

Students' Perception Of Early Warning Signs, School Management's And Teachers' Responses To Creation Of Safe Environment For Secondary Schools In Benue State: Implications For Counselling

CHIESHE Simon Saaior

*M.Ed. Guidance and Counselling
(Benue State University, Makurdi)*

Thesis submitted to the Department of Educational Foundations and General Studies, Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Guidance and Counselling

ABSTRACT

This study investigated students' perception of Early Warning Signs, School Management's and Teachers' responses to Creation of Safe Environment for secondary schools in Benue State. A survey research design was used for the study. The population of the study consists of 99,268 students of the secondary schools in Benue State. A sample of 208 students was drawn for the study using Krejcie and Morgan (1970) table for determining sample size. The instrument used to collect data was a self-structured questionnaire titled: Students' Perception of Early Warning Signs, School Management's and Teachers' Responses to Create a Safe Environment for Secondary Schools in Benue State (SPEWSSMTRCSESS). The objectives of the study were to determine the extent of Students' perception of early warning signs that create unsafe environment in secondary schools in Benue State and to determine students' perception of school management's responses to early warning signs to create safe environment for secondary schools in Benue State. It was also to ascertain students' perception of teachers' responses to early warning signs to create safe environment for secondary schools in Benue State. Three research questions were raised and three hypotheses formulated in line with objectives to guide the study. The researcher administered the questionnaire to respondents and retrieved them the same day. The research questions were answered using mean scores and standard deviations while the hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance using one-sample t-test statistical tool. The study found that early warning signs exist in secondary schools of Benue State and the students have been able to organize, identify and interpret them to a high extent. The study subjects' perception of early warning signs and their perception of school management's and teachers' responses to creation of a safe environment for secondary school in Benue State were found to be significant. The findings of this study indicated that (1) early warning signs existed in Benue State secondary schools that pose dangers to creation of safe environment for secondary schools. (2) School management's responses to early warning signs were perceived as significant. (3) Teachers' responses to early warning signs were perceived as significant. It is recommended that: (1) all stakeholders in educational system in Nigeria must recognize and appreciate the existence of early warning signs in our schools and involve research based indicators to identify students at risk of failing to meet educational mile stone because of these dangers. (2) School management should ensure and maintain school safety. This will help them to face their challenges in school properly and adopt appropriate measures in creating a safe school environment when the need arise. (3) A better classroom management approach should be adopted by teachers in schools in Benue State developing and enforcing local, state, and federal laws to create safe learning environment in schools.

Date of Submission: 29-01-2021

Date of acceptance: 14-02-2021

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The researcher's unreserved gratitude goes to the Almighty God for protecting and blessing his effort throughout his course of study especially in respect of this thesis. To Him alone be the glory.

The researcher is sincerely grateful to the major supervisor of this thesis, Prof. A. A. Ekoja for his patience, love, honesty, dedication and professionalism while supervising this work. The co-supervisors of this thesis: Rev. Fr. Prof. M. M. Orhungur and Prof (Mrs.) A. O Amali are highly acknowledged for their immense professional suggestions, guidance and cooperation without which the work would not have been completed.

The researcher also acknowledges the Dean College of Agricultural and Science Education and the Head of Department Educational Foundations and General Studies, Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Prof

(Mrs.) A. D. E. Obinne and Rev. Fr. D. Kajo, Ph.D respectively who took time and made sure that the researcher graduates.

The entire staff and students of College of Agricultural and Science Education, Federal University of Agriculture Makurdi, my course mates, pastors, elders and congregation of NKST Bunato, family members and Dr. Akaazua J. T. are also acknowledged for their moral, financial, prayers and academic support.

Last but not the least the researcher acknowledges his late father and mother Mr. Chieshe Akaantso and Mrs. Esther Atejir Chieshe for laying the sound foundation for his studies.