

Adequate Funding Of Educational Institutions Proselytizes Effective Planning: View Point Of An Educational Administrator.

Stanley U. Nnorom & Okonkwo, Eucharia Chinenye

Department of Educational Management & Policy, Faculty of Education, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka Anambra State.

Abstract: It is important to plan in all spheres of human endeavour. Anyone that does not plan ends up a failure. But planning without the necessary backups is like venturing into business without capitals. This is why funding or financial support is very important in every planning. Every educational administrator spearheads planning, coordination, directing, supervision, inspection, monitoring, staffing, organizing in any educational institution he or she finds him or herself. The educational administrator can be likened to educational leader or educational manager. He or she manages the resources of the educational institutions whether in lower basic education level schools (primary 1-3), middle basic education level schools (primary 4-6), upper basic education level schools (JSS 1-3), Senior Secondary Schools (SSI-3) and tertiary institutions (colleges of education, polytechnics and universities). The quality and standard of educational service delivery depends on the effectiveness, competence and efficiency of the educational administrator. Available materials, human and financial resources are handled and effectively or ineffectively utilized by the educational administrator. Teachers and students under this educational administrator have roles to also to play in the effective or ineffective use of available material, human and financial resources. The core of every development of any educational institution or other educational parastatals is anchored on funding. Adequate funding makes for effective planning and brings about advancement, system 's improvement, human capital development, effectiveness and efficiency in service delivery, academic performances and achievements that are exceptional and so on. The crux of this paper is looking at how adequate funding of educational institutions can bring about effective planning. This paper discusses the view point of an educational administrator on how adequate funding can foster effective planning.

Keywords: Adequate funding, effective planning, and educational administrator.

Date of Submission: 10-06-2020

Date of Acceptance: 28-06-2020

I. INTRODUCTION

In Nigeria, education is perceived and has been accepted as a very essential facet of human existence, hence the interests of Nigerians and the attraction to and on education. Every Nigerian also wants to acquire one educational credential or qualification or the other because of the status of education in the Nigerian society. This is the reason why Eke and Olarinoye (2006) pinpointed that education is probably the most powerful instrument in achieving economic growth, reducing poverty and improving living standards of people. Obasi (2000:40) noted that "education is seen by economists as having both consumption and investment components" (Also see Blaug, 1970:16-22;

Cohn, 1979:33-34). He further stated that "as consumption, good education equates with other consumer items like food, drinks, cigarettes, cars, gasoline and so on demanded by households for immediate satisfaction".

In truism, without adequate funding of a project is it educational, healthcare; electricity, transportation, and so on, planning will be of no effect and void. Every effective planner considers the availability of funds for proper implementation. It is a known fact that to secure adequate funding to fully implement a plan is a heinous task, which will require cooperative efforts, innovative thinking and a lot of public support especially when it comes to planning in/on education. The educational administrator also has a role to play in making sure that adequate funds are provided for planning to be effectively done and implemented.

In contemporary Nigeria, it is understood that recession or economic meltdown has crippled the development, growth and advancement of several sectors of the Nigerian economy including education. This has been a problem for adequate funding of planned educational projects and activities. The educational administration needs to apply transactional, transformational and charismatic leadership styles through reflective thinking and strategizing in order to raise funds for adequate funding of educational plans. This paper discusses the view point of educational administrator on how adequate funding helps in planning.

Conceptual Clarification

In every paper, the writer tries to showcase his or her talent and by so doing, may use words that readers may not be familiar with. It is the duty of the writer to explain his or her meaning of some words that make-up a write-up. This is why Mezieobi, Jerry-Alagbaoso and Onyeagoro (2017:240) pinpointed that "there are divergences of opinions with regard to definition of terms or the clarification of concepts. A school of thought is opposed to it on account of the frustrations or time consumption that concept clarification may yield or consume. Nonetheless, a supportive schools of thought on conceptual clarifications" such as Anugom and Mezieobi (2017:126) averred that "the beginning of the success of every write-up is making the readers to understand its concepts". Mezieobi (2015:130) posited that "the essence of defining terms in a social discourse lies squarely on the premise that it is to provides common frame of understanding (or communicative meaning sharing) between the communicator and his audience the communicate(s)". For these reasons, concepts like adequate funding, effective planning, view-point and educational administrator will be defined extensively.

Adequate Funding

This simply means the availability of suitable financial strength enough to fulfill a need or requirement. Babayi (1998) asserts that funding stands for the source of money gathered, invested or received for a particular purpose. According to the Online Business Dictionary (2013) funding is the provision of financial resources in order to meet a need, project or program. Funding is considered all over the world as the life wire that propels the educational sector towards achieving her objectives. The level of success recorded by the educational sector has been closely linked with the availability of resources. Among the resources needed for the effective administration of the educational sector, funding has been identified as an indispensable instrument. Fafunwa (2010), Nigeria has money but lacks the ability to use it judiciously. This is because funding serves as the life-wire for the management and administration of most sectors of the economy including the educational sector. It is based on this fact that UNESCO recommended that 26% of the annual budget of any nation should be set aside for the administration and management of the educational sector (Odia & Omofonmwan, 2007). This is because such funding strategy will assist in providing the basic resources needed for teaching and learning both in terms of quality and quantity. Over time, effort has been made by government of various countries to ensure improvement in the level of funding made available for the administration of the secondary level of education.

Effective Planning

According to Maheshwari (2009), effective planning means "planning ahead and preparing yourself as a ... to focus on actions to achieve desired results." The planning process starts with setting up the objectives. Once the objectives are achieved, then you start identifying the ways to achieve the objectives. The planners define the resources required to accomplish the task. Once the resources are identified, a timeline is set to achieve the desired objectives. After the identification of resources, the alternative actions are determined and evaluated. Once the all actions are evaluated, the right action is selected and then implementation takes place. In this process of planning, most of planners forget an important step to make the plan successful: The Monitoring System and Assessment Method. The monitoring and assessment system help us in effective implementation of planning and if required then guide us for modification in original plan to achieve our goals.

Viewpoint

Viewpoint simply means opinion or ideology. According to English dictionary the art of representing three-dimensional objects on a two-dimensional surface so as to give the right impression of their height, width, depth, and position in relation to each other.

Educational Administrator

The school administration definition applies to leadership of private or public institutions of learning. It can also be referred to as educational manager or educational leader. An educational administrator is one that oversees the activities going on in an educational institution (Anne, 2018). In Ogunu's (2000) view, educational administrators coordinate effective organization and utilization of the human and material resources in a particular system for the achievement of the identified objectives. However, in the light of Anukam's (2006) educational administrator is the person that process, getting things done in an organizational setting using available human and material resources. This involves decision making, planning, organizing, communicating, directing, coordinating and evaluation carried out to achieve organizational goal. Educational administration is the specialized activity concerned with the direction, the control, and the management of all resources of people and things toward the realization of the predetermined goals and objectives of the institution. Educational administration is the study and practice of managing the resources, tasks and communications involved in running a school.

Benefits of Effective Planning as Opined by an Educational Administrator

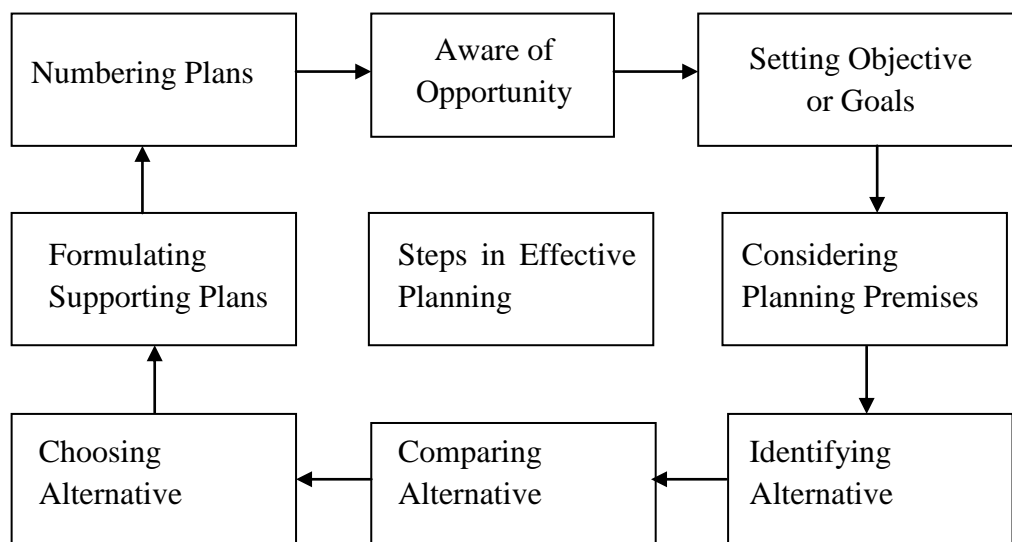
- i. Effective planning helps students, teachers, the educational administrators and all other education stakeholders to achieve their goals and be able to meet the necessary deadlines.
- ii. It provides students, teachers, and the educational administrator and so on with guidelines for the activities that they need to do on a particular day.
- iii. It helps in time management.
- iv. It assists the educational stakeholders to decide what to do and when.
- v. With effective planning, daily routine is listed and tactically followed.
- vi. It makes communication effective.
- vii. Feedback is given as of when due.
- viii. It reduces stress.
- ix. Increased productivity
- x. Helps balance work and personal priorities
- xi. Increase in self-esteem
- xii. Helps being in control of your situation
- xiii. Overcoming procrastination
- xiv. Helps being better organized.

Steps of Effective Planning Process

There are several steps to be taken for effective planning whether in educational related matters and so on. These steps are:

- i. Being aware of the opportunity
- ii. Setting objectives or goals
- iii. Considering planning premises
- iv. Identifying alternative
- v. Comparing alternative in light of goals sought
- vi. Choosing an alternative
- vii. Formulating supporting plans.
- viii. Numbering plans by making budgets. This is where the thoughts about the availability of adequate funds or financial resources come in.

Steps in Diagram



Sources of Funds for Education

Public schools finance mechanisms differ from state to state, and they are often extremely complex. Most commonly, the government contributes a certain percentage of the total school budget for state and federal owned school while private individuals or establishments that own schools finance the schools differently. The average amount of money provided per pupil varies greatly from one state to another. The method of

distributing the state contribution to schools is equally complex, often involving some combination of basic funds, power equalization, local option and categorical funding. This complexity often leads to significant variation from state to state or institution to institution in the percentage of funding received from federal or state sources as the case may be and wide disparities in the level of support for various educational programmes. Typically wealthier states provide more of their funding from internally generated revenues, while lower - income states are more heavily dependent on the federal government and external sources for support. Furthermore, schools can develop strategies for setting funds internally. Some of these strategies can be attracting sponsorships from international organizations, private individuals, donations, religious institutions and so on. In Nigeria, students pay tuition and other fees. These can help in funding of education in general and the schools in particular.

The view point of an educational administrator on how adequate funding can help in effective planning

The availability of sufficient funding for a plan implementation:

- i. Builds confidence
- ii. Makes planning effective and efficient
- iii. Improves the self-confidence of the educational administrator and his planning team.
- iv. It makes the plan realizable.
- v. Time management becomes effective
- vi. Development and growth becomes eminent
- vii. Provision of basic materials/infrastructures for the plan's realization becomes easy.
- viii. There is focus and concentration.

Furthermore, there are reasons why strategic plans fail. They are:

- i. Unrealistic goals or lack of focus and resources
- ii. Plans are overly complex
- iii. Financial estimates are significantly inaccurate
- iv. Plans are based on insufficient data
- v. Inflexible/undefined team roles and responsibilities
- vi. Staffing requirements are not fully understood
- vii. Project scope inflexible to changes

What the educational administrator can do considering there are so many reasons why plans can fail, one might wonder why ever plan at all. For one, mapping out a plan before embarking onto its implementation has plenty of benefits. It allows for a better understanding of educational objectives and their alignment with broader educational goals, but it also helps identify and take into account any impediments that exist in reaching those objectives. Planning helps reduce, and even eliminate uncertainty, improve efficiency of operations, and find smarter ways to complete project tasks and deliverables. Studies have shown that organizations that have adopted project Portfolio Management (PPM) solutions, including effective project management tools to help manage projects and the portfolio and also conduct ongoing reviews of these projects see an increased likelihood of portfolios that meet schedules, scope quality, budget, time and educational benefits.

Well-defined educational planning also provides a basis for monitoring and controlling work on the project, which is crucial to staying on top of schedules, milestones, costs, risks and issues. Employing effective software measurement tools therefore becomes essential, not only for early forecasting and estimates, but for measuring compliance and identifying trends and deviations along the way.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. Without the availability of funds to carry out implementation of an educational plan, the educational administrator should suspend the plan to avoid embarrassment or criticisms.
- ii. Reflective thinking is very essential in educational planning. An educational administrator should encourage it.
- iii. More pieces of research on adequate funding and effective planning should be carried out, and properly disseminated.
- iv. The government should increase its budget on education so that educational plans can be effectively implemented.

III. CONCLUSION

It is clear that all these concepts refer to the process of planning, organizing, directing and controlling the activities of an institution by utilizing human and material resources so as to effectively and efficiently accomplish functions of teaching, extension work and research. Without adequate funding, educational planning implementation can never be effective. The problem facing the Nigerian education today is issue of under-

funding. Under-funding has reduced the quality and standard of Nigerian education. Nigeria is also a country in the midst of national change. It is imperative that the government of Nigeria and the Ministry of Education review the elements of human productivity that will modify how education is administered in that society today. A change in policy will assure that the growth that this country seeks occurs not through major changes, but through challenges or its citizens that are sometimes overlooked. This paper has tactically discussed the viewpoint of an educational administrator on how adequate funding can help in effective planning and implementation.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Anne P.C (2018) Definition of Educational Administration - Updated July 23, 2018.
- [2]. Anugom, F. O. and Mezieobi, K. C. (2017). Inclusive education for sustainable development in Nigeria: The innovative imperative in African Journal of Innovations and Reforms in Educational Management, 1(1). 125-132.
- [3]. Babayi, A.U. (1998). Funding of technical education. A paper presented at the First Annual Niger State, Nigeria Association of Teachers of Technology NATT. Held at Secondary Education Board, Minna April
- [4]. Blang, M. (1970). An Introduction to economics of education. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books Ltd.
- [5]. Business Dictionary 2013. Funding. Retrieved from <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/funding.html>
- [6]. Cohn, E. (1979). The economics of education. Cambridge: Ballinger Publishing Company.
- [7]. Eke, E. and Olarinoye, R. D. (2016). Politics of Nigerian education. The Nigerian Academy of Education proceedings of the 21st Annual Congress of NAC held in Bauchi, 6-10 November.
- [8]. Fafunwa, H.B. (2010). Classes are bid for failure before examination itself. The Nigerian Education Times, 20-21.
- [9]. Maheshwari, T. N. (2009). College students' time management: correlations with academic performance and stress. In journal of educational psychology, 82(4), 760-769.
- [10]. Mezieobi, K. A. and Mezieobi, S. A. (Eds.) Evaluation in social studies: The substance. Owerri: Priscilla Omame publishers.
- [11]. Mezieobi, K. A., Mezieobi, K. C., Jerry-Alagbaoso, K. S. and Onyeasoro, K. M. (201&) political institutions: The example of Nigeria in Mezieobi, K. A, (Ed.) Essays in social studies. Owerri: Christopher Kamkoma publishing company.
- [12]. Obasi, E. (2000). The economics of education in Nigeria. Mbaise: New vision publishers.

Stanley U. Nnorom, et. al “Adequate Funding Of Educational Institutions Proselytizes Effective Planning: View Point Of An Educational Administration.” *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)*, 25(6), 2020, pp. 34-38.