

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF AWARENESS ON PREVENTIVE MEASURES OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC FOR EFFECTIVE ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES: A CASE STUDY OF SOME SELECTED BASIC SCHOOLS IN SOKOTO METROPOLIS

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ABSTRACT

Awareness is an aspect whose significance for the overall safety level in any institute cannot be miscalculated. Awareness is a main issue of concern because it is in core and preventive measures intended to establish accurate safety techniques confidently in the thoughts of all individuals in any institution nowadays. During this COVID-19 pandemic situation, all sectors, including education, were strictly instructed to conduct their services with principles which are need to put into practice for smooth learning activities; those precautions are measures taken to ensure safety and prevention from contacting or spread of the covid-19 virus among the individual in any organization. In Nigeria, most students in School are very familiar with their traditional classroom setup and learning process, and they need help to familiarize themselves with another system. Sokoto is one of the states that usually have a large enrollment of students per class in most of their schools, which is quite difficult for the school management to ensure the student's safety. Some schools have been closed due to the mentioned issue to prevent the spread of the virus, while others changed their service system, which also became irregular for parents, students, teachers and school managers. This phenomenon led the researcher's interest to carry out this research to investigate the significance of awareness of preventive measures during the covid-19 Pandemic for effective academic activities in schools in the Sokoto metropolis.

Keywords: Awareness, Covid-19, Preventive measures, Management

INTRODUCTION

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. This virus primarily spreads through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes. This virus was named after its shape, which takes the form of a crown with protrusions around it. The World Health Organization has recommended personal protective equipment to doctors and healthcare workers attending COVID-19 patients. This generally includes masks, goggles, respirators, gloves, face shields, and isolation gowns. The importance of the awareness factor should form the basis of the safety strategy for the individuals of any organization (Ceraolo et al., 2006). Safety awareness and preparedness in schools are becoming significant concerns in the wave of any threat of a particular pandemic which could be a problem for academic activities in the School.

Problem statement

In Nigeria, the student's lack of awareness has caused some misinterpretation of the preventive measure in line with the system of school operation. Students from different family backgrounds needed to be more efficient in abiding by the measures put in place in

School due to a lack of appropriate training and awareness of the preventive measures. This phenomenon led this research to investigate the significance of awareness of preventive measures among some selected schools in the Sokoto metropolis.

Research Objectives

This research's main objective is to determine the significance of awareness of preventive measures for the covid-19 Pandemic among some selected schools in the Sokoto state Metropolis area. The primary objective shall be achieved through the following specific:

1. To find preventive measures concerning covid-19 in some schools in Sokoto metropolis.
2. To examine the method used to inform the students of the preventive measure for covid-19 in some schools in the Sokoto metropolis.
3. To determine the effect of the method for preventive measures on covid-19 in some of the secondary schools in Sokoto metropolis.

Research Questions

1. What are the preventive measures concerning covid-19 in some schools in Sokoto metropolis?
2. Which methods are used to inform the student of the preventive measures for covid-19 in some schools in the Sokoto metropolis?
3. What are the effects of the method for preventive measures on covid-19 in some of the secondary schools in Sokoto metropolis?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Bairwa et al. (2021) conducted a study on awareness, perception and mitigating measures; they found that higher awareness is significantly associated with age, family income, education, marital status, religion, access to the source of information, and avoiding traveling during the pandemic. They discovered that a good number of participants had a reasonable level of awareness on modes of spread, initial symptoms, and a piece of awareness regarding different preventive strategies, i.e., hand washing, social distancing and quarantine, and isolation. Furthermore, they mentioned that awareness and sensitization regarding coronavirus disease also reported in their perception as a reasonably good number of participants (more than 3/4th) agreed with the norms for maintaining social distancing, avoiding travel, self-quarantine or isolating self, washing hands frequently, and complying with the government recommendations and policy about the preventive measures. Government agencies and mass media's role in educating the population regarding preventive strategies remain remarkable in this direction.

McLeod in Manga (2019) stated that the survival and progress of schools depend largely on the extent to which school personnel perform their duties efficiently and effectively. Nevertheless, the satisfactory fulfillment of duty largely depends on the level of awareness school administrators, teachers and students have of the duties imposed on them by law. Similarly, Barrel in Manga (2019) opines that awareness of legal duties that fall within the purview of every school personnel is necessary to avoid cases of negligence, breach of contract and other actions that might lead to legal entanglements.

According to Ronoh and Kyalo (2009), school disaster prevention demands that we be prepared for the eventuality of any disaster. Safe and responsive schools have plans and procedures to deal with a fierce and disruptive incidence that may occur. Similarly, Alpert et al. (2020) stated that most violent situations can be avoided if training in social skills becomes part of proactive safety procedures. Rehman (2021) believes that awareness is an aspect whose significance for the overall safety level in any institute should be revised. Awareness is a main issue of concern because it is in core and preventive measures intended to establish accurate safety techniques confidently in the thoughts of all individuals in any institution nowadays. The COVID-19 pandemic has imposed a lockdown in many countries from their residents up to their places of work and schools. The usefulness of its wide-range actions is highly reliant on society's knowledge, attitude and practice towards pandemic control.

Paine and Sprague (2000:1) made a remarkable assertion about school safety and crisis. Typically, people refuse to believe crises could happen to them, and school personnel are no exception. Nevertheless, this tendency toward denial must be replaced by active participation and preparation for a potential school crisis. Careful planning is required to reduce the impact of low-incidence crises such as disasters, murders, suicides, or fires. Ogunu's (2015) Education Law, as expressed in policies, rules and school regulations, describes what should and should not be done by school personnel to manage school affairs smoothly.

School facility management is one of the measures for maintaining a conducive learning environment, and this involves planning, constructing them and ensuring that they are kept in good condition for maximum utilization. The aim is to protect them against vandalizing and dilapidation so that they provide maximum educational benefits to the teachers, the learners and members of the community. Adeboyeje (1999) describes it as constructing and maintaining the facilities so they can be put into operation when required for teaching and learning. In the context of this paper, however, the management of facilities is limited to the operation and maintenance of existing physical facilities and equipment.

Achoka (2007) concurs with Waweru and Orodho (2014) that a secondary school principal should endeavor to provide the best school climate to entice students to complete schooling by making Schools free from violence, threats, intimidations, hatred, and witch-hunting and develop rich co-curriculum, remedial interventions for slow learners to avoid repetition, frustration and dropout. He/he should be a developer by putting more effort into developing academic and co-curriculum programs that are attractive and competitive to occupy all students at School.

Hargreaves (2001) argues that the conventional model of measuring school effectiveness and improvement is adequate for analyzing school success and failure. The school 'ethos' concept helped to make sense of the correlation between many school processes. Still, it did not allow one to test the model in detail or to predict a school's performance from any close analysis of identifiable factors. He proposes a new theoretical model of schools, which provides a working model of effectiveness and improvement.

The school administration, therefore, involves students to make choices in life reasonably and independently through guidance and counseling. Kiruma (2004), in her study of secondary school strikes, explains that school discipline is a school administration function

lively and conducive. It depends on the School's administrative, supervisory and organizational leadership abilities and styles since he is responsible for clarifying the School's purpose and philosophy. The effects of schools in poor areas often outweigh the impact of family background and practices (Orodho, 2014). According to Kimbui (2012), monitoring and evaluation of learning should be a continuous process to ensure schools meet their targets without fear or appearance of any interrupted fearsome moment in the School. Each School should have mechanisms for continuously monitoring the performance of both curricular and extra-curricular between the teachers and students for remedial action early when needed.

Lyons (2001) expresses that the physical characteristics of schools have a variety of effects on teachers, students, and the learning process. Poor lighting, noise, high levels of carbon dioxide in classrooms, and inconsistent temperatures make teaching and learning difficult. Poor maintenance and ineffective ventilation systems lead to poor health among students and teachers, leading to poor performance and higher absentee rates. These factors can adversely affect student behavior and lead to higher teacher frustration levels and poor learning attitudes among students.

METHODOLOGY

The study will use quantitative research methods that involve a questionnaire. The importance of using this method in this study is to enable the researcher to collect data related to a particular point in time to describe the nature of the existing situation in this research. Also, the researcher finds it appropriate to use questionnaires and related materials for proof evidence methods. The study population comprises 300 people. The study population is composed of students and their teachers, comprising 150 female students and 150 male students. The data collected for this study were analyzed using the SPSS application package using a correlation coefficient for the data considering the research questions underlying the study.

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

Table 2.1: Perception of the Respondent on Awareness of Preventive Measures of the Covid-19 Pandemic

Awareness of preventive measures for Covid-19 improves the management of school academic activities.		
	Frequency	Percent
Agreed	50	45.0
Strongly Agreed	40	40.0
Neutral	10	15.0
Total	100	100

Source: Primary Data 2022

Table 2.1 above shows that 50 (45.0%) of the responses agreed with the statement, 40 (40.0%) strongly agreed with the assertion, and 10 (15.0%) were neutral. This shows that most respondents, 50 (45.0%), agreed with the assertion. Therefore this indicated that awareness of preventive measures for Covid-19 improves the management of school academic activities.



Table 2.2 Perception of the Respondent on Awareness of Preventive Measures of the Covid-19 Pandemic

When the management and students are aware of the risk of the spread of Covid-19, they take proper measures.		
	Frequency	Percent
Agreed	50	44.8
Strongly Agreed	18	29.2
Neutral	14	18.0
Disagreed	10	8.0
Total	100	100

Source: Primary Data 2022

Table 1.3 above indicated that 50 (44.8%) agreed that education under the military regime had experienced the best management, 18 (29.2%) strongly agreed, 14 (18.0%) were neutral, and another 10 (8.0%) disagreed with the assertion. This shows that the majority of the respondent agreed that when the management and students are aware of the risk of the spread of Covid-19, they take proper measures. This indicated that awareness of preventive measures for covid-19 is essential in managing schools.

Table 1.4 Correlations of the Variables

Awareness of preventive measures for covid-19 in Schools is more effective in the management of school academic activities	Pearson Correlation	1	.488*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.029
	N	20	20
Awareness of preventive measures for covid-19 in Schools is more effective in the management of school academic activities	Pearson Correlation	.488*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.029	

Source: Primary Data 2022

The table above shows the respondent's perceptions; the significant correlation is 0.05. The above table indicated 0.29 (2-tailed), which is excellent and indicates a significant relationship between the awareness of preventive measures and the management of academic activities in School, which has a 0.29 significance value.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This research finds out from the participant's responses that awareness of preventive measures against covid-19 in Schools is more effective than in the media and also shows the role of awareness of preventive measures of the covid-19 Pandemic. A 0.29 significance value was found, which shows a significant relationship between the awareness of preventive measures for covid-19 and the management of academic activities in Schools. Furthermore, the analysis of the responses of the respondents found that the majority of the respondents, which is 50 (45.0%) of the responses agreed with the statement, 40 (40.0%) strongly agreed



with the assertion, and 10 (15.0%) were neutral. This shows that the majority of the respondents, 50 (45.0%), agreed with the assertion. Therefore this indicated that awareness of preventive measures for Covid-19 improves the management of school academic activities. This indicated that there was an improvement in the management of schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.

CONCLUSION

The study has observed that awareness of preventive measures for covid-19 and management of academic activities in Schools by controlling the activities in the School through the management of the rules and regulations concerning the social and educational activities in the schools even though their system will have slide difficult because of the large population of the students It was found out that one of the information dissemination through Awareness in School is of more reliable than in the media, which is part of their duty affects the system. Henceforth it was found that there is a relationship between the awareness of the preventive measures for covid-19 and the management of academic activities in the School.

RECOMMENDATION

It recommended that there is a need to reinstall the meaning of awareness on preventive measures in Schools and the management of School academic activities, specifically in secondary schools where the majority are teenagers, to change the attitude of the current generation of the student and the school management.

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