

PERSPECTIVES, STRATEGIES, AND CHALLENGES OF PUBLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ON POLICIES AND PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOL LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to determine the perspectives, strategies, and challenges of public school administrators on policies and programs for school library development. The respondents were 119 public school administrators, which consisted of the Principals, Assistant Principals, Head Teachers, School Heads, and Teachers in Charge from selected public schools in Camarines Sur. The study utilized the descriptive correlational research method, with a researcher-made questionnaire as the primary tool for gathering data. The statistical tools utilized were descriptive statistics: weighted mean and inferential statistics, Pearson Product Moment Coefficients of Correlation, and Stepwise regression analysis for treating the data collected. Analysis of data revealed that public school administrators have a strong recognition of school libraries' importance in education in terms of the library as the center of learning, the role of the school librarian in student academic achievement, and teacher-librarian collaboration, with an overall weighted mean of 3.52. The public school administrators employed strategies in implementing school library policies and programs, with a strong emphasis on library collection development, while staffing and external partnerships require further improvement (overall weighted mean = 3.08). In terms of challenges faced by public school administrators, findings highlight financial constraints as the primary barrier, affecting infrastructure, personnel, and resource availability in school libraries, with an overall weighted mean of 3.49. Statistical analysis showed a significant relationship between public school administrators' perspectives and strategies or challenges and a significant relationship between strategies and challenges. Regression analysis confirmed that administrators' perspectives significantly predict strategy implementation ($r^2 = 0.268$, $f=14.049$, $p=0.000$). The study concludes that public school administrators recognize the crucial role of school libraries in education, but strategies employed need to be strengthened, and budget constraints emerge as the most significant challenge. A structured action plan is proposed to address key challenges and enhance school library development through targeted interventions in capacity building, funding, resource allocation, and policy implementation.

Keywords: Descriptive correlational study, perspectives, strategies, challenges, public school administrators, school library