

## **ROLE OF EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATORS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF HEALTH AND SAFETY PRACTICES IN UNIVERSITIES IN SOUTH EAST, NIGERIA**

**Dr. (Mrs.) P. C. Ukaigwe**  
Department of Educational Management  
University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt, **NIGERIA**

**&**  
**Dr. Chinasa Mba**  
Public Health Unit, Department of Nursing Science  
University of Port Harcourt, **NIGERIA**

### **ABSTRACT**

This study investigated the roles educational administrators play in managing health and safety in universities in South East, Nigeria. Three research questions and two hypotheses guided the study. The study adopted a descriptive survey design with a population of ten federal and state universities in the zone comprising 106 administrative staff (Deans, Heads of Departments and Directors of institutes) in the Faculties of Education and Management Sciences. A sample size of 46 administrative staff was drawn from four universities (two state and two federal universities) using proportionate stratified random sampling technique, and this represented 43.4% of the population. They included 31 staff from federal and 15 staff from state universities. The instrument used was questionnaire tagged 'REAMHSUQ' developed by the researchers, which was validated. Instrument reliability was tested using test retest method and calculated with Pearson's product moment correlation, which yielded an index of 0.79. Mean scores, standard deviation, rank order and bar charts were used to answer the research questions, while t-test was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 alpha level of significance. The findings revealed among others that educational administrators can manage health and safety in universities by integrating health/safety education programmes in the curriculum of school system, providing waste bean at all corners of their institutions, introducing of health/safety clubs in the school system, promoting sound health/safety management policies and practices throughout the institution, promoting awareness by educating students on the various health/safety related issues, educating students on the ways of reducing/preventing pollution, and monitoring students on health/safety programmes that can assist them as well as the society in life. Based on the findings, the researchers recommended that educational administrators should incorporate health and safety programmes into the school curriculum to enable students acquire concrete knowledge on various ways of managing health and safety for present and future development.

**Keywords:** Educational administration, health and safety management, Universities.