



## Safety needs for enhancing teachers' commitment on instilling discipline among secondary school students in Awka south local government area in Anambra State

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### Abstract

The study investigated safety needs for enhancing teachers' commitment on instilling discipline among secondary school students in Awka South Local Government Area in Anambra State. One research question and one hypothesis guided the study. Descriptive survey design was adopted. 6 principals and 60 teachers were sampled from 19 principals and 516 teachers in 19 public secondary schools in Awka South Local Government Area of Anambra State. Simple random sampling technique was employed to obtain 10% of the respondents. The instrument for data collection was questionnaire. The validation of the instrument was done by three experts who are lecturers in the Faculty of Education, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. Cronbach Alpha was used to determine the reliability of the instrument. This yielded reliability co-efficient of 0.92. Data obtained were analyzed using mean, standard deviation and t-test statistics. Findings revealed various safety practices that will aid teachers' commitment in accomplishing secondary education goals in Awka-South Local Government Area of Anambra State. Based on the findings, the study recommends that the government should provide the appropriate security facilities to the schools to enable them get prepared in case of any emergency.

**Keywords:** safety, discipline and school safety

### Introduction

Maintaining school discipline is paramount to achieving any educational goal. Discipline is an act of instructing people to adhere to a code of conduct, rules and regulations within the school. In the view of Kayode (2017) discipline is the willingness of a student to exhibit proper conduct, a great sense of responsibility, passion for order and zeal to discharge duties promptly and efficiently. Thus, educational organization is an important sector where discipline ought to be upheld maximally, because the aim of a formal organization such as school is to inculcate knowledge through instilling right attitude and behaviours to learners. Particularly, secondary education according to Federal Republic of Nigeria, in National Policy on Education (FRN, 2013) is aimed at preparing individuals for useful living within the society. Similarly, Iloh, Diabuah, Onajite and Ezugoh (2020) noted that secondary education is targeted at changing people's attitude and inculcating the rightful competence that will prepare students towards higher education for national development. The above declarations are clear pointers of the place of discipline in the secondary education.

The principals and teachers are charged with the responsibility of ensuring that discipline is maintained in the secondary school. The school principals on one hand are responsible for establishing the general discipline conduct and procedure in the school, at such takes the outcomes of any of the disciplinary problems in the secondary school. Udali (2020)<sup>[10]</sup> maintained that school principals as school managers are charged with overseeing that teachers implement disciplinary procedures in the school. Teachers on the other hand are responsible for ensuring that the disciplinary regulations concerning students are implemented in the school. Okeke-James, Igbokwe, Ogbo, Ekweogu and Anyanwu (2020)<sup>[7]</sup> stated that teachers are charged with the responsibility of imparting positive

character and behaviour to students. Admittedly, Odoh (2020) noted that teachers should be committed in discharging their disciplinary roles with a feeling of loyalty and emotional attachment. In other words, teachers are charged to be committed in ensuring that students are disciplined in the school. That is teachers are to zealously use systematic method to ensure that students comply with school rules and regulations by exhibiting good working behaviour.

Unfortunately, it appears that most teachers are no longer committed to disciplining students in secondary schools. The interaction of the researchers with some teachers in secondary schools in Awka-South Local Government shows that they are often faced with threat and abuse from some parents and guardians when they discipline misbehaved wards. Teachers also revealed that they sometimes receive threat from some of the senior students who are believed to belong to fraternal and cult groups. Moreover, some teachers revealed that their personal belongings have often be damaged or stolen when they discipline some students known to be stubborn.

Moreover, it is more disheartening to know that some students have been found with dangerous drugs and weapons in the school. Similarly, Udali (2020)<sup>[10]</sup> observed that schools have become unsafe grounds for both students and teachers alike and sometimes their properties contrary to the expectations. In the wave of general insecurity in Anambra State and the recent increase in destruction of school facilities, violence, secret cult crash in and outside Awka environs, therefore; safety challenges have become a great concern in most secondary schools in Awka-South Local Government Area.

A safe school environment is a school that is free from violence and fear with respect to disciplinary procedures (Udali, 2020)<sup>[10]</sup>. Accordingly Sani (2019)<sup>[9]</sup> noted that school safety is the measures that are put in place in the

construction of school facilities so as to protect staff and students from sustaining unnecessary injuries as they interact with human and facilities in the school. Bosah, Bosah and Ejese (2019) posited that safety of school environment entails prevention of injuries or other health hazard through considerably secured facilities and equipment and through well planned and intelligent device. In Awka-South Local Government Area it has been observed that most secondary schools are not safe for both staff and students. This negates the stance of some scholars such as Mubita (2021) [5] who maintained that school safety is the condition of being protected from harm or other non-desirable outcomes. These incidents and many more indicate the vulnerability of both learners and staff at schools and stand as hindrances to encourage teachers' commitment to disciplining students; hence the need to identify the school safety needs to enhance teachers' commitment on disciplining secondary school students in Awka South Local Government Area in Anambra State.

**Purpose of the study**

The main purpose of the study was to identify the safety needs for enhancing teachers' commitment on disciplining secondary schools' students in Awka-South Local Government Area of Anambra State.

**Research question**

This research question guided the study:  
 What are the safety needs that can be adopted to enhance teachers' commitment on instilling discipline among secondary school students in Awka-South Local Government Area of Anambra State?

**Hypothesis**

There is no significant difference in the mean rating of principals and teachers on the safety needs that can be adopted to enhance teachers' commitment on instilling discipline among secondary school students in Awka-South Local Government Area of Anambra State.

**Method**

Descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. The population for the study consisted 535 respondents, made up of 19 principals and 516 teachers in the 19 public secondary schools in Awka-South Local Government of Anambra state. Simple random sampling method was used to select 65 respondents comprising 5 school principals and 60 teachers. The instrument for data collection was questionnaire validated by three experts who are lecturers. Cronbach Alpha was used to ascertain the reliability of the instrument which yielded a co-efficient of 0.97.

A total of 66 copies of the questionnaire were administered out of which 62 (93%) were successfully retrieved and used for the analyses. The decision on the research questions was adjudged on the basis that any mean rating from of 2.50 or above was interpreted to indicate agreement while any mean rating below 2.50 was interpreted as disagreement. For decision on the hypothesis, if t-calculated is equal to or greater than t-critical at 0.05 level of significance, it was rejected.

**Result**

**Table 1:** Mean ratings of respondents on the safety needs that can be adopted to enhance teachers' commitment on instilling discipline among secondary school students in Awka-South Local Government Area of Anambra State?

S/N	ITEMS	Principals (N=6)			Teachers (N=56)		
		Mean	SD	Decision	Mean	SD	Decision
1	Ensures security of lives and personal properties e. g. cars	3.33	1.21	Agreed	3.04	.97	Agreed
2	Employ well trained security men to ensure security of lives and school properties	3.33	.82	Agreed	2.96	.95	Agreed
3	Advices on dangers of poor job performance to avoid denial of teachers' fringe benefits	3.33	.82	Agreed	2.96	.89	Agreed
4	Encourage teacher to put on right attitude to work for their job security	3.67	.52	Agreed	3.55	.63	Agreed
5	Providing Security gadgets in the school (e. g. fire extinguisher) for fire matters	3.00	1.10	Agreed	2.96	.93	Agreed
6	Maintains healthy school environment	3.50	.84	Agreed	3.09	.67	Agreed
7	Ensuring that School fixtures and equipment are promptly serviced to ensure teachers efficiency	3.50	.84	Agreed	2.80	.86	Agreed
8	Ensure that no teacher is involved in any form of intimation in the school.	3.33	.82	Agreed	2.91	.94	Agreed
9	Ensuring that medical services are provided for teachers needing them	2.50	.84	Agreed	2.09	1.07	Disagree
10	Checkmate teachers' workload to ensure that no teachers is over stressed with school activities	3.17	.75	Agreed	2.23	1.14	Disagree
	Mean of Means	3.27	0.86	Agreed	2.86	0.99	Agreed

Table 1 above shows that principals accepted all the items outlined above as the safety needs for achieving secondary education goals while teachers agreed with the first eight items and disagree with the last two safety needs for achieving secondary education goals in public secondary schools in Awka-South Local Government Area in Anambra State.

The mean of means of 3.27 and 2.86 for principal and teachers respectively is above the decision rule of 2.50. This indicates that the above are the safety needs that can be adopted to enhance teachers' commitment to instilling discipline secondary school students in Awka-South Local Government Area of Anambra State.

## Hypothesis

**Table 2:** t-test of principals and teachers' responses on the safety needs that can be adopted to enhance teachers' commitment to instilling discipline secondary school students in Awka-South Local Government Area of Anambra State

Respondents	N	Mean	Std.	t-cal	t-crit	df	$\infty$	Remark
Principal	6	3.27	0.86	1.86	2.00	60	0.05	Not significant
Teachers	56	2.86	0.99					

Based on the result on Table 2, the calculated t-value is 2.00 whereas the critical value is 1.86, the null hypothesis is therefore accepted. Because the calculated t-value supersedes the critical t-value. Following this decision, the study conclude that there is no significant difference between the mean rating of principals and teachers on the safety needs for achieving secondary education goals in public secondary schools in Awka-South Local Government Area in Anambra State.

## Discussion

The findings from the analyses of data on table one show that the safety needs for achieving secondary education goals in public secondary schools in Awka-South Local Government Area in Anambra State. Among them include: ensuring security of lives and personal properties, employing well trained security men to ensure security of lives and school properties, providing Security gadgets in the school (e. g. fire extinguisher) for fire matters, maintaining healthy school environment, ensuring that school fixtures and equipment are promptly serviced to ensure teachers efficiency and ensuring that Medical-services are provided for teachers needing them. This is line with the assertion of Bosah, Bosah and Ejesi (2019) who posited that safety of school environment entails prevention of injuries or other health hazard through considerably secured facilities and equipment and through well planned and intelligent device. This also supported by Udali (2020)<sup>[10]</sup> who maintained that school principals as school managers are charged with overseeing the implementation of safety procedures and thus are responsible for the outcomes of any of the threats that attack the schools. The finding is also in tandem with Mgadla (2014)<sup>[4]</sup> who stated that safety of the school environment require ensuring that the school's physical spaces provide usable, well-maintained and safe facilities, which will help to prevent injuries and provide safety and security as well as limit the occurrence of unbecoming behaviours that negatively impact the psychosocial school spaces.

This finding was strengthened with the findings in table 2; no statistically mean difference in the mean responses of the teachers and principals on the safety needs that can be adopted to enhance teachers' commitment on instilling discipline among secondary school students in Awka-South Local Government Area of Anambra State.

## Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that complying to the identified safety needs are vital in the bid to achieve secondary education goal. This is because the principal and teachers share similar perception that the identified safety needs will help to ensure security of education stakeholders such that will aid in achieving the secondary education goals.

School safety is paramount in the bid to encourage teachers' commitment to instilling discipline secondary school

students in Awka-South Local Government Area of Anambra State.

## Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

1. The ministries of education should work together to organize security seminars and trainings for the principals, teachers, students and the security officers in the school. This will help these education stakeholders to be equipped with the needed security knowledge.
2. The government should provide the appropriate security facilities to the schools to enable them get prepared in case of any emergency.
3. Principal should adopt safety practices in order spur school members towards achieving educational goals.
4. The Anambra state ministry of education should encourage teachers' commitment to instilling discipline among secondary school students in Awka-South Local Government Area of Anambra State by ensuring that school safety practices are uphold in the school

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