

MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICAL HAZARDS FOR ACADEMIC STAFF PRODUCTIVITY IN PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN RIVERS STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This study examined management of chemical hazards for academic staff productivity in public universities in Rivers State. Two research questions and two hypotheses guided the study which adopted descriptive survey research design. The population of the study was the 2,400 academic staff in the three public universities (University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt, Rivers State University, Port Harcourt and University of Education, Rumuolumeni, Port Harcourt) in Rivers State. A sample of 240 academic staff representing 10% of the population was drawn via stratified random sampling technique. A questionnaire containing 14 items designed by the researchers was used for data collection. The questionnaire was titled; Management of Chemical Hazards for Academic Staff Productivity Questionnaire (MCHASPO). The instrument was properly validated by experts in Educational Management and Measurement and Evaluation Departments of the University of Port Harcourt and tested for reliability through test-retest method using Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient Formular (r). A reliability index of 0.85 was obtained. Data collected were analysed using mean and standard deviation to answer the research questions while independent sample z-test was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 alpha level of significance. The findings revealed among others that the strategies of managing chemical hazards for academic staff productivity in public universities in Rivers State include: provision of Personal Protective Materials (PPM); encouraging proper handling and labeling of chemicals and providing safety training to academic staff; management of chemical hazards for academic staff productivity is challenged by lack of adequate provision of protective equipment, inadequate maintenance of plants and equipment that emit poisonous gases and inadequate training of staff on the management of chemical hazards. Based on the findings, conclusion was drawn.

Keywords: Management, Chemical hazards, Academic staff Productivity and Public universities.