

## **An Investigation into the Impact of Funding on University Development in Nigeria**

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### **Abstract**

This paper investigated the impact of adequate funding on university development in North-central Nigeria. The survey research design was adopted for this study. The population of the study was made up of 480 academic staff from four federal universities located in North-Central Nigeria. A stratified random sampling technique was used to select the sample size of 480. A questionnaire was adopted as an instrument for data collection. The questionnaire was validated by experts in educational administration and planning and its reliability test yielded a 0.72 index which was obtained by test-retest method. A decision point of 2.50 was set and used to accept or reject any item in the items' questions. Mean and standard deviation were used to analyse data. Hypotheses were tested by the Pearson Moment Product Correlation Coefficient. The findings showed that there is a significant relationship between adequate funding and implementation of teaching, research and community service programs of universities in North-central Nigeria. Based on these findings, the paper hereby recommended that the government should increase the funding of the universities in North-Central, Nigeria. Universities administrators should think outside the box and improve the internally generated revenue of the various universities in the region. International organizations should support universities with financial aid to enable them to execute their programs.

**Keywords:** Funding, University development, Nigeria

### **Introduction:**

Adequate funding is critical to the development of universities. Adequate funding refers to monies in the right proportion and made available for the implementation of the program. The fund is money made available for the administration of programs, projects or management of institutions. The objectives of funding educational institutions include: to enable the institutions

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implementing program, enable the educational institutions conduct teaching programs, to enable the educational institutions carry out research programs; 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 implementing the staff development program, enabling the educational institutions to provide conducive teaching and learning environment and to enable the educational institutions to pay salaries, pay for services, maintenance and the unforeseen circumstance (Ogunode et al., 2021).

The primary sources of funding to Nigerian Public Universities include government subvention, School fees, internally generated revenue, donations from the private sector, NGOs and international organizations. According to NOUN (2009) and Okeke (2005), 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 Added Tax (VAT) on sales of commodities which was introduced in 1996. This VAT is shared between the Federal and State Governments according to an agreed formula. Funds allocated by the Federal Government to the education sector are normally distributed to the various arms and tiers of education- primary; secondary; and 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.

A study by Ogunode et al. (2021) indicated that adequate funding of science programs would lead to adequate employment of science teachers, infrastructural facilities, provision of adequate instructional materials, effective capacity development programs for science teachers and improved welfare packages for science teachers. This result confirmed the findings by Ogunode (2021) and Nwafor et al. (2015) that the government should be committed to adequate funding of secondary education through appropriate budgetary allocation for the sustenance of secondary education in the country.

Ogunode et al. (2023a) concluded that adequate funding of public universities is key for the effective implementation of Core Curriculum and Minimum Academic Standards (CCMAS) in North-East, Nigeria Universities. Ogunode et al. (2023b) maintained that the benefits of funding Tertiary Education in Nigeria include adequate funds for administration and management, full employment, infrastructural facilities development, provision of instructional resources, research development and quality of university education. The availability of adequate funds aids the administration and management of university education. It helps to realize its objectives and goals. Adepoju (2002) and Uzoka (2007) noted 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.

Ogunode and Onyekachi (2021) outlined the ten-year educational budget as follows: in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 budget had N293 bn (7.19%), N393 bn (9.31%), N453 (9.15%), N499 (10.15%), N494 (10.54%), N434 (10.71%) and 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 the budget was N4.31 (7.52%), N551 (7.41%), N605.8 bn (7.04%), N620.5 bn (7.02%) and N671.07bn (6.7%). The Nigerian educational budget for ten years each year was below the UNESCO 26% recommendation for education in developing countries. The poor budgetary allocation for education affects the other sub-programs in the educational sector (Obi & Ubi 2017).

Onyeché (2018), Uche & Wordu (2015) and Onuka (2014) noted that there is a problem of poor funding of Nigerian universities. The shortage of funds has affected the implementation of

the university program which includes teaching, research and provision of community services. The failure of the government to adequately fund the various higher institutions appears to have led to the crisis we are facing in the tertiary education system in Nigeria. Gambo, and Fasanmi (2019), Sanni (2016) and Onuoha (2013) observed that there is a need to provide adequate funding to all universities in Nigeria. It is unfortunate that most of the universities spread across the country are underfunded. Based on this observation, this paper aims to investigate the impact of adequate funding on university development in North-central Nigeria.

### **Purpose of the Study:**

The purpose of this paper is to investigate the impact of adequate funding on university development in North-central Nigeria. The specific objectives are;

- i. Find out the impact of adequate funding on the teaching program of the universities in North-central, Nigeria;
- ii. Assess the impact of adequate funding on the research program of the universities in North-central, Nigeria; and
- iii. Ascertain the impact of adequate funding on community services program of the universities in North-central, Nigeria.

### **Research Hypotheses:**

The following research hypotheses guided the study.

H<sub>0</sub>1: There is no significant relationship between adequate funding and the teaching program of the universities in North-central, Nigeria;

H<sub>0</sub>2: There is no significant relationship between adequate funding for research programs of the universities in North-central, Nigeria;

H<sub>0</sub>3: There is no significant relationship between adequate funding for community services programs of the universities in North-central, Nigeria.

### **Methods:**

The survey research design was adopted for this study. The population of the study was made up of 480 academic staff from four federal universities located in North-Central Nigeria. A stratified random sampling technique was used to select the sample size of 480 academic staff for the study. The questionnaire was adopted as an instrument for data collection. The questionnaire had two sections. Section A collected information on bio-data and section B collected information on the subject matter. The questionnaire was validated by experts in educational administration and planning and its reliability test yielded a 0.72 index which was obtained by the test-retest method. A decision point of 2.50 was set and used to accept or reject any item in the items' questions. Mean and standard deviation were used to analyse data. Hypotheses were tested by the Pearson Moment Product Correlation Coefficient.

### **Data Presentation:**

**H<sub>01</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between adequate funding and the teaching program of the universities in North-central, Nigeria

**Table 1: Test of Relationship between Adequate Funding and Teaching Programs of the Universities in North-central, Nigeria**

Variables	N	Mean	SD	R	r <sup>2</sup>	Sig@0.05	Decision
Adequate funding	361	2.27	1.07	0.819	0.670	0.000	Significant
Teaching programs of the universities	108	3.12	0.78				

Results in Table 1 showed that there is a significant relationship between adequate funding and the teaching program of the universities in North-central, Nigeria ( $p=0.000$ , which is less than 0.05 level of significance). As a result, the first hypothesis was rejected. In other words, there was a very strong positive correlation (0.819) between adequate funding and teaching programs of the universities in North-central, Nigeria

**H<sub>02</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between adequate funding for research programs of the universities in North-central, Nigeria.

**Table 2: Test of Relationship between Adequate Funding and Research Programs of the Universities in North-central, Nigeria**

Variables	N	Mean	SD	R	r <sup>2</sup>	Sig@0.05	Decision
Adequate funding	361	2.27	1.07	0.819	0.670	0.000	Significant
Research programs of the universities	108	3.12	0.78				

Results of Table 2 showed that there is a significant relationship between adequate funding and research programs of the universities in North-central, Nigeria ( $p=0.000$ , which is less than 0.05 level of significance). As a result, the first hypothesis was rejected. In other words, there was a very strong positive correlation (0.819) between adequate funding and research programs of the universities in North-central, Nigeria.

**H<sub>03</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between adequate funding for community services programs of the universities in North-central, Nigeria.

**Table 3: Test of the Relationship between adequate funding and community service programs of the universities in North-central, Nigeria**

Variables	N	Mean	SD	R	r <sup>2</sup>	Sig@0.05	Decision
Adequate funding	361	2.27	1.07	0.819	0.670	0.000	Significant
Research programs of the universities	108	3.12	0.78				

Results in Table 3 showed that there is a significant relationship between adequate funding and community service programs of the universities in North-central, Nigeria ( $p=0.000$ , which is less than 0.05 level of significance). As a result, the first hypothesis was rejected. In other words, there was a very strong positive correlation (0.819) between adequate funding and community service programs of the universities in North-central, Nigeria.

**Discussion of Findings:**

The result collected from research question one indicated that there is a significant relationship between adequate funding and teaching programs of the universities in North-central, Nigeria. This result confirms the findings of Aina (2007) and Ehichoya & Ogunode (2020) who concluded that there is a relationship between the funding of teaching programs universities and their implementation. No meaningful implementation of a teaching program can be realized without adequate funding.

The secondary table on research question two revealed that there is a positive significant relationship between adequate funding and research programs of the universities in North-central, Nigeria. This result is in line with the discoveries of Ogunode et al. (2020), Ohiare et al. (2022) and Ohaeri et al. (2023) who maintained that only adequate funding of research programs in tertiary institutions can lead to effective implementation and development of the research program.

The third table on research question three indicated that that is a positive significant relationship between adequate funding and community service program implementation of the universities in North-central, Nigeria. This result also affirms the finding of Ogunode and Audu (2022) who stated that adequate funding is the backbone of the effective implementation of community service programs in the tertiary institutions in Nigeria. They went further and observed that when community service programs are adequately funded, the problem of poor implementation will be solved.

### **Conclusion:**

The objective of this paper is to investigate the impact of adequate funding on university development in North-central Nigeria. The specific objectives are to find out the impact of adequate funding on the teaching program of the universities in North-central, Nigeria; to assess the impact of adequate funding on the research program of the universities in North-central, Nigeria; and to ascertain the impact of adequate funding on community services program of the universities in North-central, Nigeria.

### **Recommendations:**

The results collected revealed that there is a positive significant relationship between adequate funding and teaching programmes, research programs and community service program implementation of the universities in North-central, Nigeria.

Based on these findings, the paper recommended the following:

- i. Government should increase the funding of the universities in North-Central, Nigeria.
- ii. Universities administrators should think outside the box and improve the internally generated revenue of the various universities in the region.
- iii. International organizations should support universities with financial aid to enable them to execute their programs.

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