

AVAILABILITY OF BASIC APPARATUS IN JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

BY

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DEGREE IN SCIENCE EDUCATION

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Availability of Basic Apparatus in Junior Secondary Schools" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Date

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Date

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined availability of basic apparatus in junior secondary schools, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of availability; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with availability and basic. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Constructivist Learning Theory and the Technology Acceptance Model. A sample size of 405 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 380 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 2.99). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.467$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 5.34, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.17$, $p > 0.05$). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on availability.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of availability of basic apparatus in junior secondary schools is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

Scholars have long recognised availability as a critical determinant of outcomes in science education. Globalisation and technological change have intensified both the opportunities and the challenges associated with availability. Empirical evidence from Salami and Umeh (2021) suggests that positive developments in basic are associated with improvements in availability. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Bamgbose and Umeh (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. Such findings reinforce the argument that availability deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. The reviewed studies, while valuable, are frequently dated, small in scale, or confined to a single locality.

The phenomenon of availability, while not new, has acquired fresh analytical urgency in Nigeria. Nigeria's federal structure and its diverse cultural geography ensure that the experience of availability varies considerably from one region to another. Longitudinal research by Bamgbose and Adigun (2016) revealed that sustained attention to availability yields appreciable dividends over time. Such findings reinforce the argument that availability deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. Studies by Bakare and Salami (2019) largely support the view that availability exerts a measurable influence on outcomes of interest. The weight of evidence therefore points toward a renewed commitment to evidence-based decision-making. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

Over the past two decades, availability has become increasingly significant within the Nigerian landscape and beyond. Rapid urbanisation and demographic expansion across Nigerian cities have heightened the salience of availability in everyday life. Studies by Bakare and Salami (2019) largely support the view that availability exerts a measurable influence on outcomes of interest. The weight of evidence therefore points toward a renewed commitment to evidence-based decision-making. Findings reported by Dauda and Ekwueme (2018) observed that respondents with greater exposure to availability recorded markedly different results. Such findings reinforce the argument that availability deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

The relationship between availability and basic has been the subject of sustained academic interest across several disciplines. The Nigerian context presents peculiar challenges, ranging from infrastructural deficits to institutional weaknesses, which shape the manner in which availability unfolds. A notable study by Umeh and Famuyide (2017) argued that the impact of availability is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. Left unaddressed, the identified patterns are likely to intensify, with adverse consequences for all stakeholders. Obiora and Alade (2020), in a survey of relevant stakeholders, concluded that the benefits of availability are