

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

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**Abstract:** This paper investigated the impact of adequate funding on universities 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 the North-Central Nigeria. Stratified random sampling technique was used to select the sample size of 480. Questionnaire was adopted as instrument for data collection. The questionnaire was validated experts in educational administration and planning and it reliability test yielded 0.72 index which were 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 analyses data. Hypotheses were tested by Pearson Moment Product Correlation Coefficient. The findings showed that there is significant relationship between adequate funding and implementation of teaching, research and community service programme of universities in North-central Nigeria. Based on these findings, the paper hereby recommended that government should increase the funding of the universities in the 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 aids to enable them execute their programmes.

**Keywords:** funding, university development

### Introduction

Adequate funding is critical to the development of universities. Adequate funding refers to monies in right proportional and mage available for the implementation of programme. 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 (Ogunode, Abubakar, & Ajape, 2021).

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) 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 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.

Study by Ogunode, Lawan, & Ajape (2021) indicated that adequate funding of science programme would lead to adequate employment of science teachers, infrastructural facilities, provision of adequate instructional materials, effective capacity development programme for science teacher and improved welfare packages for science teachers motivation. This result confirmed with the findings by Ogunode (2021), and Nwafor, Uchendu, and Akani (2015) that the government should be committed in the adequate funding of secondary education through appropriate budgetary allocation for the sustenance of secondary education in the country.

Ogunode, Olaoye, and Yakubu, I. (2023) concluded that adequate funding of public universities is key for effective implementation of Core Curriculum and Minimum Academic Standards (CCMAS) in North-East, Nigeria Universities. Ogunode, Olowonefa, and Suleiman, S (2023) 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 will be assured. 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 years 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 in each years was below the UNESCO 26% recommendation for education in developing countries. The poor budgetary allocation for education affects the other sub-programme in the educational sectors (Obi, and Ubi (2017).

Onyeche, (2018); Uche, and Wordu, (2015); Onuka, A.O. U. (2014) noted that there is problem of poor funding of Nigerian universities. The shortage of funds has affected implementation of the universities programme that includes teaching, research and provision of community services. The failure of the government to adequately fund the various higher institutions appear 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 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 is aimed to investigate the impact of adequate funding on universities development in North-central Nigeria.

### **Purpose of the Study**

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

- 1) Find out the impact of adequate funding on teaching programme of the universities in North-central, Nigeria;
- 2) Assess the impact of adequate funding on research programme of the universities in North-central, Nigeria; and
- 3) Ascertain the impact of adequate funding on community services programme of the universities in North-central, Nigeria.

### **Research Hypotheses**

The following research hypotheses guided the study.

H01: There is no significant relationship between adequate funding and teaching programme of the universities in North-central, Nigeria;

H02: There is no significant relationship between adequate funding on research programme of the universities in North-central, Nigeria;

H03: There is no significant relationship between adequate funding on community services programme 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 the North-Central Nigeria. Stratified random sampling technique was used to select the sample size of 480 academic staff for the study. Questionnaire was adopted as instrument for data collection. The questionnaire had two section. Section A collected information on bio-data and section B collected information on the subject matter. The questionnaire was validated experts in educational administration and planning and its reliability test yielded 0.72 index which were 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 Pearson Moment Product Correlation Coefficient

## Data Presentation

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

**Table 1: Test of Relationship between adequate funding and teaching programme 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 programme of the universities	108	3.12	0.78				

Result on Table 1 showed that there is significant relationship between adequate funding and teaching programme 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 programme of the universities in North-central, Nigeria

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

**Table 2: Test of Relationship between adequate funding and research programme 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 programme of the universities	108	3.12	0.78
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Result on Table 2 showed that there is significant relationship between adequate funding and research programme 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 programme of the universities in North-central, Nigeria

**H03:** There is no significant relationship between adequate funding on community services programme of the universities in North-central, Nigeria.

**Table 3: Test of Relationship between adequate funding and community service programme 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 programme of the universities	108	3.12	0.78				

Result on Table 3 showed that there is significant relationship between adequate funding and community service programme 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 programme of the universities in North-central, Nigeria

### Discussion of Findings

The result collected from research question one indicated that there is significant relationship between adequate funding and teaching programme of the universities in North-central, Nigeria. This result confirm the finding of Aina (2007); Ehichoya and Ogunode (2020) that concluded that there is relationship between funding of teaching programme of universities and its implementation. No any meaningful implementation of teaching programme can be realized without adequate funding.

The secondary table on research question two revealed that is positive significant relationship between adequate funding and research programme of the universities in North-central, Nigeria. This result is in line with the discoveries of Ogunode, Jegede, Adah, Audu and Ajape (2020), Ohiare Udebu, Sarafadeen, and Abashi (2022) and Ohaeri, Olayinka, and Ogunode (2023), they maintained that only adequate funding of research programme in the tertiary institutions can lead to effective implementation and development of the research programme.

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

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

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

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

Based on these findings, the paper recommended the following:

1. Government should increase the funding of the universities in the North-Central, Nigeria.
2. Universities administrators should think outside the box and improve the internally generated revenue of the various universities in the region.
3. International organizations should support universities with financial aids to enable them execute their programmes.

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