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Influence of Finance on the Administration of Public Secondary Schools in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State

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ABSTRACT
The aim of this study was to examine the Influence of Finance on the Administration of Public Senior Secondary Schools in Port Harcourt metropolis. Four objectives, four research questions and four hypotheses were formulated, postulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance. The study adopted a descriptive design. The population of the study was two thousand and eighty (2,080) teachers and principals from thirty four (34) senior secondary schools in the study area. The sample size for the study was four hundred and thirty eight teachers and principals comprising of four hundred and four (404) teachers and thirty four principals (34) in the study area using proportional sampling techniques. A structured questionnaire titled "Influence of Finance on the Administration of Public Senior Secondary Schools Questionnaire" (IFAPSSSQ) was used as an instrument for data collection. The instrument was face and content validated by the researcher's supervisor and two other experts in the faculty of education. Test-retest method was used to establish the reliability coefficient of 0.84. the entire copies were retrieved and used for the study. Mean and standard deviation was used to answer the research questions, while z-test was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.
Keywords: Influence of Finance, Administration of Public Secondary schools and Port-Harcourt Metropolis

INTRODUCTION

The future of any country lies on how it invests in the development, awareness and productivity of its citizens. This investment is primarily done through education. It is in recognition of the above fact that governments at all levels in Nigeria commits a lot of resources to ensure the provision of quality education to its citizenry and as well tailored its policies towards ensuring that quality education is made available and accessible to the general population as opined by Aderonwu & Ehiametalor (2005). Educational institutions like other organization require funds for their survival. The success or failure of any educational institution depends greatly on the availability of funds. According to Sule (2013) the financing of education as popular opinion has it, is the true domain of the economist workout on how much it will cost and how much money is to be raised. This is to say that the particular way in which education is financed largely determines by who will be educated and in what fashion. Growth and development of educational sector according to Teddy (2004) is largely depended on how well finances are managed. Financial management is concerned with organization's decision on how to source for funds, how to control financial resources through financial control, prudent allocation of financial resources and accountability measures, it is therefore fundamental for the success of any entity (Munge et al., 2016).

The relationship between school financing and administration is one-directional, with an inverse relationship that either improves or diminishes students' outcomes.

Schools financial management and administration comprises the planning and implementation of a financial plan, accounting, reporting and the protection of assets from loss, damage and fraud (Uko, 2015). All items of financial management and administration are exposed to risk of incorrect, improper and ineffective school management and administration which is particularly reflected in the accounting control of an institution. Schools can regulate their accounting with at least two internal rules: accounting rules and instructions on inventory check (Ndamu, Kanori & Njaji, 2017).

Statement of the Problem

Since the State took over of schools in Nigeria every successive government had succeeded in formulating and fine-turning laudable educational programmes, goals and objectives but unfortunately, the financing policy is usually the most perplexing problem at the time of execution. Hence, one is in doubt if the universal practice of determining educational policies most likely to benefit individuals or the nation is followed up by the appropriation of money to put them into effect as the various school administrators are faced with the challenges of poor funding by the authorities. The funds that are being provided by the government are grossly inadequate for the procurement of instructional materials, consumables, school facilities and for the maintenance of these facilities which are supposed to promote teaching and learning. The question then is, are there adequate finance which will in turn aid proper supervision of public secondary schools in Port Harcourt Metropolis? To answer these questions amongst others prompted a study of this nature.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to investigate the influence of finance on the administration of public senior secondary schools Port Harcourt metropolis. In specific terms, the objectives are to:

1. Determine the influence of finance on public relation function in public senior secondary schools in Port Harcourt metropolis.
2. Determine the influence of finance on school supervision in public senior secondary schools in Port Harcourt metropolis.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided study:

1. What is the influence of finance on public relation functions in public senior secondary schools in Port Harcourt metropolis?
2. What is the influence of finance on school supervision in public senior secondary school in Port Harcourt metropolis?

Hypotheses

The following research null hypotheses were formulated to guide the study.

1. There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of teachers and principals on the influence of finance on public relations functions in public senior secondary schools in Port Harcourt metropolis.
2. There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of teachers and principals on the influence of finance on school supervision in public senior secondary schools in Port Harcourt metropolis.

Prudential Theory (Arthur BetzLaffer, 1980)

The prudential theory was propounded by an American political economist, Arthur BetzLaffer in 1980. The theory states that every administrator is expected to be able to be prudent in the management of scarce finance to be able to achieve set educational goals. There is a growing consensus among policy makers and economic researchers on the need to re-orient the financial regulatory framework towards a macro prudential perspective. Prudential theory is recognized as a necessary ingredient to fill the gap between macro-economic policy and the traditional micro prudential regulation of financial institutions.

Administrative Theory (Henry Fayol 1841-1925)

Henry Fayol was a French management theorist whose theories in management and organization of labour were widely influential in the beginning of 20th century. He was a mining engineer who worked for a French mining company, first as an engineer, then moved into general management and Managing Director from 1888 to 1981. Fayol was the first to identify the four functions of management: Planning, Organizing, Directing and Controlling as widely known today.

His administrative theory agreed that all activities that occur in any organization could be grouped into technical, commercial, financial, accounting, security and administration. Fayol's theory is an improvement from the work of F. W. Taylor's scientific principles.

Pure Pecking Order Theory (Donaldson 1961-1969)

Donaldson was the originator of the Pure Pecking Order financing theory. The essence of the theory is that a firm follows a pecking order of preference when making decisions on sources of finance. According to the PPO Theory, internally generated funds are the most preferred, followed by debt if external financing is required. A firm's preference for internal financing as Donaldson pointed out is

due to its management's unwillingness to be subjected to market scrutiny when raising funds on the capital market. Donaldson observed that managers strongly favored internal generation as a source of new funds even to the exclusion of external funds, except for occupational unfavorable "bulges" in the need for funds.

Conceptual Framework

Concept of Administration

Administration is seen as a social process concerned with identifying, maintaining, motivating, controlling and unifying formally and informally organized human and material resources within an integrated system designed specifically to achieve predetermined objectives. Administration has to do with getting things done with the accomplishment of defined objectives (Teddy,2004). On a broader perspective, administration could be seen as an integral part of any organization. It is crutial for maintaining and expanding the relevance, effectiveness and productivity of complex institutions, such as Government department, prison, school systems, universities amongst others (Ndanu et al., 2017). For example, the survival of all the organization, like the school and other institutions is largely dependent on the quality of administrative services available.

Summary of Related Literature

From the conceptual perspective, educational institutions like other organizations require funds for their survival. The success or failure of any educational institution depends greatly on the availability of funds. The way in which education is financed largely determines who will be educated and in what fashion. A school is an organization of its own, therefore, human, material and financial resources is to be harnessed for purpose of achieving its objectives. The purpose of school administration in general is the achievement of the overall objectives of formal education. The achievement of educational goals depends on adequate financial support.

RESEARCH METHODS

Design of the Study

This study adopted descriptive survey research design. Amadike (2020) described descriptive survey research design as research that involves the collection of data from a sample that has been chosen to represent a population to which the findings of the data analysis can be generalized. This is why descriptive survey design was considered appropriate for this.

RESULTS

Research Question 1: *What is the influence of finance on public relations functions in public secondary schools in Port Harcourt metropolis?*

Table 1: Mean score rating of respondents on the Influence of Finance on Public Relations Function in Public Senior Secondary Schools in Port Harcourt Metropolis.

S/N	Finance and PRs in Schools	Teachers (404)			Principals (34)		
		X	S.D	Decision	X	S.D	Decision
1	Inadequate finance could hamper the regular P. T. A meetings	3.23	0.71	Accepted	2.55	0.70	Accepted
2	Without finance school may not carry out community activities	2.51	0.94	Accepted	2.88	0.32	Accepted
3	Finance is required to organize open day in schools	2.79	0.86	Accepted	2.73	0.51	Accepted
4	Finance is required to print newsletters for parents	2.52	1.05	Accepted	2.55	0.50	Accepted
5	Finance is required to announce school activities to the public	2.64	1.04	Accepted	2.91	0.37	Accepted
6	Finance is required in schools to portray the school image using mass media	3.29	0.69	Accepted	2.97	0.71	Accepted
	Total	**2.83**	**0.88**	**Accepted**	**2.76**	**0.51**	**Accepted**

Source: Field Survey, 2020.

Results in Table 1 revealed how finance influences public relations function. Inadequate finance could hamper the regular PTA meetings had a mean value of 3.23 & 2. 55, without finance school may not carry out community activities 2.51 & 2.88, finance is required to organize open day in school 2.79 & 2.73, finance is required to print newsletters for parents 2.52 & 2.55, finance is required to announce school activities to the public 2.64 & 2.91 and finance is required in schools to portray the school image using mass media 3.29 & 2.97. These mean values were accepted based on the fact that they were equal or more than 2.50 which is an acceptable mean. In order words, the acceptance of majority of the variables listed above showed that finance influences public relation functions in public senior secondary schools in Port Harcourt metropolis.

Research Question 2: *What is the influence of finance on school supervision in public senior secondary schools in Port Harcourt metropolis?*

Table 2: Mean Ratings of Respondents on the Influence of Finance on School Supervision in Public Senior Secondary Schools in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State

S/N	Finance and school Supervision	Teachers (404)			Principals (34)		
		X	S.D	Decision	X	S.D	Decision
7	Finance aids the provision of instructional needs of teachers	2.69	0.92	Accepted	2.55	0.74	Accepted
8	It ensures efficiency	2.58	1.01	Accepted	2.82	0.75	Accepted
9	Financial motivation boost the morale of teachers	2.67	0.80	Accepted	2.58	0.82	Accepted
	It enhances the running of schools	2.55	1.07	Accepted	2.94	0.69	Accepted
10	With finance teaching is effective	2.63	1.08	Accepted	3.02	0.75	Accepted
11	It enhances teachers skill performance	3.01	0.87	Accepted	3.00	0.85	Accepted
12	It leads to efficient execution of task	2.59	0.89	Accepted	2.70	1.08	Accepted
	Total	**2.67**	**0.94**	**Accepted**	**2.80**	**0.81**	**Accepted**

Source: Field Survey, 2020.

Results in Table 2 showed that all of the respondents agreed that finance influences school supervision in public senior secondary schools in Port Harcourt metropolis. Provision of instructional needs of teachers had a mean value of (2.69 & 2.55), it ensures efficiency (2.58 & 2.82), financial motivation boost the morale of teachers (2.67 & 2.58), it enhances the running of schools (2.55 & 2.94), with finance teaching is effective (2.63 & 3.02), it enhances teachers skill performance (3.01 & 3.02) and finally, it leads to efficient execution of task (2.59 & 3.00).

Research Question 3: *What is the influence of finance on implementation of school curriculum in public senior secondary schools in Port Harcourt metropolis?*

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of teachers and principals on the influence of finance on public relation functions in public senior secondary schools in Port Harcourt metropolis.

Table 3: z-test Analysis of Teachers and Principals on influence of finance on Public Relation Functions in public Senior Secondary Schools in Port Harcourt Metropolis

Groups	N	M	SD	Df	Z-Cal	Z-Crit	L/Sig	Decision
Teachers	404	2.83	0.88					
				436	0.80	1.96	0.05	Accepted
Principals	34	2.76	0.51					

Source: Field Survey (2020)

Table 3 above revealed a z-calculated value of 0.80 which is less than the standard z-critical value of 1.96. The result of Ho tested showed that there is no significant difference in the opinion of respondents in public senior secondary schools in Port Harcourt city Local Government Area and public senior secondary schools in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area on the influence of finance on public relation functions.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of teachers and principals on the influence of finance on school supervision in public senior secondary schools in Port Harcourt metropolis.

Table 4: z-test Analysis of Teachers and Principals on in Influence of Finance on School Supervision in Public Senior Secondary Schools in Port Harcourt Metropolis

Groups	N	M	SD	Df	Z-Cal	Z-Crit	L/Sig	Decision
Teachers	404	2.67	0.94					
				436	4.36	1.96	0.05	Rejected
Principals	34	2.80	0.81					

Source: Field Survey (2020)

Table 4 above revealed a z-calculated value of 4.36 which is higher than the standard z-critical value of 1.96, hence the null hypothesis was rejected. The result therefore is that there is a significant difference in the opinion of respondents (teachers and principals) on the influence of finance on school supervision in public senior secondary schools in Port Harcourt metropolis.

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of teachers and principals on the influence of finance on procurement and maintenance of school facilities in public senior secondary schools in Port Harcourt metropolis.

Table 5: z-test Analysis of Teachers and Principals on the Influence of Finance on Procurement and Maintenance of School Facilities in Public Senior Secondary Schools in Port-Harcourt Metropolis

Groups	N	M	SD	Df	Z-Cal	Z-Crit	L/Sig	Decision
Teachers	404	2.72	0.92					
				436	1.84	1.96	0.05	Accepted
Principals	34	2.91	0.75					

Source: Field Survey (2020)

Table 5 above revealed a z-calculated value of 1.84 which is less than the z-critical value of 1.96. The result of the hypothesis showed that there is no significant difference in the opinion of teachers and principals on the influence of finance on procurement and maintenance of school facilities in public senior secondary schools in Port Harcourt metropolis.

Summary

This study examined the Influence of Finance on School Administration in Public Senior Secondary Schools I Port Harcourt Metropolis. The study area was Port Harcourt metropolis which comprised of Port Harcourt City Local Government Areas andObio/Akpo Local Government Area in Rivers State respectively. Four objectives, four research questions and four hypotheses were formulated, postulated and tested at 0.05 level of significance. Most of the variables in the study were defined for clarity purposes.

Prudential theory by Arthur BetzLaffer, Administrative theory by Henry Fayol and Pure pecking theory by Donaldson were reviewed in this study. Pure pecking theory by Donaldson was the basis upon which this study was anchored. In this theory, Donaldson observed that managers strongly favored internal generation as a source of new funds even to the exclusion of external funds. This theory is related to this study in the sense that it encourages sourcing of finance (both internally and externally) for the proper administration and maintenance of an organization of which public secondary school is inclusive.

CONCLUSION

Based on the study, it was deduced that finance influences public relation functions, school supervision, implementation of school curriculum and finally the procurement and maintenance of school facilities in public senior secondary schools in Port Harcourt metropolis.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Adequate finance is a determinant factor for the survival of education; therefore, the government through the relevant agencies should finance the education sector for optimum academic performance.
2. Creation of educational opportunities depends on adequate provision of funds; therefore, educational administrators should set realistic goals and expansion targets which can be realized with the available limited resources.

Educational Implications

1. The research work was carried out to add to the body of knowledge in the research area.
2. It was carried out to reveal the relevance of finance on the administration of public secondary schools

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