

AN APPRAISAL OF STUDENTS' ACADEMIC
PERFORMANCES IN CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS
KNOWLEDGE IN SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL
CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

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ABSTRACT

This study is titled "An Appraisal of Students' academic performances in Christian Religious knowledge in Senior Secondary School Certificate examination." It is aimed at assessing the trend of Students' academic performance in CRK in SSCE. The Study was carried out in four secondary schools from Ogbomoso South Local Government. The CRK results of One thousand, two hundred and five students (1205) of the 1999/2003 were appraised.

The study had three null hypotheses, two of these were rejected (i.e. hypothesis one and three) because of some significance findings at various levels while null hypothesis two was accepted. Simple percentage was used to test hypothesis one, which says that, there is no significant difference in the academic performance of students who obtained excellent and credit grades, ordinary pass, and those who failed. Thus, the hypothesis one was rejected.

Chi-square was used to test hypothesis two. The hypothesis stated that there is no significant difference between the performance of male and female students' academic performance in CRK. This hypothesis was accepted, because when tested, it revealed that there was no significance difference. Chi-square was also used to test hypothesis three. The hypothesis was rejected. It was found that there was significant difference between the academic performances of students who attended mission schools and those who attended community schools. Based on the findings, it was observed

that there was general mass failure. This implies that the teaching of CRK should be handled by competent hands and the students -being challenged and motivated to study, which will greatly improve their performances in SSCE.

Conclusion

From the findings, the following conclusions are reached: There has been consistent mass failure in CRK in the recent past in the area of study. This indicate that all the problems that had been found to be associated with mass failure in CRK by such author like Oguekwe (1986 : 3-9), Nglass (1986 :

44) and Edge (1999 : 144) are still prevalent and unmitigated. Such problems range from general lukewarm attitudes toward the subject (students, teachers, curriculum planners, government policy among others).

We can also conclude that the poor performance in CRK is general to both male and female. This situation will surely call for attention to all the students offering CRK. Remediating measures have to be applied generally. It is also evidence from the study that schools with poor performance in CRK are found more in community schools than in mission schools.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. The present CRK students should be made aware of the academic performance of the past students so that they may be more serious with their studies.
2. CRK teachers should be made aware of the previous research findings about problems militating against students performance in CRK so that they may begin to address them one by one. This is because the trend shows that the old problems are still alive with regards to teaching and learning of CRK.
3. Apart from the teachers, and government, Christian organizations need to become more interested in the teaching and learning of CRK,

so that the present trend can be arrested. Some of the measures that may likely arrest the ugly situation are:-

- a. The use of only trained and qualified CRK teachers to teach the subject.
 - b. Parents should equip their children with relevant materials to make them excel in CRK and other subject alike in secondary schools
 - c. Schools should have standard and well equipped library facilities.
 - d. In addition to Bible (RSV) the CRK teachers should use recommended textbooks to teach.
4. Since male and female perform equally woefully, parents and teachers should teach them equally in order to change their attitude in CRK and their academic performance in the subject.
 5. Mission schools still perform better in CRK, government should return schools that had been taken over to the various mission organizations. In addition, churches, organizations, associations, conferences should intensify their efforts in establishing more mission oriented schools.

Suggestion for Further Studies

1. Comparison of CRK students' academic performance in WAEC and NECO examination.