

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the investigation was to examine the relationship between performance, expressed in terms of examination pass rates, and unit recurrent expenditure in the government-aided secondary high schools in the Kingston Metropolitan Area for the period 1981-1983.

The sample included grades 11 and 13 students who attended these schools and sat the CXC, Basic and General Proficiency, GCE 'O' and 'A' Level examinations during the aforementioned period. The principals and bursars of the schools supplied information pertaining to expenditure.

The main data gathering methods were:-

1. Questionnaire completed by the bursar of each school seeking information on recurrent expenditure by object, capital expenditure and other incomes of each school.
2. Structured interviews, conducted with principals of each school which gathered opinions on the effects of financial constraints on the school system.
3. Collection of examination results for each school from records at the Overseas Examination Centre, Cross Roads, St. Andrew.

Methods of analysis included:-

1. Summarising the data after transforming to unit costs by object and pass rates

2. Frequency distributions
3. Medians
4. Ranks
5. Ranges

Analysis of Variance by gender was applied to the data, disaggregated into boys, girls and coeds and also by year to identify changes in variables on a yearly basis.

The main inquiry was Pearson's product Moment Correlations and Spearman's Rank order Non-parametric correlations for ranked data. Relationships between performance and expenditure were analysed from different perspectives including:

1. Overall performance and expenditure
2. Per Capita performance and expenditure
3. Lagged performance and expenditure
4. Ranked performance and expenditure
5. Means of performance and expenditure
6. CXC Basic subject performance and expenditure

CXC General subject performance and expenditure

GCE 'O' Level subject performance and expenditure

GCE 'A' Level subject performance and expenditure

The findings indicated that there were statistically significant relationships in each analysis. The level of correlational findings was however generally low. The most fruitful was the analysis between ranked performance and expenditure showing approximately 14% mainly positive

relationships. This indicated that a high level of performance in terms of the number of passes generally associated with high expenditure and low performance with low expenditure.

The least fruitful was that between per capita performance and expenditure showing 4.5% of significant relationships, indicating that the association between the performance of the individual student and unit expenditure was generally low.

Among the subject/expenditure analyses, CXC General showed the highest level of significant relationships, being 40.6%.

Summarising the descriptive data disclosed -

- a. Variations in unit recurrent expenditure allocated to the schools which did not appear to be related to the size of the school.
- b. Yearly increases in expenditure.
- c. Deterioration in performance levels with the exception of 'A' Level which showed an increase.

Analysis of Variance showed significant means differences by year and by gender in expenditure but not in performance, except CXC General in which the girls schools have been shown to perform at a significantly higher level.

The researcher's recommendations included:

1. Follow up studies of a similar nature for the remaining years of the 1980's in the high school.

2. Cost Analysis studies in education should be embarked on nationally, that the subject of educational financing and productivity be incorporated into the system.
3. That principals of high schools be given more thorough training in management so as to give them the necessary awareness, enlightenment and skill in improving efficiency in their schools.
4. The introduction of 6th form colleges, for the purpose of reducing cost and improving the deployment of staff.