

# Evaluating Learning Resources in a Competitive Environment: A Case Study of Secondary Schools in New Nyanya, Nasarawa State

MUOGBO NNAEMEKA BERTRAM<sup>1</sup>, MADUABUKO EGO CHARITY<sup>2</sup>, DAVID ISHALEKU<sup>3</sup>,  
CHUWKWURAH WILFRED ONYEKA<sup>4</sup>  
<sup>1, 2, 3, 4</sup>National Teachers' Institute, Kaduna

**Abstract-** *This study evaluates the availability, quality, and utilization of learning resources in a competitive educational environment, focusing on secondary schools in New Nyanya, Nasarawa State. As public and private schools compete to improve academic performance, the adequacy of learning resources such as textbooks, instructional materials, and digital tools plays a significant role. Employing a mixed-methods approach, the study gathered quantitative and qualitative data from selected schools. Surveys, interviews, and classroom observations were used to analyze resource adequacy and its impact on academic achievement. The findings reveal significant inequalities in resource distribution, with private schools generally having better-equipped classrooms compared to public schools. Public schools face challenges such as limited funding, outdated materials, and overcrowded classrooms, negatively impacting student learning. The study concludes with policy recommendations to enhance resource distribution and reduce the gap between public and private schools.*

**Index Terms-** *Learning Resources, Educational Equity, School Competitiveness, Secondary Education, Resource Allocation.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

*This study explores the role of learning resources in shaping educational quality and competitiveness among secondary schools in New Nyanya. In the modern educational landscape, the availability of learning resources is a key determinant of academic performance. Learning resources encompass textbooks, instructional tools, digital resources, libraries, and laboratories that support student*

*learning. However, disparities in resource allocation create significant challenges for public schools, which often face funding constraints. In contrast, private schools leverage better financial resources to provide an enriched learning environment.*

*The objective of this study is to analyze how resource disparities impact student academic performance and school competitiveness. The research seeks to provide recommendations for improving resource distribution and ensuring equitable access to quality education.*

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A review of existing literature highlights the role of learning resources in fostering academic success. According to UNESCO (2015), adequate learning resources significantly enhance cognitive growth and student engagement. Studies have shown that disparities in resource allocation contribute to uneven educational outcomes, particularly between public and private schools. Strategies for improving resource distribution in public schools include government funding, partnerships with private organizations, and the adoption of digital learning tools.

- Theoretical Frameworks

In studying the role of learning resources within primary schools in New Nyanya, Nasarawa State, several theoretical frameworks offer valuable insights. These frameworks Resource-Based Theory, Human Capital Theory, and Educational Equity Theory help to explain the dynamics of resource availability, quality, and access within competitive educational settings.

1. Resource-Based Theory (RBT)

Resource-Based Theory (RBT), formulated by Barney (1991), emphasizes that resources within an organization if valuable, rare, inimitable, and non-substitutable serve as a foundation for achieving competitive advantage. In the educational context, RBT suggests that schools possessing distinctive learning resources are positioned to provide a higher quality of education and thus gain a competitive edge over schools with fewer resources.

## 2. Human Capital Theory

Human Capital Theory, originally developed by Becker (1964), emphasizes that investments in education and training increase individuals' skills, knowledge, and productivity, thereby benefiting both individuals and society as a whole. Becker states, "education and training are the most important investments in human capital" (Becker, 1964). In the context of secondary education, this theory highlights the importance of learning resources as an investment in students' future abilities and economic potential.

## 3. Educational Equity Theory

Educational Equity Theory, as discussed by Gewirtz (2006), focuses on the fair distribution of educational resources to ensure all students, regardless of their socio-economic background, have an equal opportunity to succeed. Gewirtz argues that "equity in education is not just about equal distribution, but about ensuring that resources are allocated to meet the diverse needs of students" (Gewirtz, 2006).

## 3. Integrative Application of Theories

Collectively, these theoretical frameworks provide a comprehensive understanding of the impact of learning resources in a competitive educational landscape. Resource-Based Theory illustrates how superior resources can give private schools a competitive advantage, while Human Capital Theory emphasizes the role of resources in building students' skills and economic potential.

- Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework for this study, "Evaluating Learning Resources in a Competitive Environment: A Case Study of secondary Schools in New Nyanya, Nasarawa State," provides a structured approach to examining the complex dynamics between learning resources, school competitiveness, and academic

performance. This framework integrates theories and concepts that help elucidate how resource availability and utilization impact student outcomes in a competitive educational setting.

## Application to the Study

The conceptual framework serves as a roadmap for examining the role of learning resources within New Nyanya's competitive educational environment. By evaluating the availability and adequacy of learning resources in public and private primary schools, the study aims to uncover how resource disparities contribute to differences in academic performance and school competitiveness.

## Availability and Adequacy of Learning Resources

The availability and adequacy of learning resources in schools play a fundamental role in shaping the quality of education that students receive. Learning resources, which encompass textbooks, digital tools, instructional materials, and facilities, are not only necessary for basic instructional delivery but are also crucial for fostering an environment that promotes academic excellence.

## III. STUDY AND FINDINGS

Data collection included surveys, interviews, and classroom observations from selected public and private schools in New Nyanya. The study examined key learning resources such as textbooks, instructional materials, and digital tools. Findings indicate that private schools have a significant advantage in resource availability, leading to better academic performance among their students. Public schools, however, struggle with inadequate funding, outdated instructional materials, and insufficient infrastructure, negatively impacting student outcomes.

## Research Design

The study employed a mixed-methods research design, integrating both quantitative and qualitative approaches to offer a comprehensive analysis of learning resources in secondary schools in New Nyanya.

**Quantitative Component:** The quantitative aspect of the study involved surveys and analysis of academic performance data to assess the availability, adequacy,

and impact of learning resources on student achievement. Using structured survey questionnaires, data were collected from teachers, school administrators, and possibly parents to determine the extent and quality of learning resources across both public and private schools. This data was also analyzed statistically to identify patterns in resource distribution, enabling comparisons between schools and understanding the correlation between resources and academic performance.

**Qualitative Component:** To complement the quantitative data, the study employed qualitative methods, including semi-structured interviews and classroom observations. This component aims to provide a contextual understanding of the resource allocation process, as well as the strategies schools use to manage available resources and stay competitive. Semi-structured interviews with teachers, administrators, and community stakeholders will offer personal insights into the challenges posed by limited resources and the ways schools address these limitations.

#### Sample and Sampling Techniques

The study employed a carefully selected sample of two (2) secondary schools in New Nyanya, consisting of one (1) public (Government Science School, Gbagi New- Nyanya) and one (1) private (Vessel of honor Academy Angwa-barrister New Nyanya) institution.

#### IV. STUDY REVIEW

The study's findings were reviewed by educational experts and stakeholders, who provided insights on improving resource allocation in public schools. Recommendations include increased government funding, enhanced teacher training, and stronger collaboration between public and private institutions. The study yielded several key findings that provide insights into the availability and impact of learning resources on primary schools in New Nyanya, Nasarawa State. These findings address the disparities between public and private schools, the correlation between resource availability and academic performance, the strategies employed by schools to manage resources, and the overall competitive implications of resource access.

The research sought to evaluate the availability and adequacy of learning resources within a competitive educational landscape, with a particular focus on secondary schools in New Nyanya, Nasarawa State, Nigeria. The study employed a mixed-methods approach, integrating both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods to develop a comprehensive understanding of how these resources influence academic performance in the context of public and private secondary schools.

#### V. IMPROVEMENT

Reviewer comments emphasized the need for specific policy recommendations to bridge the resource gap between public and private schools. Based on this feedback, additional strategies such as corporate sponsorships and community involvement in resource provision were incorporated into the study.

#### CONCLUSION

The study highlights the critical impact of learning resources on school competitiveness and academic performance. Addressing resource disparities between public and private schools is essential for improving educational equity and student outcomes. Policy recommendations include increased investment in public education, adoption of digital learning tools, and stronger community engagement in resource allocation. The study concludes that the availability and adequacy of learning resources play a crucial role in determining the quality of education and the competitiveness of secondary schools in New Nyanya. Private schools have a notable advantage in terms of resource availability and adequacy, which positively impacts their students' academic performance. In contrast, public schools, despite facing significant resource constraints, are making efforts to overcome these challenges through innovative strategies and community involvement.

#### REFERENCES

- [1] Adedoyin, O. (2020). The Impact of Learning Resources on Student Performance. Educational Review Journal.

- [2] UNESCO (2015). Educational Resource Distribution in Developing Countries. Global Education Report.
- [3] Obanya, P. (2019). Challenges in Public School Education. Nigerian Journal of Education.
- [4] Nwankwo, C. (2021). Strategies for Enhancing Learning Resources in Public Schools. Journal of Educational Policy.
- [5] Fafunwa, B. & Adegoke, M. (2020). The Role of Learning Materials in Student Success. African Journal of Education.