



## **AN EVALUATION OF THE PROBLEMS FACED BY UNDERGRADUATE OF FEDERAL UNIVERSITY WUKARI, TARABA STATE NIGERIA**

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<b>Received:</b> February 11 <sup>th</sup> 2021 <b>Accepted:</b> February 28 <sup>th</sup> 2021 <b>Published:</b> March 25 <sup>th</sup> 2021	The Federal University Wukari is faced with certain problems that has impaired steady growth of the Institution. The study revealed infrastructural problems such as inadequate male and female hotels, lecture halls, laboratories, and libraries. Others are unstable power supply, poor internet services and inadequate water supply. Administrative problems include misplacement and missing of exams scripts, delay in release of results, while academic problems involve poor teaching and learning activities, inconsistency in keeping the time table of lectures. These nexus is what the study evaluates with the intent to proffer possible solutions to it. The study adopted descriptive and survey method for the research work. Primary data was collected through questionnaire, in which One hundred and fifty respondents were collected. The data collected were analyzed using simple percentage, mean statistical and chi-square employed to test the hypotheses. Strike action, insecurity and financial challenge are the social problems and difficulties in course registration and screening and challenge of coping with payment of school fees are procedural problems facing the undergraduate students of Federal University Wukari. Based on this findings, the researchers recommended that the government should increase the funding of federal University Wukari to enable the school administrators provide adequate infrastructural facilities.

**Keywords:** Evaluation, Problems, Undergraduate, University, Students

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The National Policy on Education (FGN, 2004), defined Higher Education as the Post-Secondary Section of the National education system, which is given of Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Technology including courses as are given by the Colleges of Education, Advanced Teachers Training colleges, Correspondence Colleges and such institutions as may be allied to them. The objectives of higher education in Nigeria include: to the acquisition, development and inculcation of the proper value orientation for the survival of the individual and societies; the development of the intellectual capacities of individuals to understand and appreciate environment; the acquisition of both physical and intellectual skills which will enable individuals to develop into useful members of the community; the acquisition of an overview of the local and external environments (FGN, 2004). The National Policy on Education again stated that higher educational institutions should pursue these goals through: teaching; research; the dissemination of existing and new information; the pursuit of service to the community; and by being a store-house knowledge (FGN, 2004).

Nigerian higher education include Polytechnic education, Colleges of education and Universities. Federal University Wukari is among the public universities in Nigeria. The Federal University Wukari is one of the nine new Universities established by the Federal Government of Nigeria in 2011. The University is located in Wukari, Taraba State, which is the second largest city in the State after the State Capital Jalingo. The take-off site of the University was the Wukari Campus (School of Administration and Management) of the Taraba State Polytechnic.

The University comprises has three Faculties; sixteen Academic Departments and nineteen undergraduate programmes. The programmes are offered at undergraduate level in three faculties. The post graduate programmes will be offered after the first phase of the university development. The University like any other Nigerian university operates the Course Credit Unit System. The Academic staffs of the University are predominantly Nigerian by nationality. These staffs come from all geo-political zones of the country.

The public universities in Nigeria were established for the Nigerian youth and other nationalities. The youths who are also referred to as students in the Nigerian public universities are facing many problems especially at Federal University Wukari. This study is aimed to evaluate the problems faced by undergraduate students of Federal Wukari, Taraba state.

### 1.1. Research Objectives

The study evaluates the problems faced by undergraduate students of Federal Wukari, Taraba state. Specific objectives are to:

1. To find out academic problems faced by undergraduate students of Federal Wukari;
2. To find out the infrastructural problems faced by undergraduate students of Federal Wukari;
3. To find out the social problems faced by undergraduate students of Federal Wukari;
4. To find out the Procedural problems facing undergraduate students of Federal University Wukari Nigeria.

### 1.2 Research Question

The following research question were generated to guide this study:

1. What is the academic problems faced by undergraduate students of Federal Wukari?
2. What is the infrastructural problems faced by undergraduate students of Federal Wukari?
3. What is the social problems faced by undergraduate students of Federal Wukari?
4. What is the Procedural challenges facing undergraduate students of Federal University Wukari Nigeria?

### 1.3 Research Hypothesis

Based on the research questions raised, one hypotheses to test the hypotheses:

H0: There is no significant relationship undergraduate students of Federal university Wukari and problems

H1 There is significant relationship undergraduate students of Federal university Wukari and problems.

## 2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

There are few investigations on problems facing undergraduate students in Nigeria and across Africa. Among the few studies include that Chinelo, (2017) who investigated the problems encountered by postgraduate students that hindered their studies in Nigerian universities. The findings revealed that the system is plagued with numerous complex and deep-rooted problems ranging from systems/procedural problems to socio-political problems and personal/psychological problems, and that these problems actually hindered their studies and contributed to late graduation.

In South Africa, Magdaline & Cosmas (undated) also carried out a research with the aims of exploring the academic hurdles faced by undergraduate students at one university. Using the qualitative research approach, a sample of 31 participants made up of peer facilitators, undergraduate students and programme co-ordinators was purposefully selected. Data were collected using in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. The data were coded thematically to make sense of the experiences shared by the participants. The results indicated numerous academic challenges faced by first year students. These include problems of writing, referencing, plagiarism, English as a barrier and inability to use computers. It is concluded that students at the university under study face a myriad of academic challenges, due to poor socio-economic backgrounds and the low level of education which they received from the apartheid influenced system, which some schools still use.

Peretomode, & Ugbomeh, (2013) did a study that investigated problems encountered by undergraduate and diploma Students of the Delta State University Abraka, Nigeria. A validated instrument with a test – retest reliability coefficient of 0.78 was used to elicit responses from 400 hundred undergraduate and 100 diploma students. The analysis of results revealed that both categories of students experience a myriad of problems from entry as fresh students until graduation and these problems affect their academic performance. Some of the most serious problems encountered included difficulty in the process for the payment of school fees, cumbersome screening and registration process, inadequate classrooms and seats, and lack of constant power supply. Sex was found to be a factor in determining problems encountered by students as female students encountered more problems than their male counterparts.

Ige (2014) examined the challenges public tertiary students are facing to include: inadequate classrooms, ill equipped library and laboratories, incessant closure of institution as a result of students unrest, cultism and strikes, inadequacy and non commitment of some lecturers, just to mention few. Evidences in support of the challenges and their gravities were gathered from literature.

The effect of these repeated closures of schools and academic programs on students' learning effectiveness can better be imagined than described. University education in Nigeria has thus suffered serious setbacks as a result of teachers' strike actions. This has always subjected the students to pitiable conditions, disrupting academic programs, giving students' undeserved extension in their study years, poor students' concentration on academic programs and poor teacher-student relationships amongst others (Edinyang and Ubi, 2013).

Okafor (1997) noted that teachers alone cannot be held accountable for 100 percent of their students' learning. According to him, such other factors as school climate, availability of resources, learner socio-economic status and home environment over which educators exercise no control and peer pressure in universities also partially determine achievement by the student. However, the teacher must be a high quality person characterized by such attributes as; personal enthusiasm, sincerity, belief in people consistency, interest in personal growth of students, positive attitude towards change and experimentation, enthusiasm for teaching and willingness to engage in self-evaluation.

The Nigerian students are faced with many infrastructural facilities. Ebehikhalu & Dawam (undated) submitted that the number and capacities of lecture halls are grossly inadequate. The number and size of the laboratories are largely inadequate. Almost all the equipment in the laboratories and machineries in the workshops are obsolete. The university has not commenced any form of automation in any of its libraries. The hostel accommodation for both undergraduates and postgraduate students are grossly inadequate and the sanitary conditions very deplorable. Facilities for students use like common rooms and kitchen are not available. The walls of some of the hostels have severe cracks and not safe for habitation. Rooms officially meant for eight (8) students house not less than fourteen (14). Even the official eight (8) students per room are still very much on the high side since the rooms are very small and poorly ventilated. Kitchen and common rooms have been converted into rooms for students and so

overcrowded that the students sarcastically call it **zoos** fit only for animal habitation. On the average, about twenty eight (28) students share a toilet in the university. The university is connected to National Grid but power supply is epileptic and irregular. The water supply is not regular and highly inadequate.

The challenges facing students at higher education institutions include poor socioeconomic backgrounds and poor academic performance in South Africa. The National Development Plan acknowledges and summarises the challenges with these words: “Higher education faces major challenges: low participation rates, high attrition rates, a curriculum that does not speak to society and its needs, the absence of an enabling environment that allows every individual to express and reach full potential, and poor knowledge production that often does not translate into innovation” (NPC, 2011).

**3.0 METHODOLOGY**

The study evaluates the problems faced by undergraduate students of Federal Wukari, Tarable state. We adopted descriptive research and survey method for the research work. The study used 150 respondents. The respondents were consists of students from the three faculties in the university. The stratified random sampling technique was used to select the sample of 50 students each from the faculties totaling 150. Questionnaire was used as instrument for data collection. Likeert’s four point scale. 4-point Likert scale of strongly agreed (SA) to strongly disagreed (SDA). The Questionnaire had two sections, Section (A) and section (B). The section collected information on bio-data of the respondents while the Section (B) collected information on the subject matter. To ensure the validity of the questionnaire, lecturers from department of research were consulted to check and crosscheck the validity of the questionnaire. To determine the reliability of the instrument, test and retest method was used for the study and copies of the questionnaire were administered to 40 selected students outside the universities two times after two weeks. Pearson product-moment correction co-efficient method was used. The result collected for r was 0.81. The questionnaire was administered to the respondents through the help of students in Federal University Wukari in the sampled faculties. The data collected were analyzed using simple percentage, mean statistical and chi-square was employed to test the hypotheses.

**4.0 RESULT ANALYSIS**

**Table one Academic Problems faced by Undergraduate students of Federal University**

Item	Mean	Std Deviation	Decision
1. Misplacement and missing of exams scripts	2.82	0.87	Significant
2. delay in release of results	2.75	0.71	Significant
3. poor teaching and learning activities	2.81	0.86	Significant
4. Inconsistency in keeping the time table of lectures and lecturers	2.45	0.49	Significant
5. compulsory imposition of textbook s/handout by lecturers	1.35	0.56	Significant

The result is based on mean value of 2.00. Any value below this is considered non significant and values above are considered significant. The table 1 showed the various level of respondent’s views on the academic problem facing undergraduate students of Federal Universities Wukari. The table above shows that the respondents agreed that with confidence with the Mean values of 2.82, 2.75, 2.81, and 2.45 as accepted that the academic problem facing the undergraduate students of Federal University Wukari are misplacement and missing of exams scripts, delay in release of results, poor teaching and learning activities, inconsistency in keeping the time table of lectures. However lecturers compulsory imposition of textbooks/handout by lecturers was rejected as an academic problem facing the students. This implies that the students agreed that misplacement and missing of exams scripts, delay in release of results, poor teaching and learning activities, inconsistency in keeping the time table of lectures are accepted as academic challenge facing the students. However compulsory imposition of textbooks/handout by lecturers was rejected as academic challenge facing them.

**Table two Infrastructural Problems faced by undergraduate students of Federal University**

Item	Mean	Std Deviation	Decision
1. Inadequate male and female hotels	2.56	0.67	Significant
2. Inadequate laboratories, and libraries	2.67	0.76	Significant
3. Unstable power supply, poor internet Services, lack and lack of water supply.	2.48	0.58	Significant

The result decision is based on mean value of 2.00. Any value below this is considered non-significant and values above are considered significant. The table 2 disclosed the various level of respondent’s views on the infrastructural problem facing undergraduate students of Federal Universities Wukari. The table 2 above revealed that the respondents agreed with the Mean values of 2.56, 2.67 and 2.48 that inadequate male and female hotels, inadequate lecture halls, laboratories, and libraries, unstable power supply, poor internet services and lack and lack of water supply are the infrastructural facilities problems facing the undergraduate students of Federal University Wukari.

**Table three Social Problems faced by undergraduate students of Federal University**

Item	Mean	Std Deviation	Decision
1. Strike actions	2.68	0.76	Significant
2. Insecurity	2.73	0.85	Significant
3. Sex mark	1.39	0.12	Not Significant
4. Harassment from academic and non-staff on students	1.56	0.68	Not Significant
5. Harassment from landlords on students leaving off-campus	1.65	0.47	Not Significant
6. Financial problem	2.55	0.86	Significant

The result decision is based on mean value of 2.00. Any value below this is considered not significant and values above are considered significant. Result of table 3 of mean obtained on social problems facing undergraduate students of Federal University Wukari is 2.68, 2.73 and 2.55 for strike action, insecurity and financial as social problems facing the students while 1.39, 1.56, and 1.65 disagreed that sex for mark, harassment from academic and non-staff on students, harassment from landlords on students leaving off-campus are problem facing the students of federal university. This implies that strike action, insecurity, sex for mark, harassment from academic and non-staff on students, harassment from landlords on students leaving off-campus are not problems facing students of federal university while strike action, insecurity and financial challenge are the social problems facing the undergraduate students of Federal University Wukari.

**Table four: Procedural Problems faced by undergraduate students of Federal University**

Item	Mean	Std Deviation	Decision
1. Difficulties in course registration and screening	2.51	0.88	Significant
2. challenge of coping with payment of school fees	2.64	0.72	Significant

The result decision is based on mean value of 2.00. Any value below this is considered not significant and values above are considered significant. Result of table 4 of the mean obtained on procedural problems facing undergraduate students of Federal University Wukari is 2.51 and 2.64 with difficulties in course registration and screening and challenge of coping with payment of school fees which is greater than the cut-off point meaning that the respondents agreed that are the difficulties in course registration and screening and challenge of coping with payment of school fees procedural problems facing the undergraduate students of Federal University Wukari.

**4.1 Hypothesis Testing**

H0: There is no significant relationship undergraduate students of Federal university Wukari and problems

H1 There is significant relationship undergraduate students of Federal university Wukari and problems.

**Table five**

Variables	N	Df	r-cal	r-table	Result
X	150	148	0.938	0.195	Significant
Y	150				

The table above showed that the r calculated is 0.968 which is greater than the t calculated of value 0.195. This means that there is significant relationship undergraduate students of Federal university Wukari and problems.

**4.2 Discussion of Findings**

The result on table one showed that students agreed that misplacement and missing of exams scripts, delay in release of results, poor teaching and learning activities, inconsistency in keeping the time table of lectures are the academic problem facing the undergraduate students of federal university wukari. However compulsory imposition of textbooks/handout by lecturers was rejected as academic challenge facing them. This result is in agreement with the finding of Peretomode, & Ugbomeh, (2013) who concluded that the problems that the problems facing undergraduate students are cumbersome registration process and screening, procedure for payment of school fees, inadequate classrooms/ inadequate seats, inadequate relevant and current reference materials in the library, lack of constant water supply, and missing scores.

Result on table two revealed that inadequate male and female hotels, inadequate lecture halls, laboratories, and libraries, unstable power supply, poor internet services and lack of water supply are the infrastructural facilities problems facing the undergraduate students of Federal University Wukari. This result is in line with the discovered of Ogunode & Iroegbu, (2020) inadequate fund, inadequate infrastructural facilities, inadequate lecturers, communal crisis, and inadequate instructional materials are the infrastructural facilities facing federal University Wukari.

The result obtained in table three disclosed that sex for mark, harassment from academic and non-staff on students, harassment from landlords on students leaving off-campus are not problems facing students of federal university. This result is contrary to the finding of Peretomode, & Ugbomeh, (2013) who discovered that the problem encountered by female Students sexual harassment from both teaching and non-teaching staff, and from male Students, particularly male Students who belong to the various cult groups on campus. The finding also disagreed with the claim by Majasan and colleagues (2001) that the problem

of sexual harassment of female Students in African Universities is yet to be fully addressed. While strike action, insecurity and financial challenge are the social problems facing the undergraduate students of Federal University Wukari.

Table four result showed that difficulties in course registration and screening and challenge of coping with payment of school fees are procedural problems facing the undergraduate students of Federal University Wukari. This finding is in support of the submission of Ige (2014) observed that in Nigeria, public tertiary institutions have been mandated to generate substantial revenue, so as to augment the limited finance flow from Government. This has made the public tertiary institutions to introduce different fees such as examination, medical, caution, graduation, acceptance of admission, among others. Of recent, almost all the public tertiary institutions in

Nigeria have increased the fees payable by students, in an attempt to generate more fund for their sustenance, in line with government's directive. This has been causing hardship for students, particularly those from less privileged homes. Many parents/guardians pay through their noses to educate their children/wards in tertiary institutions, which is limiting the access to tertiary institution and encouraging wastage (i.e. dropout and repetition) from the institutions. The issue of fee increase has even been a major factor causing incessant student unrest and closure of tertiary institutions in the country (Ige, 2014, Ige & Olowolabi, 2010).

### 4.3 Conclusion and Recommendation

The study concluded that students agreed that misplacement and missing of exams scripts, delay in release of results, poor teaching and learning activities, inconsistency in keeping the time table of lectures are the academic problem facing the undergraduate students of federal university wukari. However compulsory imposition of textbooks/handout by lecturers was rejected as academic challenge facing them. Inadequate male and female hotels, inadequate lecture halls, laboratories, and libraries, unstable power supply, poor internet services and lack of water supply are the infrastructural facilities problems facing the undergraduate students of Federal University Wukari. Strike action, insecurity and financial challenge. The social problems facing the undergraduate students of Federal University Wukari. Difficulties in course registration and screening and challenge of coping with payment of school fees are procedural problems facing the undergraduate students of Federal University Wukari.

Based on the findings, the researchers hereby recommended the following:

- a) The University Management of Federal University of Wukari should remove all problems affecting the undergraduate students in area of screening and registration for courses online;
- b) The government should increase the funding of the university to enable the school managers provide adequate infrastructural facilities for easy teaching and learning and for the comfort of the students. Infrastructural like electricity, water supply, stable internet services, lecture halls, hotels etc;
- c) The University management should ensure that students result are released on time and missing script problems should be stopped in the schools;
- d) The university should come up with scholarship programme for students with financial challenges. According to Peretomode, & Ugbomeh, (2013) Students experiencing financial difficulties should be employed on parttime basis by the University to work on some service offered on campus. There is also the need to revive and resume Student loans to Students and increase bursary award by the federal, State and Local Government to indigent Students of the University. Thus the importance of strategic planning to guide yearly admissions and resources acquisition is vital and indispensable for the balanced growth of the university.

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