AJEMATES
African Journal of Educational Management, Teaching and Entrepreneurship Studies
VOL.14 (2), January-April, 2025 https://ajemates.org

MANAGEMENT OF HEALTH AND SAFETY IN SECONDARY EDUCATION LEVEL IN NIGERIA

Okeke, Nonyem Ifediorah
Department of Educational Foundations,
Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University,
Igbariam Campus, Anambra State, Nigeria
ifedinoke@yahoo.com

&

Okaforcha, Choice Chimaa
Department of Educational Foundations,
Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University,
Igbariam Campus, Anambra State, Nigeria
E-mail: choice.okaforcha@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

A healthy individual is one who is sound in mind and body. It is that one who is certified medically fit both physically, mentally and socially. One who is not blemish health-wise. Safety on the contrary is the freedom from harm or hazard which could be injurious to human body. It also refers to the avoidance of any form of threat to life or danger. Health and safety are both critical in human life consequently require effective and efficient management so as to prevent the rate of occurrence and/or total avoidance of any impending threat. This explains why the school administrators should prioritize the management of health and safety in secondary education level. When the school environment is safe, there is the tendency that the parents would be willing and desirable to turn in their children. The students on their own would equally feel safe to attend school for active participation without fear of any harm or threat. Safe school place is essential for the school personnel for enhanced productivity. The school principal should spearhead the management of health and safety by ensuring that the perimeter fence be erected in the school to avoid intruders from taking advantage. This is achieved by writing to the appropriate quarters on the danger of exposing the entire school community members to impending doom when there is non-existence of perimeter fence.

Keywords: Management, Health, Safety and Secondary education.

Introduction

Education is the medium through which the learners acquire relevant skills, knowledge, values and morals that transform them into human capitals. Education, according to Nwakoby (2024); Nwakoby and Chukwujekwu (2020), equips the learners with the fundamental human rights so as to enable them cope in the wider society. The acquisition of knowledge and skills which

education bestow can only be achievable when the learners are healthy and secured. A sick person is diseased hence incapacitated in the teaching/learning process. In the same way security of life and properties are highly cherished. According to Nwogu and Nwakoby (2021); Ughamadu, Okaforcha and Okeke (2015), physically, mentally and emotionally unfit children find it difficult to cope with educational demands which in effect distort the realization of their full potentials as productive members of the society. School which is buildings set aside for educational purposes need to be in healthy condition and safe for both the learners and other school personnel. An unhealthy environment begets ill health which paralysis the school operation to a reasonable extent. Insecurity on the other hand can cause missing schools and eventual closure of schools.

Ojimba (2024); Okoye (2017); Okoye (2016); Nwakoby and Nwakoby (2023) noted that any school child that experiences health inclined issues like tress, physical and emotional abuse, hunger, safety concerns, vision, hearing and other chronic ailments is prone to unsuccessful academic achievement. Health and safety are inseparable in the school system and are difficult to disassociate. The two words are crucial in secondary school setting for effective teaching and learning to take place. One of the duties of the school administrator is to ensure healthy and safety of the human factors. According to Iloka (2023); Nwakoby and Ilodigwe (2022); Ibe (2022); Ibe, Nwakoby & Ihediuche (2024), all the activities relating to the operation of the school are done by healthy individuals and under safety conditions. Nothing meaningful is realized by unhealthy person within an unhealthy school jurisdiction and under unsafe environment. This implies that to achieve success in school management, health and safety should be upheld. As noted by Ilodigwe and Nwakoby (2021); Iloka (2021); Nwakoby (2023), there is need for good management of health and safety in and around the school premises. This is imperative because no parent would want to sacrifice the ward at the altar of schooling.

The Concepts of Health and Safety

According to Nwakoby and Nwakoby (2022); Ojimba (2020); Ehigiator and Ucheagwu-Okoye (2021), health is the condition whereby someone has complete physical, mental and social well-being and not just the nonexistence of disease or frailty. Health involves being in a state of good health both in mind and body. It is the process of keeping the school environment clean for healthy school operation. It has to do with physical and mental fitness that accompanies neat school places. Dirty surroundings beget unhealthy individuals while clean environment begets healthy individuals. On the reverse side, Okaforcha and Okeke (2020); Ibe and Udeoji (2019) Ucheagwu-Okoye (2019) noted that safety is the condition of being free or safe from hazardous environment capable of causing bodily harm or injury. This implies that to be safe is to be protected from danger or harm within the school premises.

According to Chike Okosa, Ibe and Ojimba (2023) safety school is the systematic way of

AJEMATES
African Journal of Educational Management, Teaching and Entrepreneurship Studies
VOL.14 (2), January-April, 2025 https://ajemates.org

ensuring the safety of the entire school environment, students and staff by protecting them against potential or immediate harm that might derail the normal school operation. It is the protection of the school and the school community members from any threat or hazard or violence that is capable of hampering school programmes and activity consequently leading to unattainable goals.

Types of Health and Safety Measures

Health and safety measures are varied ways that enable the school management to maintain healthy and safety school environment that promotes teaching and learning effectiveness. Similarly, security measures, according to Okeke and Okaforcha (2018), are the type of strategy that can be used to protect and manage school brutality, minimize the security risks and maintain safety and healthy school environment appropriate for teaching and learning in the school vicinity, there are basic health facilities or measures put in place such as sanitation services which are essential tool in decent school environment.

Ojimba (2021); Okaforcha and Okeke (2018); Ezeaku and Obikeze (2018) noted that there are two security measures to be adopted by the school administrators which are; human security measures and technological security measures. To Ojimba (2023); Okeke and Okaforcha (2020); Iloka (2022), human security measures have to do with the use of human beings in preventing and skirmishing security threats within the school premises. The technological security measures they referred to as the use of technological devices in combating threats or harm within the school locations. Human factors could also be very effective in ensuring healthy school places. As noted by Ibe (2019); Okoye (2017); Ezeaku (2013); Okoye and Ucheagwu-Okoye (2021), some of the health facilities in schools are decent source of water supply such as bore hole, good and functional toilet facilities, erection of perimeter fence, good school structure, good and functional school furniture, presence of safety patrol team, provision of fire extinguisher, good ventilation and lighting, good classroom accommodation space among others. In consonance with the above view points,

Importance of Health and Safety Measures

Health and safety are crucial in human existence. This is very necessary because unhealthy and unsafe environments breed negativity thus poor advancement in academic life while healthy and safe environments promote progressive development. According to Okaforcha and Okeke (2018); Ezeaku (2019); Nwabashili, Iloka and Ucheagwu-Okoye (2022); Okeke (2022), there are enormous benefits of positive environment in the school places created by sound health and safety:

1. It makes for regular school attendance.
2. It creates enabling environment where teaching and learning experience is pleasurable.
3. It fosters school enrolment.
4. It leads to achievement of educational objectives
5. It ensures healthy and safety of the environment for the inhabitants.

AJEMATES
African Journal of Educational Management, Teaching and Entrepreneurship Studies
VOL.14 (2), January-April, 2025 https://ajemates.org

Management of Health and Safety in Secondary Education Level

Management involves effectively and efficiently utilize the available resources provided in an organization to achieve the stated set goals. It is the systematic application of planning, organizing, directing, coordinating, budgeting, communicating and supervising the activities of the employee for goal attainment. According to Ezeaku (2012); Okoye (2021); Ani, Iloka and Nwakoby, (2021), school as an organization has its peculiar settings therefore require that health and safety be managed to avoid creating hazardous environment that could lead to bodily injury or harm.

Okaforcha and Okeke (2019); Ezeaku (2012); Okeke (2023); Okoye (2018), identified five steps in managing safety, health in school environment as under listed:

1. Policy and commitment; to effectively manage health and safety in school, the school organization should deem it fit to possess occupational safety and health policy programme as part of the safety statement need by the Federal Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO). By securing this programme, commitment and responsibility should be the watch word of the school management to ensure improved health and safety services.
2. Planning; the next line of action would be to streamline the procedure necessary in fulfilling safety and health policy as enshrined in the safety statement. This planning process has to identify the objectives and measures to apply so as to achieve the stated objectives.
3. Implementation; in the execution phase, there is absolute need to strategize and foster capabilities and support mechanism necessary in achieving the set objectives of safety and health policy earlier earmarked during the planning phase.
4. Measuring performance; this involves measuring, monitoring and evaluating safety and health performances. Performance is measured using the set standard as yardstick as this will help to locate areas of strengths and weaknesses. Self-monitoring device when active exposes both the premises, plants and other substances as well as people, procedures and systems which include individual behaviour and performance. At the event of controls failure, reactive monitoring should be able to identify the cause of the failure by investigating accidents, ill-health or incidents that could have caused harm or loss. The main aims of active and reactive monitoring device are; to ascertain the immediate causes of substandard performance and to determine any underlying causes and implications for the design and operation of the safety and health management system.
5. Audit and review; the management should intermittently audit and review all the measures put in place for health and safety measures so as to improve on the performance constantly. The management should apply the principle of experiential knowledge to make astronomical improvement for better service delivery.

AJEMATES
African Journal of Educational Management, Teaching and Entrepreneurship Studies
VOL.14 (2), January-April, 2025 https://ajemates.org

Challenges Hampering Effective Management of Health and Safety in Secondary Education Level.

Health and safety management in secondary school is critical for the wellbeing of the students, teachers and non-teachers as well as the visitors alike. Be that as it may, Okaforcha and Okeke (2019); Ezeaku (2014); Ucheagwu-Okoye and (2021) noted various stumbling blocks faced by the school administrators in health and safety management namely:

a) Unruly behavior of the school community members; most of the school community members do not easily comply to the health and safety regulations specified in the school thus making it difficult for the school administrator to manage health and safety effectively.
b) No perimeter fence; some schools do not have perimeter fence making the school exposed to threats, harm and other violent acts.
c) Some school administrators do not provide adequate number of waste bins in the school making it possible for the students to litter the whole compound with pieces of papers, ice creams packs etc. thus unhealthy environment.
d) Insufficient number of toilet facilities; some schools have just three toilets for the entire school which keeps it in perpetual untidiness and unusable. This in turn makes the students to make use of near-by bushes or farms which is detrimental to human health.
e) Absence of security guard; most public secondary schools lack the presence of security guard or gate men. Where there is gate, it is left ajar all through the school period and even beyond making it unsafe for the occupants as any intruder could just pop in.
f) Corrupt school security guards; cases abound when the school security guards conspired with the thieves to loot the school properties and even kidnap students which makes effective management of safety unrealistic.
g) Insubordination from the staff; when there is no cordial relationship between the school administration and other staff, they form clique and agree that the maintenance of cleanliness should be the duty of the principal knowing fully well that the principal cannot do it alone. They appear indifferent to assist in that direction thereby making the school environment to be uninhabitable.
h) Allowing students with communicable disease to attend school; some schools allow parents to bring to school their wards who are diseased with one form of communication disease or the other. This makes the spread of such disease fast to other students.
i) Lack of health and security facilities; some of the public secondary school lack the security facilities such as strong doors and windows, burglary proof and so on. Some of the health facilities are not present in some

schools, no decent incinerator or dump site and so on.

Conclusion

Management of health and safety in secondary education level is of paramount importance. This is imperative because it only when one is physical and mentally fit that the impartation of knowledge and skills becomes practicably. Freedom from threat, harm or bodily injury is also crucial in human life. These two concepts are inseparable in a vibrant school environment. The school administrator should encourage the staff members to participate actively in their quota to ensure safety and healthy school place that fosters academic excellence.

Suggestions

in view of the challenges inhibiting effective management of health and safety in secondary education level in Nigeria, the following suggestions were proffered;

a) The school administrator should as a matter of necessity education the staff and students on the health and security implications of unhealthy environment so as to enable them see the act as very critical to human health.
b) The government should at this critical time when insecurity has become the order of the day erect perimeter fence in all the public schools with at least two gates. This is expected to wards off intruders and create alternative escape route to the inhabitants.
c) Toilets are one of the critical school facilities that is needed in the school atmosphere. It should not just be provided but also provided in accordance to the population density with constant supply of water. This helps to keep it neat for use without contacting infections.
d) It is also suggested that public secondary be equipped with security guards who man the gate. This helps to regulate the movement in and out of the school premises.
e) It is suggested that security guards be carefully scrutinized to ascertain clear identity before recruitment. He should be a man of proven integrity with at least three sureties. This is believed that it could guide against those ill-minded ones.
f) The school administrator should build cordial relationship with the staff and allow them participate in decision making process. This gives the staff sense of belongingness and commitment that enable them assist the principal in all ramifications.
g) The school principal should pass stringent information to the teachers to make sure that any student that reported sick to school should be sent back home. This is to ensure that communication diseases are not spread in the school.
h) Health and security devices should be provided in schools in sufficient number to enable those in-charge to use them as at when due to maintain sanity in the school place.

REFERENCES

Ani, C. C., Iloka, C. P. & Nwakoby, S.C. (2021). The Extent of the Applicability of Doctrine of *Res Ipsa Roquito* in Proving Medical Negligence? Medical Malpractice in Nigeria: An Appraisal and a Comparative Analysis. *International Journal of Law, Policy and Social Review* (IJLPSR) Vol 3, Issue 3; http://www.lawjournals.net/archives/2021.v3.i3.87

Chike B. Okosa, Ikenna U. Ibe, C.C. Ojimba (2023). Application of Ethics to Legal Practice: The Rule Against Conflict of Interests. Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Law Journal; 8(1); 111-123.

Ebonam, C.R. (2020). The new technology: As a very veritable tool for learning. *Unizik Journal of Educational Research and Policy Studies*, 7; 360-376.

Enemhinye Ehigiator & Onyinye Ucheagwu-Okoye (2021). Medical negligence and Criminal Liability: An Evaluation of the Nigerian Position. *Madonna University Nigeria, Faculty of Law Journal, Vol 6* (2); Pages 46-50.

Enemhinye Ehigiator & Onyinye Ucheagwu-Okoye (2021). The Maintenance of Spouses after Divorce: A Sine qua non. *Madonna University Nigeria, Faculty of Law Journal, Vol 7*; pages 63-69.

Ibe, I. U. (2019). Good Governance: Panacea for Voluntary Compliance with Tax Laws in Nigeria. *Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Journal of Commercial and Property Law*, *2*(1).

Ibe, I. U. (2019). Local Government Creation Under The 1999 Constitution (As Amended): An Appraisal. *African Journal of Constitutional and Administrative Law*, *2*.

Ibe, I. U. (2022). An Analysis of The Legal Framework for The Administration of Companies Income Tax in Nigeria. Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Law Journal 6(1); 32-43.

Ibe, I. U. (2022). Impediments To Effective Implementation of Tax Laws in Nigeria. *The Premier Bar Journal* 2 (2); 75-92.

Ibe, I. U. (2022). legal responses to tax evasion and avoidance in Nigeria. *Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Journal of Private and Public Law. 1(1)*; 95-113.

Ibe, I. U., & Udeoji, N. N. (2019). The Challenges and Prospects of Nigeria Copyright Administration in A Digital Artificial Intelligence Age. *ABUAD Private and Business Law Journal*, *3*(1), 110-132.

Ibe, I. U., Nwakoby, C. S., & Ihediuche, T.M. (2024). Electoral Laws and Elections in Nigeria: Enthroning A New Legal Framework for The Conduct of Elections in Nigeria. *Nnamdi Azikiwe University Journal of Private and International Law 1*(2) 85-101; journals.unizik.edu.ng

Ilodigwe, M. N. and Nwakoby, C.S. (2021). Confidentiality in Health Care-Reflecting on the Rights of Covid-19 Patients. *De-Juriscope Law Journal 1*, No. 2 (2021).

Iloka C.P. (2022). Contemporary issues on reproductive and sexual health vis-à-vis the rights of women in Nigeria. *Nnamdi Azikiwe Univ J Int Law Jurisprudence; 13*(2):77-86.

Iloka, C, P. (2023). Appraisal of the Legal Framework of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights of Women in Nigeria. *Chukwuemeka Odumegwu*

Ojukwu University Journal of Private and Public Law;4(1).

Iloka, C. P. (2021). Hurdles to Women Political Participation and Advancement in Nigeria: *The Legal Leeway. LASJURE, 2*, 17.

Iloka, C. P. (2022). Understanding the Concept, History and Dimensions of Domestic Violence against Women. *African Customary and Religious Law Review, 3.*

Iloka, C. P. (2023). Student-centredness in teaching and learning process for effective performance. *Nigerian Journals Online, 1(1)*, 67–78.

Iloka, C.P. (2023). Migration, Internal Displacement, Public Disorder and the Role of Crisis Management Framework: A Focus on Women and the Minority Rights in Nigeria. *International Review of Law and Jurisprudence (IRLJ)* 5 (1), pp. 45-55.

Kamalakannan, A. (2024). The role of digital transformation in education and teaching performance-A conceptual view. *International Journal of Business Management Invention (IJBMI), 13*(4);142-145.

Nwabashili, C.C., Iloka, P.C. and Ucheagwu-Okoye, O. (2022). Legal Implication of the Difference Theory of law and Gender in the Feminist Jurisprudence. *COOU Law Journal Vol 7(1)*; 167-172.

Nwakoby, C. (2023). Recognition And Enforcement of The Rights of Nigerian Women. *Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Journal of Commercial and Property Law Journal (COOUJCPL),* Volume 4, Number 1, 2022/2023; 2714-2663. file:///C:/Users/user/Downloads/3199-6321-1-SM-2.pdf

Nwakoby, C.S. (2024). Examining the Importance of Trial within Trial in Nigerian Criminal Justice System: A Critical Assessment of its Implications and Applications. *Journal of Commercial and Property Law 11* (4), 1-11.

Nwakoby, C.S. and Ilodigwe, M.N. (2022). Culture and Gender Issues on Inheritance Rights in Nigeria; 8(4). *International Journal of Law*, 223-229.

Nwakoby, C.S. and Ilodigwe, M.N. (2022). Culture and Gender Issues on Inheritance Rights in Nigeria; 8(4); *International Journal of Law*, 223-229.

Nwakoby, C.S. and Nwakoby, I. (2023). Dilemma of minority shareholders in Nigeria company law. *Azikiwe University Journal of International Law and Jurisprudence 14 (2) 65-67.* file:///C:/Users/user/Downloads/ajol-file-journals_479_articles_257387_652eb77c6ccd2.pdf

Nwakoby, C.S., Chukwujekwu, A.E. (2020). Impact of consumer protection laws on aviation industry in Nigeria. *International Journal of Comparative Law and Legal Philosophy (IJOCLLEP),* 2(1): 38

Nwakoby, I., & Nwakoby, C. S. (2022). Immunity Of the Arbitration Panel Vis-A-Vis the Other Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Panels. *Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Law Journal, 7(1).*

Nwogu, K. C., & Nwakoby, C. S. (2021). Legal Examination of The Extent of Forensic Science Investigation Under the Nigerian Criminal Justice

System. *International Review of Law and Jurisprudence (IRLJ)*, *3*(3).

Ojimba, C. (2020). Legal Implications of Technology Transfer to Nigeria. *Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Journal of Commercial and Property Law*, *2*(1).

Ojimba, C. (2021). The Place of Customary Law in Nigeria's Contemporal Jurisprudence. *Available at SSRN 3865206*.

Ojimba, C. C. (2021). A Case for and against the Convocation of Sovereign National Conference in Nigeria. *Multidisciplinary Journal of Research Development*, *18*(1).

Ojimba, C. C. (2021). International Investment Law and The Continued Relevance of The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes. *Journal* Prolific, Vol. 1, (4); 1-3. https://nigerianjournalsonline.com/index.php/published_Articles/article/viewFile/1592/1559

Ojimba, C. C. (2021). The Impact and Application of The Uncitral Rules in Domestic Jurisdiction. *Academic Scholarship Journal*, *6*(1).

Ojimba, C. C. (2023). Can Agent of a Disclosed Principal Be Held Liable in A Shipping Contract Irrespective of The Common Law Position and The Introduction of Section 16 (3) Of the Admiralty Jurisdiction Decree (Act) Of 1991. *Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Journal of Commercial and Property Law*, *4*(1).

Ojimba, C. C. (2023). Morality As the Basis of Law of Crime: Matters Arising. *Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Journal of Commercial and Property Law*, *4*(1).

Ojimba, C. C. (2024). Commercial Dispute Resolution in Nigeria and Selected Jurisdiction; Issues and Prospects. *UNIZIK Journal of Educational Research and Policy Studies*, *18*(2).

Ojimba, C. C. (2024). Comparative Analysis Between the United States of America (USA) And Nigeria in Resolution of Corporate Dispute. *UNIZIK Journal of Educational Research and Policy Studies*, *18*(3).

Ojimba, C. C. (2024). Evaluation Of the Differences and Similarities Between Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution in Management of Corporate Disputes in Nigeria. *African Journal of Educational Management, Teaching and Entrepreneurship Studies*, *13*(3).

Okoye, C. & Ucheagwu-Okoye, O. (2021). The Role of Judges in the Election Process. *Madonna University Nigeria, Faculty of Law Journal Vol. 8*(3); 39-57.

Ucheagwu-Okoye, O. (2019). The Concept of Cross Carpeting and Legislative Behaviour. *Madonna University Nigeria, Faculty of Law Journal Vol. 5(1)*; 74-90.

Ucheagwu-Okoye, O. and Anene Nwadukwe. (2021). Effective Legal Communication; Writing with Clarity to Aid Understanding. *Idemili Bar Journal*, Vol 1; pages 33-49.

Ucheagwu-Okoye, O. and Anene Nwadukwe. (2021). Tax Laws; Synergy for Infrastructural Development in Emerging Economies. *International Review of Law and Jurisprudence Journal, Vol 3*, May 2021 pages 19-29.

Ucheagwu-Okoye, O. (2021). The Need for Arbitration as an Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism in Tax Disputes Resolution in Nigeria. *Journal of Legal Issues*; Vol 2, pages 76-81.