

Inflation and Educational Administration in Nigeria

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Abstract

This paper examined the impact of inflation on educational administration in Nigeria. The paper depends on secondary data to affirm its' assumption. The secondary data used in the paper were collected from online publications, government documents and print resources. Content analysis was used to select the final literature that was in line with the theme of the study. The paper revealed a reduction in budgetary allocation, increment in operational cost, poor development of infrastructure facilities in schools, reduction in enrolment, poor quality of education and poor implementation of the school curriculum are the impacts of inflation on educational administration in Nigeria. Based on these findings, the paper suggested these measures; The government should increase the funding of education to enable administrators to meet up with increment in running the schools' costs. Governments should increase the salaries of school administrators and teachers. The government should provide school buses to all educational institutions to aid staff and students' movement to schools.

Keywords: Education administration, Inflation, Nigeria, education, management

Introduction:

The responsibility for administering the education sector in Nigeria is shared among the federal, state and local governments. Thus, in the country's constitution, education is on the concurrent list, but the Federal Government is empowered to regulate all its sectors, engage in policy formation and ensure quality control. Also, the provisions of the constitution allow each tier of government to focus its responsibilities mainly on a sector of education. The Federal Government is involved directly in tertiary education. The states take care of secondary education, while the local governments handle primary education. Despite this arrangement, the Federal Government is expected to support the state and local governments in counterpart funding to enhance the quality of education in the country (NEEDS, 2014).

The administration of the education system is shared mainly among the education ministries at the federal and state levels, as well as statutory bodies referred to as commissions. There are commissions established for different subsectors of the education system and are charged with various responsibilities for the subsectors. The FME is responsible for the coherence of the national policy and procedures and for ensuring that the states' policies operate within the parameters of the national policy as adapted for local needs (Moja, 2000). Coordination of policy at the political level is handled by the National Council of Education, the highest policymaking body chaired by the Federal Minister of Education and includes all the State Commissioners of Education. This body is advised by the Joint Consultative Committee on Education, which consists of all the Federal and State Directors of Education, Chief Executives of education statutory bodies, and Directors of University Institutes of Education (NEEDS, 2014).

The state-level education ministries are responsible for the development and implementation of educational policies, management and supervision of educational institutions in their respective states. Specifically, the responsibilities for maintaining all public elementary and secondary schools are vested in the education ministry. Such responsibilities include: determining the salaries of teachers; recruitment, appointment, promotion and discipline of staff; and provision of guidelines on the establishment of new schools and training and re-training of teaching and non-teaching staff. The oversight functions of the Ministry of Education are carried out through several agencies. For instance, the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) is responsible for the management of basic education, while the Teaching Service Commission takes charge of senior secondary education at the state level (NEEDS, 2014). Educational administration in Nigeria is critical to the realization the education goals.

Educational administration is affected by many factors such as poor funding, insecurity, shortage of professional teachers, inadequate infrastructure facilities, lack of instructional resources and inflation. Inflation appears as one of the major problems affecting educational administration in Nigeria. It is imperative to examine the impact of inflation on educational administration in Nigeria.

Literature Review:

Educational administration is the systematic way of arranging educational resources to actualize the objectives of educational institutions. Educational administration is a broad umbrella encompassing several processes such as planning, coordinating, controlling and being involved in other management processes and contributing to the formulation of policies. To achieve these goals, the head of the educational organization plans carefully various programmes and activities. The educational organization may be a school, college or university. The head organizes these programmes and activities with cooperation from other teachers, parents and students, motivating them and coordinating the efforts of staff members as well as directing and exercising control over them (Nwankwoala, 2016). The head evaluates the performance and progress of staff in achieving the purpose of the educational programme, provides feedback to them and brings modifications to the plans and programmes of the institution when required. The totality of these processes which are directed towards realizing or achieving the purposes of the school is called educational administration. Educational administration is the process of identifying, mobilizing and utilizing scarce human and material resources relevant to education to achieve specific educational goals efficiently and effectively (Kalagbor, 2017).

Educational Administration is concerned with integrating the appropriate human and material resources that are made available and made effective for achieving the purposes of a programme of an educational institution (Gift, 2018). According to Kalagbor (2017), the following activities and programmes come under the scope of educational administration at the institutional level:

- i. Deciding the purposes of the institution or school,
- ii. Planning for academic or curricular and cocurricular activities,
- iii. Preparing the timetable and the time schedules for various activities,
- iv. Assigning duties and responsibilities to the staff members,
- v. Organizing curricular and co-curricular programmes,
- vi. Directing and motivating the staff of the institution,
- vii. Coordinating by efforts of people to achieve the purpose.

- viii. Exercising control over the staff,
- ix. Conducting periodical reviews about the progress, achievements and failures of the institution,
- x. Taking measures for staff development,
- xi. Maintaining order and discipline,
- xii. Management of materials
- xiii. Management of finance
- xiv. Maintaining records and registers up to date,
- xv. Maintaining human relationships,
- xvi. Supervision of the work of teachers and other employees
- xvii. Giving feedback to the teachers performing well and taking remedial measures for teachers not performing well.

Educational administration appears to be affected by inflation. Pans Pressui (2024) defined inflation as a sustained increase in the general price level of goods and services in an economy over some time. To break it down; it means that the value of money decreases over time, causing the prices of things to go up the roof. The same amount of money can buy fewer goods and services than usual (Pans pressui, 2024). Inflation which is defined as the sustained increase in the general price level of goods and services in an economy though can be beneficial to some areas of the economy, like stimulating economic growth, it can also cause some serious problems, especially when it comes to the cost of feeding, acquiring teaching and learning materials, tuition fees, salaries of teachers and transportation costs of both students and teachers (Ahmed & Tochukwu, 2024).

Inflation is the continuous fall in the purchasing value of money, in that, more money chases fewer goods and services, which adversely affects negatively on the economy and reduces the standard of living of the population (Ogbebor et al., 2020). Femi (2022) concludes that inflation occurs when a lot of money can only be used to buy a small number of products and services. Inflation affects education. Giami (2023) maintained that rise in inflation had increased geometrically, and had reduced the standard of living that had inadvertently affected the education sector where the teachers are the centre of focus in the implementation of educational policies for the attainment of predetermined goals and objectives. The situation has become more pathetic with the steady decline in the budgetary allocation to the education sector in the past years. This resulted in the near lack of provision of instructional materials, facilities and equipment, stagnated salaries, no promotion and payment of increment arrears, poor working conditions, and uncondusive teaching and learning environment among others. All these put together are strong indicators that may affect teachers' job performance and negate their level of productivity in the school system.

The disengagement of teachers and other administrative staff during inflation by school management to reduce the cost of operation and to be in the market has implications for quality education. When the teacher-student ratio is low and few teachers are teaching larger numbers of students, it affects the quality of education. During inflation, managers of schools due to a shortage of funds available to schools decided to reduce procurement of all needed educational resources and only purchase a few as a result inflation increases the operational cost of the schools. This decision of not buying the required and adequate teaching and learning resources affects the quality of education because education can be likened to a system in that all resources must be provided with the right qualities and deployed. The failure to do this will affect the quality of education (Ogunode et al., 2024).

The cost of living of teachers is affected by inflation because teachers who have access to little money at hand are constrained in terms of their movement to school and attendance in the classroom. When teachers miss class and cannot teach the entire period as planned in the scheme and syllable as a result of inflation; the missed classes and lessons will imply students resulting in poor quality of education because students do not learn what they are supposed to learn at the right time. During inflation many poor parents cannot afford to transport their wards to schools regularly and some wards do not eat well in their rooms due to the high prices of foodstuff in the market. The poor feeding of the children at home leads to malnutrition and poor class attendance. This action affects student learning and has led to poor quality of learning. Inflation can hamper education development because it makes all educational resources unreached to school managers, students and parents. Inflation leads to an increase in school fees that affect student enrolment, retention and school completion. Inflation affects facility development and maintenance in schools and can lead to poor quality of education if those resources are not provided as a result of inflation (Ogunode et al., 2024).

Methodology:

The paper is a position paper. The paper depends on secondary data that were collected from print and online publications to support the various points raised in the paper. The paper employed the use of content analysis to select the final literature for the paper.

Impact of inflation on educational administration in Nigeria:

The impact of inflation on educational administration in Nigeria centres on the following points:

- i. **Reduction in budgetary allocation:** Inflation in Nigeria has affected budgetary allocation to education generally. Inflation can also lead to a decrease in the quality of education available, as educational institutions may have to reduce their budgets due to the rising costs of goods and services. This can result in reduced access to educational materials, as well as a decrease in the number of teachers available (OECD, 2018). Moreover, the majority claimed that inflation (90.4%) that the government has not provided enough funds to improve the quality of education because of inflation (Adegoke, 2011).
- ii. **Increment in operational cost:** McCarthy (2017) also found that inflation is a major factor impacting the cost of education. He further pointed out that the increasing cost of education is also linked to a range of other factors, such as the rising cost of living, increasing demand for higher education, and the decreasing purchasing power of the currency. Inflation has a significant influence on the salaries of teachers and other education expenses, such as the cost of tuition. This means that the cost of tuition and salaries of teachers increases as the rate of inflation increases (Nwankwo, 2018; Ogunode, & Ukozor, 2023). Ahmed & Tochukwu (2024) write that inflation has a major impact on the quality and cost of education. Inflation can affect the salaries of teachers, the cost of tuition and other education expenses, and can influence the quality of education within the system. The findings of the study revealed that the impact of inflation on the quality of education in Nigeria is significant. Most of the respondents (66.7%) reported that

inflation has led to an increase in the cost of basic education. Additionally, the majority (80.1%) of the respondents reported that the quality of education has deteriorated due to inflation (Adegoke, 2011). Akeredolu (2022) concluded in his study that 52.5% confirmed that their institution increased tuition fees by 10-30% in the past year and their room and board fees increased by 10-30% in the same period, 47.5% confirmed that the cost of transportation increased by 10-30% while 35% confirmed a 40-90% increase in transportation cost. 45% of the students confirmed that the increase in feeding cost has mildly affected their school schedules, 22.5% confirmed that it has greatly affected their school schedules and 2.5% confirmed that it has extremely affected their school schedules.

- iii. **Poor Development of Infrastructure Facilities in Schools:** Inflation has led to poor development of infrastructure facilities. School infrastructural facilities according to Ogunode & Agwor (2021) refer to social capital within the school environment. They include school buildings/complexes such as classrooms, tables, exam halls, chairs, auditoria, desks, staff offices, seminar/conference/board rooms, laboratories, workshops, studios, farms, gymnasias, central libraries, specialized/professional libraries, faculty libraries, departmental libraries, etc., Institute/centres' specialized facilities e.g. ICT infrastructure, special laboratories, conference facilities, etc., and Boards e.g. interactive, magnetic, screen and chalk, etc., ICT that is computer laboratories and services, network connectivity, multi-media system, public address system, slide, and video projectors, and Ergonomics furnishing in laboratories, libraries, and lecture rooms/theatres, moot courts, and studios, etc. Due to inflation, Ogunod et al. (2024) and Ogunode & Ukozor (2023) concluded that the price of building materials has increased drastically in the market due to inflation and this has affected facilities development in most Basic schools where projects like building more classrooms, computer centres and offices are going on. Contractors handling various projects in schools across the country are complaining about the high prices of building resources. This has slowed down many projects because contracts need to seek review of the contracts to get more funds to deploy for the completion of the facilities in the schools. Inflation has led to inflation has affected the development of infrastructure facilities in schools in Nigeria. The paper also concluded that contract review, increment in cost of building materials, increment in labour, abandonment of projects and delay in the commencement of new projects are the impact of inflation on infrastructure facilities development in the schools in Nigeria.
- iv. **Reduction in Enrolment:** According to a report (OECD, 2016), inflation has had a “significant negative effect” on enrollment in educational institutions in many countries. OECD conducted a study (2018) in which they found that countries with higher rates of inflation tend to have lower enrollment rates in both primary and secondary education. The report states that the rising cost of tuition, books, and other educational expenses can place a financial burden on students and their families, making it difficult for them to afford an education. The report also found that higher inflation rates can lead to a decrease in the availability of scholarships and other financial aid, which can further reduce enrollment. Inflation can have a significant and negative effect on enrollment in educational institutions, as it can make an education more costly and can reduce the quality of the education

- available. It is important for educational institutions to be aware of the potential impact of inflation and to take measures to ensure that students can afford an education and that the quality of education is not compromised (Ahmed, et al 2024).
- v. **Poor Quality of Education:** Inflation has implications for poor quality education in Nigeria. Ejiofor & Okonkwo (2013) did a study and they found that there was a positive but weak correlation between inflation and educational performance in Nigeria. The results also showed that inflation had a negative and statistically significant effect on educational performance. Furthermore, the study revealed that the effect of inflation on educational performance was stronger in private universities than in public universities. Also, Nwankwo (2018) did a study that revealed that there is a positive and significant relationship between inflation and education. The study also revealed that inflation has a negative effect on the quality of education. It was also found that inflation has a negative impact on the availability of educational resources, such as classroom space and textbooks. The study also revealed that inflation has a negative effect on the level of teachers' salaries, which in turn affects the quality of education. Okeke & Nwankwo (2011) did a study and discovered that there was a significant negative relationship between inflation and educational performance in Nigeria. The study concluded that inflation affects educational performance in Nigeria. Oladipupo & Oluwole (2008) concluded that inflation has a negative effect on the educational performance of school-going adolescents in Nigeria. It was found that the higher the inflation rate, the lower the educational performance of students. The findings also revealed that the gender of the student, the type of school the student attends, and the location of the school had a significant effect on the educational performance of the students.
- vi. **Poor Implementation of Curriculum:** Inflation in Nigeria has slowed down the implementation of school curriculum. Inflation has affected teachers the implementer of the curriculum. Giami (2023) noted that inflation reduces the standard of living of people, especially those fixed-income earners. Inflation is the era of continuous rise in the prices of goods and services. Where money loses its purchasing value as much money chases fewer goods and services. This has affected teachers' morale and competencies in the performance of assigned tasks. This situation has equally affected the quality of education in the country, especially in public senior secondary schools. Akpomi, et al. (2018) opined that the lives of all citizens suffered economic hardship during the period of inflation. Inflation in Nigeria has led to the devaluation of naira and this has grossly reduced the value of the teachers' fixed income. Inflation is antiworkers' economic growth because it allows for arbitrary increases in prices of goods and services to the detriment of workers' fixed income even when it is glaring that their purchasing power is being reduced persistently which erodes their propensity to save. This situation affects teachers' job performance. Inflation has led to an increment in the prices of instructional resources and affects teachers' salaries. Gagarawa and Mehrotra (2017) noted that inflation erodes teachers' income, and increases their expenditures subjecting them to receiving loans with high interest, forcing the teachers to take extra income-generating work in an attempt to maintain their normal life, these consequently undermine their living standard. When teachers are

not psychologically okay, it will affect the implementation of the curriculum. In other words, the inflationary period adversely affects teachers' motivation. Without motivation, organizational efficiency and effectiveness are nearly impossible.

Findings:

The paper discovered that reduction in budgetary allocation, increment in operational cost, poor development of infrastructure facilities in schools, reduction in enrolment, poor quality of education and poor implementation of the school curriculum are the impacts of inflation on educational administration in Nigeria.

It was revealed in the paper that reduction in budgetary allocation, increment in operational cost, poor development of infrastructure facilities in schools, reduction in enrolment, poor quality of education and poor implementation of the school curriculum are the impacts of inflation on educational administration in Nigeria. This is in line with the findings of Ogunode et al. (2024), OECD (2018) and World Bank (2018) that discovered that inflation affected the operation running cost of educational institutions, quality education, teachers' job performance, student enrolment, the standard of living of the teachers and students and increment in the cost of infrastructure facilities for the school building.

Conclusion:

This paper examined the impact of inflation on educational administration in Nigeria. The paper depends on secondary data to affirm its' assumption. The paper further revealed a reduction in budgetary allocation, increment in operational cost, poor development of infrastructure facilities in schools, reduction in enrolment, poor quality of education and poor implementation of school curriculum are the impacts of inflation on educational administration in Nigeria.

Recommendations:

Based on these findings, the paper suggested these measures; The government should increase the funding of education to enable administrators to meet up with increment in running the schools' costs. Governments should increase the salaries of school administrators and teachers. The government should provide school buses to all educational institutions to aid staff and students' movement to schools.

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