



Dimensions of Research Findings' Utilisation for Sustainable Development in Tertiary Institutions in South East Nigeria

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Abstract

The study assessed the dimensions of research findings' utilisation for sustainable development of tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria. Two specific objectives with two related research questions research questions, and two null hypotheses guided the study. The population of the study was one hundred and forty-nine (149) entrepreneurship lecturers (85 from Federal and 64 from State Universities) spread across the five States of South East Nigeria. There was no sampling since all the 149 entrepreneurship Lecturers were used as the subjects of the study. The instrument for data collection was researchers' structured questionnaire titled, "Utilization of Research Findings for Sustainable Development in Tertiary Institutions Questionnaire" (URFSDTIQ). The instrument was validated by three (3) lecturers; two from the Department of Educational Foundations (Educational Administration and Planning option) and one from the Measurement and Evaluation option of the Department of Science Education, all in Ebonyi State University Abakaliki. The reliability measures of internal consistency, using the Cronbach Alpha method with the aid of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), yielded an overall reliability index of 0.65. Mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research questions, while a t-test of the independent sample was used to test the hypotheses at a 0.05 level of significance. Based on these analyses, the study revealed that there was low extent of utilization of research findings for technological and health-related sustainable development in tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria; that there was no significant difference ($P>0.05$) between the mean ratings of lecturers of federal and state Universities on extent of utilization of research findings for technological and health-related sustainable development in tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria. Based on these findings, the study recommended, among other things, that University administrators (HODs and Deans) should invite the technocrats, technicians or technologists and scientists to witness the final presentation of research reports in tertiary institutions in order to communicate research findings to the users.

Key: Dimensions, Research, Research Findings, Utilization, Sustainable Development, Tertiary Institutions

Introduction

The importance of research conducts in tertiary institutions cannot be underestimated. A University is typically a tertiary institution that offers both undergraduate and graduate degree programmes. Universities offer Degrees, Postgraduates diploma, Master's and Ph.D. Degrees in varying capacities. Universities tend to be large institutions with multiple buildings on campus. Universities usually have multiple Faculties within their systems, such as the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Sciences among others. Universities usually offer a broad scope of major programmes (Zapata, 2019). Universities have broader areas of pedagogical methods as they promote creative and critical learning among others. Although previous studies have been conducted on research utilization (William and Ebenezar, 2013; Ijeoma, 2018), there are still limited data on the extent of utilization of tertiary institutions research findings in socio-economic, political, cultural, technological and health transformation particularly in tertiary institutions (Universities) in South East Nigeria. In striving to contribute towards improved tertiary institution in South East Nigeria, Universities carry out researches to proffer solutions to problems.

Research is an art of scientific investigation. It is regarded as a systematic effort to gain new knowledge. Research is defined as the creation of new knowledge and/or the use of existing knowledge in a new and creative way so as to generate new concepts, methodologies and understandings (Creswell, 2018). Research also includes synthesis and analysis of previous researches to the extent that they lead to new and creative outcomes (Adeyimika and Eme, 2018). In the field of education, research is the systematic inquiry into an unknown in order to proffer dependable solutions to educational problems. Research conducts in tertiary institution is systematic because it follows the predetermined steps-by-step approaches of defining and redefining problems, formulating hypotheses or suggested solutions; collecting, organizing and evaluating data; making deductions and reaching conclusions; and at last carefully testing the conclusions to determine whether they fit the formulating hypothesis (Ifeakor and Anekwe, 2012). According to Nworgu (2015), the purpose of research in education is to provide the readers with comprehensive insights into several issues concerning research and to solve the educational problems in the area of teaching and learning, administration, planning and development. In the context of this study, research is the systematic and scientific process of generating data or findings towards the solution to educational and institutional problems.

Research findings are the outcomes of every research endeavour. They include recommendations and implications of research works. Research findings mean results or outputs from research and development activities, and include new or improved products, inventions, innovations and improvements in any process, technique, apparatus or machine (William and Ebenezar, 2013). Research findings are the numeric, analytic, or narrative results, conclusions, data, statistics, and all other information collected or produced in research endeavours and include but not limited to empirical evidence, theoretical conjecture, databases, software, and equipment developed for research endeavours (Walugembe, Suzanne, Joseph, Matovu and Laura, 2015). Tracy and Johann (2015) note that the findings of any sort of research, provide the basis for making new policies in

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social, political, economic, religious and cultural systems. These findings must be made public at all time for private partnership programmes in tertiary institutions and for proper engagement. According to Ebenuwa-Okoh (2008), quality research findings increase the responsiveness to changes in trend of development and improvement of tertiary institutions. In the context of this study, research findings are all the outputs, suggestions, and recommendations of undergraduates and postgraduate researches which are used to achieve sustainable change in the overall aspect of the tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria. It implies that utilization of research findings increases pressure on accountability, using assessment for internal planning and improvement for best practices for external accountability.

Research utilization is referred to as making decisions concerning policy, advocacy and resource allocation, planning and management, and programme systems development and strengthening, using information generated from research (Ijeoma, 2018). The concept of research utilization has been described as using a variety of terminologies, including ‘knowledge translation,’ ‘knowledge management,’ ‘knowledge utilization,’ and ‘research dissemination,’ among others (Tracy and Johann, 2015). However, research utilization differs from all these terminologies because it focuses on purposes and impact of the study rather than mere knowledge management or dissemination of results. According to Gale, Heath, Cameron, Rashid and Redwood (2013), research utilization focuses on what researchers want people to receive from their research results, how they want people to make use of the ideas, information, or products resulting from their research, and how people are actually using these findings in solving the problems of the society. Therefore, in the context of this study, utilization of research findings is the extent to which the research findings generated from universities help the university administrators to sustain overall development in the Universities in South East, Nigeria.

Sustainable development is the process of meeting the needs of the universities without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs (Awah, 2016). It involves enhancing the socio-economic, cultural and political wellbeing of the present and future generations without destroying the environment (Olatunde, 2020). The tertiary institutions must attract positive changes or transformations that support human life (sustainable) through the quality of research findings. In the context of this study, sustainable development in tertiary institutions entails the positive transformation or changes in socio-economic, cultural, political educational, technological and health systems in tertiary institutions through the effective and efficient application or use of research findings. Efficient tertiary education and quality research findings are essential parts of an all-round transformation of every society (Ekong (2015).The advancement of knowledge and skills in tertiary institutions could result in Nigeria’s economic growth and standard of living as learning outcomes. The research conducted in tertiary institutions must also help in transforming the institutions. Proper use of research findings of tertiary institutions can therefore contribute to sustainable economic, social, political, technological and health advancement of tertiary institutions in Nigerian society (Awah, 2016). Therefore, utilization of quality research findings can contribute to sustainable development in tertiary institutions.

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These overall sustainable developments are the positive transformation in technological knowledge, and productive health systems in tertiary institution through research findings.

Technological use of research findings deals with the application of tertiary institutions research outputs in problem-solving activities of the institutions. The research findings of tertiary institutions must help to identify and investigate sets of intellectual and cognitive processes needed for advanced technology (Haupt, 2018). The technological knowledge generated through research endeavours must help the institutions in solving technological problems (Jackson and Strimel, 2018). Bolanle and Oluseye (2022) found that knowledge transmission or utilisation in technology related issues is a critical driver in the technological development economy. The authors added that research findings must be channeled towards development of tools and machines needed for transformative industry. However, most of the advanced research reports generated by various tertiary institutions seem not to have contributed in the development of technological know-how of these institutions. This has invariably made the South East Nigeria to be dependent on the importation of technologies from foreign countries. These technologies would have been produced through the research outputs generated through the tertiary institutions. This invariably could negatively affect the sustainable development of tertiary institutions particularly in South East Nigeria. In addition, the use of research outputs is also important in the area of health system of these institutions.

Finally, health professionals need timely, valid, and relevant information to be available at the point of decision making. According to Habre, Tramer, Popping and Elia, (2014), research findings can be utilized in decisions at many levels in the health system. Such areas of research findings utilization include caring for individual patients, developing practice guidelines, commissioning health care centres, developing prevention and health promotion strategies, developing policies, designing educational programmes, and performing clinical audits. However, this can only be achieved if clinicians know how to translate knowledge into action. The acquisition of database searching and critical appraisal skills can give health professionals greater confidence in finding and assessing the quality of publications, but this does not necessarily help in applying new knowledge to day to day problems (Prescott, Douglas, Lloyd and Haines (2017). Onyango and Wegulo (2017) found that research findings can be used by policymakers in health sector to solve environmental problems affecting growth and development of the nation. Nevertheless, many clinicians still do not receive such information, and more needs to be done to provide a wider range of high quality information that is usable in practice settings (Cimp, 2015). In addition, Tofi (2019) and Adewuyi (2021) revealed that the effective utilization of research findings in health system would help in the discovery of new skills and attitudes needed in health practice in Nigeria. Therefore, transmitting or communicating the research knowledge in health sectors can help in meeting up the high demand of health delivery in Nigeria.

Nevertheless, most of the public tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria seem to have not utilized the research findings from their institutions for their sustainable development. This is because most

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researchers see research as more academic exercise especially in the tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria. The state of art is that most of the research findings or outputs of tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria usually end in libraries or bookshelves in respective Faculties and Departments. The consequences of non-utilisation of research findings are poor socio-economic, political, health and technological development of tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria. No wonder none of the tertiary institutions in south east Nigeria is enlisted as one of the best institutions in the world institutions ranking (National Bureau of Statistics, 2023). It is important to note that institutions are ranked based on the quality of their research evidence or findings.

There may be variations in the opinions of lecturers of Federal and State Universities on the extent of utilization of research findings for sustainable development in tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria. This is because the nature of University researches conducted in Universities differs might differ in terms of ownership structure. The quality of these researches conducted may therefore be affected by ownership structure in terms of financial structure. For instance, Zapata (2019), noted that federal universities sponsor research works more than state university in terms of funding. However, Benjamin (2014) maintained that there is no difference in the ownership structure of the universities in terms of funding and commitment to research. Although, Benjamin (2014) added that there was difference in staff commitments in Federal and State universities in Nigeria in terms of supervision and teaching and can negatively affect the research endeavours in various perspectives. Enyi and Emetarom (2008) had earlier noted that one of the major challenges facing many African University Administrator, relates to wrong prioritizations. Within this context, minimal attention is usually given to research results and utilization. Therefore, the thrust of study was to compare the opinions of lecturers of Federal and State Universities on the extent of utilization of research findings for sustainable development in tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria.

Statement of the Problems

There have been a continuous call by Governments, Research Organizations, Universities, and other Higher Institutions for a vibrant research function in higher education worldwide. The researcher has observed that most of the research works in universities, usually end up in bookshelves in the Departments or Faculties, and a few others sent to the libraries for use especially in e-libraries and are not channeled towards the sustainable development of tertiary institutions in terms of technological and health transformation, among others, especially in this era of global competitiveness. Sometimes the research works conducted in the various Departments usually remain within the departments and this may result in low level of awareness and utilization of such findings.

The consequences of non-utilisation of research findings in tertiary institutions depreciate to poor socio- technological and health-related development in Universities in South East Nigeria. For instance, there are such health challenges as high diseases outbreak, over population and poor

environmental conservation, among others. Again, there are observed inability of graduates to apply their knowledge of research in developing capacity in solving technological problems like cybercrimes and theft. Nevertheless, the inability of most students of universities to develop their ability in the area of science and technology, good health and environmental behaviour among others would have been solved if there is proper utilisation of the tertiary institutions' research findings in varying capacities. Therefore, the thrust of this study was to determine the extent of utilization of research findings for sustainable development in tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study was to determine the dimensions of utilization of research findings for sustainable development in tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria. Specifically, the study determined

1. the extent of utilization of research findings for technology-related sustainable development in tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria.
2. the extent of utilization of research findings for health-related sustainable development in tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study

1. What is the extent of utilization of research findings for technology-related sustainable development in tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria?
2. What is the extent of utilization of research findings for health-related sustainable development in tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria?

Hypotheses

The following two (2) null hypotheses guided the study, and were tested at 0.05 level of significance.

HO₁: There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of lecturers of Federal and State Universities on the extent of utilization of research findings for technology-related sustainable development in tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria.

HO₂: There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of lecturers of Federal and State Universities on the extent of utilization of research findings for health-related sustainable development in tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria.

Methodology

The design of this study was descriptive survey. Descriptive survey is a type of design concerned with describing events as they are, without any manipulation of any variable. According to Shona (2019), descriptive survey design is that type of design which accurately and systematically describes a population, situations or phenomenon under investigation without manipulating any

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variable. This design was used to collect the opinions and facts from lecturers from Universities on the utilization of research findings for sustainable development in tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria. The survey design was considered most suitable for the study because the work used questionnaire and inventory to collect data which were analysed descriptively without manipulation. The area of the study was South East Nigeria. South East Zone is one of the six Geo-Political Zones in Nigeria. The area has ten (10) Federal and State Universities, spread across the five States of the region which are: Abia; Anambra; Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo State. The mentioned States cover the geo-political zone called South Eastern Nigeria with Federal and State owned Universities. The choice of this Zone for the study was particularly informed by the low ranking of most of the universities in South East among other universities in the world (National Bureau of Statistics, 2023), in the area of Health and technological development. The poor health and technological conditions of Tertiary Institutions in the area may be attributed to non-utilisation of research findings for sustainable development.

The population of the study was one hundred and forty nine (149) entrepreneurship Lecturers (comprised Instructors, Technologists, Library and Laboratory Assistants, Research fellows of Public Universities (Federal and State owned) spreads across the five States of South East Nigeria (Assessed form the Entrepreneurship Units of the Universities, 2023). This comprised 85 subjects (respondents) from Entrepreneurship Units in public universities and 64 lecturers from State Universities in South East Nigeria. The rationale for choosing entrepreneurship Lecturers, Instructors and Technologists, Library and Laboratory Assistants, Research fellows as the respondents was based on the fact that they are principal research and learning community, rooted in excellent expertise with cutting edge technology, innovative services delivery, and outstanding information resources sustained by strategic partnerships. There was no sampling technique. All the 149 entrepreneurship Lecturers (Instructors and Technologists, Library and Laboratory Assistants and Research fellows of Public Universities) were used as the sample of the study (85 Federal, 64 State). This was because the population is manageable. The instrument for data collection was researchers' developed questionnaire titled, "Dimension of Utilization of Research Findings for Sustainable Development in Tertiary Institutions Questionnaire" (DURFSDTIQ). The questionnaire contained a total of thirty-two (32) items. The instrument was validated by three (3) experts from Ebonyi State University Abakaliki, and reliability established through Cronbach alpha which yielded 0.72 reliability index. Mean and standard deviation was used to analyse the data collected while t-test was used to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

Results

The data collected were presented in tables based on the two research questions developed from the objectives of the study.

Research Question 1: What is the extent of utilization of research findings for technology-related sustainable development of tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria?

Table 1: Mean Ratings of Federal and State University Lecturers on Extent of Utilization of Research Findings for Technology-Related Sustainable Development in Tertiary Institutions in South East Nigeria

S/N	Items Statements	Federal Universities	\bar{x}	SD	State Universities	\bar{x}	SD	Dec
1	Developing software used for teaching and learning in tertiary institutions.	85	2.40	0.69	64	2.28	0.82	LE
2	Channeling research information in tertiary institutions in the area of surveillance technologies	85	2.34	0.76	64	2.34	0.74	LE
3	Developing hardware used in the industries in universities	85	2.29	0.78	64	2.29	0.77	LE
4	Advancement of knowledge on environmental conservation in universities	85	2.32	0.68	64	2.55	0.78	LE
5	Food processing technology for sustainable food security in the society	85	2.52	0.69	64	2.36	0.74	LE
6	Solving cybercrimes among students in universities	85	2.46	0.66	64	2.39	0.73	LE
	Overall	85	2.39	0.71	64	2.37	0.76	LE

Key: Low Extent (LE), Decision (Dec) (Source, SPSS Output 15th December, 2023)

Data in **Table 1** show that items 1-6 had mean scores ranging from 2.29-2.52 for Federal University entrepreneurship lecturers and 2.28-2.55 for State University entrepreneurship lecturers with their standard deviation scores ranging from 0.66-0.78 and 0.73-0.82 respectively which are below the criterion mean value of 2.50. The grand mean score of 2.39 for Federal University entrepreneurship lecturers and 2.37 for the State University entrepreneurship lecturers, are all indications that there is low extent of utilization of research findings for technology-related sustainable development in tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria.

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Research Question 2: What is the extent of utilization of research findings for health-related sustainable development in tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria?

Table 2: Mean Ratings of Federal and State University Lecturers on Extent of Utilization of Research Findings for Health-related-Related Sustainable Development in Tertiary Institutions in South East Nigeria

S/N	Items Statements	Federal Universities	\bar{x}	SD	State Universities	\bar{x}	SD	Dec
7	Reducing maternal mortality rate in healthcare system of the Universities	85	2.35	0.65	64	2.29	0.73	LE
8	Developing health policies.	85	2.42	0.64	64	2.31	0.77	LE
9	Designing health education programmes	85	2.42	0.73	64	2.38	0.76	LE
10	Manufacturing drugs for the treatment of illnesses in Universities	85	2.52	0.63	64	2.47	0.63	LE
11	Controlling the outbreak of diseases in the Universities.	85	2.50	0.56	64	2.48	0.63	LE
12	Reducing risk behaviours among healthcare workers in the health facilities in University	85	2.34	0.72	64	2.40	0.58	LE
	Overall	85	2.43	0.66	64	2.39	0.68	LE

Key: Low Extent (LE), Decision (Dec) (**Source,** SPSS Output 15th December, 2023)

Data in **Table 2** show that items 7-12 had mean scores ranging from 2.34-2.52 for Federal University entrepreneurship lecturers and 2.29-2.47 for State University entrepreneurship lecturers with their standard deviation scores ranging from 0.56-0.73 and 0.58-0.77 respectively which are below the criterion mean value of 2.50 except for responses in item 28 and 29 for Federal Universities. The grand mean score of 2.43 for Federal University entrepreneurship lecturers and 2.39 for the State University entrepreneurship lecturers, are all indications that there is low extent of utilization of research findings for health-related sustainable development in tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria.

Test of hypotheses

H₀₁: There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of lecturers of Federal and State Universities on the extent of utilization of research findings for Technology-related sustainable development in tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria.

Table 3: t-test Summary of Entrepreneurship Lecturers of Federal and State Universities on Extent of Utilization of Research Findings for Technology-Related Sustainable Development in Tertiary Institutions in South East Nigeria

S/N	University Entrepreneurship Lecturers	N _Q	\bar{X}	SD	Df	T	P-Value	Decision
1	Federal	85	2.40	0.69	147	0.95	0.34	NS
	State	64	2.28	0.83				
2	Federal	85	2.34	0.76	147	-0.02	0.98	NS
	State	64	2.34	0.74				
3	Federal	85	2.29	0.78	147	-0.02	0.98	NS
	State	64	2.29	0.77				
4	Federal	85	2.31	0.68	147	-1.92	0.06	NS
	State	64	2.55	0.78				
5	Federal	85	2.52	0.69	147	-1.27	0.21	NS
	State	64	2.36	0.74				
6	Federal	85	2.46	0.66	147	0.59	0.55	NS
	State	64	2.39	0.73				
Overall			2.38	0.74	147	-4.89	0.52	NS

Key: Not Significant (NS); (Source, SPSS Output 15th December, 2023)

Data in **Table 3** show that the responses of Federal and State University entrepreneurship lecturers had no significant difference in items 1-6, respectively. It also showed overall t-calculated value of -4.89 and P-value of 0.52 which is greater than the chosen level of significance, 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis which stated that there is no significant difference between the mean ratings of entrepreneurship lecturers of Federal and State Universities on extent of utilization of research findings for technology-related sustainable development in tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria was upheld.

H₀₂: There is no significant difference between the mean ratings of lecturers of Federal and State Universities on the extent of utilization of research findings for health-related sustainable development in tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria.

Table 4: t-test Summary of Entrepreneurship Lecturers of Federal and State Universities on Extent of Utilization of Research Findings for Health-Related Sustainable Development in Tertiary Institutions in South East Nigeria

S/N	University	N _Q	\bar{X}	SD	Df	T	P-Value	Decision
	Entrepreneurship Lecturers							
	Federal	85	2.35	0.65				
7	State	64	2.69	0.73	147	0.49	0.62	NS
	Federal	85	2.42	0.64				
8	State	64	2.31	0.77	147	0.96	0.34	NS
	Federal	85	2.42	0.73				
9	State	64	2.38	0.77	147	0.39	0.69	NS
	Federal	85	2.51	0.62				
10	State	64	2.47	0.63	147	-0.44	0.66	NS
	Federal	85	2.50	0.56				
11	State	64	2.48	0.63	147	-0.18	0.86	NS
	Federal	85	2.34	0.72				
12	State	64	2.40	0.58	147	-0.59	0.55	NS
	Overall		2.45	0.67	147	0.63	0.62	NS

Key: Not Significant (NS); (Source, SPSS Output 15th December, 2023)

Data in **Table 4** show that the responses of Federal and State University entrepreneurship lecturers had no significant difference in items 7-12, respectively. It also showed overall t-calculated value of 0.63 and P-value of 0.62 which is greater than the chosen level of significance, 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis which stated that there is no significant difference between the mean ratings of entrepreneurship lecturers of Federal and State Universities on extent of utilization of research findings for health-related sustainable development in tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria was upheld.

Discussion of Findings

The study explored the dimensions of the utilisation of research findings for sustainable development of tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria. One of the finding of the study revealed that there was low extent of utilization of research findings for technology-related sustainable development in tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria. This finding showed that research findings are not used in such areas as: developing software used for teaching and learning in tertiary institutions, in the area of surveillance technologies, developing hardware used in the industries, advancement of knowledge on environment conservation in universities, for food processing technology for sustainable food security in the society. This finding is supported by the

finding of Adekoya (2018) who submitted that there was significant relationship between research skill and sustainable library development and the joint influence of research skills and ICT application was not significant on sustainable library development. The significance of this finding is that students of tertiary institutions cannot develop technological skills needed in advancement of industries if research findings are not communicated effectively. The finding of the study was also supported by Bolanle and Oluseye (2022) that market sources of information are the leading significant influencers of ICT innovations, but research information are not disseminated significantly for users. It is appears that most graduates of tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria lack the skills and knowledge needed for sustainable technology. This situation could be as a result of poor communication of research findings in tertiary institutions. This culminates the idea of Ojong, Bessong and Bassey (2016) that most graduates of tertiary institutions in Nigeria are unemployable because they lack technological knowledge and its application to solve numerous problems of mankind. It is therefore obvious that research on sustainable technology development capability, is research that is interested in tertiary institutions, because every institution is assessed based on its level of technological development.

Another finding of the study also revealed that there was low extent of Utilization of Research Findings for Technology-Related Sustainable Development in Tertiary Institutions in South East Nigeria. This finding showed that there is low use of research findings in reducing maternal mortality rate in healthcare system of the society, developing health policies, designing health education programmes, manufacturing drugs for the treatments of illness in the society, controlling the outbreak of diseases in the society, and reducing risk behaviours among healthcare workers in the health facilities in South East Nigeria. The implication of this finding is that the low utilization of research findings in health-related sustainable development in South East Nigeria can result to poor disease control and lack of clinical experience of students in tertiary institutions. This situation will invariably affect the well-being and economy of people in the area. This support the view of Grimshaw, Eccles, Lavis, Hill and Squires (2012) that utilization of research outputs can provide important information about disease trends and risk factors, outcomes of treatment or public health interventions, functional abilities, patterns of care, and health care costs and use.

The finding of the study is also in tandem with Tofi (2019) who submitted that there was low utilization of research findings by nurses and Midwifery in Makurdi because of poor allocation of resources. In agreement with this finding, Uzochukwu, Mbachu, Onwujekwe, Okwuosa, Etiaba, Nystrm and Gilson (2016) noted that academics' lack of awareness of the Health Policy and Systems Research and Analysis field and funding, were identified as barriers to strengthening Health Policy and Systems Research and Analysis in Nigeria. Policymakers were not aware of the availability of research findings that could inform the policies they make nor where they could find them; they also appeared unwilling to go through the rigors of reading extensive research reports in the health sector. The sustainable health in tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria can be affected if there is poor network of use of research findings in formulating policies and decisions

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as well as implementation of health policies. There are emerging health technologies and other innovations in health system which requires students to be aware of them to be able to integrate properly into the system and solve health problems that affect the area.

Educational Implications of the Findings

The findings of the study have obvious implications for lecturers and graduates of tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria. One of the findings of the study revealed that there was low extent of utilization of research findings for technology-related sustainable development in tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria. The implication of this finding is that the graduates of tertiary institutions in this area would find it difficult to participate in technology-driven economy. They would also be left out with the technological skills required in advanced economy of the emerging world.

There was also low extent of utilization of research findings for health-related sustainable development in tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria. Low utilization of research findings in tertiary institutions can result to poor disease control and lack of clinical experience of students among students and lecturers.

Conclusion

The study assessed the dimension of utilization of research findings for sustainable development in tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria. It is important to note that researches are carried out in different fields of endeavour in order to proffer solutions to existing problems. In essence, where problem does not seem to exist, there can be no research being carried out. Again, researches are carried out in different fields of human endeavour to enable human beings acquire new knowledge and add the said new knowledge to the existing ones. From the foregoing therefore, it was deduced that research findings or results are not usually referenced for qualitative decision making in the areas of technological and health-related sustainable development by the concerned authorities in tertiary institutions in South East Nigeria. This study concluded that efforts must be intensified by governments, establishments, Universities and industries to ensure that research findings are adequately utilized in the area of needs.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made based on the findings of the study

1. In respect of technology-related sustainable development, University administrators (HODs and Deans) should invite the technocrats, technicians or technologists and scientists to witness the final presentations of research reports in tertiary institutions. This would help to communicate research findings to the users.
2. As regards the utilization of research findings for health-related sustainable development, University Administrators should ensure that relevant findings are used to develop healthcare policies, initiate drug production, design health education programmes to reduce risk behaviours and check outbreak of diseases in the University system.

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