

## **The Impact of Funding on Educational Development in Nigeria**

**Uloma V. Amadi**

**and**

**Professor U.J. Nwogu**

**Email:** [amaditoria@gmail.com](mailto:amaditoria@gmail.com)<sup>2</sup>

### **Abstract**

Education is a veritable tool for the social and economic development of any nation. Adequate funding is crucial for the deployment of necessary resources and interventions needed to improve educational outcomes. Previous studies have stressed the importance of effective allocation and utilization of funds for the promotion of sustainable educational development. Low funding has been identified as a key challenge in the educational sector of many developing nations including Nigeria and addressing this challenge is essential for improving the quality and accessibility of education, reducing poverty, and promoting peace and stability in these nations. Nigeria's allocation to its education sector has continued to fall short of the UNESCO standard. This paper examines the impact of funding on educational development in Nigeria and how adequate funding can be leveraged to improve educational outcomes in the country. A quantitative research method was used to analyse data collected including interviews with key stakeholders in the education sector in Nigeria. The findings of the study revealed that inadequate funding in Nigeria has contributed to low enrolment rate, teacher training and professional development, infrastructure and learning materials, and lack of relevance to the needs of the labour market, all of which have significant implications for the country's social and economic development. The paper concludes by stressing the urgent need for increased funding and interventions to improve the education system in Nigeria and recommends that the government should urgently increase public funding for education, encourage private sector investment in education, and prioritize education funding and development to ensure that the country's human capital is equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to drive the nation's economic and social development.

**Keywords:** Corruption, development, funding, policies

### **Introduction**

Education is widely recognized as a key factor in social and economic development, (UNESCO) (2021) stressed that investment in human resources rather than physical capital and natural resources is what constitutes the main basis of the wealth of the nation. However, Nigeria faces significant challenges in this area, with a large number of out-of-school children and an education system that is often criticized for its low quality. Funding for education in Nigeria is a significant challenge, as the country has a complex funding landscape, with multiple sources of funding from public, private, and donor sources. Public funding for education is often inadequate, with government expenditure on

education falling well below the 26% of the educational budget recommended by UNESCO. Private funding for education, on the other hand, is often inaccessible for low-income families, worsening existing inequalities in access to education.

Donor funding for education is often tied to specific programs or initiatives and can be unpredictable and subject to shifting priorities. Aina (2013) opined that Nigeria has several challenges in its education sector. According to UNESCO (2021), Nigeria has the highest number of out-of-school children in the world. The quality of education in Nigeria is also a significant issue. According to the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report 2019, Nigeria ranks 116 out of 141 countries in terms of the quality of its education system. This has led to concerns about the relevance of education in Nigeria, particularly in terms of preparing students for the labour market and promoting sustainable development. Nigeria's education system has its roots in the country's colonial history. During the colonial period, education was primarily reserved for the elite, and the focus was on providing Western-style education to prepare Nigerians for administrative and clerical roles in the colonial government.

In the post-independence period, the Nigerian government sought to expand access to education and establish a system that reflected the country's cultural and linguistic diversity, the government introduced policies and programs aimed at increasing access to education, particularly at the primary and secondary school levels. However, the oil boom of the 1970s led to a decline in the government's investment in education, and the sector began to suffer from inadequate funding and poor management. In response to these challenges, the government introduced structural adjustment programs in the 1980s and 1990s that aimed to reduce government spending on social services, including education. The impact of these policies on education was significant, with a decline in the quality of education and limited access to learning resources, the government's efforts to improve the quality of education through policies such as the Universal Basic Education (UBE) program have been undermined by inadequate funding and weak management capacity. According to Ebong in Asodike, Oluwuo & Abraham (2013) no educational programme or policy can be executed without financial resources. Education is essential for the development of any society, including Nigeria. Education equips individuals with the knowledge and skills they need to be productive members of society, contribute to the economy, and engage in democratic processes. The importance of education in Nigeria can be understood in several ways.

Firstly, education is essential for human capital development. It enables individuals to acquire knowledge, skills, and competencies that are necessary for economic development. Education enhances productivity and innovation, which can lead to economic growth and development. A well-educated population is better able to participate in the labour market, start businesses, and drive economic growth. Secondly, education is essential for social and cultural development. Education helps individuals understand their cultural heritage and appreciate the cultural diversity of their society. Education also promotes social cohesion, tolerance, and understanding, which are essential for building peaceful and inclusive societies. Thirdly, education is essential for political development. Education enables individuals to participate in democratic processes and hold their leaders accountable. Educated citizens are more likely to understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens, and they are better equipped to engage in political processes, such as voting and running

for public office. Fourthly, education is essential for environmental development. Education promotes environmental awareness and helps individuals understand the impact of their actions on the environment. Education also equips individuals with the knowledge and skills they need to protect the environment and promote sustainable development. According to UNESCO (2015), education for sustainable development “empowers people to change the way they think and work towards a sustainable future”. Fifthly, education is essential for Linkages to Labour Market.

The relevance of education is often measured by its ability to prepare students for the labour market. In Nigeria, there has been a growing concern about the mismatch between the skills acquired by graduates and the needs of the labour market. One of the major reasons for this mismatch is the inadequate funding of education. Many schools lack the resources to develop and implement modern and relevant curricula that are tailored to the needs of the labour market. This has resulted in graduates who lack the skills and competencies required to succeed in the 21st-century labour market.

To address this challenge, there is a need for increased investment in education, particularly in the area of curriculum development. This includes the provision of funding for the development of modern and relevant curricula that are tailored to the needs of the labour market. There is also a need for stronger linkages between the education sector and the labour market. This includes the establishment of partnerships between schools and employers to ensure that curricula are designed to meet the needs of the labour market. It also involves the provision of internships, apprenticeships, and job shadowing opportunities for students to gain practical experience and exposure to the labour market.

The education system in Nigeria is divided into three levels: primary, secondary, and tertiary education. Primary education is compulsory and lasts for six years, while secondary education lasts for six years and is divided into junior and senior secondary schools. Tertiary education includes universities, polytechnics, and colleges of education. Despite the importance of education, Nigeria faces significant challenges in providing quality education to its citizens. One of the most significant challenges is access to education. Johnson and Wasiu (2016) assert that poverty is a significant barrier to education access, particularly in rural areas, where families may not be able to afford the cost of education. Cultural barriers, such as early marriage and gender discrimination, also affect access to education, particularly for girls, lack of infrastructure, such as schools and teachers, limits access to education in many parts of the country, they maintained that countries like Ghana, Japan and others invest more than 30% of their budget on education, unlike Nigeria.

The quality of education in Nigeria poses a challenge, Nigeria has one of the lowest literacy rates in the world, with only 59% of the adult population able to read and write. The World Bank (2014) ranked Nigeria 152 out of 188 countries of the world in the Human Development Index with Indices 0.471. Factors contributing to the low quality of education include a lack of qualified teachers, inadequate infrastructure, and outdated curricula. The relevance of education in Nigeria is another significant concern, particularly in the context of a rapidly changing job market. The education system in Nigeria has been criticized for its focus on theoretical knowledge rather than practical skills that are relevant to the job market, which has led to a significant mismatch between the skills

of graduates and the needs of the job market, contributing to high levels of youth unemployment in the country.

### **Funding Education in Nigeria**

Fund is the quantity of money earmarked for a particular project. Funding education in Nigeria has been a significant challenge, with education accounting for only a small percentage of the national budget. Funding education in Nigeria come from various sources, such as government, private donor, and corporate social responsibility amongst others.

### **Government Funding**

The Nigerian government is the primary source of funding for education in the country. The government provides funding for primary, secondary, and tertiary education through various channels, including the Universal Basic Education (UBE) program and the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TET Fund). According to Imhabekhai & Tonwe (2011), the government provides 80% of the fund needed for recurrent and capital expenditure in Nigeria as against other developed countries where tuition fee is the major source of fund. However, the level of government funding for education has been inadequate, with education accounting for only about 7% of the national budget, far below the recommended 26% by UNESCO. Government funding of education refers to the financial support provided by the government to ensure that every citizen has access to education, this has resulted in a range of challenges, including inadequate infrastructure, outdated curricula, a shortage of qualified teachers, and limited access to education in many parts of the country. The UBE program was established in 1999 to provide free, compulsory, and qualitative basic education for every Nigerian child between the ages of 6 and 15 years. The TET Fund was also established in 2011 to provide funding for research and development in tertiary institutions and to support infrastructure development in tertiary institutions.

However, the level of public funding for education in Nigeria has been inadequate, and the education sector has been underfunded for many years. This has led to a range of challenges, including inadequate facilities, low teacher salaries, and limited access to education in many parts of the country. The inadequate funding has also resulted in a decline in the quality of education, with many schools lacking basic amenities like classrooms, libraries, and laboratories. Uche (2020), opines that proper allocation and effective utilization of resources are two inseparable functions for the achievement of education goals.

To address the challenges associated with public funding of education in Nigeria, there is a need for increased funding for education, as well as policies and strategies that prioritize education funding and ensure transparency and accountability in the allocation and management of funds. There is also a need for partnerships between the government, private sector, and civil society to increase funding for education and ensure sustainable development of the education sector in Nigeria.

## **Private Funding of Education**

Private funding of education refers to the financial support provided by individuals, corporations, and other private organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations NGOs, and Local communities to support education. In Nigeria, private funding of education is usually in the form of tuition fees, donations, and endowments. Private funding has contributed to the development of education in Nigeria, particularly in the development of private schools, which cater to the middle and upper classes. Private schools in Nigeria are known for their high standards, modern facilities, and up-to-date curricula, which have contributed to improving the quality of education in the country. However, private funding has also contributed to the widening gap in education access and quality between the rich and the poor. Private schools are often expensive and cater to only a small percentage of the population, leaving many children without access to quality education.

To address the challenges associated with private funding of education in Nigeria, there is a need for policies and strategies that promote public-private partnerships and increase the involvement of the private sector in funding education. The government can encourage private funding of education by providing incentives, such as tax breaks and subsidies, to private organizations that invest in education. There is also a need for regulations to ensure that private schools are accessible and affordable to all Nigerians, regardless of their socio-economic status. Additionally, private funding should be complemented with public funding to ensure that every Nigerian child has access to quality education.

## **Donor Funding of Education**

Donor funding of education refers to the financial support provided by international organizations, such as the World Bank, United Nations, and other aid agencies, to support education in developing countries like Nigeria. Donor funding of education in Nigeria is primarily aimed at improving access to education, increasing the quality of education, and supporting policy reforms in the education sector. Ahunaya *et. al* (2013), agreed that funding education extends to international communities, they emphasise that foreign donors are also sources of funding for education. Donor funding of education in Nigeria has contributed significantly to the development of education in the country. It has been used to fund projects, such as the construction of schools, the provision of textbooks and other learning materials, teacher training, and research. Donor funding has also supported the development of policies and strategies that have improved the quality of education in the country. However, donor funding of education in Nigeria has also been criticized for its lack of sustainability, as most donor-funded projects are short-term and do not address the underlying structural challenges facing the education sector in Nigeria. Donor funding also tends to be tied to specific conditions, which can undermine the ability of the government to set its education priorities.

To address the challenges associated with donor funding of education in Nigeria, there is a need for policies and strategies that prioritize the sustainability of donor-funded projects and align them with national development priorities. There is also a need for increased transparency and accountability in the allocation and management of donor funds, to ensure that they are effectively used to address the challenges facing the education sector in Nigeria. Finally, there is a need for increased investment in

the education sector by the Nigerian government, to ensure that the education sector is adequately funded and able to provide quality education to all Nigerian children.

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) has also emerged as a way of funding education in Nigeria, with some companies investing in education through various initiatives such as scholarship programs, and teacher training, and it is often tied to the corporate interest of the company.

### **Funding Challenges**

There are several funding challenges that the education sector in Nigeria faces, which have contributed to the inadequate funding of education in the country. Oyedeki (2017), reveals that problems of funding in Nigeria include:

**Inadequate budgetary allocation:** The Nigerian government's budgetary allocation to education has been consistently low over the years. Education is not prioritized in the national budget, with inadequate funding for capital projects, teacher salaries, and education materials. Uche & Wordi (2015), emphasized that funding for education downward trend has continued to worsen to date.

**Inefficient budget implementation:** Even when budgetary allocations are made, they are often not fully implemented. There are issues with transparency and accountability in budget implementation, which lead to funds being diverted or not being used effectively.

**Weak revenue generation:** Nigeria's revenue base is narrow, with over-dependence on oil revenue. The country's tax base is low, with many individuals and businesses evading taxes. This limits the government's ability to generate revenue and invest in social services such as education.

**Corruption:** Corruption is a significant challenge in Nigeria, with funds meant for public projects being embezzled or misused. Corruption in the education sector has led to the diversion of funds, resulting in inadequate funding for education projects and programs.

**Insufficient donor funding:** Donor funding has been an important source of funding for education in Nigeria. However, donor funding is often targeted at specific programs and initiatives, and there is a risk of over-reliance on donor funding to support education projects.

**Inadequate private sector investment:** The private sector has become increasingly involved in education funding in Nigeria. However, private sector investment in education is often focused on urban areas and is not sufficient to address the education funding gap in the country.

**Security:** The security situation in Nigeria can also influence funding for education. In areas where there is conflict or insecurity, it may be challenging to provide adequate funding for education, leading to reduced access to education and poor learning outcomes. These funding challenges have contributed to the inadequate funding of education in Nigeria, which has resulted in poor educational outcomes, limited access to education, and inadequate educational infrastructure. Addressing these funding challenges requires a long-term commitment to education investment, effective budget implementation, increased revenue generation, and strong anti-corruption measures.

**Population explosion:** Nigeria has one of the fastest growing population rates in the world due to the high birth rate of foreigners coming without restriction, in support of this, Ogbonnaya (2012) states that vital resources needed in the school system will be inadequate when the enrolment rate is high.



## **Impact of Funding on Education Development**

The impact of funding on educational development in Nigeria cannot be overstated.

Inadequate funding of education in Nigeria has resulted in a range of challenges, including inadequate infrastructure, outdated curricula, low teacher salaries, and limited access to education in many parts of the country. These challenges have contributed to a decline in the quality of education in Nigeria, leading to poor academic performance and limited opportunities for Nigerian students.

**Poor infrastructure:** Inadequate funding can result in inadequate provision and maintenance of educational infrastructure, such as inadequate classrooms, laboratories, libraries and other facilities. This can create a negative learning environment, leading to poor learning outcomes and reduced motivation among students and teachers.

**Low teacher quality:** Inadequate funding can lead to low salaries, lack of professional development opportunities and low motivation among teachers. This can result in reduced teacher effectiveness and lower quality of teaching, which can lead to lower student learning outcomes.

**Limited access to education:** Inadequate funding can limit access to education for disadvantaged groups, such as girls, children from low-income families and those living in remote areas, this can exacerbate inequalities in education and limit opportunities for social mobility.

**Limited curriculum and Learning materials:** Inadequate funding can limit the development of curriculum materials, educational technologies and instructional resources that align with best practices in teaching and learning. This can result in outdated and inadequate learning materials and resources, leading to a reduced quality of education.

**Ineffective monitoring and evaluation:** Inadequate funding can limit the monitoring and evaluation of education systems, leading to ineffective policy decisions and reduced effectiveness of education programs. This can result in the continuation of ineffective education practices and limited progress in improving education outcomes.

Access to education is a critical issue in Nigeria, as many children still do not have access to education, particularly in rural areas and among marginalized communities. Access to education is essential to ensure that all Nigerian children have the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in life.

Several factors contribute to the limited access to education in Nigeria, including poverty, cultural barriers, inadequate infrastructure, and poor quality of education. Many families cannot afford the cost of education, including tuition fees, uniforms, and learning materials, which makes it challenging for children from disadvantaged families to access education. Additionally, cultural factors such as early marriage and child labour, particularly among girls, limit access to education. In Nigeria, access to education is a significant issue, particularly for individuals from low-income families and marginalized communities. The government has taken various measures to promote equity in education, including the introduction of free primary education and the establishment of the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) to promote access to basic education. Inadequate infrastructure, such as a lack of schools and classrooms, also contributes to limited access to

education, particularly in rural areas. The poor quality of education, including outdated curricula and low teacher qualifications, further limits access to education in Nigeria.

Several measures can be taken to increase access to education in Nigeria. These include increasing investment in the education sector, promoting public-private partnerships, and implementing policies that address the cultural and socio-economic barriers to education. The government can also provide financial support to disadvantaged families to ensure that they can afford the cost of education.

### **Quality of Education:**

The quality of education in Nigeria is a significant concern and is an essential factor that affects the development of the country. The quality of education is determined by various factors, including the competence and qualifications of teachers, the relevance of the curriculum to current and future needs, the availability of learning resources, the teaching and learning environment, and the capacity of institutions to manage and deliver quality education.

In Nigeria, several factors contribute to the poor quality of education. Firstly, inadequate funding of education limits the ability of institutions to provide the necessary infrastructure, learning materials, and teacher training needed to deliver quality education. Secondly, a lack of adequate teacher training programs and low teacher salaries limit the capacity of teachers to deliver quality education. Thirdly, outdated curricula and teaching methods do not provide Nigerian students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the global economy.

Fourthly, poor management of institutions and a lack of accountability have also contributed to the poor quality of education in Nigeria. This includes inadequate monitoring and evaluation of institutions and programs, lack of transparency in decision-making, and the absence of effective mechanisms for addressing grievances.

Improving the quality of education in Nigeria requires a multi-faceted approach. It includes increasing investment in education, reforming the curriculum and teaching methods, improving teacher training programs, and providing adequate learning resources. Other measures include improving the teaching and learning environment, strengthening institutions' management capacity, and promoting accountability. To improve the quality of education in Nigeria, the government needs to increase funding for education and implement policies that incentivize private sector investment in education. The government also needs to reform the curriculum and teaching methods to make them relevant to current and future needs. Additionally, the government should invest in teacher training programs and provide incentives to attract and retain qualified teachers.

### **Equity in Education**

Equity in education refers to the principle of providing equal opportunities to all individuals, regardless of their socioeconomic status, gender, race, religion, or other characteristics. Achieving equity in education is crucial for ensuring that all individuals have access to the knowledge and skills they need to reach their full potential and contribute to society. In Nigeria, access to education is a significant issue, particularly for individuals from low-income families and marginalized communities. The government has taken various measures to promote equity in education, including



the introduction of free primary education and the establishment of the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) to promote access to basic education.

### **Enrolment Rates**

Enrolment rates have been a key indicator of access to education in Nigeria. In recent years, Nigeria has made significant progress in increasing enrolment rates in primary education. According to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, the net enrolment rate in primary education increased from 61% in 2006 to 70% in 2016. However, despite this progress, Nigeria still has one of the highest rates of out-of-school children in the world, with an estimated 10.5 million children out of school. One of the key reasons for the high rate of out-of-school children in Nigeria is poverty. Many families cannot afford to send their children to school due to the high cost of education. This is particularly true in rural areas, where poverty rates are higher than in urban areas. Additionally, children in rural areas face other barriers to education, such as a lack of access to schools and transportation.

Another factor contributing to the low enrolment rates in Nigeria is the quality of education. Many schools in Nigeria lack the necessary infrastructure, such as classrooms, libraries, and instructional materials, to provide quality education. Additionally, teacher quality is often low, with many teachers lacking the necessary training and qualifications to effectively teach students. Improving funding for education is critical to increasing enrolment rates in Nigeria. The government and international organizations must work together to increase funding for education and ensure that resources are allocated effectively to address the challenges faced by education stakeholders in the country. This includes providing funding for infrastructure improvements, teacher training, and other resources necessary to improve the quality of education and make it more accessible to all children, particularly those in rural areas.

### **Geographical Disparities**

Geographical disparities are another impact of funding of education in Nigeria. The northern regions of the country have much lower enrolment rates than the southern regions. This is due in part to the higher poverty rates in the north, as well as the prevalence of cultural and religious practices that discourage girls from attending school.

In addition to government programs, there are many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working to improve access to education in Nigeria. One example is the Development Africa Women's Network (DAWN), which is working to increase enrolment rates for girls in the northern regions of the country. DAWN provides scholarships to girls and works with local communities to raise awareness of the importance of education. While these programs and initiatives have had some success in improving access to education in Nigeria, there is still a long way to go. Geographical disparities in access to education must be addressed through sustained efforts by the government, NGOs, and other stakeholders. This includes providing funding for infrastructure improvements, teacher training, and other resources necessary to improve the quality of education in all regions of the country.

## **Gender Disparities**

Gender disparities in access to education also pose a challenge in Nigerian education. Girls are less likely than boys to attend school, particularly in the northern regions of the country. This is due in part to cultural and religious practices that prioritize boys' education over girls' education. The Nigerian government has implemented several policies and programs aimed at increasing access to education for girls. One of these is the Girls Education Project (GEP), which is a joint initiative of the Nigerian government and the World Bank. GEP aims to increase the number of girls enrolled in primary and secondary schools, improve the quality of education for girls, and reduce gender disparities in enrolment rates. includes providing funding for programs aimed at increasing enrolment rates for girls, improving the quality of education for girls, and addressing cultural and social barriers that prevent girls from attending school.

In addition to government initiatives, several NGOs and other organizations are working to improve access to education for girls in Nigeria. One example is the Malala Fund, which is working to empower girls through education in Nigeria and other countries. The Malala Fund provides scholarships, advocates for policy change, and works with local communities to raise awareness of the importance of girls' education. Despite these efforts, gender disparities in access to education remain a significant challenge in Nigeria. Continued investment in girls' education is necessary to ensure that all children in Nigeria have access to quality education. This includes providing funding for programs aimed at increasing enrolment rates for girls, improving the quality of education for girls, and addressing cultural and social barriers that prevent girls from attending school

## **Teacher Training and Professional Development**

Teacher training and professional development are critical factors that affect the quality of education in Nigeria. Teachers play a crucial role in imparting knowledge and skills to students, and their training and development are crucial for improving the quality of education. Inadequate funding has resulted in a lack of teacher training and professional development opportunities in Nigeria. Teachers often lack the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively teach students, resulting in poor learning outcomes. In addition, inadequate funding has resulted in low teacher morale and motivation, which further affects the quality of education.

To address these challenges, the Nigerian government has implemented several initiatives aimed at improving teacher training and professional development. These include the Teacher Professional Development (TPD) program and the National Teachers' Institute (NTI). The TPD program is aimed at improving the quality of teaching by providing training and professional development opportunities for teachers. The NTI is a distance learning institution that offers teacher training and development programs.

Despite these initiatives, there is still a significant need for increased investment in teacher training and professional development in Nigeria. This includes providing adequate funding for these initiatives, ensuring that they are implemented effectively, and encouraging more teachers to participate in training programs. By investing in teacher training and professional development, Nigeria can improve the quality of education and help students achieve better learning outcomes.

## **Curriculum Development**

Curriculum development is another critical factor that affects the quality of education in Nigeria. The curriculum determines the content, methods, and materials used in teaching, and it plays a crucial role in shaping the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of students. In Nigeria, the National Policy on Education (NPE) sets the framework for curriculum development. However, the implementation of the curriculum is often hampered by inadequate funding, inadequate teacher training, and a lack of appropriate teaching materials.

To address these challenges, the Nigerian government has implemented several initiatives aimed at improving curriculum development. These include the development of new curricula, the revision of existing curricula, and the provision of teaching materials. The government has also encouraged greater collaboration between educators, policymakers, and other stakeholders in the curriculum development process. Despite these initiatives, there is still a significant need for increased investment in curriculum development in Nigeria. This includes providing adequate funding for curriculum development, ensuring that teachers receive the necessary training and support to implement the curriculum effectively, and ensuring that appropriate teaching materials are available. By investing in curriculum development, Nigeria can improve the quality of education and help students develop the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in the 21st century.

## **Infrastructure and Learning Materials**

Infrastructure and learning materials are essential components of the education system that can greatly impact the quality of education in Nigeria. Adequate infrastructure and learning materials provide students with a conducive environment for learning and help to enhance the quality of education. In Nigeria, inadequate infrastructure and learning materials are a significant challenge in the education sector. Many schools lack basic facilities such as classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and toilets. Additionally, many schools do not have access to up-to-date learning materials such as textbooks, computers, and other educational resources.

To address these challenges, the Nigerian government has implemented several initiatives aimed at improving infrastructure and providing learning materials. These initiatives include the construction of new schools and classrooms, renovation of existing facilities, and the provision of educational resources such as textbooks, computers, and other learning materials. Despite these efforts, many schools in Nigeria still lack adequate infrastructure and learning materials. This hampers the quality of education and limits the opportunities available to students. Addressing these challenges requires increased investment in infrastructure and learning materials, as well as better coordination and collaboration between stakeholders in the education sector. By improving infrastructure and providing adequate learning materials, Nigeria can enhance the quality of education and provide students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in the 21st century.

## **Positive impacts of funding on education**

To improve the quality of education in Nigeria, the government needs to increase funding for education and implement policies that incentivize private sector investment in education. Adeyemi & Adeyinka (2019), stated that adequate funding of education has positive effects on the education sector.

**Improved infrastructure:** Adequate funding enables the provision and maintenance of educational infrastructure such as classrooms, laboratories, libraries and other facilities that enable effective teaching and learning. Ebong (2006) in Uche (2020) observe that the standard of the environment and facilities in which teaching and learning take place helps to determine the progress or failure of the school. This implies that improved infrastructure contributes to better learning outcomes, enhances the teaching experience and creates an overall positive learning environment for students.

**Better teacher quality:** Adequate funding can provide better salaries, benefits and professional development opportunities for teachers, such as pre-service training and in-service training which equips the teacher for lifelong learning Ojekudo (2016). This will respond to the growth and developmental needs of the individual, and improve their effectiveness and motivation as well as those of the society, which leads to better learning outcomes for students, as well as improved retention rates for teachers.

**Increased access to education:** Adequate funding can support the development of scholarships. Bursaries and other forms of financial assistance to support the education of disadvantaged groups, such as girls, children from low-income families and those living in remote areas. This improves access to education for these groups and helps to reduce inequalities in education.

**Improved Curriculum and Learning Materials:** Education is important to the growth, development and sustainability of any nation. The high level of unemployable graduates amongst others are indications that the Nigerian education curriculum needs critical evaluation Asodike (2015) posited that proper and adequate analysis of change and innovation in the education system is required for drastic human and economic development. This implies that funding can help to develop curriculum materials, educational technologies and instructional resources that align with best practices in teaching and learning. This improves the quality of education by providing teachers with the necessary tools to deliver high-quality instruction.

**Effective monitoring and evaluation:** Adequate funding can help to improve the monitoring and evaluation of education systems, which can inform policy decisions and improve the effectiveness of education programs. This can help to identify gaps in education provision, evaluate the impact of interventions and promote evidence-based decision-making.

## **Education for Sustainable Development:**

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is an approach to education that seeks to equip students with the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values necessary to contribute to sustainable development. ESD is becoming increasingly important in Nigeria, as the country faces a range of sustainability challenges, including environmental degradation, climate change, and economic inequality. The United Nations (2015), defined sustainable development as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own

needs". The funding of ESD programs in Nigeria has been limited, which has resulted in a lack of investment in infrastructure, curriculum development, and teacher training. This has hindered the implementation and effectiveness of ESD programs in the country.

To address these challenges, there is a need for increased funding for ESD programs in Nigeria. This includes investment in infrastructure and equipment, curriculum development, and teacher training. There is also a need to develop partnerships between educational institutions and other stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and the private sector, to ensure that ESD programs are relevant to the needs of society. According to UNSECO (2016) education for sustainable development "empowers people to change the way they think and work towards a sustainable future" In addition, there is a need to raise awareness and promote the importance of ESD in Nigeria. This includes awareness-raising campaigns targeting students, teachers, parents, and other stakeholders, as well as the integration of ESD concepts into the wider education system. Thus, increased funding and support for ESD programs in Nigeria can help to address the country's sustainability challenges and contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as they go hand in hand. By equipping students with the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values necessary for sustainable development, ESD can help to build a more sustainable and equitable future for Nigeria.

### **Negative Impacts of Inadequate Funding on Education**

**Poor infrastructure:** Inadequate funding can result in inadequate provision and maintenance of educational infrastructure, such as inadequate classrooms, laboratories, libraries and other facilities. This can create a negative learning environment, leading to poor learning outcomes and reduced motivation among students and teachers.

**Low teacher quality:** Inadequate funding can lead to low salaries, lack of professional development opportunities and low motivation among teachers. This can result in reduced teacher effectiveness and lower quality of teaching, which can lead to lower student learning outcomes.

**Limited access to education:** Inadequate funding can limit access to education for disadvantaged groups, such as girls, children from low-income families and those living in remote areas, this can exacerbate inequalities in education and limit opportunities for social mobility.

**Limited curriculum and Learning materials:** Inadequate funding can limit the development of curriculum materials, educational technologies and instructional resources that align with best practices in teaching and learning. This can result in outdated and inadequate learning materials and resources, leading to a reduced quality of education.

**Ineffective monitoring and evaluation:** Inadequate funding can limit the monitoring and evaluation of education systems, leading to ineffective policy decisions and reduced effectiveness of education programs. This can result in the continuation of ineffective education practices and limited progress in improving education outcomes.

Given the importance of education for social and economic development, addressing the challenges facing education in Nigeria is a critical priority. Funding is a key determinant of the availability and quality of education, and understanding how funding affects educational development in Nigeria is

essential to improving the country's education system. The expenditure on education has been fluctuating with 8.6% in 2013, 10.6% in 2015, 7.9% in 2016, 6.13% in 2017 and 8.8% in 2023. World Bank (2023). Percentages of Nigeria's education budgets between 2008- 2023 show that Nigeria has not significantly impacted on education sector to influence national development. Adequate funding plays an important role in education development as it determines the availability of resources for schools, teachers, and infrastructure. However, funding for education in Nigeria has been inadequate, with education accounting for only a small percentage of the national budget. Inadequate funding has significant implications for education access, quality, relevance, and equity, and limits Nigeria's potential for human capital development. The budgetary allocation to the education sector has not been stable, it has been fluctuating, the Federal Government's annual percentage budgetary expenditure on education from 2004-2023 is presented in Table 1.

<b>FISCAL YEARS</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE (%) ALLOCATION TO EDUCATION</b>
<b>2004</b>	<b>7.75</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>5.24</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>8.21</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>10.43</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>9.75</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>8.79</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>7.39</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>7.39</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>9.86</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>10.21</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>8.70</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>10.63</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>7.90</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>6.13</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>7.14</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>7.12</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>6.50</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>5.70</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>5.40</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>8.80</b>

**Source: Adapted from the World Bank (2023), Nigeria Education Sector Analysis.**

<http://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-report/documentdetail>.

Table 1 reveals that the budgetary allocation to the education sector for the past twenty (20) years shows a rising and falling line with the best years as 2015, 2007, 2013 and 2012 with budgetary allocations of 10.63%, 10.43%, 10.21% and 9.86%, which is far below UNESCO recommendation of 26% for developing countries allocation to the education sector.



## **Statement of the Problem**

Today, education remains a significant challenge in Nigeria, with limited access, poor outcomes, and inadequate investment in the sector. The government has recognized the importance of education in driving economic growth and development and has taken steps to increase investment in the sector. However, sustained investment and a long-term commitment to education are needed to address the challenges facing the education sector in Nigeria. Effective allocation and utilization of funds are crucial for promoting sustainable educational development in Nigeria, as low funding has been identified as a key in the sector, and addressing this challenge is essential for improving the quality and accessibility of education, reducing poverty and promoting peace and stability. Inadequate funding has also contributed to poor infrastructure, low enrolment rate, inadequate teacher training, and outdated curricula among other factors contributing to low educational quality in Nigeria. While the government has made efforts to increase funding for education, the amount allocated to education in the national budget remains insufficient to meet the needs of the education sector. The study intends to investigate the impact of funding on the educational development of Nigeria.

## **Aim and Objectives**

The study aimed to examine the impact of funding on the educational development of Nigeria. To achieve this, the following objectives were stated below:

1. To identify the current level of funding in Nigeria.
2. To find out the ways funding can impact access to education in Nigeria
3. To ascertain the Impact of funding on the quality of education in Nigeria.

## **Research Questions**

The following research questions guided the study.

1. What is the current level of funding for education in Nigeria?
2. To what extent has funding impacted access to education
3. How has funding impacted the quality of education in Nigeria?

## **Significance of the Study**

The findings, conclusions and recommendations of the study will be significant to the following: policymakers, stakeholders in education, government, teachers, public and private organisational managers, and community leaders amongst others. The study will help policymakers and stakeholders in education to identify the most effective strategies for improving the accessibility of education in the country such as corruption or bureaucratic inefficiencies. The study will be relevant to teachers as it will help them understand how funding impacts the quality of education in Nigeria in terms of teacher training, curriculum development and learning materials. The study will be relevant to the government because education is a fundamental human right and an essential factor in achieving sustainable development, reducing poverty, and promoting peace and stability.

Public and private organisations will understand how the different sources of funding interact and how they can be leveraged effectively to ensure that resources are used efficiently and effectively. The study will also provide valuable lessons for other countries in the region and beyond as they will understand how to improve their educational outcomes.

### **Methodology**

The study adopted a mixed-method research design. To address the research questions and achieve the purpose of the study. The study used both primary and secondary data sources to provide a comprehensive understanding of the impact of funding on the educational development of Nigeria. Primary data were collected through an online survey and an in-depth interview with stakeholders in education funding and development in Nigeria. Secondary data was collected using academic databases such as Google Scholar, DSTOR and Science Direct. The quantitative data generated was analysed with descriptive statistics. Data collected was analysed using frequency distribution, mean and standard deviations, a mean of 2.50 was to determine whether an item was accepted or not.

1. **Research Question One:** What is the current level of funding for education in Nigeria?

**Table 1: Mean responses of respondents' opinions on the current level of funding for education in Nigeria**

Current level of funding for education in nigeria	Mean	Sd	Decision
1. Nigeria's education expenditure has been relatively low compared to unesco recommended 26% allocation	3.30	0.757	Accepted
2. There has been a slight increase of 7.1% in the budget for education	2.47	1.163	Rejected
3. Despite the increase, nigeria still lags behind other countries in funding education.	2.55	1.015	Accepted
4. Inadequate funding has resulted in a poorly resourced-education system	2.83	1.067	Accepted
5. Inadequate funding has led to a lack of access to quality education	2.50	1.012	Accepted
6. Corruption and mismanagement of funds have contributed to inadequate funding of education	2.66	1.029	Accepted
7. Inadequate funding has resulted in a brain drain	2.65	1.018	Accepted
8. Inadequate funding has been made through the establishment of universal basic education (ube).	2.62	1.007	Accepted
9. Efforts to increase inadequate funding to ensure that all children have access to quality education	2.49	1.038	Rejected
10. There is a need to address inadequate funding to ensure that all children have access to quality education	2.61	0.961	Accepted

The data in Table 1 revealed that items 2 and 9 had mean scores below the criterion mean of 2.50. This indicates that the government has taken steps to increase funding for education, such as the Universal Basic Education (UBE). However, items 1,3,4,6,7,8, and 10 scored above the criterion mean of 2.50 and were perceived to be accepted by the respondent, thus indicating that insufficient funding is one of the main barriers to improving access to education in Nigeria. The lack of funding has resulted in inadequate infrastructure, insufficient instructional materials and low teacher performance.

**Research Question Two:** To what extent has funding impacted access to education in Nigeria?

**Table 2: Mean responses of respondents' opinions on the extent funding has impacted access to education.**

Impact of funding to access education in Nigeria	Mean (x)	SDSD	Decision
11 Inadequate funding has contributed to the lack of access to education	2.65	1.018	Accepted
12 Lack of funding has resulted in a shortage of schools, classrooms and teachers	2.80	1.012	Accepted
13 Inadequate funding has resulted in a lack of resources and learning materials	2.71	1.044	Accepted
14 Lack of funding has made it difficult to provide scholarships and other forms of financial assistance to children from low-income families	2.69	1.072	Accepted
15 Efforts to increase funding for education have had some positive impact on access to education	2.47	1.163	Rejected
16 The Universal Basic Education (UBE) program has improved access to education for many marginalized children	2.49	1.038	Rejected
17 There is still a significant gap in access to education between marginalized groups and the rest of the population	2.80	1.012	Accepted
18 Inadequate funding can lead to low literacy rates	2.69	1.072	Accepted
19 Addressing the social and economic factors are important to ensure equal access to education	2.52	1.005	Accepted
20. Inadequate funding can limit access to education for disadvantaged groups.	2.53	1.079	Accepted

The data in Table 2 revealed that items 15 and 16 had mean scores below the criterion mean of 2.50 which indicates that adequate funding can support the development and implementation of educational policies and programs that can enhance the quality of education. Funding can be used to develop curriculum materials, educational technologies, and infrastructural resources that align with best practices in teaching and learning.

Items 12,13,14,17,18,19 and 20 scored above the mean criterion of 2.50 and were perceived to be accepted by the respondents. This indicates that lack of funding resulted in poor infrastructure, low teacher quality, limited access to education, limited curriculum and learning materials, ineffective monitoring and evaluation and limited progress in improving education outcomes.

**Research Question Three:** How has funding impacted the quality of education in Nigeria?

**Table 3: Mean responses of respondent's opinions on how funding has impacted the quality of education in Nigeria.**

Impact of funding on the quality of education	Mean (x)	Sd	Decision
21. Lack of infrastructure and learning materials.	2.77	1.036	Accepted
22. Shortage of qualified teachers and lack of teacher training opportunities.	2.60	1.046	Accepted
23. Lack of curriculum development.	2.69	1.000	Accepted
24. Shortage of learning materials and equipment for teachers to deliver quality education.	2.58	0.831	Accepted
25. The brain drain of qualified teachers and education professionals.	2.75	1.067	Accepted
26. The establishment of the universal basic education (ube) programme has had a positive impact on the quality of education.	2.87	0.993	Accepted
27. Lack of accountability, inadequate policies and corruption have impacted negatively on the quality of education.	2.82	0.929	Accepted
28. Addressing the issues is critical to ensure effective funding to improve the quality of education.	2.77	1.043	Accepted
29. The ube program has resulted in the construction of new schools, and classrooms, provisions of textbooks and the recruitment of more teachers.	2.71	1.062	Accepted
30. Education policies must be reformed to address the challenges facing a quality education system.	2.68	1.034	Accepted

The data in Table 3 reveals that the mean scores are above the criterion mean of 2.50. This was perceived as accepted by the correspondent which indicates that the impact of funding on the quality of education in Nigeria is limited by the systemic challenges facing the Nigeria education system such as corruption, lack of accountability, inadequate policies, a brain drain of qualified teachers and education professionals seeking better opportunities elsewhere, outdated curricula that do not adequately prepare students for the market demand of the 21<sup>st</sup>-century workforce.

## **Discussion of Results**

Results from the findings in Table 1 revealed that government education allocation was below the UNESCO recommended allocation and has been fluctuating over time, but a slight increase has been made in recent years with the government allocating 7.1% of its budget to education in 2021 and 8.8% in 2023. Despite the slight increase in funding, Nigeria still lags behind other African countries in terms of education expenditure. These findings agree with Johnson and Wasiu (2016). The World Bank (2014) ranked Nigeria 152 out of 188 countries of the world in Human Development with indices of 0.471. They maintained that countries like Japan, Canada, Norway and others invest more than 30% of their total expenditure on education. The inadequate funding has resulted in a poorly resourced education system that is unable to meet the needs of its students and the country's economic growth and development as education is a key driver of economic growth.

Table 2 reveals that adequate funding can be used to improve access to education. It also reveals that lack of funding has resulted in a shortage of schools, classrooms and teachers. This is also supported by Oyedeji (2017) that inadequate funding has resulted in a lack of resources and learning materials, which has further disadvantaged marginalized groups. The present findings also support earlier findings by Johnson and Wasiu (2016) who say that Nigerians ranked low on the Human Development Index. According to the World Bank (2021), education is a fundamental human right and an essential factor in achieving sustainable development, reducing poverty and promoting peace and stability.

Table 3 reveals that inadequate funding has resulted in a lack of quality education in Nigeria in terms of teacher training, curriculum development, provision of infrastructure and learning materials, and brain drain of qualified teachers and educational professionals. Aina (2013) posits that Nigeria has several challenges in its education sector such as low funding, low enrolment, poor quality of education, and corruption amongst others. Adeyemi and Adeyinka (2019) agreed that addressing these challenges is critical to ensure that funding education is utilized effectively to improve the quality of education. They further stated that the barriers and challenges to educational development in Nigeria, such as corruption or bureaucratic inefficiencies must be accompanied by broader reforms and policies to address the systematic challenges facing the education system.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, education is an essential aspect of human development and the key to achieving social and economic growth. In Nigeria, inadequate funding has been identified as one of the major challenges facing the educational sector, leading to a decline in the quantity of education and limited access to education for many. The negative effects of inadequate funding can be seen in low literacy rates, limited access to educational resources, and a lack of qualified teachers, among other things.



On the other hand, adequate funding can have a positive impact on educational development in Nigeria, leading to improvements in literacy rates, access to quality education, and the development of human capital. Factors that can influence funding for education in Nigeria include, government policies and priorities, public support for education and corruption and mismanagement of funds.

Despite the challenges facing the educational sector in Nigeria, there are still some success stories of schools and programs that have thrived despite limited funding. It is important to analyse the factors that contributed to their success, such as community involvement, innovative teaching strategies and efficient use of resources, and use these as a model for improving educational development in Nigeria. Overall a collaborative effort is required from all stakeholders to ensure adequate funding for education in Nigeria and promote sustainable educational development.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made to improve education funding and development in Nigeria:

1. **Increase public funding for education:** The government should increase its budgetary allocation to education and ensure that the funds are utilized effectively to improve access, quality, and relevance of education in Nigeria, ensure that marginalized groups have equal access to education and are not discriminated against in terms of quality of education.
2. **Encourage private sector investment in education:** The government should encourage private sector investment in education by providing incentives and creating a conducive environment for private sector participation in education, strengthening its partnerships with donor agencies to secure more funding for education in Nigeria. However, the government should ensure that the funding is aligned with national priorities and is utilized effectively
3. **Improve teacher training and professional development:** The government should prioritize training and professional development programs for teachers to improve the quality of education in Nigeria. The government should prioritize the development of a relevant curriculum that is responsive to the needs of the labour market and encourages entrepreneurship.

Overall, the government should prioritize education funding and development in Nigeria to ensure that the country's human capital is equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to drive economic and social development.

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