THE ROLE OF PARENTS IN THE EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF PRIMARY EDUCATION IN RIVERS STATE

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ABSTRACT

This paper examined the role of parents in the effective management of primary education in Rivers State of Nigeria. The paper cited the role parents play in the child’s educational management in South Africa; it was discovered that due to inability to communicate in English language some parents felt that school governance and management should be left for the teachers who are trained in that area to handle it. In Northern Ireland, parents are involved in decisions on a wide range of matters concerning their children’s schooling. The data used for analysis were obtained through questionnaires and structured interviews conducted in Rivers State, Nigeria between January – December 2010. The subjects were primary school teachers that are undergoing continuous professional development courses (CPD also known as sandwich courses) and head teachers and executive members of the Parent-Teachers-Association selected based on stratified random sampling. The model for data analysis is the simple percentage statistics. Findings suggest that some parents display a lukewarm attitude towards the meeting of Parent-teachers-Association due to the fact that many of those parents prefer marketing their products to attending PTA meetings even though a fine is meted out on erring parents. Recommendations were made including that parents should be encouraged to enrol in the adult education programme in order to make them more active members of the PTA.

Keywords: Education, Management, Parents’ Participation