

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA) ROLE IN MANAGEMENT OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN MAKURDI METROPOLIS OF BENUE STATE

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Abstract

The study investigated influence of Parent Teacher Association (PTA) role in management of secondary schools in Makurdi Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State. Two research questions guided the study and two hypotheses were formulated and tested. Descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. The population of this study comprised 778 teachers from 22 public secondary schools in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria. A sample of 140 teachers from 9 secondary schools was used for the study. A 10-item structured four-point rating scale questionnaire developed by the researcher titled "Parent Teachers' Association Questionnaire (PTAQ)" was used for collection of data for the study. Data obtained from field study were then analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Mean scores and Standard Deviation were used to answer research questions while chi-square (χ^2) test of goodness of-fit was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that Parent Teacher Association role has significant influence on funding and maintenance of discipline in secondary schools in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State. It was concluded that Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has significant influence on the management of secondary schools in Makurdi Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State. It was recommended among others parents should be encouraged by appropriate school authorities to fully support the financing of their wards or children mostly by providing all the required learning materials and they should frequently and promptly pay their school fees.

Keywords: Parent teachers' association, funding, maintenance of school discipline.

Introduction

Educational system in Nigeria seems to have suffered serious issue of ineffective management especially secondary schools in recent times. Most schools appear to be striving to survive and provide quality education that could produce quality graduates who would be productive in the society. It thus means that most school administrators today are finding it increasingly difficult to effectively manage their schools because certain challenges such as inadequate funding, infrastructural, instructional materials and poor motivation. It also seems that teaching and learning is suffering in quality in most secondary schools. There are also some managerial observed ineffectiveness and inefficiency such as poor processing of admission of students, poor records keeping, ineffective supervision of students, poor handling of disciplinary problems and poor revenue generation from the schools administrators. Such inconsistencies in the management of schools have created so much worry and concern among educational stakeholders which demands investigation and proper attention so as to surmount the problems of management and enhance quality education for the children.

Management is the art of being able to handle carefully, without being wasteful, what goes on in the process of educating people so that nothing goes out- of- hand (Okwori & Ede, 2012). In another opinion, Ochai (2013) defines school management is the process by which school administration creates, operates and directs purposive school organization through systematic coordinated and co-operated human efforts. Management is a comprehensive activity involving the combination and coordination of human, physical and financial resources, in a way which produce a commodity or a service which is both wanted and can be offered fix a price which will be paid, while making environment for those involved agreeable and acceptable (Onuh, 2013). On the other hand, school management is the process of deciding what to do in school and getting it done through effective use of available resources (Cotton, 2013). It is also a practical activity involving the determination of aims, allocation of resources efficiently, the maintenance of discipline, making schedules and the evaluation of effectiveness in the school system all involving action (Herr, 2015).

In recent times, Government inability to provide adequate resources as well as create enabling environment that could enhance effective and efficient management of schools has often call for a collaborative effort of all stakeholders in helping to make the school system function well. Hence the role of Parents' Teachers Association in the management of schools cannot just be over emphasised. Parents' Teachers' Association is an association comprises of parents/guardians of students or pupils. They meet annually or quarterly to discuss matters on the educational, moral and spirited well-being of the students or pupils of any learning organization, either at the nursery or primary level or at the secondary level (Onderi & Makori 2013). According to Onderi and Makori, this association is basically made up of two arms, the executive and the general assembly. The general assembly meets at designed times either quarterly or yearly while the executives meet as often as the need arises. The executive arm of this association is made up of duly elected parents or guardians and the school management such as the head teachers, principals and school administrators. In their perspective, Bua and Ivagher (2015) defines Parent Teacher Association (PTA) as an organization of local groups of teachers and parents of their pupils/students that works for the improvement of the schools and the benefit of the pupils/students. It is also seen as an

organization of teachers and the parents of their students, as within a public or private school, to promote mutual understanding and to increase the effectiveness of the educational programme.

In the USA, Lin (2010) reports that PTAs are involving parents in classroom decisions, promoting communication, social events and fundraising, and lobbying the state and national legislation on behalf of the students. Obi (2013) posits that the PTA, where they are functional built classroom blocks, provided funds for schools activities, recruited staff for schools, and participated in schools decision-making. They help in fund raising, maintenance of discipline, seeing to the welfare of the school and creating a bond between the school, the home, and the community; between the parents and the teachers and building parental involvement at school, and other activities relating to the welfare of the school rather than the progress of individual pupils/ (Microsoft, 2007). In his perspective, Audu (2018) found that Parent Teachers' Associations have contributed a lot in most of the aspects of schools management such as: provision of instructional facilities, decision making process, maintenance of discipline, school-community relations, provision of welfare, health, games and recreational facilities as well as communication. Thus, this study is focused on funding and maintenance of discipline.

Funding is seemingly an important role PTAs have been playing in not only supporting schools in achieving her goals but also in enhancing effective management. Funding entails allocating money or material resources to schools by government and non-governmental organizations and individuals (Paul, 2015). Paul further look at funding as the provision of money and other resources needed for effective and efficient management of secondary schools. In a similar vein, Babalola, (2015) states that the United State Embassy in Nigeria categorically identified funding as a major challenge by pointing in its one of its reports that Nigerian educational system suffers from deteriorating quality and insufficient investment to keep pace with the country's [growing] school-age population. Thus, right from 1990's till date, the Parents Teachers Associations (PTA) have played a very significant role in the funding of all the pyramids of the educational system especially secondary education. This is more so that school administrators' efforts at raising internal revenue to handle some important issues in the schools seems to also have been insufficient. Their power has hijacked much function in the administrative structure of the school system (Ugwulashi, 2012). Ugwulashi further observes that PTA now take responsibility of determining many policies that exist in most schools today for its overall development and also assist the school administrators in the aspect of funding which includes; provision of instructional materials, infrastructural facilities, money and teachers. In their views, Obiabo and Alache (2013), states that education is expensive because money is needed to hire, train and pay teachers; provide facilities (like classrooms, laboratories, studios, workshops) and replace consumable equipment on a continuous basis. Moreover, it is unfortunate that school administrators in their efforts at raising internal revenue, it has not also been easy in effectively managing their respective schools.

Maintenance of discipline is another aspect that Parent Teacher Associations (PTA) seem to influence in the management of secondary schools as observed by the researchers and speculated in the study area by relevant educational stakeholders. Zubaidia (2009) defines discipline in schools as respect for school laws and regulations and the maintenance of an established standard of behaviour and implies self-control, restraint, respect for oneself and others whereas maintenance of discipline entails making sure that the set school

laws and regulations are adhered to. In his study, Ali (2018) found that Parent Teachers' Associations have contributed a lot in most of the aspects of schools management such as: maintenance of discipline, school-community relations, provision of welfare, health, games and recreational facilities as well as communication. Maduagwu in Bua and Ivagher (2015) states that PTA assist schools in dealing with students disciplinary problems, mobilizing support for school administration from disposed individuals and government. Owobu in Ivagher, Asen and Uwalaka (2019) found in his study that the PTA participate in the maintenance of discipline, motivation of students for academic performance, maintenance of good community relationship, and provision of basic infrastructure but failed to participate in the administration and organization of academic programme.

However, for the roles played by PTA in the management of schools today, it has become necessary to state that PTA is regarded as one of the community agency in the education system which is making things work and function well (Okendo in Ali, 2018)). Similarly, Obi in Ali (2018) reiterate that these efforts of the PTA members greatly help in the provision and management of resources in secondary schools. The researchers are thus motivated to say that such situation of PTA contribution in the management of secondary schools may not be an exception in the study area which has prompted the need for this study.

Statement of the Problem

There has been a lot of complain and worry expressed by relevant educational stakeholders in recent times over the level of ineffectiveness and ineffectiveness in the management of secondary schools in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State. The issues of complain are hinge on their principals' inability to effectively and efficiently handle both academic and administrative issues in the schools such as proper teaching and learning, proper handling of school records, admission processes, provision of welfare for staff, provision of teaching materials, furniture and infrastructural facilities.

Personal observation by the researchers in the study area also revealed that in some schools in the study area, there is hardly any term that cases of students involvement in cultism, drug abuse, sexual immorality, fighting, disobeying of the school authorities and truancy are not mentioned. Such issues is not only disturbing to school authorities but to also parents' and the entire members of the society. Proper funding and maintenance of discipline seems to have been increasingly difficult hence much of it seems to be left in the hands of the schools authority. The researchers are thus wondering that, since it is difficult for schools to manage their schools alone, could there be need to bring in other parties? This study is therefore intended to find out the influence of Parents Teachers Associations (PTA) in the management of secondary schools in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to investigate the perceived influence of Parents' Teachers' Association (PTA) role in management of secondary schools in Makurdi Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. examine the perceived influence of Parents' Teachers' Association (PTA) on funding in secondary schools in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria.
2. determine the perceived influence of Parents' Teachers' Association (PTA) on maintenance of discipline in secondary schools in Makurdi Local Government Area.

Research Questions

The study following research questions guided the study.

1. What are the perceived influence of Parents' Teachers' Association (PTA) on funding in secondary schools in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria?
2. What are the perceived influence of Parents' Teachers' Association (PTA) on maintenance of discipline in secondary schools in Makurdi Local Government Area?

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated and tested at .05 level of significance.

- Ho₁. Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has no significant influence on funding in secondary schools in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria.
- Ho₂. Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has no significant influence on maintenance of discipline in secondary schools in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria.

Research Method

This study adopted descriptive survey design. Descriptive survey design according to Emaikwu (2011) is one in which a group of people or items are studied by collecting and analysing data from a few people considered to be representative sample of the entire population. Descriptive survey design was chosen for this study because, the study objectives are descriptive in nature and may also require taking care of multiple realities likely to be found in the field. The study was confined to Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria which comprises 11 council wards namely: Agan, Ankpa/Wadata, Bar, Central South Mission, Fiidi, Mbalagh, Market Clark, Modern Market, North Bank I North Bank II and Wailomayo ward respectively. The population of the study comprised 778 teachers from 22 public secondary schools in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria. A sample of 140 teachers from 9 secondary schools was used for the study. The selection was done using simple random sampling technique since the population was homogeneous. A 10-item structured four-point rating scale questionnaire developed by the researcher titled "Parents' Teachers' Association Questionnaire (PTAQ)" was used for collection of data for the study. The questionnaire was validated by two experts, one in Educational Management and another in Mathematics and Science Education all from the Faculty of Education, Benue State University, Makurdi. A reliability study was conducted on 20 secondary school teachers that were not part of the sample for the study. Data collected was analysed using Cronbach Alpha correlation co-efficient which yielded a reliability coefficient of 0.88. This indicated that the instrument was reliable for usage. Mean scores and Standard Deviation were used to answer the two research questions by considering the Boundary limit for Decision Making which was 1.00-1.49=Strongly Disagree, 1.50-2.49=Disagree, 2.50-3.49=Agree, 3.50-4.00=Strongly Agree. The two hypotheses were tested using Chi-square (χ^2) test of goodness of fit at .05 level of significance. The decision was that if the calculated (χ^2) value was greater than the critical table value, the null hypothesis was rejected and the alternative hypothesis accepted and vice versa.

Results

This section presented and discussed the results of the study.

Research Question One

What are the perceived influence of Parents' Teachers' Association (PTA) on funding in secondary schools in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria?

Table 1:
Mean Ratings and Standard Deviations of the Respondents on the Influence of Parents' Teachers' Association (PTA) on Funding in Secondary Schools

Item No	Item Description	SA	A	D	SD	\bar{X}	SD	Decision
1	PTAs assist in the provision of money to build additional blocks of classrooms.	83	37	9	11	3.37	0.92	Agree
2	PTAs assist the schools in the provision of money for the purchase of books to stock the library.	75	51	8	6	3.39	0.78	Agree
3	PTAs does not provide finances to assist schools in the employment of teachers.	12	4	66	58	1.79	0.86	Disagree
4	PTAs has nothing to do with provision of funds for building of additional classrooms.	10	7	49	74	1.66	0.87	Disagree
5	PTAs assist schools with funds to stock the school laboratory with equipment.	72	54	8	6	3.37	0.78	Agree
Cluster Mean						2.72		Agree

Data on Table 1 showed that the mean ratings for items 1-5 are 3.37, 3.39, 1.79, 1.66 and 3.37 respectively with their corresponding standard deviations of 0.92, 0.78, 0.86, 0.87 and 0.78. The standard deviations were small which shows that there is homogeneity in respondents' responses for the items raised. Based on the decision rule, it means that respondents agreed with items 1, 2 and 5 in the cluster which mean scores were above the cut-off point of 2.50 and disagreed with item 3 and 4 in the cluster which mean scores were below the cut-off point of 2.50. The cluster mean of 2.72 was also found to be above the cut-

off point of 2.50. This implies that Parents' Teachers' Association (PTA) influence funding in secondary schools in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria.

Research Question Two:

What are the perceived influence of Parent Teacher Association (PTA) on maintenance of discipline in secondary schools in Makurdi Local Government Area?

Table 2:
Mean Ratings and Standard Deviations of the Respondents on the Influence of Parents' Teachers' Association (PTA) on Maintenance of Discipline in Secondary Schools

Item No	Item Description	SA	A	D	SD	\bar{X}	SD	Decision
6	PTA assists schools in enforcing compliance to acceptable dress code of the school.	58	67	5	10	3.24	0.83	Agree
7	PTA assists in assessing the school rules thus making sure they are clearly understood by the students.	65	50	11	14	3.19	0.96	Agree
8	PTA has no contribution to ensuing proper dress code of students.	17	21	55	47	2.06	0.99	Disagree
9	PTA assists in strengthening the authority of the school in the event of increased cult activities among students.	68	47	18	7	3.26	0.87	Agree
10	Through PTA efforts, truancy is minimised among students in the schools.	59	64	9	8	3.24	0.81	Agree
Cluster Mean						3.00		Agree

Table 2 indicated that the mean ratings for items 6–10 are 3.24, 3.19, 2.06, 3.26 and 3.24 with their corresponding standard deviations of 0.83, 0.96, 0.99, 0.87 and 0.81. The standard deviations were small which shows that there is homogeneity in respondents' responses for the items raised. Based on the decision rule, it means that respondents agreed with items 6, 7, 9 and 10 in the cluster which mean scores were above the cut-off point of 2.50 and disagreed with item 8 in the cluster which mean scores was below the cut-off point of 2.50. The cluster mean of 3.00 was also found to be above the cut-off point of 2.50. This implies that Parents' Teachers' Association (PTA) influence maintenance of discipline in secondary schools in Makurdi Local Government Area.

Hypotheses Testing

Hypotheses One:

Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has no significant influence on funding in secondary schools in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria.

Table 3:
Chi-square test of the Influence of Parents' Teachers' Association (PTA) on funding in Secondary Schools

Opinions	Observed N	Expected N	Level of Sig.	df	χ^2 -cal	P-value	Decision
SD	11	35.0	.05	3	98.74	0.00	Sig.
D	3	35.0					Rejected
A	51	35.0					Ho₁
SA	75	35.0					
Total	140						

Table 3 revealed that $\chi^2=98.74$, at $df=3$ and $p=0.00$. Since p -value of $0.00 < .05$ at 3 degree of freedom, the null hypothesis which states that Parents' Teachers' Association (PTA) has no significant influence on funding in secondary schools in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria is therefore, rejected. This implies that Parents' Teachers' Association (PTA) has significant influence on funding in secondary schools in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria.

Hypotheses 4:

Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has no significant influence on maintenance of discipline in secondary schools in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria.

Table 4:
Chi-square test of the Influence of Parents' Teachers' Association (PTA) on Maintenance of Discipline in Secondary Schools

Opinions	Observed N	Expected N	Level of Sig.	df	χ^2 -cal	P-value	Decision
SD	10	35.0	.05	3	80.74	0.00	Sig.
D	7	35.0					Rejected
A	64	35.0					Ho₁
SA	59	35.0					
Total	140						

Table 3 revealed that $\chi^2=80.74$, at $df=3$ and $p=0.00$. Since p -value of $0.00 < .05$ at 3 degree of freedom, the null hypothesis which states that Parents' Teachers' Association (PTA) has no significant influence on maintenance of discipline in secondary schools in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria is therefore, rejected. This implies that Parents' Teachers' Association (PTA) has significant influence on maintenance of discipline in secondary schools in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria.

Discussion of Findings

The first finding of the study indicated that Parents' Teachers' Association (PTA) has significant influence on funding in secondary schools in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria. This implies that PTA assist in the provision of money to build additional blocks of classrooms, PTA assist the schools in the provision of money for the purchase of books to stock the library, and that PTA assist schools with funds to stock the school laboratory with equipment. The result agrees with that of Ugwulashi (2012) which revealed that Right from 1990's till date, the Parents Teachers Associations (PTA) have played a very significant role in the funding of all the pyramids of the educational system especially secondary education. This is more so that school administrators' efforts at raising internal revenue to handle some important issues in the schools seems to also have been insufficient. Their power has hijacked much function in the administrative structure of the school system. Ugwulashi further observes that PTA now take responsibility of determining many policies that exist in most schools today for its overall development and also assist the school administrators in the aspect of funding which includes; provision of instructional materials, infrastructural facilities, money and teachers.

The second finding of this study revealed that Parents' Teachers' Association (PTA) has significant influence on maintenance of discipline in secondary schools in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria. This means that PTA assists schools in enforcing compliance to acceptable dress code of the school, PTA assists in assessing the school rules thus making sure they are clearly understood by the students, PTA assists in strengthening the authority of the school in the event of increased cult activities among students and that through PTA efforts, truancy is minimised among students in the schools. The finding is also in agreement with that of Ali (2018) which revealed that Parent Teachers' Associations have contributed a lot in most of the aspects of schools management such as: maintenance of discipline, school-community relations, provision of welfare, health, games and recreational facilities as well as communication. The finding is also in agreement with Owobu in Ivagher, Asen and Uwalaka (2019) who found in his study that the PTA participate in the maintenance of discipline, motivation of students for academic performance, maintenance of good community relationship, and provision of basic infrastructure but failed to participate in the administration and organization of academic programme.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the study, it was established that Parents' Teachers' Association role has significant influence on funding and maintenance of discipline in secondary schools in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State. It was concluded that Parents' Teachers' Association (PTA) has significant influence on the management of secondary schools in Makurdi Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, it was recommended as follows;

1. Parents should be encouraged by appropriate school authorities to fully support the financing of their wards or children mostly by providing all the required learning materials and they should frequently and promptly pay their school fees.
2. Government of Benue State should make it as a matter of policy that all educational stakeholders are involved in the discipline of students in schools so as to maintain proper discipline among students in the schools.

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