

SMALL GROUP DECISION-MAKING IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS: A STUDY OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE IN NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES

By

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Abstract

The objective of this study was to investigate the dynamics of the University Library Committee, identify the factors impinging on its effectiveness and proffer solutions to problems identified. The population for the study consisted of the 37 Universities in Nigeria from which 15 were selected, using the simple random sampling technique. A 28-item questionnaire relating to the objectives of the study was mailed to members of the library committee in each of the 15 selected Universities with a response rate of 72%. The results showed that lack of quorum, irregularity of meetings, poor attendance and the advisory role of the committee placed it at a disadvantage. Solutions suggested included a review of the objectives of the committee to make it more purposeful, provision of seating allowance as incentive as well as high level representation for the official chairman at committee meetings.

INTRODUCTION

A committee, according to Luthans (1985), is a group of people who function collectively. It is a group formed to accomplish specific objectives. Keith (1981), however, defines a committee as a specific type of meeting, in which members in their group role have been delegated authority with regard to the problem at hand, the authority being expressed in terms of one vote for each member. Terry (1972) on the other hand sees a committee as those charged with some matters, that is, as a body of persons elected or appointed to meet on an organized basis for discussion of and dealing with matters brought before it.

Group meeting as a method of decision-making and information packaging has existed ever since people began to work in groups. However, group meeting has become prevalent in our days because organizations have become more complex making it difficult for any one person to be in a position to assimilate, evaluate