

An Investigation into the Quality Of Research Work By Final Year Students of Colleges of Education in Ogun State

By

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Abstract

This research was carried out to investigate the quality of research work by final year students of Colleges of Education in Ogun State. The research was conducted among 300 level students of Federal College of Education, Abeokuta, Ogun State. Primary source of data was used by the researcher with the aid of questionnaire with simple and concise questions for the respondents so as to gather useful information from the students. The instrument was validated and found to be reliable at Cronbach Alpha 0.71. The data collected was presented and analyzed using simple percentage frequency table. The findings showed that research project submitted by students is often being downloaded from the internet with or without being edited. Research topic of most research project submitted to the supervisor is often gotten from friends and colleagues, sometimes supervisors obtain money from students to help them write their project work and some students do not even take pain to gather materials and edit such materials before submitting the research project to their supervisor. Based on the result of the research findings, the following recommendations were made: supervisor sometimes should give research topics to students to work on, students should study current issues in their society before choosing their research topics. Also, supervisors and students should discuss together on research topics before the students go ahead with the research work.

Keywords: Research, Quality, Questionnaire, Internet, Download

Introduction

The conduct of research is one of the basic functions of tertiary institutions, which comprises Universities, Polytechnics, Monothechnics and Colleges of Education.

The students of these institutions are compulsorily required to carry out research activities as part of their graduation requirements. Students in these tertiary institutions are made to engage in research project to ascertain the level at which they can bring about solutions to societal and academic problems through writing of research project. Though, students were mandated to write research project the level or quality of the research work appears to be nothing to write home about compared to what is expected of them.

Research project writing is the process of arriving at dependable solutions to problems through the planned and systematic collection, analysis and interpretation of data. Research project is oriented towards the discovering of the relationships that exist among the phenomena of the world in which we live (Osualla, 2001).

According to Ajoku (2016), research project is the search for knowledge, truth, similarities and relationships, and the process of finding solutions to problems through the systematic collection, analysis and interpretation of data. Okeke (2014) stated that research project is an activity that involves observation and description of the characteristic properties of objects or events for the purpose of discovering relationships between variables and developing generalization that may be used to predict future occurrences. Research project involves identification of problems, gathering new data, finding solution to a problem through carefully designed procedures and logical analysis. Research project therefore is an intensive and extensive search for solutions to problems in a society. Such problems could be in the areas of education, business, politics, etc.

Research project has found application in many areas of human endeavor. One of such areas is education where we have educational research. Travers cited in (Okeke 2014), defined educational research project as an activity directed toward the development of an organized body of scientific knowledge about the events which educators are concerned. Ahiakwo (2013) sees educational research project as a diligent and systematic attempt to provide plausible answers to educational problems by the process of logically designed operations or steps. It is a systematic and scholarly application of the scientific method, to the solution of educational problems (Osuala, 2014).

According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2010), research project is a careful study of a subject especially in order to discover new facts or information about it. (Fawoel, Egbokhare, Itiola, Odejide and Olayinka 2006), defined research project as a systematic investigation including development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or to contribute to generalizable knowledge. They further asserted that research is a curiosity-driven activity that has the purpose of discovery and advancement of knowledge. The focus of a research project can range from physical thing, an event, a process, a social institution of a social condition and

biological condition. Irrespective of the subject, research project basically seeks to understand what is being researched into through observation, experimentation and analysis in order to arrive at a better understanding or a definite conclusion on the subject matter (Adebola, 2019). The quality of research project being carried out by Nigerian students has been adjudged to be of low standard, when compared to that of their counterparts in other parts of the world (Emunemu, 2009).

It is as a result of this, that the researcher sought to investigate the quality of research work by final year students of Ogun State Colleges of Education in Nigeria.

Concept of Research

Students arrive at Colleges of Education with a variety of backgrounds, interests, and abilities. However, at the final stage of their pre-service training and education, a student is expected to conduct a research as a requirement for the award of Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE) Research is a logical and systematic process of finding out solution to a problem (Anaekwe, 2017; Uzoagulu, 2021).

Research Questions

1. How original is the project work submitted by a student to his/her supervisor?
2. How often do the student researchers make use of the library?
3. To what extent are research project student involved in generating their project topic?

Significance of the Study

This study will be of benefit to the educational stakeholders; government, parents, students' lecturers, researchers, and general public on the investigation of writing quality research project/work by final year students in Colleges of Education in Nigeria.

Scope of the Study

This study was limited to Federal College of Education, Abeokuta, Ogun State.

Research Design

Survey method was used to investigation the quality of research project/work by final year students in Colleges of education in Ogun State.

Research Population

The population of the research work is all pre-service teachers in Colleges of Education in Ogun State.

Sample and Sampling Techniques

The sampling technique that was adopted is simple random sampling. Therefore, one hundred (100) final year students (respondents), made up of twenty (20) males and eighty (80) females were selected from Primary Education Studies Department in Federal College of Education, Abeokuta, Ogun State. The department has a total of two hundred and sixty nine final year students.

Research Instrument

The researcher used a self-designed questionnaire in the study as main instrument for data collection. The questionnaire was used in order to afford the opportunity of gathering facts and to get the views of the respondents. Data was collected through self-administration by the researcher. The instrument was validated and found to be reliable with a Cronbach Alpha level of 0.71, while frequency table counts converted to percentage computation was utilized for analyzing the data

Results

Research Question 1: How original is the project work submitted by a student to his/her supervisor?

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Table 1: Research project submitted by students is often being downloaded from the internet without being edited.

Items	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly agreed	48	48
Agreed	32	32
Disagreed	8	8
Strongly disagreed	12	12
Total	100	100

Table 1 above shows that 48 of the respondents (48%) strongly agreed, 32 of the respondents (32%) agreed, 12 of the respondents (12%) strongly disagreed while 8 of the respondents (8%) disagreed. This implies that the majority of the respondents amounting to 80, which is 80% agreed that research project submitted by students is often being downloaded from the internet without being edited.

Table 2: Students some do visit the library to get research topics of finished project work displayed in the library.

Items	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly agreed	33	33
Agreed	42	42
Disagreed	11	11
Strongly disagreed	14	14
Total	100	100

Table 2 above shows that 42 of the respondents (42%) agreed, while 33 of the respondents (33%) strongly agreed, 14 of the respondents (14%) strongly disagreed while 11 of the respondents (11%) disagreed. This implies that the majority of the respondents amounting to 75, which is 75% agreed that some students do visit the library to get research topics of finished project work displayed in the library.

Table 3: Supervisor sometimes do give research topics to students to work on.

Items	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly agreed	33	33
Agreed	49	49
Disagreed	8	8
Strongly disagreed	10	10
Total	100	100

Table 3 above shows that 49 of the respondents (49%) agreed, 33 of the respondents (33%) strongly agreed, 10 of the respondents (10%) strongly disagreed while 8 of the respondents (8%) disagreed. This implies that the majority of the respondents amounting to 82, which is 82% agreed that supervisors sometimes do give research topics to students to work on.

Research Question 2: How often do the student researchers make use of the library?

Table 4: Most students on research work do not visit the library due to the internet source of getting materials.

Items	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly agreed	40	40
Agreed	32	32
Disagreed	10	10
Strongly disagreed	18	18
Total	100	100

Table 4 above shows that 40 of the respondents (40%) strongly agreed, 32 of the respondents (32%) agreed, 18 of the respondents (18%) strongly agreed while 10 of the respondents (10%) disagreed. This implies that the majority of the respondents amounting to 72 which is 72% agreed that most students on research work do not visit the library due to the internet source of getting materials.

Table 5: Students use the library whenever they want to do their literature review in their chapter two (Literature Review)

Items	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly agreed	45	45
Agreed	27	27
Disagreed	18	18
Strongly disagreed	10	10
Total	100	100

Table 5 above shows that 45 of the respondents (45%) strongly agreed, 27 of the respondents (27%) agreed, 18 of the respondents (18%) disagreed while 10 of the respondents (10%) strongly disagreed. This implies that the majority of the respondents amounting to 72 which is 72% agreed that students use the library whenever they want to do their literature review in their chapter two.

Table 6: Some students do obtain research topics from business centre that assist in writing project.

Items	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly agreed	50	50
Agreed	31	31
Disagreed	12	12
Strongly disagreed	7	7
Total	100	100

Table 6 shows that 50 of the respondents (50%) strongly agreed, 31 of the respondents (31%) agreed, 12 of the respondents (12%) disagreed while 7 of the respondents (7%) strongly disagreed. This implies that majority of the respondent's amounting to 81, which is 81% agreed that parents should ensure they monitor what their children does while making use of ICT tools.

Research Question 3: To what extent are research project student involved in generating their project topic?

Table 7: Most research topic submitted to the supervisor is gotten from friends and colleagues.

Items	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly agreed	56	56
Agreed	33	33
Disagreed	4	4
Strongly disagreed	7	7
Total	100	100

Table 7 above shows that 56 of the respondents (56%) strongly agreed, of the respondents (33%) agreed, 7 of the respondents (7%) strongly disagreed while 4 of the respondents (4%) disagreed. This implies that the majority of the respondents amounting to 89, which is 89% agreed that most research topic submitted to the supervisors are gotten from friends and colleagues.

Table 8: Students generate their topics mostly from the internet.

Items	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly agreed	49	49
Agreed	36	36
Disagreed	10	10
Strongly disagreed	5	5
Total	100	100

Table 8 above shows that 49 of the respondents (49%) strongly agreed, 36 of the respondents (36%) agreed, 10 of the respondents (10%) disagreed while 5 of the respondents (5%) that strongly disagreed. This implies that majority of the respondents amounting to 85, which is 85% agreed that students generate their topics mostly from the internet.

Table 9: Most research works submitted to supervisors by students are often being contracted to be done by someone else.

Items	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Strongly agreed	36	36
Agreed	50	40
Disagreed	10	10
Strongly disagreed	4	4
Total	100	100

Table 9 above shows that 50 of the respondents (50%) agreed, 36 of the respondents (36%) strongly agreed, 10 of the respondents (10%) disagreed while 4 of the respondents (4%) strongly disagreed. This implies that the majority of the respondents amounting to 86, which is 86% agreed that most research works submitted to supervisors by students are often being contracted to be done by someone else.

Conclusion

Based on the research findings, the following conclusions were made:

1. Research project submitted by students is often being downloaded from the internet with or without being edited.

2. Research topic of most research topic submitted to the supervisor is gotten from friends and colleagues.
3. Sometimes supervisor will obtain money from students to help them to write their project work.
4. Some students do not take pain to gather materials and edit such materials before submitting the research project to their supervisor.
5. Students use the library whenever they want to do their literature review in their chapter two.
6. Some students do visit the library for their research work not until their supervisors ask them to do so.
7. Scholastic information that supports their research findings do make students to visit the library.
8. Some students get their research topics from their predecessor that graduated ahead of them.

Recommendations

Based on the foregoing conclusion, the following recommendations are hereby made:

1. Supervisors sometimes should give research topics to students to work on.
2. Students should study current issues in their society before choosing their research topics.
3. Supervisor and students should discuss together on research topics before the student will research on it.
4. Strict punishment should be given to students who plagiarize the work of another scholars.

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