

**ASSESSMENT OF TEACHERS' CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT AS A PANACEA FOR
IMPROVED STUDENTS' ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN BUSINESS STUDIES IN
AKWA IBOM STATE**

By

Imeh Udoh Akpan, Ph.D.
Department of Business Education
Akwa Ibom State College of Education
Afaha Nsit

ABSTRACT

This study assessed teachers' classroom management as a panacea for improved students' academic performance in business studies in Akwa Ibom State. Descriptive survey design was adopted to carry out this research. The study was carried out in Akwa Ibom State. The targeted population comprised all business studies teachers in Akwa Ibom State. Simple random sampling technique was used to select a total of 180 respondents which made up the sample size used for this research. The instrument used for data collection was a structured questionnaire titled "Teachers' Classroom Management and Improved Students' Academic Performance Questionnaire (TCMISAPQ)". Face and content validation of the instrument was carried out by an expert in test, measurement, and evaluation in order to ensure that the instrument has the accuracy, appropriateness, and completeness for the study under consideration. The researcher subjected the data generated for this study to appropriate statistical technique such descriptive analysis to answer research questions. The results of the data analysis revealed that "Promotion of a Conducive Learning Environment for better performance" was the most prominent effect of teacher classroom management on student performance in business studies. It also showed that "Overcrowded Classrooms" was the highest challenge of effective classroom management. The study concluded that effective classroom management plays a vital role in enhancing teaching and learning, especially in practical subjects like business studies. One of the recommendations made was that teachers should be regularly trained in modern classroom management techniques, including student engagement strategies, conflict resolution, and inclusive teaching methods.

KEYWORDS: Teacher, Classroom Management, Students, Academic Performance, Business Studies and Akwa Ibom State

INTRODUCTION

In the evolving landscape of education, the quality of teaching and learning is greatly influenced by the atmosphere of the classroom. One of the most critical elements in shaping this atmosphere is effective classroom management. For subjects like business studies, which require not only theoretical understanding but also practical application and active student engagement, a well-managed classroom becomes indispensable. In Akwa Ibom State, where educational outcomes continue to draw attention from stakeholders, the role of teachers in creating and maintaining conducive learning environments deserves critical assessment.

Classroom management refers to the strategies and practices teachers use to organise classroom activities, promote appropriate behaviour, and maximise learning time (Santhanam,

2022). Effective classroom management ensures that teachers can deliver instruction efficiently while minimising disruptions. In business studies, this translates into the ability to engage students in discussions, simulations, and project-based learning that mirror real-life business scenarios. The impact of a teacher's ability to manage the classroom extends far beyond discipline—it directly influences students' motivation, participation, and ultimately, their academic achievement (Ahmed and Plessis 2024).

Academic performance in business studies in many Nigerian secondary schools, including those in Akwa Ibom State, has been a subject of concern. Factors such as inadequate instructional materials, poor learning infrastructure, and socio-economic challenges often dominate the discourse. However, less attention is given to how teacher-led classroom management practices affect students' performance in this subject. According to Sunday-Piaroi (2018), teachers who adopt proactive and inclusive classroom management techniques create environments where students are more likely to succeed academically. Therefore, a shift in focus toward classroom dynamics could reveal untapped potential for improving student outcomes.

In the context of Akwa Ibom State, where the state government has shown increasing commitment to educational reform, examining classroom management as a lever for academic excellence is timely. Business Studies, which prepares students with entrepreneurial skills and financial literacy, is a cornerstone subject for youth empowerment and economic development. A well-managed classroom not only ensures content delivery but also cultivates critical thinking, teamwork, and business ethics among learners—skills necessary for both academic and real-world success (George, Sakirudeen and Sunday, 2017).

Moreover, the personality and professional competence of the teacher play a crucial role in classroom control and instructional delivery. Teachers who are trained in classroom management techniques are better positioned to handle behavioural issues, maintain discipline, and foster mutual respect, all of which are conducive to learning (George et al., 2017). Given the unique challenges and opportunities in Akwa Ibom State's secondary schools, this study becomes essential in identifying the link between teacher classroom management and students' academic performance in business studies.

This research therefore seeks to assess how teacher classroom management serves as a panacea for improving students' academic performance in business studies in Akwa Ibom State. By evaluating specific strategies, challenges, and outcomes associated with classroom management, the study aims to provide actionable insights that can enhance teaching practices and student success. Through empirical analysis and contextual understanding, the research will contribute to the growing body of knowledge on educational best practices in Nigeria and beyond.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Effective classroom management is a critical component of teaching that directly influences students' academic performance, particularly in subjects like Business Studies that require active engagement and comprehension. In Akwa Ibom State, many secondary schools continue to face challenges related to classroom discipline, time management, lesson delivery, and student participation. These issues are often rooted in the teacher's ability to manage the classroom environment effectively. Poor classroom management can lead to distractions, low motivation, and

reduced instructional time, ultimately hindering students' academic success in Business Studies. Despite the recognized importance of classroom management, there appears to be limited empirical assessment of how teachers' management strategies impact students' academic performance in Business Studies within the context of Akwa Ibom State. This gap raises concern about the preparedness and effectiveness of teachers in handling classroom dynamics that support learning outcomes. Therefore, this study seeks to assess the extent to which effective classroom management by Business Studies teachers serves as a panacea for improving students' academic performance. The findings are expected to provide insight into the strengths and weaknesses of current practices and offer recommendations for improving instructional quality and student achievement.

OBJECTIVES

- To find out the effects of teacher classroom management on student performance in business studies.
- To identify the challenges of Effective Classroom Management.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What are the effects of teacher classroom management on student performance in business studies?
- What are the challenges of Effective Classroom Management?

LITERATURE REVIEW

CONCEPT OF TEACHER CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

Classroom management encompasses the strategies and techniques teachers use to create and maintain a positive, productive learning environment where students are engaged and learning can flourish. This involves establishing clear expectations, building relationships, implementing routines, and addressing disruptive behaviour effectively. According to Wikipedia (2025) classroom management is the process teachers use to ensure that classroom lessons run smoothly without disruptive behaviour from students compromising the delivery of instruction. It includes the prevention of disruptive behaviour preemptively, as well as effectively responding to it after it happens.

Furthermore, FutureLearn (2023) explained that classroom management encompasses a variety of skills and techniques that teachers can use to create a high-performing learning environment. At its core, it aims to ensure classes run smoothly, disruptive behaviour from students is kept to a minimum, and teaching materials and activities promote learning. The ultimate goal is to ensure that both the students and the teacher get the most out of the classroom experience. Classroom management can be defined as the orderly control of students, the class environment and teaching materials in order to obtain the desired learning objectives which can enhance the academic achievement of students (Adzongo and Olaitan, 2019).

CONCEPT OF STUDENTS ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Student academic performance refers to a student's achievement and progress in their studies, typically measured through grades, test scores, and other assessments. It's a multifaceted concept influenced by various factors, including learning ability, motivation, and the environment in which students learn. According to Wikipedia (2025), academic achievement, or academic performance, is the extent to which a student, teacher or institution has attained their short- or long-term educational goals. Student academic performance refers to the extent to which a student has achieved their short- or long-term educational goals. It is typically measured through assessments such as tests, examinations, class participation, assignments, and overall grade point averages (GPA). Academic performance reflects how well a student understands and applies the knowledge, skills, and competencies taught in the classroom. It is often used by educators, institutions, and policymakers as an indicator of learning effectiveness and educational success.

Several factors influence student academic performance, including teaching quality, classroom management, parental involvement, socio-economic background, motivation, and access to learning resources. A high level of academic performance suggests strong intellectual development and mastery of subject matter, while low performance may indicate learning difficulties or external challenges affecting a student's ability to learn effectively. Therefore, improving academic performance involves a collaborative effort between students, teachers, parents, and the educational system as a whole.

CONCEPT OF BUSINESS STUDIES

Business studies is an interdisciplinary field that examines the principles, practices, and theories involved in running a business, encompassing topics like management, finance, marketing, and human resources. It aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how businesses operate and achieve success, and it's often used to refer to academic programmes that prepare individuals for careers in various business-related fields. According to Umoudo and Ebong (2016), business studies is a part of education which deals with business experience, both for specialised occupational uses and for general uses. The individual prepares himself with adequate knowledge of existing business institutions and adjusts accordingly to benefit maximally from available opportunities. According to the Nigerian Policy of Education (NPE 2004), at the Junior Secondary School (JSS) level, the business studies curriculum is intended to offer both specialised and general educational experiences. The specialised form of education is designed to meet the immediate needs of individuals who wish to develop intellectual and vocational interest in a specified field.

Furthermore, Khanna (2024) mentioned that business studies is like a guidebook that teaches you how businesses work, from setting them up to making them run successfully. It covers everything from how to sell products and manage people to understanding money matters in a company. Business studies (or business) is a branch of social science that explores the knowledge, skills, methods and techniques required to start and run a profitable venture. It encapsulates sub-fields like business administration and economics and includes key elements like finance, marketing and operations (Adekoya, 2023). Business studies is a field of study that deals with the principles of business, management, and economics. It combines elements of accountancy, finance, marketing, organisational studies, human resource management, and operations. Business

studies is a broad subject where the range of topics is designed to give the student a general overview of the various elements of running a business.

COMPONENTS OF CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

Classroom management is the foundation of an effective learning environment. It encompasses a wide range of strategies and practices that teachers use to maintain order, foster student engagement, and support academic achievement. The following are key components of classroom management:

- **Classroom Environment:** This refers to the physical and emotional setup of the classroom. A well-organised, clean, and welcoming environment encourages focus and positive behaviour. It includes seating arrangements, decorations, lighting, and the overall mood that makes students feel safe and respected (Oruikor, Ewane, Durotoye, and Akomaye, 2023).
- **Rules and Expectations:** Setting clear rules and expectations helps students understand what behaviour is acceptable. When expectations are consistently reinforced, students are more likely to follow them and maintain discipline (Alter and Haydon, 2017).
- **Routines and Procedures:** Routines help students know what to do and when to do it, reducing confusion and saving time. Procedures for daily tasks like entering the classroom, turning in assignments, or transitioning between activities help create a structured learning environment.
- **Behaviour Management:** This includes strategies to prevent and handle misbehaviour. Teachers use positive reinforcement to encourage good behaviour and apply consequences when needed. Effective behaviour management promotes respect and minimises disruptions (Oruikor, Ewane, Durotoye, and Akomaye, 2023).
- **Student Engagement:** Keeping students interested in learning reduces behaviour problems and increases academic success. Engaging lessons that are interactive, relevant, and suited to student needs help maintain focus and participation.
- **Teacher-Student Relationships:** Strong, respectful relationships between teachers and students build trust and cooperation. When students feel valued and understood, they are more likely to behave well and engage in learning.
- **Communication:** Effective communication ensures clarity and consistency in the classroom. It involves giving clear instructions, offering feedback, maintaining contact with parents, and collaborating with colleagues to support student success.

EFFECTS OF TEACHER CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT ON STUDENT PERFORMANCE IN BUSINESS STUDIES

Effective classroom management is a cornerstone of successful teaching and learning. In the context of business studies, which often involves both theoretical knowledge and practical applications, the role of a teacher in managing the classroom cannot be overstated. The way a teacher organises the learning environment, handles discipline, engages students, and delivers lessons significantly influences students' academic performance. The following are the effects of teacher classroom management on student performance in business studies as mentioned by Ajuluchukwu (2022):

- **Promotes a Conducive Learning Environment:** A well-managed classroom provides a safe, orderly, and structured setting where students can focus on learning without unnecessary distractions. In business studies, where students are expected to grasp concepts such as entrepreneurship, marketing, and accounting, a conducive environment allows for better concentration, idea generation, and class participation, leading to improved academic performance.
- **Enhances Student Engagement and Participation:** Teachers who implement clear rules, maintain routines, and use interactive teaching methods can stimulate active student participation. In business studies, which often involve case studies, group projects, and class discussions, such engagement is essential. When students feel included and guided, they are more likely to stay motivated and perform better academically.
- **Encourages Discipline and Time Management:** Classroom management instills discipline among students by setting boundaries and expectations. Business Studies requires a high level of organisation, especially during project work, presentations, and exam preparations. Teachers who manage their classrooms effectively teach students to value time, meet deadlines, and approach tasks systematically—skills that directly influence academic success.
- **Minimises Disruptive Behaviour:** Disruptions such as noise, lateness, and inattentiveness can derail lesson flow and reduce teaching effectiveness. Effective classroom managers quickly address such issues, ensuring minimal loss of instructional time. In business studies, where concepts build upon one another, consistency in teaching and learning is key to student understanding and performance.
- **Facilitates Differentiated Learning:** Students learn at different paces and have varied learning needs. A well-managed classroom allows the teacher to identify these differences and adjust their teaching strategies accordingly. In business studies, this could mean providing additional support for students struggling with financial calculations or giving enrichment tasks to more advanced learners—thus improving overall performance.
- **Builds Positive Teacher-Student Relationships:** Effective classroom management fosters mutual respect between teachers and students. When students feel respected, valued, and understood, they are more likely to take their studies seriously. A positive teacher-student relationship, especially in a subject like business studies that requires interaction and feedback, creates a supportive environment that boosts student confidence and academic achievement.

THE CHALLENGES OF EFFECTIVE CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

Classroom management is a fundamental aspect of effective teaching and learning. It involves creating a structured environment that fosters student engagement, discipline, and productivity. However, maintaining this balance is often challenging for educators due to various factors. Below are some of the key challenges associated with effective classroom management:

- **Diverse Student Needs:** One of the most significant challenges is catering to a diverse classroom where students differ in learning styles, academic levels, behavioural tendencies, and cultural backgrounds. Managing such diversity requires tailored teaching methods and personalised approaches, which can be demanding in a large or under-resourced classroom (Sharma, 2023).

- **Behavioural Issues:** Disruptive behaviours such as talking out of turn, inattentiveness, or disrespect can interfere with teaching and learning. Consistently managing these behaviours without escalating conflicts or alienating students requires patience, consistency, and strong interpersonal skills (Obiekwe and Uzuoke, 2021).
- **Lack of Parental Support:** Effective classroom management often depends on support from parents or guardians. When parents are uninvolved or indifferent to their children's education and behaviour, teachers may find it difficult to reinforce discipline or motivate students to follow classroom rules.
- **Overcrowded Classrooms:** In many educational systems, especially in developing countries, overcrowded classrooms are a major challenge. A high student-to-teacher ratio limits the teacher's ability to give individual attention, monitor behaviour, and maintain order.
- **Limited Resources:** Classroom management is also hindered by a lack of essential resources such as teaching aids, classroom furniture, and technological tools. Inadequate infrastructure can make it difficult to implement interactive or differentiated teaching strategies that could improve student engagement and reduce behavioural problems (Garvida, 2021).
- **Emotional and Mental Health Issues:** Students facing emotional or psychological difficulties may struggle with self-regulation and focus, leading to disruptions. Teachers often lack the training or support needed to effectively manage such cases while maintaining an inclusive learning environment.
- **Inconsistent Enforcement of Rules:** For classroom management to be effective, rules and consequences must be consistently applied. However, inconsistency—whether due to teacher burnout, favouritism, or unclear guidelines—can undermine authority and lead to confusion among students.
- **Technological Distractions:** While technology can be a powerful learning tool, it can also be a source of distraction. Unregulated use of mobile phones or other devices during lessons can disrupt the flow of teaching and reduce student concentration.

MITIGATING STRATEGIES TO THE CHALLENGES OF EFFECTIVE CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

Effective classroom management is essential for fostering a productive learning environment. However, teachers often face numerous challenges, including disruptive behaviour, diverse learning needs, overcrowded classrooms, and lack of parental support. Addressing these challenges requires deliberate and proactive strategies. Below are key mitigating strategies that can help overcome the hurdles to effective classroom management as mentioned by numerous scholars, including Khasinah, Nurdin and Panjaitan (2024):

- **Establishing Clear Rules and Expectations:** Setting clear, consistent, and age-appropriate rules at the beginning of the school term helps establish boundaries and expectations. When students understand what is expected of them, they are more likely to follow classroom procedures and routines. Involving students in the creation of these rules can also encourage ownership and accountability.
- **Building Strong Teacher-Student Relationships:** Positive relationships based on mutual respect and trust can reduce behavioural issues and encourage cooperation. Teachers

should take time to understand their students' backgrounds, interests, and learning styles. When students feel valued and supported, they are more likely to be engaged and exhibit positive behaviour.

- **Using Positive Reinforcement:** Rewarding good behaviour through praise, encouragement, or tangible incentives can motivate students to maintain discipline. Recognising students for their efforts, rather than only correcting misbehaviour, creates a more positive classroom atmosphere and reinforces desired behaviours.
- **Differentiated Instruction:** To address diverse learning needs, teachers should use a variety of teaching methods such as group work, visual aids, hands-on activities, and technology. Tailoring instruction to meet different learning styles not only keeps students engaged but also reduces frustration and off-task behaviour.
- **Professional Development and Training:** Teachers should be provided with ongoing training in classroom management, conflict resolution, and inclusive teaching practices. Workshops, seminars, and peer collaboration can equip teachers with updated strategies to manage classrooms effectively.
- **Parental Involvement and Communication:** Engaging parents in their children's education helps reinforce behaviour and learning expectations at home. Regular communication through meetings, calls, or newsletters keeps parents informed and encourages them to support teachers' efforts in managing classroom behaviour.
- **Effective Time Management:** Organising lessons with clear objectives, structured activities, and time allocations can reduce downtime and keep students focused. Teachers who manage their time efficiently are better able to cover the curriculum and maintain student interest throughout the lesson.
- **Classroom Environment Design:** Arranging the classroom in a way that promotes interaction, visibility, and easy movement can reduce distractions and foster engagement. Ensuring adequate lighting, ventilation, and seating can also contribute to a more conducive learning environment.
- **Implementing Conflict Resolution Techniques:** Teaching students how to resolve conflicts peacefully through dialogue, empathy, and negotiation can reduce incidents of aggression or disruption. Conflict resolution programmes and peer mediation strategies can be integrated into school systems to support this goal.
- **Utilising Technology Wisely:** Integrating technology in a purposeful way can enhance learning and maintain attention. Tools such as interactive whiteboards, educational apps, and online quizzes can make lessons more dynamic while maintaining discipline through structured digital activities.

METHODOLOGY

Descriptive survey design was adopted to carry out this research. The study was carried out in Akwa Ibom State. The targeted population comprised all business studies teachers in Akwa Ibom State. Simple random sampling technique was used to select a total of 180 respondents which made up the sample size used for this research. The instrument used for data collection was a structured questionnaire titled "Teacher's Classroom Management for Improved Student's Academic Performance Questionnaire (TCMISAPQ)". Face and content validation of the instrument was carried out by an expert in test, measurement, and evaluation in order to ensure that the instrument has the accuracy, appropriateness, and completeness for the study under

consideration. The researcher subjected the data generated for this study to appropriate statistical technique such descriptive analysis to answer research questions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Research Questions 1: The research question sought to find out the effects of teacher classroom management on student performance in business studies. To answer the research percentage analysis was performed on the data, (see table 1).

Table 1:

Descriptive statistics of the effects of teacher classroom management on student performance in business studies.

EFFECTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Promotes a Conducive Learning Environment for better performance	42	23.33**
Enhances Student Engagement and Participation which enriches their academic performance	35	19.44
Encourages Discipline and Time Management which directly influence academic success	33	18.33
Facilitates Differentiated Learning	27	15
Minimises Disruptive Behaviour to concentrate in studies	20	11.11
Enhancing Productivity and Automation	14	7.78
Builds Positive Teacher-Student Relationships for easy comprehension of the subject matter	9	5
TOTAL	180	100%

** The highest percentage frequency

* The least percentage frequency

SOURCE: Field Survey

The above table 1 presents the percentage analysis of the effects of teachers' classroom management on student performance in business studies. From the result of the data analysis, it was observed that "Promotion of a Conducive Learning Environment for better performance" 42(23.33%) was rated as the highest effect of teacher classroom management on student performance in business studies, while "Building of Positive Teacher-Student Relationships for easy comprehension of the subject matter" 9(5%) was rated the least. The result therefore is in agreement with the research findings of numerous scholars including Ajuluchukwu (2022), who stated that Effective classroom management is a cornerstone of successful teaching and learning. In the context of business studies, which often involves both theoretical knowledge and practical applications, the role of a teacher in managing the classroom cannot be overstated.

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Research Questions 2: The research question sought to find out the challenges of effective classroom management. To answer the research percentage analysis was performed on the data, (see table 2).

Table 2:
Descriptive statistics of the challenges of effective classroom management.

CHALLENGES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Overcrowded Classrooms	38	21.11 **
Behavioural Issues	29	16.11 *
Lack of Parental Support	24	13.33
Diverse Student Needs	23	12.78
Limited Resources	21	11.67
Inconsistent Enforcement of Rules	18	10
Technological Distractions	15	8.33
Emotional and Mental Health Issues	12	6.67 *
TOTAL	180	100%

** The highest percentage frequency

* The least percentage frequency

SOURCE: Field Survey

The above table 2 presents the percentage analysis of the challenges of effective classroom management. From the result of the data analysis, it was observed that “Overcrowded Classrooms” 38(21.11%) was rated as the highest challenge of effective classroom management, while “Emotional and Mental Health Issues” 12(6.67%) was rated the least. The result therefore is in agreement with the research findings of numerous scholars including Sharma (2023), who stated that managing such diversity requires tailored teaching methods and personalised approaches, which can be demanding in a large or under-resourced classroom.

CONCLUSION

Effective classroom management plays a vital role in enhancing teaching and learning, especially in practical subjects like business studies. In Akwa Ibom State, where student performance remains a key concern, the teacher's ability to manage the classroom directly influences student engagement, motivation, and achievement. A well-structured learning environment fosters discipline, critical thinking, and active participation—elements essential for academic and real-world success. The result of the data analysis revealed that “Promotes a Conducive Learning Environment for better performance” is the most prominent effect of teacher classroom management on student performance in business studies. It also showed that “Overcrowded Classrooms” is the highest challenges of effective classroom management. This study highlights the importance of assessing classroom management strategies as a solution to improving business studies outcomes. The findings aim to guide educators and policymakers in strengthening teaching practices and promoting sustainable academic growth in the state.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Teachers should be regularly trained in modern classroom management techniques, including student engagement strategies, conflict resolution, and inclusive teaching methods. Workshops and seminars tailored to business studies can enhance teachers' ability to create structured, interactive, and supportive classroom environments that foster academic excellence.
- School administrators and education authorities should establish effective monitoring systems to assess classroom management practices. Constructive feedback and mentoring programmes should be implemented to support teachers in improving their classroom control and instructional delivery.
- To enhance classroom management and instructional effectiveness, schools must be equipped with relevant teaching aids, business simulation tools, and conducive learning environments. Well-resourced classrooms reduce distractions and help teachers maintain order, which in turn boosts student participation and performance in business studies.

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