



APPRAISAL OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF FINANCING PUBLIC PRIMARY EDUCATION FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN MAKURDI EDUCATION ZONE OF BENUE STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study investigated appraisal of alternative sources of financing public primary education for quality assurance in Makurdi Education Zone of Benue State, Nigeria. Two research questions guided the study and two hypotheses were formulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance. Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The population of the study was 2,174 teachers in 378 public primary schools in Makurdi Education Zone of Benue State. A sample of 217 teachers was selected from 19 public primary schools in Makurdi Education Zone of Benue State. The simple random sampling technique was used to select the respondents. A 10-item questionnaire on a structured four-point rating scale titled —Appraisal of Alternative Sources of Financing Public Primary Education Questionnaire (AASFPPEQ) was used for data collection. Two experts in the Faculty of Education, Benue State University, validated the instrument. The reliability of the instrument was ascertained through trial testing using Cronbach Alpha statistics, which yielded reliability co-efficient of 0.87. This indicated that the instrument was reliable for usage. Data obtained from the study were analyzed using Mean scores and Standard Deviation to answer the research questions and Chi-square (χ^2) test of goodness of-fit to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The findings indicated that contributions from old students association and sale of proceeds from school farms has significant influence on primary education for quality assurance in Makurdi Education Zone of Benue State, Nigeria. It was recommended among others that school administrators should intensify efforts at creating a good relationship with old students association so that they could be encouraged to contributing their finances in the administration of schools geared towards quality assurance.

Key: Appraisal, alternative sources, financing public primary education, quality assurance

Introduction

There has been an observed inadequacy in the financing of primary education in recent times such that teaching is not only becoming frustrating to teachers but also students appears to be finding it increasingly difficult to learning conveniently. It also seems difficult to ascertain the level of quality assurance in the primary schools as provision of quality teachers, instructional materials and infrastructural facilities seems to suffer serious setbacks. It also appears that for very long time, teachers in public primary schools particularly had not had the opportunity to attend training programmes such as workshops, seminars, conference and other mentorship programmes so as to be well equipped to contribute positively towards ensuring quality assurance in primary schools.

Quality assurance is the set of activities that an organization undertakes to ensure that a product or

service will satisfy given requirements for quality (Robinson, 2014). It also involves setting attainable standards for a process, organizing work so that objectives are achieved as well as ensuring the documenting of procedures required, communicating them to all concerned, and monitoring in order to review the attainment of standards. Its goals are the anticipation and avoidance of faults or mistakes. Quality assurance is the ability of an organization or institution to accomplish the goals for which it is set up and also maintain comparable standards (Ajayi & Akindutire, 2007). Oakland (2013) defines quality assurance as —the preventing of quality problems through planned and systematic activities. This will include the establishment of a good quality management system and the assessment of its adequacy, the audit of the operation of the system, and the review of the system itself.

It is unfortunate to state that most primary schools are striving to have quality assured which may be attributed



to the issue of poor funding. This is because there has been an observed declining budgetary allocation education in Nigeria in recent times. Government seems to have failed to provide even the 26% budgetary allocation as recommended by the UNESCO. Successive governments have erroneously encouraged people to believe that Government alone can provide free education at all levels. This state of affairs is not only wasteful in itself but has made it very difficult to not only formulate policies that will make the Nigerian people contribute to finance education but also ensure quality assurance. Government seem to have realized its mistakes and is now beginning to encourage the alternative ways of financing education.

In their submission, Ogba, Ntasiobi, Iheanyi and Okorie (2019) state that without prejudice, the Nigerian Government over the years has done much in the financing of secondary education two decades ago. One of the factors that greatly assisted Government in doing this was the huge wealth generated from the sales of oil. However, with the dwindling oil price in the international market and the present economic crunch in the country which has affected the value of the naira globally in relation to other currencies, there is no gain saying the fact that the need for alternative sources of finance is most urgently desired and should be sought for to help augment the subvention from Government so that secondary education will be saved from hindsight and perhaps total collapse.

Alternative source of funding education refers to modalities through which money can be raised to run educational programmes. They also men the financial resources acquired for the management and development of education other than the usual government subvention or grants (Nwakpa, 2016). Nwagwu (2011) maintains that education could be financed alternatively through the following sources: educational levy, donations, rentals, old students' financial assistance and registration fees. On the other hand, Yawe and Ivagher (2019) identify sources of financing education such as foreign assistance/financial aid, contributions from old students associations, contributions from philanthropic organizations/individuals, students levy for various development fund, classrooms and contribution from PTA (Parents Teachers Associations). The efforts made by various school administrators and voluntary individuals seem to have been complementing government efforts in financing education in recent times. This may be ascertained through old students

association and sale of proceeds from school business activities, which are the focus of this study.

Contribution from Old Students Association is an observed alternative source of financing primary schools in the study area in recent times. Banka and Bua (2015) look at old students association as former students of institutions who graduated and have come together to form a network for mutual benefit. In other words, old student' association is the association of ex-students who come to pull resources together in order to support their alma-mata. However, the effective use of the Old Students' Association by the school authority could be 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 administrator seem to utilize this source school finance his/her school. The old student associations organize fund raising activities to generate more money for the project they plan for their schools (Adebayo, 2011). These activities according to Adebayo (2011:16) range from: sales of school magazines and or newsletter, bazaar, sales of personal old clothes, household and other items, football matches, setting up of a small clinic or canteen. The money realized from these activities is used for some capital project like building structures or purchase of school items. These efforts go a long way in uplifting the moral of the teachers and pupils who now have a better school environment to work in. The result of such efforts usually is a rise in the standard of teaching and learning in which affected schools record more passes in final examinations. Banka and Bua (2015) found that Old Students Associations' contribute to school recruitment of teachers and maintenance of students' discipline significantly affect secondary school management in zone B Senatorial District of Benue State.

Sale of proceeds from school business activities is one among the alternative sources of financing primary education as observed in the area by the researcher. According to Adesina in Bua and Adzongo (2014), the collection from this source make up a half of the total return in fees from such activities and sales of agricultural products, arts and crafts, magazines, raffles, drama, cultural shows among others helps in meeting up school demands. Similarly, Nwakpa (2016) posits that school activities represent another good source of financing public primary schools. They include such activities as sales of students' handcrafts, sales of books and the school authority can organize stationery, staging



of school plays and raffles, sales of farm products from the school farm, funds raising activity where parents could be invited to raise money for school projects. Such situations may not be unconnected with primary schools in the study area. It is against this background that the study sought to appraise alternative sources of financing public primary education for quality assurance in Makurdi Education Zone of Benue State, Nigeria with particular emphasis on contribution from old students association and sale of proceeds from school business activities.^{1.}

Statement of the Problem

There has been a disturbing issue surrounding the financing of primary education in Makurdi education zone of Benue State in recent times. Educational stakeholders have expressed worry and concern over the inadequate financing of public primary education in the study area, which appears to be affecting quality assurance especially in the area of teaching and learning. The worry and concern is based on the recent dwindling of Nigerian economy, which seems to be affecting the whole states of the country. Budgetary allocations to education also seem to have been decreasing such that one cannot really settled at any reasonable figure again especially that what seem to be allocated to education sector is far below the recommended 26% by UNESCO.^{2.}

The researchers observed in the study area that many primary schools today seem to appear very unkempt and facilities dilapidated. In some schools, furniture are appears to be nothing to write home about. Most pupils are observed sitting on the floor of classrooms, while teachers may be hanging around trees to attend to pupils. There are also no observable toilet facilities, library and sporting facilities for extra-curricular activities. The most touching and discouraging one is the fact that teachers' salaries seems not paid for several months due to paucity of funds. Such situations is so disturbing that head teachers are beginning to look for alternative source of funding as government seems to have been failing to provide adequate funds to take care of this level of education in recent times. Based on this scenario, one is beginning to wonder if government could not meet up her obligation of adequately funding education for quality assurance, then there should be alternative sources. The problem of this study is therefore stated in a question form: What are the alternative sources of financing public primary education for quality assurance in Makurdi Education Zone of Benue State, Nigeria?

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to appraise alternative sources of financing public primary education for quality assurance in Makurdi Education Zone of Benue State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to:

ascertain the influence of contribution from old students association on financing public primary education for quality assurance in Makurdi Education Zone of Benue State, Nigeria.

examine the influence of sale of proceeds from school business activities on financing of public primary education for quality assurance in Makurdi Education Zone.

Research Questions

The study was guided by the following research questions.

What is the influence of contribution from old students association on financing public primary education for quality assurance in Makurdi Education Zone?

What is the influence of sale of proceeds from school business activities on financing of public primary education for quality assurance in Makurdi Education Zone?

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated and tested at .05 level of significance.

Ho₁. Contribution from old students association has no significant influence on financing public primary education for quality assurance in Makurdi Education Zone of Benue State, Nigeria.

Ho₂. Sale of proceeds from school business activities has no significant influence on financing of public primary education for quality assurance in Makurdi Education Zone.

Research Method

The study adopted descriptive survey design. Descriptive survey research design according to Emaikwu (2011) is



one in which a group of people or items are studied by collecting and analyzing data from a few people considered to be representative sample of the entire population. The study was carried out in Makurdi Education Zone of Benue State, Nigeria. The population of the study comprised 2,174 teachers in 378 public primary schools in Makurdi Education Zone of Benue State. A sample of 217 teachers was selected from 19 public primary schools in Makurdi Education Zone of Benue State. The simple random sampling technique was used to select the respondents. A 10-item questionnaire on a structured four-point rating scale titled —Appraisal of Alternative Sources of Financing Public Primary Education Questionnaire (AASFPPEQ) was used for data collection. The instrument used for data collection was modeled on a four point rating scale with a response mode of Strongly Agree (SA) = 4, Agree (A) = 3, Disagree (D) = 2 and Strongly Disagree (SD) = 1. Two experts in the Faculty of Education, Benue State University, validated the instrument. The reliability of the instrument was ascertained through trial testing using

Cronbach Alpha statistics, which yielded reliability coefficient of 0.87. This indicated that the instrument was reliable for usage. Data obtained from the study were analyzed using Mean scores and standard deviation to answer the research questions while Chi-square (χ^2) test of goodness of-fit was used to test the null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The decision was that if the calculated (χ^2) value was greater than the critical table value, the null hypothesis was rejected and the alternative hypothesis accepted and vice versa.

Results and Findings

This section presented and discussed the results of the study.

Research Question One

What is the influence of contribution from old students association on financing public primary education for quality assurance in Makurdi Education Zone?

Table 1:
Mean Ratings and Standard Deviations of the Respondents on Influence of Contribution from Old Students Association on Financing Public Primary Education for Quality Assurance in Makurdi Education Zone

Item No	Item Description	SA	A	D	SD	X	SD	Decision
1	Through old students association, schools are able to acquire adequate textbooks for their library	142	53	10	12	3.50	0.82	Strongly Agree
2	Old students association donate money to schools for the purchase of enough seats for pupils.	98	107	5	7	3.36	0.69	Agree
3	Old students association organize workshop to training of teachers.	73	112	13	19	3.10	0.86	Agree
4	Through old students association, more teachers are recruited to fill vacant positions in the school.	89	98	20	10	3.24	0.78	Agree
5	Old students association contribute money in setting up small school clinic.	120	72	14	11	3.39	0.82	Agree
Cluster Mean						3.32	0.79	Agree

Data on Table 1 showed that the mean rating for items 1-5 were 3.50, 3.36, 3.10, 3.24 and 3.39 respectively with their corresponding standard deviations of 0.82, 0.69, 0.86, 0.78 and 0.82. All the mean ratings are above the cut-off point of 2.50. The standard deviations are small which shows that there is homogeneity in respondents' responses for the items raised. The cluster mean of 3.32 was also above the cut-off point of 2.50. This implies that contribution from old students association influence financing public primary education for quality assurance in Makurdi Education Zone in Benue State, Nigeria.



Research Question Two:

What is the influence of sale of proceeds from school business activities on financing of public primary education for quality assurance in Makurdi Education Zone

Table 2:

Mean Ratings and Standard Deviation of the Respondents on Influence of Sale of Proceeds from School Business Activities on Financing of Public Primary Education for Quality Assurance in Makurdi Education Zone

Item No	Item Description	SA	A	D	SD	X	SD	Decision
6	School hall is rented to members of the public to generate money for the school.	101	91	17	8	3.31	0.77	Agree
7	School head teachers accumulate craft from the pupils, which is later sold to generate money for the school.	84	96	18	19	3.13	0.90	Agree
8	There is sale of proceed from school farm to generate revenue for the school.	85	108	11	13	3.22	0.80	Agree
9	School head teachers organize extra lesson for pupils to generate revenue for the school.	118	71	10	18	3.33	0.90	Agree
10	School head teachers arrange school uniforms for the pupils for their parents to buy which serve as revenue for the school.	104	90	12	11	3.32	0.80	Agree
Cluster Mean						3.27	0.83	Agree

Table 2 indicated that the mean ratings for items 6-10 had mean scores of 2.98, 3.08, 3.20, 3.11 and 3.08 with corresponding standard deviations of 1.08, 1.02, 0.90, 0.98 and 1.04 respectively. All the mean ratings are above the cut-off point of 2.50. The standard deviations are small which shows that there is homogeneity in respondents' responses for the items raised. Based on the decision rule, it means that respondents accepted all the items in the cluster which mean scores were above the cut-off point of 2.50. The cluster mean of 3.27 was also found to be above the cut-off point of 2.50. This implies that sale of proceeds from school business activities influence financing of public primary education for quality assurance in Makurdi Education Zone.

Hypotheses Testing Hypothesis

One:

Contribution from old students association has no significant influence on financing public primary education for quality assurance in Makurdi Education Zone of Benue State, Nigeria.

Table 3:

Chi-square test of the Influence of Contribution from Old Students Association on Financing Public Primary Education for Quality Assurance in Makurdi Education Zone of Benue State, Nigeria

Opinions	erved N	ected N	vel of Sig.	df	χ^2 -cal	P-value	Decision
SD	11	54.3	.05	3	128.75	0.00	Sig.
D	14	54.3					Rejected
A	94	54.3					Ho₁
SA	98	54.3					

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 54.3.



Table 3 revealed that $\chi^2=128.75$, at $df=3$ and $p=0.00$. Since p -value of $0.00 < 0.05$ at 3 degree of freedom, the null hypothesis which states that contribution from old students association has no significant influence on financing public primary education for quality assurance in Makurdi Education Zone of Benue State, Nigeria was therefore, rejected. This implies that contribution from old students association has significant positive influence on financing public primary education for quality assurance in Makurdi Education Zone of Benue State, Nigeria.

Hypothesis 2:

Sale of proceeds from school business activities has no significant influence on financing of public primary education for quality assurance in Makurdi Education Zone.

Table 4:

Chi-Square test of the Influence of Sale of Proceeds From School Business Activities on Financing of Public Primary Education for Quality Assurance in Makurdi Education Zone

Opinions	Observed N	Expected N	Level of Sig.	df	χ^2 -cal	P-value	Decision
SD	13	54.3	.05	3	129.45	0.00	Sig.
D	12	54.3					Rejected
A	91	54.3					Ho2
SA	101	54.3					

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 54.3.

Table 4 revealed that $\chi^2=129.45$, at $df=3$ and $p=0.00$. Since p -value of $0.00 < 0.05$ at 3 degree of freedom, the null hypothesis which states that sale of proceeds from school business activities has no significant influence on financing of public primary education for quality assurance in Makurdi Education Zone was therefore, rejected. This implies that sale of proceeds from school business activities has significant positive influence on financing of public primary education for quality assurance in Makurdi Education Zone.

Discussion of Findings

The first finding of the study indicated that contribution from old students association has significant positive influence on financing public primary education for quality assurance in Makurdi Education Zone of Benue State, Nigeria. The finding agrees with that of Adebayo (2011:16) which revealed that the activities of Old students association range from: sales of school magazines and or newsletter, bazaar, sales of personal old clothes, household and other items, football matches, setting up of a small clinic or canteen. The money realized from these activities is used for some capital project like building structures or purchase of school items. These efforts go a long way in uplifting the moral of the teachers and pupils who now have a better school environment to work in. The result of such efforts usually is a rise in the standard of teaching and learning in which affected schools record more passes in final examinations. The finding also relates with that of Banka and Bua (2015) which revealed that Old Students Associations" contribute to school recruitment of teachers

and maintenance of students" discipline significantly affect secondary school management in zone B Senatorial District of Benue State.

The second finding of this study revealed that sale of proceeds from school business activities has significant positive influence on financing of public primary education for quality assurance in Makurdi Education Zone. This implies that School hall is rented to members of the public to generate money for the school, School head teachers accumulate craft from the pupils, which is later sold to generate money for the school, There is sale of proceed from school farm to generate revenue for the school, School head teachers organize extra lesson for pupils to generate revenue for the school. School head teachers arrange school uniforms for the pupils for their parents to buy which serve as revenue for the school. This finding corroborate with Nwakpa (2016) who found that school activities represent another good source of financing public primary schools. They include such activities as sales of students' handcrafts, sales of books and the school authority can organize stationery, staging of



school plays and raffles, sales of farm products from the school farm, funds raising activity where parents could be invited to raise money for school projects. Such situations may not be unconnected with primary schools in the study area. The finding is also in line with that of Adesina in Bua and Adzongo (2014) which revealed that the collection from this source make up a half of the total return in fees from such activities and sales of agricultural products, arts and crafts, magazines, raffles, drama, cultural shows among others helps in meeting up school demands.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the study, it was concluded that contribution from old students association and sale of proceeds from school business activities has significant positive influence on financing public primary education for quality assurance in Makurdi Education Zone of Benue State, Nigeria.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, it was recommended that;

1. School administrators should intensify efforts at creating a good relationship with old students association so that they could be encouraged to contributing their finances in the administration of schools geared towards quality assurance.
2. School administrators should also be creative enough to identifying sources of revenue through engaging in more businesses in their respective schools that will fetch them adequate funds that could enable them address immediate needs of their schools without depending solely on government. .

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