



Educational Planning in Nigeria: Problems, Prospects and Possible Solutions

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Abstract: Educational planning is vital to the realization education objectives. Educational planning is crucial in the implementation of educational programme and projects. Educational planning in Nigeria is plagued with many challenges. This paper examined the problems and prospects of educational planning in Nigeria and suggested possible solutions to address the problems facing educational planning in Nigeria.

Keywords: Educational planning, Education.

INTRODUCTION

Educational planning involves a systematic and scientific set of decisions for future action with the aim of achieving set educational goals and objectives through effective use of scarce resources. It provides the tool for coordinating and controlling the direction of the educational system so that educational objectives can be realized. It is a process of identifying and classifying educational needs of a nation and the direction education should take and the strategies for

implementing decisions concerning educational development (Akpan (2014). Educational planning according to Noun (2009) involves a consideration of unforeseen obstacles and making provision for possible ways of overcoming them. This implies that educational planning calls for a constant evaluation and modification. If necessary of the related programmes until the anticipated goals are achieved. For example, if you plan to operate a Nursery and Primary School, it is your duty to get it started, and until pupils start graduating from the school, and the school continue to sustain itself and achieve its goals, the process of planning, implementing and evaluation will continue.

Olaniyonu, Adekoya and Gbenu (2004) in Coombs (1970) viewed educational planning as "the application of rational systematic analysis to the process of educational development with the aim of making education more effective and efficient in responding to the needs of the students and the society". Beeby cited in Ogunode et al (2021) submitted that Educational planning is the act of outlining the future objectives, programme and activities of education and identifying the means to achieving them. Educational planning is the process of drawing out the vision, goals and programme of education and defining the various ways of realizing them within the set time.

Ogunode, Eyiolorunse-Aiyedun, & Olatunde-Aiyedun, (2021) observed that Educational planning is one of the component that is very important to educational development and implementation. Educational planning is the key to the realization of educational objectives. Educational planning is the foundation of the educational system. The success of education depends on the effective planning. Educational planning is a continuous programme that ensures that educational policies and programmes are designed to meet up with the various changes occurring in the educational system.

There are many factors that determine the effectiveness of educational planning and some of the factors include: the attitude of the political office holder toward educational planning, the funds available for planning of education, the planning tools available, the number of educational professional planners, the level of capacity development for educational planners and political stability. Educational planning covers planning of the early child education, basic education, junior secondary education, senior secondary education and the higher education. Education planning also include plan for special education, gender education, mass education, adult education and science education and so on (Ogunode, Gregory & Abubakar,2020).

Educational planning covers the subcomponent of the educational system like manpower planning, school plant planning, infrastructural facilities planning, academic planning, lesson planning, financial planning for schools and so on. Educational planning in Nigeria have not been much attention to by the governments, this is why the educational planning system is engulfed with many challenges.

Educational planning is the act of outlining the future objectives, programme and activities of education and identifying the means to achieving them. Educational planning is the process of drawing out the vision, goals and programme of education and defining the various ways of realizing them within the set time. Educational planning cover early child education, primary school education, junior secondary school education, secondary school education, higher education, special needs education, mass education, women education, Girl child education, adult

education and Gender education. Educational planning also focus on manpower planning, plant planning, infrastructural facilities planning, student planning, curriculum planning, human resource planning and instructional materials planning (Ogunode, Jegede, Audu, & Adah, 2021)..

Educational planning in Nigeria is done by the federal, states government and local government in agreement with various stakeholders in the educational system. The state government is saddled with the responsibilities of planning on how the national plan document will be implement in their state while the local government authority also plan the implementation of the national plan document in the various local government councils (Ogunode, Jegede, Audu, & Adah, 2021)..

Educational planning is aimed at ensuring effective implementation of educational programme; to reduce wastage in the educational administration; to ensure effective allocation of resources; to ensure quality education, to ensure educational policies achieve its objectives and to avoid mismanagement of educational resources (Ogunode, Jegede, Audu, & Adah, 2021).

Educational planning is the key to the realization of educational objectives. Educational planning is the critical to the development of education. Educational planning is the bedrock upon which education depends to actualize it programme. Effective planning of education leads to effective implementation and failure to plan education lead to poor implementation. The development of educational system depend on the effective planning (Ogunode, Jegede, Audu, & Adah, 2021).

Problems Militating against Effective Educational planning in Nigeria **Inadequate Funding for Planning**

Funding has been a major challenge to effective educational planning in Nigeria. This opinion is agreed upon by Victoria & Owuama (2016) and Mohammed, Ogunode, Yahaya (2021) they concluded that inadequate funding of educational planning in Nigeria is a big problem that has prevented effective planning of education in Nigeria. Funding for educational planning is from the general fund of education. The budgetary allocation for the educational sector is inadequate and this is affecting the programme of other subsector in the Ministry of education. Also, Olobube, (2013) observed that the budgetary allocations that are available for educational planning in Nigeria is nothing to write home about. Funds provide for education planning is too small for proper planning to take place. The condition of the sector remains a thing of concern. Under-funding and systemic corruption makes the matter worse. The insufficient funding of the education planning sector stands as one of the major factors working against effective planning and implementation of education programmes (Ogunode,2018b).

Shortage of Professional Planners

Another problem that has militated against effective planning of education in Nigeria is shortage of professional planner. Noun (2009) acknowledged that the lack of sufficiently well trained personnel in the planning units of the Ministries of Education is another problem. This unit require people with the ability to carry out project development in the educational service. So as to realize the goals set by the planners. The units in the Ministries therefore lack specialist such as educational planners, statisticians, programmers, and analyst, who could effectively develop and ensure successful execution of plans. This is partly as a result of the rigidity of the educational system which is not responding adequately to the need to place people who are trained in the area of educational planning in the appropriate position. The wrong notion that anyone who has served

in the Ministry of Education for a long period could automatically occupy such planning units in the Ministries having their directors of planning as people who just rose through the ranks without any cognate experience in the skill of planning. In addition, the few available specialists who are employed in the planning divisions of education sometimes opt for the private sector as a result of the poor conditions of service offered in the Ministry. Adeyemi and Oguntimehin (2000) stated there are not enough experts in Nigeria on educational planning. There are small units in the ministries of education which are responsible for educational planning. These units are often staffed with educational officers who rose from the rank.

Lack of Current Data

Inadequate data is a problem that has prevented effective educational planning in Nigeria. This submission is affirmed by Ogunode (2021a) that opined that there is shortage of educational data on all the forms of educational institutions in the country. There is lack of data on the early child education programme, there is shortage of data on primary school education, there is inadequate data on secondary school education and there is lack of data on the higher education in Nigeria. NEEDS (2014) and Moja (2000) observed that the inability of the government agencies to generate current and reliable data for all the forms of education has affected the planning of education in Nigeria. Ololube, (2013) submitted that one of the most difficult challenges that educational planners face is the issues of inaccurate statistical data. The quality of technical planning is in most cases inhibited by statistical deficiencies and inaccurate data. British Council (2014) concluded that access to reliable and complete information on education in Nigeria has for a long time proved difficult. The development of a national database for education statistics has been slow and various data generating agencies (including the Federal Ministry of Education, Universal Basic Education Commission, National Population Commission and National Bureau of Statistics) often used different sample designs, methods of data collection, analysis and reporting, different modes of disaggregation and definitions of indicators. The absence of rudimentary data at school and local level in many areas is often viewed as a crisis, inhibiting the development of effective education planning, monitoring, programming and policy-making. Ogunode, Adah, Audu, & Musa, (2021) concluded that inadequate funding, shortage of professional data collection officers, inadequate working materials, institutional corruption, poor capacity development programme of data collection officers, poor methods and approaches used for collecting data, poor supervision and inspection and political influence are the problems that has hindered effective data collection and distribution in educational institutions.

Corruption

Corruption has penetrated the administration and management of education in Nigeria. Funds made available for planning purposes have been diverted by officers working in the various agencies and department handling planning of education. Corruption is one of the biggest challenges that have militated against effective planning of education in Nigeria. Gbenu, (2012) stated that High level of corruption and wastage of resources in which the limited fund made available is diverted into personal purses and sometimes used for projects not budgeted for. Transparency International says 66 per cent of the money Nigerian governments allocate to education is stolen by corrupt officials. According to the report, corruption is commonplace in education systems across the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). “This affects education access, quality, inclusion and learning outcomes with devastating consequences, not only for national economic growth but also for the life chances of children, their families and communities,” the report said. The report highlighted “Resource misallocation, corrupt procurement, exchange of sex for grades, examination malpractices, fake qualifications, teacher

absenteeism, and corrupt recruitment practices” as the various corruption risks and challenges facing education systems in all the countries (Premiuntimes, 2020). Ogunode (2020c) established that corruption was among the factors that has prevented effective planning of education in Nigeria.

Ineffective Capacity Building

Poor capacity development of planner working in different agencies and department of education both at the state and federal level have also hindered effective planning of education in Nigeria. Many educational planners since employed have not gone for training and retraining programme to help them improve on their planning capacities. Training and retraining programme is vital for educational planners. It helps them acquire new knowledge and skills of modern planning. Educational planners who are exposed to training and retraining programme perform well than those who are not going for training. Fabunmi (2004) noted that “most of the planning officers are not trained in educational planning. Most of them studied disciplines in humanities, thus, they are not suitable for the task they are performing. How can a specialist in history be asked to plan education. Also, Josiah & Ogunode (2021) opined that poor capacity development programme of educational planners presently working in the local education authority departments is affecting the planning of primary school education. Many educational planners since employed in the services of the local education authority as planning officers have attended none capacity development programme to improve their planning knowledge and skills.

Shortage of Planning Materials

The problem of lack of planning tools in the various agencies, ministries and department of education in Nigeria is another factor that has prevented effective planning of education in Nigeria. Many federal, states and local government department of education no not have adequate planning tools in their various offices and agencies for educational planners to use for panning of the education. Noun (2009) noted that another important constraint of educational planning in Nigeria has to do with inadequate planning tools. Such as calculating machines, computers and other materials and facilities that are essential for effective planning. It is equally important to note that educational planners in the country are not adequately consulted before policies that are related to education are formulated. Consequently, there is the tendency for them to develop programmes on policies that are not clear to them or that may be difficult for them to justify. Peaking (2020) and Ogunode (2020d) discovered that inadequate planning material is among the problems that have hindered effective planning of education in Nigeria.

Political Influence

Political power or political influence is a major problem that has militated against effective planning of education in Nigeria. Political officeholders always influence the educational planners to sit educational institutions in their states and communities. Educational planners are not allowed to plan education objectives especially in the siting of educational plants across the country. This problem of influencing educational planners is responsible for the concentration of educational institutions in one particular zone while other zones are having less educational institutions in the country. Longe, (2003); Gbenu (2012) and Ogunode & Ajape (2021) noted political power as the use of power, influence and authority by the government of the day, especially in the allocation of resources. Legislature has a direct influence on the planning processes as the body responsible for policy formulation on educational development. Generally, the legislature is compelled to serve the interest of other special interest groups. There is therefore the possibility of conflicts between legislature and the rational ideas proposed by the technical planners which has been based on statistical analysis of the education system. The legislature represents the government; the

technical planner is responsible for analysis of the education system, making available projection for enrolment, physical facilities, funds and personnel required for an educational project. Ogunode (2020e) identified political influence as a major obstacle to educational planning in Nigeria.

Lack of Political Will to Support Planning of Education

Another challenge educational planning is facing in Nigeria negative attitudes of political officers holders towards planning of education. Ogunode, Gregory & Abubakar, (2020) opined that the political officeholders in Nigeria no not support the activities of educational planners with needed resources and political will. This culture is not encouraging the development of educational planning in the country. Planning of education in Nigeria lack political will and this is affecting the effective planning of education in the country. Ogunode, et al (2020) did a study that assessed the political officeholder attitudes towards planning of education in FCT. The results revealed that there was significant relationship between the attitudes of political officeholders and poor planning of education in FCT. The finding revealed that the majorities of the respondents disagreed that political officeholders have positive attitude toward educational planning, majorities of the respondents disagreed that adequately funding are provided for educational planning. It was also discovered that majorities of the respondents disagreed that political officeholders are support the capacity development of educational planners and 100% of the respondents disagreed that political officeholders are providing necessary planning tools for educational planner to plan education. Educational planning in Nigeria have not been much attention by the government this why the educational planning system is engulfed with many challenges. The Nigerian educational planning system is ineffective due to lack of support by the government. The attitude of the Nigerian government to educational planning is not encouraging.

Insecurity

Insecurity is another problem hindering educational planning in Nigeria. Planning involve many programmes like traveling to collect data, consultation with stakeholders and visitation to different places within the country. The insecurity in the Nigeria especially in the Northern Nigeria affected movement of planners for data collection and consultation. Ogunode, Akinsua-Ajape & Jegede, (2021) observed that many students, teachers, school administrators and supervisors have lost their lives due to insecurity challenges in the Northern part of Nigeria. Insecurity in Northeast part of Nigeria has led to the destruction of lives and properties. The insecurity challenges have led to school closure and suspension of academic calendar in all both early child education centres, basic education, secondary schools and higher institutions. No any meaningful development can take place in any educational institutions amidst insecurity. The insecurity in Northern part of Nigeria is hampering the development of education reducing enrolment rate, retention rate and transition rate within the basic education and other forms of education.

Prospects of Educational Planning in Nigeria

Increment in Funding of Education

The promised of increment in educational funding by the federal government of Nigeria is a good step toward the development of educational planning in Nigeria. Recall that the Nigerian president pledge to increase the country's annual spending for education by 50 per cent "over the next two years and by 100 per cent by 2025.". This will definitely help in the development of educational planning programme in Nigeria.

Educational Planning offer in More Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria

Educational administration and planning is offered in many tertiary institutions in Nigeria at both first degree, master and at PhD level. This development will help to further research in the programme and advance its development in Nigeria.

Support from International Organization

Educational administration and planning programme due to its important in the realization of educational programme and goals more attention are given to the programme by international organization like World-Bank, UNICEF and UNESCO. These international institutions have helped practitioners in the field by providing them with technical capacity and research.

Conclusion and Possible Solution

This paper discussed the challenges that have militated against educational planning in Nigeria. The paper concluded that inadequate funding for planning, shortage of professional planners, lack of current data, corruption, ineffective capacity building, shortage of planning materials, political influence, lack of political will to support planning of education and insecurity are some of the challenges that have militated against educational planning in Nigeria. The paper also listed the following as increment in funding of education, educational planning offer in more tertiary institutions in Nigeria and support from international organization as prospects of educational planning in Nigeria.

To solve the problems identified, the paper suggested the following solutions:

- 1) The government should increase funding of educational planning in Nigeria;
- 2) Government at every level in Nigeria should employ more professional planners and deploy them to the ministries, departments and agencies;
- 3) The government should ensure educational data are generated constantly in the country;
- 4) The government should monitor funds released for planning programme in all the ministries, department and agencies to avoid been diverted to private hands by officials in the ministries;
- 5) Constant training and retraining programme should be organized for educational planners working in the ministries, agencies and department of education in Nigeria;
- 6) The government should adequate planning tools for educational planners working in the ministries;
- 7) The politicians and political actors in the government should allow the educational planners to do their work professionally and the government should develop the political will to support educational planning programme in Nigeria;
- 8) The government should ensure adequate security in the country by addressing issues responsible for insecurities problems in Nigeria;

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