
HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION PROVISION IN PUBLIC TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS IN RIVERS STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT: *This study investigated hostel accommodation provision in tertiary institutions in Rivers State. The study adopted the descriptive research design. Two research questions and two hypotheses were answered and tested in line with the objectives of the study. The population of the study comprised 210 staff of student's affairs department and 2,800 students residing in hostels from the three public universities in Rivers State namely Rivers State University, University Port Harcourt and Ignatius Ajuru University of Education. The sample size for the study consisted of 210 staff and 280 students. The entire population of 210 staff was used as a census while the simple random sampling technique was adopted to obtain 280 students, representing 10% of the population of students. An instrument titled Hostel Accommodation Provision in Tertiary Institutions Questionnaire was used for data collection. Mean and rank order was used to answer the research questions while z-test was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The findings of the study revealed among others that lack of proper funding hinders the provision of adequate hostel accommodation in educational institutions. It was recommended among others that the administrators of tertiary institutions should develop internal mechanisms for generating funds internally for meeting their expenditure on the construction of hostel blocks.*

keywords: Provision, Hostels, Hostel Accommodation, Tertiary Institutions, Rivers State.

INTRODUCTION

Tertiary institutions all over the world are places for the impartation of desirable knowledge, skills and attitudes that are directly profitable to students and to society. These institutions of higher learning continuously build on the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes learnt at the lower levels of education to make individuals live and function as productive members of society, earning a living and contributing to societal progress (Abali, 2018). Thus, the crucial roles that tertiary institutions play in the educational, cultural, political and socio-economic development of nations in the 21st century cannot be over-emphasized. Nigeria as a country has invested heavily in tertiary education and the quantitative expansion has been enormous.

Jaja(2015) affirms, that as at 2014 Nigeria has recorded the establishment of 128 universities, 75 polytechnics, 63 colleges of education, 99 approved Innovation Enterprise Institutions (IEIs), 50 colleges of health technology and allied institutions, and 27 mono technics and specialized institutions. Currently established in Rivers State amongst other public institutions of higher learning are the University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State University and Ignatius Ajuru University of Education. These institutions run programmes for the development of high level manpower within the context of the needs of the Nigerian economy (FRN in Abali, 2013). It has been observed that these institutions have limited capacities to accommodate the number of entrants seeking for hostel accommodation. This is because

hostel accommodation is usually the first residence option among students seeking admission into tertiary institutions.

Presently in Nigeria, the demand for tertiary education is increasing at a geometric progression while the provision of hostel accommodation is increasing at an arithmetic progression. The number of students admitted in tertiary institutions ought to be adequately accommodated but the slow pace of hostel accommodation provision has been a culture affecting almost all public institutions of higher learning in Nigeria. This culture has continued after the establishment of the first public university in Rivers State; University of Port Harcourt in 1975 and other public universities in the state. This is because, after forty-two years of existence, the University of Port Harcourt still struggles to accommodate one-third of her student population. This situation is even worse in other public tertiary institutions in the state, as students who secured admission have been greeted with issues of inadequate hostel accommodation over the years.

The rate of hostel accommodation provision in public tertiary institutions in Rivers State is low when compared to the rate of students' enrolment. This explains the reason why most of the students seek for alternative means of accommodation around the institutions. There are students who live close to the institution with their parents, but wish to live in the hostels since it provides them better opportunities to compete for political positions under the students union and also enable them engage in economic ventures. These activities no doubt contribute to students' academic and social advancement directly or indirectly while in school. Students therefore give priority to the availability and condition of hostel accommodation as they make their choice of a tertiary institution to attend.

The demand for hostel accommodation is always on the increase. Every year, students continue to compete for the few provided hostel bed spaces, as considerations are usually first given to fresh and final year students before other students are considered if there are bed spaces left. In situations where there are no beds spaces, the students are left to contend with the issue of when, where and how they will secure a place of residence outside the campuses. A hostel in a school setting is therefore an accommodation provided for students across all the tertiary institutions in the world. It is a place where people can stay when their residence is located far away from the educational institution and which is considered essential to students' needs (Suki & Chowdhury, 2015).

Meeting the academic needs of students in tertiary institutions demands the adequate provision of hostel accommodation in universities, polytechnics and colleges of education. Hostel accommodation provision involves the consideration of alternative ways of making hostels available for students in the right proportion. It is the development of alternative strategies of making hostel accommodation available for students and controlling its use that the interest of all students are met and protected accordingly. The National Universities Commission in Hammad, Musa, Rishi and Ayuba (2013) aver that the available hostel accommodation for students in Nigerian universities is less than thirty percent of demand. The government has failed to ameliorate this condition as its financial contribution has not been very good to bring about adequate provision of hostel accommodation in public tertiary institutions. It is, therefore, imperative that government either controls the enrolment rate or adequately provide hostel accommodation in tertiary institutions in the present circumstance.

The provision of adequate hostel accommodation for the teeming population of entrants into Nigeria's tertiary institutions is faced with some militating factors such as inadequate funding, government policy, inadequate land supply, communal encroachment, increased enrolment, among others.

Inadequate Funding:

Nigerian government has not performed to expectation in terms of education funding in the country, as the federal government has not allocated more than 17.59% of her annual budget to education. The funding of the Nigerian educational system from 1960 – 2019 has been haphazard. The

year 1971 has the lowest (0.53%) budgetary allocation while the highest (17.59%) allocation of funds was in 1997 (Abali & Nwapi, 2017). Akpan and Undie in Ukertor (2010) affirm that the federal budgetary allocation to education has been on the decline. In 1998, 11.12% of annual budget was allocated to education. This was drastically reduced to 5.9% in 2002 and 1.83% in 2003. Paulley in Nwafor, Amie-Organ and Okiti (2011) opines that the budgetary allocation to education in 2003, 2004 and 2005 in Rivers State was 4.6%, 2.6% and 0.8% respectively.

Neither the Rivers State government nor the Federal Government meets the 26% budget target for education as stipulated by UNESCO (Abali, 2013; Famade, Omiyale & Adebola, 2015), which is needed for the sustenance of the education sector. Akpan and Etor (2012), Olaseni and Alade (2012), Ololube (2013), Odia and Omofonmwan (2013) assert that the lack of proper funding inhibits the management and administration of the educational system in the country including infrastructural development of the university. Universities that are unable to diversify and generate revenue from other non-governmental sources have been faced with a slow pace of development. Consequently, the shortage of funding has hindered the ability of administrators of tertiary institutions to execute capital projects such as hostel construction for students. The construction of hostels is capital intensive. Insufficient funding has hindered the level of infrastructural development in most universities (Williams & Anekwe, 2010) and the provision of hostel accommodation is one area that has been greatly affected. Hence, Ajayi and Ekundayo (2006) have expressed that funds allocation to universities should not merely be considered as an expense but a long-term investment, of benefit to society as a whole.

Government Policy:

Government policy defines areas in which an institution's decision is to be made but does not supply the decision. The final decision of educational matters therefore rest with the government in power (Okoroma in Adetunji, 2015). Government's policy on facility development has hindered the capacity of educational institutions to develop available infrastructures from allocations received from the government (ASUU, 2012). The federal government, prior to this period, has restricted public universities from using federal allocations for erecting physical facilities. This legislation has made it difficult for universities to use part of their federal allocations to construct hostel blocks. Similarly, Ilusanya (2008) has observed that variations in educational development between the southern and northern parts of Nigeria had necessitated the introduction of certain policies to engender even national presentation in institutions nationally owned. Therefore, using the quota system to guide and regulate enrolment to universities has an inequitable effect (Akpan & Undie in Ukertor, 2010) and has made it difficult for public tertiary institutions to control the number of students given admission and accommodation per session. Educational policies and legislation has been a bane to the ability of public institutions of higher learning to properly manage and control matters relating to hostel accommodation provision for students in the country.

Inadequate Land Supply

Land is a free gift of nature that is limited in supply. The volume of land available in any geographical location can increase or reduce the housing opportunity of its owners. The supply of land plays a very crucial role in determining the type and size of hostels that can be built in tertiary institutions. Due to inadequate supply of land, some tertiary institutions are unable to expand their students' hostel capacity. The available quantities of land are used strictly for the construction of lecture halls and staff offices, limiting the opportunity for the provision of accommodation for staff and students. The land provided should be able to create a space for constructing hostels. There are institutions in Nigeria where the land use act has limited the prospect for structural development (Ifeanyi, 2010). It becomes imperative therefore, that tertiary institutions suffering from policy

limitations which reduces their access to land for structural development be assisted in providing adequate land for the construction of hostels and other infrastructures.

Communal Encroachment

Nigerian schools never exist in a vacuum. They are rooted in communities. Thus, when an unfenced grounds occupied by a school is encroached by members of its external environment conflict arises (Abali & Asodike, 2012). The encroachment of school land is one of the problems facing tertiary institutions in Rivers State in particular and Nigeria generally. Various institutions of higher learning across Nigeria are yet to have access to the land allocated to them by the government as a result of encroachment by the institutions' host communities. There are series of cases where public universities are struggling with host communities over land that belongs to the universities. In 2014, the Tide reported that the University of Port Harcourt has been struggling with her host community to claim the remaining land belonging to the university. Nnadi (2016) reveals how the host communities around the Federal University of Technology Owerri (FUTO) have encroached into the university's land which has made the university authorities to cry out to the government on how the land belonging to the university has been hijacked. These activities by host communities have hindered the construction of students' hostels and development plans of tertiary institutions in Nigeria.

Increased Students' Enrolment

The increase in the population of graduates from the secondary educational institutions, due to various educational policies of free education, implemented by various governments has constituted a challenge to university enrolment in Rivers State (Abali, 2013). In the light of the above assertion, Asodike and Umeh (2012) posit that:

One of the new realities faced by higher institutions in Nigeria is that of expansion as they battle to cope with the ever-increasing student numbers. The reasons for this are not far from the expanding of access to basic secondary education in the country. As the number of students that complete primary and secondary schools increase, demand for access to higher education rises also (pp.13 – 14).

Ukertor (2010) affirms that educational planners have predicted that Nigerian universities should expect more applications in years ahead when the products of the Universal Basic Education (UBE) begin to move into higher institutions. Ojo, Olabintan, Ojo and Ologunagba (2013) highlight that the continuous increase in students' admission in tertiary institutions, without a commensurate increase in hostel accommodation provision have resulted in the inability to provide adequate bed spaces to the growing population. The level of students enrolment in the public tertiary institutions has increased beyond government's anticipation, as it has exerted more pressure on limited available educational facilities including hostel accommodation.

The Federal Government of Nigeria in her national policy on education (FRN, 2013) recognizes that education is an expensive social service and requires adequate financial provision. In this connection, government welcomes and encourages the participation of local communities, individuals and non-governmental organizations for the successful implementation of educational programmes. This implies that the provision of adequate hostel accommodation in tertiary institutions is a task that should not be left for any individual, parent, institution or government. It is a joint responsibility. The following are therefore some of the ways of improving the provision of hostel accommodation in tertiary institutions:

Build Operate and Transfer (BOT):

The BOT is a Public- Private Partnership Scheme which is established on the condition that the real estate company or developer will build the hostel and manage it for an agreed period of time before handing over to the school authorities. The institution's authority in some cases provides the site for the construction of the hostel while the developer provides the needed capital. In this circumstance,

the school authority signs a memorandum of understanding with the developer stating the number of years that the developer will manage the project to enable him (developer) recover the capital invested with profit. The agreement will also state the amount the developer will charge the students for bed spaces as well as the number of years that the developer will recoup his capital and other returns. This scheme has helped many public tertiary institutions to own their hostel blocks while sourcing for other strategies to balance the difference in available and expected hostel spaces for students comfort.

Ojule (2015) reports that the Universities of Benin and Lagos have entered into the BOT partnership with private organizations and developers as a way of improving on the availability and management of student hostels in their campuses. Nganga (2015) reveals that a United State based organization 'Integras' assisted the Kenyatta University to build a 10,000 bed spaces hostel through a partnership. This partnership was carried out under the BOT scheme and the firm as well as the university will benefit immensely from this public private partnership in the long run. Osagie in Ojule (2015) avers that with a view to reducing the financial burden on the part of the government and the individual universities in providing accommodation to students, the Federal Government in 2002 took the initiative of bringing in entrepreneurs, in the development and management of hostel accommodation in tertiary institutions.

The objectives the government wanted accomplished were; to get the university management and the executives of industries to know each other for possible discussions that would lead to memorandum of understanding and eventual partnership to sensitize individual corporate organizations of the needs of the universities, especially in the area of hostel development; and to open up the universities as a veritable place of investment, which promises good returns (Okebukola in Ojule, 2015).

Private Assistance:

There are various efforts made by different private individuals and organizations to make provisions for students' hostels in public tertiary institutions in Nigeria and around the world. Various resources such as funds, equipment and land needed for the construction of hostels are provided by private individuals and organizations. Niger Delta Link (2016) reports that a private firm recently handed over a hostel block worth 75 million to the Delta State University. There are various donations made in the past years by wealthy individuals in India towards infrastructural development at the Harvard Business School of the United States of America (Mishra, 2011).

Lawal (2013) states that non-governmental organization such as Gidauniyar Jaharkatsina (Katsina State Trust Fund) and the Education Trust Fund (ETF) have contributed tremendously in funding higher institutions by providing among others equipment, building laboratories, organizing in-service programmes to staff, establishment of revenue yielding projects and accommodation. There are other private individuals and groups which can provide this kind gesture to tertiary institutions within their business area as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Internally Generated Revenue:

If tertiary institutions must perform their roles and make up the short falls in its revenue allocation from government, they must explore other avenues of funding through adapting new initiatives and strategies. This argument is validated by the directive of federal government for the federal universities to generate 10% of their total yearly funds internally through various revenue diversification means (Ajayi & Ekundayo in Ojule, 2015). This has spurred universities across the country to develop internal mechanisms for generating funds internally for meeting their expenditure. There are various universities across Nigeria that has successfully built hostel blocks from internally generated revenue.

The management of Michael Okpara University Umudike, Abia State constructed hostel blocks worth N1.2billion for students from internally generated revenue (Vanguard, 2012). The investment

made into constructing hostels from internally generated revenue is recoverable when the university begins to charge the students for hostel spaces allotted.

Leasing of Structures:

The leasing of hostel blocks involves the construction of hostels by private individuals which is then handed over to the institution for a number of years and at an agreed amount. Private individuals and organizations can go into agreement with institutions where hostels are constructed and contracted to the institution for a defined duration. This makes it possible for various housing providers to construct hostels that can be leased at an affordable rate. Consequently, Hammad, Musa, Rishi and Ayuba (2013) posit that presently an alternatives adopted by some institutions among others is signing of leasing agreement with private developers.

Alumni Hostel Donation

Mat the tertiary institutions are alumni associations representing graduates from such institutions who contribute significantly to the progress and development of their schools, through donations to their alma matta (Nwakudu, 2014). Alumni associations in most universities around the globe have been very instrumental to human and physical development of their alma matta. These individuals have personally or corporately invested in the construction of hostel blocks in the university which are named after them as observed at the University of Port Harcourt, Obafemi Awolowo University, etc. The hostel blocks have served as a viable tool for revenue generation in most of these institutions.

Student Unions

Student unions play very vital roles in assisting students deal with their accommodation problems on campus. They embark on a search for suitable student accommodation around the institution and design modalities for acquiring the property for students use. They also carry out the management of these hostels for the comfort of the students and as a way of generating revenue for the union. There are also higher institutions around the world where students unions are directly in charge of mobilizing for the construction of hostel blocks for the benefit of other students including the incoming ones.

Statement of the Problem

Hostel accommodation is one of the essential infrastructures that support students' academic achievement in educational institutions. In cognizance of this fact, various efforts have been made by different education stakeholders to make provision for students housing in public tertiary institutions across the country. The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU, 2012) reveals that among the 1,252, 913 students in public universities in the country, only 109, 509 students have hostel accommodation which is about 10.3% of the entire student population. ASUU also pointed out that there is no public university in Nigeria that has been able to provide accommodation for up to 40% of its students' strength. It therefore remains a fact that most public tertiary institutions in Nigeria including those in Rivers State have few bed spaces compared to the population of students admitted. Thus, the need to take a cursory examination of the factors militating against the provision of hostel accommodation and determining the ways of improving the provision of hostel accommodation in tertiary institutions in Rivers State is the bane of this study.

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of this study was to investigate hostel accommodation provision in tertiary institutions in Rivers State. The specific objectives were to:

1. Find out the factors militating against the provision of hostel accommodation in public tertiary institutions in Rivers State.

2. Determine the ways of improving the provision of hostel accommodation in public tertiary institutions in Rivers State.

Research Questions

The following research questions were answered in this study:

1. What are the factors militating against the provision of hostel accommodation in public tertiary institutions in Rivers State?
2. What are the ways of improving the provision of hostel accommodation in public tertiary institutions in Rivers State?

Hypothesis of the Study

The following hypotheses were tested in this study at 0.05 level of significance:

Ho₁: There is no significant difference between the mean responses of staff of students' affairs department and students residing in hostels on the factors militating against the provision of hostel accommodation in public tertiary institutions in Rivers State.

Ho₂: There is no significant difference between the mean responses of staff of students' affairs department and students residing in hostels on the ways of improving the provision of hostel accommodation in public tertiary institutions in Rivers State.

Scope of the Study

This study covered the three (3) public universities in Rivers State namely the Rivers State University (RSU), the University of Port Harcourt (UPH), and the Ignatius Ajuru University of Education (IAUE). In terms of content, the findings of this study was strictly delimited to finding out the factors militating against the provision of hostel accommodation, and determining the ways of improving the provision of hostel accommodation.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted the descriptive research design with a population of 210 staff of students' affairs department and 2800 students residing in hostels of the three public universities in Rivers State. The sample size comprised 210 staff and 280 students. A validated 11 – item instrument tagged “Hostel Accommodation Provision in Public Tertiary Institutions Questionnaire (HAPPTIQ)” developed by the researcher was used for data collection. The instrument was designed using four point modified Likert rating scale of Strongly Agree (SA) = 4, Agree (A) = 3, Disagree (D) = 2, and Strongly Disagree (SD) = 1. Its reliability coefficient was established at 0.75 using Pearson r. Data collected were analyzed using mean and rank order statistics to answer the research questions while z-test statistics was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The weighted mean score of 2.50 ($4+3+2+1 = \frac{10}{4} = 2.50$) served as the criterion mean. Items above the criterion mean were accepted. A null hypothesis was accepted if the calculated z-value was less than the critical z-value of 1.96.

RESULTS

The results obtained in this study after data analysis were presented and analyzed below:

Research Question 1: What are the factors militating against the provision of hostel accommodation in public tertiary institutions in Rivers State?

Table 1: Factors militating against the provision of hostel accommodation in public tertiary institutions in Rivers State

S/N	Questionnaire Items	Staff N = 210	Students N = 280	Mean Set $\frac{\bar{x}_1 + \bar{x}_2}{2}$	Rank Order
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	\bar{x}_1	\bar{x}_2		
1. Lack of proper funding hinders the provision of adequate hostel accommodation in educational institutions.	3.78	3.30	3.54	2 nd
2. Government policy restricts the provision of hostel accommodation in schools.	3.47	3.22	3.35	3 rd
3. Inadequate supply of land hinders the construction of hostel blocks in tertiary institutions.	3.29	3.14	3.22	4 th
4. Encroachment on university land by host communities limits the construction of students' hostels by the school authority.	3.21	3.19	3.20	5 th
5. High level of students' enrolment results in the inability of school authority to provide adequate hostel accommodation.	3.76	3.80	3.78	1 st
Aggregate Mean	3.50	3.33	3.42	

Source: Field Data 2020

The data on Table 1 showed that items with serial number 1 – 5 have mean scores above the criterion mean of 2.50. They were therefore accepted as factors militating against the provision of hostel accommodation in public tertiary institutions in Rivers State. Items 5(3.78), 1(3.54), 2(3.35), 3(3.22), and 4(3.20) were ranked 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th respectively.

Research Question 2: What are the ways of improving the provision of hostel accommodation in public tertiary institutions in Rivers State?

Table 2: Ways of improving the provision of hostel accommodation in public tertiary institutions in Rivers State.

S/N	Questionnaire Items	Staff N = 210 \bar{x}_1	Students N = 280 \bar{x}_2	Mean Set $\frac{\bar{x}_1 + \bar{x}_2}{2}$	Rank Order
6.	Build Operate and Transfer is more viable in the provision of student's	3.46	3.45	3.46	1 st

	hostels in public tertiary institutions.				
7.	Private individuals and organization can provide hostels needed in public tertiary institutions.	3.38	3.29	3.34	3 rd
8.	Internally generated revenue can be used to provide sufficient students hostels.	3.51	3.33	3.42	2 nd
9.	Leasing of hostels can help solve students' hostel problems in public tertiary institutions.	3.44	3.16	3.30	4 th
10.	Alumni associations have the capacity to provide needed accommodation in public tertiary institutions.	3.44	3.14	3.29	5 th
11.	Student unions can search for suitable students' accommodation and design modalities for acquiring the property for students' use.	3.35	2.68	3.02	6 th
	Aggregate Means	3.43	3.28	3.31	

Source: Field Data, 2020

The data on Table 2 showed that items with serial number 6 – 11 have mean scores above the criterion mean of 2.50. They were therefore accepted as the ways of improving the provision of hostel accommodation in public tertiary institutions in Rivers State. Items 6(3.46), 8(3.42), 7(3.34), 9(3.30), 10(3.29), and 11(3.02) were ranked 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th respectively.

Hypothesis 1

Ho₁: There is no significant difference between the mean responses of staff of students' affairs department and students residing in hostels on the factors militating against the provision of hostel accommodation in public tertiary institutions in Rivers State.

Table 3: Z-test analysis of difference between the mean responses of staff and students on the factors militating against the provision of hostel accommodation in public tertiary institutions in Rivers State

Respondents	N	\bar{X}	SD	DF	Level of Sign.	Z-Cal.	Z-Crit.	Decision
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Staff	210	350	0.61	488	0.05	3.05	1.96	Ho ₁
Students	280	3.33	0.61					Rejected

Source: Field Data, 2020

Table 3 showed the z-test of difference between the mean responses of staff and students on the factors militating against the provision of hostel accommodation in public tertiary institutions in Rivers State. The z-test statistics calculated and used in testing the hypothesis stood at 3.05 while the critical z-value stood at 1.96, using 488 degree of freedom at 0.05 level of significance. Since the calculated z-value was greater than the critical z-value, the null hypothesis of no significant difference between the mean responses of staff of student's affairs department and students residing in hostels on the factors militating against the provision of hostel accommodation in public tertiary institutions in Rivers State was therefore rejected by the researcher.

Hypothesis 2

Ho₂: There is no significant difference between the mean responses of staff of students' affairs department and students residing in hostels on the ways of improving the provision of hostel accommodation in public tertiary institutions in Rivers State.

Table 4: Z-test analysis of difference between the mean responses of staff and students on the ways of improving the provision of hostel accommodation in public tertiary institutions in Rivers State.

Respondents	N	\bar{X}	SD	DF	Level of Sign.	Z-Cal.	Z-Crit.	Decision
Staff	210	3.43	0.63	4.88	0.05	2.31	1.96	Ho ₂
Students	280	3.28	0.81					Rejected

Source: Field Data, 2020

Table 4 showed the z-test of difference between the mean responses of staff and students on the ways of improving the provision of hostel accommodation in public tertiary institutions in Rivers State. The z-test statistics calculated and used in testing the hypothesis stood at 2.31 while the critical z-value stood at 1.96, using 488 degree of freedom at 0.05 level of significance. Since the calculated z-value was greater than the critical z-value, the null hypothesis of no significant difference between the mean responses of staff of students' affairs department and students residing in hostels on the ways of improving the provision of hostel accommodation in public tertiary institutions in Rivers State was therefore rejected by the researcher.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

On the factors militating against the provision of hostel accommodation in public tertiary institutions in Rivers State, the findings of this study revealed that lack of proper funding hinders the provision of adequate hostel accommodation in educational institutions; government policy restricts the provision of hostel accommodation in schools; inadequate supply of land hinders the construction of hostel blocks in tertiary institutions. In support of the above findings Akpan and Etor (2012), Olaseni and Alade (2012), Ololube (2013), Odia and Omofonmwan (2013) assert that the lack of proper funding inhibits the management and administration of the educational system in the country including infrastructural development of the university. ASUU (2012) affirms that government policy on facility development has hindered the capacity of educational institutions to develop available infrastructures

from allocations received from the government. Ifeanyi (2010) reiterates that there are institutions in Nigeria where the land use act has limited the prospect for structural development.

The findings of the study further revealed that encroachment on university land by host communities limits the construction of students' hostels by the school authority; high level of students' enrolment results in the inability of school authority to provide adequate hostel accommodation. In agreement with these findings, Nnadi (2006) reveals that the encroachment of school land by host communities have hindered the construction of students' hostels and development plans of tertiary institutions in Nigeria. Ojo, Olabintan, Ojo and Ologunagba (2013), highlight that the continuous increase in students' admission in tertiary institutions without the commensurate increase in hostel accommodation provision had resulted in the inability to provide adequate bed spaces to the growing population.

On the ways of improving the provision of hostel accommodation in tertiary institutions, the findings of this study discovered that Build Operate and Transfer is more viable in the provision of students hostels in public tertiary institutions; private individuals and organizations can provide hostels needed in public tertiary institutions. These findings are in line with Ojule's (2015) report that the universities of Benin and Lagos have entered into the BOT partnership with private organizations and developers as a way of improving on the availability and management of students hostels in their campuses. In agreement with Ojule's report, Nganga (2015) reveals that a US based organization 'Integras' assisted the Kenyatta University to build a 10,000 bed spaces hostel through a partnership, and a private firm recently handed over a hostel block worth 75 million to the Delta State University (Niger Delta Link, 2016).

The findings of the study further revealed that internally generated revenue can be used to provide sufficient students hostels; leasing of hostels can help solve students' hostel problems in public tertiary institutions. Corroborating these findings, Vanguard (2012) reveals that the management of Michael Okpara University constructed hostel blocks worth 1.2 bn for students from internally generated revenue. Hammad, Musa, Rishi and Ayuba (2013) posit that presently, alternatives adopted by some institutions in providing hostel accommodation are signing of leasing agreement with private developers.

The findings of the study also revealed that alumni associations have the capacity to provide needed accommodation in public tertiary institutions; student unions can search for suitable students' accommodation and design modalities for acquiring the property for students' use. In agreement with these findings, Nwakudu (2014) asserts that at the tertiary institutions are alumni associations representing graduates from such institutions who contribute significantly to the progress and development of their schools, through donations to their alma matta, and students unions play very vital roles in assisting students deal with their accommodation problems on campus.

Table 3 and 4 of this study revealed that there were significant differences between the mean responses of staff of students' affairs department and students residing in hostels on the factors militating against the provision of hostel accommodation and ways of improving the provision of hostel accommodation in public tertiary institutions in Rivers State.

CONCLUSION

There are so many factors militating against the provision of adequate hostel accommodation for the teeming population of entrants in tertiary institutions in the contemporary period. Amongst these are lack of proper funding, restrictive government policies, and high level of students' enrolment. It therefore becomes imperative to improve the provision of hostel accommodation by public-private partnership scheme, private assistance, internally generated revenue, leasing of structures, alumni

hostel donation, among others. The provision of adequate hostel accommodation is a joint responsibility of education stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATIONS

From the conclusion made so far, the following recommendations were made:

1. The authorities of tertiary institutions should enter into a public –private partnership scheme where real estate developers will build and manage hostel blocks for an agreed period of time before handing them over to the school authorities.
2. Private individuals and organizations should contribute tremendously in establishing revenue yielding projects and accommodation for staff and students in tertiary institutions.
3. The administrators of tertiary institutions should develop internal mechanisms for generating funds internally for meeting their expenditure on the construction of hostel blocks.
4. Graduates from tertiary institutions should form alumni associations by contributing to the progress and development of their schools, through donations of hostel blocks to their alma matta.
5. The federal government should increase the funding allocation of the education sector in order to enable tertiary institutions improve in the provision of infrastructural facilities.

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