
**POOR MAINTENANCE OF GRAPHIC STUDIO EQUIPMENT: ASSESSING THE EFFECT OF THE
PRACTICE OF ART IN SELECTED ORGANISATIONS IN AKWA IBOM STATE**

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to identify the causes of poor maintenance of graphic studio equipment and assess the effect on the practice of art in selected schools in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. The study delves into the aspect of a graphic studio and its equipment, giving a breakdown of the critical impact of poor maintenance on studio equipment and the advantages of art practices in organizations. The study further categorized the relationship between the graphic studio and art, which includes production and innovation, collaboration and cross-disciplinary work, accessibility, and dissemination. The study findings unravel the relationship between poor maintenance of graphic studio equipment and the productivity of organizations, such as the impact on productivity, employee morale and efficiency, and long-term consequences. However, boosting creativity, storytelling, cultural representation, innovation, and creativity are classified effects of the practice of art in organizations. The study concludes that by prioritizing the upkeep of essential tools and equipment, schools can enhance the educational experience, support student achievement, and ensure the sustainability of their art program. One of the recommendations provided was that schools should allocate a sufficient portion of their budget specifically for the maintenance and replacement of graphic studio equipment.

KEYWORDS: Graphic Studio Equipment, Art Education, Maintenance, Practice and Organizations.

INTRODUCTION

A crucial but often overlooked aspect of guaranteeing the effectiveness and calibre of art education in educational establishments, especially in developing nations like Akwa Ibom State, is the upkeep of the studio. This study examines the consequences of inadequate upkeep of graphic studio equipment on the artistic process in a few Akwa Ibom State schools, emphasizing the complex effects on financial resources, safety, and educational outcomes. Graphic studio equipment comprises necessary tools like computers, graphics tablets, printers, scanners, and specialized software. Creating, modifying, and generating visual material all require these essential tools. These gadgets are prone to malfunctioning and frequent failures, which might result in

inefficient operations. The learning process can be seriously disrupted by unplanned breakdowns, which increase in probability when normal maintenance is neglected and reduce equipment longevity.

Poor maintenance causes equipment to break down, which directly reduces teaching time in an educational setting. Students in graphic design schools mostly depend on working equipment to finish tasks and advance their knowledge. Brown (2020) noted that frequent equipment failures can lead to significant delays in the curriculum, diminishing the overall learning experience, and potentially discouraging students from pursuing careers in the arts. This disruption can also lead to frustration among both students and educators, further impacting the educational environment.

The quality of artistic output is also compromised when equipment is not properly maintained. Additionally, there are safety concerns associated with poorly maintained equipment. Faulty electrical components can pose serious risks to students and staff. Ensuring that all equipment is regularly inspected and maintained not only supports efficient operation but also creates a safer learning environment (Taylor, 2018). Addressing these maintenance issues is therefore crucial for both the educational and physical well-being of students and staff.

CONCEPT OF GRAPHIC STUDIO

A graphic studio is an artistic setting where graphic designers produce visual content for marketing, branding, and communication needs. It specializes in producing visual components for customers in a variety of sectors and industries, including logos, drawings, typefaces, templates, and product designs. A graphic designer working independently may concentrate on a particular type of design work, but a graphic studio, which usually comprises of a group of designers, provides a variety of services, including branding and design advice.

Nova (2022) mentioned that graphic studios create visual identity systems by understanding the client's brand, developing a strategy and design concept, and then designing and implementing the visual elements that represent the brand's identity across platforms. Graphic studios may work with a wide range of clients, from small businesses to large multinational corporations, providing design services tailored to their specific needs. It can specialize in specific sectors such as mobile app design, book design, strategy and design, or exhibition design, based on their expertise and clients' needs.

According to Dot & Grid (2023), graphic studios rely on a variety of tools and software to bring their ideas to life. These tools streamline the design process, enhance creativity, and ensure efficiency. However, effective communication is the backbone of any graphic studio. It is the thread that weaves together the diverse talents and skills

within the studio. Clear and concise communication ensures that everyone is on the same page, working towards a common goal.

Creativity and innovation are the lifeblood of any successful graphic studio. A graphic studio focuses on the development of visual solutions; a printing studio focuses on the production of tangible, physical materials; and a marketing agency focuses on advertising and selling goods or services (Zale, 2021). The ability to grasp the fundamental ideas and components that underpin visually appealing and functional designs is one of a graphic studio's secrets. To build harmonious compositions and convey information clearly, designers must have a solid understanding of these concepts and aspects.

CONCEPT OF GRAPHIC STUDIO EQUIPMENT

Tools and equipment aid in producing the desired, necessary, or idealized objects. When it comes to creating visual art, graphic designers require more than simply ability or experience. Graphic designers utilize both basic and complex graphic design tools to capture the constantly changing shapes and colours in their brains and create visually captivating images in graphic studios. Clark (2020) stated that graphic studio equipment encompasses a wide array of tools and devices essential for the creation, editing, and production of visual content. These tools are indispensable for graphic designers, artists, and other professionals involved in the visual arts.

Moreover, the traditional tools in a graphic studio include items like drawing tables, light boxes, and various types of paper and pencils. These tools are fundamental for sketching and conceptualizing ideas before they are transferred to digital formats. Drawing tables, often adjustable, provide a stable surface for creating detailed illustrations. Light boxes are used to trace images or designs, allowing artists to refine their work with greater accuracy. While digital tools are becoming more prevalent, traditional equipment remains an integral part of the creative process, offering a tactile experience that many artists prefer (Brown, 2018).

However, digital equipment in a graphic studio has revolutionized the way visual content is produced. High-performance computers and graphics tablets are central to modern graphic design. Computers equipped with powerful processors and large amounts of RAM can handle complex design software like Adobe Creative Suite, which includes Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign. Graphics tablets, such as those produced by Wacom, provide a more intuitive interface for designers, mimicking the natural motion of drawing on paper while offering the precision and flexibility of digital tools. These devices enable designers to create intricate and high-quality designs efficiently (Johnson, 2019).

The equipment used in graphic studios includes both conventional and digital instruments, each of which adds something special to the creative process. The tools

accessible to graphic designers now enable previously unheard-of levels of inventiveness and accuracy, from drawing tables and light boxes to sophisticated computers and specialist software. The equipment and techniques employed in graphic studios will also advance along with technology, so raising the bar for what is possible in visual design.

POOR MAINTENANCE OF GRAPHIC STUDIO EQUIPMENT

Ensuring the durability and optimal functioning of tools and devices that are important for graphic design requires regular maintenance of graphic studio equipment. Inadequate maintenance procedures may cause equipment to break down more frequently, become less efficient, and cost more to replace or repair. This problem affects not just the productivity but also the calibre of the creative output. Numerous graphic studios neglect to establish proper maintenance procedures, which poses serious operational issues despite their obvious relevance. One of the primary consequences of poor maintenance is the decreased lifespan of equipment. High-performance computers, graphics tablets, printers, and scanners are significant investments for a graphic studio. Without regular cleaning, software updates, and hardware checks, these devices can deteriorate faster than expected. Dust accumulation inside computers and printers can cause overheating and hardware failure (Smith, 2019). Similarly, neglecting software updates can lead to incompatibilities and vulnerabilities, disrupting the design process.

Decreases in the quality of work done are another important effect of inadequate maintenance. Scanners and printers Poor upkeep can lead to fuzziness in prints, variations in colour, and other problems that compromise the final product's quality. In professional contexts where accuracy and quality are crucial, this is especially harmful. Regular maintenance helps prevent unplanned equipment malfunctions, which can cause delays in projects and downtime. In settings with high demand and constrained timelines, this can be very troublesome. According to Davis (2022), preventive maintenance schedules can mitigate these risks by identifying potential issues before they result in complete equipment failure, thereby maintaining continuous operation and productivity.

Financially, poor maintenance practices can lead to increased costs. The need for frequent repairs or early replacement of equipment due to neglect can strain the budget of a graphic studio. Investing in regular maintenance may seem like an additional expense, but it is cost-effective in the long run. Wilson (2023) emphasizes that preventive maintenance can significantly reduce the total cost of ownership of graphic studio equipment by extending its useful life and reducing the need for expensive emergency repairs. Inadequate maintenance might potentially put your safety at danger. In the studio, malfunctioning equipment might result in electrical risks or other safety problems. Making sure all of the equipment is in excellent operating order is important

for worker safety as well as efficiency. In order to detect and reduce these hazards before they cause accidents, routine maintenance and inspections are helpful.

THE PRACTICE OF ART IN ORGANISATION

The process of creating art is dynamic and ever-changing, and it can differ widely across artists. It is moulded by the unique style, passions, inspirations, and goals of each artist. Artists might investigate subjects, raise issues, challenge conventions, elicit strong feelings, transmit ideas, or just share their own viewpoints on the world through their artistic endeavours. Through the manifestation of its distinct history, identity, and corporate principles, the practice of art enhances an organization's brand and fosters a dynamic atmosphere that draws and keeps talented individuals. When art is produced with intention and expertise, it becomes an effective instrument for communicating stories. It forges a more robust sense of pride and belonging among employees as well as a long-lasting bond with your company. Integrating art into a workplace fosters a culture of self-expression, creativity, and community while giving employees a platform to be creative and innovative. Art may be employed in an organisation in a variety of ways, serving as a catalyst, a metaphor, an inspiration for introspection, a purposeful product, or even a means of perceiving and comprehending other people.

Murchison (2024) mentioned that artefacts hold an individual and collective memory that, when explored, reveal the implicit elements of an organisation's culture. The practice of art in an organisation can trigger deep memories of what it means to be fully human. Art practice organisation involves not only the physical act of creating art but also the intellectual and emotional aspects of the creative process. It includes research, experimentation, conceptualization, planning, execution, reflection, and refinement. Artists often draw inspiration from their personal experiences, emotions, beliefs, observations of the world, and engagement with cultural, social, political, and historical contexts.

According to Ryan (2024), the definition of art practice organisation is a contentious issue that has been debated by philosophers, artists, and critics for centuries. Art practice in organisations is the ongoing process through which an artist or a group of artists create, develop, and express their artistic ideas and concepts. It encompasses the techniques, methods, and approaches that artists use to explore and communicate their vision through various artistic mediums such as painting, sculpture, photography, performance, installation, video, and more.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GRAPHIC STUDIO AND ART WORK

A physical thing with potential aesthetic or conceptual value is called an artwork; on the other hand, a graphic studio is a creative environment where graphic designers collaborate to develop visual material for a variety of objectives such as branding, marketing, and communication. In the process of creating, developing, and distributing

modern art, graphic studios are essential. These studios bridge the gap between traditional art approaches and contemporary digital practices with their cutting-edge equipment and knowledgeable staff. Graphic studios and artwork have a relationship that involves many different elements, such as invention, accessibility, production, and teamwork.

- **Production and innovation**

Graphic studios are essential for the production of digital art. They provide artists with the tools and software necessary to create detailed and intricate works that might be difficult to achieve using traditional methods. Software such as Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and CorelDraw allows artists to experiment with different styles, textures, and effects, pushing the boundaries of their creativity. Moreover, graphic studios foster innovation by continuously updating their tools and techniques. The integration of 3D modelling, virtual reality (VR), and augmented reality (AR) into the creative process has opened new avenues for artists. These technologies enable the creation of immersive experiences and interactive art pieces that engage audiences in novel ways (Macdonald & Wilkins, 2020).

- **Collaboration and Cross-Disciplinary Work**

Graphic studios often serve as collaborative spaces where artists from various disciplines can work together. This interdisciplinary approach leads to the fusion of different art forms, resulting in unique and innovative creations. Graphic designers, illustrators, animators, and multimedia artists can collaborate on projects, combining their skills to produce comprehensive and multifaceted artworks. This collaborative environment not only enhances the quality of the artwork but also fosters a community of practice where artists can learn from each other, share ideas, and develop their skills. This exchange of knowledge and expertise is crucial for the evolution of contemporary art (Smith & Harper, 2018).

- **Accessibility and Dissemination**

Graphic studios also play a significant role in making art more accessible. Digital artwork can be easily shared and distributed through various online platforms, reaching a global audience. Social media, digital galleries, and online marketplaces allow artists to showcase their work, gain recognition, and sell their creations without the need for physical exhibitions. Furthermore, graphic studios help preserve and digitise traditional art forms, ensuring their longevity and accessibility for future generations. By converting physical artworks into digital formats, studios contribute to the archiving and dissemination of cultural heritage (Thompson, 2021).

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POOR MAINTENANCE OF GRAPHIC STUDIO EQUIPMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY OF ORGANIZATIONS

In the domains of business management and operational efficiency, there is a significant link between the productivity of companies and the inadequate maintenance of graphic studio equipment. For graphic studios, which primarily rely on technology and equipment for day-to-day operations, high production levels require well-maintained and efficient equipment.

- **Impact on Productivity**

Poorly maintained equipment is prone to frequent breakdowns, leading to significant downtime. This downtime directly impacts the productivity of graphic designers, as they are unable to work while equipment is being repaired (Gopalakrishnan, 2022). The resulting delays can cascade through the project timelines, affecting overall organizational efficiency and client satisfaction. Graphic design studios strive to produce high-quality work. Equipment such as printers, computers, and graphic tablets that are not regularly maintained may produce inferior outputs, including colour inaccuracies and pixilation (Smith, 2023). This necessitates rework, thereby consuming additional time and resources that could have been used for new projects. However, frequent repairs and replacements due to poor maintenance can significantly increase operational costs. These unexpected expenses can strain the budget of graphic studios, diverting funds that could have been invested in new technology or employee development. Additionally, the cost of emergency repairs is often higher than the cost of regular, preventive maintenance.

- **Employee morale and efficiency**

Regular breakdowns and subpar equipment performance can lead to employee frustration and decreased job satisfaction. Designers may feel hindered by their tools, which can diminish their creativity and efficiency (Hernandez, 2023). A positive work environment, supported by reliable equipment, is crucial for maintaining high levels of employee morale and productivity. Poor maintenance practices disrupt efficient time management. Employees may spend excessive time troubleshooting equipment issues rather than focusing on their core tasks. This not only hampers individual productivity but also affects team dynamics and project management (Garcia, 2022).

- **Long-Term Consequences**

In the highly competitive graphic design industry, organisations that cannot maintain their equipment risk falling behind. Competitors with better-maintained tools can deliver superior work faster and more reliably, capturing more market share (Johnson, 2023). Investing in regular maintenance can thus be a strategic advantage. Consistently failing to meet deadlines or delivering substandard work can damage client relationships.

Clients expect timely and high-quality deliverables, and repeated failures due to equipment issues can lead to loss of business and a tarnished reputation (Lopez, 2023). Maintaining equipment ensures reliability and helps sustain strong client relations.

EFFECT OF THE PRACTICE OF ART ON ORGANIZATION

Art has been important to man's culture, society, and way of life for thousands of years. It functions as an instrument of self-expression and a means by which its creator conveys perception to the world. Furthermore, Lipovac (2024) postulated that art can help communicate key brand messages in a non-verbal way in an organisation as it shares a remarkable ability to transport individuals to a different mental realm. The presence of art painting natural scenes has been associated with various positive outcomes in an organization. Art in an organisation, on the other hand, does not require any formal explanation as it can be strategically installed and displayed whether or not teams discuss the pieces as they instill specific emotional responses (Albert Ho 2020). The effects of the practice of art in an organisation include:

- **Boosts creativity:**

Art practices in an organisation create an inspiring and visually stimulating environment that can spark creativity. When employees are surrounded by art, it activates their imagination and encourages them to think creatively, as they are exposed to new ideas, different ways of seeing things, and alternative approaches to problem-solving that ignite their own creative thinking.

- **Story telling:**

The practice of the arts can tell stories and narratives that are in line with the organisation's values and brand messaging as it communicates the history, achievements, or aspirations of the organisation, creating a narrative that resonates with employees and visitors and reinforces the organisation's brand story.

- **Cultural representation:**

Arts practices can showcase diverse cultures and perspectives, reflecting the organisation's commitment to inclusivity and diversity. By featuring artwork from different artists and cultures, organisations can send a message of acceptance and appreciation for different backgrounds, promoting their organisational values of inclusivity and cultural diversity.

- **Innovation and creativity:**

Arts that display creativity, originality, and unconventional thinking can reinforce the organisation's commitment to innovation and creative problem-solving by selecting

artwork that pushes boundaries, challenges norms, and inspires the imagination of the organisation, which can visually communicate its dedication to creativity and innovation.

- **Promoting social interaction:**

Art works can act as conversation starters and encourage social interaction among employees in an organization. Discussing and sharing thoughts about the artwork with colleagues can create a sense of friendship, build relationships, and provide social support.

- **Aid in reducing stress:**

Engaging with artwork provides a mental escape from work-related stressors; that is, when employees of the organisation take a moment to appreciate the artwork, it offers a temporary distraction from their responsibilities and allows them to shift their focus to something enjoyable and aesthetically pleasing. The presence of artwork in the workspace creates a visually appealing and relaxing environment, contributing to employees' well-being.

CONCLUSION

The poor maintenance of graphic studio equipment in schools within Akwa Ibom State has extensive and detrimental effects on the practice of art education. It disrupts the learning process, diminishes the quality of student work, imposes financial burdens, and raises safety concerns. Addressing these issues through systematic and preventive maintenance practices is essential for fostering a supportive and effective educational environment. By prioritising the upkeep of essential tools and equipment, schools can enhance the educational experience, support student achievement, and ensure the sustainability of their art programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Schools should allocate a sufficient portion of their budget specifically for the maintenance and replacement of graphic studio equipment.
- They must ensure the implementation of a structured routine for regular inspection and maintenance of graphic studio equipment. This can prevent equipment breakdowns and ensure longevity.
- They should provide comprehensive training for teachers and technical staff on proper handling, usage, and basic maintenance of graphic studio equipment.
- Invest in advanced diagnostic tools and software that can assist in identifying maintenance needs and predicting equipment failures.

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