



Analyzing the Influence of On-Campus and Off-Campus Accommodations on Students Academic Performance Across Tertiary Institutions in Kogi State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Student accommodation plays a pivotal role in shaping academic success, well-being, and social integration in tertiary institutions. This study investigates the influence of on-campus and off-campus accommodation on the academic performance of students in tertiary institutions in Kogi State, Nigeria. A descriptive survey design was employed, involving 300 students across colleges, universities, polytechnics and nursing schools in Kogi State. Data were collected via structured questionnaires and analysed using descriptive statistics and independent t-tests. Findings revealed significant differences in academic performance based on accommodation type, with on-campus students generally performing better. Key factors influencing this include access to academic resources, time management, security, and environmental distractions. The study recommends improving both on-campus and off-campus housing conditions to enhance academic outcomes.

Keywords: Student housing, Academic performance, On-campus, Off-campus, Tertiary education

Introduction

Housing is a critical aspect of human welfare, deeply influencing various dimensions of life. Aluko (2011) describes housing as the primary environment for individuals, which significantly affects social behaviour, personal satisfaction, and community well-being. In the context of education, student accommodation plays a pivotal role in shaping academic outcomes, emotional well-being, and social integration. According to Kolawole & Boluwatife (2016), adequate student housing helps tertiary institutions attract and retain a diverse student population. Similarly, Onclin (2014) asserted that proper accommodation enhances student success, retention rates, and overall satisfaction. Nimako & Bondinuba (2013) further emphasized that sufficient student housing improves both living and learning experiences, advocating for the expansion of accommodation facilities to optimize educational facilities to optimize educational outcomes.

The quality and availability of student housing are essential to academic success. Adeyemi & Oluwole (2017) noted that conducive living conditions enhance students' ability to focus on academics, engage in campus life, and interact effectively with peers and faculty. However, as Sharma (2012) observed, the rising demand for tertiary education often exceeds the capacity of government-provided accommodations, leaving many students to seek off-campus alternatives. Off-campus housing, while offering autonomy, may lack proximity to academic facilities, stable internet access, and opportunities for social engagement benefits commonly associated with on-campus living (Adrienne, 2007).

Numerous studies have highlighted the significant influence of housing conditions on students' academic performance. For instance, a study by Adeyemi & Oluwole (2017) found a positive correlation between accommodation quality and academic performance among students in Osun State, Nigeria. Similarly, Ojekunle & Owolabi (2019) demonstrated a link between residential environment and academic performance in tertiary institutions in Ogun State. These findings underscore the importance of suitable housing in fostering conducive learning environments that support students' academic endeavours. Off-campus accommodation in Nigeria began in the 1980s when student populations exceeded available hostel bed spaces. Initially, institutions rented rooms outside campuses for postgraduate students but eventually allowed both postgraduate and undergraduate students to secure their own accommodations near the campus due to limited hostel availability (Ichima, 2010). Recently, some students have shown a preference for off-campus housing, citing the greater freedom it offers.

In recent times, many students prefer off-campus accommodation due to the perceived freedom it offers. Adeyemi & Fawole (2018) found that students living in well-maintained and conducive off-campus environments tend to achieve better academic outcomes compared to those living in on-campus. Beyond academic performance, housing conditions also impact students' overall well-being and quality of life. Bello & Ibrahim (2021) indicated that students residing in school-provided accommodations exhibited better academic outcomes compared to those living off-campus. Onyike et al., (2018) stated that substandard housing, characterized by overcrowding, poor sanitation, and inadequate amenities, can contribute to stress, illness, and decreased

satisfaction with student life. Conversely, access to safe and comfortable housing is associated with improved mental health, higher levels of satisfaction, and better academic outcomes.

Recognizing the significance of housing in students' educational experiences, policymakers have a role to play in ensuring the availability of suitable accommodation in tertiary institutions. Effective housing policies should prioritize the maintenance and improvement of existing facilities, as well as the construction of new housing units to meet the growing demand from students. Additionally, measures such as rent control, housing subsidies, and partnerships with private developers can enhance students' access to affordable and quality housing options.

Facilities and essential service amenities for the community of students who use it. It is usually built on-campus, owned by the institutions, provided for low-cost chargeable rooms, and administered to accommodate undergraduate or postgraduate students (Najib, et, al, 2011). According to Amole (2009), student housing is made up of bedroom units and other shared utilities including bathrooms, kitchens, laundry, toilets, recreation rooms and canteens that can be placed either on each floor or block or for the whole student. It is significant to note that students' lives on campus are not limited to just room accommodation, washroom, pantry and common and recreation rooms, but there are other facilities that will improve their quality of life that are called support services Najib (2011), because such facilities contribute to meeting the needs, desires and expectations of the students.

Establishment of private hostels off-campus was initially perceived as a solution to problems of campus accommodations but landlords have taken advantage of the high demand and escalated their rents Fatunde (2010). Today students are having a rough time at the hands of hostel owners whose primary obsession, like all business ventures, is to maximize profit with little concern for students' welfare. Students have also complained about the absence of a learning environment in private hostels. Portions of these private lodges are used as mini markets with hawkers daily disturbing the peace of the students. At night and during the weekend the hostels are very noisy and movements in and out of the hostels are not restricted.

Off-campus students seem to be more exposed to danger than those that are on the campus. The off-campus students are not placed in one environment. As a result, there appears to be little or no control, regulations or surveillance system put in place as it is provided by the management to guard and protect lives and properties of those students living in On-campus. Having observed this situation in some tertiary institutions within the nation, it became imperative to investigate the influence of off-campus residence on students' academic performance in tertiary institutions in Kogi State.

Given these dynamics, the type and quality of students accommodation can significantly impact academic performance and the overall educational experience. This study, therefore, seeks to analyze the effects of on-campus and off-campus accommodations on academic performance in tertiary institutions in Kogi State. The research aims to explore the living conditions students face, the choices they make regarding housing, and how these factors influence their academic engagement, resource accessibility, and overall success.

Problem Statement

Tertiary institutions in Kogi State are grappling with critical housing challenges. On-campus accommodations are often plagued by overcrowding, poor infrastructure, and inadequate maintenance, resulting in substandard living conditions. In contrast, off-campus, options vary in cost, accessibility, and quality, leaving students with inconsistent experiences. Despite the clear link between living conditions and academic performance, limited research has been conducted to evaluate how different housing arrangements affect student academic outcomes. This study is however necessary to fill that gap and provide evidence-based recommendations to enhance student accommodation and academic success in the region.

Objectives of the study

- To examine the differences in academic performance between on- campus and off-campus students in tertiary institutions in Kogi state
- To identify the factors influencing students' choice of accommodation
- To provide recommendations for improving students accommodation policies and support services in Kogi State.

Research Questions

- How does the living environment of students influence their study habits and time management across tertiary institutions in Kogi State?
- How do the challenges associated with on-campus and off-campus accommodations impact students academic performance?
- What strategies can be adopted to enhance the quality of on-campus and off-campus accommodations to support students academic success?

Methodology

This study was carried out in Kogi State, Nigeria. Kogi state is strategically located in the North Central region of Nigeria, boarded by ten other states. It has an estimate population of about 4.5 million. Kogi State has five University, two polytechnics, four colleges of education and four school of Nursing. Descriptive survey design was adopted for the study which employed the use of a structured questionnaire comprising of two sections; namely, demographic characteristics of respondents and the perception of quality of students' accommodation and its influence on academic performance. The population of the study is the total number of students across all tertiary institutions in Kogi state. Three hundred students were sampled across the various

tertiary institutions in Kogi State. Descriptive statistics (frequency, mean) was used to analysed the responses to the research questions while inferential statistics (t-test) was used to test the research hypothesis at 95% significance level. A criterion of mean of 2.50 was set for decision making. A mean score of ≥ 2.50 was accepted otherwise, rejected.

Results and Discussion

Table 1 Demographics analysis of respondents

Institution Type

	Frequency	Percent
College	72	24.0
Polytechnic	54	18.0
Nursing	67	22.3
University	107	35.7
Total	300	100.0

Gender

	Frequency	Percent
Male	157	52.3
Female	143	47.7
Total	300	100.0

Accommodation Types

	Frequency	Percent
On-Campus	171	57.0
Off-Campus	129	43.0
Total	300	100.0

Table 1 shows the distribution of respondents according to the institutions. 24% of the respondents were from Colleges of Education, 18% of the respondents from Polytechnic, 22.3% from School of Nursing and 35.7% from university. Also, out of the 300 respondents involved in this research, 57% lived in the institution halls of residence on campus while 43% resides in hostel/family houses outside the campus. Also, 52.3% of the respondents were male and 47.7% were female.

Research Question 1: How does the living environment of students influence their study habits and time management across tertiary institutions in Kogi State?

Table 2: Responses to how the living environment of students influence their study habits and time management across tertiary institutions in Kogi State?

S/N	Items (Statement)	N	Mean	Remark
1	I am able to maintain a consistent study schedule in my current living environment	300	2.88	Accept
2	My accommodation type allows me to manage my academic and personal time effectively	300	2.86	Accept
3	My living environment provides a suitable atmosphere for uninterrupted study sessions	300	2.94	Accept
4	I often struggle with time management due to the challenges of my accommodation type	300	2.81	Accept
5	My accommodation allows easy access to study materials, which helps me manage my academic workload efficiently.	300	3.00	Accept
6	Living in my current accommodation type has improved my self-discipline in studying and completing assignments on time.	300	2.99	Accept

Table 2 shows that the mean scores of all the items are above the bench mark mean of 2.50 which implies that they are accepted as how students living environment influence their study habits and time management. Respondent agrees that their accommodation type allow easy access to study materials and improved their self-discipline.

Research question 2: How do the challenges associated with on-campus and off-campus accommodations impact students academic performance?

Table 3: *Responses on challenges associated with on-campus and off-campus accommodations impact students academic performance.*

S/N	Items (statement)	N	Mean	Remarks
1	I experience frequent noise and distractions in my accommodation that negatively impact my academic performance	300	2.77	Accepted
2	The availability of electricity and internet connectivity in my accommodation affects my ability to study effectively.	300	2.81	Accepted
3	My accommodation has limited access to essential academic resources, such as libraries and study spaces.	300	2.82	Accepted
4	The security and safety of my accommodation affect my mental well-being and academic	300	2.77	Accepted
5	Poor living conditions (e.g., overcrowding, inadequate facilities) in my accommodation negatively impact my academic performance	300	2.72	Accepted
6	Social distractions in my accommodation setting make it difficult for me to maintain a productive study routine.	300	2.61	Accepted

Table 3 shows that the mean scores of all the items are above the bench mark mean of 2.50 which implies that challenges associated with students' accommodation types includes the availability of electricity and internet connectivity which influence their study ability. Also, distraction from house mates and environment contribute to their difficulties in setting productive study time. It is also note that overcrowded space is one of the challenges that befalls students' studying habit and affect their outcomes. Hence, all items stated above are accepted as contributing challenges of accommodation impact on student performance.

Research Question 3: What strategies can be adopted to enhance the quality of on-campus and off-campus accommodations to support students academic success?

Table 4: *Responses to strategies that can be adopted to enhance the quality of on-campus and off-campus accommodations to support students academic success*

S/N	Items (Statement)	N	Mean	Remarks
1	Providing stable electricity and internet access in student accommodations would improve my ability to study effectively.	300	2.88	Accepted
2	Reducing noise and other distractions in student accommodations would positively impact academic success.	300	3.01	Accepted
3	Increasing access to academic resources (e.g., libraries, reading rooms) near student accommodations would enhance learning.	300	2.89	Accepted
4	Strengthening security in both on-campus and off-campus accommodations would help students focus better on academics.	300	2.94	Accepted
5	Providing more affordable and comfortable housing options for students would reduce financial stress and improve academic outcomes.	300	2.88	Accepted
6	Regulating the number of students per room in on-campus housing would create a better learning environment	300	2.90	Accepted

Table 4 above shows that by providing stable electricity and internet access within student residential halls will improve their living condition and help to study effectively. Also, by strengthening security in but off-campus and campus hall of residence will help student to focus better in their academics. It is also discovered from the analysis that reducing the number of inhabitant in campus hall of residence would create a better learning environment which will in turn help students perform better.

Test of Hypothesis

Table 5: SPSS output of t-test test of hypothesis

Independent Samples Test

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means				
		F	Sig.	T	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference
There is a significant relationship between accommodation type and students academic performance	Equal variances assumed	13.395	.000	18.961	298	.000	1.491	.079
	Equal variances not assumed			17.705	193.421	.000	1.491	.084

Table 5 shows examine the relationship between accommodation type and students' academic performance. The table reveal a p-value of 0.000 (<0.005) which shows that there exists a statistical significance between accommodation type and students' academic performance. The table also shows a mean difference of 1.49 which indicate that the academic performance of on-campus and off-campus accommodation types differs by about 1.49 points. Hence, we conclude that accommodation type has a statistically significant effect on students' academic performance.

Discussion of Findings

This study revealed that students' accommodation type has influence on students studying habits and access to learning resources such as library. Students' living in campus hall of residence are able to manage their time promptly due to their proximity to campus. This has a great effect on their performance. However, off-campus accommodation type are always saddle with distractions, security challenges, inadequate social amenities, overcrowding, etc which always drags their studying time which in turns affect their academic performance.

Study Habits and Time Management Across both accommodation types, students acknowledged the importance of a conducive living environment in maintaining study schedules and managing academic responsibilities. However, on-campus residents reported better discipline and access to quiet study environments.

The study revealed that there is need for better infrastructure in student accommodations, including stable power supply, internet access, improved security, provision of social amenities and better regulation of hostel environments which will help students' to be more focused and leads to a better academic performance.

The t-test revealed a statistically significant relationship between accommodation type and academic performance ($p < 0.05$), affirming that where students live influences their academic outcomes.

Conclusion

Accommodation is a fundamental component of students' academic success in tertiary institutions. The study concludes that while both on-campus and off-campus arrangements have their merits, on-campus accommodation offers a more structured and supportive environment for academic excellence. Addressing the housing challenges is essential to ensure equity in academic performance and enhance overall student well-being. Stakeholders must adopt a multi- faceted approach involving policy reform, infrastructure development, and private sector collaboration to achieve long-term solutions.

Recommendations

- Institutions should invest in expanding and renovating their halls of residence to meet increasing student demand.
- Collaborations between institutions and private developers to provide affordable, regulated, and academically conducive off-campus housing should be encourage.
- Institutions should enhance support services such as reading rooms, internet connectivity, and twenty-four hours library access for all students, regardless of residence.
- Institutions should sensitize students on effective time management and how to create conducive study environments regardless of where they reside.

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