

## **EVALUATION OF PROVOSTS' PERFORMANCE IN PROVIDING STUDENT TRANSPORTATION AND RECREATIONAL SERVICES IN COLLEGES OF EDUCATION, NORTH-CENTRAL NIGERIA**

**Joy Nkechi Osuji & Jiya Sunday Jeremiah**

Department of Educational Foundations and Curriculum  
Faculty of Education, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State, Nigeria

---

### **Abstract**

This study evaluated the role performance of Provosts in the provision of student transportation and recreational services in Colleges of Education in North Central Zone, Nigeria. The research was guided by two specific objectives and corresponding research questions. A descriptive survey design was adopted. The population comprised 4,314 academic staff, management staff, and final-year students, from which a sample of 614 was randomly selected. Data was collected using a structured questionnaire titled "Transportation and Recreational Services in Colleges of Education: Evaluating Provosts' Performance," which demonstrated high reliability with a Cronbach's alpha index of 0.80. Data analysis involved calculating mean scores, with a benchmark mean of 3.00 for decision-making. Findings revealed that Provosts' performance in providing transportation services was inadequate (aggregate mean = 2.8), with significant deficiencies in shuttle bus provision, maintenance, and campus transport infrastructure. Conversely, performance in providing recreational services was satisfactory (aggregate mean = 3.6), with effective provision of sporting facilities, funding for activities, and participation in inter-college competitions. The study concluded that while Provosts are effective in managing recreational services, their performance in delivering critical transportation services is poor. It is recommended that Provosts prioritize the procurement and maintenance of student shuttle buses and improve campus transport logistics to complement their effective management of recreational facilities.

---

**Keywords:** Provost, Transportation Services, Recreational Services, Colleges of Education.

---

### **Introduction**

Education is an important instrument for national development, and its effectiveness relies on more than just classroom instruction. In Nigeria, the National Policy on Education adopts education as an instrument par excellence for effecting national development (FRN, 2004). This preparation of learners for all aspects of life is a core mission of Colleges of Education, institutions tasked with training individuals for the teaching profession. The Provost, as the chief executive officer of the College, is responsible for directing and coordinating the implementation of both academic and non-academic plans. A critical component of these non-academic plans is the provision of student welfare services, which act as lubricants or catalysts towards effective teaching and learning (Mgbodile, 2013). These services refer to all non-academic support rendered to students outside the formal classroom, designed to promote their physical, emotional, and psychological development as outlined in national educational goals (FRN, 2014). Among these essential services, transportation and recreation are vital. The Federal Republic of Nigeria (2012), in the National Minimum Standards, prescribes these as mandatory services that college administrators must make available to students. As Ezeadi (2017) notes, many activities other than teaching in the classroom aid the learning and academic achievement of students. Adequate

transportation ensures access to education, while recreational services provide a necessary outlet for socialization and stress relief, making campus life less stressful and more interesting, thereby contributing to a harmonious college community.

Therefore, the effective provision of transportation and recreational services is not a luxury but a necessity for the achievement of institutional objectives and the holistic development of students. The provision of comprehensive welfare services, including transportation and recreation, is a fundamental responsibility of college management, led by the Provost. These services are crucial for supporting students' academic performance and personal well-being by reducing stress and creating a conducive learning environment. However, the situation in Colleges of Education, particularly in the North Central Zone of Nigeria, is far from ideal, with significant deficiencies in these areas like transportation and recreational services. It is pertinent to know that buses intended to carry students between campuses and facilities are often malfunctioning. In most campuses, these vehicles are not properly maintained, and in many cases, the fleet is grossly inadequate and poorly managed. This directly and adversely affects students, leading to skipped lectures and lateness to examination halls. This problem is particularly acute for students who must travel long distances between multiple campuses, as the lack of reliable transportation creates a significant barrier to their educational access and punctuality. Recreational services which is considered a vital social institution for socialization and experiencing leisure through activities like sports, arts, and crafts. These activities are essential for making campus life less stressful and more interesting, thereby discouraging idleness during leisure hours. Unfortunately, recreational facilities and organized activities are severely neglected in most institutions. This lack of constructive engagement encourages idleness among students, which often leads to bad behavior and unlawful associations, such as cultism, stealing, and other social vices that disrupt the academic environment.

The failure to adequately provide and maintain these specific services undermines the holistic educational experience, hinders academic achievement, and jeopardizes the overall well-being of students in Colleges of Education. Hence, this study evaluates provosts' role performance in the provision of students' Transportation and recreational services in colleges of education in north-central zone, Nigeria. Specifically, it examines the availability, accessibility, and condition of buses, bicycles, and sporting facilities as well as activities.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The study was aimed at achieving the following specific objectives to:

1. identify Provost Role Performance in the Provision of Students Transportation Services in Colleges of Education in North Central Zone, Nigeria and
2. assess Provost Role Performance in the Provision of Students Recreational Services in the Colleges of Education in North Central Zone, Nigeria.

### **Research Questions**

The following research questions were asked to guide the study:

1. how are the Students' Transportation Services Provided by the Provost in Colleges of Education in North Central Zone, Nigeria?
2. how are the Students' Recreational Services Provided by the Provost in Colleges of Education in North Central Zone, Nigeria?

### **Methods**

Descriptive survey design was used in conducting the study. The population for the study consists of 4,314 which comprise 3771 academic staff, 105 management staff and 438 NCEIII Students

drawn from the Colleges of Education in North Central Zone, Nigeria. A simple random sampling technique was adopted and a sample of 614 participants (NECIII students, Academic staff, management staff was used to carry out this study. A self-structured questionnaire titled “Transportation and Recreational Services in Colleges of Education: Evaluating Provosts’ Performance in North Central Nigeria”. The questionnaire was designed using 5 Likert scales of Strongly Agree (5), Agree (4), Undecided (3) Disagree (2), and Strongly Disagree (1) with the rating of 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 were used for the study. The instrument had two sections. Section A was Bio-data, section B contains items structured in line with the research questions. The instrument was pilot tested and data collected from the pilot study was calculated using Cronbach Alpha techniques and a reliability index of 0.80 was obtained. Bennett & Elman (2006) assert that, for a scale to be considered reliable, it should have an alpha value of 0.50 to 1. With this level of reliability index, the instrument was considered reliable for use in the main study. The researcher carefully administered the questionnaire which led to 100% properly filled and returned questionnaires. Mean scores were used to answer the research questions e.

## Results

The researcher used 3.00 as the mean otherwise known as decision mean since the instrument was structured along a five-point Likert scale structure to decide on whether to accept or reject the research question after comparing it with the cumulative mean. Therefore, a mean score of 3.0 and above indicate a positive response to the research question and accepted while a mean score below 3.0 indicates a negative answer to the research question and rejected. The summary of the analyses and results of the data collected for the study are presented as follow.

**Table 1: Opinions of Respondents on how Students Transportation Services are Provided by the Provosts in Colleges of Education in North Central Zone, Nigeria.**

| S/N | Item statement                                                                           | Respondent  | SA | A  | UD | D   | SD  | N   | MEAN |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 41  | The provost ensures that the college has buses for field trips and educational visit.    | Mgt. Staff  | 26 | 10 | 2  | 1   | 10  | 49  | 3.8  |
|     |                                                                                          | Acad. Staff | 74 | 13 | 2  | 145 | 118 | 352 | 2.2  |
|     |                                                                                          | NCE III     | 52 | 50 | 6  | 51  | 42  | 200 | 3.1  |
| 42  | The college has student’s shuttle buses to carry them from one destination to the other. | Mgt. Staff  | 10 | -6 | -  | 10  | 29  | 49  | 2.6  |
|     |                                                                                          | Acad. Staff | 32 | 79 | 2  | 115 | 124 | 352 | 2.5  |
|     |                                                                                          | NCE III     | -  | 47 | -  | 135 | 19  | 200 | 2.9  |
| 43  | The Provost ensures that there is inter hostel road network within the campus.           | Mgt. Staff  | 28 | 14 | -  | 5   | 2   | 49  | 4.2  |
|     |                                                                                          | Acad. Staff | 50 | 21 | 2  | 167 | 112 | 352 | 2.3  |
|     |                                                                                          | NCE III     | 20 | 25 | 18 | 106 | 31  | 200 | 2.2  |
| 44  | The Provost ensures that Private Transport owners are allowed to operate in campus.      | Mgt. Staff  | 5  | 3  | -  | 25  | 9   | 49  | 2.4  |
|     |                                                                                          | Acad. Staff | 25 | 25 | 5  | 135 | 62  | 352 | 2.1  |
|     |                                                                                          | NCE III     | 19 | 10 | 2  | 98  | 73  | 200 | 2.6  |
| 45  | The Provost ensures that the Alumni are allowed to provide                               | Mgt. Staff  | 10 | 3  | -  | 6   | 30  | 49  | 2.8  |
|     |                                                                                          | Acad. Staff | 32 | 29 | -  | 181 | 118 | 352 | 2.5  |

|    |                                                                                                            |             |     |     |   |     |     |     |     |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|    | buses as part of their contribution to the college at a very low cost                                      | NCE III     | 22  | 10  | - | 90  | 78  | 200 | 2.4 |
| 46 | The Provost ensures that the college buses are serviced monthly to keep them fit.                          | Mgt. Staff  | -   | 6   | - | 13  | 30  | 49  | 2.0 |
|    |                                                                                                            | Acad. Staff | 35  | 45  | - | 160 | 110 | 352 | 2.6 |
|    |                                                                                                            | NCE III     | 13  | 52  | - | 115 | 20  | 200 | 2.5 |
| 47 | The Provost ensures that students have access to books and journals from the library.                      | Mgt. Staff  | 28  | 7   | - | 6   | 8   | 49  | 3.8 |
|    |                                                                                                            | Acad. Staff | 132 | 65  | 7 | 43  | 105 | 352 | 3.2 |
|    |                                                                                                            | NCE III     | 122 | 3   | 6 | 49  | 21  | 200 | 3.8 |
| 48 | The Provost ensures that each department and faculty has library.                                          | Mgt. Staff  | 7   | 29  | - | 1   | 4   | 49  | 3.2 |
|    |                                                                                                            | Acad. Staff | 170 | 45  | 2 | 124 | 10  | 352 | 3.7 |
|    |                                                                                                            | NCE III     | 42  | 95  | 3 | 36  | 19  | 200 | 3.5 |
| 49 | The Provost ensures that faculties and departments have car parks and are tagged for orderliness.          | Mgt. Staff  | 7   | 18  | - | 6   | 18  | 49  | 3.0 |
|    |                                                                                                            | Acad. Staff | 78  | 38  | 2 | 212 | 22  | 352 | 2.8 |
|    |                                                                                                            | NCE III     | 15  | 20  | 4 | 126 | 44  | 200 | 2.3 |
| 50 | The Provost ensures that campus has speed limit and violators are charged some token amount as punishment. | Mgt. Staff  | 27  | 15  | - | 2   | 7   | 49  | 3.6 |
|    |                                                                                                            | Acad. Staff | 20  | 100 | - | 176 | 133 | 352 | 2.6 |
|    |                                                                                                            | NCE III     | 5   | 15  | 6 | 99  | 76  | 200 | 2.8 |

**Aggregate mean = 2.8**

From table 1, shows the mean score of respondents on the Students Transportation Services provided in the Colleges of Education in North Central I Zone, Nigeria. Item 41 was on whether the Provost ensured that the College has buses for field trips and educational visit. It was revealed that the item statement was accepted by the respondents with Management staff having mean score of 3.8, Academic staff 3.2 and NCE III Students 3.1. Item 42 showed that Management staff have mean score of 2.6, Academic staff 2.5, and NCE III Students 2.9, which indicate rejection, meaning that the college has no student's shuttle buses to carry them from one destination to the other. Item 43 was also rejected by the respondents, with the respective mean scores for Management staff 4.2, Academic staff 2.3, and NCE III Students 2.2. Item 44 was on whether the Provost ensures that Private Transport owners are allowed to operate in campus, the responses showed rejection by the respondents with the mean score of 2.3, 2.1, and 2.6 for Management staff, Academic staff, and NCE III Students respectively. Item 45 had mean score for Management staff 2.8, Academic staff 2.5, and NCE III Students 2.4, which implies it was rejected that Provost does not ensures that the Alumni are allowed to provide buses as part of their contribution to the college at a very low cost. Item 46 showed that Management staff had mean score of 2.0, Academic staff 2.6, and NCE III Students 2.5. Item 47 was accepted by all the respondents with the respective mean scores of 3.8, 3.2, and 3.8, this implies that the respondents agreed that the Provosts ensured that students have access to books and journals from the libraries. Item 48 have the mean score of 3.2, 3.7 and 3.5 for Management staff, Academic staff and NCE III Students, accordingly, indicating acceptance of the item statement. Item 49 have the means score of 3.0, 2.8 and 2.3 for Management staff, Academic staff, and NCE III Students respectively and was rejected. Similarly, item 50 was accepted with the corresponding mean score of 3.6, 2.6, and 2.8 for Management staff, Academic

staff, and NCE III Students. It was established that the Most Provosts of the colleges could not provide adequate buses to ease students transport difficulties to the school.

**Table 2: Opinions of Respondents on how Students Recreational Services are provided by the Provost in Colleges of Education in North Central Zone, Nigeria**

| S/N | Item statement                                                                                                         | Respondent  | SA  | A   | UD | D   | SD  | N   | MEAN |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| 51  | The provost ensures the proper provision of variety of sports and recreational activities in the campus.               | Mgt. Staff  | 7   | 18  | -  | 6   | 18  | 49  | 2.8  |
|     |                                                                                                                        | Acad. Staff | 78  | 38  | 2  | 212 | 22  | 352 | 2.8  |
|     |                                                                                                                        | NCE III     | 15  | 120 | 4  | 26  | 44  | 200 | 3.3  |
| 52  | The Provost provides funds for sporting activities in the campus.                                                      | Mgt. Staff  | 27  | 5   | -  | 7   | 10  | 49  | 3.7  |
|     |                                                                                                                        | Acad. Staff | 114 | 51  | -  | 143 | 42  | 352 | 3.1  |
|     |                                                                                                                        | NCE III     | 66  | 72  | -  | 32  | 30  | 200 | 3.6  |
| 53  | The provost ensures that each hostel has one indoor sport or the other with adequate sport equipments.                 | Mgt. Staff  | 10  | 24  | -  | 13  | 2   | 49  | 3.6  |
|     |                                                                                                                        | Acad. Staff | 130 | 87  | -  | 126 | 23  | 352 | 3.6  |
|     |                                                                                                                        | NCE III     | 130 | 32  | -  | 26  | 12  | 200 | 4.2  |
| 54  | The provost ensures the full participation of the College in all inter Colleges Sports in North Central zone, Nigeria. | Mgt. Staff  | 28  | 16  | -  | 5   | -   | 49  | 4.4  |
|     |                                                                                                                        | Acad. Staff | 170 | 26  | -  | 42  | 114 | 352 | 3.3  |
|     |                                                                                                                        | NCE III     | 50  | 90  | 8  | 28  | 24  | 200 | 3.6  |
| 55  | The provost ensures that recreational facilities are always replaced when damaged.                                     | Mgt. Staff  | 13  | 16  | -  | 6   | 14  | 49  | 3.2  |
|     |                                                                                                                        | Acad. Staff | 136 | 49  | 4  | 145 | 18  | 352 | 3.4  |
|     |                                                                                                                        | NCE III     | 62  | 90  | -  | 36  | 12  | 200 | 3.7  |
| 56  | The Provost ensures that sport facilities are well secured.                                                            | Mgt. Staff  | 10  | 27  | -  | 10  | 2   | 49  | 3.7  |
|     |                                                                                                                        | Acad. Staff | 105 | 100 | -  | 123 | 24  | 352 | 3.4  |
|     |                                                                                                                        | NCE III     | 42  | 64  | -  | 56  | 39  | 200 | 3.1  |
| 57  | The Provost ensures that the Volleyball and Basketball Courts are in order.                                            | Mgt. Staff  | 29  | 7   | -  | 6   | 7   | 49  | 4.0  |
|     |                                                                                                                        | Acad. Staff | 195 | 27  | 2  | 128 | 4   | 352 | 3.1  |
|     |                                                                                                                        | NCE III     | 62  | 94  | 5  | 30  | 10  | 200 | 3.9  |
| 58  | The Provost ensures that the College Football Team is given full support.                                              | Mgt. Staff  | 25  | 11  | -  | 12  | 1   | 49  | 4.0  |
|     |                                                                                                                        | Acad. Staff | 50  | 170 | -  | 119 | 9   | 352 | 3.3  |
|     |                                                                                                                        | NCE III     | 100 | 56  | 4  | 25  | 15  | 200 | 4.0  |
| 59  | The Provost ensures that the College Mini Gym is stocked with variety of facilities.                                   | Mgt. Staff  | 28  | 9   | -  | 4   | 8   | 49  | 4.0  |
|     |                                                                                                                        | Acad. Staff | 80  | 135 | 2  | 124 | 11  | 352 | 3.4  |
|     |                                                                                                                        | NCE III     | 42  | 120 | 5  | 14  | 9   | 200 | 3.7  |
| 60  | The Provost ensures that College Coaches are sponsored to attend sport seminars.                                       | Mgt. Staff  | 14  | 28  | -  | 4   | 3   | 49  | 4.0  |
|     |                                                                                                                        | Acad. Staff | 178 | 18  | 2  | 148 | 6   | 352 | 3.6  |
|     |                                                                                                                        | NCE III     | 30  | 125 | 6  | 25  | 14  | 200 | 3.7  |

**Aggregate Mean = 3.6**

From table 2, shows the mean score of respondents on the Students Recreational Services Provided in Colleges of Education in North Central I Zone, Nigeria. Item 51 was on whether the Provosts ensured the proper provision of variety of sports and recreational activities in the campus. It was revealed that the item statement was accepted by the respondents with Management staff having mean score of 3.8, Academic staff 2.8, and NCE III Students 3.3. Item 52 showed that Management staff have mean score of 3.7, Academic staff 3.1, and NCE III Students 3.6, which indicated acceptance, meaning that Provosts provided funds for sporting activities in the College. Item 53 was also accepted by the respondents, with the respective mean scores for Management staff 3.6, Academic staff 3.6, and NCE III Students 4.2. Item 54 was on whether the Provosts ensured the full participation of the College in all inter Colleges Sports Competitions in North Central zone, Nigeria, the responses showed acceptance by the respondents with the mean score of 4.4, 3.3, and 3.6 for Management staff, Academic staff, and NCE III Students respectively. Item 55 had mean score for Management staff 3.2, Academic staff 3.4, and NCE III 3.7, which implies it was accepted that Provosts ensured that recreational facilities are always replaced when damaged. Item 56 showed that Management staff had mean score of 3.7, Academic staff 3.4, and NCE III Students 3.1. Item 57 was accepted by all the respondents with the respective mean scores of 4.0 Management staff, 3.1 Academic staff, and 3.9 NCE III Students. This implies that the respondents agreed that the Provosts ensured that the Volleyball and Basketball Courts are in order. Item 58 have the mean score of 4.0, 3.3 and 4.0 for Management staff, Academic staff and NCE III Students, accordingly, indicating acceptance of the item statement. Item 59 have the means score of 4.0, 3.4 and 3.7 for Management staff, Academic staff, and NCE III Students respectively and was accepted. Similarly, item 60 was accepted with the corresponding mean score of 4.0, 3.6, and 3.7 for Management staff, Academic staff, and NCE III Students. It was, therefore, established that Most of the colleges of education were provided with both track and field event equipment and facilities that enabled students to actively participate in sporting activities.

## **Discussions**

This study was able to establish that; Most Provosts of the colleges could not provide adequate buses to ease student's transportation difficulties to and from the Colleges of Education in North Central Zone, Nigeria. This is in conflict with Agu (2020) who opine that for instance, getting to and from office, school; religious or recreational centers require transportation. The study further revealed that most colleges of education do not have student's shuttle buses to carry them from one destination to the other, there are no well-constructed inter hostel road network within the campus. In addition, most provosts do not allow Private Transport owners to operate in campuses and that most provost hardly service college buses as at when due to keep them fit.

Also, the study was able to establish that; Most of the colleges of education were provided with both track and field event equipment and facilities that enabled student to actively participate in sporting activities in Colleges of Education in North Central Zone, Nigeria. This is in line with Fullerton (2011) who stated that colleges are allocating large financial resources for the development of athletic and recreational sport facilities. The study further revealed that Provosts provide funds for sporting activities in the campus. Also, provost ensures that each hostel has one indoor sport or the other with adequate sport equipment. In addition, provosts ensure the full participation of the Colleges in all inter Colleges of Education Sports competition in North Central zone, Nigeria and that provost ensures that recreational facilities are always replaced when damaged.

## **Conclusion**

The study evaluates the role performance of provosts in providing adequate transportation and recreational services for students in Colleges of Education in North Central Nigeria. Findings indicated that student's transportation services were not effectively provided. This calls for all provost of colleges of education in North Central Zone, Nigeria to make careful efforts in providing more transportation services such as buses, bicycles among others. While the provosts' efforts in recreational services are commendable, there is a need for sustained improvements in providing variety of sporting activities to enhance students' wellbeing and academic performance.

## **Recommendations**

Based on the findings from the study, the following recommendations are hereby put forward

1. Provosts should ensure that school buses are not only provided but are adequately utilized to serve the purpose for which they were provided in colleges of education in North Central Zone, Nigeria through effective monitoring.
2. Provosts should ensure that each hostel has one indoor sport with adequate sport equipment as well as encouraging full participation of the Colleges in all inter Colleges of Education Sports competitions in North Central Zone, Nigeria through reorientation of students on the importance of physical exercise.

## **REFERENCES**

- Agu, I. A. (2020). Resource factors as correlates of secondary school effectiveness in Enugu State. *Nigerian Journal of Counseling and Applied Psychology*. 1(1): 109-115.
- Ajiboye, A. O. (2017). Opportunities and challenges in the field of transport and logistics
- Bennett, A., & Elman, C. (2006). Qualitative Research: Recent Developments in Case Study Methods. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 9, 455-476.
- Ezeadi, A.M. (2017). *University Management: The Nigerian Experience*. Sokoto: University press.
- Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN, 2004). *National Policy on Education*. NERDC Press.
- Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN, 2012). *National Minimum Standards for Colleges of Education*. NCCE.
- Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN, 2014). *National Policy on Education*. NERDC Press.
- Fullerton, B. (2011) When principals rate teachers next. Hoover institution retrieved on June 2011 from <http://www.education.org> 2015 2/58. Html.
- Mgbodile, T. (2013). Classroom participation and Pupil performance: A study of Active Learning Practices in Ethiopian Primary Education' paper presented at Young Lives Ethiopia School Survey Workshop, Addis Ababa.