

EFFECTIVE PRAGMATIC STRATEGIES TO FUNDING PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES EDUCATION IN NIGERIA AND ITS' BENEFITS TO THE SOCIETY

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Abstract

The study examines the effective pragmatic strategies to funding public universities education in Nigeria and its' benefits to the society. The paper discussed the overview of funding of University Education in Nigeria and the budgetary allocated to Nigerian' educational sector from 2013 to 2022. The paper discussed the Strategies of funding Universities Education in Nigeria which are included; endowment funds, launching/appeal funds, awarding of honorary degrees, undertake researches, contracts and constantly services, undertaking part-time, remedial and long-vacation programs, alumni association, private contributors, contribution by parents/teachers' association, reviving of governmental organization responsible of funding universities education among others. And also, the paper highlighted the impact of universities to the community. The paper concluded that; there are some avenues and strategies that universities can be used to add as sources of their funding in running of their day to day activities without totally depending of government allocation, there would be no any public or private universities that can be survive without fully funded to run their affairs smoothly in Nigeria and lastly Universities education in Nigeria were neglected by Federal Republic of Nigeria considering the priority and little amount of budgetary allocated to educational sector in Nigeria. The paper made some recommendations which are included; public universities should be granted autonomy, government should prioritize education than any other sector in Nigeria, awakening of educational philanthropists to the supporting of universities in Nigeria, and intervening of legislative members in public universities education in Nigeria among others.

Keywords: *Pragmatic Strategies, Funding, Public Universities, Education, Society.*

Introduction

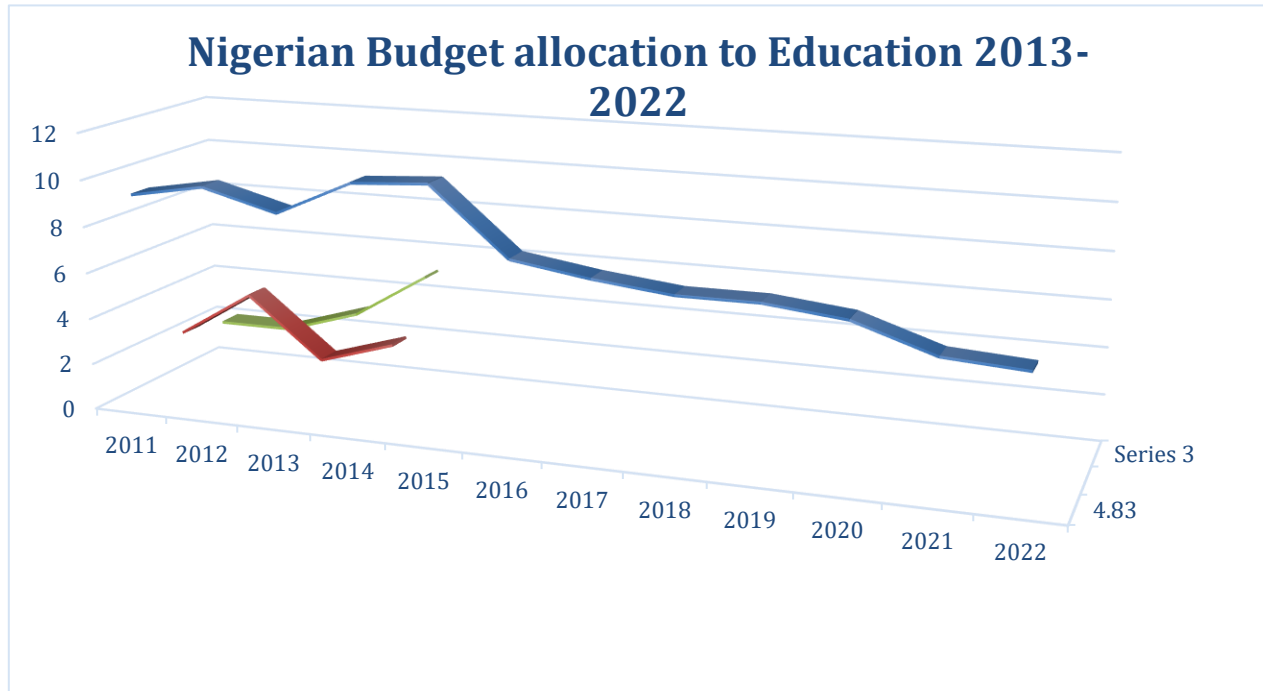
In Nigeria, the demand for popular education is so high because education is not only an investment in human capital, but also a pre-requisite as well as a correlate for economic development. According to Shobowale and Akinyemi (2012) underfunding of universities in developing economies has become a reoccurring problem often resulting in calamitous effect on teaching and research, and intellectual capital flight of academics. This issue of university underfunding in developing economies especially West African countries is a prime cause of other problems that have undermined quality in university education, and it has manifestation in problems such as academic staff shortage, dearth of library books and journals, decline of reading culture among students, dilapidated buildings, obsolete equipment, abandoned capital projects, poor electricity and water supply, hostile working environment, incessant strikes and mass exodus of Africa's best brains in academics. While Gambo and Fajamu (2019) views that, the smooth running of any educational institution depends largely on the availability of resources, be it human, material or financial. The overall goal of Nigerian tertiary education is the

production of community of Nigerians that are highly skilled and who will be well prepared for the world of Work, Sustainable national development and global competitiveness in terms of expertise (Afolayan, 2015).

Oghenekohwo (2004) classified the funding of higher education into two regimes which are; Pre-deregulation regime and Deregulation regime. In the pre-deregulation regime, higher education funding in Nigeria was done by government or public funding alone. High priority was accorded to funding higher education, thereby creating a wrong impression amongst Nigerians that funding of higher education is the exclusive preserve of "governments. On the other hand, in the deregulation regime, this is mostly a post Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) inevitability, things began to change. The benefits of the acquisition of any higher education programme now went largely to the individual as a "private good" for which beneficiaries and their families should pay.

Overview of funding of University Education in Nigeria

Many years ago, the allocation of fund to federal universities by the federal government of Nigeria has not been palatable



to other university stake holders. University education sector often blaming the government for inadequate funding of university education in Nigeria while the

Table1: Percentage of Nigeria national budgets to Education 2013-2022

Year	% allocated to Education
2013	9.01%
2014	10.5%
2015	10.7%
2016	7.9%

Note: Field work, (2022).

According to graph from 2013 to 2022 budget allocated to Nigeria education is interpreted as; in the year 2015 budget allocated to education sector has the highest priority compare to 2022 which is the leased budget

government in turn blames the sector of inefficient utilization of resources allocated to them (Gambo & Fajanmu, 2019).

2017	7.4%
2018	7.04%
2019	7.05%
2020	6.7%
2021	5.6%
2022	5.39%

Note: Premium Time, (2022)

allocated to education sector in the history of Nigeria from 2013 to 2022. Education had not been prioritized in budget allocation in Nigeria. Therefore, education sector needs much funded to be revitalized for the benefit of public universities education in Nigeria.

Strategies of funding Universities Education in Nigeria

There are so many strategies which Nigerian Universities would be adopted so as to create other source of funding to their education. Lawal (2013) identified sources to funding of Nigerian Universities which are included;

1. Endowment funds: Many Universities do establish endowment funds where rich citizens assist in the development of quality education. According to Lawal (2013) usually prominent citizen donate money to the institution to be held in his honor in perpetuity. In order to foster good relationship, the institution could honor some important personalities in the community. The intention is that the donor's name be immortalized in the institution. For example, lecture halls; stadium, classroom blocks, and hostels are named after these individuals. The publicity of this endowment fund is a bit low.

2. Launching/Appeal funds: Launching and appeal funds have been an important area used for fund raising in higher institutions. The launching if well-organized will produce enough money to help fund the institution. Unnecessary expenditure should be avoided during the ceremony. The launching and

appeal funds should be greatly publicized and rich individuals contacted Lawal (2013).

3. Award of Honorary Degrees: Rich politicians like chains of titles. Honorary degrees like doctorate degrees should be awarded to individuals that are ready to donate good money to the institutions. Honorary doctorate should not be made cheap. Only individuals that have contributed immensely should be awarded this degree. Given honorary award to importance persons would attract their mind toward the contribution of the tertiary of higher learning (Uhunmwogo, 2015).

4. Undertake researches, contracts and constantly services: Universities can also under take researches for big organizations like the oil firms. Money accruing from these researches can be used by the institutions (Lawal, 2013). Universities learning should tender for government campaign to enlighten the populace on the needs to contract out jobs to higher institutions to help in the funding aspect. Consultancy services can also be undertaken by the universities and the proceeds from these used to fund the institutions.

5. Undertaking part-time, remedial and long-vacation programs: Some

departments in universities do undertake part-time programs or distance learning for the working class. This can either be evening part-time or long vacation programs (Emunemu, 2013). These programs will assist the university to run some little affairs and addressing some key issues within the department. If this is conducive, more civil servants will further their education and at the same time more money will be gain to the universities. Remedial programs are also undertaken in some institutions for those who cannot meet up entry requirements. The money from these remedial programs helps in funding the institutions (Lawal, 2013).

6. Alumni Association: Old students of the universities are usually very proud to remember their Alma-Mata. Strong alumni associations should be formed in the universities. Universities should seek financial support from their alumni. Old students should be recognized and invited from time to time. The Universities should keep track of their old students to invite them from time to time. These old students can set up cyber cafes, eateries, poultry, entrepreneurship and the proceeds could be used in assisting to overcome the flight of the institution (Lawal, 2013).

7. Private Contributors: Big organizations like religious institutions should be informed of their need to render help in funding of education. The universities should make others aware of the fact that funding of education is the responsibility of everyone; government parastatals, big firms, NGOs, investors of the country all should be intimated of the need to help fund our higher education so as to have both quantity and quality education. For instance, clubs and societies often like to provide facilities that can help to stimulate healthy conditions in students, for example constructing boreholes, shallow wells and toilet facilities (Lawal, 2013).

8. Contribution by Parents/Teachers Association (PTA): Parents of the immediate beneficiaries of education should be made to contribute a little towards the funding of education. The universities can form a sort of Parents/Teachers Association (PTA), where there will be interaction between the parents and the universities. The universities can use this forum to appeal to parents on their needs. Some of the parents can be in a position to award contract to the university. Some may even opt out to donate cash at functions; award of scholarship to outstanding students

and staff, help to repair school building and items of furniture, building laboratories', additional lecture halls and other equipment and facilities to the institution (Lawal, 2013).

9. University human resource managers:

Universities resource managers should constantly review their manpower planning and forecast to avoid high labor turnover and its financial implication for payment of terminal/retirement benefits (Lawal, 2013). While Emunemu (2019) stated that, the workforce should be prevented from becoming over-bloated or ageing while a robust ICT infrastructure and intra-campus connectivity should be put in place so as to reduce the size of the workforce to manageable proportion.

Afolayan (2015) identified sources of funding higher education in Nigeria which are included; fund from owner government, private contributions by commercial organizations in the form of occasional grants for specific purposes, tuition and fees gifts, grants and Endowments, investment income, auxiliaries (Enterprises, Licenses, Parents and Alumni Association), consultancies and Research activities, community Participation.

Other sources to funding Universities Education in Nigeria

There is need to explore other avenues of income to boost universities education system in Nigeria, if the universities must continue to survive. Azenebor (2021) identified such ways which are included;

1. Engaging in funding raising activities in introducing of consultancy services, boost of practical activities in research and innovation and also entrepreneurship education programmes in partnership with economic institutions such as; companies, Africa development banks etc.
2. Expand membership system of universities council to reflect various interested groups and stakeholders associated with the activities of the university.
3. Pursuing of intensive and extensive agricultural programmes, especially for those universities in the rural areas. Such programmes are; animal husbandry, poultry farming, diary activities and other commercial programmes from agriculture.
4. Establishing of linkage between higher education and industry, commerce and agriculture, in order to fully realized the potentiality of the universities systems.
5. All tiers of government should involve and intervene in funding of Nigerian public

universities. National policy on education should be adequately funded as a social service.

6. Re-mobilize, awakening and reviving of governmental and non-governmental organization responsible in the donation of educational sector in Nigeria such as; Education tax Fund, National Science and Technology Fund, Nigeria Education Bank Fund, Industrial Training Fund, Petroleum Trust Fund, along with TETFund etc.

7. NUC minimum standards should include a minimum of standard of annual budgetary allocation of not less than 13 to 25 percent of Nigeria's national budget.

8. Autonomy should be granted to public universities in Nigeria in order to facilitate economic diversity, for services to be adequately paid for and objectives effectively realized or achieved.

Impact of University Education to the Society

University education has a lot of benefit to the society wherein learns a lot more than just rote learning developing hobbies, refining society learning etiquettes, getting skills at multi-tasking developing social skills and thought to the learners. Attendance at a university has a significant impact on an individual's lifetime earnings. Organizations benefit from

university education in Nigeria in terms of employment –related beneficiaries.

Graduates put into practice all they learnt from the university in organizations that recruit them thereby benefiting from their university education (Gambo & Fajamu, 2019). Likewise, individuals in the community benefit from university education of university graduates living in the community. Graduates use some skills and knowledge that has been acquired in the university for the benefit of those living around them. Example; medical doctors, engineers, teachers etc. Ujunmuwogo (2015) stated that, government benefits from the education of its citizens directly and indirectly, it benefits directly from the payment of tax by working educated citizens and indirectly by the tax they pay on goods and services in the country. It helps to sustain and accelerate overall development in the country.

Universities play an important role as leaders in teaching and learning process in education, research and technologies Universities have been assigned in production of highly skilled manpower, research output and community services to meet perceived targets (Sharma, 2015). In teaching activities universities

provide the professional training for high-level job as well as entrepreneurship skills and skills acquisitions. Universities can help in providing with knowledge and skills needed to meet the challenges of sustainable development in a community. Universities are raisings public awareness and providing preconditions for informed decision-making and responsible behaviors (Anne, Aet & Sulev, 2017). Consequently, Universities equipped the learners with knowledge of different disciplines in industries, firms, technology, medical todays' interdisciplinary point of view. Students will graduate with knowledge and empowered skills in critical thinking, analytics, written and oral communication and group-solving problems for the benefit of society.

Conclusion

The study substantiated that, there are some avenues and strategies that universities can be used to add as sources of their funding in running of their day-to-day activities without totally depending of government allocation. There would be no any public or private universities that can be survive without fully funded to run their affairs smoothly in Nigeria. Consequently, Universities education in Nigeria were neglected by Federal Republic of

Nigeria considering the priority and little amount of budgetary allocated to educational sector in Nigeria. The budget allocated to educational sector by Nigerian' government is actually decreasing compare to 2015 which is 10.7 % and 2022 budgetary allocated to education is 5.39 % only. While non-educational sector was given much priority than education.

Recommendation

In the line with the findings of the study, the recommendations of the paper are fold;

1. Education stakeholders and Nigerian legislative members should kindly intervene toward the granting of autonomous of public universities in Nigeria.
2. Government should kindly prioritize educational sector in annual national budgetary allocation so as to revive public universities education in Nigeria.
3. Awakening educational philanthropist, government and on-governmental organization in given of financial, building, equipment and infrastructural support to the public universities in Nigeria.
4. Universities should kindly introduce interested courses in both postgraduate and undergraduate levels and consultancy services within the universities so as to attract

more customers and gain additional source of income to the schools.

5. Universities can increase school tuition for some interested courses to the students.

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