IJUE

International Journal of Universal Education ISSN: <u>3046-5249</u>

Research Article

Citation Information:

Akinnubi, O. P., Ajape, R. O., & Adeoye, M. A. (2024). The Influence of School Climate and Goal Achievement Structure in Nigerian Public Schools. International Journal of Universal Education, 2(1), 61–69. https://doi.org/10.33084/ijue.v2i1.753 0

Received: March 2024

Revised: April 2024

Accepted: May 2024

Published: June 2024

The Influence of School Climate and Goal Achievement Structure in Nigerian Public Schools

¹Olaolu Paul Akinnubi, ¹Rasheedat Oladunni Ajape, ¹Moses Adeleke Adeoye

¹Educational Management, Faculty of Education, Al-hikmah University Ilorin, Nigeria

ABSTRACT

The paper explores the importance of school climate and goal achievement structure in Nigerian public schools. It highlights the significance of these elements in shaping the educational environment. The school climate, influenced by factors such as leadership, teacher-student relationships, safety and discipline, significantly impacts student well-being, academic performance and overall school success. The goal achievement structure is also crucial in Nigerian public schools, drives academic progress and shapes the future of students. The relationship between school climate and goal achievement structure is also explored. This understanding is crucial for fostering a conducive educational environment and achieving academic objectives. The paper then delves into goal achievement structure, its significance in Nigerian public schools to firm its alignment with national education objectives and the challenges associated with its implementation. It highlights the complexities of implementing these components within the Nigerian public school system. In conclusion, understanding the influence of school climate and goal achievement structure in Nigerian public schools is crucial for improving education quality and fostering an academic and personal growth environment.

Keywords: School Climate, Goal Achievement Structure, Nigerian Public Schools



© 2024 Olaolu Paul Akinnubi, Rasheedat Oladunni Ajape, Moses Adeleke Adeoye. Published by Institute for Research and Community Services Universitas Muhammadiyah Palangkaraya. This is an open-access article under the CC-BY-SA License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/).

Corresponding Author: Rasheedat Oladunni Ajape,

Educational Management, Faculty of Education, Al-hikmah University Ilorin, Nigeria Addres: Adewole Estate, Adeta Road, Ilorin, Kwara State

Email: ladunajape@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

Education is crucial for shaping a nation's future and socio-economic development. The school climate and goal achievement structure in Nigerian public schools significantly impact students' academic performance, psychological well-being, social development, and prospects (Adeyeye, 2023; Onafowope et al., 2024). Understanding these factors is essential for driving meaningful reforms and improvements. Nigerian public schools face challenges such as infrastructure deficiencies and resource constraints but a positive school climate with safety, inclusivity and support can enhance student engagement, motivation and overall well-being (Adeoye & Akinnubi, 2023; Ekeh & Venketsamy, 2021; Falk et al., 2019). Conversely, a negative school climate marked by bullying, discrimination, and inadequate support systems can negatively impact students' academic performance and mental health (Berkowitz et al., 2017; Huang, 2022; Kutsyuruba et al., 2015; Thapa et al., 2013; Wang & Degol, 2016). The goal achievement structure within Nigerian public schools directly impacts students' academic aspirations and achievements. The extent to which goals are set, monitored and supported within the school environment can profoundly influence students' motivation, perseverance and academic success. A conducive goal-achievement structure fosters a culture of ambition, resilience and self-efficacy among students, empowering them to strive for excellence and overcome challenges.

Understanding the interplay between school climate and goal achievement structure is crucial for driving meaningful reforms and improvements in Nigerian public schools. By comprehensively examining these factors, we can identify underlying issues, leverage strengths and implement targeted interventions to enhance the educational experiences and outcomes of students. A comprehensive exploration of the influence of school climate and goal achievement structure in Nigerian public schools is essential for understanding the current state of education and shaping its future trajectory.

School climate is a complex concept that encompasses the physical, social, emotional and psychological aspects of a school community. School climate refers to the quality and character of school life, encompassing physical, social, emotional and psychological aspects. A positive school climate is one where students, teachers, and staff feel safe, supported, valued and where there is a sense of belonging and connectedness. It is influenced by the physical layout, cleanliness, safety measures, relationships among students, teachers, staff and the emotional and psychological atmosphere. A well-maintained and

aesthetically pleasing school environment can positively impact the well-being of everyone within the school community (Mabunda, 2022; Mtimkulu, 2022; Smith et al., 2014; Uline et al., 2010).

The social environment is shaped by the relationships and interactions among students, teachers and staff which foster a sense of community and belonging. A climate of respect, inclusion and positive communication fosters a sense of community and belonging. The emotional and psychological well-being of individuals within the school community is influenced by supportive relationships, opportunities for personal growth, the promotion of mental health and well-being. A positive school environment fosters learning and personal development, resulting in improved academic performance, increased student engagement, improved social and emotional well-being, reduced behavioural issues, and increased teacher satisfaction and retention (Hawkins, G. T., 2023; Werang et al., 2024). Factors influencing the school climate include effective leadership, teacher-student relationships, parental involvement, and safety and well-being measures.

School climate and goal achievement structure are crucial elements in shaping the educational experience for students and teachers in Nigerian public schools. It significantly influences the well-being and academic performance of students. Nigerian public schools, often face challenges related to infrastructural deficiencies, overcrowded classrooms, and resource constraints. These factors can significantly impact the school climate, leading to a less conducive environment for teaching and learning. Issues such as bullying, violence, and disciplinary problems can contribute to a negative school climate, ultimately affecting student motivation and academic outcomes. To address these challenges, Nigerian public schools need to prioritize initiatives that promote a positive school climate, such as implementing anti-bullying programs, enhancing safety measures, and nurturing a culture of respect and inclusivity.

The goal achievement structure within a school encompasses processes, policies and practices designed to support and facilitate student success. It provides a framework for setting academic expectations, monitoring progress, and providing necessary interventions to ensure that students achieve their educational goals. In Nigerian public schools, the goal achievement structure is often influenced by factors such as standardized testing, curriculum requirements, and educational policies. However, challenges related to limited resources, teacher capacity, and disparities in educational opportunities can pose barriers to effective goal achievement structures. To address these challenges, Nigerian public schools must prioritize the development of comprehensive goal-achievement structures tailored to their student population. This may involve implementing data-driven approaches to monitor student progress, providing targeted interventions for struggling students, and fostering a culture of high expectations for academic achievement.

This research aims to explore the relationship between school climate, goal achievement structure, and student outcomes in Nigerian public schools. The study focuses on factors such as safety, relationships, and support that influence the goal achievement structure within Nigerian public schools. It also explores the impact of these factors on student motivation, engagement, and academic performance. The findings provide valuable insights that can inform the development of effective strategies and interventions to improve the overall educational experience for students in Nigerian public schools. Additionally, the research contributes to the global discourse on educational quality and effectiveness, providing a nuanced perspective from the Nigerian context. This is particularly important in the pursuit of universal educational standards and practices, as insights from diverse cultural and regional settings are essential for creating inclusive and equitable educational systems worldwide.

METHOD

This article discusses the importance of school climate and goal achievement structure in shaping the learning environment, student motivation, and academic outcomes in Nigerian public schools. Strategies for enhancing these factors are discussed, along with policy recommendations. This research employs a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) method to identify, evaluate and interpret relevant research for the topic area. The SLR method systematically reviews and identifies articles in each process, following the determined steps. This approach is crucial for understanding the topic and its formulation. The findings provide a comprehensive understanding of the influence of these factors in Nigerian public schools and the credibility of the research findings is crucial for teachers, policymakers and stakeholders in the Nigerian education system.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Transforming School Climate in Nigerian Public Schools through Leadership and Relationships

The school climate in Nigerian public schools is a critical factor that significantly influences the overall educational experience and academic outcomes of students. It encompasses various factors that significantly influence the learning environment, student well-being and overall school culture. Key factors that influence school climate in Nigerian public schools include leadership, teacher-student relationships, safety and discipline (Gbesoevi et al., 2023; Iheanyichukwu et al., 2022). Leadership is a critical determinant of school climate, as it sets the tone for the school's culture, values, and overall atmosphere. Principals and other administrative staff set the tone for the school's culture, values and overall atmosphere. Their leadership style, vision for the school and ability to foster collaboration among staff, students and parents significantly impact the overall climate within the institution. Effective leadership promotes a sense of community, trust and respect, contributing to a positive school climate. Teacher-student relationships are another influential factor in shaping the school climate (Dernowska, 2017; Liang, C. T., 2020). Positive teacher-student relationships characterized by mutual respect, support and effective communication foster a conducive learning environment. When students feel valued, understood and supported by their teachers, it creates a sense of belonging and enhances their overall academic and emotional well-being. Conversely, strained or negative teacher-student relationships can contribute to a hostile or unsupportive school climate, impacting student engagement and achievement. Safety and discipline

are paramount for fostering a positive school climate. Schools that prioritize safety measures, such as implementing anti-bullying policies, providing adequate supervision and maintaining secure facilities, contribute to a sense of security and well-being among students. Additionally, a fair and consistent approach to discipline, coupled with a focus on promoting positive behaviour, helps to create a supportive and orderly school climate. By prioritizing these factors and creating a positive and inclusive school climate, teachers and administrators can significantly impact student well-being, academic achievement and the overall success of the school community. It is essential for stakeholders within the Nigerian education system to recognize the importance of fostering a positive school climate and to invest in strategies and initiatives that promote a supportive and enriching learning environment for all students.

In Nigerian public schools, maintaining a positive school climate is crucial for fostering academic growth, social development, and emotional well-being. However, this environment is not without its challenges. One of the primary challenges is the lack of adequate infrastructure and resources, which can lead to overcrowded classrooms, insufficient teaching materials and inadequate facilities such as libraries, laboratories, and recreational areas (Ogbuka, 2019; Terhemba et al., 2021). This scarcity hampers the overall learning experience and can lead to frustration among both students and teachers. Limited teacher support and development are also significant factors in shaping a positive school climate. Nigerian public schools often face challenges in providing ongoing professional development opportunities for teachers, as well as the lack of mentorship and coaching programs. These issues can hinder the growth and effectiveness of teachers, impacting their ability to create a positive and engaging learning environment.

Safety and security concerns also present significant challenges in maintaining a positive school climate. Nigerian public secondary schools are facing challenges in implementing adequate security measures, exposing students and staff to threats and violence (Alimba, 2018; Inuwa & Yusof, 2012). This can create an atmosphere of fear and anxiety, detracting from the sense of safety and well-being essential for a positive school climate. Socio-economic disparities among the students can contribute to challenges in maintaining a positive school climate. Students from marginalized communities often face obstacles such as poverty, lack of access to nutritious meals, and inadequate healthcare. These disparities can impact their academic performance, emotional well-being and overall engagement in the school community, thereby affecting the overall climate of the school.

Cultural and diversity issues also pose a challenge in maintaining a positive school climate (Inuwa & Yusof, 2012). Cultural misunderstandings, language barriers and discrimination based on ethnicity or religion can create tension and division within the school community, undermining efforts to foster inclusivity and mutual respect. To tackle these issues, a comprehensive strategy involving infrastructure improvements, teacher development, safety measures, socio-economic disparities, cultural understanding and diversity promotion is needed. By addressing these challenges, Nigerian public schools can cultivate a positive school climate that nurtures the holistic development of students and creates a conducive environment for academic achievement and personal growth.

Social and emotional development is another significant impact of a positive school climate. Students who feel respected, accepted and supported are more likely to develop strong social and emotional skills, leading to improved behaviour, reduced instances of bullying and aggression and enhanced conflict resolution abilities. Students are more likely to exhibit empathy, compassion and a sense of responsibility towards their peers and the broader community within a positive school climate. Teacher retention and satisfaction are also significantly influenced by a positive school climate. When teachers and staff members work in a supportive, collaborative and respectful environment, they are more likely to experience higher job satisfaction and morale, leading to improved retention rates.

Parental involvement is another significant impact of a positive school climate. When parents perceive the school as a welcoming and supportive environment, they are more likely to actively engage in school activities, support their child's learning at home and participate in school decision-making processes. This collaboration between the school and parents creates a more cohesive and supportive educational community, ultimately benefiting both students and the school as a whole. Students are more likely to experience higher levels of self-esteem, motivation and overall well-being while teachers and staff members enjoy a more positive work environment. This collective well-being creates a conducive atmosphere for learning, growth, and achievement in Nigerian public schools. Therefore, fostering and maintaining a positive school climate should be a priority for educational leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders dedicated to the advancement of Nigerian public education.

Driving Progress: Implementing Goal Achievement Structure in Nigerian Public Schools

The goal achievement structure in Nigerian public schools is a framework that guides and supports the process of setting, pursuing and attaining educational goals (Ahmadi & Lukman, 2015). It includes policies, resources and practices that shape the goal-setting process, monitor progress, and provide necessary support to ensure goals are achieved effectively. The structure involves establishing clear objectives, allocating resources, and implementing strategies to facilitate goal attainment. Key components of the goal achievement structure include establishing clear and measurable educational objectives that align with national standards and the specific needs of students and the community. These objectives may include academic performance targets, graduation rates, proficiency in core subjects and the development of essential skills such as critical thinking and problem-solving.

Goal setting plays a crucial role in Nigerian public schools as it provides a roadmap for educational improvement and student success (Agi & Yellowe, 2013; Chukwumah, 2015). It serves as a guiding framework for educational planning and decision-making, helping institutions prioritize areas of focus, allocate resources effectively and implement targeted interventions to address specific educational needs. By setting clear and measurable goals, schools can create a sense of direction and purpose,

fostering a culture of continuous improvement and accountability. By defining clear objectives, allocating resources effectively and fostering a culture of goal setting, schools can create an environment where every student has the opportunity to thrive and realize their full potential, contributing to the overall development and prosperity of the nation.

The goal achievement structure in Nigerian public schools significantly influences the educational landscape thereby aligning with national education objectives, promoting cultural diversity, critical thinking and essential knowledge and skills acquisition through a curriculum (Chigbu & Adamu, 2023). The curriculum is continuously reviewed to ensure it aligns with national education objectives, incorporates emerging trends and prepares students for the demands of the 21st century (Adeniyi et al., 2024; Austin, 2020; Chigbu & Adamu, 2023). Assessment is an integral part of the goal achievement structure, serving as a mechanism for measuring student performance and learning outcomes. Standardized assessments gauge students' mastery of essential competencies outlined in the national curriculum while formative assessments provide timely feedback to students and teachers, fostering a culture of continuous improvement and accountability. By aligning assessment methods with national education objectives, Nigerian public schools ensure can that students' academic achievements align with government standards. In Nigerian public schools, teachers play a crucial role in implementing goal-achievement structures and achieving national education objectives (Usman, 2016). Nigerian public schools are implementing a goal achievement structure to achieve national education objectives. This structure emphasizes continuous teacher training and professional development, investing in pedagogical skills, subject matter expertise, and instructional strategies. Resource allocation is crucial for effective implementation, with Nigerian public schools prioritizing instructional materials, technology infrastructure and learning support services. As the educational landscape evolves, it is essential to align the structure with national education objectives to create a conducive learning environment and empower students to thrive in a dynamic and interconnected world.

The goal achievement structure in Nigerian public schools is crucial for shaping the educational landscape but it faces several challenges. These include a lack of resources, bureaucratic hurdles, cultural and socioeconomic disparities, and resistance to change among stakeholders. The lack of resources, including educational materials, infrastructure, and qualified teaching staff, makes it difficult to establish and maintain a robust goal-achievement structure within the school system. Bureaucratic red tape and administrative complexities also pose significant obstacles to the seamless implementation of goal achievement structures. Cultural and socioeconomic disparities in Nigeria present challenges in implementing uniform goal achievement structures across different regions and communities.

Resistance to change among stakeholders, including teachers, administrators, and parents, further hinders the adoption of new goal-oriented approaches. Traditional pedagogical practices and entrenched beliefs about education may hinder progress and innovation within the school system. To overcome these challenges, strategies that can address those challenges include advocacy for increased funding and resources, streamlining administrative processes, tailoring goal-setting approaches, and professional development and stakeholder engagement. Advocating for increased funding and allocation of resources, streamlining administrative processes are essential for facilitating the implementation of goal achievement structures.

A tailored approach to goal setting is also necessary, considering the unique characteristics of student populations and customizing goal achievement structures to align with each community or region. Professional development initiatives for teachers, active engagement of parents and community members, and inclusive dialogue can help dismantle barriers to implementing goal-oriented strategies. By addressing resource deficiencies, reforming administrative processes, tailoring goal-setting approaches, and actively engaging stakeholders, the educational landscape in Nigeria can be transformed to support the effective implementation of goal achievement structures.

Influence of School Climate on Goal Achievement Structure in Nigerian Public Schools

Research indicates that the school climate in Nigerian public schools significantly influences academic performance, which is essential for achieving academic success (Atolagbe et al., 2020; Gbesoevi et al., 2023; Nwobodo et al., 2017; Onafowope et al., 2024). A positive school climate fosters a supportive environment for teaching and learning, promoting a sense of belonging, safety and respect among students, teachers and staff. When students feel valued and supported, they are more likely to engage in their academic pursuits and develop positive attitudes towards learning. Conversely, a negative school climate characterized by bullying, lack of discipline and disengagement can hinder academic performance and overall progress.

The impact of school climate on academic performance is evident in various aspects, including student engagement, teacherstudent relationships, emotional well-being, discipline and behaviour (Darling-Hammond & Cook-Harvey, 2018; Đorđić, 2020; Wang & Degol, 2016). A positive school climate encourages active participation in classroom activities, extracurricular events, and academic discussions, leading to improved academic performance. A supportive school climate also fosters positive teacherstudent relationships, enabling teachers to mentor, guide and inspire students, contributing to the academic and emotional development of students. To drive academic progress in Nigerian public schools, it is essential to prioritize the improvement of school climate through strategies such as professional development for teachers, student support services, community involvement, and goal achievement structure. Professional development involves providing continuous training and support for teachers and staff while student support services address the social, emotional, and academic needs of students. Community involvement involves engaging parents, local communities, and stakeholders to actively participate in creating a positive school climate. By prioritizing a positive and inclusive school climate, teachers and stakeholders can create an environment that fosters student engagement, emotional well-being, positive behaviour and strong teacher-student relationships, ultimately leading to improved academic performance and overall progress. A positive school climate in Nigerian public schools significantly influences goal achievement. This climate is characterized by a supportive, inclusive, and respectful atmosphere that fosters a sense of belonging, safety and overall well-being among students, teachers and staff. A growth mindset is one of the key ways in which a positive school climate influences goal-setting and achievement. When students feel safe, supported and valued within their school community, they are more likely to develop a belief in their abilities to learn and grow.

Furthermore, a positive school climate promotes a sense of motivation and engagement among students. When students feel connected to their school community and are surrounded by peers and teachers who are enthusiastic about learning, they are more likely to be intrinsically motivated to excel academically. This intrinsic motivation serves as a powerful driving force behind goal setting and achievement, as students become more invested in their academic pursuits and strive to reach their full potential. A positive school climate nurtures the development of strong relationships and a sense of connectedness among students, teachers and staff. This sense of community and support networks within the school environment can have a significant impact on goal achievement. When students feel that they are part of a caring and cohesive community, they are more likely to seek assistance when needed, collaborate with their peers, and form positive relationships with their teachers. These factors contribute to a supportive environment that enables students to set ambitious goals and receive the necessary guidance and encouragement to work towards their attainment.

Moreover, a positive school climate fosters a culture of high expectations and academic rigour. When students are immersed in an environment that promotes a commitment to excellence and continuous improvement, they are more likely to set challenging academic goals for themselves. The presence of dedicated and supportive teachers within this climate further reinforces the importance of goal setting and provides students with the guidance and resources needed to strive for academic success. By fostering a growth mindset, promoting a sense of belonging, enhancing motivation and engagement, cultivating a collaborative learning community, and nurturing resilience and well-being, a positive school climate sets the stage for students to set meaningful goals and realize their full potential. As teachers and policymakers continue to prioritize the establishment of positive school climates, the impact on goal achievement and overall academic success will undoubtedly be significant.

The relationship between school climate and goal achievement structure in Nigerian public schools is crucial for academic success. These case studies illustrate this relationship. First, Federal Government Girls' College, Abuloma, in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, has a positive and inclusive school climate that fosters student engagement and academic excellence. The school's teaching staff and administrators are dedicated to creating a supportive environment. The goal achievement structure at the college is well-communicated, aligned with the national curriculum and designed to challenge students while providing necessary support. The positive school climate and robust goal achievement structure have resulted in remarkable academic progress, with high levels of motivation, enthusiasm for learning, and a strong sense of belonging among students. The school has consistently produced outstanding results and become a model for educational excellence in the region.

Secondly, Government Secondary School, Garki, in Abuja, has made significant strides in improving its school climate and goal achievement structure, leading to notable advancements in academic progress. The school has implemented various initiatives to promote community, mutual respect, and student well-being, prioritizing student involvement in decision-making processes, anti-bullying measures, and providing ample support services. In terms of goal achievement structure, the school has adopted a comprehensive approach to setting and monitoring academic goals, establishing clear learning objectives, implementing regular assessments, and providing targeted interventions to support struggling students.

Thirdly, Eko Boys' High School, Lagos has successfully fostered a positive school climate and a robust goal achievement structure, resulting in improved academic performance and student engagement. The school has established clear academic goals and targets, providing students with a roadmap for success and a sense of purpose in their learning journey. This supportive environment has instilled a sense of belonging and community among students, leading to higher motivation and enthusiasm for learning. The well-defined goal achievement structure has enabled students to track their progress and take ownership of their academic development, ultimately driving positive academic outcomes.

Fourthly, Model Secondary School, Maitama Abuja has also exemplified the symbiotic relationship between school climate and goal achievement structure in driving academic progress. The school prioritizes creating a positive and inclusive climate by promoting diversity, equity, and respect among its student body. Through co-curricular activities, cultural exchange programs, and collaborative learning opportunities, Unity High School has fostered a sense of unity and camaraderie among its students. The school has implemented a well-structured goal achievement framework, including personalized academic support, individualized learning plans, and regular progress assessments. This has empowered students to strive for excellence and reach their full potential.

The positive school climate has nurtured a sense of belonging and acceptance, leading to increased student confidence and selfefficacy. These efforts have led to significant improvements in students' academic performance, including higher graduation rates and increased participation in extracurricular activities. The positive school climate and goal achievement structure have contributed to a more conducive learning environment, enabling students to thrive academically. As Nigerian public schools continue to prioritize these factors, it is essential to recognize their profound impact on shaping educational experiences and outcomes. Strategies for Improving School Climate and Goal Achievement Structure in Nigerian Public Schools

Professional development plays a crucial role in shaping Nigerian public schools' school climate and goal achievement structure (Adanne, 2023). It directly influences the quality of education, student outcomes and the overall effectiveness of the school environment. One of the primary benefits of professional development is its capacity to enhance teaching practices. Through targeted training sessions and workshops, teachers can acquire new methodologies, instructional techniques and classroom management strategies which allows them to engage students more effectively, adapt to diverse learning styles and create a positive and inclusive learning environment. By honing their skills and staying abreast of current educational trends, teachers can contribute significantly to fostering a conducive school climate that supports academic and personal growth. Professional development opportunities foster collaboration among teachers and provide leadership development. Teachers and administrators can share best practices, exchange ideas, and address challenges in the school setting. Leadership training equips administrators with tools to manage resources, implement policies, and inspire positive change. Fostering a culture of collaboration and leadership contributes to a cohesive approach to achieving school goals.

To improve school climate and goal achievement, schools should enhance community engagement by partnering with local organizations, businesses, and parents. This can provide resources, mentorship opportunities and support for various school initiatives. Schools can also organize community service projects, career fairs and workshops to involve the community in the educational process. Mentoring and counselling programs are crucial for supporting students' academic and personal development. These programs pair students with adult mentors from the community, providing guidance, support, and encouragement. School counsellors can offer personalized academic and career guidance to help students set and achieve their goals.

Extracurricular activities are essential for fostering a positive school climate and holistic development. Schools should encourage students to participate in sports, arts, music and other extracurricular activities, providing a creative outlet and instilling values like teamwork, discipline and time management. Schools can establish student councils, leadership clubs and peer mentoring programs to involve students in decision-making processes and promote inclusivity. The use of data and assessments in Nigerian public schools is a powerful strategy for improving school climate and goal achievement structure. By analyzing data such as test scores, classroom assessments, attendance records and disciplinary incidents, teachers can identify areas for improvement, such as low academic performance, high rates of absenteeism or behavioural issues. Once identified, targeted interventions can be implemented to address these issues. For instance, if a significant number of students are struggling in a particular subject, targeted academic support programs can be developed to provide additional help and resources. Similarly, if high rates of absenteeism are identified, strategies to improve student attendance can be implemented, such as mentorship programs, incentives for good attendance, or outreach to families. Consistently monitoring student progress through assessments helps teachers make informed decisions about interventions' effectiveness and adjust strategies accordingly. Initiatives like antibullying programs, cultural awareness, and social-emotional learning can create a school environment that values diversity and inclusivity.

Policy recommendations include working with school administrators to develop a framework for setting and monitoring academic goals and allocating resources for professional development programs. Effective communication and collaboration among students, teachers, parents and the community are vital for creating a supportive and cohesive school environment. Government agencies should allocate funding for initiatives that promote family and community engagement in education and provide training for teachers on effective communication and collaboration strategies. Schools should prioritize ongoing professional development, focusing on classroom management, cultural competency and student-centred instructional practices. The government should allocate resources for comprehensive professional development programs for teachers.

CONCLUSION

The relationship between school climate and goal achievement structure in Nigerian public schools is crucial for students' academic, social, and emotional development. A safe and nurturing environment where students feel valued and respected is crucial for enhancing their learning experience. Renovating the goal achievement structure requires setting clear, attainable academic goals, providing constructive feedback, and offering adequate support and resources. Establishing high expectations and an academic excellence culture will motivate students to achieve their goals. Educational authorities should invest in professional development programs for teachers to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to create an engaging and supportive learning environment. By acknowledging these factors and taking proactive measures, we can pave the way for a transformative and enriching educational experience for future generations.

REFERENCES

- Adanne, E. F. (2023). Current Issues on Professional Development Needs of Principals and Teachers in Public Secondary Schools, in Nigeria. Online Submission, 7(9), 31-46.
- Adeniyi, I. S., Al Hamad, N. M., Adewusi, O. E., Unachukwu, C. C., Osawaru, B., Onyebuchi, C. N., Omolawal, S.A., Aliu, A.O.
 & David, I. O. (2024). Educational reforms and their impact on student performance: A review in African Countries. World Journal of Advanced Research and Reviews, 21(2), 750-762.

- Adeoye, M. A., & Akinnubi, O. P. (2023). Principals' Transformational Leadership Style in Public Senior Secondary Schools in Oyo State: Challenges and Prospects. Indonesian Journal of Education and Social Studies (IJESS), 2(2), 57-69.
- Adeyeye, G. M. (2023). The influence of family structure on children's academic achievement: evidence from some selected secondary schools in Oyo State, Nigeria. EUREKA: Social and Humanities, (2), 27-37.
- Agi, U. K., & Yellowe, N. A. (2013). Management strategies for regenerating secondary education for national development and self-reliance. *Journal of Teacher Perspective (JOTEP)*, 7(2), 12-19.
- Ahmadi, A. A., & Lukman, A. A. (2015). Issues and Prospects of Effective Implementation of New Secondary School Curriculum in Nigeria. *Journal of education and practice*, 6(34), 29-39.
- Alimba, C. N. (2018). Security and security measures for schools operating in domains prone to insurgency in Nigeria. International Journal of Public Administration and Management Research, 4(3), 38-50.
- Atolagbe, A. A., Ojo, O. J., & Oparinde, O. (2020). Staff Relationship Strategies and School Effectiveness in Public Secondary Schools: Depicting Kwara State, Nigeria. *African Journal of Inter/Multidisciplinary Studies*, 2(1), 103-113.
- Austin, I. S. (2020). Strategic planning: A remedy for the successful management of Nigeria secondary school system. International Journal of Secondary Education, 8(2), 53-68.
- Berkowitz, R., Moore, H., Astor, R. A., & Benbenishty, R. (2017). A research synthesis of the associations between socioeconomic background, inequality, school climate, and academic achievement. *Review of Educational Research*, 87(2), 425-469.
- Chigbu, P. O., & Adamu, M. A. (2023). Instructional Materials and Curriculum Development in Nigerian Educational System: Challenges and Prospects. International Journal of Formal Education, 2(12), 392-406.
- Chukwumah, F. O. (2015). Developing Quality Strategic Plan in Secondary Schools for Successful School Improvement. *Journal* of Education and Practice, 6(21), 136-144.
- Darling-Hammond, L., & Cook-Harvey, C. M. (2018). Educating the Whole Child: Improving School Climate to Support Student Success. Learning Policy Institute.
- Dernowska, U. (2017). Teacher and student perceptions of school climate. Some conclusions from school culture and climate research. *Journal of Modern Science*, 32(1), 63-82.
- Đorđić, D. (2020). The relationship between school climate and students' engagement at school. Zbornik Instituta za pedagoska istrazivanja, 52(2), 233-274.
- Egwuasi, P. I., Laguador, J. M., Hussein, E. K., Apea, O. B., CNA, J. I. E., & Shava, G. N. (2020). School Environment and Sustainable Development Goals Beyond 2030. Author House.
- Ekeh, M. C., & Venketsamy, R. (2021). Ensuring child-friendly learning environments in Nigerian Early Childhood Centers. *The education systems of Africa*, 677-703.
- Emordi, P. J. (2024). Government Efforts and the Challenges of Achieving Quality Education Among Secondary Schools in Delta State, Nigeria (2012-2020). KKU International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences 14 (1), 24-56.
- Ewulley, F., Anlimachie, M. A., Abreh, M. K., & Mills, E. E. (2023). Understanding the nexus of school types, school cultures and educational outcomes and its implication for policy and practice. *International Journal of Educational Research*, 121, 102237.
- Falk, D., Varni, E., Johna, J. F., & Frisoli, P. (2019). Landscape review: Teacher well-being in low resource, crisis, and conflictaffected settings. *Education Equity Research Initiative*.
- Gbesoevi, E. S., Salami, F. F., Akinlade, P. A., Oluwatunbi, E. A., & Ola, B. A. (2023). School climate and productivity of teachers in public senior secondary schools, Ogun West Senatorial District, Nigeria. *Journal of Research, Policy & Practice of Teachers and Teacher Education*, 13(2), 122-130.
- Hawkins, G. T., Chung, C. S., Hertz, M. F., & Antolin, N. (2023). The school environment and physical and social-emotional well-being: implications for students and school employees. *Journal of School Health*, 93(9), 799-812.

- Huang, L. (2022). Exploring the relationship between school bullying and academic performance: The mediating role of students' sense of belonging at school. *Educational Studies*, 48(2), 216-232.
- Iheanyichukwu, T., Bukki, A. O., Falade, E. O., Ekeh, A. N., & Aigbekaen, A. C. (2022). School Climate Indices and Academic Performance of Junior Secondary School Students. The African Journal of Behavioural and Scale Development Research, 4(2).
- Inuwa, A. M., & Yusof, N. M. (2012). Teachers challenge in Nigerian Public secondary schools climate: implications on students dropouts. *Science Journal of Sociology and Anthropology*, 2012, 1-7.
- Kutsyuruba, B., Klinger, D. A., & Hussain, A. (2015). Relationships among school climate, school safety, and student achievement and well-being: a review of the literature. *Review of Education*, 3(2), 103-135.
- Liang, C. T., Rocchino, G. H., Gutekunst, M. H., Paulvin, C., Melo Li, K., & Elam-Snowden, T. (2020). Perspectives of respect, teacher-student relationships, and school climate among boys of colour: A multi-focus group study. *Psychology of Men & Masculinities*, 21(3), 345.
- Mabunda, N. K. (2022). A framework for the promotion of healthy school environments to enhance the well-being of educators in public schools (Doctoral dissertation, North-West University (South Africa).).
- Mtimkulu, M. G. N. (2022). Promoting healthy school physical environments to improve learner academic performance: a framework for principals (Doctoral dissertation, North-West University (South Africa).).
- Nwobodo, R., Donatus, F., & Agusiobo, H. C. (2017). Relationship between school climates and academic adjustment of students in secondary schools in Enugu State. *International Journal of Education*, 2(1), 1-258.
- Ogbuka, L. U. (2019). Physical Facilities and Quality Education in Secondary Schools in Aba North Local Government Area of Abia State (Postgraduate Diploma in Education Dissertation, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State).
- Onafowope, M. A., Egwunyenga, E. J., & Anho, J. E. (2024). Work Climate and Students' Academic Achievement in Catholic Secondary Schools in Ogun State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Education, Learning and Development*, 12(3), 37-47.
- Owoeye, J. S., & Olatunde Yara, P. (2011). School facilities and academic achievement of secondary school agricultural science in Ekiti State, Nigeria. Asian Social Science, 7(7), 64-74.
- Smith, T. K., Connolly, F., & Pryseski, C. (2014). Positive school climate: What it looks like and how it happens. Nurturing positive school climate for student learning and professional growth. *Baltimore Education Research Consortium*.
- Terhemba, A., Jacob, O. N., & Ahaotu, G. N. (2021). Management of Public Secondary Schools in Nigeria: Challenges and the Ways Forward. Academic Journal of Digital Economics and Stability, 8, 56-65.
- Thapa, A., Cohen, J., Guffey, S., & Higgins-D'Alessandro, A. (2013). A review of school climate research. Review of educational research, 83(3), 357-385.
- Uline, C. L., Wolsey, T. D., Tschannen-Moran, M., & Lin, C. D. (2010). Improving the physical and social environment of school: A question of equity. *Journal of School Leadership*, 20(5), 597-632.
- Usman, Y. D. (2016). Educational Resources: An Integral Component for Effective School Administration in Nigeria. Online Submission, 6(13), 27-37.
- Wang, M. T., & Degol, J. L. (2016). School climate: A review of the construct, measurement, and impact on student outcomes. *Educational psychology review*, 28(2), 315-352.
- Werang, B. R., Agung, A. A. G., Jampel, I. N., Gading, I. K., Jim, E. L., Asaloei, S. I., & Sianturi, M. (2024). Exploring the simultaneous impact of parental support, school environment, teacher morale, and student learning motivation on student academic performance. *International Journal of Religion*, 5(2), 510-520.

Information about the authors

Olaolu Paul Akinnubi – Educational Management, Faculty of Education, Al-hikmah University Ilorin, Nigeria. E-mail: <u>ladunajape@gmail.com</u>

Rasheedat Oladunni Ajape – Educational Management, Faculty of Education, Al-hikmah University Ilorin, Nigeria.

Moses Adeleke Adeoye - Educational Management, Faculty of Education, Al-hikmah University Ilorin, Nigeria.

E-mail: princeadelekm@gmail.com