

## FUNDING MECHANISMS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN NIGERIA

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### ABSTRACT

This paper focused on funding mechanisms for secondary schools in Nigeria. Emphases were laid on the alternative sources of funding for secondary schools as well as the consequences of inadequate funding on secondary school such as infrastructural decay, high cost of education, low level of staff commitment. The alternative methods of financing secondary education were highlighted. It is recommended among others that Principal should not depend on government alone for financing but embark on entrepreneurial activities such as fishery, poultry and other vocational activities to generate money to finance their schools. Influence of adequate funding on secondary education such as infrastructural development, employment of quality teachers was also highlighted. The study also discussed the reasons for inadequate financing and highlighted recommendations such as schools should engage in entrepreneurial activities such as fishery, piggery, poultry, snailery etc to enable them raise finance internally

**Keywords:** Alternative Methods, financing, secondary education and Effective goal attainments

## INTRODUCTION



Education is the bed rock of any country with the drive to pursue development tenaciously. In fact this may be because education is the only tools with high reliability of delivering any country's development plan to the later. Based on this peculiarity, education is known to be the most acceptable means of development and transformations (Meenyinikor, Nyeche, & Julia, 2014). Funding is the fuel that drives the educational programme, it enable the plan of education to meet the target with a reduce challenges. Acceptably, there has been need by various governments at all level the leverage the suffering of the poor masses by adopting a social demand approach in the offering of the first two level of education (Odou, S. R. M., & Anietie, R. 2017).

Finance is a very vital tool in any economic system, institutions and organizations. Every nation, irrespective of developmental level, prepares her annual budget including that of education to encourage human capital development. The essence of human capital development is to ensure sustainable national development of a country. The Federal Republic of Nigeria, (2014) stated that education is an expensive social service and requires adequate financial provision from all tiers of government for successful implementation of the education programmes. It further stated that financing of education is a joint responsibility of the Federal, State, Local governments and the private sector. Some relevant sectorial bodies such as the Education Tax Fund, Industrial Training Fund as well as National Science and Technology fund are also established to respond to the funding needs of education.

The dwindling finances experienced by educational system in Nigeria, has caused educational institutions including secondary schools to evolve some adaptive mechanisms such as curtailment of laboratory/practical classes for alternative to practical, workshops for teachers, limitation of field trips, (Okpokam, 2008). This however, has brought about the production of unqualified human capital resource who cannot work towards effective goal attainment in secondary schools. The alternative funding of secondary education is very imperative because the adequacy of the needed instructional materials will enhance the achievement of broad goals of secondary education as highlighted in FRN (2014; p14). It further stated that in specific terms, secondary education shall;

- i. Provide all primary school leavers with the opportunity for education of a higher level, irrespective of sex, social status, religious or either background
- ii. Offer diversified curriculum to cater for the differences in talents, opportunities and future roles
- iii. Provide trained manpower in the applied science, technology and commerce at sub-professional grades
- iv. Develop and promote Nigerian languages, art and culture in the context of world's culture heritage
- v. Inspire students with a desire for self-improvement and achievement of excellence
- vi. Foster National unity with an emphasis on the common ties that unite us in our diversity



- vii. Raise a generation of people who can think for themselves, respect the views and feelings of others, respect the dignity of labour, appreciate those values specified under our broad national goals and live as good citizens
- viii. Provide technical knowledge and vocational skills necessary for agriculture, industrial, commercial and economic development.

Over time, effort has been made by government to ensure improvement in the level of funding made available for the administration of the secondary level of education. This is also the case in Nigeria where the government has relatively improved in the level of fund set aside for the development of the educational sector in the last few years (Voice of Nigeria, 2013). The improvement in funding is geared towards improving on the standard of education provided for the citizens especially in secondary schools. The government has taken this step to improve on the quality of education at this level for national growth and development. This is based on the aspiration of the government that education will serve as a tool for individual and national growth (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2004). Effort has therefore been made to improve on the budgetary allocation to the educational sector which also covers for the secondary level of education.

The problem of financing secondary education in Nigeria has become a recurring decimal. Poor funding has resulted to the deplorable state of schools characterized by overcrowding, poor and inadequate physical facilities and inability to purchase current technological instructional materials. The situation has posed serious challenge to secondary school administrators. The students are deprived of proper training which makes them unable to be productive after their secondary education. Hence, there is need for alternative strategies for financing secondary education to enhance the purchase of instructional materials. Having alternative strategies of financing secondary education may be a solution to this unending problem.

#### **Funding Mechanisms for Secondary Schools in Nigeria.**

Adewunmu and Ehiamentor (2005) stated that inadequacy of financial resources will certainly have the effect of both the state and its local governments. The fact that the state government cannot adequately fund the secondary education implies that the school administrators (principals) must work for sources of fund available to their schools. The alternative sources through which money can be realized to run secondary schools include:

**Parents Teachers Association (PTA):** Every secondary school has Parents Teachers Association that helps the state government in one form or the other in managing the affairs of the school. Normally, every student termly pays the PTA levy which is managed by the school authority in conjunction with the PTA officials. In many cases, PTA money is used in providing PTA teachers and some school facilities and repairs. Apart from provision of both human and material resources, PTA motivates both students and teachers by giving awards and scholarships to exceptional students and teachers. This goes a long way to encourage hard work and commitment in the school.

**Proceeds from school activities:** School activities represent another good source of financing public secondary schools. They include such activities as sales of students hand crafts, sales of books and stationery, staging of school plays and raffles, sales of farm products from the school



farm, funds raising activity can be organized by the school authority where parents could be invited to raise money for school projects.

**Appeal fund raising:** The school authority could appeal in writing to wealthy persons in the community where the school is located for financial assistance in order to develop their school. This practice if well articulated could yield good results. The school administrator cannot successfully run the school in isolation without the involvement of the community people. The community will help the school in carrying out its policies especially in the area of discipline and settlement of disputes involving both the students, staff and community. The community could be used to supply both free and cheap labour to the school if cordial relationship exists between the school and the community.

**Donation:** A good school principal who has a good relationship with the community will be able to attract both financial and material donations from the people of the community where his school is located including scholarships, to his students. The principal should know when and how to organize fund raising in his school so as to get people's donations to his school.

Again, charity organizations and individuals make donations from time to time. Some embark on development projects in the school while some donate physical cash that will be used in the purchase of capital goods in the institutions. A typical example of some of these charity organizations among others are UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization), World Bank, UNICEF ((United Nations International Children Emergency Funds) and NGOs. These donations yield funds for the schools thus, serve as an alternative method of financing secondary education for efficiency goal attainment. Ojule (2016). Martins (2011), states that non governmental organization is an association registered under the societies registration act, public trust act and the companies act with general body, executive, paid staff and volunteers. Since the financing of education is a joint responsibility and involves the private sector, a good school administrator must avail himself the opportunity of involving any of the NGOs in the state in funding his school in any form. Thus, every school principal should learn how to blow his trumpet and execute his school projects.

**Renting/Hiring of secondary school facilities:** This constitutes another alternative source of mobilizing fund for secondary schools. It involves short term leasing and rentals of school facilities or school plants such as football pitch, school undeveloped land space, school halls, and renting of school buses particularly for functions. However, leasing of the equipment should not be to the detriment of the school in achieving efficiency in goal attainment. In agreement, Agabi (2013) asserted that "the school should ensure that leasing of school's properties is done in a manner that does not interfere with regular activities in the school.

**Old Student's Association:** Effective use of the Old Students' Association by the school authority is always very helpful and healthy to the school. This association normally provides both cash and materials for the growth and development of their alma-mater. Every good school principal utilizes this source to finance his school. Abraham (2013), identified other alternative means of raising funds for schools. These include: alumni association fees where alumni of particular schools are ask to contribute a certain amount of money in order to bring about efficiency for goal attainment in public schools.



**Private Sector Contributions:** The role of the private sector in providing financial support for the administration of secondary education in the country cannot be over emphasized. According to Jakarta (2010) the contribution of the private sector to national education is a resource that remains largely untapped. Private sectors in the country usually have social corporate responsibilities of contributing to the development of their host communities. This implies that the provision of alternative support to secondary education is one of the areas through which private sectors can fulfill their corporate social responsibilities. Private business owners are expected to contribute financially to the growth of the educational sector from their wealth of financial resources. This also will serve as additional revenue outlet for secondary schools in the country. Supporting the above alternative sources of financing secondary education for effective goal attainment, Ndu, Ocho and Okeke (2007) indicated that one of the sources of funds for educational development is community fund raising. Nwoye, Ejatavbo, Febabor and Onoja (2009), stated that education could be funded by means of endowments. While Ocho (2005) believed that the payment of landed property tax should be one of the reliable sources of funding secondary education. Furthermore, Okunamiri in Nwagwu (2001) opined that education could be financed through the following sources: Educational levy, Donations, Rentals, Old Students financial assistance, Registration fees.

### **Importance of Funding on Secondary Education**

The availability of funds plays a significant role in determining the provision of quality secondary education. The quantity of funds made available during budgeting will go a long way in improving on the quality of education provided. Adequate funding will be of importance in the provision of quality secondary education in one or more of the following ways:

**It Leads to Infrastructural Development:** The availability of fund is very important in the provision of school infrastructures. More funding will help the school management in providing more facilities such as classrooms, laboratories, libraries and instructional materials. Available facilities will also be provided based on modern development while obsolete facilities will be discarded. This means that the higher the level of funding, the more the infrastructures that will be provided for teaching and learning.

**Employment of Quality Teachers:** The availability of funds is very crucial in the employment of quality teachers. Various studies have shown that the income level is a factor that is used to attract quality teachers. It is therefore necessary that funds should be provided to acquire this crucial human resource. This is because the presence of quality teachers will help in transmitting quality knowledge to the students. Most organizations in developed countries now pay workers based on performance (Podgursky & Springer, 2007). The payment of high wages and salaries is now used to attract quality teachers and this is based on the availability of funds. Reduction in

### **Education Cost**

Adequate funding of education by various educational stakeholders is a very important step in reducing the burden of the cost of education on parents and students. Rich (2012) stated that until alternative funding sources are provided, students will continue to pay high education cost even if the cost is unreasonable. Exploring funding sources will therefore help to reduce the burden of



funding secondary education among the various educational stakeholders. Additional funding from alternative sources will provide avenue for generating funds for the purchase of learning resources which will reduce the burden of the cost of education on the government, parents and students. Increases the Level of Patronage: When schools in Nigeria are properly funded to the minimum level specified by UNESCO at 26% of the annual budget, there will be an improvement in the standard of education provided and this will increase the level of patronage of Nigerian schools by both citizens and foreigners. This in a long run can help to improve on the image of Nigerian schools and increase the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Proper funding of education will restore the confidence of parents and the international community on the standard of secondary education provided in Nigeria.

### **Reasons for Inadequate Financing of Secondary Education in Nigeria**

There are various factors that are responsible for the underfunding or inadequate funding of secondary education in Nigeria. These factors can be human or administrative; it can also be as a result of errors from the government, parents and/or students. Some of the reasons for financial inadequacies for the administration of secondary education in Nigeria are:

**Poor Forecasting and Planning:** Forecasting is important in determining the number of students in the school and the amount of resources that will be enough to cater for their educational needs. The ability to keep records and trend analysis is a factor that has made it difficult to carry out adequate forecasting of needed resources and programmes for the improvement of secondary education in Nigeria. Adeleye, Adu and Olatunde (2012) pointed out that the problem of record keeping has been a challenge in the computerization of schools data. This has limited the ability to make appropriate plan for schools in the country.

**Population Growth:** Edem (1987) in Bua, Olatunde and Amough (2013) stated that "Evidence shows an increasing rise in the total population of the African continent and in particular, school age increasing at the rate of 2.5 to 3% per annum and enrolment into schools is on the increase annually". Increase in population has therefore been a limitation to adequate planning for the delivery of quality education among secondary school students. Secondary schools enrollment rate in the last four decades has increased above the level of resources provided for this level of education. Population explosion as a result of various religious, social and cultural beliefs has therefore made it difficult for proper funding of secondary education.

**Corruption and Embezzlement:** Corruption as a social problem that is affecting most of the sectors in Nigeria. The educational sector has also not been left out of the misappropriation and underutilization of funds set aside for the improvement of the education system. Ayobami (2011) pointed out that corruption can be systematic in nature but in a long run will affect the whole life of an institution or society. Corruption can therefore limit the goals of an institution thereby resulting to wastages. Some of the funds made available for the provision of quality education are sometimes diverted for selfish use while in other cases, the budget for the educational sector are misappropriated. This has given rise to the inadequacy of funds for managing the secondary level of education.



## Conclusion

Principals need alternative sources to finance secondary education if the goals for the purpose of proper running of the school for sustainable national development. If this is not done especially in this era of economic recession, daily school operation will be a problem as most school environments are always bushy and unkempt for academic activities, no learning materials for students and clean water within the school environment. This paper has shown that there are so many alternative ways of financing secondary education apart from Federal, State, Local governments, the private sector and some relevant sectorial bodies such as the Education Tax Fund, Industrial Training Fund as well as National Science and Technology. Having X-rayed the alternative sources of financing secondary schools, it is the belief of the writer that these sources are far greater than what the students tuition fee could yield if students are asked to be paying tuition, and not only that, it places the school administrator in a better position to make use of the money realized from alternative sources. With the above sources available to school heads, the writer concludes that the sky is just the only limit of every public secondary school in to successfully achieve the goals of secondary education.

## Suggestions

From the study, the following suggestions were made.

1. Alternative sources of financing secondary education for efficiency in goal attainment should not be undermined as this will enhance the acquisition of vital instructional materials for better development of the learners.
2. Every school principals should see that he utilizes the school funds very well.
3. Every school principals should organize internal school activities in order to raise fund.
4. School principals should be prudent in all his financial dealings
5. School principals should engage in entrepreneurial activities such as fishery, piggery, poultry, snailery etc to enable them raise fund for the running of the school.

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