
INFORMATION ACQUISITION STRATEGIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE POLYTECHNIC IBADAN, OYO STATE, NIGERIA

Ojo, Olubukola James¹ Ph.D.

Department of Educational Management University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria.

martins_small79@yahoo.com ; olubukolaojo79@gmail.com

08033902686

Oluwalola, Felicia Kikelomo² Ph.D.

Department of Educational Management University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria.

doctoroluwalola@gmail.com; oluwalola.fk@unilorin.edu.ng

08035997530

Iyekolo, A. Olushola³ Ph.D.

Department of Social Science Education University of Ilorin, Ilorin,

iyekolo.ao@unilorin.edu.ng

08033814030

Abstract

The ultimate aim of every educational institution is to accomplish its set goals. But more often than not, the attainment of this noble target is either ensured or jeopardized by the information strategies put in place by the management. It is in line with this that this study examined the relationship that exists between information acquisition strategies and administrative effectiveness of the Polytechnic Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria. The survey research design was found suitable for this study. The population of the study consisted of all the administrative staff of the polytechnic Ibadan. Questionnaires entitled Information Acquisition Strategies Questionnaire (IASQ) and Administrative Effectiveness Questionnaire (AEQ) were used to solicit information from the respondents. Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Statistics was used to test all the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The findings of this study reveal that there was a significant relationship between information acquisition strategies and administrative effectiveness of the Polytechnic Ibadan. It also revealed that there was a significant relationship between information storage strategy and administrative effectiveness. The findings also showed that there was significant relationship between information dissemination strategy and administrative effectiveness of the Polytechnic Ibadan. Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made: The polytechnic administrator should introduce the use of bulletin as a method of passing information to all and sundry. Lastly, office(s) of the key administrative officers should be automated to enhance better performances.

Keywords: Information Acquisition Strategies, Information Storage Strategies, Information Dissemination Strategies, Administrative Effectiveness

Introduction

Information plays a very vital role in every aspect of human endeavors. People need information to keep work relationships and

other forms of interaction going. Based on the importance of information in organizations (schools) inclusive, organizations are now more concerned about the successful planning and design of computer-based information systems. Farzana and Khalid (2013) opined that the concern begins with the determination of critical information needs for top management and other members with the intention of transforming these information needs into information systems.

Information plays a vital role in decision-making process in an organization. Effective organizational decisions cannot be attained when there is lack of information. Information is considered a vital resource needed for the attainment of organizational goals. For effective coordination between sections and departments in an organization, information is an essential resource. This view was buttressed by Murdock and Pross (2001), who opined that information is absolutely essential to the survival of any organization. As organization grow, the pressure of scale, complexity and increased rate of change make adequate information processing capacity inevitable, if effective control consequent upon coordination of individual activities is to be achieved.

Information acquisition strategies is an integrated series of steps and processes followed by the school administrators in obtaining information for the day to day administration of their institutions. In the present-day world, information technology has developed rapidly and has had a huge impact on access to information and on information gathering system particularly in institutions of higher learning. There are many strategies that

can be employed when acquiring information. The type of information one is trying to obtain, as well as the people providing the information, will determine which strategy to be used. Popoola (2009) classified information acquisition strategy as either reactive or proactive. In reactive mode, managers collect information in response to a specific question or problem. On the other hand, proactive information acquisition strategy occurs when managers scan or survey the environment for any information that may be relevant or important.

Administrative effectiveness has been viewed by different authors based on the situation they find themselves (Bao, 2009). Some researchers defined it as the positive response to administrative efforts and actions with the intention to accomplish stated goals (Akomolafe, 2012). Although, administrative effectiveness is defined as the product of a series of complex nested relations and an interaction pattern (Ademilua, 2012). Effectiveness of Polytechnic administration can be maintained by using many factors but for the purpose of the research, three major determinants such as conflict management, time management and decision-making which are important and critical factors for measuring effectiveness of administrator are considered.

Several researches have been carried out on different aspects of the two major variables of this study by past researchers. Researchers like Gbadamosi (2006) conducted a research on information needs, seeking behaviour and utilization of the administrative personnel of the Oyo State College of Education, Oyo. The findings of the study showed that administrative functioning is dependent on the sources of information available. The

information acquired from the various sources is basically used for decision-making, problem solving, keeping abreast of administrative innovations and the latest technology in the field of administration.

Erwat and Fabunmi (2006) investigated on the comparative analysis of information acquisition, information management capacity and administrators' decision-making effectiveness in tertiary institutions in South-Western Nigeria. It was revealed from their study that the levels of information acquisition, information management capacity and decision-making effectiveness were rated very high and there were significant differences among the three types of tertiary institutions. Institutions that used computers mostly in processing and storage of staff and students data showed higher scores on the three variables than those which used less of computers. Furthermore, communication and processing facilities were grossly inadequate and methods of processing and storage of information were mostly manual.

Akomolafe (2012) carried out a study that compared principals' administrative effectiveness in public and private secondary schools. The findings revealed that there was moderate level of administrative effectiveness in public schools while there was high level of administrative effectiveness in private secondary schools.

Yacob and Toyosi (2013) also carried out a study on influence of information use on academic productivity of lecturers in Babcock University, Nigeria. The study revealed that there was a positive relationship between Information Sources

Availability and Academic Productivity of lecturers.

Statement of the Problem

Inadequate information acquisition is inimical to the administrative effectiveness of tertiary institutions in Nigeria. A lot of researchers in the past have raised a lot of concerns on how to solve issues arising from inadequate acquisition, storage, flow and use of information in tertiary institution administrative processes. The inadequate access to, or possession and gathering of relevant information has negative impact on the administrative effectiveness of educational administrators. The problem of this study focused on the variables that causes administrative ineffectiveness in the Polytechnic of Ibadan which can be traced to poor information gathering strategies, absence of good information storage strategies and weak information dissemination strategies of the administrators.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of the study was to examine information acquisition strategies and administrative effectiveness of the Polytechnic Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria. Other specific purposes of this study are to:

- i. examine the relationship between information gathering strategies and administrative effectiveness of the Polytechnic Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.
- ii. investigate the roles of information storage strategies on administrative effectiveness;
- iii. examine the influence of information dissemination strategies on administrative effectiveness of the Polytechnic Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo state, Nigeria.

Research Hypotheses

Ho₁: Information gathering strategy has no significant relationship with administrative effectiveness in tertiary institutions in Oyo State.

Ho₂: Information storage strategy has no significant relationship with administrative effectiveness in tertiary institutions in Oyo State.

Ho₃: Information dissemination strategy has no significant relationship with administrative effectiveness in tertiary institutions in Oyo State.

Methodology

The survey research design of correlational type was found appropriate for this study. The target population of this study was made up of Administrative personnel of The Polytechnic Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria. Preliminary investigation showed that the institution has 547 administrative personnel which comprises of 305 senior staff cadre and 242 junior staff cadre. However, for the purpose of this study, random sampling technique was used to select 164 administrative staff of the Polytechnic in each of the administrative departments and cadre as respondents to respond to the questionnaire.

Two instruments titled Information Acquisition Strategies Questionnaire (IASQ) and Administrative Effectiveness

questionnaire (AEQ) were used to collect data for the research. The instruments were structured on a four-point likert scale of strongly agreed to strongly disagreed. The IASQ has 15- item subscale while the AEQ also has 15- item subscale. The two instruments were validated by three lecturers in the Faculty of Education, University of Ilorin and pilot test was conducted to ascertain the reliability co-efficient of the instruments. Test-retest method was used to ascertain the reliability of the instruments by administering the questionnaire on 10 administrative staff of the Polytechnic that is not part of the randomly selected respondent at an interval of two weeks. The co-efficient value obtained were .87 and .79 respectively.

The researcher personally administered all the 164 copies of questionnaire and retrieved them from the respondents. The data collected from the respondents were tested using Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Statistics at 0.05 level of significance.

Results and Discussions

Research Hypotheses

Ho₁: Information gathering strategy has no significant relationship with administrative effectiveness in tertiary institutions in Oyo State.

Table 1: Information Gathering Strategy and Administrative Effectiveness

Variable	N	$\bar{X}$	SD	Df	Cal value	r-	P-value	Decision
Information Gathering Strategy	164	2.93	.73	162	.568		.000	Ho ₁ Rejected
Administrative Effectiveness	164	23.01	4.46					

*Significant P< .05

Table 1 shows the calculated r-value of .568 is less than the significance level (0.05) for 162 degree of freedom. Therefore, the hypothesis which states that there is no significant relationship between information gathering strategy and administrative effectiveness of Polytechnic Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State is rejected. The finding reveals that there was significant

relationship between information gathering strategy and administrative effectiveness of Polytechnic Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State.

Ho₂: Information storage strategy has no significant relationship with administrative effectiveness in tertiary institutions in Oyo State.

Table 2: Information Storage Strategy and Administrative Effective-ness

Variable	N	$\bar{X}$	SD	Df	Cal value	r-	P-value	Decision
Information Storage Strategy	164	1.96	.64	162	.571		.001	Ho ₂ Rejected
Administrative Effectiveness	164	23.01	4.46					

*Significant P< .05

Table 2 shows the calculated r-value of .571 is less than the significance level (0.05) for 162 degree of freedom. Therefore, the hypothesis which states that there is no significant relationship between information storage strategy and administrative effectiveness of Polytechnic Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State is rejected. The

finding reveals that there was significant relationship between information storage strategy and administrative effectiveness of Polytechnic Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State.

Ho₃: Information dissemination strategy has no significant relationship with administrative effectiveness in tertiary institutions in Oyo State.

Table 3: Information Dissemination Strategy and Administrative Effectiveness

Variable	N	$\bar{X}$	SD	Df	Cal value	r- P-value	Decision
Information Dissemination Strategy	164	1.78	.63	162	.529	.000	Ho ₃ Rejected
Administrative Effectiveness	164	23.01	4.46				

*Significant $P < .05$

Table 3 shows the calculated r-value of .529 is less than the significance level (0.05) for 162 degree of freedom. Therefore, the hypothesis which states that there is no significant relationship between information dissemination strategy and administrative effectiveness of Polytechnic Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State is rejected. The finding reveals that there was significant relationship between information dissemination strategy and administrative effectiveness of Polytechnic Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State.

Discussion of Findings

This section gives detailed explanations on the various findings discovered from the hypotheses tested. The finding revealed that there was significant relationship between information acquisition strategies and administrative effectiveness of Polytechnic Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State. This finding confirmed the findings of Gbadamosi (2006) who found that administrative functioning is dependent on the sources of information available. The findings of this study also agreed with Yacob and Toyosi (2013) who revealed that there was a positive relationship between Information Sources Availability and Academic Productivity of lecturers. It was also found in this study that there is significant relationship between

information gathering strategy and administrative effectiveness of Polytechnic Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State. This finding confirmed the earlier findings of Erwat and Fabunmi (2006) that the levels of information acquisition, information management capacity and decision-making effectiveness were rated very high in tertiary institutions. The hypothesis which stated that there is no significant relationship between information storage strategy and administrative effectiveness of Polytechnic Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State is rejected which means that there is significant relationship between information storage strategy and administrative effectiveness of Polytechnic Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State. This finding disagreed with that of Erwat and Fabunmi (2006) who found out in their study that communication and processing facilities were grossly inadequate and methods of processing and storage of information were mostly manual.

The findings of this study revealed that there was significant relationship between information dissemination strategy and administrative effectiveness of Polytechnic Ibadan, Ibadan, Oyo State. This finding confirmed the findings of Jaszay and Dunk (2006) who posited that the distribution of information to the general public usually conducted by the government or an

agency specifically given authorization to release information for any public sector. He emphasized that the information released is usually a statement of fact so that the groups of people who are being sent this information will not be required to give any feedback. Adegun (2014) posited that dissemination of information is a way of broadcasting a message to the public without direct feedback from the audience, the oxford dictionary defined dissemination of information as the act of spreading something especially information widely.

Conclusion

The results of the study have shown that information gathering strategy, information storage strategy and information dissemination strategy of the polytechnic Ibadan have significant impact on the administrative effectiveness. It also showed that, the administrative personnel of the Polytechnic Ibadan acquired their needed information through harmonious relationship with both students and other staff members of the school, careful observation of the institution surroundings and suggestion boxes. The study also revealed that information gathered by the administrators were being stored using files and cabinet, computer devices, external storage devices and cloud storage while they disseminate information using school website in the case of disseminating to the general public, school notice board, suggestion boxes and circulars and memo in case of disseminating within the school to student and other staff.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made;

1. The administrators of the school should introduce bulletin as a method of passing information to all sundry (school and general public).
2. The Polytechnic administrative personnel should be subjected to in-service training on information technology usage so as to keep them in-line with the skills required by technological innovation.
3. The key administrative personnel offices in the polytechnic should also be automated to enhance administrative effectiveness.

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