

The Challenges of Publish-or-Perish Pressure on Academics in Administrative Positions

ALEMOH, Thomas A., *Ph.D.*

Department of Theatre & Media Arts,
Federal University, Lafia, Nasarawa State

Abstract

It is debatable whether academics in administrative positions are adequately compensated for the extra services they render to their universities by earning allowances and score during promotion. Such benefits may not suffice as they do not equate the value of publication count for academic promotion. The problem this study attempts to highlight is that academics holding administrative positions are disadvantaged by work overload to earn maximum score for promotion through publication in the face of the pressure to publish or perish. Anchored on the theoretical framework of Management by Objective which emphasises rewards based on goal achievement by individuals in an organisation, the study adopted survey method to obtain responses from fifty-five lecturers at Taraba State University, Jalingo through a questionnaire while data were analysed using simple percentages. The study found that the 'publish or perish' pressure poses serious challenges to the upward mobility of lecturers in administrative positions particularly those in the junior cadre who need more publication count to move up. Incidentally, such academics were found to occupy administrative positions more than their senior colleagues in the institution under study. The study recommends that the publication requirement for promotion of academics in administrative positions should be lesser.

Keywords: Publish or perish, Academic pressure, Academic community, Administrative position, Publication, Impact factor, University, Nigeria.