applying proportionate random sampling technique, 3 management staff was selected from each of the higher institutions making a total of 27 management staff. 31 lecturers were randomly selected from the higher institutions making a total of 297 lecturers. The instrument of data collection was a researcher's development questionnaire titled politics of tertiary institution mapping and facility provision questionnaire (PTSMFPQ). A twenty-one item survey questionnaire was structured on a 4-point rating scale of: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree and Strongly Disagree. The items on the questionnaire were developed using information derived from literature reviewed and was based on the three research questions that guided the study. The items on the questionnaire elicit information on politics of tertiary institution mapping and facilities provision in Delta State.

The questionnaire was reviewed by a few faculty members to ensure content validity. The cronbach's alpha was calculated to be 0.80, which is an indication of a highly reliable source. Data obtained from the study were analyzed using mean, standard deviation and t-test statistics to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance.

Results

The results are presented in table 1-5 according to research questions and hypotheses that guided the study.

Research Question One: In what way has politics influence the location of tertiary institutions in Delta State?

Table 1: Response of Respondents on the Influence of Politics in the locations of tertiary institutions

S/No	Politics on Location.	Management Staff No. 27			Lecturer No. 297		
		X	SD	DEC	X	SD	DEC
1	Politics godfathers influence the location of tertiary institution.	2.63	0.92	Agree	2.96	0.99	Agree
2	Establishing higher institution to promote in-genuine Philosophy to stay in power.	2.86	0.92	Agree	3.05	0.23	Agree
3	Immortalization of nation heroes using Institutions of learning	3.16	0.82	Agree	3.01	0.92	Agree
4	Establishing institutions for political balancing	3.34	0.96	Agree	3.22	0.82	Agree
5	Location of school emerged based on political consideration	2.99	1.11	Agree	2.59	1.18	Agree
6	Frequent changes in educational policy influence school location	2.87	0.92	Agree	3.22	0.82	Agree
7	Tertiary institution are located in areas that vote in the ruling party	2.98	0.99	Agree	2.58	1.04	Agree
	GRAND MEAN	2.98	0.99	Agree	2.95	1.02	Agree

Mean bench mark. 2.5.

(X=Mean, SD= Standard Deviation, DEC= Decision level)

Table 1 shows the mean response of management staff and lecturers on the influence of politics in the location of tertiary institutions. From the data analysis in the table, it was found that the mean response of items 1-7 are rated 2.63, 2.86, 3.16, 3.34, 2.99, 2.87 and 2.98, and a grand mean value of 2.98 and standard deviation of 0.99 by management staff. Lecturers rated the same items with mean score of 2.96, 3.05, 3.01, 3.22, 2.59, 3.22 and 2.58 respectively with a grand mean value of 2.95 and Standard Deviation of 1.02. The above responses show that both management staff and academic staff agreed with the entire items provided as ways politics influenced the location of tertiary institutions in Delta State.

Research Question Two: In what way has politics influence employment of personnel in tertiary institutions in Delta State?

Table 2: Response of respondents on influence of politics in the employment of personnel in higher institutions

S/No	Influence of politics on employment	Management Staff No. 27			Lecturer No. 297		
		X	SD	DEC	X	SD	DEC
8	Appointment of personnel is confined to a particular ethnic group.	3.04	0.81	Agree	3.12	0.99	Agree
9	Consideration of candidates of political leaders during employment	3.29	0.95	Agree	3.31	0.46	Agree
10	Political system rewarding community after electioneering.	3.35	0.92	Agree	2.59	1.18	Agree
11	Government contracting academic staff for a period of two years	3.02	0.91	Agree	3.02	1.00	Agree
12	Religion and ethnicity as determining factors in recruitment process.	3.35	0.92	Agree	2.99	0.92	Agree
13	Employment of indigene for political balancing	3.14	0.90	Agree	3.02	1.00	Agree
14	Appointment	2.80	0.81	Agree	2.96	1.07	Agree
	GRAND MEAN	3.14	0.90	Agree	3.00	0.96	Agree

Mean bench mark = 2.5

(X= Mean, SD= Standard deviation, DEC= Decision)

Table 2 indicates the view of management staff and academic staff on influence of politics on employment of personnel in tertiary institution. The table shows that items 8-14 have mean score of 3.04, 2.29, 3.35, 3.04, 3.35, 3.14 and 2.80 and a grand mean value of 3.14 and standard deviation of 0.90 for management staff. Lecturers rated same items with mean scores of 3.12, 3.31, 2.51, 3.02, 2.99, 3.02 and 2.96 respectively and a grand mean of 3.00 and Standard deviation of 0.96. The above analysis indicated that the respondents agreed with the entire items as influence of politics towards the employment of personnel in tertiary institutions in Delta State.

Research Question Three

In what way has politics influence the distribution of physical facilities in higher institutions in Delta State?

Table 3: Response of respondents on influence of politics in the distribution of physical facilities in tertiary institutions

S/No.	Politics on Distribution of facilities	Management Staff No. 27			Lecturer No. 297		
		X	SD	DEC	X	SD	DEC
15	The introduction of federal character influences the distribution of facilities.	3.07	1.07	Agree	3.22	0.82	Agree
16	Facilities are provided for political balancing	3.02	0.91	Agree	3.11	0.99	Agree
17	Political system rewarding communities with infrastructural facilities	3.04	0.81	Agree	3.36	0.80	Agree
18	School administrators lobby government for infrastructural provision	3.17	0.89	Agree	3.11	0.99	Agree
19	Religion and ethnicity as determining factors for the provision of facilities.	3.01	0.97	Agree	3.21	0.88	Agree
20	Provision of facilities for political balancing	3.09	0.83	Agree	2.99	1.03	Agree
21	Provision of school facilities to promote in-genuine philosophy to stay in power.	3.18	0.94	Agree	2.96	1.07	Agree
	GRAND MEAN	3.08	1.06	Agree	3.14	0.94	Agree

Mean bench mark = 2.5.

(X=Mean, SD= Standard deviation, DEC=Decision)

Table 3 shows the opinion of management staff and lecturers on the influence of politics in the distribution of physical facilities. From the mean analysis, meant was observed that the grand mean value of 3.08 and 3.14 for management staff and lecturers respectively was higher than the grand(criterion) meanvalue of 2.50. This means that both management staff and lecturers believed that federal character, political balancing, political system rewarding, religion and ethnicity are political factors influencing the distribution of physical facilities in tertiary institutions in Delta State.

Hypothesis 1

There is no significant differences between the mean score of management staff and lecturers on influence of politics on the location of tertiary institution in Delta State.

Table 4: Summary of t- test Analysis of respondents on influence of politics in the location of tertiary institutions

S/No.	Respondents	No.	X	SD	df	Level of sign	t-cal	t-value	Dec
1	Management staff	27	2.98	0.99	322	0.05	0.143	1.96	Not significant
2	Lecturers	297	2.95	1.02					

Table 4 shows that the t-calculated value (0.143) was less than t- critical value (1.96) at degree of freedom 322 and at 0.05 level of significance. Thus the null hypothesis stated was retained as stipulated. It therefore means that there is no significant different between the mean score of management staff and lecturer on to the influence of politics in the location of tertiary institutions in Delta State.

Hypothesis 2

There is no significant differences between the mean score of management staff and lecturers on influence of politics on the employment of personnel in tertiary institutions in Delta State.

Table 5: Summary of t-test Analysis of respondents on influence of politics in the employment of personnel in tertiary institutions

S/No.	Respondents	No.	X	SD	df	Level of sign	t-cal	t-value	Dec
1	Management staff	27	3.14	0.90	322	0.05	0.78	1.96	Not significant
2	Lecturers	297	3.00	0.96					

Table 5 shows that the t-calculated value (0.78) was less than t- critical value (1.96) at degree of freedom 322 and at 0.05 level of significance. Thus the null hypothesis stated was retained. This means that there is no significant differences between the mean score of management staff and lecturers on influence of politics on the employment of personnel in tertiary institutions in Delta State.

Hypothesis Three

There is no significant differences between on the mean score of management staff and lecturers on the influence of politics on the distribution of physical facilities in tertiary institutions in Delta State.

Table 5: Summary of t-test Analysis of respondents on influence of politics in the distribution of physical facilities in tertiary institutions

S/No.	Respondents	No.	X	SD	df	Level of sign	t-cal	t-value	Dec
1	Management staff	27	3.08	1.06	322	0.05	0.27	1.96	Not significant
2	Lecturers	297	3.14	0.94					

Table 6 reveals that the t-calculated value (0.27) was less than t- critical value (1.96) at degree of freedom 322 and at 0.05 level of significance. Thus the null hypothesis stated was retained. This means that there is no significant differences between the mean score of management staff and lecturers on influence of politics on the distribution of physical facilities in tertiary institutions in Delta State.

Discussion

The focus of this study was politics of school mapping and facilities provision in tertiary institutions in Delta State, Nigeria. The objective of the study was to examine the influence of politics on the location of tertiary institutions, employment of personnel and distribution of physical facilities In tertiary institutions In Delta State.

Finding from the study on location of tertiary institutions politics significantly influence location of tertiary in Delta State in terms of establishing institutions for political balancing, frequent changes in educational policy and tertiary institutions are located in areas that in the ruling party. This indicates that politics influence the location of tertiary institutions. This result is in consonance with the finding of Lenshie(2013)& Shown (2019) which reported that schools are not equally distributed as some geographical areas have lesser number of schools than others as a result of political consideration. Hypothesis one observed that there is no significant difference between management staff and lecturers view in terms of their mean ratings on the influence of politics towards the location of tertiary institutions in Delta State. Both management staff and lecturers agreed respectively that politics have greater influence on the location of tertiary institutions in Delta State.

The finding of the study show that politics influence the employment of personnel in tertiary institutions. This influence ranged from appointment of personnel is confined to a particular ethnic group and employment of indigene for political balancing. This result is in agreement with the findings of John, Nwankwo,&Nwosu, (2015). In their study on the Influence of school mapping on the growth of public schools in River State revealed that the recruitment of personnel in the educational system in the Nigeria is based on political consideration by political leaders. Likewise, hypothesis two showed that respondents are of the view that politics has influence on personnel management of institutions of learning. This finding agrees with the study of Ohamobi, Manafa & Osegbue (2018) who are of the view that politics influence employment processes in schools in Anambra State.

The finding of the study also revealed politics influence the distribution of physical facilities. It was revealed that school administrators lobbying government for infrastructural provision. Similarly, it was found that religion and ethnicity serve as determining factors for the provision of facilities to tertiary institutions. This finding is in line with Anifowose and Lawal (2013)& Obasi (2018) findings which show that provision of facilities to tertiary institutions is higher in urban communities than institutions in rural communities in Delta State. The provision and distribution of facilities more in urban areas according to the authors is politically influenced. From the analytical results of the hypothesis three, it was revealed that there is no significant difference management staff and lecturers' mean ratings on politics influence in the distribution of resource to tertiary institutions. This means that both management staff and lecturers agreed that politics influence the distribution of physical facilities to tertiary institutions significantly. This finding corroborated the finding of Adaje&Osagie (2015) which indicated that the distribution of school facilities in Nigerian school is politically oriented. Similar, Adamma (2015) found that the distribution of facilities in learning institutions is politically influenced. Adamma, (2015)& Ibara (2019), observed that there was no significant difference between the perception of respondents regards the influence of politics in the distribution of physical facilities in institutions of learning.

Conclusion

Adequate provision of facilities such as school buildings, classrooms, libraries, laboratories, workshops, teaching equipments and materials as well as quality teachers are relevant for optimal utilization in teaching – learning processes in order to actualize the realization of educational objectives. Often times, the government in power embarks

on establishment of schools in arbitrary way, disregarding the tenets of school mapping which is a planning tool and dynamic process of planning the distribution, size and spacing of schools and resource requirements for optimum utilization. Fortunately, the degree of diversification of political interests on these issues account for the failure and successes of the educational system.

Recommendations

The following are suggested in order for school mapping and facilities provision to be done appropriately:

- That the allocation and distribution of school facilities should not be politicized; it should be distributed on the principle of equity and fairness.
- Adequate data in terms of population of school age children, number of schools, projected figures in terms of population and facilities needed should be made available for orderly development of education.
- Government should disburse adequate funds to the Ministry of Education and heads of schools for the procurement of educational facilities provisions in the various schools.
- Finally the process of school mapping and locational strategy should be adhered to, to locate school, allocate facilities and assign - school age children for enrolment to reduce the problem of over-utilization or under-utilization arising from over concentration of learners in one zone than others.

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