
EVALUATION OF CAUSES OF INADEQUATE FUNDS IN NIGERIAN PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

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Abstract

The study investigated the causes of inadequate funds in Nigerian Public Universities with the Case Study of some selected Federal Universities from the North central Geo-Political Zone of Nigeria. This study adopted a survey design, which covered three Universities selected by the researchers from this zone. Therefore, the population of the study comprised all the academic staff from the selected three institutions in the North-central Geo-political zone of Nigeria. Simple random sampling technique was adopted to select 100 lecturers from each of the Universities making the study totaling sample of 300 academic staff. The simple random sampling (lottery) method was used to select 300 respondents based on proportional representation. The study used questionnaire with fourteen questions that is titled the Causes of Inadequate Funds in Nigerian Public Universities for data collection. The questionnaire" [CIFNPUQ], adopted a four point Likert-scale of measurement namely: Strongly agree (SA), agree (A), disagree (D), strongly disagree (SD). The reliability of the instrument was established through test-retest method. This study used SPSS (Statistical Package of Social Sciences) software for data analysis. Data collected was cleansed by the researchers who removed the unwanted data. The results were analyzed using percentage, mean and standard deviation. The cut-off point for decision was 3.00 based on a four point rating scale. The decision rule therefore was that any item with mean score of 3.00 and above accepted while items whose mean score below 3.00 were rejected. The study reveals that poor government allocations, low internally generated revenue, low school fees, institutional corruptions, poor planning/projection, poor research income and poor contribution from private sector, NGO and alumnus. The study also confirmed that the effect of inadequate funding of Nigerian public universities is responsible for poor teaching and learning, inadequate infrastructural facilities, shortage of academic staff, poor research programme, poor staff development programme and poor quality of education.

Keywords: Causes, Evaluation, Funding, Public, Universities

INTRODUCTION

Nigerian educational system comprises the basic education, junior secondary school, secondary school and high education. The higher education comprised Universities, College of education, Polytechnic and Mono-technic. The Universities are classified into public universities and private universities. The Public universities are universities owned by the government either by the federal or states government. The Public Universities in Nigeria

presently are about 175 (NUC, 2020). They provided universities' education for the secondary school leavers in Nigeria.

There are many challenges confronting Nigerian universities, that is to say higher institutions in Nigeria are faced with numerous challenges. The challenges facing Nigerian higher education are complex. It is a combination of dilapidated infrastructure; Graduate unemployment; political interference; disciplinary problems and market forces (Noun, 2009).

Udida, Basse, Udofia, Ekaette, (2009) supported this claim when they said "University system faces a lot of drawbacks and these problems that affect system performance include inadequate funding, inadequate coordination of curriculum, leadership problems, lack of infrastructural facilities, to mention but a few. Inadequate funding is a challenge to the University's education in Nigeria. The problem is affecting the development of University's education in Nigeria. The aim of this study is to investigate the causes of inadequate funds in the Nigerian Universities.

Research Objectives

The study investigated the causes of inadequate funds in Nigerian Public Universities: Case study of some selected Federal Universities in the North central zone of Nigeria. Specific objectives are to:

1. Find out the causes of inadequate funds in Nigerian Public Universities
2. Find out the effects of inadequate funding in the Nigerian public universities

Research Questions

The following research questions were generated to guide this study:

1. What are the causes of inadequate funds in Nigerian Public Universities?
2. What are the effects of inadequate funding in the Nigerian public universities?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Fund is money made available for administration of programme, projects or management of institutions. The objectives of funding educational institutions include: to enable the institutions implement its programme, enable the educational institutions conduct teaching programme, to enable the educational institutions carry out research programme; to enable the educational institutions executive community services, to enable the educational institutions provide adequate infrastructural facilities, to enable the educational institutions employ adequate academic and non-academic staff, to enable the educational institutions implement the staff development programme, to enable the educational institutions provide conducive teaching and learning environment and to enable the educational institutions pay salaries, pay for services, maintenance and for unforeseen circumstance.

The availability of adequate funds aids the administration and management of university education. It helps to realize its objectives and goals. Adepoju (2002) remarked that money is an absolute input of any education system. It provides the essential purchasing power with which education acquires its human and physical inputs. According to Saint (2003), the university system has not had the financial resources necessary to maintain educational quality amid significant enrolment explosion.

The underfunding of the university system hampered the development of university education and reduces its quality output in term of students' output graduate, research outcome and infrastructural development. Ogbondah (2010) noted that inadequate financing of universities has been one of the major problems facing university education today. It requires much money to maintain the existing infrastructure, execute capital projects, embark on educational research and pay salaries of staff.

The primary sources of funding to the Nigerian Public Universities including: government subvention, School fees, internally generated revenue, donation from private sector, NGO's and international organization. According to Noun (2009) Federal government sources of funds are federal taxes; duties on petroleum, profits; exports; and imports; which make up the revenue. Another is the collected value Added Tax (VAT) on sales of commodities which was introduced in 1996. This VAT is shared between the Federal and State Governments according to agreed formula. Funds allocated by Federal Government to the education sector are normally distributed to the various arms and tiers of education-primary; secondary; higher (Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges). State governments also fund education. Their source is primarily their allocation from the Federal account, their share of VAT and state generated revenue through local taxes, school levies, etc.

The factors that determine funding of education, especially the universities' education include inflation; the range of competing demands of other public services; the rate of growth of national economy; the sensitivity of educational revenue to changes in national income among others. (Tsang 1988). The other factors are: the growth in population; and its age distribution; the importance of education for social mobility and national development; the level of coverage of education to diverse segments of the population, etc.

Oguntoye and Alani, (1998) submitted that Public support for education depends on several factors, most of which are economic in nature. The performance of the economy to a larger extent determines the budgetary allocation to education similarly, the fiscal ability of a particular government on education and how much education to provide. Going by this line of analogy, the primary aim of funding education should therefore be geared towards economic development.

Noun (2009) observed that the slowdown in total public educational expenditure in developing countries may due to the combination of three factors: slower rate of economic growth; a relative decrease in the demand for education; and a change in government attitude toward education.

Udida, Basse, Udofia, Ekaette, (2009) supported this claim when they said "University system faces a lot of drawbacks and these problems that affect system performance include inadequate funding, inadequate coordination of curriculum, leadership problems, lack of infrastructural facilities, to mention but a few.

The higher educational sector has been confronted with many problems. The major crisis in education today revolves around inadequate funding of the educational enterprise. The prevailing financial plight of the government; at the Federal, State and Local levels is not new. A serious problem confronting Nigerian higher education today and perhaps all over the world is that of a scarcity of fund (Noun, 2009).

Government's financial policies on education have therefore been subjected to constant review in order to allocate more resources to higher education. Even though there

appears to be an absolute increase in fund allocation to the education sector over the years, yet there is a financial crisis in education (Uzoka, 2007).

Inflation has further aggravated the situation by reducing the purchasing power of money available and escalating the salary bill of teachers. These problems have taken their toll on the funding of higher education in the country.

With the growing concern about the rapid expansion of educational facilities, the acute shortage of fund in the education sector is likely to continue. Budgetary allocation to higher education has been inadequate to cope with financial requirements of higher education. Similarly, rapidly rising cost caused by inflation is creating serious financial problem for schools (Noun, 2009).

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study adopts survey design, which covered three Universities from North central Nigeria. Therefore, this study was carried out in the North-central Nigeria.

Population and Sample

The population of the study comprised all the academic staff in the three institutions. Simple random sampling technique was used to select 100 lecturers from each of the Universities sampled in the study totaling 300 academic staff. The simple random sampling (lottery) method was adopted to select 300 respondents based on proportional representation. The process was that the sampling frame of each school was obtained from the relevant authorities. Based on the sampling frame, stratification of the workers was done.

Instrumentation Procedure for Data Collection

A questionnaire with fourteen questions titled "the Causes of Inadequate Funds in Nigerian Public Universities" was adopted for data collection. The questionnaire [CIFNPUQ] had two sections. Section "A" seeks information on bio-data of the respondents while the section "B" collected information on the subject matter. Both face and content validity were established by experts in the departments of educational management and tests and measurement in the Faculty of Education in the Universities of this study. A four point Likert-scale formula of measurement was used thus: Strongly agree (SA), agree (SA), disagree (D), and strongly disagree (SD). The reliability of the instrument was established through test-retest method. This was done by administering the instrument twice within an interval of two weeks to 50 teachers in two schools, which were not part of the sample used for the study. The two sets of responses were correlated using Pearson's Product-Moment Correlation and a reliability coefficient of 0.88 was obtained. These values were considered sufficiently high to confirm the reliability of the instrument.

Procedure of Data Analysis

The researchers used some academic staff as the respondents. The researchers guided the respondents on how to fill the research questions. Three hundred questionnaires were distributed and one hundred and three hundred collected. The data collected were grouped and organized for easy sorting and cleansing.

Method of Data Analysis

This study used SPSS (Statistical Package of Social Sciences) software for data analysis. The data collected was cleansed by the researchers, who removed the unwanted

data. To this end, the results were analyzed using percentage, mean and standard deviation and chi-square method. The cut-off point for decision was 3.00 based on a four point rating scale. The decision rule was that any item with a mean score of 3.00 and above was high responses and accepted, while items whose mean score were below 3.00 attracted low responses and rejected.

RESULT PRESENTATION

Table One: Responses on the causes of inadequate funds in Nigerian Public Universities

| S/N | The following are the causes Of inadequate funds in Nigerian Public Universities | X | SD | DECISION |
|-----|--|------|-------|----------|
| 1 | Poor Government Allocations | 3.44 | 0-.61 | High |
| 2 | Low internally generated revenue | 3.27 | 0-.43 | High |
| 3 | Low school fees | 3.21 | 0-.72 | High |
| 4 | Institutional corruptions | 3.38 | 0-.81 | High |
| 5 | Poor planning/Projection | 3.62 | 0-.55 | High |
| 6 | Poor research income | 3.53 | 0-.82 | High |
| 7 | Poor Contribution from private | 3.43 | 0-.72 | High |

Sector, NGO and Alumnus-

Table Two: Responses on the effects of inadequate funding of Nigerian Public Universities

| S/N | The following are the effects Of inadequate funding of Nigerian Public Universities | X | SD | DECISION |
|-----|---|------|-------|----------|
| 1 | Poor teaching and learning | 3.64 | 0-.67 | High |
| 2 | Inadequate infrastructural facilities | 3.47 | 0-.53 | High |
| 3 | Shortage of academic staff | 3.61 | 0-.82 | High |
| 4 | Poor research programme | 3.58 | 0-.71 | High |
| 5 | Poor staff development programme | 3.62 | 0-.65 | High |
| 6 | Poor quality of education | 3.51 | 0-.85 | High |
| 7 | Strike Actions in Public Universities | 3.53 | 0-.92 | High |

Result Analysis

The data in Table 1 item one showed the respondents' mean and standard deviation ratings on poor government allocation as causes of inadequate funds in the Nigerian public universities. The composite means showed that respondents were of the opinion that the poor government allocation is caused of inadequate funds in the Nigerian public universities in North-Central Nigeria. According to the mean of 3.44 the respondents accepted that the poor government allocation is caused of inadequate funding in the Nigerian public universities.

The data in Table 1 item two disclosed the respondents' mean and standard deviation ratings on if the low internally generated revenue is the cause of inadequate funds in the Nigerian public universities. The composite means reveal that respondents were of the agreed that the low internally generated revenue is the cause of inadequate funds in the Nigerian public universities with the mean of 3.27 which is above the cut-off points. This implies that low internally generated revenue is the cause of inadequate funds in the Nigerian public universities.

The data in Table 1 item three showed the respondents' mean and standard deviation ratings if low school fee is among the causes of inadequate funds in the Nigerian public universities. The composite means showed that respondent ticked option yes as majorities that the Low school fee is among the causes of inadequate funds in the Nigerian public universities in North-Central Nigeria. According to the mean of 3.21, the respondents accepted that the low school fee is among the causes of inadequate funding in the Nigerian public universities.

The data in Table 1 item four disclosed the respondents' mean and standard deviation ratings on if the institutional corruption is responsible of inadequate funds in the Nigerian public universities. The composite means disclosed that respondents agreed that the Institutional corruption is responsible of inadequate funds in the Nigerian public universities with the mean of 3.38 which is above the cut-off points. This result showed that institutional corruption is responsible of inadequate funding in the Nigerian public universities.

Table 1 item five showed the respondents' mean and standard deviation ratings on if poor planning/Projection is among the causes of inadequate funding in the Nigerian public universities. The composite means showed that respondent ticked option yes as majorities that the poor planning/Projection is among the causes of inadequate funds in the Nigerian public universities in North-central Nigeria. The mean of 3.62 shows that respondents accepted that the poor planning/Projection is among the causes of inadequate funds in the Nigerian public universities.

Table 1 item six disclosed that the respondents' mean and standard deviation ratings on if the poor research income is responsible for inadequate funds in the Nigerian public universities. Composite means disclosed that respondents agreed that the institutional corruption is one factor responsible for inadequate funds in the Nigerian public universities with the mean of 3.53 which is above the cut-off points. This result shows that poor research income is another factor responsible for inadequate funds in the Nigerian public universities.

Data in Table 1 item seven showed the respondents' mean and standard deviation ratings on a poor contribution from private sector, NGO and Alumnus as causes of inadequate funds in the Nigerian public universities. The composite means showed that respondents were of the opinion that the low contribution from alumnus is cause of inadequate funds in the Nigerian public universities in North central Nigeria. According to the mean of 3.43, the respondents accepted that poor contribution from private sector, NGO and Alumnus cause of inadequate funding in the Nigerian public universities.

Data in table 2 item one showed the respondents' mean and standard deviation ratings on effects of inadequate funding of Nigerian public universities is poor teaching and learning. The composite means showed that respondents were of the opinion that the effects of inadequate funding of Nigerian public universities resulted into poor teaching and learning in North-Central Nigeria. According to the mean of 3.64, the respondents accepted that the effects of inadequate funding of Nigerian public universities resulted into poor teaching and learning.

Result from table 2 item two revealed that the respondents' mean and standard deviation ratings on if inadequate infrastructural facilities of public universities are the effects of inadequate funding of Nigerian public universities was positive. The composite means showed that respondents were of the opinion that the effects of inadequate funding

of Nigerian public universities were responsible for inadequate facilities in Public universities. The mean of 3.47 indicates that respondents accepted that the effects of inadequate funding of Nigerian public universities were responsible for inadequate facilities in Public universities.

The respondents' responses on mean and standard deviation ratings on table 2 item three showed that the composite means 3.61 is higher than the cut-off point. The study therefore accepted that shortage of academic staff in Public universities because of inadequate funding of the public universities in Nigeria. This implies that the effect of inadequate funding of the public universities in Nigeria is responsible for shortage of academic staff in Nigerian public universities.

Table 2 item four reveals that poor research programme has a mean rating of 3.57 which is greater than the acceptable mean score of 3.00 showing that the respondents agreed that the most poor research programme in the public universities in Nigeria is as a result of inadequate funding of the universities.

Table 2 item five shows that poor staff development programme has a mean rating of 3.62 which is greater than the acceptable mean score of 3.00 showing that the respondents agreed that inadequate funding of public universities in Nigeria is responsible for poor staff development programme in the universities.

The respondents' responses on mean and standard deviation ratings on table 2 item six showed that the composite means 3.51 is higher than the cut-off point. It is therefore accepted that poor quality of education in Public universities in Nigeria is as a result of inadequate funding of the public universities. This implies that the effects of inadequate funding of the public universities in Nigeria responsible for poor quality of education in Nigerian public universities.

Table 2 item seven shows that strike actions in Public Universities has a mean rating of 3.53 which is greater than the acceptable mean score of 3.00 indicating that the respondents agreed that inadequate funding of Public universities in Nigeria is responsible for strike actions in Public Universities.

Discussion of Result

The data in Table 1 item one showed poor government allocation is the causes of inadequate funds in the Nigerian public universities. This result is in line with the finding of Udida, Basse, & Udofia, (2009) who disclosed that the inability of the government to adequately fund the Universities is responsible for the problem of funds scarcity in the Universities. Akinola (1990) was worried about the funding situation and commented thus: "Our higher institution education systems direly need money to cater for both their capital and recurrent needs. For a few years past, the budget has been cut back from year to year by the federal government. This cut back has affected both capital and recurrent expenditures. Hinchliffe 2002 in Okeke (2005), "In many higher institutions capital projects embarked upon few years ago are yet to be completed due to lack of adequate funds". The allocation to education is said to be a large sum of money. When the allocation is distributed to the various arms and levels of education to meet their various needs, the amount that finally reaches each institution becomes extremely negligible.

The data in Table 1 item two disclosed that low internally generated revenue is cause of inadequate funds in the Nigerian public universities. This result confirms the submission of Ogunode (2018) who concluded that the poor internally generated revenue of many

public universities in Nigeria is responsible limited funds for the administration of the university system.

The data in Table 1 item three showed the low school fee is among the causes of inadequate funds in the Nigerian public universities. The result agrees with the submission of Ogunode (2018) who argued that the level of school fees charged students of Nigerian universities is small and responsible for inadequate funds in the Universities.

The data in Table 1 item four disclosed the institutional corruption is responsible for inadequate funds in the Nigerian public universities. This result collaborates the finding of Dare (2008) in Ogbondah (2010) observed that despite of the inadequacy of allocations to the public university system, any fund made available often go down the drain through the corrupt practices of those entrusted with the implementing university programmes because of inadequate monitoring of university income and expenditure, such is the grim state of affairs, thus the future will need a significant change.

Table 1 item five showed that poor planning/Projection/population increases are among the causes of inadequate funding in the Nigerian public universities.

Table 1 item six disclosed it was discovered that poor research income is responsible for inadequate funds in the Nigerian public universities. Okafor (2001) stated that lack of funds is affecting research in the universities and that there is no sign that these problems will not continue in the future. The universities are supposed to engage in research, not only to push out the frontiers of knowledge, but to solve the problems of the society.

The data in Table 1 item seven showed that poor contribution from private sector, NGO and Alumnus as causes of inadequate funds in the Nigerian public universities. Financial support from the private sector and Non-governmental organization to the Public universities in Nigeria is not much.

The data in table 2 item one showed the effects of inadequate funding of Nigerian public universities is responsible for poor teaching and learning. The poor quality of teaching and learning in the Nigerian Universities can be traced to poor funding when there are shortage of academic staff and inadequate infrastructural facilities what do you expect from the system (Ogunode, 2018). Eneh, Ngozi, (2009) also submitted that student enrolment grows with the national population; more staff are not recruited to match the rate of growth of the student enrolment. This leads to an unmanageable student-teacher ratio. At the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, for example, the Faculty of Law once recorded a 104:1 student-teacher ratio, as against the 29:1 student-teacher ratio recommended for the 2002/2003 session. The quality of education or learning and teaching dwindles because the increase in student enrolment does not receive a corresponding increase in material and staff inputs, but battles with decaying infrastructure and dwindling inputs.

Result from table 2 item two revealed that inadequate infrastructural facilities of public universities is the effects of inadequate funding of Nigerian public universities. The inadequate of infrastructural facilities in the Nigerian universities is due to the underfunding of the Universities (Noun, 2009)

The table 2 item three showed that shortage of academic staff in Public universities is as a result of inadequate funding of the public universities in Nigeria. Many higher institutions in Nigeria do not have adequate academic staff, and this problem can be linked to the poor funding of the institutions (Ogunode& Nathan, 2020).

Table 2 item four reveals that poor research programme in the public universities in Nigeria is as a result of inadequate funding of the universities. Ogunode, Yiolokun, & Akeredolu, (2019) observed that the Nigerian Universities' research income per academic and research staff, research income per institutional income, papers per research income is one of the poorest in the world. There are been poor research activities in Nigerian Universities. This is confirmed by Okoli, Ogbondah, and Ewor, (2016) who affirmed the poor attitude of governments towards research and inadequate funding of research programs.

Table 2 item five shows that inadequate funding of public universities in Nigeria is responsible for poor staff development programme in the universities. Basil, Felix &, Eno (2013) submitted that the low participation of lecturers in capacity building programmes in universities can be attributed to poor funding, which universities have been grappling with over the years; a situation Udeaja (2005) described as a reoccurring decimal, especially since 1998. As a result of this universities find it cumbersome to sponsor their lecturers to these programmes or even organize some themselves, with a consequence of low capacity building to universities. However, it is pertinent to point out that poor funding affects lecturers' participation in workshops, seminars, conferences and ICT training, and not mentoring (Basil, Felix &, Eno2013)

The table 2 item six showed that poor quality of education in Public universities in Nigeria is because of inadequate funding of the public universities. Ogunode, (2018) submitted that the poor quality of education in the higher institutions in Nigeria can be linked to the problem of poor funding. The budgetary allocation for the administrative and management of higher education in Nigeria is too small and it affects the quality of the system.

Table 2 item seven revealed that strike actions in Public Universities is as a result of inadequate funding of Public universities in Nigeria. Noun (2009) We all know that the face-off between the ASUU; NASU; SSANU; ASUP; COASSU; etc. and Federal Government is rooted in underfunding of education, especially when compared with what obtains in other developing countries who are even less naturally endowed.

CONCLUSION

Public Universities in Nigeria are established purposely to provide Universities education services for the citizens of Nigeria. These Public Universities are owned by the Federal and States Government. Meanwhile, Public Universities in Nigeria are faced with many challenges. One of the major problems facing the Public Universities in Nigeria is the problem of inadequate funding. There are many studies on Public Universities in relation to challenges in Nigeria but few on funding, especially on the causes of inadequate funds in Public Universities. Based on this research gap, this study seeks to investigate the causes of inadequate funds in Nigerian Public Universities: Case study of some selected Federal Universities in North central Nigeria. Specific objectives are to: find out the causes of inadequate funds in Nigerian Public Universities and find out the effects of inadequate funding in the Nigerian public universities. The study reveals that poor Government allocations, low internally generated revenue, low school fees, institutional corruptions, poor planning/projection, poor research income and poor contribution from private sector, NGO and alumnus. The study also confirmed that the effect of inadequate funding of Nigerian public universities is responsible poor teaching and learning, inadequate infrastructural facilities, shortage of academic staff, poor research programme, poor staff development programme and poor quality of education.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on this finding, the study recommendations include the following:

- a) The Government should increase the funding of the Public universities in Nigeria. Noun (2009) recommended that Government should fund education by allocating a higher percentage of her revenue to higher education for at least 10 years. In other words, government should increase or release adequate funds into higher institutions in order to bring education to a normal standard.
- b) The School administrators in Nigerian public universities should look inward and come up with strategies to increase the internally generated revenue for the universities. Efforts should gear towards organizing strong alumnus of the Universities in order to get their financial support for the development of the universities. Noun, (2009) submitted that institutions should vigorously adopt the mechanism for internally generated funds. Institutions should establish and equip a unit in their campus solely to generate funds internally e.g. mixed agriculture; catering services; consultancy services; printing; and laundry services; transport; bookshops; publishing; sales; and machines production.
- c) The government and school administrators should encourage the private sector to contribute to the funding of Public universities in Nigeria. Noun (2009) observed that the private sector; voluntary and other agencies that made a positive move towards participation in university; and commercial education that was stopped during the second republic by the Buhari led regime should be revisited. The NGOs; especially the Christian missions that are willing to resume their participation, but government has not given them the opportunity. The alienation of the private sector and all these agencies in the education programme of this country has resulted in the crises of management, finding, control and quality.
- d) The government through the National Universities Commission should source for funds from international organization for the funding of public universities. The Nigerian government should mobilize external resources through appropriate bilateral agreements to help contribute to the funding of higher education in Nigeria. Development agencies such as the World Bank; UNICEF; Ford Foundation; John F. Kennedy Foundation; Rockefeller Foundation; WHO; USAID; and DFID should contribute to the higher educational development of Nigeria. We should use their aid for the provision of science and technical equipment or establishing model institutions (Noun, 2009).
- e) Government should ensure that it releases all funds allocated for the administration of public universities on time for the development of the universities. Funds allocated should be disbursed on time in order to avoid the loss in actual value arising from inflation. Several uncompleted project in higher institutions are as a result of depreciation in actual value of the money (Noun, 2009).
- f) The government should use it anticorruption agencies to fight all forms of corruption in the Nigerian public universities. Noun, (2009) submitted that there should be an effective monitoring of the management of fund being allocated to the sector. There should be establishment of a reliable accounting system in each Nigerian university to guarantee accountability, honest, and transparency.

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