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CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT AS CORRELATE OF STUDENTS' ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT IN CIVIC EDUCATION IN WAEC EXAMINATION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN NNEWI EDUCATION ZONE OF ANAMBRA STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study determined the correlation between secondary school students' academic achievement in Civic Education in WAEC Examination in Nnewi Education Zone of Anambra State, Nigeria. The research is guided by on research question and one hypothesis. The researcher employed the correlation research design. The population of the study consisted of 2,927 senior secondary two (SS 2) students from all the 49 public secondary schools in the zone. The sample size comprised 400 SS2 students. Multi-stage sampling procedure was used to draw 16 public schools from the zone. The instrument for data collection is Civic Education Continuous Assessment Results (CECAR). The SS2 students' first term results in Civic Education for 2023/2024 session represent their achievement scores in Civic Education. The instrument was validated by three experts from Science Education Department and Educational Measurement and Evaluation Unit of Educational Foundations, all from Faculty of Education, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam. The reliability of CECAR was determined using Cronbach alpha, with coefficient of 0.84 indicating satisfactory internal consistency. The collected data were analyzed using Ordinary Least Square regression analysis in the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 26. Simple and multiple regression analyses were employed for analyses of result collected. Findings of the study revealed among others that continuous assessment significantly correlate with secondary school students' academic achievement in Civic Education. Based on the findings, it was recommended among others that group guidance should be organized in schools by professional counsellors in order to create awareness on how students can develop effective study habits which can lead to good academic achievement in Civic Education.

Keywords: Continuous Assessment; Students' Academic Achievement; Civic Education; WAEC Examination.

Introduction

Academic achievement refers to a successful accomplishment or Performance in particular subject area. Nwakoby and Iloka (2025) and Enwezor and Obi (2022) noted that it is indicated by grades, marks and scores of descriptive commentaries. Musek (2011) stated that there are two broad groups of definitions of academic achievement. The first one could be considered more objective, because it refers to numerical scores of students' knowledge, which measure the degree of a student's adaptation to schoolwork and to the educational system (Ezeaku 2019; Okaforcha & Okeke, 2019; Okeke, Okaforcha & Ekwesianya, 2019). The second group is a more subjective



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one, as its determination of academic success is reliant upon the student's attitudes towards his academic achievement and himself, as well as by the attitudes of significant others towards his/her success and him/herself (Anushiem, 2023; Iloka & Nwakoby, 2025; Ojimba, 2020). Students' academic achievement refers to how the students deal with or accomplish different tasks given to them by their teachers (Enwezor, 2021; Kayode and Ayodele, 2015; Okeke 2022; Okeke & Okaforcha, 2025). On the other hand, Subramanian (2016), saw academic achievement as excellence in all academic disciplines in the class as well as co-curricular activities. To him academic achievement includes excellence in sporting, behaviour, confidence communication skill, punctuality, assertiveness art, culture and the like (Okeke, Okaforcha & Ekwesianya, 2019; Onyekwelu, 2024; Osegbue, 2019). Academic achievement, according to Okoye (2021) is generally concerned with students' performance in academic areas like reading or language, history, art, science and mathematics. In this study, the focus is on Civic Education.

Civic education is one of the compulsory subjects that students must pass at the completion of the program in school. According to Okoro (2010), Civic education is aimed at inculcating and development of national and social values in the citizen. It is the study of citizen's rights and duties (Anthony, 2019). Anushiem and Anushiem (2023) noted that it is also concerned with how government works in a society.

Continuous Assessment (CA) Scores in Civic Education in Civic Education play a significant role in improving Continuous assessment scores students' performance (Ekwesianya, 2022; Enwezor & Chukwunonye, 2021; Okaforcha and Okeke, 2020). Udo (2011) revealed that students CA scores are of two dimensions either positive or negative, that CA scores on a high-grade influence students' performance in both internal and external examinations positively.

Gani and Attah (2013) who submitted that teachers do not adhere to the qualities of school-based assessment (SBA) and hence making it not to be comparable to external examinations. Teachers use SBA in preparing students for external examinations (Adinna & Onyekwelu, 2021; Ethelmary, Nwankwo & Aroh, 2019; Nwabachili, Iloka and Ucheagwu-Okoye, 2022). If the mean performance in the external examinations and that of SBA is all above the bench mark, it means teachers in Makurdi Local Government are using SBA properly in monitoring teaching and learning (Gani and Attah 2013). However, the study found that, even though, the students performed well in all the examinations, there was a consistent higher variability of scores in the SBA than in the certificate examinations. This tends to be in agreement with Monday, Ikiroma and Nwogwugwu (2014) who said, the class teachers are in the best position to tell the extent to which the students have mastered the content. This could also be explained on the fact that, scores in the external examinations were midpoints of the ranges of grades obtained by the sampled students. This might account for the low variation in the spread of the scores (Abonyi, 2022; Ekwesianya, 2025; Okaforcha, 2021).

The studies of Nwogwugwu (2014) and Okoye and Ezeaku, (2025) revealed that, the performance of student in Civic Education in Makurdi LGA of Benue State in SBA, WASSCE and WAEC SSCE was also good since it was above the bench mark of 45.0. This was also evident in the cluster



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mean of 51.39 which was above the bench mark. The performance in Civic Education by the students in Makurdi LGA in the three Examinations was again above the bench mark of 45.0. This showed the students performed well in SBA, WASSCE and WAEC SSCE. This was in disagreement with the submission of Ukuije (2011), Izuchukwu, Ugwaka, Arazu and Ezechi (2023) and Ekwesianya, Okaforcha and Okeke (2020) that teacher-made test items are substandard. The students are prepared for WASSCE and WAEC SSCE using SBA. If the teacher-made items were below standard as submitted, it would have affected the performance of the students negatively. The study found out that, there was a statistically significant difference in the mean scores of the students in English Language, Mathematics and Civic Education in the three examinations (WASSCE, WAEC SSCE and SBA) in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State. Civic Education is a subject under the social sciences (Ezeaku & Okoye, 2025; Ezeaku & Okoye, 2025; Ezeamama & Ofozoba, 2023). It is the study of the rights and duties of citizens, its citizens concerning the government and the civic environment. It is also a study of the ways the government works in a society.

Statement of problem

Poor achievements of students in both their internal and external examinations, pose a serious problem to education stakeholders and of course the parents. This then implies that students may have to pay for another examination, get involved in vices such as hooliganism, stealing and thuggery, which may be borne out of frustration due to failure. Scholars have identified factors such as lack of support and active participation of the parents in the education of the learners, poor management of school resources for effective teaching and learning, and lack of physical facilities (Mhiliwa, 2015). Based on this, the study examined the correlation between Continuous Assessments and Student's Academic Achievement in Civic Education in West Africa Examination Council Examination in Nnewi Education Zone.

Research Question: What is the correlation between students' continuous assessment scores and WAEC examination scores in Civic Education in public secondary schools Nnewi Education Zone?

Hypothesis: There is no significant correlation between students' continuous assessment scores and WAEC examination scores in Civic Educations in Nnewi Education Zone.

Research Method

The study employed a correlation research design. The population of the study consisted of 2,927 senior secondary two (SS 2) students from all the 49 public secondary schools in the zone. The sample size comprised 400 SS2 students. Multi-stage sampling procedure was used to draw 16 public schools from the zone. The instrument for data collection is Civic Education Continuous Assessment Results (CECAR). The SS2 students' first term results in Civic Education for 2023/2024 session represent their achievement scores in Civic Education. The instrument was validated by three experts from Science Education Department and Educational Measurement and Evaluation Unit of Educational Foundations, all from Faculty of Education, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam. The reliability of CECAR was determined using Cronbach alpha, with coefficient of 0.84 indicating satisfactory internal consistency. The collected

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data were analyzed using Ordinary Least Square regression analysis in the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 26. Simple and multiple regression analyses were employed for analyses of result collected. Decision rule for the research question is that Adjusted R^2 was used to evaluate the strength of correlation and the contribution of the joint variables to students' academic achievement. To determine the significance of the correlation in hypotheses testing, the decision rule was that: the calculated ANOVA p-value was compared with the stipulated level of significance (0.05) and the decision rule taken as follows: If the p-value \leq 0.05, reject H_0 , If the p-value \geq 0.05, do not reject H_0

Presentation of Results

Table 1: Correlation between students' continuous assessment scores and WAEC examination scores in Civic Education

Continuous Assessment Scores	
1.0000	.726
(353)	(353)
.726	1.0000
(353)	(353)
	1.0000 (353) .726

Source: Researcher's Field Work 2024 r = 0.726 $r^2 = 0.526$

Data in Table 1 indicate a correlation coefficient (r) of 0.726 which is within the range of high correlation. This signifies that there is a high correlation between student's continuous assessment scores and students' academic achievement in WAEC Civic Education in public secondary schools in Nnewi Education Zone. Nevertheless, the coefficient of determination (r²) is 0.526 which when converted to percentage 0.53%. This value explains the variation in academic achievement of students in Civic Education as shown by secondary school WAEC official Record of students' performance.

Table 2: Significance of Correlation between students' continuous assessment scores and WAEC examination scores in Civic Educations

Computed r		•	Beta	t-cal	P- Value	Dec.
(r) .726	.527	r-Square .526	.726	13.77		Sig.

Source: Researcher's Field Work 2024

From Table 2, r represents the coefficient of correlation which is established on correlation between the two variables. The coefficient of determination (r^2) for computed r value is 0.726. This value indicates that students' continuous assessment influences their academic achievement in Civic Education in WAEC. On the test of significance of the hypothesis as indicated in table 2, the calculated 't' value is 9.808 while the p-value is 0.0000. This indicates a significant result between the p-value (0.000) that is less than the level of significance (0.05). Therefore, the



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hypothesis that there is no significant correlation between students' continuous assessment scores and WAEC examination scores in Civic Educations in Nnewi Education Zone was rejected.

Discussion

The finding of the study shows that there was a high positive correlation between Continuous Assessment scores and students' achievement in Civic Education in WAEC. Findings anchored on computed r and co-efficient of determination (r²), which implied that students' performance in WAEC Civic education result could be attributed to student performance in school continuous assessment borne out of discipline to study (Nwankwo & Ezeibe, 2021; Onyekwelu & Adinna, 2022; Ugwaka & Igbokwe, 2023). Hypothesis 2 on Table 4 concluded that there was significant correlation between the Continuous Assessment scores and students' achievement in Civic Education. However, the findings are in line with Ukuije, (2011), Ofozoba & Ofozoba, (2022) and Azubuike (2024) who suggested that Continuous Assessment policy requires that students be assessed through both Continuous Assessment and terminal assessment to evaluate the progress and growth of students. Therefore, Continuous Assessment directly affects students' achievements. That was why the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Technology trailing the same pathway of this exercise of Continuous Assessment and encouraging its practice observed that assessing the teaching process is an integral part of the curriculum in which the teacher must be fully involved.

Conclusion

This study focused on Comparison between the Continuous Assessments and West Africa Examination Council (WAEC) Examination scores on Student's Academic Achievement in secondary schools in Nnewi Education Zone. There is a high positive correlation between continuous assessment scores of Students and their achievement scores in Civic Education in WAEC while the hypothesis revealed that there is a significant correlation between the continuous assessment scores of Students and their achievement in Civic education in WAEC.

Recommendations

From the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

- 1. As a result of the positive correlation between Continuous Assessment scores and students' achievement in Civic Education in WAEC result, refresher courses should be given to Civic Education teachers to train them in developing and using continuous assessment.
- 2. A new culture for enhancing continuous assessment in teaching is what is required in this present education system.



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