



Assessment of Untimely Release of Semester Results on Academic Performance of Students in Economics Department in TCNN College of Education Bukuru of Plateau State, Nigeria.

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Abstract. The study examines the impact of untimely release of semester results on academic performance of students in economics department of TCNN College of Education Bukuru, Plateau State. The design used was a descriptive survey research design. The population of the study was 46 students and 6 teachers giving a total of 52 respondents. 40 students were sample randomly and all the 6 lecturers were used giving the total sample of 46 respondents. Three research questions and one hypothesis were stated. Structured questionnaires were developed by the researcher and used for data collection. The questionnaire was tagged “Untimely Release of Semester Result and Academic Performance of Students Questionnaire (URSRAPSQ). Descriptive statistics (mean and standard deviation) were used to analyze data and inferential statistics (chi-square) because the research questions were quantitative in nature. The findings of the study revealed that the students will withdraw by the student if asked lately to probate, reduced the moral of student, students’ demonstration or unrest, paying extra fee on teaching materials and waste of time, energy and resources of the student. The study also found that lecturers should forward their examination scripts and results to the Head of Department immediately the scripts are marked and results are produced, and Proper monitory of staff by the HODs, Deans, Directors, Registrar and the Provost. The study concluded that untimely release of semester result has great impact on the students’ academic performance. The study recommended that School management, academic advisors and staff should be involved in the efforts to addressing the untimely released of students’ results.

Keywords: Academic Performance, Assessment, College of Education, Economics, Semester result and Untimely.

1. Introduction

Result serves as feedback on the assessment of student’s performance on subject or course examination and the absence of prompt useful feedback reduces interest in learning.

Ekong (2012) opined that students who should have graduated since 2008 are still waiting for their results to be compiled, vetted and their names pasted for National Youth Service Corps (NYSC). Also, those students who registered in 2003,2004,2005,2006 and 2007 in UNIUYO who had since finished their academic requirements for graduation are still lingering around because their results have not been compiled or sent for vetting and approval.

Opadeyi (2013) observed that it is not easy to understand why a lecturer will not be able to mark examination scripts within two months and submit the marks even after classes have started in a new semester and the students want their grades to move on to other programmes. Also, stated that lecturers are still bent on not keeping the deadline of marking and submission of scripts to their departments.

Uzoukwu (2014) stated that there is also much corruption in the Nigerian educational system particularly in some higher institutions. For instance, lecturers are known to collect money or other support from students in exchange for good grades. Some students say they have to bribe University Administrators in order to have their exam results compiled and submitted to the National Youth Service Corps when required.

Adurokiya (2013) stated that even when the results are computed and compiled, to issue statement of result and certificate becomes another problem.

Awuzie (2014) disclosed that it is shocking that at a time when knowledge has become a crucial economic and political resource globally. When Universities and other higher institutions are competitively showcasing their strengths in order to attract international students; Nigerian higher institutions are still mired in the kind of dysfunction whereby graduating students have to wait for many years to receive their certificates or results. The minimal obligation that institutions owe their students is the timely release of their examination results, as well as, their certificates, which shows legal and authentic evidence that they have successfully completed their programmes.

Wordpress.com (2012) viewed that poor human resources are a major factor in this issue. It is unfortunate to mention that most of the human resources employed are employed on the basis of sentiments and not qualified for the job. This contributes greatly to the untimely release of result because of the errors and abnormalities at the end of the day.

Abhipsa (2022) observed that packaging and transportation of the question papers and answer sheets, exam dates stretched and omission of some courses on the examination timetable also delay in the release of results as expected.

Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education Academic Advising Handbook (2014) declared that lecturers shall normally mark all scripts for his or her courses and determine the grades to be awarded to each student. Examination scripts and results shall be forwarded by the lecturer to the Head of Department immediately the scripts are marked and results are produced.

Alvan Anti-corruption and Transparency Monitoring Unit (2014) further explained that compilation of students' results starts from movement of moderated result from the office of the Dean, School of Education through the exam officer, and School of Education through Departmental Exam officers to the Head of Department's office.

Wikipedia (2014) disclosed that participation in academic advising has been shown to increase student satisfaction and mitigate students' feeling of isolation or disconnection from the institution; contributes immensely to the timely computation and compilation of students' results and graduation of students within the academic time- frame of the program enrolled for.

Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education Academic Advising Handbook (2014) observed that the introduction of Management Information System is good because it will reduce the

difficulties being encountered in data collection, processing, storage and retrieval of students' results. Management Information System (MIS) will help institutions to achieve the following:

Collecting and storing of data on students, staff and financial matters.

Processing such data and producing reports and statistical information for use by various Units/Departments and other agencies.

Therefore, there is need to assess the impact of untimely release of semester results on academic performance of students in Economics Department in TCNN College of Education Bukuru and proffer solutions to the problems.

2. Statement of Problem

Untimely release of academic result has continuously been a thing of concern not only to students but to the academic society in general.

Tribune Online (2021) viewed that the issue of delayed results is a problem that students in the country's public universities, polytechnics and colleges of education, whether owned by state governments or the Federal Government, have had to contend with over time. The delay in release of result reduces the moral of students and overall academic performance.

Andrew, A. (2016) disclosed that in November 2016, some students of the Federal College of Education, Pankshin, Plateau State, held members of the school management hostage for failing to release their results in time for their mobilisation for the NYSC programme. Also, In March 2018, students of the Moshood Abiola Polytechnic, Abeokuta, Ogun State, staged a protest over their delayed results.

Attah (2014) observed that one factor for untimely release of results is due to missing scripts. This can happen when scripts get missing as a result of inordinate quest of the teacher, attributed to the problem of sexual harassment especially ladies, inattentiveness of lecturers concerned and accidental folding of two scripts in one leading to the loss of the hidden one.

Samaila (2014) observed that missing of examination scripts is one out of many vices affecting the moral of students in tertiary institutions in Nigeria. It is a growing phenomenon that is causing untold hardship and frustration to many students and indeed shattering their destinies. Students are always anxious and curious about the results because they are important, and the delay will definitely affect their mental peace and make them confuse.

Agcas (2014) viewed that education administrators organize and manage the administration, support systems and activities that enable the effective running of an educational institution. The administration of an institution represents its interest and it is invested with the necessary rights to fulfill the duties it is charged with.

What really are the Exams and Records departments of the universities, polytechnics and colleges of education doing if they cannot guarantee the release of results? Just how can members of the Senate and Governing Councils of universities be proud members of an institution that typically delays students' results. For other categories of students, silence is the word, because they can easily get into trouble if they make their displeasure over their delayed results public.

In TCNN College of Education Bukuru, it is a decision of the management that marking should be done for three to four weeks after examination, results presented in Departmental levels for internal moderation before they are sent for external moderation.

Yet, it seems there is no adherence to the time-frame of computation and compilation of students' results in the study area.

However, inTCNN College of Education Bukuru, no study has been carried out on the impact of untimely release of semester results on academic performance of students in Economics Department. Therefore, the study focused on the assessment of the impact of untimely release of semester results on academic performance of students in Economics Department in TCNN College of Education Bukuru, Plateau State

3. Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to assess the impact of untimely release of semester results on academic performance of students in Economics Department in TCNN College of Education Bukuru. The specific objectives include:

- To find out the factors responsible for untimely release of result in TCE, Bukuru.
- To find out the effects of untimely release of semester results on academic performance of students in TCE, Bukuru.
- To find out possible solutions to untimely release of semester results in TCE, Bukuru.

4. Research Questions

The following research questions were answered:

- What are the factors responsible for untimely release of semester result of students in TCE, Bukuru?
- What are the effects of untimely release of semester results on academic performance of students in TCE, Bukuru?
- What are the possible solutions to untimely release of semester results of students in TCE, Bukuru?

5. Hypothesis

The study tested the hypothesis:

There is no significant difference between untimely release of result and the academic performance of students.

6. Research Methodology

This study assessed the impact of untimely release of semester results on academic performance of students in Economics Department students in TCNN College of Education Bukuru. The research design adopted for this study was descriptive survey research design. Nworgu (2001), descriptive survey design is useful because it is aimed at collecting data and explaining in a systematic manner, the characteristic of features and facts. The target population for this study consisted of 40 NCE 2 & 3 students and 6 Lecturers in the department. The students were sampled using simple random sampling procedure and the staff was purposive sample. The study sampled 34 students and all the 6 lecturers in the department were used. This gave a total of 40 respondents. The questionnaire titled Untimely Release of Semester Result and Academic Performance of Students Questionnaire (URSRAPSQ). The questionnaire consisted of 18structured questions by the researcher. Section A comprised students' and teachers' personal data while section B consisted of 18 items structured with three clusters and Likert Format of the Four Point Rating Scale of strongly agreed (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagreed (SD). Data collected were analyses using mean, standard deviation and percentage to answer the research questions while chi-square was used to test the null hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. The benchmark mean is 2.50

7. Results

The result of this study was obtained from research questions and hypothesis which were presented in table 1–4
Research Question One: What are the factors responsible for untimely release of semester result in Economics Department in TCE, Bukuru?

Table 1: Mean Rating and Standard Deviation of Students’ and Lecturers’ opinion on the factors responsible for untimely release of semester result.
 N= 40; Cut-off points of 2.50

S/N	ITEM STATEMENT	MEAN (X)	STANDARD DEVIATION (SD)
1	Delay in movement of scripts between lecturers and Heads of Departments before and after marking.	3.74	10.00
2	Lack of proper monitory of staff.	3.25	6.12
3	The increasing level of bribery and corruption in system	2.5	3.53
4	Lack of sanctions on lecturers that failed to submit students’ scores within the stipulated time – frame	3.38	8.57
5.	Inadequate arrangement for external moderators and untimely moderation of exam scripts.	2.93	7.71
6.	Lack of proper database result processing system (Management Information System)	2.85	5.69

Source: Field Survey, 2022.

Table 1 showed that the mean of all the responses were above the mean cut off point of 2.50. This is shown by the means response of 3.74, 3.25, 2.50, 3.38, 2.93 and 2.85 with the standard deviation of 10, 6.12, 3.53, 8.57, 7.71 and 5.69 respectively. This means that all the respondents agreed with the given statements.
Research Question Two: What are the impacts of untimely release of semester results on academic performance of students in Economics Department TCE, Bukuru?

Table 2: Mean Rating and Standard Deviation of Students’ and Lecturers’ opinion on the impacts of untimely release of semester results on academic performance of students
 N= 40; Cut-off points of 2.50

S/N	ITEM STATEMENT	MEAN (X)	STANDARD DEVIATION (SD)
1	Result to total withdrawal by the student if asked lately to probate	3.25	6.12
2	Reduces the moral of student and overall academic performance.	3.75	10.31
3	Result to students’ demonstration or unrest	3.00	7.91
4	Result to frustration, confusion and mental agony	3.38	8.57
5.	Paying extra fee on teaching materials and lately asked to probate or withdrawn	3.93	13.95
6.	Waste of time, energy and resources of the student	3.46	7.11

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 2 showed that the mean and standard deviation of the impacts of untimely release of semester results on academic performance of students. This is shown by the means response of 3.25, 3.75, 3.00, 3.38, 3.93 and 3.46 with the standard deviation of 6.12, 10.31, 7.91, 8.57, 13.95 and 7.11 respectively.

Research Question Three: What are the possible solutions to untimely release of semester results in Economics Department in TCE, Bukuru?

Table 3: Mean Rating and Standard Deviation of Students’ and Lecturers’ opinion on the possible solutions to untimely release of semester results.
 N= 40; Cut-off points of 2.50
Source: Field Survey, 2022.

S/N	ITEM STATEMENT	MEAN (X)	STANDARD DEVIATION (SD)
1	Lecturers should forward their examination scripts and result to the Head of Department immediately the scripts are marked and results are produced	3.93	13.95
2	Academic Board should sit on results before the next semester or session	3.53	7.11
3	Internal and external moderation of scripts/results should be done within the school (internally)	3.75	10.00
4	Academic advisors contribute to the timely computation and compilation of students’ results and graduation.	3.20	6.75
5.	Management Information System should be introduced to reduce the challenges faced in data collection, processing, storage and retrieval of students’ results.	3.75	10.00
6.	Proper monitory of staff by the HODs, Deans, Directors, Registrar and the Provost will minimised the challenges.	3.63	7.91

Table 3 showed that the mean of all the responses were above the mean cut off point of 2.50. This is shown by the means response of 3.93, 3.53, 3.75, 3.20, 3.75 and 3.63 with the standard deviation of 13.95, 7.11, 10.00, 6.75, 10.00 and 7.91 respectively. This means that all the respondents agreed with the given statements.

Hypothesis: The null hypothesis which states that there is no significant difference between untimely release of semester result and the academic performance of students in Economics Department of TCE, Bukuru.

Test Statistics

	Withdrawal of the student	Low moral	Students’ unrest	Frustration, confusion and mental agony	Paying extra charges	Waste of time, energy and resources
Chi-Square	.500 ^a	.000 ^b	1.000 ^c	.500 ^a	.500 ^a	.500 ^a
df	2	3	1	2	2	2
Asymp. Sig.	.779	1.000	.317	.779	.779	.779

Table 4 indicated that the calculated X² statistic for the students’ withdrawal, low morale, student unrest, frustration confusion and mental agony; paying extra charges and waste of time, energy and resources with 2, 3, 1, 2, 2 and 2 degree of freedom. The P value of 0.779, 1.000, 0.317, 0.779, 0.779 and 0.779 respectively. In all cases, the p values were higher than 0.05 level of significance.

8. Discussion of findings

Result from the analysis of research question one revealed that delay in the movement of scripts between lecturers and Heads of Departments before and after marking, lack of proper monitory of staff by the school authority, increasing level of bribery and corruption in system, lack of sanctions on lecturers that failed to submit students’ scores within the stipulated time – frame, inadequate arrangement for external moderators and lack of proper database result processing system (Management Information System) are some of the factors affecting untimely release of results. The result aligned with Abhipsa (2022) that packaging and transportation of the question papers and answer sheets, exam dates stretched and omission

of some courses on the examination timetable also delay in the release of results as expected.

The result of the analysis of research question two showed that there would be withdrawal by the student if asked lately to probate, reduced the moral of student and overall academic performance, students’ demonstration or unrest, paying extra fee on teaching materials and lately asked to probate or withdrawn and waste of time, energy and resources of the student are some of the impacts of untimely release of semester results on academic performance of students. This is in line with Tribune Online (2021) viewed that the issue of delayed results is a problem that students in the country because it reduces the moral of students and overall academic performance.

Finding from the analysis of research question three revealed that lecturers should forward their examination scripts and result to their Head of Department immediately the scripts are marked and results are produced, academic board should sit on results before the next semester or session, internal and external moderation of scripts/results should be done within the school (internally), academic advisors should encourage timely computation and compilation of students’ results and graduation, Management Information System should be

introduced to reduce the challenges faced in data collection, processing, storage and retrieval of students' results and Proper monitoring of staff. The result of this finding is similar to the finding of Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education Academic Advising Handbook (2014) observed that the introduction of Management Information System is good. The result is similar to the finding of Alvan Anti-corruption and Transparency Monitoring Unit (2014) that that compilation of students' results starts from movement of moderated result from the office of the Dean, School of Education through the exam officer, and School of Education through Departmental Exam officers to the Head of Department's office for effective release of result.

From the research hypothesis it revealed that the null hypothesis that there is no significant different between untimely release of semester result and the academic performance of students was rejected. This implied that there is significant different between untimely release of semester result and the academic performance of students. This is in line with Samaila (2014) observed that issues of results create untold hardship, frustration to many students and indeed shattering their destinies.

9. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the study, it can be concluded that there is delay in the movement of scripts by the lecturers, lack of sanctions on lecturers that failed to submit students' scores within the stipulated time – frame, inadequate arrangement for external moderators and lack of proper database result processing system (Management Information System) are some of the factors affecting untimely release of results. The impact on the students include withdrawal, low moral for studies, demonstration or unrest, Paying extra fee and waste of time, energy and resources of the student. The way out includes; lecturers should forward their examination scripts and result on time, academic board should sit on results as expected, internal and external moderation of scripts/results should be done within the school (internally), Management Information System should be introduced and Proper monitoring by the school authority

10. Recommendations

Based on study findings, the following recommendations were made:

- The College Administrators should strictly work on the stipulated time-frame of releasing students' results.

- Guidance and counseling services should be intensifying by the school management to counsel students that are affected due to untimely release of semester result.
- School management, staff, and academic advisors should be involved in the efforts to address the problems of untimely release of results to students.

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