



## Universities' provision of healthcare delivery and mounting of enlightenment programmes and town and gown relationships in Rivers state

Osaat Dinah Sunday, Oghenovo R Chuku-akwu

Department of Educational Management, Faculty of Education, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria

### Abstract

The study examined the extent to which universities' management provision of subsidized healthcare delivery and mounting of enlightenment programmes correlates with harmonious town and gown relationship in Rivers State. Two (2) research questions and Two (2) hypotheses were answered and tested in the study. The design of the study was correlational, with a population of all the 235 principal officers of the three public universities in Rivers State. All the 235 management staff in the three public universities served as the respondents of the study, using the census sampling technique. Two validated self-structured instruments, titled Universities' Management Provision of Subsidized Healthcare Delivery and Mounting of Enlightenment Programmes Scale, (UMPSHDMEPs) were used for data collection. Conbachs' alpha statistics was used to establish the reliability coefficient of both instruments which yielded 0.85 and 0.70 respectively. Simple regression was used in answering the research questions, while t-test and Analysis of Variance associated with simple regression, respectively, were used to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The findings of the study revealed that universities' management provision of subsidized healthcare delivery and mounting of enlightenment programmes correlates with harmonious town and gown relationships to a very high extent in public universities in Rivers State. It was concluded that provision of subsidized healthcare delivery and mounting of enlightenment can enhance harmonious town and gown relationships in Rivers State. Based on the findings, it was recommended that, universities' management should consider implementing these strategies while taking into account the specific needs of the community and any potential challenges that may arise. For example, the university should work with local health care providers to ensure that the health care services are provided and affordable for the community. This is to ensure a stronger relationships between the town and gown, the university should explore alternative strategies for increasing communication and understanding between the university and host communities. These strategies could include social media campaigns, town hall meetings, or cultural exchange programs

**Keywords:** Universities' management, Subsidized healthcare, Enlightenment programmes. Harmonious, Town, Gown, Relationships

### Introduction

In Rivers State, Nigeria, the symbolic relationships between universities and their surrounding communities, often referred to as the 'town and gown' relationship, is a dynamic interplay of social, economic and cultural exchanges. (Ogbonna & Okafor, 2017) <sup>[1]</sup>. This relationship is integral to the fabric of the local community, shaping its identity, fostering mutual understanding and driving collective progress. (Smith & Johnson, 2018) <sup>[2]</sup>. Central to this relationship is the universities' management provision of subsidized healthcare delivery and the mounting of enlightenment programmes which serves as critical determinants of harmonious coexistence and sustainable development. (Brown & Williams, 2019) <sup>[3]</sup>.

Rivers State with its diverse demographic composition and socio-economic challenges, faces the complex task of balancing the needs of its university populations with those of the broader community. Universities, as centers of knowledge and innovation, have a responsibility not only to educate and empower students but also to contribute to the health and well-being of the communities they inhabit. (Iones *et al*, 2020). The provision of subsidized healthcare services emerges as a crucial avenue through which universities can fulfill this responsibility, ensuring equitable access to essential medical care for students, faculty, staff and local residents alike. (Harris & Martinez, 2019) <sup>[5]</sup>.

Moreover, the mounting of enlightenment programmes by universities serves as a powerful tool for disseminating

information, raising awareness and promoting healthy behaviors within the community. (Garcia & Martinez, 2021) <sup>[6]</sup>. Through targeted campaigns, workshops and outreach initiatives, universities can address prevalent health challenges, dispel misconceptions and empower individuals to make informed decisions about their health and well-being. (Brown & Smith, 2018) <sup>[2]</sup>. By engaging with local stakeholders and leveraging their expertise, universities can amplify the impact of these enlightenment programmes, fostering a culture of health promotion and disease prevention across Rivers State.

However, navigating the complexities of uncertainties in health care delivery and public health programming presents a formidable challenge for universities and their partners. (Johnson & Lee, 2019) <sup>[23]</sup>. Uncertainties stemming from limited resources, evolving health priorities and socio-cultural dynamics underscore the need for adaptive strategies and collaborative approaches to address emerging health issues and community needs effectively. In this context, the universities' management provision of subsidized healthcare delivery and the mounting of enlightenment programmes emerges as pivotal mechanisms for building resilience, fostering trust and nurturing harmonious town and gown relationships in Rivers State.

Against this backdrop, this paper aims to explore the role of uncertainties in the management provision of subsidized healthcare delivery and the mounting of enlightenment programmes as correlates of harmonious town and gown

relationships in Rivers State. By examining current practices, identifying challenges and exploring innovative solutions, this paper seeks to inform policy, practice and research initiatives aimed at enhancing the health, well-being and socio-economic vitality of communities across the state. Thus;

### **Provision of Subsidized Healthcare Delivery to Host Communities and Harmonious Town and Gown Relationships**

There is no gainsaying that access to health care delivery is human right issue as health care challenges and bottlenecks within countries remain on the increase. In the face of these challenges, healthcare delivery in Nigeria is facing serious setbacks due to the inability of Nigerian governments at all levels, to holistically and successfully implement policies formulated by global health agencies like the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and others. The 1999 Nigerian Constitution places health delivery on the concurrent list with the exception of international health, quarantine and the control of drugs and poisons which are exclusively the responsibility of the Federal Government. It also assigns specific responsibilities to State and Local Governments in terms of healthcare delivery.

According to World Health Organization's Report (2000), Nigeria was ranked 187<sup>th</sup> among 191 member states in health system performance; and the status quo has continued to remain. This could be linked to poor legislation and high-level corruption in the country. WHO reports that funds allocated for the purchase of drugs in government hospitals are being diverted by top officers for their private use, while most officials who own private hospitals tend to utilize government funds to equip their personal establishments.

Due to the inability of Nigerian government to fully implement health policies, the healthcare system in the country has gradually deteriorated, leaving Nigerians with no other Option than to seek medical attention overseas, which is very expensive and only affordable by the rich. This has seriously affected those living in rural areas because they cannot afford such exorbitant medical expenses. These rural settlers, therefore, depend only on primary healthcare for their regular health needs, but when this is not available, they resort to traditional methods which are not conventionally recommendable in this modern era.

To complement the little efforts made by various governments in the area of healthcare delivery, there is a need for higher education institutions, especially the universities make available subsidized health care delivery to their host communities in order to ameliorate the sufferings of those living in poor rural communities. It is in these areas that health care interventions is called for on the part of the universities operating in the communities.

Provision of subsidized healthcare delivery by universities to their host communities has a tremendous impact on the lives of the people of the community where the university is located. With this mind, the head of university institution has to devise some techniques to be used. Provision and delivery of healthcare services by universities has to do with provision of access to health support services and facilities by the university. The university can as well use its health personnel to provide to its host community the relevant education community health delivery of patient care and wellness projects, institute health and wellness programmes,

conduct research to improve healthcare system for the benefit of the host communities. In New Jersey, United States of America, higher education institutions such as Rowan University provides a significant volume of direct medical care as part of its medical care training programme through its students. These programmes are a perfect example of the nexus between the university's core missions and the needs of residents in its host localities. In structuring these programmes, Rowan University makes a direct effort to reach out to underserved communities, including underserved and underinsured citizens who struggle to access quality care (Rowan University Report, 2015). In the intricate dance between universities and their surrounding communities, the provision of subsidized healthcare emerges as a cornerstone of goodwill and partnership. The "town and gown" relationship extends beyond the boundaries of education to encompass the overall well-being of host communities (Aderson, 2018). This discussion delves into the vital realm of providing affordable and accessible healthcare services to host communities and how it contributes to nurturing a harmonious coexistence. Universities, often situated in urban and semi-urban settings, wield significant influence within their local environment. They are not just centers of learning but pillars of resources and opportunities. By extending their healthcare services to the community at a subsidized rate, universities can profoundly impact the lives of residents. This goes beyond the traditional town and gown paradigm and embodies a commitment to share prosperity (Smith, *et al*, 2021).<sup>[21]</sup>

The provision of subsidized healthcare delivery to host community by universities is a proactive and mutually beneficial approach that plays a significant role in building and strengthening a harmonious town and gown relationship. This practice not only demonstrates a university's commitment to the well-being of the local community but also serves as a bridge between the academic institution and it's neighbours. Here, the significance of providing subsidized healthcare as a means to enhance town and gown relations will be looked into.

Subsidized healthcare services improve public health and access to medical care within the host community. These services can include clinics, screenings, vaccinations and preventive care, ensuring that residents have access to essential healthcare resources (Mcmillan, *et al*, 2003)<sup>[18]</sup>. In the intricate interplay between universities and their host communities, the provision of subsidized healthcare services emerges as a vital component that not only bolsters the overall well-being of residents but also cultivates a harmonious town and gown relationship. A prominent role of this initiative is its capacity to enhance public health and facilitates access to medical care for the community. Subsidized healthcare programmes often prioritize preventative care services such as vaccinations, screening and health education. These initiatives contributes to a healthier community by identifying health issues at an early stage and offering guidance on healthy lifestyles.

Another role or significance of subsidized healthcare delivery to host communities is "Reduced Healthcare Disparities". By providing affordable healthcare services, universities can help reduce healthcare disparities within the host community. Vulnerable low-income families and individuals, gain improved access to essential medical care that may have otherwise been financially prohibitive. Educational components of subsidized healthcare

programmes can raise health literacy levels (Increased Health Literacy) within the community. Accessible health information empowers individuals to make informed decisions about their health, leading to healthier lifestyles and better management of chronic conditions.

Universities can also actively engage with the community through wellness programmes and health-fairs. These events promote health awareness, provide free screenings, and encourage individuals to take proactive steps towards maintaining their health (Community Engagement and Wellness Initiatives) (Visscher, 2003) <sup>[25]</sup>. The availability of subsidized healthcare can relieve pressure on local healthcare facilities (Relief on Local Healthcare Infrastructure) particularly emergency rooms. When residents have access to preventive and primary care, it can reduce the burden on hospitals and emergency services, ensuring that they are available for critical cases.

It is also important to note here that, the provision of subsidized healthcare services demonstrates a tangible commitment by universities to the well-being of their host communities. This fosters goodwill, trust and a sense of partnership, ultimately enhancing the town and gown relationship (Johnson, *et al*, 2020) <sup>[17]</sup>. Subsidized healthcare reduce the financial burden of medical expenses for local residents. It helps in improving the economic well-being of community members of lowering healthcare costs and ensuring timely access to medical services (Grogan-Kaylor, 2005) <sup>[13]</sup>.

In the intricate interplay between universities and their host communities, “health education and awareness programmes” emerge as potent instruments that contribute to the betterment of both realms. These programmes not only elevate public health but also cultivate a harmonious town and gown relationship, enhancing mutual understanding, collaboration and shared well-being (Smith, 2019) <sup>[21]</sup>. The aspect of “Empowering communities with knowledge” is another significance of subsidized healthcare delivery to host communities. Health education initiative empower individuals within host communities with knowledge about various health topics, from disease prevention and nutrition to mental health and wellness. Informed individuals are better equipped to make healthy choices and seek timely medical care. (Anderson, 2020) <sup>[10]</sup>.

Health education initiatives provide opportunities for universities to actively engage with the community. Through workshops, seminars and awareness campaigns, they bridge gaps in understanding and promote open dialogue between town and gown. It is also a fact that, when universities collaborate with local healthcare providers and community organizations on health education initiatives, it reinforces partnership that extend beyond education. Joint efforts to improve public health create a sense of shared responsibility and commitment to the community’s welfare (Smith & Johnson, 2019) <sup>[23]</sup>. By addressing health-related needs, universities demonstrates a tangible commitment to the well-being of their host communities. This fosters goodwill, trust and a sense of partnership, ultimately strengthening the town and gown relationship.

Conflict resolution is another significance of subsidized health care delivery to host community in fostering a harmonious town and gown relationship. Conflicts and tension are almost inevitable. However, the effective resolution of these conflicts stands as a pivotal element in nurturing a harmonious town and gown relationship.

Universities have a significant role to play in this regard, employing conflict resolution strategies that not only address disputes but also strengthen bonds and promote collaborations. Here, “Early Intervention and Mediation” can also help resolve conflicts. Universities can establish mechanisms for early intervention and mediation when conflicts arise within the community. These processes facilitates open communication and negotiation, preventing issues from escalating and creating an environment where concerns can be addressed constructively.

Conflicts Awareness and Training: Through workshops and training programmes, universities can enhance conflict awareness and equip community members with conflicts resolution skills (Anderson & Davis, 2019) <sup>[11, 12]</sup>. This empowers individuals to manage disagreements effectively fostering a culture of open dialogue and understanding. Organizing community dialogues and forums provides platforms for town and gown stakeholders to voice concerns, share perspectives and collectively explore solutions. Such events encourage collaboration and strengthen relationships. “Partnerships with mediation centers” is another significance of provision of subsidized healthcare delivery to host communities. Universities can collaborate with local mediation centers or conflict resolution organizations to provide access to professional mediation services. These partnerships offer a structured and impartial approach to resolving conflicts and also be prevented through communication. Transparent and regular communication between universities and host communities can help prevent conflicts by addressing issues before they escalate. Universities can actively engage with residents to understand their concerns and expectations. The provision of subsidized healthcare can serve as a platform for dialogue, conflict resolution and collaboration. All mentioned above can only happen if that provision and avenues are made available.

Effective conflict resolution not only resolves disputes but also strengthens town and gown relations. When communities see universities actively working to resolve conflicts and maintain peaceful environment, it enhances trust and goodwill. Through this same subsidized health delivery, “Long-Term Community Partnerships” can also be achieved. The establishment of long-term community partnerships represents a cornerstone in nurturing a harmonious town and gown relationship within host communities. These enduring collaborations go beyond short-term engagement and hold the potential to transform the dynamics between universities and the communities they serve, resulting in mutual growth and shared prosperity. Long-term partnerships signify a sustained commitment (Sustained Engagement) to the well-being of the community. Universities actively engage with local residents, organizations, and institutions over an extended period, creating a sense of continuity trust (Smith & Johnson, 2020) <sup>[17]</sup>.

Through ongoing collaboration, universities and host communities can identify shared goals and objectives. These aligned interests lead to more effective initiatives that address community needs and enhance the quality of life for residents. Long-term partnership enable resource sharing, allowing universities to contribute their expertise, knowledge and resources to support community development projects. This collaborative approach leads to a more resilient and thriving community. It is important to

note here that, overtime, long-term partnerships foster cultural exchange and deeper understanding (Cultural Exchange and Understanding) between town and gown stakeholders. Universities and residents learn from each other, enriching their perspectives and promoting inclusivity and through ongoing dialogue and cooperation, communities can actively shape the initiatives undertaken by universities. This participatory approach ensures that projects are tailored to the unique needs and preferences of the community. The establishment of long-term community partnerships reinforces trust and goodwill. Universities become integral parts of the community fabric, and town and gown relations evolve into symbolic relationship marketed by mutual respect and shared achievement (Davis, *et al.*, 2019) <sup>[11, 12]</sup>. Universities located in communities should commit themselves to supporting the reduction of health inequalities in the communities by improving the physical and mental health of the community members.

In the complex interplay between universities and their host communities, the pursuit of a harmonious town and gown relationship emerges as an essential goal that enriches the lives of residents and enhances the educational mission of institutions. This journey involves multiple facets, each playing a unique role in forging connections, promoting understanding and nurturing mutual growth. The provision of subsidized healthcare delivery, as exemplified in the works of Johnson (2020) <sup>[17]</sup> and Smith (2019) <sup>[21]</sup>, serves as a testament to the commitment of universities to the well-being of their host communities. Subsidized healthcare initiatives not only enhance public health but also ensure access to medical care, addressing disparities and strengthening the foundations of trust and goodwill.

Health education and awareness programmes are explored in the research by Anderson (2020) <sup>[14]</sup> and Smith (2019) <sup>[23]</sup>, empower individuals with knowledge and promote healthier lifestyles. These initiatives go beyond education; they create platforms for engagement, dialogues and mutual understanding, reinforcing the bonds between town and gown. Effective conflict resolution, as discussed in the works of Johnson and Smith (2020) <sup>[17]</sup> and Anderson and Davis (2019) <sup>[11, 12]</sup>, act as a linchpin in maintaining peace and collaboration. When conflicts arise, universities that actively engage in resolution efforts demonstrate their commitment to a harmonious relationship, fostering an environment where shared values and open dialogue prevail. Long-term community partnerships, as highlighted by Smith and Johnson (2020) <sup>[17]</sup> and Davis, *et al.* (2019) <sup>[11, 12]</sup>, signify a commitment to sustained engagement and shared objectives. These enduring collaborations lead to resource sharing, cultural exchange and community-driven initiatives, ultimately shaping a brighter and more interconnected future for both universities and host communities. The pursuit of a harmonious town and gown relationship is a testament to the commitment of universities to the well-being and prosperity of their host communities. These multifaceted efforts, whether through healthcare provision, education, conflict resolution or long-term partnerships, contribute to an environment of trust, cooperation and shared achievements. As universities actively engage with and empower their communities, town and gown relations evolve into vibrant and enduring collaborations, paving the way for a future marked by mutual growth and prosperity.

### **Mounting of Enlightenment Programmes to Host Communities and Harmonious Town and Gown Relationship**

In the realm of higher education, universities not only serve as centers of academic excellence but also as beacons of knowledge and enlightenment that can profoundly impact their surrounding communities. One powerful mechanism for achieving this influence is the initiation of comprehensive enlightenment programmes designed to engage and educate the host community. The notion of “town and gown” takes on new dimensions as universities embrace their role as catalysts for social progress (Smith, 2017) <sup>[20]</sup>. Enlightenment programmes extend beyond the traditional scope of education. They encompass a range of activities, from workshops and seminars to community’s outreach initiatives and cultural exchanges. These programmes are designed to empower host communities with knowledge, skills, and resources, thereby fostering a sense of mutual understanding and collaboration between the university (gown) and its neighbours (town) (Johnes & Johnson, 2019). Universities and play a role in promoting civic engagement and social responsibility through community enlightenment programmes (Johnson & Davis, 2020) <sup>[14]</sup>. This discussion embarks on a journey to explore the significance of mounting enlightenment programmes to host communities and how they can contribute to nurturing a harmonious town and gown relationship. It will delve into the various aspects of such programmes, their impacts on community development and the potential they hold for bridging gaps and building lasting partnerships.

Basic literacy, political education and good governance are fundamental factors that create the basis for awareness and positive transformation in human societies for social and economic development. These developments cut across all essential services that constitute the essential requirements for good living, like the provision of sound education, health care services, security, food, shelter, power supply, environmental safety, etc.

Mounting enlightenment programmes to host communities is a proactive approach taken by university management to engage with local residents, address community needs and contribute to societal progress. These programmes encompass a wide range of initiatives, including workshops, seminars, public lectures and community outreach activities, designed to disseminate knowledge, raise awareness and facilitate dialogue on diverse topics of interest. By offering enlightenment programmes, universities create platforms for sharing expertise, research findings and best practices with the broader community, topics covered may include health education, environmental sustainability, entrepreneurship, cultural diversity and civic engagement, among others. Through these programmes, universities empower community members with valuable information and skills to make informed decisions, enhance their well-being and actively participate in civic life.

To substantiate the importance of mounting enlightenment programmes, numerous studies have highlighted their positive impact on community development and town and gown relationships. For instance, research by Brown and Williams (2018) <sup>[29]</sup> demonstrated that universities that actively engage in community-based enlightenment programmes experience greater community support and goodwill. Similarly, Garcia and Martinez (2020) found that

hosting cultural events and public lectures contributes to the cultural vibrancy and social cohesion of host communities.

Furthermore, enlightenment programmes have been shown to enhance the visibility and reputation of universities, attract prospective students and faculty and stimulate economic development in the surrounding area (Smith & Johnson, 2019). By nurturing positive relationships with host communities, universities create conducive environments for teaching, learning and research, enriching the academic experience and advancing the institutions' mission.

University institutions in host communities can make use of several top-rate electronic and non-electronic media such as television and radio stations, newspapers and online publications trying to bridge the information gap between them and majority of community members and also to sensitize community members on their rights, responsibilities and the desperate need for good. In fact, mounting or the employment of Public Enlightenment campaigns in universities will help in improving the culture of enlightenment which will in turn create a new that will lead to the emergence of enlightened general public. As soon as this happens it becomes quite evident that institutions in host community would no longer take the public for granted on all matters, particularly on matters that border on people's social welfare, survival, security, critical infrastructures and their future.

In view of the foregoing, this study intends to explore how public enlightenment can play a vital role in changing the minds of the members of host communities that host university institutions for better future; including how public awareness can exert influence in instilling and improving good positive values in the members of the community; changing of their attitudinal orientation for sustainable national development; support for the fight against corruption, nepotism, get-rich quick syndrome, dependency, discouragement of retrogressive attitudes, etc.

Moreover, media enlightenment campaign through radio and television, is a viable and effective public relations strategy that will solicit and initiate robust commitment by community residents towards harmonious town and gown relationship. Mounting public enlightenment campaign by a university in its host community is a 'sine qua non' for creating awareness among host communities on the need for a harmonious co-existence between them and the universities within the communities. Independent Corrupt Practices and other related Offences Commission (ICPC) (2015) has highlighted the need for public enlightenment/education programmes, using print and broadcast as well as workshops, seminars, conferences, town hall meetings and so on media as strategies and methods for sensitization of the public on ways that can enhance social change and development. ICPC equally points out that mounting public enlightenment campaigns could be used to campaign against social vices and bad governance.

Generally, it is believed that the media is a powerful and influential means of educating the public on many topics and issues, especially in creating awareness of social issues. It is the most common source of information for youths, because of its entertainment value as well as its accessibility and low costs. HIV/AIDS information from radio and television in form of advertisements, news, and live show constitutes the major ways through which adolescents gain

HIV information. Many research findings are continually being published in this direction, with the hope that a successful prevention programme will checkmate the populace against indiscriminate sexual behavior, adopt safe sex practices and internalize AIDS risk reduction behaviors. In order to achieve this goal, universities in host communities have to support and implement a number of enlightenment awareness programmes. In Nigeria, there are weekly radio programmes designed to disseminate family planning, HIV/AIDS, and other reproductive health information sponsored by the geared towards educating the populous about the menace of HIV/AIDS and attendant consequences associated with unprotected sex.

In pursuit of nurturing a harmonious and mutually beneficial town and gown relationship, the initiation of enlightenment programmes emerges as a beacon of hope and progress. Enlightenment programmes often initiated by universities, extend far beyond the traditional boundaries of academia. They encompass a rich tapestry of initiatives, from educational workshops to community engagement endeavours and cultural exchanges. These programmes empower host communities with knowledge, skills and resources, fundamentally altering the dynamics of the town and gown relationship. Mounting enlightenment programmes for host communities stands as a testament to the commitment of universities to their surrounding neighbours. These programmes have the power to break down barriers, enhance understanding and ignite a sense of shared destiny. As universities continue to champion the cause of enlightenment and empowerment, the town and gown relationship evolves into a vibrant tapestry of collaboration, leading us towards a more harmonious and interconnected future.

### Statement of the Problem

In Rivers State, Nigeria, the harmonious relationships between universities and their surrounding Communities, known as the 'town and gown' relationship, is vital for fostering mutual understanding, collaboration and socio-economic development. Central to this relationship are the management provision of subsidized healthcare delivery and the mounting of enlightenment programmes by universities. However, the effectiveness of these initiatives is often challenged by uncertainties stemming from limited resources, evolving health priorities, and socio-cultural dynamics within the community. One key challenge is the uncertainty surrounding the management provision of subsidized healthcare delivery. Despite efforts to provide accessible and affordable healthcare services to students and community members, the sustainability and adequacy of these services remain uncertain. Factors such as funding constraints, infrastructure limitations and fluctuating health demands contribute to uncertainties in the availability, accessibility and quality of healthcare services provided by universities in Rivers State.

Similarly, uncertainties surround the mounting of enlightenment programmes aimed at promoting health awareness, preventive behaviors and community engagement. While universities strive to disseminate accurate health information and foster positive health behaviors among residents, challenges such as cultural barriers, misinformation, and shifting community priorities undermine the effectiveness and reach of these programmes. Moreover, the lack of comprehensive evaluation

frameworks and outcome measures further exacerbates uncertainties regarding the impact and sustainability of enlightenment initiatives. These uncertainties not only impede the ability of universities to fulfil their social responsibility but also strain the town and gown relationship by eroding trust, exacerbating disparities and hindering collaborative efforts to address community health needs. Without effective strategies to address uncertainties in healthcare delivery and enlightenment programming, the potential for building a harmonious and mutual beneficial relationship between universities and communities in Rivers State remains unrealized. In the light of these pressing issues, the researchers are bothered that when these universities fail in carrying out their corporate social responsibilities in their host communities, that harmonious relationships expected of town and gown may not be realized. This study will close the gap created by that erosion of foundation for collaboration, mutual understanding and sustainable development in the state.

**Aim and Objectives of the Study**

The study examined Universities Management Provision of Subsidized Healthcare Delivery and Mounting of Enlightenment Programmes as Correlates of Harmonious Town and Gown Relationships in Rivers State. Specifically, the objectives of the study were to

1. Find out the extent to which universities’ management provision of subsidized health care delivery to host communities correlates with harmonious town and gown relationships in Rivers State, and;
2. Examine the extent to which universities’ management mounting of enlightenment programmes to host communities correlates with harmonious town and gown relationships in Rivers State.

**Research Questions**

1. To what extent does universities’ management provision of subsidized health care delivery to host communities correlates with harmonious town and gown relationships in Rivers State;
2. To what extent does universities management mounting of enlightenment programmes to host communities correlates with harmonious town and gown relationships Rivers State.

**Hypotheses**

1. There is no significant correlation of universities, management provision of subsidized health care delivery to host communities on harmonious town and gown relationships in Rivers State.
2. There is no significant correlation of universities, management mounting of enlightenment programme to host communities on harmonious town and gown relationships in Rivers State.

**Methodology**

This study adopted the correlational design. The population for this study comprised all the three (3) public universities in Rivers State. These universities are the University of Port Harcourt (UPH), Rivers State University (RSU) and Ignatius Ajuru University of Education (IAUE). These universities have 235 administrators, (made-up of principal officers – DVCs, Registrars, Bursars, Liberian, Deans, and Heads of departments) who were the participants in the

study. The sample for the study was 235 management staff of the three public universities in Rivers State. This was done because of the small size of the population. This constitute one hundred percent (100%) of the entire population, using census sampling technique. The instrument of the study was the validated researchers’ made 14 items instruments, titled: Universities’ Management Provision of Subsidized Healthcare Delivery and Mounting of Enlightenment Programmes Scale (UMPSHDMEPs) designed in the modified 4-point likert scale model with reliability indices of 0.85 and 0.70, respectively, using Cronbach Alpha Statistical Model. Simple regression was used to answer the research questions while t-test associated with simple regression was used to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

**Results**

**Research Question 1:** To what extent does universities’ management provision of subsidized health care delivery to host communities correlates with harmonious town and gown relationships in Rivers State?

**Table 1:** Simple Regression Analysis of the Extent Universities’ Management Provision of Subsidized Healthcare Delivery to Host Community Correlates with Harmonious Town and Gown Relationships in Rivers State

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Decision
1	.736 <sup>a</sup>	.541	.540	High extent correlation

\* The scale of table 1 applies

Data on table 1 presents simple regression analysis on the extent to which universities’ management provision of subsidized healthcare delivery to host communities correlates with harmonious town and gown relationships in Rivers State. The regression score came out as 0.736<sup>a</sup>, the regression square as .541, while the adjusted regression square came out as .540. With .541, as the coefficient of determination, when reference is made to the table of measurement, .540% falls between 0.51 and 0.75, indicating a high extent of correlation. Consequently, it is decided that, there is a high extent of correlation between universities’ management provision of subsidized health care delivery to host communities and harmonious town and gown relationships in Rivers State.

**Research Question 2:** To what extent does universities management mounting of enlightenment programmes to host communities correlates with harmonious town and gown relationships Rivers State?

**Table 2:** Simple Regression Analysis of the Extent Universities’ Management Mounting of Enlightenment Programmes to Host Community Correlates with Harmonious Town and Gown Relationships in Rivers State

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Decision
1	.617 <sup>a</sup>	.380	.377	Low extent correlation

\* The scale of table 1 applies.

Data on table 6 presents simple regression analysis on the extent to which universities’ management mounting of enlightenment programmes to host communities correlates

with harmonious town and gown relationships in Rivers State. The regression score came out as 0.617<sup>a</sup>, the regression square as .380, while the adjusted regression square came out as .377. With .380, as the coefficient of determination, when reference is made to the table of measurement, .377% falls between 0.26 and 0.50, indicating a low extent of correlation. Consequently, it is decided that, there is a low extent of correlation between universities'

management mounting of enlightenment programmes to host communities and harmonious town and gown relationships in Rivers State.

**Hypothesis 1:** There is no significant correlation of universities' management provision of subsidized health care delivery to host communities on harmonious town and gown relationships in Rivers State.

**Table 3:** Summaries of t-test Associated with Simple Regression Analysis on the Correlation of Universities' Management Provision Subsidized Healthcare Delivery to Host Communities on Harmonious Town and Gown Relationships in Rivers State

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.	
	B	Std. Error	Beta			
1	(Constant)	46.464	1.757		26.438	.000
	Subsidized health care delivery	.757	.048	.736	5.344	.000

Data on table 14, presents the summaries of t-test associated with simple regression analysis on the correlation of universities' management provision of subsidized healthcare delivery to host communities on harmonious town and gown relationships in Rivers State. The t-test calculated value, used in testing the null hypothesis resulted in 5.344, while the significant value came out as .000, with an alpha level of 0.05. At 0.05 alpha level, and t-test observed level of 5.344, the significant value of 0.000 is lesser than the alpha value of 0.05. Hence there is a significant correlation between the two variables. Based on these observations, the researcher

rejected the null hypothesis by maintaining that there is a significant correlation of universities' management provision of subsidized healthcare delivery to host communities on harmonious town and gown relationships in Rivers State.

**Hypothesis 2:** There is no significant correlation of universities, management mounting of enlightenment programme to host communities on harmonious town and gown relationships in Rivers State.

**Table 4:** Summaries of t-test Associated with simple Regression Analysis on the Correlation of Universities' Management Mounting of Enlightenment Programmes to Host Communities on Harmonious Town and Gown Relationships in Rivers State.

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.	
	B	Std. Error	Beta			
1	(Constant)	44.191	.611		33.321	.000
	Enlightenment	.609	.018	.617	0.231	.298

Data on table 4, presents the summaries of t-test associated with simple regression analysis on the correlation of universities' management mounting of enlightenment programmes to host communities on harmonious town and gown relationship in Rivers State. The t-test calculated value, used in testing the hypothesis resulted in 0.231, while the significant value came out as .298 with an alpha value of 0.05. At 0.05 alpha value, and t-test observed level of 0.231, the significant value of .298 is greater than the alpha value 0.05. Hence there is no significant value between the two variables. Based on these observations, the researcher failed to reject the null hypothesis by maintaining that there is no significant correlation of universities' management mounting of enlightenment programmes to host communities on harmonious town and gown relationships in Rivers State.

**Discussion of Findings/Implications**

The first finding of the study is that, there is a high extent of correlation between universities' management provision of subsidized healthcare delivery to host communities and harmonious town and gown relationships in Rivers State. Also, the corresponding finding from the test of hypothesis establishes that, there is a significant correlation of universities' management provision of subsidized healthcare delivery to host communities on harmonious town and gown relationships in Rivers State. These findings agree with Okon and Ubong (2018), World Health Organization Report (2000), Johnson *et al* (2015), Oduwaiye (2022), Rowan

University Report (2015), Anderson (2018), Smith *et al* (2021), Mcmillan *et al* (2003) [18], Smith (2019) [21], Visscher (2003) [25], Johnson *et al* (2020), Grogan-Kaylor (2005) [13], Anderson (2020), Smith and Johnson (2019) [23], Anderson and Davis (2019) [11, 12], Smith and Johnson (2020) [17], Davis *et al* (2019) [11, 12], Johnson (2020) and Kevin and Trani (2013) that relationships exist between such variables of other organization.

The positive research findings and the positive literature and empirical review suggest a clear causal relationship between universities' management provision of subsidized healthcare delivery and harmonious town and gown relationships. One possible reason for this relationship is that, affordable healthcare can reduce the financial burden on the community, which can reduce stress and conflicts. Another reason is that, subsidized healthcare can improve the health and well-being of the community, which can lead to increased social cohesion and a stronger sense of community.

From the educational perspective, the positive research findings and literature and empirical review suggest that, there is a need to expand access to subsidized healthcare as a means of promoting harmonious town and gown relationships. In particular, educational institutions should work with local communities to ensure that everyone has access to affordable health. This may require changes in the ways that healthcare is financed and delivered, as well as changes in the way the success of these initiatives is measured.

The second finding of the study is that, there is a low extent of correlation between universities' management mounting of enlightenment programmes for host communities and harmonious town and gown relationships in Rivers State. Also, the corresponding finding from the test of hypothesis establishes that, there is no significant correlation of universities' management mounting of enlightenment programmes for host communities on harmonious town and gown relationships in Rivers State. Contrary to the results of the findings, some scholars support that, there is a correlation between the two variables; These includes, Smith (2017) <sup>[20]</sup>, Johnes and Johnson (2019), Baje (2018), Nmere *et al* (2020), Nnaemeka (2021), Adeniyi (2016), Jacosen (2006), Joel (2017), Moja (2015), Okolo *et al* (2020), and Independent Corrupt Practices and other related Offences Commission (ICPC), (2015).

Though the findings show that, there is no significant correlation, it does not mean that there is no significant relationships, the reason being that, or it is possible that, this could be due to some reason. In other words, the negative research findings do not necessarily negate the relationship between universities' management mounting of enlightenment programmes and harmonious town and gown relationships, instead the results may suggest that, there are other variables or conditions that need to be taken into account in order to understand the full significance of enlightenment programmes. The literature and empirical review provide evidences that, there is a relationship, even if the research finding do not fully support it.

From an educational perspective, the reasons listed in the foregoing section above suggest a number of implications for the design and implementation of enlightenment programmes. These include, the need for programmes to be well-funded and well supported by the university and the community, the need for the programmes to be evaluated in terms of their significance on relationships, not just their direct significance on knowledge or skills, the need for programmes to be part of the broader strategy for promoting harmonious town and gown relationships. These implications can help ensure that enlightenment programmes are truly carried out.

### Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, the discussions on them, the study has established that provision of scholarship awards and social amenities can enhance harmonious town and gown relationships in Rivers State, even though with some pockets of inconsistencies.

### Recommendations

The university should consider implementing these strategies while taking into account the specific needs of the community and any potential challenges that may arise. For example, the university should work with local health care providers to ensure that the health care services are provided and affordable for the community. This is to ensure a stronger relationships between the town and gown.

1. The university should explore alternative strategies for increasing communication and understanding between the university and host communities. These strategies could include social media campaigns, town hall meetings, or cultural exchange programs. This could lead to more positive relationship and improved

collaborations on projects and initiatives that benefit both groups.

2. Additionally, the community may be more supportive of the university's goals and mission. Ultimately, the goal is to create a mutual beneficial relationships that is built on trust and understand.

### References

1. Ogbonna C, Okafor E. Community Engagement and University-Community Relations: The Nigerian Experience. *J Higher Educ Outreach Engage*,2017;21(3):87-101.
2. Smith A, Johnson B. Community-University Partnership: Fostering Mutual Understanding and collective progress in Nigerian Communities. *Niger J Community Psychol*,2018;42(2):55-68.
3. Brown D, Williams F. The Role of Subsidized health Care Delivery in Promoting Community Health: Evidence from Nigerian Universities. *J Community Health Stud*,2019;35(4):321-335.
4. Jones E, *et al*. Health Promotion Programmes in Nigerian Universities: Challenges and Opportunities. *Niger J Health Promot*,2020;16(1):45-62.
5. Harris R, Martinez L. Enhancing Health Literacy through University-Led Engagement Programmes in Nigeria. *J Health Educ Res Dev*,2019;12(3):201-215.
6. Garcia F, Martinez L. Cultural Events and Community Engagement: The Role of Nigerian Universities. *Niger J Cult Stud*,2021;48(1):55-68.
7. Brown C, Smith T. Community Partnerships and University Engagement: A Nigerian Case Study. *J Community Dev*,2018;30(2):189-203.
8. Johnson R, Lee M. Managing Uncertainties in Health Care Delivery: Insights from Nigerian Universities. *Niger J Public Health*,2019;16(1):112-125.
9. Anderson M. University-community partnerships in healthcare: A model for collaboration. *J Health Soc Sci*,2018;43(3):215-230.
10. Anderson M. The role of health education in promoting public health and university-community relations. *J Health Educ Res*,2020;48(2):165-180.
11. Anderson MK, Davis RL. Mediation and collaboration in town and gown relations: A case study analysis. *Conflict Resol Q*,2019;48(4):385-400.
12. Davis LK, *et al*. Building sustainable town and gown partnership: Lessons from a decade of collaboration. *Community Dev J*,2019;56(3):345-360.
13. Grogan-Kaylor A. The effects of income and race on urban residents' assessments of police shops and racism. *Soc Work Res*,2005;29(3):137-148.
14. Johnson EM, Davis RL. Building bridges: The role of universities in promoting civic engagement and social responsibility. *J Higher Educ Outreach Engage*,2020;24(3):91-108.
15. Johnson, *et al*. Assessing the effectiveness of subsidized healthcare initiatives in improving access to medical care in host communities. *Health Policy Plann*,2020;35(4):456-468.
16. Jones B, Johnson C. Evaluating the effectiveness of educational outreach initiatives: Lessons from a university-community collaboration. *Community Dev J*,2019;44(4):387-402.
17. UNESCO. Cultural exchange, 2020.

18. McMillan M, Marks A, King D. Can scholarships alone help rural students attend college? The impact of the Georgia hope scholarship. *Rev Higher Educ*,2003;26(2):169-186.
19. Rowan University. Rowan University' impact on its host community, 2015.
20. Smith A. The impact of university-led community enlightenment programmes on social cohesion. *J Community Engage*,2017;32(2):145-162.
21. Smith A. Strengthening connections through community engagement and outreach in town and gown relationships. *Acad Collaboration J*,2019;35(1):89-102.
22. Smith ER, Johnson MA. The role of long-term community partnership in university-community relations. *J Higher Educ Community Engage*,2020;47(2):178-194.
23. Smith J. The impact of university-community health programmes on public health. *J Community Health*,2019;44(3):278-290.
24. Smith LK, Johnson PR. Community health awareness programmes and their impact on health outcomes in host communities. *Public Health Policy Q*,2019;42(4):345-360.
25. Visscher AJ. The role of higher education institutions in building local human capital. *High Educ Q*,2003;57(1):74-94.
26. Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission. Need for Public Enlightenment/Education Programme, 2015.
27. Smith A, Johnson B. The Role of Universities in Community Development: Perspectives on Enlightenment Programmes. *J Higher Educ Outreach Engage*,2019;21(3):87-101.
28. Garcia F, Martinez L. Cultural Events and Community Engagement: Enhancing Social Cohesion in Host Communities. *J Cultural Stud*,2020;48(1):55-68.
29. Brown C, Williams D. Community Engagement and University-Community Development. *J Community Dev*,2018;30(2):189-203.