

**IMPACT OF VISITING LECTURERS ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF  
STUDENTS IN NASARAWA STATE UNIVERSITY, KEFFI**

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**Abstract**

*The study attempted to evaluate the performances of visiting lecturers and their impact on academic performance of students in Nasarawa State University, Keffi. The purpose of the study was to investigate how the performances of visiting lecturers impact positively or negatively on academic performance of students. Methodologically, the study employed the cluster and Stratified sample to classify the students across sex lines and finally simple random sampling was used to reach the target population. The study covered both students and lecturers. Out of 196 questionnaires that were distributed, 175 were for students while 21 were for lecturers. More so, the study utilized one hypothesis on whether the mean rating of students of visiting lecturers indicated significant impact on their academic performance and was tested at a 0.005 level of significance. The students' rating of the visiting lecturers confirmed that there was a positive significant impact. The analysis of the study also revealed that most visiting lecturers do not come as assigned and it was recommended that the university management should constitute a monitoring team to ensure that all visiting lecturers visit as at when due.*

**Keywords: Visiting Lecturers, academic performance, university students**

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**Introduction**

University education all over is the Highest level of schooling” (Osogwu & Alutu,2009). To this end, the input in student in terms of knowledge ought to be zealously done with quality. Quality teaching produces the requisite result from students whose output is only measured by their academic standards. In trying to maintain a high level of

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lecturing in our Nigerian Universities, each scout out for quality lecturers who are believed to have adequate experience that calls for positive output from the students.

According to Syed (2009), The impact of the lecturer on students determines greatly the level of their academic achievement. This also means that, the quality of time lecturers spend with the students speaks of the student's level of academic outcome. The nexus between lecturers' performance and students' academic outcome cannot be over emphasized. This is why universities keep on employing and encouraging tenured lecturers to acquire needed heights in academics for more skills to enable them perform. However, it is pathetic to state that most Nigerian universities lack resident lecturers in a number of disciplines and as such result to the use of lecturers from other institutions who only visit the university (Visiting Lecturers).

Sarwar (2009) posits that "a good lecturer is expected to be committed to his or her work, have the ability to take initiative as his or her personality or behavior, has great impact on students achievement". Students learn from their lecturers and because many of their lecturers in their institutions are visiting, learning becomes rather hard as most emerging cases confirmed are left unclear thus hampering her academic thrives. The shortage of lecturers which translate to visiting lectures in the Nigerian system has seriously jeopardized the academic success of students which has culminated to the poor quality of graduates produced. This is so judging from the performance of most of the visiting lecturers as they are not versatile enough to attend to all the queries raised from the students (Syed 2009,p.73). Moreso, the clumsy nature by their lecture given to students coupled with the non-attendance of lectures as of when due has also remained a major concern to student which affect their studies. Anwar (2009) states that "no system of education is better than its personnel and no system of education is above the standard of its lecturers". It means that, the quality of any system depends upon the standard of its personnel. If the personnel are well qualified, well trained and above all experienced, the organization can achieve its objectives successfully. That is, the way in which a lecturer allocates time to spend on academic content affects student's achievements. Recognizing the fact that lecturer's performance has impact on the student's academic achievement, the study thrives to evaluate the performance of these visiting lecturers and their impact on the academic achievement of students at Nasarawa State University Keffi

### **Statement of the problem**

The issue of inadequate lecturers in Nigerian University system has become alarming over the years. It is no longer new as some courses are outline to be taught but till the end of semester are not taught because of lack of lecturers. This has led to students graduating

without requisite knowledge of what their discipline entails. Furthermore, the constant absenteeism of the visiting teachers has also created a gap as most students who wish to meet them in certain clarifications can not find them but wait until they visit. All have in one way or the other acted against and militated on the academic thrives of students which have led to producing of half baked graduates in our Nigerian university system which has been making the goals of the tertiary education a mirage. Therefore, the study seeks to evaluate the overall performance of visiting lecturers and their impact on the academic achievement of student at Nasarawa State University, Keffi.

### **Purpose of the study**

The main purpose of the study is to evaluate the performance of visiting lecturers and their impact on academic achievement of students in Nasarawa State University, specifically however, it sought to;

- i. Determine whether the performance of visiting lecturers has impacted negatively or positively on academic performance of students at Nasarawa State University.
- ii. Ascertain the attitude and effectiveness or quality of visiting lecturers at Nasarawa State University.

### **Research Questions**

In order to conduct the study, this research question was formulated.

- i. Do the performance of visiting <sup>103</sup> er's impact positively or negatively on academic achievement of students at Nasarawa State University?
- ii. Do visiting lecturers make effective use of the allocated time during the semester period

### **Hypotheses**

The following hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance

Ho1. There is no significant impact of visiting lecturers on the academic performance of students

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## Methodology

Since the study is aimed at investigating the performances of visiting lecturers as it affect students achievements, the descriptive survey design was used. According to Akem (2008,P.8) a survey design is aimed at collecting large and small samples from population in order to examine the distribution, incidence and interaction of education activities, like sociological and psychological variables. Nasarawa State University is made up of seven (7) faculties. These are Law, Arts, Management Science, Social Science, Education and Health Science. It has a population of about 24,145 students and 610 lecturers (Academic Office/registrar, 2012).

**Table 1: Distribution of study population**

<b>Faculties</b>	<b>No of students</b>	<b>No of Lecturers</b>
Arts	4295	110
Law	113	23
Social science	10,173	150
Management science	2458	39
Science	2007	88
Education	3748	99
Health science	321	101
Total	24,145	610

**Source; student's academic unit and registration, 2012**

Therefore, a sample population of 175 students and 21 lecturers were used for the study. In order to arrive at the respondents for the study, the researcher adopted a number of sampling techniques. Basically, three sampling techniques were used. The cluster sampling which the researcher clustered the whole school into seven (7) according to faculties thereafter, the stratified sample was done which avail the researcher to divide the population of the students across sex lines (male and female) which were homogeneous in nature.

The researcher made use of the questionnaire. The questionnaire covered both the aims and objectives of the study. It was prepared in three sections, A, B, and C, which A contained the personal data of the respondents, B the basic questions relating to the topic

under-study secluded for students while C were questions basically for the lecturers to respond.

The researcher carefully designed a structured questionnaire, gave it out to two lecturers for scrutiny and validation after which it was distributed for data collation. The researcher made a visit to all the seven (7) faculties distributing the questionnaire to various students as well as the lecturers. They were urged to complete and return same to her. However, most questionnaires were not returned as some students promised returning them the following day only to return with excuse of misplacement. Simple percentages were used to answer the questions. Also, the hypothesis was analyzed with the use of the mean rating.

## Results

The results of the study were presented based on the questions and hypothesis.

1. Do the performances of visiting lecturers' impact positively on academic achievement of students at Nasarawa State University?

In answering this question, the researcher sought to know first whether there are visiting lecturers at all, in all departments.

**Table 1: responses of Students and Lecturers on Visiting Lecturers in Departments.**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Agree	120	79%
Agree	31	20%
Disagree	1	1
Strongly Disagree	-	-
Total	152	100%

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

Table 1 shows that, (79%) strongly agree that there are visiting lecturers in their various departments. (20%) agreed also that they have visiting lecturers in their department, while 1% disagreed that there are no visiting lecturers in their department. On the whole therefore, the study concludes that there are so many lecturers who are visiting in Nasarawa State University as (99%) has consented to that.

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**Research question 2**

Do visiting lecturers make effective use of the allocated time during their semesters, lecturing period?

**Table 2 Show visiting lecturers adequate use of allocated time**

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Strongly Agree	29	19
Agree	35	23
Disagree	59	39
Strongly disagree	29	19
Total	152	100

Source: Field Survey, 2012.

Data in table 2 reveal how visiting lecturers made use of their time allocated to them adequately. From the data gathered it is observed that lecturers who visit do not usually make use of the time allocated to them adequately. This is visible in the percentages gathered as those disagreeing which is (39%) and (19%) respectively sums up more than the percentage of those who agree and strongly agree which is (23%) and (19%) accordingly.

**Research Hypothesis**

The testing of hypothesis formulated for his work by the researcher is the use of chi-square ( $x^2$ ) statistics at 0.05% level of significance with 3 as degree of freedom.

HO1: There is no significant impact of visiting lecturers on the academic performance of students.

**Table 3: Chi-square Analysis on impact of visiting lecturers on academic performance of students**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Observed freq.</b>	<b>Expected freq.</b>	<b>Df</b>	<b><math>x^2_{cal}</math></b>	<b><math>x^2_{tab}</math></b>	<b>Sig</b>	<b>decision</b>
SA	129.5	194	3	117.31	16.9	.05	Reject
A	163.5	194					
D	68.5	194					
SD	26.5	194					

Table 3 Data, indicates the chi-square value of 117.31,  $df = 3$ , critical value of 16.9 at .05 level of significance. Since the chi-square calculated is greater than the table value, the null hypothesis was rejected and an alternative hypothesis accepted. This means that there is a significant impact of visiting lecturers on academic performance of students.

### **Discussion of findings**

The study aims primarily at evaluating the performances of visiting lecturers and their impact on academic achievement of students at Nasarawa State University Keffi. In achieving this, specific objectives were set out which were to understand how positively or negatively visiting lecturer's impact on academic achievement of students. This was analyzed and their performances were understood to be satisfactory. Both the students and tenured lecturers also attest to the fact that their visiting lecturers/colleagues do a good job thus impacting positively on the students.

Furthermore, it was made known from the study that coping with the style of lecturing by visiting lecturers has been a great problem for students as it differs from what they are used to. Comparatively therefore, lecturing style of the tenured lecturers was more appreciated by students than that of the visiting lecturers. It was also unraveled that most visiting lecturers do not always visit as at when due as time allocated to their courses on the time table are usually free. This has been a great challenge such that even when they come, most students tend to miss out of the lecture and test, as new time fixed is not known to all students who are concerned. Relatively, most visiting lecturers, as discovered visit towards semester end and as such tend not to handle their topics in details and also give their reading materials late. Also they do not cover their course outline for that particular semester. This has posed a great problem as students graduate not knowing all they should know.

The study was also guided by the hypothesis which states that there is no significant impact of visiting lecturers on the academic performance of students. The hypothesis was tested using the chi-square instrument at the 0.05 level of significance which confirmed that there is a significant level of relationship as the chi-square calculated was less than tabulated. This also confirmed to be true as most tenured lecturers were of the opinion that their visiting counterparts perform quality work which has been over the years encouraging their department.

## **Conclusion/ implications for inclusive education**

The study has shown a positive and significant impact on the academic achievement of students by visiting lecturers in Nasarawa State University. This is to say that, lecturers experience, quality, methods of teaching as well as behaviour are factors which the visiting lecturers should abide in other to impact positively on the students.

## **Recommendations**

The study recommends the following;

Based on the study conducted therefore, the following recommendations came in handy.

- i. The university management should develop a monitoring team that will frequently monitor to ensure that all visiting lecturers attend to the students as well as cover their course outline for each semester without a rush.
- ii. The Head of each Department should establish a link with his or her students to get feedback on the performance of their visiting lecturers, such that actions will be taken where possible.
- iii. The visiting lecturers should consciously review their absolute lecturing methodologies and adopt ones for easy comprehension by student in Nasarawa State University

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