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Hostel Accommodation and Tertiary Education in Nigeria

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A B S T R A C T
This study aims to assess the factors responsible for shortage of hostel accommodation and impact of the shortage of hotel accommodation on students of tertiary education in Nigeria. Based on the secondary data collected from print and online publications, the paper concluded that lack of funding from the government, increasing student enrollment, corruption and mismanagement of existing hostel facilities, poor planning and lack of maintenance and poor planning are some of the factors responsible for shortage of hostel accommodation in the Nigerian tertiary institutions. The paper also disclosed that overcrowding, increased rental prices, and compromised living conditions for students, decline in academic performance, increased stress and mental health problems, poor recruitment and retention of faculty and staff in the institutions and promotion of cultism and prostitutions are some of the impact of shortage of hostel accommodation in Nigerian tertiary institutions. Based on the finding, the paper recommends increased funding, better planning and management, and affordable housing options is crucial in providing adequate hostel accommodation for students in Nigerian tertiary institutions. Adoption of public private partnership and involvement of private institutions direct investment in hostel provision and management. This will not only improve the living conditions of students but also enhance their academic experience and success

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1.0 Introduction

Tertiary education, also known as higher education, refers to educational programs offered by universities, colleges, and other institutions beyond secondary education. It encompasses undergraduate and postgraduate studies, providing students with advanced knowledge, skills, and qualifications in their chosen field of study (Proctoredu 2023). Tertiary education is an advanced educational system meant for human capital development through teaching, research and provision of community service. Tertiary education is the third tiers of education that is designed for the production of skilled and professionals for the socio-economic and technology advancement (Edet, Sani & Ogunode, 2023).

Alemu (2018) opined that tertiary education or Higher education covers a wider range of higher learning institutions including the university. These higher learning institutions could be organized in different ways, commonly within a university and in a separate institution as university and other tertiary learning

institutions. Tertiary education is defined by the National Policy on Education (2013) as the education given after Post Basic Education in institutions such as Universities and Inter-University Centres such as the Nigeria French Language Village, Nigeria Arabic Language Village, National Institute of Nigerian Languages, institutions such as Innovation Enterprise Institutions (IEIs), and Colleges of Education, Monotechnics, Polytechnics, and other specialized institutions such as Colleges of Agriculture, Schools of Health and Technology and the National Teachers' Institutes (NTI).

The term tertiary or higher education in Nigeria is used to refer to the education obtained in higher institutions. It is however accepted by most stakeholders that the importance of higher education lies in the fact that it imparts in-depth knowledge, understanding, and professionalism that seem to advance the students to new frontiers of performance, achievement and attitudes in different aspects of life and engagements (Olorundare, 2014). Tertiary education is a social agents of progress and development in a society and that aids technological advancement. Tertiary education is designed to help in the development of nations by providing the high as well as the middle level manpower needed for the social, economic and political advancement through the programme of teaching, learning, research and community services (Ogunode, Edinoh, & Odo, 2023).

The goals of tertiary education according to the FGN National Policy on Education (2013), shall be to: contribute to national development through high level manpower training; provide accessible and affordable quality learning opportunities in formal and informal education in response to the needs and interests of all Nigerians; provide high quality career counseling and lifelong learning program that prepare students with the knowledge and skills for self-reliance and the world of work; reduce skill shortages through the production of skilled manpower relevant to the needs of the labor market; promote and encourage scholarship, entrepreneurship and community service; forge and cement national unity; and promote national and international understanding and interaction. The other goals or objectives of tertiary education according to Ogunode, et al (2023) includes; to aid production of manpower; to ensure national unity; to ensure technological development; to foster national unity and international peace; to increase production through research; to provide post-secondary school education; to prepare students with quality knowledge and reliable skills for independent living and the world of work.

The realization of tertiary education depends on the availability of adequate human and materials resources like the infrastructure facilities. Infrastructure facilities are critical for implementation of tertiary education programme of teaching, research and provision of community services. The importance of infrastructural facilities in educational institutions according to Ogunode and Agwor (2021) include; it aids effective delivery of administrative functions in schools; it makes the delivery of services fast and reliable; it enables teachers to deliver lessons fast; infrastructural facilities provide a conductive working environment for both teachers and students; infrastructural facilities enable learners to learn at ease and learn well; infrastructural facilities enable the teachers to teach well, prepare their lessons, and deliver them online (ICT). The importance of school infrastructural facilities in the realization of educational goals cannot be underestimated. School facilities aid the delivery of the teaching and learning process in the schools. The school offices provides a conducive working environment for teachers, the classrooms help the learners to learn while the school fence protects students, the teachers, and school administrators from criminals.

Infrastructure facilities especially hostel accommodation appear not to be adequate in most tertiary institutions in Nigeria. The shortage of students in hotel accommodation has been a growing issue in tertiary education in Nigeria. This trend has had significant effects on the overall quality of education and campus life for students in the country. With the increasing number of students seeking higher education, the demand for affordable and adequate housing has exceeded the available supply. Based on this, the paper seeks to explore the factors responsible for shortage of hotel accommodation and impact of the shortage of hotel accommodation on students of tertiary education in Nigeria.

1.3 Purpose of the study

This study aims to assess the impact of the shortage of hotel accommodation in tertiary education in Nigeria. The specific objectives includes;

1. to list the importance of providing adequate hostel accommodation for students in tertiary institutions in Nigeria;
2. to examine factors responsible for shortage of students hostel accommodation in tertiary institutions in Nigeria;
3. to assess the impact of shortage of students hostel accommodation in tertiary institutions in Nigeria;

2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Concept of Infrastructure facilities

Physical facilities as those things that enable the teacher to do his work very well and helping the learners to learn effectively. For example, the chalkboard facilitates imparting information on the learner (Anike & Tari 2011). Abdulkareem (2000) defined educational facilities as non-human and non-financial resources that comprise movable and immovable materials that enhance teaching and learning. School facilities as that physical equipment that assists and enable teaching and learning in other to enhance results. She noted that such facilities function as the fulcrum for which teaching and learning are pleasurably built (Emetarom (2004).

School infrastructural facilities according to Ogunode and Agwor (2021) refer to social capital within the school environment. They include school buildings/complexes such as classrooms, tables, exam hall, chairs, auditoria, desks, staff offices, seminar/conference/board rooms, laboratories, workshops, studios, farms, gymnasia, central libraries, specialized/professional libraries, faculty libraries, departmental libraries, etc., Institute/centers' specialized facilities e.g. ICT infrastructure, special laboratories, conference facilities, etc., and Boards e.g. interactive, magnetic, screen and chalk, etc., ICT that is computer laboratories and services, network connectivity, multi-media system, public address system, slide, and video projectors, and Ergonomics furnishing in laboratories, libraries, and lecture rooms/ theaters, moot courts, and studios, etc.

Lawinsider (2020) viewed infrastructure facilities to mean any works, structures or improvements to land or waters other than Ancillary Project Area Infrastructure which directly or indirectly provide a service or any other benefit to:- (a) the general public; or (b) the Island community, including – (c) offices, depots and staff housing by or for the benefit of the Commonwealth of Australia, the State, any local government, statutory authority or government owned corporation,(d) any electricity generation, distribution or transmission facility; (e) public education facilities; (f) public health facilities; (g) police facilities; (h) emergency facilities; (i) transport facilities (including pedestrian paths, cycle ways, transfer facilities, freight storage and logistic areas, bus stops and layovers, ferry stops, taxi stops); (j) sewage pump stations and sewerage treatments facilities; (k) solid waste transfer and treatment facilities; (l) water supply pump stations, raw water storage, clear water storage, dams, weirs, bore field infrastructure; (m) the things listed in section 24KA(2) of the Native Title Act to the extent that they are not Ancillary Project Area Infrastructure; and (n) any IBIS Store; but not including – (o) Social Housing. Infrastructure represents the aesthetic picture of the school conveyed by the position of structures in relation to one another. It also represents the empirical relevance of the totality of the school environment for the realization of the school business (teaching/learning). He asserted in specific terms that school plant is made up of landscape, trees, lawns, hedges, and accompanying paths, playgrounds, buildings, security facilities and utilities (Osagie 2003).

Hostels accommodation is a type of lodging that provides shared living spaces for individuals, typically students, at a lower cost compared to other forms of accommodation. It typically includes a private or shared sleeping space, communal bathrooms and kitchens, and sometimes additional amenities such as study rooms, laundry facilities, and communal living areas. Hostels are popular among budget-conscious travelers and students due to their affordability and social atmosphere. Many hostels also offer the option of private rooms for a higher cost. Hostels accommodation can be found all over the world, making it a convenient option for those looking for affordable and communal living arrangements while traveling or studying abroad. Students' hotels or accommodation include Boys and Girls hostels; municipal/physical infrastructure i.e. power supply, water supply, good road networks, sports, health and sanitation, staff schools, security facilities, etc.

2,2 Important of Providing Hostels Accommodation for Students

Providing hostels for students in Nigerian schools is crucial for their academic and personal development. Access to affordable and safe housing allows students to focus on their studies without the added stress of finding accommodation. Additionally, hostels foster a sense of community and provide a space for students to form meaningful relationships with their peers.

Studies have shown that students who live on campus have higher academic success rates compared to those who commute. This is because living on campus reduces the time and energy spent on transportation, allowing students to allocate more time towards studying and participating in extracurricular activities.

Furthermore, hostels in Nigerian schools can bridge the gap between rural and urban students, providing equal opportunities for all. Oftentimes, students from rural areas face financial barriers and lack of access to transportation, making it difficult for them to attend school. By providing hostels, students from different backgrounds can have the same opportunities to receive a quality education.

In addition to academic benefits, living in hostels also teaches students important life skills such as time management, problem-solving, and social skills. These skills are essential for their future success in the workforce. Moreover, providing hostels for students can also have a positive impact on the local economy. Hostels create job opportunities for the local community, as well as promote tourism and fuel economic growth.

3.0 Result and Discussion on factors Responsible for Shortage of Hostel Accommodation in Tertiary institutions in Nigeria and impact of Shortage of Hostel Accommodation

Factors Responsible for Shortage of Hostel Accommodation in Tertiary institutions in Nigeria

The inadequate hostel accommodation for students in Nigerian tertiary institutions can be attributed to several factors. These include lack of funding from the government, increasing student enrollment, and mismanagement of existing hostel facilities. Additionally, poor planning and lack of maintenance also contribute to the inadequate accommodation situation (Ebehikhalu, & Dawam 2016). Furthermore, the high cost of hostel fees and limited options for off-campus housing also play a role in the problem (Ejike, & Ejike, 2018; Ikechukwu, & George, 2023).

The shortage of hostel accommodation in Nigerian tertiary institutions can be attributed to a variety of factors. Some of the main reasons for this shortage include the increasing student population, inadequate funding for infrastructure, and mismanagement of existing facilities (Isife & Ogakwu, 2016). Additionally, the lack of proper planning and coordination between school administrators and government agencies have also contributed to the shortage of hostel accommodation (Ishaya & Ogunode, 2021). External factors such as economic instability and political unrest can also impact the availability of hostel accommodations in Nigerian tertiary institutions. It is critical to address these factors in order to improve the living conditions and academic experience of students in Nigerian tertiary institutions (Kwashabawa & Mustapha, 2023).

The shortage of hostel accommodation in Nigerian universities can be attributed to various factors such as an increase in student enrollment, poor infrastructure, and lack of government funding (Sadiku, 2017). Additionally, the high cost of construction and maintenance plays a significant role in the limited number of available hostels. Student lifestyle preferences, including the desire for more luxurious and private accommodation, also contribute to the shortage. Other possible causes include mismanagement of hostel facilities and inadequate planning for future capacity (Ogunode, & Jegede, 2021).

Isiaka,, Nasiru, and Olushola, (2020); Idowu, (2020) outline the following as the factors responsible for shortage of hostel accommodation in the Nigerian tertiary institutions; poor planning, corruption, poor maintenance culture, inadequate funding, poor participation of private institutions and insecurities.

Impact of Shortage of Hostel Accommodation

The shortage of hostel accommodation in Nigerian universities has been documented to have various negative effects on both students and the academic institution as a whole. Some of the negative effects include overcrowding, increased rental prices, and compromised living conditions for students. These

issues can lead to a decline in academic performance, increased stress and mental health problems, and difficulty for students to focus on their studies. Additionally, the lack of adequate hostel accommodation can also deter prospective students from enrolling in Nigerian universities (Ogunode, & Ibrahim, 2024).

This issue has also had a negative impact on the economy as it has discouraged international students and affected the reputation of universities in Nigeria. In order to address this problem, universities are looking for innovative solutions to accommodate the growing number of students. Some have implemented temporary housing options, while others have partnered with private housing providers. However, these solutions are not sustainable in the long run (Ohaeri, Olayinka & Ogunode 2023; Sadiku, 2017).

The impact of shortage of hotel accommodation in tertiary education in Nigeria is a critical issue that has been studied and discussed by various researchers. This problem has been found to have far-reaching consequences on the academic performance and well-being of students, as well as the overall quality of education in Nigeria (Oraka, Ogbodo, & Ezejiofor, 2017; Tunde, & Issa, 2013). Studies have shown that the shortage of hotel accommodation in tertiary education has led to overcrowding, poor living conditions, and increased stress levels among students (Ibrahim, 2017). As a result, many students are forced to live in congested and inadequate living conditions, leading to a decline in their academic performance and well-being (Urdu, & Kneed, 2014). These factors lead to overcrowding, unsanitary living conditions, and limited access to basic amenities, negatively impacting the overall well-being and academic performance of students (Ukozor & Ogunode, 2022).

It has also affected the recruitment and retention of faculty and staff in universities, as the lack of adequate accommodation makes it difficult to attract and retain top talent (Ogunode, & Jegede, 2021). This issue has also resulted in decreased revenue for the hospitality industry in Nigeria, as fewer students are able to afford accommodation and therefore opt for cheaper alternatives. Overall, the shortage of hotel accommodation in tertiary education in Nigeria is a complex and multifaceted problem with significant implications for the future of education and the country's economy (Ukozor & Ogunode, 2022*;* Urdu, & Kneed, 2014). It is crucial for policymakers and stakeholders to address this issue in order to ensure the success and well-being of students and the overall growth of the education sector in Nigeria (Ogunode & Ibrahim., 2024)..

The inadequate hostel facilities in Nigerian universities have a significant impact on student experience and well-being. With limited and often overcrowded accommodations, students face difficulties in finding suitable living arrangements and struggle to focus on their academic pursuits (Ogunode 2020). In addition, inadequate hostel facilities can lead to unsanitary living conditions, increasing the risk of health issues for students. This issue not only affects students, but also hinders the growth and development of universities as a whole (Ogunode, & Akpakwu, 2023).

4.1 Finding

The paper revealed that lack of funding from the government, increasing student enrollment, corruption and mismanagement of existing hostel facilities, poor planning and lack of maintenance and poor planning are some of the factors responsible for shortage of hostel accommodation in the Nigerian tertiary institutions. The paper also disclosed that overcrowding, increased rental prices, and compromised living conditions for students, decline in academic performance, increased stress and mental health problems, poor recruitment and retention of faculty and staff in the institutions and promotion of cultism and prostitutions are some of the impact of shortage of hostel accommodation in Nigerian tertiary institutions.

4.2 Conclusion and Recommendations

The paper discussed factors responsible for shortage of hostel accommodation and impact of the shortage of hotel accommodation on students of tertiary education in Nigeria. The paper concluded that lack of funding from the government, increasing student enrollment, corruption and mismanagement of existing hostel facilities, poor planning and lack of maintenance and poor planning are some of the factors responsible for shortage of hostel accommodation in the Nigerian tertiary institutions.

Overcrowding, increased rental prices, and compromised living conditions for students, decline in academic performance, increased stress and mental health problems, poor recruitment and retention of faculty and staff in the institutions and promotion of cultism and prostitutions are identified as some of

the impact of shortage of hostel accommodation in Nigerian tertiary institutions.

It is crucial for university administrations and government bodies to address these factors in order to alleviate the ongoing shortage of hostel accommodation in Nigerian universities. Solutions such as investment in infrastructure, better facility management, and collaborations with private housing providers could potentially improve the situation in the long run. However, immediate action is necessary to address the pressing issue of inadequate hostel accommodation and ensure that students have access to suitable and affordable housing during their academic years.

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